

NEWSLETTER

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Twenty Five Years and Counting!

“Great is thy faithfulness Oh God my Father.... Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see. All I have needed Thy hand hath provided, Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me! Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!”

On October 10th, CACHS celebrated its 25th anniversary of providing Christian High School Education in Central Alberta. John Busaan spoke with emotion describing some of the excitement and setbacks experienced as they responded in obedience to a call God had placed on their heart. He spoke of how detours became blessings and how roadblocks became anchor points in God’s providence.

Jack Vanden Pol spoke with pride of a school God called him to, how he was blessed by the community of students in those initial years, how community was formed, and how habits such as Friday morning assemblies became high points for him and our school. He stated the importance of a school where the students are the focal points and where their character

development was at the forefront. Jack also spoke of the commitment of both the parents and the students. What parents would send their child to a school with 1.2 teachers, 6 or 7 classmates, and a one room portable at the back of Lacombe Christian School? What child would go along with that idea?

Karoline deGier spoke of her fears as one of those original seven students. Yes, there were some concerns such as, could this Mr. Vanden Pol actually teach? How would this work with so few students? Yet she spoke of the community and unparalleled growth over those first few years. She spoke of her parents unwavering commitment to her and her brothers attending a Christian High School if there was one available, and how this really was not a difficult decision. She ended with a challenging statement by stating that the opposite of faith is fear.

As I reflected on my own journey over the last 23 years at CACHS, I am also struck by many of the aforementioned items. Faith and commitment of the community and parents and the community of the students and staff as we interact daily with the students over a three year span. I am reminded repeatedly of God’s providence in finances, in allowing us to grow from an original group of seven students in Grade 12, 18 in Grade 11 and 24 in Grade 10 to numbers in excess of 150. Another item which did not get mentioned (at least I did not hear it) was the way God has provided twenty-one exceptional teachers. Each one left an imprint upon our students and school and we are grateful for the work they have completed.

Peter DeWit spoke of our present status, the

Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. 1Timothy 4:12

excitement for the years that lie ahead, and the board's commitment to continued development of Christian Education in Central Alberta. We continue to strive to map out a strategic plan designed to carry us forward for another 25 years. Peter spoke of how in 25 years our present graduates may too reflect proudly of their days at CACHS and the impact it played in their life.

We have much to be thankful for and yet we must continue to move forward. May we never lose sight of our school's purpose which is to provide a Christ centered education teaching students to develop their God given talents. We must continue to instruct young men and women in nurturing their faith and to critique and analyze the world we are living in, enabling each one to be Kingdom builders.

Mr. Brandsma

Board Notes

The leadership review process questionnaire was sent out to parent and board members this month. Questionnaires were to be sent in by the 15th of October. A follow-up and review process is in progress currently. A note from the Prairie Centre for Christian Education (PCCE) regarding the review is part of this newsletter elsewhere.

The 25th anniversary celebration was well attended on October 10th. It was enjoyable listening to the speakers talk about their faith and passion for CACHS and the history of the school.

Sue Stang
Board Secretary

Sick, Late or an Appointment?

If your child is sick, running late or has an appointment, please inform the school office first thing in the morning by phone at 403-782-4535 or by email at office@cachs.ca Thank you!

Financial Update for October

The yearly audit is underway and should be almost complete by the end of the month.

We have received 40% of the grant money for the school year. Our next installment will be in April 2015.

Look for the 2014 Fall Drive Brochure in your church mailboxes or mail in the early part of November.

Remember to get your Harvest Fest tickets from the school at 403-782-4535, Lacombe Signmasters or the ticket sellers at your church. An announcement regarding the Harvest Fest is elsewhere in this newsletter.

Wendy Barnes
Business Administrator

Library Notes - October 2014

It's hard to believe that we have been in school (at the end of October) for 39 days. That leaves us 31 days until Christmas Break....how time flies. This count does not include the in-service days.

I have purchased and received a lot of new books that will be on the shelves shortly. Books like: Karen Kingsbury's *Angels Walking* as well as the Maze Runner series by James Dashner. Drop in and check us out.

Have a great November.

Yvonne Reed
Librarian

Congratulations

Congratulations to nine CACHS graduates who have received a total of \$16,900 in Alexander Rutherford Scholarships. These graduates include six from the June 2014 class and three from previous years.

Career Corner

“Educating for Life Today and Tomorrow”, a resource manual for high school guidance by Christian Schools Canada gives great advice for students concerned about their future. “Live with the future-orientation of expectation, rather than the fear-orientation of regret. Trust that God will make things work out right. We should not so much seek to know the details of God’s design, but rather to use the wisdom God nurtures in us to launch out boldly. God expects us to mature and make the right decisions that He has given us the wisdom and support to make.”

All high school students are invited to open houses that post-secondary institutions are putting on during this time of the year. This is the best way to find out if a school or a program is right for you.

CACHS will be hosting the following schools on Wednesday, November 19. Everyone is welcome to attend. Presentations will be taking place throughout the afternoon, so please call if you are interested.

Ambrose University College
Canadian Mennonite University
Canadian University College
Olds College
Red Deer College
Redeemer University College
The King’s University College
Trinity Western College
Tyndale University College
Vanguard
Word of Life Bible College

There is a college scholarship available for students planning on attending either: Calvin, Dordt, King’s, Redeemer, Kuyper or Trinity Christian for a research paper on “John Calvin and Vocation”. Please see me for more details.

Veronica Den Oudsten
Career Counselor

Student Council News

CACHS Student Council is complete with the addition of six class representatives, Riley Vandeborn and Jenna Ubels representing grade 10, Nikki Ubels and Ian Wierenga representing grade 11, and Aiden Kooyman and Ryan Scheltus representing grade 12.

This month we had National Cravat Day for our first school spirit day. We will be having a pizza hot lunch and a Western themed dance on November 14th. Also, as a celebration, the school had a special 25th anniversary assembly with the founder, former teachers and students, and with snacks and drinks to finish off the afternoon.

Nathan Hazelhoff
Student Council Secretary

Central Alberta Christian High School Undergoing a Leadership Review

The Prairie Centre for Christian Education (PCCE) office has been assisting member schools in focused School Leadership Reviews. The review focuses on the work of the school’s principal or administrative team in relation to the local Board and staff.

1 Corinthians 12 and other related passages remind us of God’s plan for the Christian school community. Each person is asked to use their abilities so that all can effectively serve God. Since the school exists to educate children, an important function is that the leadership team effectively implements the goals of Christian education. The overall purpose of this review is to help Central Alberta Christian High School (CACHS) implement these goals through the work of its leadership team.

CACHS is currently involved in this process by reviewing the work of Principal, Mel Brandsma, and Vice-Principal, Peter Hoekstra. The CACHS community has completed questionnaires that will provide input for the review. External evaluators will make a school visit November 3-4, 2014, equipped with questionnaire results and school materials. A report will be submitted in December to the CACHS Board with recommendations to consider.

Europe Trip 2015 - Update

We can be so thankful for this beautiful fall and the many advantages that we enjoy living in Central Alberta, when life can be so difficult in other parts of the world. In the spring of 2015, we will have the extraordinary opportunity of visiting a part of the world that will give us insights into many aspects of our western heritage. There are two unique regions of Europe I would like to emphasize right now: Languedoc-Roussillon, in southwestern France, where a pre-Reformation movement against Catholicism took place and was put down by church authorities, now called the Albigensian Crusade; the other, Catalonia, a circumscribed autonomous region of Spain, where the second-largest city in Spain is located – Barcelona. This latter region has its own languages, history, and culture, which distinguish it in a part of Europe that is already extremely varied in those respects. We will experience all of this firsthand!

THANK YOU for getting the photocopies of your passports to us! Now we can begin establishing the official list of passengers. And other preparations are moving ahead for this trip as well, which all of us are looking forward to with great anticipation. We now know what the balances will be for each participant, \$1,450.00 due at noon on November 28. Thank you for planning in advance to get these cheques to Mrs. Barnes in the CACHS office in a timely manner.

And, do keep in mind that once we know the exact dates of the trip, each participant under the age of 18 will need to have a parental consent form, signed by both parents in the presence of a lawyer or notary, and with his/her seal affixed to it. I will keep you in the loop as developments arise.

Enjoy these last few days of above average temperatures! And please pray for and support others troubled by poverty, war and/or disease.

Blessings,
Carolyn Snipes-Hoyt and Peter Hoekstra
Co-ordinators for the 2015 Europe Trip

CACHS Catering

We have received numerous requests for bookings for the fall and into the next year. However, we are only able to do one banquet on a weekend and only two functions a month so if you would like to book us, please call as soon as possible as we work on a first come first serve basis.

Our upcoming events for which we are looking for help are:

November 7 – Harvest Fest at CACHS gym

If you are able to help serve and/or clean up at any of our functions, please contact Ann Siebenga. Please consider volunteering a couple hours of your time to help at one of our functions. The school and **ALL** the students benefit from the funds raised. Please call Emma Den Oudsten if you wish to book CACHS Catering services.

Members of CACHS Catering are:

Emma Den Oudsten
Jennette Oosterink
Clase van Iperen
Rosemary Vander Ploeg
Ester Verhoef

Emma Den Oudsten
CACHS Catering

Calendar

October 31 – Report cards
November 6 – Parent/teacher interviews – after school and evening
November 7 – Parent/teacher interviews in morning
No school
November 7 – Harvest Fest – see note elsewhere
November 10 – Staff collaboration day – no school
November 11 – Remembrance Day – no school
November 17 – Picture retake day – morning
November 19 – Career Day at CACHS
November 20 – Society meeting 7:30 pm at CACHS
December 20 – January 4 – Christmas break

Cross Country Wrap Up

I would like to thank the 2014 Cross Country team for a terrific effort and impressive results on the season. The five person (six at zones) team participated in five events, racking up 11 top 10 finishes, including three top five finishes at zones and the top team trophy in New Norway. Four runners advanced to provincials at Strathcona-Tweedsmuir School near Okotoks, where they gave an excellent account of themselves. Our runners this year were Jadon Bernatsky and Yannick van de Velde from grade 12, Nikki Ubels from grade 11 and Mark Dewit and Jenna Ubels from grade 10. Braden Olsen (grade 11) joined the team for the zone event. Not only were they a force to be reckoned with on the course, but they displayed great sportsmanship and support for their competitors at all times. We wish Yannick and Jadon all the best as this season brings their high school cross country careers to a close.

I wish to extend a very special “thank-you” to Darrin George of the Canadian University College who trained and coached the runners starting in August, and to the parents who encouraged the team and provided rides when needed. All in all it was a great year and a foretaste of things to come next season!

Pete Hoekstra

Christian Home & School Magazine

The Fall 2014 issue of the Christian Home & School Magazine is now available on line. Please visit csionline.org/christian_home_and_school for the digital link. We have received a number of hard copies which are available at the office. Please call the school at 403-782-4535 if you would like one.

Harvest Fest



Calling all athletes of the world to the 2014 CACHS Olympics November 7th, 2014, 6:30 pm at the CACHS Olympic Stadium (The Gym). All the greatest nations will be there as the world comes together in friendly competition and fundraising. A fantastic opening and closing ceremony, Olympic Dinner, live and silent auction and many other Olympic things will be happening in the Olympic Village all led by one of the world's most decorated Athletes of our time Swen Dorfson, the legendary Swedish Luger (aka Gery Schubert). All athletes or groups of athletes are encouraged to attend this fundraising event dressed in their countries traditional costumes or in their best winter Olympic gear (ski outfit, sweaters, wooden shoes, hockey jersey, lederhosen, sombrero etc.) Athlete registration begins at 6:30 pm with refreshments, silent and live auction viewing, and mingling with all the other athletes from around the world. Tickets are available from the school at 403-782-4535.