

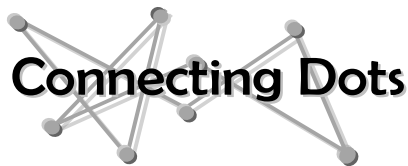


CENTRAL ALBERTA CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER

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“Be true to your faith, be a blessing to others, regardless of

I read this quote the other day and was reminded of a similar theme found in the Sermon on the Mount.

In a world pre-occupied with self, we find ourselves with a simple mantra, a basic standard of living that focuses on faith and service. Faith that serves as our foundation, which serves as our light, our guide through a labyrinth filled with confusing turns and dead ends. Each and every day, each of us, and in particular our younger generation, are inundated with messages preaching a philosophy of self, of entitlement, of choice.

As we raise up our children, as we educate our youth, may we rely on the wisdom that can only be found in a relationship with a God who loved us so much that He sent His Son to die for each of us. May we recognize that His message of hope is founded by the principle of sacrifice, of service, of unconditional and undeserved love, that does not depend upon an appreciative response.

“You have heard that it was said ‘love your neighbor and hate your enemy’ but I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you that you may be

children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and send rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect...” Matthew 5:43-48

Perhaps our response to issues that confuse our culture today, our response to the various bills the government has introduced and the refugee crisis, may be a testimony to our desire to be true to our faith, and our service to others regardless of diversity.

Mr. Brandsma

Board Notes

“Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.” Philippians 1:27

As a board, we continue to stand firm in our faith and encourage our fellow Christian brothers and sisters to have a voice regarding the amendment of Bill 10 and our constitutional rights as a Christian school.

Sue Stang
Board Secretary

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

Alberta Education Survey

Our Three Year Plans and Annual Results Reports require us to collect data from parents, students and teachers. Each year Alberta Education sends out a request to parents and schools asking that we complete a survey about the school your child attends. Questions will be asked pertaining to course availability, satisfaction with each program, parental input, student safety, whether there are counseling opportunities available, etc. The surveys are referred to as "Accountability Pillar Surveys".

At school each of our staff will complete the survey as well as each of our students. The data is collected, analyzed by Alberta Education and then compiled into a document that will be used to write up a report for next year as we plan to better meet the needs of all students. The other major source of information comes from our students' departmental results the previous year. If you wish to see last year's final report, it is available on our website for all members to see.

Please fill out the survey. It is brief, but your input is vital so that we are aware of areas for celebration as well as areas that may need improvement at CACHS.

The timing of this year's survey may prove particularly relevant with the Government's interest in "Safe and Caring" schools for which we have typically received outstanding results from parents and students. Let's be sure that our voices are heard.

Yours in His Service
Mel Brandsma
Principal at CACHS

Bill 10 Response

Attached to this newsletter is the Bill 10 Response package that was emailed to all our parents. We would encourage you as parents as well as our society members to voice your concerns by writing to our Minister of Education, our Premier, our local MLA and the Opposition Education Critic. If you have any questions please contact Mr. Brandsma or Mr. Hoekstra here at the school at 403-782-4535.

Financial Update for February 2016

For students who received scholarships last year, the T4A's have been mailed out to your home address. If you don't receive it by the end of February, please contact me and I will send out another copy to you.

If you have not received your donation receipt for 2015, please contact me and I will send out a duplicate receipt to you.

Wendy Barnes
Business Administrator

Thank You

Thank you....

We thank God for the opportunity to serve in this school community. Thank you to all the volunteers who help out each week again. A store like this cannot run without you and because of this.....

we are excited to let you know that the Building Blocks Thrift Store building has been paid off in 7½ years!!

We could always use some extra hands so if you are interested in helping out for a few hours, please stop by or give Mar Deb a call at 403-782-5094.

Thanks again, the Building Blocks Thrift Store Board.

Calendar

February 15 – Family Day – no school
February 16 – 19 – February break – no school
March 4 – Staff collaboration day – no school
March 25 – April 3 – Spring break – Good Friday
and Easter Monday fall during in this break
April 11, 12 & 13 – Grad picture days
May 6 – Fashion Show
- Staff collaboration day – no school

June 28 - Please note change of date for graduation

Library News

February – the month of love and Anti-bullying

Did you know that the Greeks had 30 different words for love? Some of them we recognize from scripture; agape, phileo, eros, storge. I was aware of the first three, but storge was new to me. Storge refers to familial love, the love a parent has for a child or a child for a favorite aunt or uncle. Love is a distinctive characteristic found within the Christian faith. The ‘loving’ thing to do is not always the easiest, true love is not ‘mushy sentimentalism’; there is often a cost to genuine love. With that in mind February is also Anti-Bullying month. We have all experienced bullying in one form or another. One does not need to be all that different or socially inept to experience bullying. We need to realize that friendly teasing is different than bullying but that teasing left unchecked can rapidly turn into bullying. As parents we do not want our children bullied but neither do we want to raise a bully. Please be aware of what is going on in your student’s life and help them stop the bullying before there are serious issues. Bullying is not a ‘rite of passage’. All people have the right to study, work and live in a safe, nurturing environment. The way to exhibit ‘phileo’ love, brotherly love, is to stand up against bullying. On February 24, please support Anti-Bullying awareness by wearing pink. Check out: <http://www.erasebullying.ca/>

Since Valentine’s Day is still the day to recognize that important someone in your lives, branch away from the typical chocolate and flowers and do something a little different. Purchase a book by their favorite author or in their favorite genre. Take your sweetheart for a winter walk or cook supper together for the family. A little creativity goes a long way in creating memories for yourselves and your family.

Yvonne Reed
Librarian

Career Corner

Monastic vows rest on the false assumption that there is a special calling, a **vocation**, to which superior Christians are invited to observe the counsels of perfection while ordinary Christians fulfill only the

commands; but there simply is no special religious **vocation** since the call of God comes to each at the common tasks. (Martin Luther)

Opportunities for students to attend post secondary institutions to explore their options are still available. Most schools are eager to have high school students come on site to see what they have to offer. They encourage students to contact them and make arrangements at this time, as soon they will be finishing up their school year. Most post secondary schools finish their winter semester in April.

Job shadowing is another great way for students to explore jobs that might be of interest to them. Many occupations have resources and opportunities that allow students to get a great experience. If assistance is needed to generate contacts please feel free to talk to me. I am at CACHS on Mondays and Wednesdays, and available other days of the week as well.

Veronica DenOudsten
Career Counselor

Young Blood for Life

The 2015-16 YBFL Challenge is underway and Central Alberta Christian High currently sits with 48 donations with five months to go. Last year our school did extremely well and I would anticipate that this year will be no different. The demand for blood continues to be high and it is a privilege to help Canada Blood Service in their vital role of maintaining a dependable supply. Our school community can use this opportunity to show its commitment to our society and community by stepping up to give the gift of life.

Book a #GiveLife appointment for the next Lacombe Blood Donor Clinic on Monday, February 22 from 3 pm to 8 pm at the LMC (Lacombe Memorial Centre). Grab some family and friends and challenge each other to be committed long-term donors! “It’s in You to Give”

Pete Hoekstra

Europe Trip 2017

For those considering taking part in the CACHS Europe trip in the spring of 2017, please read on! A more detailed itinerary is available at the CACHS office.

The focus of this tour is the Canadian involvement in the two World Wars, and an exploration of the cities, towns and countryside which serve as their historical setting. Of course, all of this will be done in the context of experiencing the French culture, both past and present.

A brief summary of the itinerary:

- Day 1: Arrive in Brussels
- Day 2: Visit Flanders Fields/Ypres battlefield
- Day 3 Visit Vimy Ridge/Arras battlefield
- Day 4: Travel to Dieppe, Rouen
- Day 5: Visit coastal villages in Normandy
- Day 6: Visit Juno, Omaha beaches
- Day 7: Travel to Chartres
- Day 8, 9: Explore Paris
- Day 10: Return

Please note the following payment schedule and conditions, developed in consultation with our provider, EF Tours. The cost for the trip is \$3,755.00 + \$89 for cancellation insurance, plus adult supplement. Tour costs are locked upon receipt of first payment.

All cheques need to be made out to CACHS and submitted **by noon on dates indicated below**. We **cannot** accept any post-dated cheques except for the dates indicated below.

Payment schedule

Down payment: \$199 Due: Noon March 3, 2016
Second payment \$700** Due: Noon April 5, 2016
Third payment \$1200 Due: October 3, 2016
Final payment: Balance Due noon November 29/16
**** Adult supplement of \$390 per person in double room is due on the second payment plus \$89 for cancellation insurance.**

A late fee per person will be charged by the company.

Please feel free to contact me at the school if you have any questions.

Pete Hoekstra, Europe Trip Coordinator

CACHS Catering

CACHS Catering is always looking for new members to help us out. If this is something that you might enjoy doing, please contact one of the committee members.

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.

CACHS Fashion Show – May 6

CACHS Grad – June 28

July 9 – Zylstra anniversary - Lacombe

July 23 – Sypkes anniversary – Red Deer

If you are able to help serve and/or clean up at any of our functions, please contact Anne 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.

CACHS Catering:

Emma Den Oudsten

Jennette Oosterink

Clase van Iperen

Rosemary Vander Ploeg

Ester Verhoef