

NEWSLETTER

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“It is well with my soul”

“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” 1 Corinthians 15:58

A few weeks ago at Teachers’ Convention, the chosen theme was Flourishing. This topic was examined from both the teacher and the student perspective and each of us quickly realized the connection between the two. As parents we all have a hope (prayer) that each of our children will flourish in becoming the image bearer that God has called them to. As teachers we flourish when our students not only learn the lessons (curriculum) but also grow in maturity and faith. We flourish when we find our work, our labor is not in vain. We flourish knowing we are not in this work alone, but rather guided by our Heavenly Father and by our community, all working together for His honor and glory.

Sometimes however, we get a little confused by what it means to flourish. Our world around us equates happiness and flourishing together, and while this is sometimes true, flourishing can also be a result of some struggles. We grow through adversity, we become

stronger after times of testing or strain, we become more skilled through learning what not to do as much as what to do.

I celebrate those times in class and at school when a particular plan or lesson comes together nicely, when students learn how to navigate difficulties in life and find success amidst struggles. I rejoice when a student who has expressed doubts about faith and religion, later discovers their need for God and finds comfort and strength in knowing we are not alone; that it is okay to be in need of others.

We were challenged by our speaker to re-examine our curriculum, asking if this material we study is really what we should be focusing on or if some changes need to be made. What is it that we desire our young men and women to be learning during their high school years? Are there some character habits (virtues) that need some tweaking as well? When I consider a CACHS graduate, academic success is only a small part of the equation. As educators we wish for a young adult eager to become a lifelong learner. A young man/woman eager to take on the call that God places on their heart, one that seeks to serve, to bless, and to be a blessing.

The theme song of our convention was “It is well with my soul”. We sang it in the morning devotions, in the afternoon devotions and the next day as we concluded the convention. We flourished once again with these

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

powerful words, "It is well with my soul." All things are well when we walk in the ways of the Lord, when our children take up the call to not only believe but act on this belief. It is my prayer that each of you flourish amidst celebration, but also amidst grief. God is faithful, He will sustain us.

Mr. Brandsma

Board Notes

As a Board we have been working through Bill 10 to develop a satisfactory policy. John Jagersma, a former Principal of Parkland Immanuel Christian School and presently Executive Director of AISCA attended our board meeting on October 26, 2015 regarding this bill. We were so thankful for his valuable insight and wisdom regarding this bill. We will continue to work through this policy with other Christian Schools and seek legal counsel. Please remember to pray for the challenges that we may face during this process.

Sue Stang
Board Secretary

Financial Update for November 2015

This year's Annual Fall Drive is from November 8th to December 13th. Our goal is \$100,000. If you have not received a brochure, please contact the office or check our website and print off the form. If you would like to have a visit please contact me.

Our annual audit is complete and ready to be submitted to Alberta Education.

Please check out the announcement regarding Harvest Fest and give us your feedback.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me.

Wendy Barnes
Business Administrator

Harvest Fest 2015

Due to a lack of ticket sales and the timeline needed, Harvest Fest was cancelled this year. With that being said we are looking forward.

We are asking you, the membership, for your input. If possible, we could move the function to a different time, but we do not want to take away from the drives and auctions at Ponoka and Lacombe that happen in the spring. Harvest Fest usually happens at the beginning of the CACHS Fall Drive.

Some ideas that society members have given us since the cancellation of Harvest Fest include:

- A dessert night or sit down supper with the students serving the tables;
- Have a larger door prize that is drawn from the attenders;
- Entertainment for about ½ hour;
- Make this an early evening say from 7 – 9 pm;
- Book a popular artist/singer and advertise to involve the greater community.

These are just a few ideas that we have been given.

As a committee we would ask that you send us your ideas before December 15th, so we can meet in the New Year to go forward for next year. Please send your ideas to wbarnes@cachs.ca

Respectively the Harvest Fest Committee
Alice, Charissa, Shanna, and Wendy

Reminders

If you have not already done so, please make sure the Offsite Activity Consent of Parent/Guardian Form, as well as the \$150 book deposit (postdated to June 12, 2016) is sent to the school as soon as possible. The Offsite Activity Consent form is required for insurance purposes and must be completed and returned for each school year that your child attends CACHS. If you have questions, please contact the school at 403-782-4535.

Library News

November – can you believe that as of today there are six weeks until the Christmas break? If you need a good book store to find gifts, a “new” bookstore will be opening on November 12th in Red Deer. Kennedy’s Parable Bookstore will be in the same location that Scott’s Parable was in. A smaller store, but will still carry books and gift items. We are very blessed to have this bookstore coming into our area. I’m really looking forward to checking them out.

We have added several new series to our library collection:

The Sower Trilogy written by Bonnie Leon – This series begins in 1930 in Stalin controlled Russia. Two young Russians leave their homeland and head off to America – follow their journey from hopelessness to freedom.

A Patricia Amble Mystery written by Nicole Young. The mystery begins when Patricia purchases a rundown house outside Detroit. Follow her through some weird and wonderful situations as she evades past love interests and potential murders.

Another new author to our collection is Kathryn Cushman. She has written quite a few novels featuring everything from an Olympic athlete in *Chasing Hope* to an up and coming “Martha Stewart” who has to learn to live as an Amish in *Almost Amish*.

Happy reading!

Yvonne Reed
Librarian

Calendar

December 4 – Staff Collaboration day – no school

December 19 – January 3 – Christmas Break

January 4 – Classes resume

January 13 – English 30-1 & 30-2 – Part A – a.m.

January 14 – Social 30-1 & 30-2 – Part A – a.m.

January 19 – English 30-1 & 30-2 – Part B – a.m.

January 20 – Social 30-1 & 30-2 – Part B – a.m.

January 25 – Math 30-1 & 30-2 – a.m.

January 27 – Chemistry 30 – a.m.

January 22 – 27 – First term exams for
Grades 10 and 11

January 28 – Exam make up day/School ski trip

January 29 – Semester Break

Career Corner

Students had the opportunity to talk to representatives from numerous post secondary schools this past month. Lacombe Composite High School hosted the ELAA tour where over 30 schools and institutions were represented. Some of our students took the opportunity to check out schools like NAIT, SAIT and Lakeland. On November 9th, CACHS hosted 12 different schools. All students spent the afternoon in sessions with various representatives. Kings University College, Red Deer College, Trinity Western University, Burman University, Ambrose, Vanguard, Providence, Prairie Bible College, Redeemer, Crandall and Tyndale all sent representatives and it was great to see the many opportunities that are available.

Green Certificate testing is coming up at the end of November. Work Experience and RAP students are continuing to work in various places. I continue to engage in discussions with students about their courses, and about their future opportunities. All students are encouraged to seek out more information. Most places are very willing to have students come for a day to check out what they are offering. A hands-on experience is valuable in determining the path students would like to take after high school.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions!

Veronica DenOudsten
Career Counselor

Basketball

If you would like to play basketball for a day, come to CACHS Tuesday, December 22nd at 9:00 a.m. Teams will be made up and games will be played throughout the day. Please talk to Travis Eggink or Veronica Den Oudsten for more information.

Europe Trip 2017

It is with mixed emotions that I submit this update. Less than a week ago the attacks in Paris seized control of headlines throughout the world and preoccupied our minds in the days following. In the aftermath of these events we ponder how our lives have been affected. However, the school is proceeding with plans to undertake the tour in the spring of 2017 with a sense that we can be confident that conditions will normalize and that we make plans in the knowledge that everything we do is subject to God's providence and care.

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 and 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 plus \$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: Noon October 3, 2016
- Final Payment: Balance – Due: Noon November 29, 2016

****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.

December 12 – Verhoef/Lesher wedding

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.

Members of CACHS Catering are:

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

Job Opportunity

The Prairie Centre for Christian Education (PCCE) would like to inform you of a vacancy in the position of Executive Director. The Executive Director's priority is to ensure that PCCE does not waver from its mission to strengthen Christian schools through service, community, advocacy and vision. This mission is the lens through which all decisions are made. Areas of responsibility include overseeing the PCCE organization, supporting school leadership and business management, and providing regular communications to member schools. At this point in its journey, the Teaching for Transformation model for the integration of faith and learning in the classroom has been the primary tool for advancement of the mission of PCCE. The future of the Teaching for Transformation model will be a pathway through which the new director will need to guide PCCE.

Applications for the position of the Executive Director are now being accepted. A Transition Team will be guiding this search and the PCCE Board hope to hire the next Executive Director in early March 2016 with the position to begin August 1, 2016. There is a job description, qualifications and details about the application process on the PCCE website: <http://pcce.ftshare.ca/home/transition-team> Here you may also find valuable information about the PCCE.

If you sense that you have the skills, competencies, and passions to make you a good match for this significant leadership position, we invite you to submit your application by December 11, 2015. The Prairie Centre for Christian Education and Transition Team thanks you for your interest in the search for our next Executive Director. We ask for your support through prayer as we seek the right person to lead us as we pursue our mission of leading, enhancing and promoting transformational Christian education in a changing world.

Darlene Eerkes
Transition Team Chair
Prairie Centre for Christian Education