

NEWSLETTER

September 2015
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“There’s more to life than being Happy.”

“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world – the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does – comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.” 1 John 2: 15-17

A few weeks ago at the opening assembly, I spoke of the shallowness of happiness and the richness of finding purpose and meaning to our existence. Our world, in particular our advertisers, promote a message where the focus in life is to be happy, with a particular emphasis on the here and now. VISA says we deserve the destination vacation, the new car, and the dream home and that we should be able to get it now. Don’t wait till you can afford it, just buy it now, be happy and let tomorrow worry about itself.

We live in a temporal world where considering the past or future simply gets in the way of finding immediate happiness. This may help explain the number of addictions plaguing much of our world today. Addictions satisfy the present need regardless of any future consequences. As Christians, we are called to be

careful of the messages of the world. For many of the post-war generation, considering the past affects many of the decisions they make today. Suffering and hardship has produced a character of resilience, of perseverance. They live in the present, mindful of the past, and aware of the future. I fear for the generations that follow, where life has been “easy”, where security has never been threatened and faith is an option, not a solid foundation to live a meaningful life. As parents we often try to shield our children from difficult circumstances, from struggles. In contrast Christ in teaching his disciples stated repeatedly that His way was going to be difficult, that there would be struggles.

“Happiness without meaning characterizes a relatively shallow, self-absorbed life in which things go well, needs and desires are easily satisfied, and difficult or taxing entanglements are avoided.” (Roy Baumeister)

Imagine the disciples if their experience with Christ would have been one where everything went perfect, where their gospel message was wholeheartedly received, where no opposition or persecution was evident. Following Christ’s death, they would have not been prepared to meet the intense resistance of the Jewish and Roman leaders. They would have been ill prepared for the suffering that followed as they carried the gospel message to the world.

History tells us that anything worth having often requires some struggles to attain. Perhaps we need to re-introduce the concept of suffering, of patient waiting, of making some unpopular, anti-worldly choices in order to gain the prize. Perhaps we need

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

to demonstrate this in our own lives, as this visual representation of the gospel will go much farther in demonstrating whom our allegiance belongs to.

“More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”
Romans 5: 3-5

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”
James 1: 2-4

Mr. Brandsma

Board Notes

As we begin our 2015/16 school year, we anticipate challenges, decisions, hard work, and many good memories! We must always remember that God is always by our side to guide us in whatever we do and wherever we go.

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”
Joshua 1:9

At our last board meeting the following Board roles were appointed:

Chair – Dean Den Oudsten
Vice Chair – Herman Verhoef
Education Committee – Cheryl Talsma, Herman Verhoef (Chair)
Treasurer – Clarence Verveda
Finance Committee – Fred Ollewagen, Clarence Verveda
Maintenance – Martin van de Velde
Development – Jolanda Rodenburg
Secretary – Sue Stang

Sue Stang
Board Secretary

Financial Update for September 2015

With another school year started, we would ask that if you haven’t already done so, to please send in your \$150 book deposit (dated June 12/16) to the school, along with your tuition cheques. If you would still like to do direct deposit for this year, please contact me and we will set it up.

Membership renewal letters have gone out in the mail. For families with students at CACHS, your membership is included with your tuition.

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

Wendy Barnes
Business Administrator

Harvest Fest 2015

This year’s Harvest Fest is Friday, October 30th at CACHS. This year’s theme is Austin Power’s Secret Agent (aka Gery Schubert). Tickets are \$35/person for an evening of food, fun and entertainment and will be available at the school beginning of October or from your church contact person.

If you would like to donate anything, please drop it off at the school before October 30th. Please watch for further announcements in your church mailboxes and bulletins.

Wendy Barnes

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 (dated 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 son/daughter attends CACHS. If you have questions, please contact the school at 403-782-4535.

Dress Code Update

Students are encouraged to use good taste and judgment in their mode of dress and grooming. Standards of dress present our person to the community. The following are more specific guidelines: T-shirts exhibiting inappropriate slogans or designs are prohibited. Tops must cover the entire stomach and cleavage. Tank tops and muscle shirts are not permitted. This includes Phys. Ed classes. Skirts and shorts must not be excessively short or revealing in nature. No undergarments should be visible (boys and girls).

Students who are in violation of the Dress Code will be asked to change their clothes, cover the clothes, or turn offending clothes (t-shirts with inappropriate messages) inside out. In some cases, students will be sent home to change if the issue cannot be resolved by any of these solutions.

Cell Phone Policy

Students are **NOT** to use cell phones or other electronics in class or during assemblies unless they have teacher permission. Any electronics used (including phones that ring in class) will be temporarily confiscated. After the second confiscation, parents will be required to pick up the phone in the office.

CACHS Family Phone List

For parents whose children attend CACHS, the family phone list is part of this newsletter. Please contact Ann at the school if your information has changed or is incorrect.

Student Union Ticket Packs

The students are once again selling SUTP books. If your son/daughter is playing on a sports team, we will use \$5.00 for every book they sell towards their sports fees. If they don't play on any sports team, for each book they sell, their name goes into a draw for DQ gift cards.

We still have some Red Deer and Calgary books left at \$20 each.

Career Corner

“The guidance of the young people entrusted to the Christian high school by the Christian community is the task of the whole school. The school as a whole is given the responsibility to guide, direct, and help each student to grow into an independent person who serves God according to His Word and is able and willing to employ every talent to the honor of God and for the well-being of all fellow creatures, in every area of life.” (from *Educating for Life Today and Tomorrow* – A Christian Schools Canada publication)

Part of my task is to assist our students in finding out opportunities available. Students, and anyone interested in finding out about post-secondary options are encouraged to go to the Open Houses most schools have. Open houses are wonderful opportunities to find out more about colleges and universities. Check online for times and dates.

I look forward to meeting with all the students this year. Typically grade 12 students are met with various times throughout the school year, starting at the beginning of the year. I then meet with grade 11 students, and finish with the grade 10 students. However, at any time a student can request a meeting. I also am the off-campus programming coordinator, so students and parents are encouraged to contact me if you have questions about our Work Experience, Green Certificate, or Registered Apprenticeship program. I am typically at school on Monday and Wednesday, but can be contacted on my cell phone throughout the week if questions arise. It is great to be back at school and I look forward to time spent with all the wonderful students!

Veronica Den Oudsten
Career Counselor

2015 Alberta Employment & Career Fair

On Friday October 2nd through Saturday October 3rd, 2015, Alberta's largest and most comprehensive career and Job fair will be at the Edmonton Expo Center. Check out Alberta Employment & Career Fair.com for more information.

Retreat 2015

September 11 dawned clear and beautiful and the day promised to be a wonderful early fall day in central Alberta. For students and staff it meant an opportunity to head out to Rehoboth Bible camp on Gull Lake and have a day of fun and fellowship, and to be challenged by a guest speaker who presented us with a question that lies at the heart of every believer's faith journey: "How do we know that we can trust the Bible?"

Tim Barnett, an apologist with the organization Stand to Reason, led us through two sessions that can be summarized in the following paragraphs he posted on the organization's website:

Paul's argument is clear: If Jesus has not been raised, then seven disastrous consequences inescapably follow. If Christ has not been raised, (1) Christian preaching is in vain, (2) Christian faith is in vain, (3) Christians are false witnesses about God, (4) Christian faith is futile, (5) Christians are still in their sins, (6) Christians who have died are lost, and (7) those who hope in Christ are utterly pitiable since their hope ends with this life.

Paul puts it all on the line. Without Easter – the resurrection of Jesus – there is no Christianity. Thus, Paul reveals an explicit way to – at least in principle – falsify Christianity. If Jesus *did not* rise from the dead, Christianity is false and Jesus was actually a *liar*, more accurately described as a false prophet, or a *lunatic*, no different than the mental patient in the psych-ward who thinks he's the messiah. Conversely, if Jesus *did* rise from the dead, then Christianity is true, and this miraculous event confirms Jesus' radical claim to be *God*.

Christianity is like no other religion in that its central claim is *testable*. This cannot be said of any other religion.

Challenging stuff! Tim went on to explain that Christians must accept that the Bible isn't simply true just because we choose to believe it – that it is a

historically credible document that can withstand *any* claim or argument to the contrary. I am thankful that I was able to hear his faith-affirming message and it is my prayer that our students will also carry this message in their minds and hearts for a long time to come!

Pete Hoekstra

Library News

The new school year is well underway and I have been pleasantly surprised with all the books that are being checked out. There are several new series that I picked up over the summer which should be shelf ready soon. I also would like to thank those of you who donated books. The library can always use age appropriate, gently loved books.

I am so pleased and thankful with the beautiful new furniture that the Library received from the grad class of 2015, as well as the large leather chair from my parents. I would ask that the students be careful with the embellishments, etc on their jeans and clothing when on the furniture. The embellishments tend to rip and tear the furniture and we would like to prevent that from happening. Also, please keep your shoes off the furniture. It would be awesome if this furniture would last for a few years.

It has been decided that the **NO FOOD IN THE Library** policy will continue again this year, so please be mindful of this. The Library is open during lunch hour and you are welcome to come into the library after enjoying your lunch elsewhere in the school.

I am also hoping to have puzzles, games and knitting for those who are interested.

I hope to get to know many of you during this school year!

Yvonne Reed
Librarian

CACHS Catering

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.

October 15 – Ponoka Christian School Thanksgiving Dinner

October 30 – CACHS Harvest Fest

November 20 – Van Stryland/Rust wedding at Stagecoach, Ponoka

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

Calendar

October 8 – “Meet the Teacher” evening
(7:00 – 8:30 pm)

October 12 – Thanksgiving Day – no school

October 13 – Picture day – individual & class pictures

October 22 – 23 – PCCE Teachers convention in Calgary – no school

October 30 – Harvest Fest

November 3 – First report card

November 9 & 10 – Parent/teacher interviews after school and evening

November 10 – Picture retake day – morning only

November 11 – Remembrance Day – no school

November 12-13 – Fall break – no school

December 19 – January 3 – Christmas Break

Announcement

Behind the Screen – Congregational Presentation for Adult Singles and Parents: Please mark your calendars to attend this presentation on October 24 at 7:30 pm at Parkland URC in Ponoka. The Council has invited Martin VanWoudenberg, a teacher and member of the CanRC in BC with seven years of experience in this field. Learn the ins and outs of the newest and most popular social media sites used by tweens and teens. Discover the secret game social media makes its users play, and how that affects your children. Learn how to monitor, limit, and guide teen use on phones, iPods, and similar devices. Presentation and opportunity for questions will run roughly 2 – 2.5 hours. All attendees receive a full-color booklet with information and detailed step-by-step instructions for using the tools and techniques presented.

Please note: this is not for children but parents and young adults only (21+)!!