

## NEWSLETTER

December 2016

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### Vice Principal's Ponderings

“May you live in interesting times....”

Several years ago I read this quote in an article describing an “ancient Chinese curse”. It explained that anyone invoking it showed an understanding of history that reflects the natural fascination with momentous, even violent events – wars and upheavals on an epic scale, and the figures associated with them. Historians have produced vast quantities of books on events such as the French Revolution, the Holocaust and the world wars, and about people like Napoleon, Hitler, and Stalin – in direct proportion to how interesting they are. However fascinating, we wouldn’t want to experience the trauma of those times or even wish it upon another – illustrating the severity of the curse.

Compared to the events of much of history, one might conclude the past decades in Canada have been quite dull. And yet we are living in times that, for Christians, pose profound challenges. To say that they are interesting is a spectacular understatement. Canadian law professor and bioethicist Margaret Somerville describes the present as a time of “seismic shift”. The philosophical and moral foundations of western society are being challenged and revised in a way that can only be described as revolutionary. And the laws of our land are being rewritten accordingly.

At our second last assembly in November we listened to Dr. Ted Fenske explore the issue of euthanasia, now

legal in Canada. As a cardiologist at the U of A, he is confronted with the implications of this new legal reality almost daily. Dr. Fenske explored euthanasia’s history and unpacked the assumptions that have guided our federal government to legally sanction the active termination of human life post birth. He also shared what this means for him as he practices medicine as a Christian doctor. For Dr. Fenske, the practice of euthanasia is an affront to God and a moral offence requiring nothing less than a response of civil disobedience for Christians who might be required by law to carry it out. Although specific regulations guiding medical practice under the new euthanasia law have yet to be developed, he wryly stated, “If in a few years you see me driving a taxi, you’ll know what happened!”

This doctor spent the day at our school finishing up his paperwork and preparing for an evening talk, so I had the opportunity to speak with him informally. Far from being a “weeping prophet”, our guest’s manner was warm, lively and engaging; he readily laughed and showed interest in us and our school. I went home that day having been encouraged and challenged by a Christian brother who is choosing to live out his faith in a deeply secular age by cheerfully and boldly responding with words and actions of faith, clarity, courage, conviction and humility.

As 2016 draws to a close, may we all look forward to a new year with eager expectation, not as those who live under a curse, for the curse has been lifted! We have been blessed with the opportunity to live our

**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**

faith in interesting times, and we are confident that we serve a Lord who richly equips us.

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: ‘Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.’ He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.” (Eph. 3:13-14)

On behalf of all at CACHS, I wish you a blessed Christmas and New Year.

Mr. Hoekstra

## *Board Notes*

May the wondrous joy of this season remind you of Him who is truly worthy of all our praise. The board would like to wish the staff and all the families at CACHS the precious gift of faith, the true blessings of hope and the peace of His love this Christmas season.

Sue Stang  
Board Secretary

## *Board Announcement*

Mel Brandsma has accepted a principal position at Salmon Arm Christian School for the 2017-2018 school year. As a result Mel and Sandra will not be returning to CACHS in the fall. Please pray for the Board’s wisdom as we consider leadership options going forward.

Lennard VanderSchee  
Board Chairman

## *Financial Update for December*

Our annual Fall Drive is well underway. Our goal was set at \$100,000.00. We would like to thank the people who already donated to the drive. To date we have received \$38,335.00. Prayerfully consider to what extent you can support CACHS through this year’s drive. To receive a donation receipt for 2016, please have your donation to the school by 11:30 a.m. on Friday, December 30, 2016, so I can make a bank deposit at noon that day. There is an outside mail box at the front doors if you would like to drop off a donation. You can also call me at 403-885-5187 if you would like to meet at the school.

A reminder to save the date: Thursday, March 2, 2017, “Swing into Spring” Fundraiser which will be replacing Harvest Fest. Watch for details to follow in upcoming newsletters, Facebook and our website.

If you haven’t already sent in your post dated tuition cheques for the school, please contact me at the school at 403-782-4535. If you have any questions do not hesitate to give me a call.

I pray that you will have a great Christmas time with family and friends and a blessed 2017.

Yours in Christ  
Wendy Barnes  
Business Administrator



“Ultimately we find and embrace our vocation at the very point where we experience God’s deep joy. The calling of God is not burdensome, even though it necessarily includes both challenge and responsibility. Rather, discerning vocation is substantially a matter of discerning what brings us joy and finding through that discernment who we truly are.” (Pg. 199) *The Voice of Jesus* by Gordon T. Smith

Grade 11 and 12 students currently have access to their Alberta Learning transcripts through MyPass. This allows them to print out a detailed academic report (DAR) which will work as an unofficial transcript. MyPass also allows students to see what courses and requirements are necessary in order to complete a high school diploma. Grade 10 students will get signed up for this in the new year. If you have any questions about this, or other post secondary concerns, feel free to call or email me at [vdenoudsten@cachs.ca](mailto:vdenoudsten@cachs.ca)

I wish everyone in the CACHS community a blessed Christmas and happy new year!

Veronica DenOudsten  
Career Counselor

## Calendar

December 23 – January 8 – Christmas break  
January 9 – Classes resume  
January 16 – English 30-1 & 30-2 - Part A diploma exam  
January 23 – English 30-2 & 30-2 – Part B diploma exam  
January 23 – 27 – Exam week  
January 25 – Math 30-1 & 30-2 diploma exam  
January 27 – Chemistry 30 diploma exam  
January 30 – Science 30 diploma exam  
January 31 – Semester Break/ski trip  
February 1 – Second semester begins  
February 2 – Final report card for first semester  
February 20 – Family Day – no school  
February 21 – 24 – February break – no school

**Please note that graduation has been set for June 30, 2017.**

Christmas is just days away but the library is still an active place. Today I have some of the cutest lop eared bunnies visiting. Nothing attracts attention like a baby.

This season is all about one Baby – Jesus. Years ago I was given a copy of *Two from Galilee: The Story of Mary and Joseph*, written by Marjorie Holmes. Since then I am always on the look for a new Christmas book, maybe something just a little different than the traditional biblical story. Over the years I have highlighted a few that I have enjoyed like Francine Rivers’ *Unafraid: Mary*, which is part of the Lineage of Grace series. I have also enjoyed reading the Nativity story in a Bible version I don’t usually use. I challenge you to really look at the story, the sacrifice made by those involved.

Here are a few other titles that you might enjoy:

- *Fourth Dawn* (A.D. Chronicles; bk 4) by Bodie & Brock Thoene
- *Three Days: A Mother’s Story* by Melody Carlson
- *Twelve Extraordinary Women* by John MacArthur
- *All the Women of the Bible* by M.L del Mastro
- *Jesus: An Intimate Portrait* by Leith Anderson

Grab a hot drink and a favorite cookie, or two, and spend some time with a young pregnant Mary.

I wish you all a Christmas that is Merry and a New Year that is blessed.

Yvonne Reed  
Librarian



## CACHS Catering

CACHS Catering upcoming events:

March 2 – “Swing into Spring” – Family Dinner  
Fundraiser – formerly Harvest Fest

CACHS Catering strives for a high quality meal for a very reasonable price. If you are interested to have us for an upcoming function, please feel to phone Emma for information. Have a look at the menu options and keep in mind that you will support the school by letting us cater your special function! 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.

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.

CACHS Catering:  
Emma Den Oudsten  
Jennette Oosterink  
Clase van Iperen  
Rosemary Vander Ploeg

## Reminders

Letters regarding the two items below were sent out in mid November. Please respond to the requests as soon as possible! Thank you.

**Book Deposits** – If you have not sent in the \$150/student book deposit cheque, we would ask that you do so as soon as possible. Please date the cheque for June 16, 2017 and if all your child's books are returned in good condition, the cheque will be returned with the final report card in June.

**Offsite Activity Consent form** – Each year we are required to have a current Offsite Activity consent form on file for your child. If you have not yet completed the form for this year, please do so and return it to the school as soon as possible. If you need a new form please call the school at 403-782-4535 (forms were recently mailed out to those families who have not yet completed the Offsite Activity Consent form)

