



CENTRAL ALBERTA CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

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## NEWSLETTER

November 2018

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### Ponderings

Teacher's convention has come and gone once again. Welcomed by teachers and students for the break it provides, it is an annual multi-day in-service where teachers have the opportunity to gain exposure to ideas and practices from experts in the field. Skeptics sometimes wonder what can possibly be of value here – is this just another couple of days off of school? I believe that for the most part these breaks provide teachers the opportunity to grow by receiving exposure to fresh thought and practice in the presence of other teachers.

The past convention was definitely a valuable one for me, as they most often are. The sessions ranged, as usual, from the pedagogical to the philosophical to the downright whimsical. The first session I attended was a highlight, and could be described as “philosophical”. Session leader Jake Wiens, a former teacher and pastor, focused upon examining the social landscape of the western world in 2018. Wiens described our society as one in which truth has become utterly relative and subjective. The individual has been elevated and given a status unheard of in history – the creator/definer of reality. The only source of authority is oneself. Wiens calls this phenomenon “Me-ism”. And he suggested that such a perspective, both pervasive and toxic, has made significant inroads into Christian churches and communities. According to Wiens, if “Me-ism” continues to run its course, “it can't end well”.

Much education today reflects this perspective. Students, once encouraged to be independent learners, are now exhorted to take the next step and become “self-identifiers”. “Evidence-based” approaches support this tidal wave. We know more than we ever knew before, and the more we know, the more reality changes. Knowledge itself overwhelms us. Uncertainty escalates. We must prepare for the future, yet we don't know what it will be. One thing is certain – we are escaping the ignorance, superstition, and tradition that shackled us. We are now truly free....on a journey without maps.

Or not. There is a saying that goes, “the more things change, the more they stay the same”. Perhaps this trend is something repackaged. Is it possible this phenomenon is just another demonstration of our inclination to “hate God and our neighbor”? The great 20<sup>th</sup> century Christian writer and apologist C.S. Lewis coined the term “chronological snobbery”. As an Oxford academic, he had a front row seat to the seismic shift in the thinking of his time. He came to the conclusion that, if anything, modernity was eroding our ability to have a grounded understanding of who we really are – rooted in ancient, scriptural notions of our resemblance to our Maker, our brokenness and separation from Him and others – and the path to restoration and reconnection with God, the physical world, friends, family, neighbours and nation.

God provides a portal to Himself in authentic Christian community. Today I sang the doxology at the funeral of a former student, Lianne van Iperen, as

**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**

I did a few weeks back with several hundred CACHS community members at the open house and dedication of our new shop building, and with hundreds of teachers attending the convention. Mere words cannot express the connection I feel with God and my family, the people of the Way, at such times. It's a taste of the future, and a glimpse of the road back.

Pete Hoekstra  
Principal

## *Board Notes*

In the last board write up, our teachers were headed to the teacher's convention in Red Deer which is put on by Prairie Centre for Christian Education (PCCE). Teachers came back with some positive feedback and enjoyed great speakers. Currently most schools with PCCE are alternative Christian schools. PCCE recently hired Hugo VanderHoek, principal of Providence Christian School in Monarch. It is our hope that we get more support from PCCE as Hugo understands the needs of a private Christian school.

Thank you to our society for the great show of support and excitement at the shop dedication BBQ. Thank you to the development committee who put on a great meal and short program.

Bill 24 Update – We received documentation back from the education minister regarding our Safe and Caring Policy that we submitted at the beginning of October. The ministerial order requires our school to replace our Safe and Caring policy with a government policy being imposed on us. According to Alberta Education, "School authorities must publicly post the ministerial order and standard policy in a prominent location on their websites. School authorities must comply with the ministerial order, or they will lose their tax-payer-funded, per-student grant for the 2019-20 school year." As a board we are not surprised by these results as we knew our policy would not be accepted and we are pleased to hear that funding threats are not longer being made for this school year, but rather for the 20-19-2020 school year. Continue to pray that the government's hearts will be softened and minds will be changed.

Please pray for our JCCF's coalition court date of December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Evangelical Fellowship of Canada has obtained intervener status in our court case which means new evidence can be entered. This is positive and critical for our case. ARPA was denied intervener status but continues to pursue being on the main case.

The Bible, written so long ago, continues to hold true in times like these. "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.... And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people." Ephesians 6:12-13, 18

Val Ingwersen  
Board Secretary

## *Eva Olsson - Holocaust Survivor*

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, CACHS had the privilege of hosting Eva Olsson, survivor of Auschwitz, as a guest speaker. Students from LCS and PCS were invited as well. We heard a somber yet hopeful message from someone who could be described as the ultimate anti-bullying expert. A couple of takeaways were particularly poignant and timely. She pointed out that statistics of the millions of deaths in the Holocaust never include the invisible victims – the unborn children of pregnant mothers, who were always sent directly to the gas chambers. She also stressed that Nazi ideology was successfully embedded in the minds of the young, without their parents' permission. The hour she spent sharing her wartime experiences and the lessons she learned was an experience to be treasured and one that will probably not come our way again. A special "thank-you" to Judy Hazelhoff, whose initiative made this event possible!

## Financial Update

The Board, staff and students would like to thank Building Blocks Thrift Store for their generous donation of \$25,000.00 to help make tuition affordable for all. We truly are blessed by your donation!

By now you should have received your Fall Drive brochures either through the mail or in your church mailbox. If you haven't received one please let me know and I will make sure that you receive it. Canvassers will be contacting you in the near future. We would ask that you prayerfully consider to what extent you can support CACHS's Fall Drive this year. If you have any questions do not hesitate to call me at 403-782-4535.

The yearly financial audit is almost complete and ready to be sent to the government. Please remember to keep our government in your prayers.

Yours in Christ  
Wendy Barnes  
Business Administrator

## Library News

November has been an interesting month, the weather aside. The students are working on their third puzzle. This one has challenged them a bit, but it is slowly coming together. If you have puzzles at home that you have completed and would like to donate, please consider dropping them off at the school.

We have quite a few new books on a spinning book carousel that are now available to be checked out. Some that complete old series and some that are beginnings of new ones. Some of the new ones include: Renegades and Recruits – they are part of the "Recruits" series written by Thomas Locke. Here is a note of interest – Thomas Locke is a pseudonym for Davis Bunn. Many authors will write different genre under a different name.

Please take a minute and come and see what is available. Have a good month!

Yvonne Reed  
Librarian

## Career Corner

"Wouldn't it be great sometimes if someone would tell us how to make important decisions? ...Perhaps our questions for direction will be answered if we are willing to wait and willing to listen when God speaks in his own way and time. Be open, even in difficult circumstances. Then follow through with action. As it says in Isaiah, God will send rain for the seed you sow, but you must still sow it. Take that step of faith when you are shown the way. Walk in it." Denise Vredevoed in Word of Hope Devotional booklet.

- November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Red Deer college hosted an Open House which some of our students attended.
- November 8-12, five CACHS students travelled to Sioux Centre, Iowa to find out what Dordt College has to offer.
- Jake from Redeemer University came to CACHS on November 13<sup>th</sup> to speak to students about what Redeemer has to offer.
- On November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018, all of our grade 10's and grade 11's travelled to Red Deer College to participate in the Ag for Life Symposium.

The quote from Denise makes reference to the fact that making important decisions is difficult. I continue to encourage and challenge all of our students to step outside of their classroom and their comfort zone to explore and learn about the numerous opportunities available to them. I journeyed with the five students to Dordt College and was inspired and challenged by my experience. Even though I felt I knew quite a bit about Dordt before travelling there, I was surprised by how much I learned about their school and the opportunities it presented. I challenge each person to explore and learn about things that interest them. There are many formal opportunities such as Open Houses or information sessions. There are also informal ways such as asking questions or exploring websites in areas that are intriguing. I will continue to talk to each of the students that comes to CACHS, to encourage, challenge and try to help them find ways to explore what their future looks like.

Veronica Den Oudsten  
Career Counselor

## *CACHS Catering*

CACHS Catering upcoming events:

December 18 – Lacombe Christian Seniors luncheon  
at Bethel CRC

If you are able to help serve and/or clean up at any of our functions, please contact Frances Vander Wekken at 403-782-3327. Please consider volunteering a couple hours of your time to help at one of our functions.

CACHS Catering strives for a high quality meal for a very reasonable price. If you would like to have us cater for an upcoming function, please call 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.

CACHS Catering:

Emma Den Oudsten – 403-782-2657

Jennette Oosterink – 780-372-2130

Rosemary Vander Ploeg – 403-783-5217

## *Maintenance Person Needed*

The Maintenance committee of CACHS is seeking a “handy-person” to fill a paid position, and who would be able to spend up to 20 hours per month doing some maintenance work, minor repairs, and general odds and ends in and around the school. This person would work closely with the maintenance committee and our janitor in completing these various tasks. If you are interested in this job or would like more information, please contact Ted Vander Meulen, our Maintenance committee chairman at 403-885-4749.

## *Athletics Schedule*

Follow us on:

Facebook: Central Alberta Christian High School

Instagram: cachsknights

Twitter @CACHS-Knights

### **Athletics Calendar:**

Nov. 30/Dec 1 – BBB & GBB 3-on-3 tournament  
at CACHS

Dec. 7/8 – BBB & GBB tournament at Evansburg

Dec. 15 - CACHS alumni basketball tournament

Dec. 21/22 – CACHS alumni volleyball tournament

Jan. 11/12 – BBB & GBB – CACHS invitational  
Tournament

## *Calendar*

December 15 – CACHS Alumni Basketball  
tournament

December 20 – Last day of classes before Christmas  
Break

December 21 – January 6 – Christmas break

December 21/22 – CACHS Alumni Volleyball  
tournament

January 7 – Classes resume

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

January 18 – No school – PD day

January 23 – Math 30-1 and 30-2 diploma – a.m.

January 24 – English 30-1 & 30-2 diploma –  
- Part B - p.m.

January 29 – Chemistry 30 diploma exam - a.m.

January 30 – Science 30 diploma exam – p.m.

March 14 – Staff collaboration – no school

March 15 – 24 – Spring Break

March 18 – 30 – Israel Trip

## *CACHS Alumni Volleyball Tournament*

The CACHS Alumni Volleyball tournament will be held December 21<sup>st</sup> and/or 22<sup>nd</sup>. Teams must consist of no more than two non-alumni. Cost is \$125/team. If you have a few individuals who like to play together but need a few extras, you can enter as a group and we will complete your team. Deadline to enter is December 14<sup>th</sup>. For more information or to enter please text Colleen at 403-302-2659 or email [lc.schee@gmail.com](mailto:lc.schee@gmail.com)

## Development Director Report

**CACHS Wear!**  
**Online Store will be open**  
**November 19 – December 3**

<https://centralalbertachristianspirit.itemorder.com/>

Orders will be shipped to CACHS within 4-5 weeks of store closing. There are some sample clothing items at school to try on for size. If you have any questions, email Cindy at [cekkel@cachs.ca](mailto:cekkel@cachs.ca)

## Subway Cards

### Peel-A-Deal Fundraising

Purchase the cards for \$10.00 and  
get an amazing \$58 value.



Sellers will receive a credit of \$7.50  
To be used towards sports team fees,  
grad account or CACHS wear.

See Mrs. Barnes for Subway cards.

**SUBWAY**



## Address/Phone/Email Changes?

If you have recently changed your phone number, address or email, please let the school know as soon as possible. Our office, as well as Alberta Education, requires up to date information and we would appreciate receiving any changes as soon as they happen. Any updates can be emailed to [office@cachs.ca](mailto:office@cachs.ca) or call the school office at 403-782-4535. Thank you.

## Off-Site Activity Consent form

For insurance purposes, we are required to have a completed and signed Off-site Activity Consent form on file for each of our students. An email was sent out recently to those parents who have not yet completed and returned the form. If you received the email, please return the completed form to the office as soon as possible. Thank you.

## Please support our Sponsors

If you would like to place your business ad in our monthly newsletter, please contact Ann at the school at 403-782-4535.

Cost is \$10/month.



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