

NEWSLETTER

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.

1 Timothy 4:12

February 2019
Vol XXVI No VI



Important Upcoming Dates:

February 28 — 12:00–2:30 pm
— "Sneak Peek" Open
house for grade 8 & 9's

March 7
- Swing into Spring fundraiser

March 14
- No school

March 15–24
- Spring break

March 18–30
- Israel Trip

June 28— Grade 12 graduation

PONDERINGS - FEBRUARY 2019

In the last week of January I had the privilege of attending the Global Christian Leadership Summit in the somewhat warmer location of San Antonio, Texas. I won't deny it was a nice getaway from the dark and cold of the Alberta winter. It's nice to smell vegetation and go for a walk without a jacket. Cacti, palm trees, southern barbecue, full tank of gas for just over \$20 US, open carry weapons laws—what's not to like?

Learning did happen, however. One session, led by the director of the American Bible society, presented the challenges to 21st century Christians in connecting with Scripture. This gentleman expressed his conviction that believers are no longer able to read and concentrate for sufficiently long periods of time that are required to make sense of extended and complex passages. He didn't isolate a single factor as being solely to blame for this trend, but did identify a primary culprit—digital technology in the form of the cell phone.

Psychologists, doctors, educators and astute observers of workplace culture are increasingly concerned about negative behaviours associated with high levels of exposure to cell phones and "screen time", such as:

- General distraction and social disengagement
- Anxiety and depression
- Sleep disruption
- Increased rates of suicide

In the area of neurology, credible students are revealing that high levels of exposure to digital technology appear to be actually rewiring the brain in ways that reduce capacity to respond to the immediate environment, and particularly so in younger individuals. We have had the opportunity to observe some of the negative effects of cell phones firsthand at school for quite some time. Some students arrive at school sleep deprived, and use their phones for gaming and social media interaction at every opportunity. Smartphone users receive updates on their screen time weekly (I log about 1.5 hours). Some students report usage of six hours **per day**. The use of phones for forays into the more unsavoury areas of the web undoubtedly constitutes a certain percentage of phone use. For these reasons we have recently

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Wendy Barnes

enacted measures to discourage students from using them during class time.

Christians need to be discerning in all things, and I would ask parents in particular to give serious thought to your child's use of their cell phone. Together we need to be vigilant and responsible in the manner that we manage this pervasive digital presence.

Pete Hoekstra
Principal

BOARD NOTES

The second semester has just started. It is off to a slow start with some school cancellations due to the extreme cold weather. Students and teachers are excited for new courses and the second half of the school year. Pray for each student who attends CACHS as they deal with peer pressure, social media and many other issues. Pray that our teachers and staff may have the right words and wisdom needed for our students. A few weeks ago, our board members and staff met for an evening of food and games. We are thankful for each staff member at CACHS.

We are still patiently awaiting the judge's decision on our appeal for an injunction regarding Bill 24. In the mean time we are thankful that we, as a school board, have been blessed with unity. We have included a letter from ARPA to read as encouragement. This letter is the next page of this newsletter.

Lennard, Phil, and Tracey are finishing their school board terms at the end of this school year. We are in the process of finding three new board members who are committed to the mission and vision of the school. Please prayerfully consider using your gifts at CACHS.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever." 1 Peter 4:10-11

At this time, the board would like to thank all our committee members who give of their time and gifts to serve on our various committees and help make the school run smoothly. Our next meeting is scheduled for February 25th. Feel free to contact one of us if you have any questions or concerns.

Val Ingwersen
Board Secretary

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Tracey Wiersma
403-782-4195

Bill 24 Court Case – Encouraging Update from ARPA Canada

The ARPA Canada team is so grateful to witness how faithful and active you have been in response to the challenges your schools have received from the Alberta provincial government.

2019 began with some very encouraging news on this file. On Tuesday, January 8th, ARPA Canada was granted intervenor status in the court challenge to Bill 24, a bill which mandates unacceptable changes to school policies, imposing the secular humanist worldview on our schools and families.

We praise the Lord for the court's decision to not only grant us intervenor status, but to also give the added (and very rare!) privilege of presenting our own evidence in this case. Typically, a court intervention allows a third party to bring their perspective to the judge in the form of written, and sometimes oral arguments. What's really special is the judge presiding over this case also gave ARPA special permission to present affidavit evidence to the court, in order to develop a case study of the effect of the law on the Reformed Christian community. We are thankful that, in addition to the parental rights argument and general constitutional arguments brought forward by the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms, we now have the opportunity to present a distinctly Reformed argument for why the changes brought about by Bill 24 are unconstitutional and should be done away with.

In the court hearing that considered our request, André Schutten, ARPA's Director of Law and Policy, explained who the Reformed Christian community is, and how the legislation affects this community which has a unity of purpose between home, church, and school. He highlighted the fact that independent education is a hallmark of the Reformed Christian community. He noted the importance of parental authority and responsibility and that the state cannot replace parents in the education of their children. He went on to explain that the legislation goes right to the heart of the existence of our schools. While the love and support for all students will look different than the approach preferred by the education minister, different approaches to protecting and supporting students should be accommodated. That's what the constitutional guarantee of religious freedom requires of the Alberta Minister of Education.

We praise and thank God for this opportunity and join you in praying that God will bless these efforts. And we thank all those of you who have financially supported our work to make it possible.

So, be encouraged dear reader! Our schools are being well represented in the courts – by the JCCF articulating a passionate defense of the broad principles of parental rights and constitutional freedoms for all religious schools, and by ARPA Canada, tabling evidence of the distinct commitments and qualities of the Reformed faith, and how we can achieve the honourable goals of safe and welcoming schools for all of our children, but in a way that does not compromise on the Truth of Scripture.

To receive updates from ARPA's legal team or from the ARPA Alberta Manager Ed Hoogerdyk, please sign up for our newsletter at ARPACanada.ca. You can also contact Ed directly at ed@arpacanada.ca and 403-809-9364.

FINANCIAL UPDATE—FEBRUARY 2019

By now you should have received your official tax receipt from the school either in the mail or through your church mail box. If you haven't received it or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school. Tuition statements have been mailed. If you have any questions, please contact me.

If you would still like to donate to the Fall Drive, please send your contribution to the school at 22 Eagle Road, Lacombe, AB, T4L 2G7—Attention: Wendy Barnes—Fall Drive.

Wendy Barnes
Business Administrator

CAREER CORNER

"Why do you want to work? Why is it so hard to work? How can we overcome the difficulties and find satisfaction in our work through the gospel?" These are questions we all face, especially students as they consider the choices they have as they look past grade 12. A wonderful book to explore this is Every Good Endeavor (Connecting your Work to God's Work) by Timothy Keller.

We have over 20 students signed up for off campus programming which includes RAP, Work Experience, and Green Certificate. Safety courses and paperwork are necessary prior to beginning. If you have any questions about the requirements please contact me.

There are opportunities coming up for our students to go off campus to find out more about post secondary opportunities. On March 6th the grade 11 students will be attending World of Choices in Red Deer and there will be an opportunity for our students to attend Burman Career Day on March 14th. On May 2nd we will be taking students to Career Expo at Red Deer College.

Veronica Den Oudsten
Career Counselor

ACCOUNTABILITY PILLAR SURVEYS

As an annual check-up on the education system, the Accountability Pillar provides an opportunity for Alberta Education and school authorities to ensure that we are equipping students for success. You have already received a copy of the survey.

The Accountability Pillar uses a set of 16 indicators. Data on these indicators consists of surveys of students, parents, and teachers on various aspects of education quality, student outcomes such as dropout and high school completion rates, and provincial assessments of student learning.

All surveys are anonymous and ask questions about experiences with your school

Your participation in the survey helps provide important information on the quality of education your child is receiving, so we encourage you to return your survey promptly. The deadline for on line submission of these surveys has been extended to March 8.

Survey results will be available to school authorities in May, and will be reported publicly as part of their 3-Year Education Plans.

CACHS CATERING

CACHS Catering upcoming events:

- March 7—Swing into Spring Fundraiser @ CACHS
- May 18—Sadie Talsma/Devon Beaunoyer wedding
- Blackfalds Community Hall
- June 8—Pastor Neil deKoning retirement banquet—Lacombe Memorial Center
- June 28—CACHS Grad—CACHS gym



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 to a high quality meal for a very reasonable price. If you would like to have us cater for an upcoming function, please call Emma Den Oudsten for more 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

LIBRARY NEWS

This month has flown by—having several snow days has helped. Valentine's Day has come and gone, but don't limit yourself to just one day to let others know that you think they are special.

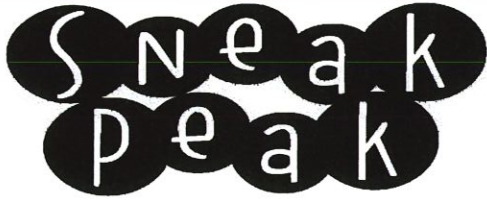
In the person of Christ we have the perfect example of unconditional love. We all desire it, crave it and aspire to give it. Unlike the romance novels that we can find on book store and library shelves, unconditional love is not necessarily reciprocated. But that is what we are called to do, love in spite of it not being returned. SO, take a moment and tell someone in your life that they are special and loved.

Fairy Tales seems to be a logical suggestion for the month of 'love'. Melody Dickerson has written, "A Medieval Fairy Tale Series." She takes well known fairy tales (Sleeping Beauty, Rapunzel, and Beauty and the Beast, etc) and retells them with the historical setting and giving them a spiritual theme. Most of our Disney Fairytales had a deeper and at times a darker beginning. Dickerson has in a sense redeemed them, and brought back the deeper spiritual meaning behind every story.

If you happen to be going on the Israel trip, there is a series written by Bodie and Brock Thoene. The first series, The Zion Covenant, follows a group of Jewish characters through WW2 Europe to Israel. The Zion Chronicles is set in the post WW 2 Israel up to the 5 Day War. The history that this husband and wife team covers in these series is phenomenal. Anyone interested in learning more about Israel, this is an entertaining way to do so. You can find both these series in our Library. Please come in and check us out. If you have a student attending CACHS you are welcome to use our library. I hope you have a blessed month.

Yvonne Reed,
Librarian





Calling all Grade 8 & 9 Students!!

CACHS is hosting the Junior High visiting day on Thursday, February 28th. Our plan is to have lunch at 12:00 followed by an assembly and three sessions. We anticipate the afternoon coming to a close at around 2:30. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. This day is always a great way to experience what CACHS has to offer. If you attend a Junior High that does not send all their students to this event, please RSVP to the office at 403-782-4535. We would love to have you!

Swing into Spring

Family Dinner Fundraiser

To build community and raise money for our school



*If you have a
business and
would like to
sponsor a table,
please email
Cindy
cekkel@cachs.ca*

Please join us for a free CACHS
Catering Dinner, on Thursday,
March 7 @6:30 pm.

There will be a Dessert Silent
Auction and a movie with pop-
corn for the kids.

All are welcome, but seats must
be reserved.

Doors will open at 6:15pm



Please phone the
school at
(403) 782-4535
to book your
FREE seats or
a table of 8

ATHLETICS

Follow us on:

Facebook: Central Alberta Christian High School

Instagram: cachsknights

Twitter @CACHS-Knights



Athletic Calendar:

Feb. 25—GBB/BB host Area Championship

Feb. 26—GBB/BBB vs. Olds Koinonia

March 8/9—GBB Zone Championship (East hosts)

March 8/9—BBB Zone Championship (Central hosts)

March 13-16—BGG Provincial Championships—Paradise Valley

March 13-16—BBB Provincial Championships—Stirling

Free drop in badminton every Thursday from 7–9 pm.



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.



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Cost is \$10/month.



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