

NEWSLETTER

March 2019
Vol XXVI No VII

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



Important Upcoming Dates:

- March 18–30
 - Israel Trip
- April 4—Report cards
- April 9, 10 & 11
 - Individual Grad pictures
- April 11
 - Parent teacher interviews after school & evening
- April 12
 - Parent teacher interviews in the morning
 - No School
- April 19—Good Friday—no school
- April 22—Easter Monday—no school
- April 25—Grade 9 Pizza Night
- June 28—Grade 12 graduation

PONDERINGS - MARCH 2019

February in central Alberta was the coldest in 40 years according to reports by the weather people. I always feel sorry for those who have outside jobs, especially when the wind is blowing. It's been an indoors activity kind of winter for a good stretch.

For those like me who pay some attention to things political, we can thank the federal government for giving us something to take our minds off the weather. The SNC Lavalin story has been unfolding like a real time Netflix drama. What did the prime minister say or imply? Does it cross the line to breaking the law? Is he bending the law? Showing contempt for the rule of law? Or is he the principled protector of malcontents who can't see the big picture and play with the team? Citizens of Canada would do well to wrestle with these questions.

Regardless of where this will all end up, there seems to be a divide that goes to the core of what the players see as the role of government. Does it exist to uphold and protect the law, or to manage the country in ways that provide jobs? Or both? What is the balance? What is ethical? Multiple people and organizations are involved, with differing interests and perspectives. Sides are picked, lines are drawn, and the debate continues—between the “idealists” and the “realists”.

The Bible indicates that Christians must occupy both of these realms. How to balance them requires us to identify what is fundamental, and to devote our energy and attention to defending and promoting those things. And what is fundamental to a Christian school? The answer is found in the school's foundational documents, which contain the society's objects and principles. The members of the society, but in particular its leaders—both elected and contracted—are charged with this task.

In all the news that has poured forth in connection to the abovementioned political storm, one quotation taken from Jane Philpott's letter of resignation

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Vice-Principal—Travis Eggink
Secretary—Ann Oudman
Business Administrator—
Wendy Barnes

stands out as timely, considering the school's present challenges:

"There can be a cost to acting on one's principles, but there is a bigger cost to abandoning them."

Board members take on an important task. Please pray for them, and for God's providence as new leaders are sought and chosen at this time of board elections.

Pete Hoekstra
Principal

BOARD NOTES

Students and staff have returned to school after a week of beautiful weather over spring break. We have one new student in Grade 10, Joel van der Vyver, who joined CACHS for the second semester. We want to welcome Joel and his family to CACHS! Kevin Makkinga has been hired as our part time Maintenance personnel. Thank You to Harvey Buit who did an excellent job at this position for the last four years! We also want to thank the Development Committee for organizing another successful Swing into Spring Dinner. It is encouraging to see so much support within our Society and also from younger families of our feeder schools.

We have approved a Shop Use Policy at CACHS. The wood shop class from the first semester made a shed that sold at the Swing into Spring Fundraiser Dinner. Our mechanics class is off to a good start with 27 students enrolled. The high enrollment means that we have two classes running for the second semester! Shelley Agrey has been hired to teach Art in a job share arrangement with Carolyn Hoyt for this semester. It is a blessing for a small school like ours to offer so many options to our students. In addition to Art and Mechanics, option choices for the second semester are Photography, Sports Performance, Foods, Psychology, Work experience, Green certificate and the Registered Apprenticeship Program.

A month ago, teachers implemented a cell phone policy that restricts cell phones in class. If a phone is seen in class, the teacher marks it down just like a skip or late. Once three infractions have occurred, the student has earned an in-school suspension. So far three suspensions have occurred so this system has worked well. Our teachers and our school board have agreed to go one step further and password protect the WIFI at CACHS (students will still be able to text or call parents). Students who wish to use their phone as in the past will be using their own data. We believe it is our school's/teachers' responsibility to educate our children rather than worry about what students are doing on their phones.

We are still patiently awaiting the judge's decision on our appeal for an injunction regarding Bill 24. We are looking forward to the provincial election on April 16 and pray that the results of the election will be positive for Christian Education.

"Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"

Psalm 27:4

Our next board meeting is scheduled for April 29th. Feel free to contact one of us if you have any questions or concerns.

Val Ingwersen
Board Secretary

CACHS Board Members 2018/2019

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403-597-8430

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403-877-4541

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403-782-7951

Maintenance—Fred Baong
403-782-5031

Development—
Hennie van de Brake
403-782-5295

Education—Brian Bajema
403-754-6543

Education—
Tracey Wiersma
403-782-4195

FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR MARCH 2019

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.

Through donations, table sponsorship, desserts and bird houses, the March 7th Swing into Spring fundraiser raised \$44,595.00 for the school. Thanks to everyone for your generosity and support to the school community.

Tuition statements were mailed out before the spring break. If you have any question please do not hesitate to contact me.

Usually at this time the finance committee is working on the budget; however, this year the provincial budget will come out after the election. We will then be putting together the school's budget. The government has granted an extension to June 30th for the submission of our 2019/20 school budget to the Alberta Government.

Wendy Barnes

Business Administrator

CAREER CORNER— MARCH 2019

"No task will be so sordid and base, provided you obey your calling in it, that it will not shine and be reckoned very precious in God's sight." John Calvin

March 6, 2019—The Grade 11 class travelled to Red Deer to attend the World of Choices. It was an incredible opportunity to explore a variety of occupations. There were 30 tables set up and students had six sessions of 15 minutes to talk to an industry professional. We listened to an Olympic gold medalist and enjoyed a free lunch as well. A big thanks to the Junior Achievement program for providing this wonderful opportunity.

May 2, 2019 - The grade 10's and 12's will be attending the Career Expo at Red Deer College. This is a great opportunity to explore different occupations and post secondary opportunities.

My Blueprint is a website that CACHS has subscribed to that is available to all CACHS students. It provides valuable resources to students. This website is utilized in the CALM class, however students are encouraged to continue to use it in regards to post-secondary questions. It includes a resume and cover letter resource, aptitude testing, and career and post secondary educational resources.

I continue to talk to students throughout the day. I am currently intentionally meeting with the grade 11's to discuss what they are planning to take in school in grade 12 and what they are looking forward to doing after graduation. If you have any questions or concerns, I am at CACHS Monday's and Wednesdays.

Veronica Den Oudsten

Career Counselor

Thank You!!

I would like to send a huge THANK YOU to all who were involved in our Swing into Spring fundraiser. Thank you to the table sponsors, to those who made desserts, to those who helped with decorating and clean up, to CACHS Catering for the tasty meal, and to all who came. Your generous donations made the night a huge success. We are so grateful for the community that supports CACHS!

Cindy Ekkel

Development Director

CACHS CATERING

CACHS Catering upcoming events:

- April 20—Mrs. Van Gyssel's 90th birthday—Bethel CRC
- 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
- July 27—Giesbrecht/Bos wedding



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
Clase van Iperen
- 403-396-3708

LIBRARY NEWS

We have so much to be thankful for, and Spring, as well as Easter, is a great time to remember all our numerous blessings. The consistency of our Heavenly Father is reflected in the seasonal changes of our earth. Spring, a time of rebirth; tulips poking their heads up through the ice crusted earth, and robins and geese returning to build nests and start new families. In spite of all our human inconsistencies, God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow (Hebrews 13:8). Spring and Easter are times of promises. The following authors have highlighted the dramatic week of Easter. Sigmund Brouwer, has written two books that cover the Easter story; The Weeping Chamber, a fictional novel that explores the death of Jesus through a character named Simeon. Sigmund also wrote a non-fiction book, The Carpenter's Cloth. This book has become one of my favorites as a devotional book during this season. He follows Jesus' journey from the carpenter's workshop to the cross. Sigmund touches on all the characters that Jesus interacted with during this time.



Melody Carlson, a young adult writer, has also written a fictional novel that tells the Easter story from the perspective of Mary. This story picks up at the foot of the cross and culminates with Jesus' ascension. The Centurion's Wife, written by Bunn/Oke is the first book in a series that follows the beginning of the early church. We are so blessed to have these creative individuals who can retell an important story in so many ways. But most of all we are truly blessed with the privilege of having our own Bibles and the freedom to read this story for ourselves.

Hope you have a blessed Easter.

Yvonne Reed,
Librarian



invites you to our annual

PIZZA PARTY!

WHEN: Thursday, April 25 @7pm

WHERE: @ CACHS, 22 Eagle Rd, Lacombe AB

WHY: To meet and greet other Grade 9's and high school students who could be your classmates at CACHS!

WHO: Any Grade 9 or prospective Grade 10-12 student in Central Alberta.

WHAT: Pizza and games with Student Council

PARENTS: Come join us for pizza, and while the kids are enjoying some activities there will be an informative orientation session.

PLEASE RSVP

403-782-4535

The following article has been "reprinted" with permission.

Columns

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL GROWTH



Deani Van Pelt | Guest Columnist

Deani is the President of Advance Christian Schools Association.

IF YOUR CHILDREN or grandchildren attend an independent Christian school, they are part of a growing trend. Independent school enrolments are increasing while public school enrolments are declining.

And it is a trend that appears not to be escaping the Ontario government's notice.

Consider enrolments: from 2005/06 to 2015/16 public school enrolments in Ontario (including public Catholic schools) declined by six percent (from 2,118,544 to 1,993,432). But over the same period, Ontario independent school enrolments increased by 12 percent (from 119,584 to 133,919).

Consider schools: over that same decade, the number of public schools remained stable (from 4,886 to 4891) while the number of independent schools increased by 25 percent (from 895 to 1,118 schools). The most recent (2018/19) Ministry of Education statistics show 1,285 independent schools in Ontario, a 44 percent increase in the number of independent schools in just 13 years!

What is going on here?

A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

Unlike Quebec and all four western provinces where governments offer partial funding for independent schools, independent schools in Ontario are almost entirely funded by parents and philanthropists. This means independent schools save Ontario taxpayers more than \$1.8 billion dollars annually. It also means the growth in independent schools can't be explained by a change in government financial support for independent schools.

So why are parents gradually turning to the independent school sector for the education of their children? And why is almost one in five schools in that province run by parents and other non-government associations?

Independent schools bring diversity to the education landscape. In Ontario, close to half are religiously-defined while the rest have distinct pedagogical visions. Three-quarters of the religiously-oriented independent schools are Christian schools (a handful are Catholic), while Islamic and Jewish schools make up the majority of the remaining religiously-defined schools. The non-religious independent schools include schools with a unique learning emphasis such as Montessori, Waldorf, special education, arts, sports or science/technology/engineering/math.

Research from a decade ago found the main reasons parents choose independent schools in Ontario included the religious perspective and a focus on morals and character, unique pedagogical or

curricular emphasis, perceptions about quality of the education or the care of the teachers or the safety of the schools, or an emphasis on community or the individual student.

But is something else driving the growth in recent years? Until more research is done, we rely on other evidence and anecdote.

It's worth noting that Ontario's new provincial government seems to have picked up on the shift. Their province-wide consultations "For the Parents" which ended on December 15, 2018 included an intention to prepare a Ministry of Education Parents' Bill of Rights.

The global context for such action is also clear. International treaties recognize parental rights in education; the most famous, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), reads "parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children" and protects their freedom to "manifest... religion or belief in teaching."

Furthermore, a recent report (June 2018) of the European Parliament on the modernisation of



education in the EU contains the clause: "whereas the right to education includes the freedom to set up educational establishments, on the basis of due respect for democratic principles and for the right of parents to ensure that their children are educated and taught according to their religious, philosophical and pedagogical convictions."

Certainly, in addition, the law in Canada, either through legislation or jurisprudence, provides extensive protection for parental rights in directing and determining their children's education.

Parents across Canada are clearly demonstrating their uptake of such rights.

If you've felt the nudge to establish a new independent school or to assist in the choice of one for your children or grandchildren, indeed, given the trends and the changes, now might be precisely the right time. >

ATHLETICS

Follow us on:

Facebook: Central Alberta Christian High School

Instagram: cachsknights

Twitter @CACHS-Knights



Athletic Calendar:

April 25, 26 & 27

Handball provincials at CACHS

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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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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