

CACHS Connection

Striving For
Excellence Through
CHRIST.



ISSUE 8

FALL 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

Teaching staff at CACHS

Alumni Tournament Updates

Alumni Stories

2006 Class Reunion

Graduation Class of 2016

Follow CACHS
on FACEBOOK
for more photos,
news, upcoming
events and more.

CACHS Connection is going online!

The “CACHS Connection” will be distributed online.

With the frequent increases in postage, we find our communication costs steadily rising. We also realize that for many people, email is a much-preferred method of communication.

If you would like to receive future newsletters via mail, please send us your mailing address. The ‘Alumni Newsletter’ is available on the CACHS website and on our Facebook page.

Connecting CACHS with
over 700 ALUMNI



Mrs. Carolyn Hoyt



Mr. Brandon Lynn

Some difficult goodbyes...

It is difficult
to say
goodbye...

Wishing
both of you
many
blessings this
coming year.

Introducing CACHS' new French Teacher...

Miss Charissa Vandergrift



"Bonjour! Je suis la nouvelle enseignante française à CACHS! As an alumnus, it has been a neat experience returning to my alma mater in a totally new context. I have the opportunity to be an Educational Assistant in the mornings and teach French to two small groups of students in the afternoon. It has been fun

to be among my own past teachers and new teachers at CACHS and to be welcomed back into the warm environment of CACHS! "

2006 CLASS REUNION

This summer the '2006 Class' held their 10-year reunion. The event was organized by Jacquelyn Kleinlugtbeld, Heidi Gebbink, Karmen Meyer, and Jolyn Capton.



Kyle Makkinga kindly offered to host the event at his place. Several graduates, along with some of their spouses attended the evening. The weather was great and the evening was spent sitting around a fire and catching up on life stories.

Alumni Tournaments 2015

CACHS held two ALUMNI tournaments during Christmas Break; Volleyball and Basketball

Basketball Tournament

Update:

Written by Veronica Den Oudsten;

On December 22nd, 2016 the Second Annual CACHS Basketball Alumni tournament was held. Most of the current players were there, along with a respectable showing of graduates. Everyone showed up at 9:00 am, and a complicated and very fair selection process then determined teams. There were 3 girls teams, and 5 boys teams. Games were modified to allow the old and weak to be able to play with the young and strong. Morning games were played with high intensity and a commitment to defense. By the afternoon, games seemed to move at a much slower pace as some players appeared to be getting tired. The day ended with a championship game for both the girls and boys division.

The day allowed ample time for playing basketball, and socializing. Thanks to everyone that participated, and a special thanks to Tim Van Doesburg for volunteering to ref for the day. We look forward to the third annual tournament. ANYONE that would like to play is invited!

Volleyball Tournament

Update:

Written by Colleen VanderSchee

The 7th annual alumni volleyball tournament was held Dec. 19, 2015. It was the largest so far with 14 teams participating, 8 in the men's division and 6 in the women's division.

Matt Andersen, Nathan Lehman Scott Lesher, Andrew Reed, and Jason Schroeder were the members of the men's winning team.

Cherylyn Stewart, Carlee Mulder, Nahani Schermers, Cassidy VanderSchee, Tashelle VanderSchee, Anita Birkland, and Aryn Lesher were the members of the ladies winning team.

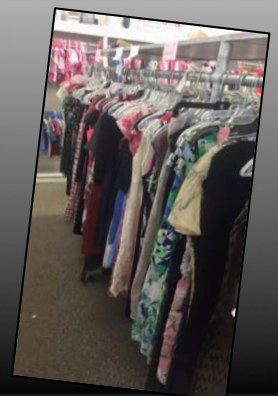


CACHS Sports Field Update

Last year the field west of the school was transformed from an unusable hay field into a wonderful soccer field. After much dirt work, grass seeding, fall rains, and spring sunshine, we are beginning to use the field for PE classes! Making such great use of our existing property has been an excellent addition to our campus' facilities.

Thank You Building Blocks Thrift Store

Building Blocks is a non-profit thrift store in Lacombe, Alberta. Proceeds go to the Lacombe Christian School and Central Alberta Christian High School.



ALUMNI Stories

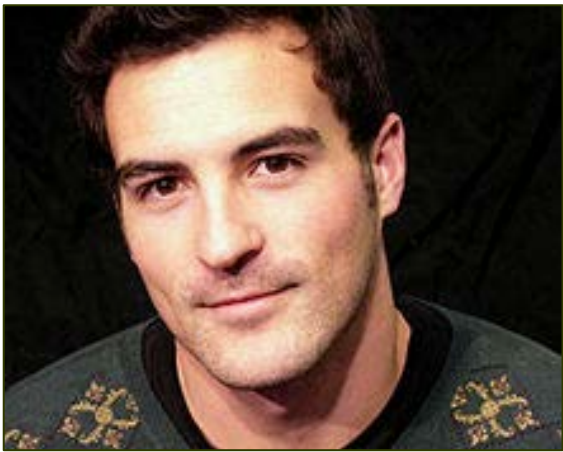
Danielle Folkerts,



On May 4, 2016, alumnus **Danielle Folkerts** was presented with one of the 2016 City of Lacombe Arts Endowment Awards. The annual event took place at Anna Maria's Coffee Bar at the Lacombe Memorial Centre; Danielle was one of the six local artists rewarded for their artistic talent, creativity in the area of fine arts. Danielle plans to use her grant to attend an artist's residency in Picton, Ont. Congratulations!

Check out the Danielle's Web Page
<https://daniellefolkerts.wordpress.com/>

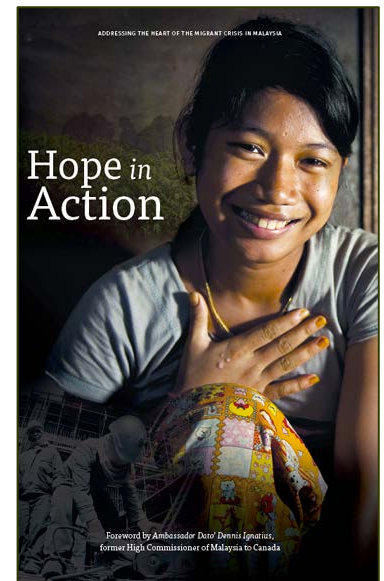




Andrew Kooman's, new book Hope in Action was released on June 20, 2016. This book details the unimaginable experiences of migrant and refugees seeking work and a better life in Malaysia.

A film adaptation of 'She Has A Name' will be released in December and the play will have

an off-Broadway production in January. The website and trailer will be launched very soon. www.shehasanamefilm.com



OLYMPIC DREAM

Alumni Chaim Schalk,
competed at the 2016 Olympics in Rio!

"The Olympics were a dream come true for me. The amount of commitment it took over 4 years leading up to the games was something I am very proud of. My partner Ben and I set out to complete many goals over the quad, and most of those were achieved. This whole grind over the years is what makes it feel special, and even though it wasn't our time to medal, the process has been so rewarding on many different levels. Thinking back to my days at CACHS, they really helped shape whom I have become and helped me understand what it takes to truly reach for your goals. My desire to become the best volleyball player that I could all started throughout those years and some of those memories that I have are still my most cherished. I am hungry and motivated to continue playing Beach Volleyball and would love another crack at a medal in Tokyo. Thank you all for the kind words and support over the years, it really means everything to me.



Website: blindmanbrewing.com
Email: hello@blindmanbrewing.com

Facebook: [/BlindmanBrewing](https://www.facebook.com/BlindmanBrewing)
Twitter: [@blindmanbrewery](https://twitter.com/blindmanbrewery)
Instagram: [@blindmanbrewery](https://www.instagram.com/blindmanbrewery)



Blindman Brewing is a brand new brewery in Lacombe, Alberta. Alumna **Hans Doef** and Dave Vanderplaat founded the Brewery. Dave is married to alumna **Heather Kuipers**.

Hans and Dave were the main founders who initially started this endeavor. Hans and Dave made this dream happen, by working alongside 3 amazing guys from Edmonton who had brewery experience, knowledge, and passion.



The Blindman Brewery has had a very exciting opening year. Hans and Dave are looking forward to having a positive influence within the community as they continue to grow and thrive. Keep posted on the Blindman Brewery events through the social media sites.

Attention all CACHS Alumni...

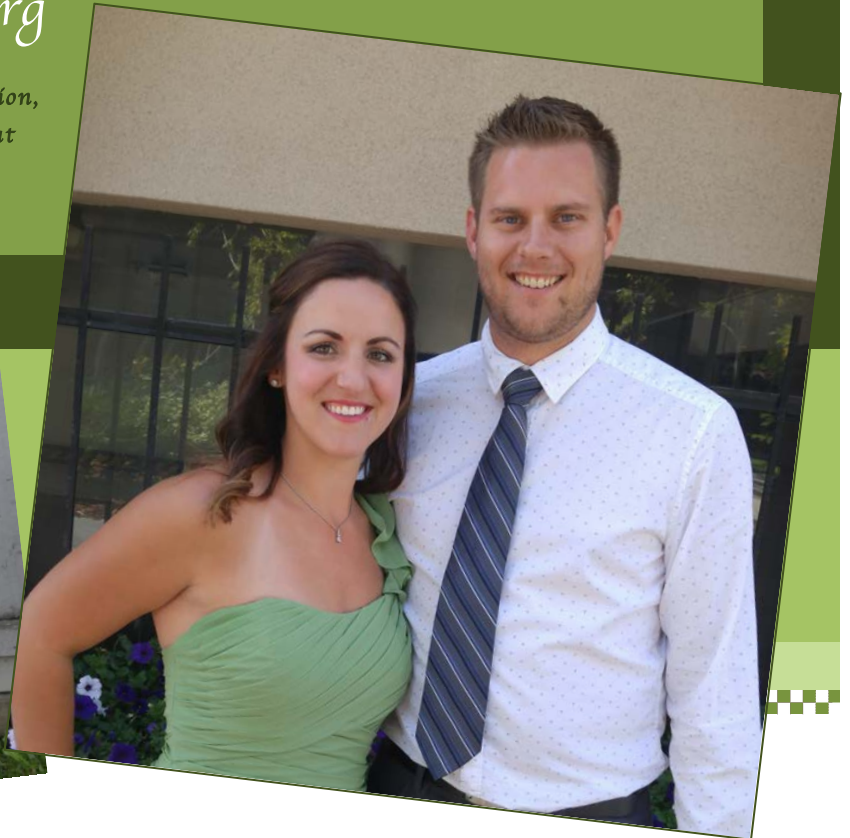
Do you have a story to share? We would love to hear from you.

Contact Sandra Brandsma, Development Director

sbrandsma@cachs.ca

Jolyn and Jan Rodenburg

"We are so thankful for the Christian education, unforgettable experiences and community that we received from CACHS."



It has been 10 years since I graduated from CACHS and 12 years for Jan. A lot has happened since high school but sometimes it feels like just yesterday! After graduating I began working for Nick and Veronica Den Oudsten, my job was training horses and working on the dairy farm. After working on his family's, as well as a few other dairy farms, Jan decided to pursue agricultural sales. Jan and I began to spend time together as he was a close friend to my co-worker on the farm. We had never spoken in high school but, as everyone who has attended CACHS should know, it wasn't difficult to know each other's name and face.

Jan and I were married August 8, 2008, and our wedding reception was held in the CACHS gym. We soon bought our first home in Bentley, but later relocated to Lacombe. We are blessed with two beautiful children, a 4-year-old son named Grayson, and a 2-year-old daughter named Kesler.

In June 2015, we made a big move from Lacombe to Chilliwack so Jan could take his current job at West Coast Robotics, selling Lely dairy farm equipment. It has been tough to be so far away from our family and friends in Alberta, but God has lead us every step of the way and we are starting to feel at home here. Being a part of Christian communities has been a huge blessing as we are settling in here. We are members of Cornerstone CRC and Grayson has been attending preschool at Unity Christian School where he will be going to Kindergarten in September 2016. We are very much excited to be part of a Christian school community, now as parents, as we both can see what a huge influence our Christian education has had in our lives.

We both have many great memories from our time as CACHS. It really was such an awesome time in my life; playing sports, choir trips, May long weekend camping, the school play and making some of the closest friends I have to this day. We are so thankful for the Christian education, unforgettable experiences and community that we received from CACHS.

Kendra and Bennett Bayes

“...Little did I know, God had the perfect plan for my life...”

When I was asked to write this alumni update I thought that it would be easy to just write down a few things I liked about school and where I am now. But to be honest I hated school, I hated most subjects, and never felt comfortable with my peers. I could not get out of there fast enough and did not realize it until I finally sat down to write this. What I do remember is that, I did enjoy my friends and the memories we made.

Some of the things that first come to mind when I think about CACHS; is Mrs. Houle and her spike lizard, Mr. Hoekstra and his impersonations, Madame Hoyt letting myself and a friend (Roze Rodenburg) work on our art in the hall almost every class, Mrs. Den Oudsten's little chats about the future, Mrs. Oudman and her love for 'French Vanillas', Mrs. VanderVeen's dedication to her students, and, many school events such as the Fashion Shows, school plays and of course the Grade 12 prank.



CACHS is a good school, they do a good job at ensuring CACHS is a Christ centered school. They offered a good Christian education and exemplified Christ in every class and subject. I give the teachers at CACHS credit because I am sure it is not easy to deal with teenagers who think they know everything, and who think they know your job better than you. There are probably moments where students deserve a good lashing out but the teachers keep their cool and deal with it in a Christ like way. CACHS does a good job of putting on assemblies and events. Whether it is a dance or a fashion show, the committees and coordinators do a really good job. There is a real sense of community at CACHS, and I know that Christ is the center of this community. I see the support that the students and families of CACHS have for one another and you know that if you come upon a hard time in life you have a whole community praying for you or your family.

When I graduated from CACHS I did have one plan, I knew for sure was I WAS NOT going back to school. I worked for about a year and a half after school and then decided to go for an Accounting Certificate. After I finished that program I landed a job in a Real Estate Office where I worked as a receptionist.

In June of 2014, I married my hubby Bennett Bayes, a 'good ole farm boy' from Three Hills. We moved into a little farmhouse on the yard, which is where we still live. We run a feedlot, cow/calf and grain operations with Bennett's parents and younger brother. Bennett and I are also partners in Highview Contracting, which is a seasonal oil lease spraying company.

This past June we welcomed our first little man into the world and into our family, Cohen Andrew. I am a "farmers wife" and proud of it, I get to make the meals for the boys, do books for both the farm and spray crew, run the combine, and, be a Mom to a most beautiful little man.

When I look back at my high school days I was scared of growing up, I didn't know what I wanted to do. But little did I know, God had the perfect plan for my life and I am very proud of what He has done for me, I look forward to seeing what God has planned for myself, my family!

An Interview with Jessica Braun

"His statement breathed confidence into me."

What do you do for a living now? Currently, I am part of our School of Biblical Studies program in an international movement called Youth With A Mission. I spend my work hours training young people in how to study the Bible and apply it in their lives. In many cases I give extensive time to working one-on-one with these staff and students in order to bring them to an understanding of Christian principles and Biblical instruction. I particularly enjoy training other instructors in how to teach the Bible and showing them how to encourage Christian character growth in the lives of our participants.

I specifically remember a moment during that year when I was in a coffee shop writing in my journal and praying. I wrote, *"I would love to someday start an School of Biblical Studies in Canada."* At that point there was no SBS in Canada. As a young 20-year-old writing this, it *had* to be God putting this on my heart because I do not think I would have had the confidence to come up with this idea on my own.

After returning to staff my first SBS in Montana in 1997/98, around April or May of that year, the SBS directors of Montana approached me and asked me to help pioneer an SBS in Turner Valley, Alberta. I think back to this now and almost chuckle at how quick my response to say "yes" was. Soon the plan evolved to the point where they wanted me to take the lead on this pioneering project. But my heart had been prepared 9 months before in that coffee shop. My dream was *"one day I would love to start an SBS in Canada."*

Andrae Braun, my husband and the base director currently in YWAM Turner Valley, was a student in the SBS I was staffing. The directors of the SBS recommended asking him to come on my staff and help start the school. It wasn't long before he was on the team. The goal for our first school was January of 1999. But there were obstacles in the way. For example, in the summer of 1998, I was involved in a horrific car accident that nearly stalled our goal of starting first thing in 1999. In spite of this, our first SBS started on January 4, 1999. We had 8 students. Seventeen years of students would follow. Each student being discipled and encouraged to share the Word of God with lost around the world or wherever God plants him or her! The Bible is still the same wellspring of life for me that it was back when I was 19 years old. I resonate with the psalmist in 119:93, "I will never forget your precepts, for by them, you have given me life."

How did your time at CACHS prepare or helped you to pursue this? I am not sure the school itself necessarily contributed to it directly, but I do think that the CACH community influenced my dreams and desires to reach out in life, by faith. I had friends who deeply cared about following Jesus and were concerned about world missions. For this reason – and without a doubt - my peers, friends, and teachers at CACHS contributed to my pursuits of missions, which is now my career and has been for the last 17 years.



Did you ever envision doing this while you were at CACHS? The beginnings of where I am now started during my time at CACHS. During my grade 11 year, I went on my first missions' trip and when I returned I declared to my parents that I wanted to be in missions for the rest of my life. Of course, the follow-through of such large statement coming from a 16-year old would normally be doubted, but, only a few years after graduating I joined Youth With A Mission and I have been working in missions ever since. I completed a few schools with them and then pioneered a school that I am currently working with now.

Where do you live now? We live in Turner Valley, Alberta where the Youth With A Mission campus is located. We have three small children. Charis is 6, Phoebe is 5, and Ezra is 23 months.

Reminisce about some highlights at CACHS? Most memorable moment for me: I was in grade 12, somewhere around the time of the final exams looking forward to graduation. I was in the hallway of the high school—in fact, I can still vividly remember where I was standing. Mr. Hoekstra (my former teacher) was talking with me. I am not sure how the conversation started or why we were having it. But, he told me something that I have never forgotten and have carried with me through all of my intellectually challenging pursuits. He said, "if there is anyone who will do well in further education, it will be you, because you work hard and persevere!" At that time, I was a little unsure of myself and didn't have a lot of confidence in this area; therefore, this statement was incredibly impacting coming from someone whom I trusted and looked up to. His statement breathed confidence into me. I believe it was significant in later pursuits and successes that I would have.

What were CACHS students campaigning for when you were a student? A gym.

Are you still in contact with anybody you met at CACHS? For sure! I am even in contact with some former teachers and good friends with them, which I think that is a unique characteristic of Christian education or private school. There is more opportunity to build or foster an atmosphere for long-term friendships.

Do you value the Christian education you receive as a student? Would you send your children to a Christian school? Yes, I totally value the Christian education I received. I think the fact that I am in an International Missions Organization that values biblical education definitely shows that I value it immensely. I would totally send my kids if we had one in our area—in a heartbeat!

What is your lasting impression of CACHS? Warm, great teachers, good education, community, close friendships, a freedom to be real with your expression of faith in Jesus and the Bible... a freedom to be creative. I still have a sentimental connection to the school. I have even visited the school and the staff lounge and introduced my girls to all my former teachers! I appreciate their sincere interest in my life and the lives of my kids. I valued the care the individual and holistic attention not only given to academic pursuits, but also spiritual and emotional growth.

As our kids have grown older, we have seen doors open to get them being involved in what we do in missions. We are strong believers that our children won't simply follow God *because we do*. Just because something is sacred to us doesn't mean it will be sacred to them. Faith in Jesus has to be a part of their own story. For us as a family, this principle has guided us to bring our kids into what we do, to make it their story—not just ours.

Any last words? Last fall, we had an opportunity to go on a family outreach to northern Thailand. We snapped up the chance knowing that this could be a valuable time for our kids. Even as we left for Thailand, we weren't sure what kind of opportunities awaited us. We trusted God and he opened some fun doors. For example, our girls participated in English teaching to other kids their age (and older). They acted out the meaning of words and helped in every way. During their time of teaching they were able to share their faith. In between teaching times there were opportunities to pass out 'Jesus story' coloring books and color with other kids in the park, or even hand out Gospel tracts to adults. Because we were in the same location for a while, our kids were able to establish a level of relationship with other kids in the community and also at an orphanage. They visited remote villages and learned about how Buddhism has formed the Thai and Shan culture. Overall it was a special experience for our family. We hope that God waters these seeds that he planted during this time. We also look forward to the next opportunity where Andrae and I can involve the kids in such a direct way in missions work.





Congratulations Class of 2016!

Willem van de Brake, Charlotte Zuidhof, Ian Wierenga, Matthew Walls, David Verhoef, Ryleigh VanderSchee, Reuben Vander Meulen, Nicole Ubels, Jake Ten Hove, Nicole Stang, Anna Sawatzky, Braden Olsen, Adrian Ollewagen, Kyle Nieuwland, Jamie Moreau, Maria Kingma, Elisa Jimenez, Adam Hulsman, Melissa Hendricks, Nathan Hazelhoff, Bailey Giesbrecht, Megan Fraser, Shelby Ebens, Cheyenne Ebens, Colin Duckett, Jayden Doornbos, Dakota Denoudsten, Logan Den Oudsten, Cali Cooper, Nick Cappis, Brook Burk, Jonah Abma



CACHS Catering

THANK YOU CACHS Catering

CACHS Catering provides a catering service for many functions. Please contact Emma at 403-782-2657

CACHS Catering is a group of dedicated volunteers who raise funds to purchase items for the school. CACHS Catering have helped the school purchase Computers, smart board, and sports team uniforms. Purchasing these necessary items helps keep the cost of tuition down.