

NEWSLETTER

November 2019
Vol XXVII No III

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:

- November 28—8 PM
 - Europe Trip meeting
- December 17 & 18
 - Drama presentation
- December 19
 - Last day of school
- December 20—January 5
 - Christmas Break
- January 6—First day back

PONDERINGS NOVEMBER 2019

About a month ago I watched the evening edition of the CBC news on TV—a distinctly old-fashioned practice, and one I have largely abandoned. My primary source of news is my phone. A big disadvantage of the latter is that I miss extended news features supplemented by live video footage. So it was a bit of a treat to watch the news as I had done for most of my life prior to the acquisition of my phone. However, as is usually the case, some of the news was bad.

An extended, multi-evening feature focused upon the issue of bullying by and against school-aged persons. A segment of the accompanying footage (captured by a student cell phone camera, of course) was very disturbing. It showed a sequence of events in which a young man approached his victim, from behind, and delivered a powerful punch to the side of his head. The recipient of the punch collapsed. As he lay helpless, the perpetrator picked him up, flipped him, and dropped him onto his head in a pile driver maneuver. It was a cowardly and brutal attack.

The footage was provided to supplement statistics that indicate verbal, physical and sexual abuse perpetrated and experienced by students during the school day continue to rise. A significant number of students have experienced at least one form before they have completed junior high school. Governments and citizens continue to search for the roots of such behaviour, to propose more programs, and to enable legislation as a means of countering this problem. Lines are drawn that always seem to point to the institution that must provide the solution—the school.

I have spent much time in thought about the problem of bullying. Why does it escalate even as we devote ever more resources to reducing it? I believe the answer lies partly with our incorrect assumptions about where the problem originates, and who is ultimately responsible. The school certainly must play a role in remedying this problem, but can never provide the solution.

A number of years ago I attended a lecture by a lawyer and academic named Iain Benson. Although not about bullying as such, his talk addressed the decline of institutions that cultivate morality and community. This phenomenon is having profound social implications. Historically, churches, service organizations, clubs and societies (and schools) were acknowledged as having significant roles in establishing a shared sense of moral obligation. The family, as an institution, played a paramount role.

In my view, schools alone can never solve problems that are themselves symptoms

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of a larger malaise. Christian schools can never replace the institutions that are organic to the Christian life as His ordained instruments for instilling love of God and neighbour—the church and the family. Our primary obligation is to them, and the relational climate of and in our schools depends upon them.

Pete Hoekstra
Principal

BOARD NOTES

Report cards have come home which means we're half way through the 1st semester! All teachers who are involved with diploma exam courses are interpreting the detailed results and developing strategies to determine areas of strength and weakness in past exams in order to enhance student preparedness for writing diploma exams.

Students have started a computer programming club under the supervision of Kevin Reed.

The CACHS Fall Drive has started and we hope to raise \$125,000. Our school relies on these funds for daily operation.

We sent a letter to the Justice Centre to thank them for all their hard work on our Bill 24 coalition now that the court case is rescinded. It is very important that we continue to engage with our new government at this time. As you may be aware, the Choice in Education Act will be introduced into the legislature in the spring session. If passed, this legislation will be the first full statute recognizing independent schools in the province's history. The draft legislation is presently being developed and the government is seeking input.

Parents, grandparents, staff and CACHS society, it is vital that you take the opportunity to provide feedback at this critical stage. Please take a few minutes, before December 6, to complete the online survey by clicking the link below and following the instructions. <https://extranet.gov.ab.ca/opion6//s?s=PCEdu>

"Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments." Deuteronomy 7:9

Our next board meeting is scheduled for November 25th. Feel free to contact one of us if you have any questions or concerns.

Val Ingwersen
Board Secretary

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SUPPORT STAFF REVISIONS

Over 30 years of CACHS's history, the school has seen fluctuating levels of enrollment, from years in which the school was filled to near capacity to years in which there is excess room. The past few years have seen enrollment decrease. This was not a surprise as the primary feeder schools of Ponoka Christian, Rimbey Christian and Lacombe Christian Schools also experienced lower enrollment numbers.

The 2018/2019 school year was one of transition, with the Board looking to the future and the needs of the school in the next couple of years. A committee was struck and mandated with the task of conducting job audits designed to identify and understand all support staff tasks completed on a daily, weekly, monthly, and annual basis. This process would help identify job overlap, obtain efficiencies and guide succession planning.

This committee examined and analyzed the data from the job audits as well as the existing job profiles. As a result, this committee recommended the revision of the Receptionist and Business Administrator roles and the creation of the new position of Assistant Receptionist/Record Keeper. The Librarian role was eliminated due to extremely low library use.

The Assistant Receptionist/Record Keeper role was created to support the school with data entry of School Records and Financial Records. This position is a support role to both the Receptionist and Business Administrator. The Board, through a job tender, hired Candace Slomp, CACHS's Development Director, since the two roles mesh well.

Ann Oudman continues to be the Receptionist at CACHS but shares duties with Candace. Ann and Candace work closely to provide front office support to CACHS.

In implementing these changes, the Board made substantial modifications to both the roles of the Receptionist and the Business Administrator. Consequently, the Board and Wendy Barnes have also agreed to a new role for Wendy that is primarily as a consultant. The Board acknowledges these changes have been challenging for all involved. It thanks Wendy for transitioning to the role of consultant to CACHS. The Board also extends a thank you to Yvonne Reed for her years of service and best wishes as she pursues new opportunities.

CACHS FALL DRIVE—2019

The 2019 CACHS Fall Drive is now underway. If you would like to make a donation, please do so by dropping off or mailing your payment to the school. You can also submit payment online by clicking the Donate button at the top right of the school website and did you know that we now accept e-transfers as well? Please note that your donation is for the Fall Drive and where you'd like to see your donation go to, eg. Debt Reduction, Tuition Relief, etc. Any questions please call Candace at the school. Thank you for your support!

CAREER CORNER

Each person is given something to do that shows who God is." 1 Corinthians 12:7 MSG

The season for open houses for universities and colleges is over. However, most institutions are still hosting student for a day activities. Please contact the school you are interested in to find out when it works best to come and explore the educational opportunities they have.

We have nine students currently enrolled in the Green Certificate agricultural training program. Students work through a manual which covers all the fundamentals of the industry they are enrolled in as they work at a farm. The areas of study are: beekeeping, cow/calf, dairy, equine feedlot, field crop, horticulture, irrigated crop, sheep, and swine. This program is valuable at encouraging students to think about the work they are doing on a farm. Students can earn up to 16 credits in 30 level classes. The green certificate is available for grade 11 and 12 students. This program, along with Work experience, Registered apprenticeship, and our CTS classes (which includes our shop program) are valuable for our students as they consider what they want to do after high school.

If you have any questions about these programs please feel free to contact me. I am at the school on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Veronica Den Oudsten
Career Counselor

DRAMA PRESENTATION

Come and join the CACHS Drama 10, 20 and 30 students as they present *Crumpled Classics*.

With first year teacher Mr. Collins out sick, a quirky cadre of students take it upon themselves to pull together the school's annual "Classics on Parade", acting out famous stories that they studied in their literature class. The students, however, decide to make the stories relevant to today's audiences, with hilarious results! The authors are surely rolling over in their graves and Mr. Collins is terrified of losing his job, especially when the principal calls the superintendent in the middle of the show! You'll love the hysterics of these plays-within-a-play. Romeo and Juliet set in a fast food place! Frankie Stein trying to assemble the perfect prom date! A second rate theatrical agent becoming the Phantom of the Opera so he can force a good deal! A desperate Shirley Holmes and Joni Watson jump-starting a detective agency! And teenage slacker Artie surprising his unimpressed mother with a sword he pulled from a stone. It's a comedy treat sprinkled with outrageous takes on some very familiar characters.

December 17 and 18 in the CACHS Gym

Doors open at 6:30 PM

Show begins at 7:00 PM

Tickets are \$10/each—available at the CACHS office (403-782-4535)

EUROPE TRIP—MARCH 2021

Parent and student information night will be at CACHS on **Thursday, November 28** at 8 pm. During the meeting an overview of the trip will be given, along with information regarding signing up, and costs involved. The trip will align with March Break 2021. We will be going to Berlin, Prague, Krakow, and Budapest! Some highlights of the trip will include the Berlin Wall, Brandenburg Gate, Checkpoint Charlie, a 600 year old astronomical clock, Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration camps, Fisherman's Bastion, and many more. Current Grade 10 and 11 students and their parents are welcome to join us on this educational tour. Please talk to Mr. Eggink by calling the office at 403-782-4535 or email teggink@cachs.ca for more information.

CACHS CATERING

We hope you all had a great summer. CACHS Catering is looking forward to serving you again in the upcoming year with our home style cooking and dessert buffets. We do this to raise funds to support CACHS to cover extra expenses for the students and school. Please consider us when you are choosing your caterer for your event.



We are willing to work with special dietary needs. We have a tasty menu list available, and are open to your personal wishes. Our price for 2020 will remain low at \$22/plate, which includes your needs for dinner, dessert, coffee and juice. **THE FULL MEAL DEAL!!**

For each event quite a few helping hands are needed. From booking the event, figuring out the grocery list, purchasing the groceries, preparing the food, serving and doing dishes we are usually needing about 15-20 helpers over the span of 2-3 days. If you like grocery shopping, making desserts or salads or cooking, you are welcome to participate. It takes a lot of phoning to find this many willing helpers. Whether you want to volunteer for one event we need you, or if you would like to be involved as a committee member, please talk to one of the committee members to find out what is involved and how much fun we have! We learn a lot from each other in the process.

To book your date call Emma Den Oudsten at 403-782-2657. For volunteering to help with serving and dishes please call Frances Vander Wekken at 403-782-3327.

Upcoming events for CACHS Catering are:

- December 17—Lacombe Christian Seniors Christmas dinner at Bethel at 11:45

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

ATHLETICS

Follow us on:

Facebook: Central Alberta Christian High School

Instagram: cachsknights

Twitter @CACHS-Knights

Athletic Calendar—is available on the school's website.
Come cheer on our teams!

November 28—7 pm—drop in badminton
December 5—7 pm—drop in badminton
December 6 -7—BBB/GBB—LCHS tournament
December 12, 13 & 14—BBB/GBB—Edmonton
December 19—7 pm—drop in badminton
December 20—21—Alumni volleyball tournament



CACHS ALUMNI VOLLEBYALL TOURNAMENT

The CACHS Alumni Volleyball tournament will be held December 20 and 21st. Teams must consist of no more than two non-alumni. Cost is \$125/team. Deadline to enter is December 13th. For more information or to enter please text Colleen at 403-302-2659 or email lc.schee@gmail.com



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