

# NEWSLETTER

November 2020  
Vol XXVIII 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 27

- Staff Collaboration—no  
School

December 17

- Last day of classes before  
Christmas break

December 18—January 3

- Christmas break

January 4—Classes resume

## PONDERINGS NOVEMBER 2020

Last month I touched upon the theme of change in the world. In that issue the Board also announced a change I will undergo next year. Some in the CACHS community have expressed surprise at my decision to retire. We all need to face the transition to retirement at some point, and the number in my head has always been 60 – and here I am! Thirty-five years of teaching have left me with so many good memories and much to reflect upon. As the school transitions as well, leadership will be at the forefront of discussions about its next operational phase.

I began teaching at Immanuel Christian School in 1986. I was green in every way (my apologies to environmentalists). A couple of years in, I ended up on a committee with seasoned volunteer/supporters and other more experienced staff. Our goal was to come up with a workable solution to a problem that would have financial implications. I remember well a comment made by a parent rep that went something like, “We don’t know if this school will even be around in a year’s time! That’s just the way it is!”

I was struck then, and even more now, by the shallow, short sighted (and incorrect) perspective expressed by those words. I am thankful that kind of thinking did not prevail. That school operates to this day! To be sure, schools always have their challenges and struggles, as do all organizations. However, successful ones are not founded upon thinking that is limited, timid and reactive. Of course, it would be ridiculous to think that leaders can disregard day to day realities and the many conditions they don’t control. On the other hand, they must have institutional vision that has not been set by those conditions. A lifeboat mentality is neither principled nor productive. The goals of any Christian organization are ultimately transcendent – rooted not in the concerns and trends of the present but in the will of our Creator.

We should not define things by what they are not, but there are times when it is useful to think in those terms. Leaders must be many things, but they should not be weathervanes. Schools must seek, not only in paid administrative positions, but in every leadership role, to find competent visionaries who will defend and promote the institution’s mission and mandate.

Please offer up prayers for wisdom and guidance for the Board as it leads the school through this time of transition, and that the Lord will continue to bring forward leaders who are equipped for this kind of service.

Pete Hoekstra  
Principal

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Principal—Peter Hoekstra  
Vice-Principal - Travis Eggink  
Secretary—Ann Oudman  
Business Administrator—  
Jacki Talsma  
Record keeper/Assistant  
Secretary—Candace Slomp

## BOARD NOTES

Students have taken report cards home which is a reminder that we are halfway through the first semester. Our volleyball season is over. We want to commend coaches and athletes for all their dedication and making the best of this volleyball season. The basketball season starts at the end of November and teams hope to be able to play more but realize we need to be responsible in order to keep our school open. K & E Cleaning has been hired for a 2 year contract and will start as custodians at CACHS on December 1st.

We are accepting resumes for a principal position for the 2021-2022 school year. I want to share the beginning of our principal job post which reads....*Central Alberta Christian High School (CACHS) is looking for a principal who displays strong spiritual leadership, communicates clearly, and can work effectively with a parent governed school board. The principal role at CACHS would include some teaching time as well. Our Christian education philosophy is to train children for a life of obedience to their calling in this world as image bearers of God. We believe in the authority of the Bible as the true word of God and teach this in all subject areas. Our vision at CACHS is "Striving for Excellence Through Christ" and our mission is to provide "Transformative Education within a Christian Community."* It is good for us to be reminded of our core values from time to time. We pray that God will bless our efforts and provide a suitable new principal to lead at CACHS the coming school year. "And God is able to bless you abundantly so that in all things at all time, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." 2 Cor 9:8

Our CACHS fall drive is underway and we have increased our goal to \$175,000. Each year our school relies on these funds for daily operation and this year the increase is to cover the cost of offering a Special Needs program at CACHS. We did not budget for this as we were in the early planning stages and not sure how we could run the program with integrity at a high school level. We are extremely thankful for Christine Baltzer and her ability to offer special needs programming at CACHS. It is a blessing that students of all abilities can be supported in their learning here at CACHS and that they too can receive an education within a Christian community. Please prayerfully consider how you can financially support CACHS and help us to continue providing Christ centered education to all our students.

Our next board meeting is scheduled for November 23, 2020. Feel free to contact one of us if you have any questions or concerns.

Val Ingwersen,  
Board Secretary

### CACHS Board Members

2020/2021

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boardchair@cachs.ca

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403-396-3621  
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## CACHS Fall Drive

Central Alberta Christian High School's Fall Drive is now underway! Our goal this year is \$175,000 with funds going towards running, building and sustaining the new Special Education Program and enhancing the CACHS learning environment. This program ensures that students of all abilities can be supported in their learning here at CACHS and that they too can receive an education within a Christian community. Please prayerfully consider how you can financially support our school and help us to continue provide Christ centered education to all our students. Donations may be sent via e-transfer to [business@cachs.ca](mailto:business@cachs.ca) or sent directly to CACHS: 22 Eagle Road, Lacombe, Alberta T4L 1G7. You can also donate by clicking the Donate button at the top of the school website: [www.cachs.ca](http://www.cachs.ca). If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at the school. We thank you so much for your support of the school! "Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." 1 Tim. 4:12

Candace Slomp

## Curricular & Extracurricular Activities—Risk Assessment

CACHS regularly organizes and carries out activities within and outside of the classroom and school environs and hours that are intended to enrich student learning and broaden their experiences. These include alpine hikes, river rafting, skiing, and international travel, as well as the typical activities associated with various courses (using a stove, sharp knives,, hot oil in Foods, scalpels in Biology, etc.).

As a school we do our best to mitigate risk. In a recent COVID discussion with the principal of a public school nearby, the topic came up. This fall, that principal was challenged by parents to guarantee her school was 100% safe for the students in attendance. In short, her response was, "I cannot".

I ask all parents to cooperate with us as we work to make our school safe, whether that be regarding COVID or not. It is impossible to completely eliminate risk, short of cancelling activities altogether. Your graciousness, consideration and input in regard to this matter are much appreciated.

Pete Hoekstra  
Principal

## CAREER CORNER

Parker J. Palmer in his book Let Your Life Speak says:

"If we are to live our lives fully and well, we must learn to embrace the opposites, to live in a creative tension between our limits and our potentials. We must honor our limitations in ways that do not distort our nature, and we must trust and use our gifts in ways that fulfill the potentials God gave us. We must take the no of the way that closes and find the guidance it has to offer—and take the yes of the way that opens and respond with the yes of our lives."

It is difficult for students to fully explore the options and opportunities they have for after high school in this environment. Yet, most places have worked hard to ensure that information is readily available online. Students are encouraged to connect with places that they might be interested in.

A reminder to grade 12 students that although the deadlines to apply to most schools are not until the spring, many of these schools will have deadlines much earlier if you want to apply for their awards or scholarships.

Veronica DenOudsten  
Career Counselor

## Europe Trip

There have been some recent additions and subtractions from our group travelling to Eastern Europe this coming March. Our group is holding out that our trip will be possible, and if by the end of February it is looking unlikely due to COVID then we will cancel and try again next year! If anyone is still interested in the trip please contact Mr. Eggink as soon as possible so that we can get everything lined up with the hope of going through with the trip.

## CACHS CATERING

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 have been cancelled for the time being.

### 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

# CACHS ATHLETICS

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Follow us on:

Facebook: Central Alberta Christian High School

Instagram: cachsknights

Twitter @CACHS-Knights

At this time all events including drop in badminton have been cancelled.



## CACHS Athletics

Without interscholastic competition it has been a strange semester of athletics at CACHS, but what has not been strange are the amazing efforts of our community coaches as they give of their time and talents to our student-athletes.

In cross-country, Dr. Darren George trained CACHS, LCS, LCHS, LJHS and any other runners every Monday-Thursday after school from the start of September through the second week of October. Dr. George's expertise in running and his competitive nature have made cross country and track training very enjoyable and productive for our student-athletes over the past number of years.


In volleyball, the boys' coaches Kim Keating, Eric Talsma, Jordan Baong, and other helpers, put together a great season considering the situation, where the boys gained meaningful training time with two practices a week and games against alumni teams mixed in throughout the season. Coach Kim had set up a year end mini-league tournament that would have finished the season, but it was cancelled because COVID restrictions increased November 10th.

On the girls' side, Tashelle Loov, Carlee Vandekraats and Miss Lindballe gave the girls every opportunity to develop their skills holding two practices a week plus regular alumni games throughout the season as well. Coach Tashelle put in exceptional work getting together three alumni teams that challenged our girls team in a season ending mini-league and final tournament.

Each year our school is blessed by the hundreds of hours our community coaches give to our athletics program and despite COVID, this year proved no different. If you get the chance please thank any of our coaches for their volunteer time that greatly benefits our student body and greater school community!

**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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