

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

December 2020
Vol XXVIII No IV



Important Upcoming Dates:

- December 17
 - Last day of classes before Christmas break
- December 18–January 3
 - Christmas break
- January 4–8
 - On line learning continues
- January 11
 - In class schooling resumes
- January 12–Social 30– 1 and 30-2 diploma–Part A
- January 15
 - School is in session
- January 20–Math 30-1 and 30-1 diploma
- January 22–Social 30-1 and 30-2 diploma–Part B
- January 27–Physics 30 Diploma
- January 29–Semester break

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

PONDERINGS DECEMBER 2020

A very different Christmas it will be...

Our public health officer for the province has already warned us against falling to the temptation to bend or break the rules that restrict our family gatherings, worship and shopping. In this culture the last activity has become inextricably bound up in the celebration of Christmas. Most retail businesses move from the red to the black in the last three months of the calendar year. 2020 could prove to be different for them, as it will be for all of us in many other ways. Few would use the word "positive".

And yet the message of hope persists, as it must. I recently watched a Christmas ad on YouTube. Sainsbury's, a grocery chain in the UK, created it in 2014 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Christmas truce. Despite its commercial intent, this ad powerfully captures a poignant moment in history. This strange event occurred along sections of the Western Front on Christmas day, 1914. Peace momentarily and spontaneously broke out – soldiers of both sides paused hostilities to sing Christmas carols, play games and exchange gifts. No command was given to do so. It just happened.

Sadly, "normalcy" quickly returned and the carnage resumed. Such truces were much rarer in the years to follow. No attempt to find a lasting peace came till 1918, and only then did it come due to sheer exhaustion. In the century that has followed, lasting peace in the world has been elusive. In 2020, as individuals, communities, and nations, we continue to experience stress and brokenness, not only due to COVID-19, but for reasons rooted in our innate desire to resist the one true God.

And yet our reason for hope endures. God is with us, and the Incarnation has taken place. Jesus has done and is doing His work, and God's Spirit is with us daily. In this time of struggle and adjustment, on behalf of the CACHS community, I wish you God's blessings as you celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

Pete Hoekstra
Principal

AERR/Three Year Education Plan

The Annual Education Results Report for the 2019/2020 school year and the Education Plan for the three years commencing September 1, 2020 for Central Alberta Christian High School Society is a document prepared under the direction of the Board in accordance with the responsibilities under the *Private Schools Regulation* and the *Education Grants Regulation*. This document has been developed in the context of the provincial government's business and fiscal plans. The Board has used the results reported in the document, to the best of its abilities, to develop the Education Plan and is committed to implementing the strategies contained within the Education Plan to improve student learning and results.

The Board approved this combined Annual Education Results Report for the 2019/2020 school year and the Three Year Education Plan for 2019/2020 on November 23rd, 2020.

Parents and society members are invited to pick up the report in the school office or access the report at our web site www.cachs.ca

BOARD NOTES

On behalf of the board, we wish each student, teacher and CACHS family a Merry Christmas. May each family reflect on Jesus' birth; the greatest gift of all. "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Luke 1:35

We have received a few applications for a principal starting in the 2021/2022 school year. The search committee will be interviewing applicants to bring forward to the board at the end of January. Continue to pray that God will bless our efforts and provide a suitable new principal to lead at CACHS the coming school year.

Gayle Monsma, from PCCE, led a Board Governance Workshop at our last board meeting. Gayle encouraged us to stay on track with our vision and mission statements and to also be referring to our strategic plan; none of these items should be stored in a 'vault'. Gayle used a ship analogy where you can be 'hands on deck' or in the 'crows nest' searching the horizon. The challenge is for school boards to stay in the 'crows nest' when there are big items and issues happening rather than the easier approach of having 'hands on deck' too often. The school board needs to be thinking about the future. Another recommendation was to make sure that committees and boards are working well together. A committee should bring forward a motion with two options and list both the pros and cons for each option. Then it is up to the board to make the decision. This helps for decisions to not feel rubber stamped. As a board we felt encouraged and also challenged to be more intentional at our meetings.

The board, as recommended by the finance committee, approved participation in Christian School Foundation. This means that we will continue to earn interest on our previous endowment with Christian Stewardship Services (CSS), but those funds along with new money that comes in will be managed by Christian School Foundation (not an endowment). With our previous CSS endowment, the principal amount could never be touched; our school has only been able to use the interest earned (we use ours for tuition relief). At Christian School Foundation, they want to target certain groups of donors such as grandparents, faithful donors and seniors and to encourage them to have an up to date will and then to set aside money in their wills to be used for Christian Schools in generations to come. Christian School Foundation appeals to donors because the money is more flexible and can be used as the donor likes, this includes the principal amount. Funds can be designated for a specific capital project, new programming, tuition relief etc. and the donation can be set to carry out for a length of years. In the future, Christian School Foundation will run presentations, along with PCS, LCS and RCS, where society members will be educated and given materials to understand the importance of their will. Donations can also be made to Christian School Foundation so that the donor can see their gifts in action while they are living.

The European trip is still up in the air due to the pandemic. The board, under direction from the education committee, will make a decision at our next meeting on January 11. Feel free to contact one of us before our meeting if you have any questions or concerns.

Val Ingwersen,
Board Secretary

CACHS Board Members 2020/2021

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Library Renovation Update

Last spring, staff, volunteers and professionals began the transformation of our library into a more accessible student commons space. With donated time and money, we have completed and paid for taking out the north wall, building new bookcases, and putting in table and chairs. The completion of phase one has brought new life to the front of our school and allowed much socializing at a distance.

Moving forward, we have donations of time and materials towards phase two which will include new carpet, study carrels, ceiling tiles, painted ceiling grid, and lighting. The cost of phase two will still be \$6,000.00 and we are looking for a financial partner(s) to help complete phase two. We then hope phase three will start in the Spring with the installation of a north sliding wall and furniture (e.g., couches, chairs, tables). Please contact the front office if you are willing to financially partner with the school in completing the library renovation.

CAREER CORNER

'Ecclesiastes says "a person can do nothing better than to find satisfaction in their own toil." (2:24) One of the reasons so many people find work to be unsatisfying is, ironically, that people today have more power to choose their line of work than did people in the past. What wisdom then, would the Bible give us in choosing our work? First, if we have the luxury of options we should want to choose work that we can do well. To take up work that we can do well is like cultivating ourselves as gardens filled with hidden potential; it is to make the greatest room for the ministry of competence.' (Timothy Keller in Every Good Endeavor)

I continue to encourage students to grow in knowledge and competence so they can find work that they can do well. In these uncertain times it is difficult to know what options might be available, however, developing oneself through ones' studies will be helpful in that journey.

Grade 12 students are encouraged to explore the website of institutions they are considering. Some deadlines are coming in regards to applications and financial aid deadlines so it is important to continue to look ahead.

Veronica DenOudsten
Career Counselor

Fall Drive Update

Central Alberta Christian High School's Fall Drive's goal for this year is set at \$175,000. So far this year's drive has resulted in donations totaling approximately \$61,000. Thank you to all those who have donated so far, your support is very much appreciated. If you would still like to donate there is still time to do so and we ask that your prayerfully consider to what extent you can support CACHS through this year's drive. To receive a 2020 charity receipt please donate before December 31, 2020. Donations can be e-transfered to business@cachs.ca or by clicking the donate button at the top of our website, www.cachs.ca. You may also mail your donations directly to CACHS, 22 Eagle Road, Lacombe, AB, T4L 1G7. Thank you.

Kindergarten Teacher Position

Ponoka Christian School has a half time Kindergarten position effective March 2021. The position is for Tuesday, Thursday, and a few Fridays for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. Interested candidates please send resume, statement of faith, and cover letter to office@ponokachristianschool.com

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

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

We look forward to 2021 with the hope that our basketball teams can enjoy time training and competition with other schools as well!

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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CREAM OF THE "CROP"

**May you have the spirit of
Christmas which is Peace**

**The gladness of Christmas
which is Hope**

**The heart of Christmas
which is Love**

**May the blessings of
Christmas be yours now and
throughout the new year.**



**Merry Christmas from the Staff
and students of Central Alberta
Christian High School**