

Central
Alberta
Christian
High
School

Knights News

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 Tim. 4:12

PRINCIPAL'S PONDERINGS

The process of Strategic Planning this past Spring was time consuming and very rewarding. I was greatly encouraged by the amount of time respondents put into their surveys and focus groups. Past, present and future parents, students and staff offered us a broad perspective on CACHS that I hope you recognize in our final document included in this edition of the Knights News. I have been encouraged by the passion folks from each generation have for independent Christian education in Central Alberta!

When reading through our Strategic Plan 2025, I hope you see our faithfulness to the CACHS mission statement – Transformative Education within a Christian Community – and vision statement – Striving for Excellence through Christ. When finalizing the document we wanted to honour the founding values of CACHS while also being mindful that Facebook is now older than our students! As one might expect, throughout the strategic planning process the student learning experience and faith formation were consistently named as top priorities. In light of these aims, a highlight from the Plan is continuing in the CACHS tradition of providing great facilities for our staff and students, and moving forward we look to improve core courses (e.g., new science lab) and option classes (e.g., cosmetology lab).

Our projected population growth was a major driver in creating this Strategic Plan. A challenge given during devotions at our last Board meeting was to be community builders within our schools - between those new to Christian education, those generationally involved in Christian education, those from different church backgrounds, etc. As our school projects to grow in the coming years, I am mindful of the sense of belonging all families feel within our Christian Community. Lead by Spirit-filled prayer may we see each other transformed through Christian education as together we strive for Christ's excellence.

IN THIS ISSUE

- CACHS Family Phone List
- Strategic Plan
- Open Parachute
- CACHS Current

IMPORTANT DATES

Oct 7 : PD Day - NO SCHOOL

Oct 10: Thanksgiving Day - NO SCHOOL

Oct 13: 2024 Europe Trip meeting

Oct 14-15: CACHS Invitational Volleyball Tournament

Oct 20-21: Teavher's Convention - NO SCHOOL

Oct: 24: Board Meeting

Oct 27: CACHS Info Night

Oct 28: Picture Retake Day

A LETTER FROM OPEN PARACHUTE

Dear Parents,

We are pleased to announce that this year we will be delivering the Open Parachute Mental Health Program to our students. This program addresses issues of stigma surrounding mental health in young people, encourages help-seeking, and creates a culture of mutual support and respect for any struggles that students may face. Students will be participating in small group studies of the Open Parachute program led by teachers on alternating Fridays for approximately 30 minute sessions.

This program was developed by Dr Hayley Watson, an adolescent clinical psychologist who has been developing programs globally for the past 15 years.

There are audio and video-based resources to provide you, as a parent, with practical tools for supporting the well-being of your child at all stages of their life. [Parent resources can be found here.](#) (Please email the school for a link if you are reading the in print).

Here is a message from the founder of Open Parachute, Dr Watson:

I am so pleased that your child is taking part in this program. I developed this resource because I want every child to learn practical mental health skills, so they can live life to their fullest potential.

This program aims to build a strong foundation of resilience so that your child can learn to trust in their own abilities, relate to their own feelings in a healthy way, and change any unhelpful patterns that may hold them back at any point in their lives.

It is normal for your children to have feelings stirred up throughout the course of this program, because we are intentionally providing a space where they can address challenging issues in a safe, nurturing, and supportive environment. These conversations can also continue at home if you and your child would like to explore these topics further – the video-based resources for parents can help guide these discussions. We look forward to working with you to support the wellbeing of your child!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jenna Vander Veen by email, jvanderveen@cachs.ca or by calling 403.782.4535.

POWERSCHOOL

Parents are encouraged to login to the PowerSchool Parent Portal to check what courses your child is enrolled in. Contact Candace if you are having login issues.

CONTACT US

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Vice Principal - Jenna Vander Veen

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Business Administrator - Rachel Otten

E: business@cachs.ca

Development Director - Candace Slomp

E: developmentdirector@cachs.ca

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair - Hendrik de Gier

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Vice Chair - Paul Linker

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Secretary - Andrea Thalen

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Education - Kim Haan

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CENTRAL ALBERTA CHRISTIAN
HIGH SCHOOL

INFO NIGHT

Join us on October 27 at 7:30pm

Learn everything you need to know
about having a student in high School



Topics Include:

- Graduation Requirements
- Athletics
- PowerSchool
- Off Campus Programming: Green Certificate, RAP, Work Experience
- Europe Trip
- Grad trip/fundraising
- Plus more!

Coffee and
Refreshments will
be provided.

For more
information
contact the
school:
403.782.4535


ONLINE SAFETY

We encourage students and parents to check out these online safety resources from C3P Canada, a national, interactive safety education program that uses age-appropriate lessons to increase children's personal safety skills in order to reduce their risk of victimization online and in the real world.

<https://protectchildren.ca/en/programs-and-initiatives/kids-in-the-know/>

<https://protectchildren.ca/en/resources-research/supporting-you-through-covid-19/>

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BOARD NOTES

Welcome back to another school year at CACHS! It's hard to believe that September is coming to a close and the students and staff have settled back into their school year routine. We give thanks to God for our school community and the privilege and freedom we have to educate our children in a Christian manner.

This year we were able to welcome 29 new grade 10 students, 39 grade 11 students, and 21 grade 12 students. We also welcome a new member to our teaching staff: Christy deGier who is teaching Grade 10 Science and Math. We welcome Rachel Otten as our new Business Administrator. We pray that God will bless them both in their different roles at CACHS!

Over the summer the Board was able to meet with new families to CACHS and discuss any questions or concerns the families had. It was neat to be able to connect with the families and see the willingness and commitment of the parents to support the school and their children in receiving a Christian education.

You will find a copy of the completed *Strategic Plan 2025* attached to this newsletter. We are thankful to the committee that spearheaded this document as well as the focus groups and all those that filled out surveys to help in the development of the Strategic Plan. The Board, staff, and various school committees will use this document to guide them as they plan for future growth and continued quality Christ-centered education at CACHS.

Our next board meeting will be on October 24th, 2022. If you have any questions or concerns please contact a board member or email me at secretary@cachs.ca.

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ." Colossians 3:23-24

Andrea Thalen
Board Secretary

ASSEMBLIES

Students are expected to attend all assemblies and Open Parachute time. Assemblies start at 10:10am and alternate Fridays with Open Parachute. Parents are welcome to attend assemblies at any time. Sometimes special guests will be invited to speak at our assemblies.

Upcoming Assemblies:

Oct 5 - Mrs. Vander Veen *Note this a Wednesday*

Oct 28 - Officer Lahucik to speak on Drugs and Alcohol

Nov 4 - Mr. Van Loo - Remembrance Day

June 3 - Mr. Reed



CLASSES AT A GLANCE

Accounting 30: Learning to use SAGE software.

Bible 10: We are starting at the beginning.

CALM: Personal choices.

Chemistry 20: Sticks and dots.

Drafting: Learning the basics.

English 20: Storytime.

English 30: We are attempting essays.

First Aid: Saving lives.

Foods 20/30: We are mixing it up.

Math 10: We are talking about numbers - roots and powers.

Math 20-1: :(

Math 20-3: Getting graphical.

Math 30-1: September does not equal October.

Math 30-2: Perms and Combs.

Math 30-3: The straight and narrow.

PE 10: We are climbing mountains.

PE 20/30: Time to get in shape.

Photography: Principals and Elements.

Psychology: The Physche of Shrek.

Physics 20: Which way and how far.

Science 10: Names and numbers.

Social 10: I identify as _____.

Social 20: Is there really anything to be proud of here?

Woodshop: Safety - Safety - Safety.



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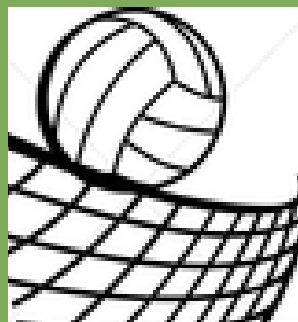


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ATHLETICS UPDATE



Volleyball: We have a senior boys and senior girls team along with a junior girls team. The teams have been busy playing in tournaments and games. The teams are looking forward to hosting their own tournament Oct. 14-15.

Cross Country: Our students join with LCHS and PAA students to train. A few students ran in the Peace Hills Classic and look forward to the next race.

Building Blocks

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Saturdays of long weekends

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

LEIAH DOLMAN has been chosen as the September student of the month! Leah is a grade 12 student at CACHS who exemplifies what it means to strive for excellence through Christ. Leah has always worked hard in her studies and encourages her peers to also do their best. She is also a member of the CACHS praise team and can be found helping out with sound, powerpoint, and praising God from the back of the room. Congratulations, Leah!



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OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Retreat: Our entire school travelled to Camp Little Red by Bowden. We had an amazing time together! We listened to Jeremy as he challenged us in our faith journey, played lots of games, and shared meals together. A great start to the year!

Student Council: Elections were held to determine the class reps from each grade. We look forward to seeing what activities are organized for the student body.



2022-23 CACHS Student Council: L-R Chris Wildeboer (Treasurer), Ben Vande Glind (President), Raegan Folkerts (Gr.11 class rep), Corey Vreugdenhil (Gr. 10 class rep), Nathalie Devet (Vice- President), Brooklyn Zandberg (Gr. 11 class rep), Dathan van der Scheer (Secretary), Lukas Dreise (Gr. 12 class rep), Mathew van't Klooster (Gr. 12 class rep).

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LACOMBE
SIGNMASTERS
SIGNS GRAPHICS

CACHS TRIPS

Holy Lands Trip- March 2023

Students, parents, alumni and CACHS supporters are invited to sign-up for the March 2023 trip to Egypt and Israel with Christian Journeys. So far we have a group of 15-20 travellers with serious interest and would like to confirm our group of up to 40 travellers before Christmas. We believe this trip is an excellent opportunity to share our Christian faith between the generations that support CACHS. Keeping in mind that this is a CACHStrip, we are committed to emphasising education and faith formational values throughout the trip. If you would like an information brochure and registration sheet please contact Pete Hoekstra (peterahoekstra@gmail.com) or stop by the school office.

Europe Trip - March 2024

Over Spring Break 2024 CACHS is headed to Italy and Greece! Students interested in this trip are invited to join an information meeting with their parents/guardians on **October 13th at 7:30pm** in Room 108 at CACHS. Please register to attend this meeting by following this link <https://rsvp.eftours.ca/kbr7skz>.



JOB POSTING

Central Alberta Christian High School is seeking a suitable applicant for the position of Development Director starting January 2023. A candidate for this part-time 400 hours per year position must demonstrate and articulate a personal faith and commitment to Christian education, possess strong interpersonal, communication, computer and organizational skills. A detailed job description is available upon request. Applications will be accepted until October 22, 2022 or until a suitable candidate is found. Please submit a cover letter and resume to Travis Eggink at teggink@cachs.ca.



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CACHS 2022-23 CACHS FAMILY CONTACT LIST

Included in the Email with this newsletter you will find the 2022-23 CACHS Family Contact List. Please take a moment to look over and ensure that your information is correct. If changes are to be made please email the school at office@cachs.ca or call the office, 403.782.4535.

SPECTATORS WELCOME

Fans and spectators are welcome and encouraged to come out and cheer on the CACHS Knights at all games and events. All games are posted on the school calendar located at the bottom of the home page of the school website, www.cachs.ca.

Also, on Oct 14-15 we will be hosting the CACHS Invitational Volleyball tournament for both the girls and boys senior teams. Come on out and enjoy a great weekend of volleyball!





"Don't 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 Timothy 4:12

STRATEGIC PLAN 2025

CACHS MISSION STATEMENT

Transformative Education Within a Christian Community

CACHS VISION STATEMENT

Striving for Excellence Through Christ

The Strategic Plan 2025 was created in June 2022 by the Board and ad hoc Strategic Plan Committee after being challenged to prepare for the future. Guidance in creating Strategic Plan 2025 was given by the Prairie Centre for Christian Education. CACHS stakeholder input was gathered through online surveys, in-person focus groups, committee and Board meetings. Stakeholders included parents, alumni, students, grandparents, CACHS committees, CACHS staff and Society. Through the data collection and consolidation process the following three focuses were identified:

1. Educational Program
2. Community Relations
3. Growth and Infrastructure

For each of the above focuses, Strategic Plan 2025 articulates targets and actions while keeping the CACHS Mission and Vision Statements at the forefront. Strategic Plan 2025 is to guide the Board, administrative team, staff, and committees towards goals and specific actions enabling success in each of the three focuses by the end of the 2024-25 school year.

Focus 1: Educational Program

Context: The core of the CACHS educational program is faith formation within a high school context. As a Christian school, we are called to share our Christian faith with our staff and students by meeting each other on our faith journey and inviting them into a closer relationship with Christ. Wellness at CACHS is then two-fold in that first we pursue relationships within the sacred community of Jesus, and second we create opportunities for students to explore and refine their God-given talents through the Alberta high school curriculum and other learning experiences. Quality teaching and learning promotes the development of innovation and creativity while attending to meaningful assessment and reporting practices. As Strategic Plan 2025 was created, stakeholders consistently reaffirmed the CACHS Vision and Mission statements by reiterating the importance of faith formation and quality teaching and learning as key to education at CACHS.

Outcomes:

1. Create student learning environments and practices informed by Christian faith and offered through quality teaching, extracurricular activities, and service opportunities.
2. Provide students, staff and community with a faith permeated environment that is safe, caring and enhances faith formation of all students, staff and volunteers.
3. Provide the appropriate support ensuring success for all students all while showing how the Creator is intricately connected in the instruction.

Focus 1: Educational Program

Target	Action	Champion	Completion Date	Success Measures
Increase staff knowledge and appreciation for Reformed theology and apologetics	Professional growth plans Staff Collaboration Days Staff study books	Education Chair, Principal	Ongoing	Central Alberta Christian High School: *Education Committee members observing classes. *Principal to meet with teachers and review growth plans in October and June. *Education Committee review staff collaboration day plans and staff study books. *School, staff and student faith environment Alberta Education: *Students model active citizenship
Increase parent and student information for what CACHS offers	Hold an annual information night in October for parents regarding career counsellor resources, requirements for graduation, PowerSchool, and other pertinent information.	Development Chair, Development Director, Career Counsellor	Ongoing each October	Central Alberta Christian High School: *Formal and informal feedback received from parents. *Success with educational transitions into and out of high school. Alberta Education: *High school completion *Indigenous achievement *Success with educational transitions
Build practical life skills	Update CALM program to reflect current life skills needed in financial literacy and relationships.	Education Chair, Principal, CALM teacher	2022-23 first semester	Central Alberta Christian High School: *Formal and informal feedback received from parents. *Progress from student interventions. *Education Committee members observing and reporting on classes. *School, staff and student faith environment. *Success with educational transitions into and out of high school. Alberta Education: *Class size averages *Diploma exam results *High school completion *Indigenous achievement *Success with safe and caring schools *Overall quality of basic education *Satisfaction with broad program of studies *Students model active citizenship *Post secondary transition
Increase program options	Investigate flexible formats for course options for interested students (i.e., language, cosmetology, drafting, etc.).	Education Chair	May 2024	
Increase student engagement in extracurricular activities	Add a requirement of volunteer hours and participation in at least one extracurricular club to CACHS Diploma requirements.	Education Chair, Administration	May 2023	
Small class sizes	Keep core classes less than 30 students	Education and Finance Chairs	Ongoing	

Focus 2: Community Relations

Context:

Being located in Lacombe and drawing students from the Central Alberta region, CACHS recognizes it serves stakeholders and neighbours in the sacred and secular communities. CACHS is committed to ongoing communication and engagement with educational partners, community organisations and individuals to improve decision-making, assurance and neighbourly ties.

Outcomes:

1. Provide students with opportunities to build their skills and experiences alongside community and educational partners enhancing student education and success.
2. Improve communication by sharing current and relevant information that is key to engaging students and other educational stakeholders, including past/current/future parents, CACHS Society, supporting churches, alumni, grandparents, community organisations and individuals.

Focus 2: Community Relations

Target	Action	Champion	Completion Date	Success Measures
Build curricular and extracurricular off-campus service learning	Build a student volunteer program that enriches classroom and extracurricular learning	Education Chair, Principal	May 2024	Central Alberta Christian High School: *School faith environment *Staff faith formation *Student faith formation *Formal and informal feedback received from educational stakeholders. *Funds allocated to support school priorities *Satisfaction with communications *Success of community engagement in school decisions *Success with school, church and association partnerships *Success with adequacy of resources *Success with school facilities *Success with transportation services Alberta Education: *Satisfaction with parental involvement *Satisfaction with school improvement *Overall quality of basic education *Post secondary transition *Rutherford eligibility *Satisfaction with broad program of studies *Students model active citizenship *Success with safe and caring schools
Improve communication and promotion of CACHS to its Society, stakeholders and community.	Improve social media outreach	Development Director	Ongoing	
	Create church communication list that reflects churches attended by students	Secretary	December 2022	
	Schedule regular email communications to not just the Society, but also donors and feeder schools.	Development Director	December 2022	
Build capacity of CACHS parents	Implement new family mentorship programs that encourage parents to be engaged parents.	Development Chair	May 2023	
Showcase the school to stakeholders	Continue events that welcome all to the school (e.g., Swing into Spring, art night, drama presentations, athletic competitions, etc.).	Development Chair, Administration	Ongoing	

Focus 3: Growth and Infrastructure

Context:

From its inception the CACHS Society has been committed to providing Christian education in high quality facilities to families from diverse socioeconomic statuses. Looking to the future CACHS aims to grow awareness and capacity of affordable independent Christian education on a vibrant and attractive campus.

Outcomes:

1. Inform the CACHS Board and Society of facility needs and potential upgrades.
2. Grow community awareness regarding affordability of K-12 Christian education.
3. Inform CACHS Society and larger supporting community of how to partner in the sustainability of K-12 Christian education in Central Alberta.

Focus 3: Growth and Infrastructure

Target	Action	Champion	Completion Date	Success Measures
Maintain and improve facilities	Create a needs and wants list for maintenance and upgrades. Create a yearly maintenance schedule. Create a plan for 2022-25 upgrades for existing facilities (e.g., science lab, computer lab, etc) and new facilities (e.g., cosmetology, fitness room, etc).	Maintenance, Finance, Education Chairs and Principal	January 2023 May 2023 May 2023	Central Alberta Christian High School: *School faith environment *Staff faith formation *Student faith formation *Funds allocated to support school priorities *Satisfaction with communications *Success of community engagement in school decisions *Success with school, church and association partnerships *Success with adequacy of resources *Success with school facilities *Success with transportation services Alberta Education *Satisfaction with parental involvement *Satisfaction with school improvement *Overall quality of basic education *Satisfaction with broad program of studies
Fortify independent Christian high school in Central Alberta	Build policy, partnerships and strategies that sustain and entrench independent high school Christian education in Central Alberta.	Board Chair, Principal	Ongoing	
Improve awareness of confidential tuition relief	Make current and relevant information available during junior high visits (November each year), grade 9 parent and student open house evening (January each year), and at new parent Board interviews (summer each year).	Finance Chair, Development Director, Vice Principal, Board Secretary	Ongoing in November, January, and July-August.	
Improve communication of tuition to new families	Streamline all enrollment communication under the Secretary. Schedule: Junior high visits (November each year), grade 9 parent and student open house evening (January each year), and at new parent Board interviews (summer each year).	Secretary Development Director, Secretary, and Board Secretary	November 2022 November 2022 January 2023 July-August 2023	
Increase sustainability of independent K-12 Christian education	Support the Central Alberta representative and canvasser for Christian Schools Foundation.	Finance Chair	Ongoing	
Prepare for future student growth	Create a forecast list of future students based on our feeder schools to ensure readiness in regards to staffing and facilities.	Education Chair	May 2023	