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NEWSLETTER

December 2011
Vol XIX No IV



The Glory

by Madeleine L'Engle

"Without any rhyme without any reason
my heart lifts to light in this bleak season
Believer and wanderer caught by salvation

Stumbler and blunderer into Creation
In this cold blight where marrow is frozen
it is God's time my heart has chosen

In paradox and story parable and laughter
find I the glory here in hereafter"

I'm not sure the space you occupy as we approach the Christmas celebration. Yet sometimes, without any reason, our hearts pick up when we begin to celebrate this season. May each of you find joy in celebrating the birth of a "Son" who was willing to be obedient even unto death, so that we may have life. May each of us as well join Christ in extending our lives, hearts and perhaps homes to those God has placed in our communities. Some may be fellow believers, some may be wanderers, yet it matters little because God came to save all. Spread the good news and may God grant each of you, along with all those you come in contact with, a

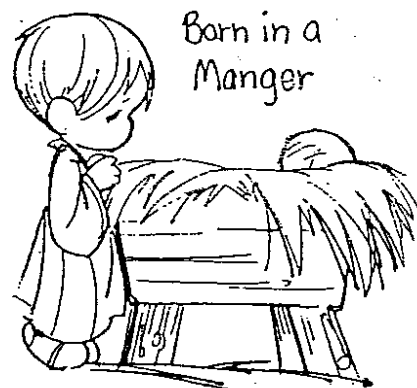
blessed Christmas.

Travel safe, reflect often, and praise continually! He is worthy of all our praise.

Mel Brandsma

Building Blocks Note

Interested in volunteering at the Building Blocks Thrift Store in Lacombe? Duties vary from sorting clothes, to cleaning shelves, running the till or pricing items. A few hours per week or a whole day, whatever works for your schedule. Call the Thrift Store at 403-782-9511. We'd love to hear from you!!



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

Board Notes

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11

The Board would like to wish all of the families, staff and students of CACHS a blessed Christmas season as we take time to reflect the wonderful gift that God has given us. May you all experience His peace and joy as we celebrate Christ's birth.

Bernie Ten Hove – Chairman
Bernie Kolkman – Vice-Chairman
Peter Walls – Treasurer
Mrs. Carolyn Vanderhoek – Secretary
Mrs. Froukje Brouwer
Mrs. Colleen VanderSchee
Mrs. Jane Visser
Mrs. Anita Zuidhof

Carolyn Vanderhoek
Board Secretary

Operating Financial Statement for November 2011

Opening balance – Nov. 1	\$ 458,555.00
Receipts – Nov 1 – 30	+ 40,810.04
Expenses – Nov 1 – 30	- 148,466.90
Balance as of Nov. 30	\$ 350,898.14

The Fall Debt Drive was officially over on December 15th. This year's goal was set at \$90,000.00. As of December 13th we received \$48,115.00 which is a shortfall of \$41,885.00 to service our debt for the upcoming year. We would ask that you prayerfully consider to what extent you can financially support CACHS.

With the last day of school on December 16th, if you would like to receive a donation receipt for this year, please give me a call at home to make arrangements for dropping off your donation. I will be picking up the mail and doing a final deposit at noon on December 30th. We would like to thank the many people who have contributed to our annual Fall Drive this year. We are truly blessed by your generosity.

May you have a Blessed Christmas season as you

spend time with family and friends! Merry Christmas!

Wendy Barnes
Business Administrator

Departmental Exam Study Schedule

This year all staff at CACHS will offer a series of study sessions for students in their classes who are preparing for departmental exams. The sessions will begin in January 2012 with the intent to provide additional help and resources to the students outside the regular classroom hours.

These sessions are not mandatory but recommended for all the students. Sign up with the teacher is preferred as this will allow the teacher to prepare material and procedure required to meet the needs of the students.

Sessions will generally run from 3:30 to 5:00 pm on the following dates:

English 30-1/30-2 - January 2nd, 4th, 5th, and 9th
Social 30-1/30-2 - January 2nd, 4th, 5th, and 9th
Biology 30 - January 12th, 16th, 18th, 19th and 23rd
Math 30 Pure - January 11th, 13th, 17th, 19th and 24th
Math 30 Applied - January 11th, 13th, 17th, 19th and 24th

Career Corner

In the spring edition of Christian Home & School there are various articles about the journey through high school. An article entitled "Blessing and Pain" by Ted Jeninga refers to how it is a wonderful blessing that we have so many opportunities, but the pain is in making up one's mind. I see that struggle in many of our students, and I remind them that 'virtually no decision is irreversible'. Jeninga encourages students to explore and research opportunities, and says, "grade 12 students need to understand that keeping their worries and questions to themselves is unwise. They need to recognize that talking about their concerns and their future is both reassuring and productive; that their questions and misgivings are normal; and that parents, teachers, or counselors yearn to address with them those highly important topics."

Veronica Den Oudsten
Career Counselor

Library Notes

It finally feels a lot like Christmas! After a very unseasonable fall, we now have snow, the tree is up and decorated, many of us have already had at least one Christmas pageant, the baking has begun and Christmas dinner plans are being finalized. I know these past weeks have been a whirlwind for me, and it's time to relax and enjoy a little of the "peace and quiet".

With the Christmas break coming up, I have been encouraging the students to return the books they have finished and take a new book out for the break. If during your pre-Christmas clean up (or post-Christmas) you find a stack of books in various rooms of the house, could you **PLEASE** make sure they come back to the school during the first week of January? Thank you!

It has been requested that I include a few book suggestions, so here they are.

Courageous – (a novelization of the popular movie)
written by Randy Alcorn.

From the creators of *Fireproof* comes an inspiring new story about everyday heroes who long to be the kind of dads that make a lifelong impact on their children. As law enforcement officers, Adam Mitchell, Nathan Hayes and their partners willingly stand up to the worst the world can offer. Yet at the end of the day, they face the challenge that none of them are truly prepared to tackle: fatherhood.

Shadow in Serenity – Written by Terri Blackstock
This is a novel of love, sacrifice and hardship and one that will draw the reader from the beginning guaranteeing hours of reading enjoyment. With excellent character development, this novel will capture your heart and will keep you guessing until the end.

Canary List – new novel by Sigmund Brouwer
In this novel we follow a twelve year old girl, bumped around between foster homes and relegated to school classes for challenged kids, those lagging in their test scores or with behavioral issues. But her real problem is that she can sense something the other kids can't – something dark, something that is compelling her to run for her life. This is not for the faint of heart. Brouwer deals with **some** real life issues.

Yvonne Reed, Librarian

CACHS Catering

Our upcoming events for which we are looking for help are:

- March 16 – Otten wedding @ Kinsmen Hall
Ponoka
- April 27 – Fashion Show at CACHS
- May 4 – Lindemulder wedding at LMC – Lacombe
- June 9 – wedding at BVAV in Bentley
- June 28 – CACHS grad
- August 4 – Lok wedding at Ponoka Kinsmen center

If you are able to help serve and clean up at any of the functions booked for CACHS Catering, please contact Liz Stad at 403-782-3444 or Ann Siebenga at 403-782-3554. Please volunteer a few hours of your time to help an evening at a CACHS Catering function. Your school and **ALL** the students benefit from the funds raised. Please call Emma Den Oudsten if you wish to book CACHS Catering services.

Members of CACHS Catering are:

Emma Den Oudsten
Clase van Iperen
Rosemary Vander Ploeg
Ester Verhoef

Calendar

Dec. 17 – January 1 – Christmas break
January 2 – classes resume
January 11 – English 30-1/30-2 – Part A
January 12 – Social Studies 30-1/30-2 – Part A
January 19 – English 30-1/30-2 – Part B
January 20 – Social 30-1/30-2 – Part B
January 24 – Biology 30
January 25 – Math 30 Pure & Applied
January 25 – January 30 – Exams for Grade 10 & 11
January 31 – Semester break – no school
February 1 – First day of second semester
February 3 – Final report card for first semester
February 9 – No Wolf Creek bussing
Parent/teacher interviews after school & evening
February 10 – Staff inservice – no school
February 20 – Family Day – no school
March 23 – April 1 – Spring Break
June 28 – CACHS Grade 12 Graduation

Congratulations

Congratulations to grade twelve student Martha Stad – the latest student to have a piece of their writing selected for publication! Martha's story, "Thoughts of a Dying Revolutionary" which follows, can also be read in *Inkspots: A Collection of New Canadian Short Stories*.

Thoughts of a Dying Revolutionary

Waiting. All I seem to do is wait. But I know it will happen soon. I'm sure of it. My soul is so desperate for reassurance, for hope, that I sense when the light is about to come.

A ray of sun sneaks through the window, high and narrow on the unforgiving stone wall. It starts on the floor and steadily creeps forward until it reaches the corner and climbs up the grey barrier. It illuminates every crack and crevice, every pockmark on the wall previously believed to be smooth. The light reveals the flaws almost hidden by the layered paint on these four walls I know so well. The room somehow has colour in this light – radiant colour that transfixes me and leaves me breathless.

Searching, the light travels slowly towards the centre of the room catching dust and transforming it to diamonds in its brilliance. The dust motes twist in the ray of light, their convoluted dance embodying the freedom even my dreams have abandoned. Once, I fought for that freedom. Now, the only exhibit of the struggle that remains is the carefree way the dust prances through the shaft of sun.

The ray moves on, passing over the small, tattered picture I've managed to hold on to. Their faces brightened by the sun, for a moment I can pretend

there is life in those dull grey eyes. I wish I could keep the light here, never let it move, for then the illusion could be maintained for more than these few moments. But inevitably, the light relentlessly continues on, returning the photograph to its lifeless state.

Eventually the light travels over my face, highlighting sunken cheeks and dead eyes. I realize that I don't even know what I look like anymore. The warmth caresses my face, and I feel the light with every sense. It smells like spring, sounds like their voices. The sun is mint on my tongue.

I start to panic as the light moves ever closer to the opposite wall. Soon it will be gone, plunging the room into mind-numbing greyness again. As the seasons progress, it comes later and leaves sooner, but it always comes. It is my only lifeline, the only proof I have that once I felt passion, once I felt love. The only proof I have that once they were alive.

My memories have faded and become so mixed with dreams and nightmares that they are indistinguishable. The light brings the truth into sharp focus, and ignites the stirrings of feeling.

Only a sliver remains, and I long for it to stay. For one moment my life has clarity, purpose, but then the light fades away and hopelessness descends again. For that one moment I remember the passion with which we fought, the fire that lived in my heart because I knew I was right. But the light is gone, and until it returns tomorrow I can simply do my best to survive.

By Martha Stad
Lacombe, Alberta



CACHS Basketball

On Wednesday, December 14, 2011 CACHS had their first regular season home game. We had the opportunity to thank Jen Zuidhof for her numerous years of involvement in the CACHS basketball program. After playing for CACHS in the mid 90's, she came back in the early 2000's to coach a junior girls team. She moved on to become the senior girls' assistant coach, and then took over the girls' program. Jen has been an incredibly positive influence on her players throughout the years. In 2011, her coaching career culminated with a trip to provincials, where her team was presented the sportsmanship banner.

Thank you Jen for the many hours of work you put into the girls basketball program. You taught the girls to work hard, to work together to be the best team they could be, and most importantly to do all things to the glory of God. Thank you Jen, and best wishes as you continue to serve the Lord.

Boys Basketball – Everyone is invited to come to play some basketball with/against the CACHS boys basketball team.

December 20 – 7 – 9 pm
December 27 – 1 – 3 pm
December 29 – 7 – 9 pm

There are also times for the girls basketball team. For questions in regards to any of the drop-in times, please contact Veronica Den Oudsten

Knights Volleyball 2011

If memory serves me correctly, it has been ten years since both our boys and girls teams went to provincial championships in the same year. What was supposed to be a rebuilding year with some promise, turned into a terrific year culminating in zone championships in Central 2A volleyball for both the boys and girls teams.

Our seasons ran parallel for much of the year beginning with the "Fall Volleyball Classic" in Red

Deer and then both teams heading to Bentley for their invitational tournament. Both boys' and girls' teams captured championships there and this was followed by a girls 5th place finish in Stettler, and a boys 2nd place finish in Eckville. Next our teams travelled to Calgary and played the Christian Schools from Calgary, Lethbridge, Strathcona (Edmonton) and Prairie. The girls captured their second tournament win defeating Calgary in the final.

Zone championships were held on November 18th in Rocky Mountain House (girls) and Tofield (boys) and there were some memorable moments. The boys team started off solid and seemed in full control of ensuring a trip to provincials until Pigeon Lake made a late game two serge. Our boys held on winning 26-24 in the last set and earning the right to travel to the provincial championships in La Crete. The girls' road was filled with a few more bumps, finishing 2nd in the pool play and then had to play Delburne in the semi-final. Despite a fire alarm going off and evacuating the gym, the girls prevailed and then met St. Dominic's in the final. In the final the girls dropped the first set 35-37, but rebounded to win 25-22, 15-11 to earn their first zone championship in ten years.

Both teams headed north the following week into remote areas of the province rarely seen. The girls went to Spirit River, about 45 minutes north of Grande Prairie, and the boys were off to La Crete, about an eleven hour trip. Congratulations to both teams on representing our school and zone at provincials, with the boys finishing in a tie for 11th place and the girls finishing fifth. We thank God for allowing us this opportunity to travel and play in safety. A special thank you goes out to Bernie Kolkman for driving our boys in the Mobile Missions bus to La Crete along with the teams from Strathcona Christian and Prairie Christian.

Mel Brandsma