

NEWSLETTER

December 2014
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Connecting Dots

"Promises"

Isaiah 9: 6-7 "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be upon his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of *His* government and peace *there will be* no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this."

As we approach advent season, the idea of promises offered comes to mind. My favorite time in a wedding ceremony is the promises offered between the bride and the groom. It is a promise made and received; both are significant and meant to be life-long. Marriage is a relationship that expects (demands) a two way relationship. So too is God's covenant with His people. Throughout the Old Testament, prophets foretold the message of salvation, the promise of a Redeemer, a Savior, a true King for Israel and all people. However the Israelites often, while clinging to this promise, brought little to the table in response. Forgetfulness, pre-occupation with self became the focal point of many of their lives. We are not so different today in how we view God's promises. Consider some of the promises

we memorize and often view as one way streets.

Philippians 4:19 "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus"
II Corinthians 12:9 "My grace is sufficient for you..."
I Corinthians 15:57 "But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."
Philippians 4:13 "I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

We often claim God's promises; however, we quickly forget that God demands a response as well. He promises that He will be always faithful, yet we often wander or conveniently forget this covenant. Careful study of scripture reveals amazing promises from God to His people, but often as well indicates the required response. God has promised that all things work together for good to those who **love and serve Him** faithfully (Romans 8:28). God has promised that those who **believe in Jesus and are baptized** for the forgiveness of sins will be saved. (Read Mark 16:16 and Acts 2:38).

As we celebrate God's promised Son, let us each make a renewed commitment to honor the promises we made when we confessed our faith, the promises we made when we baptized our children, and the promises we make daily in attempting to be image bearers of our Creator on a daily basis. May God bless us as we celebrate the birth of His Son Jesus Christ, but may we as well be a blessing to both Jew and Gentile in each of our communities. A blessing received always anticipates an appropriate response.

Mr. Brandsma

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. 1Timothy 4:12

Board Notes

As a board we are working on our vision and mission statement to reflect our original intent but with fewer words.

The three year education report was approved and information on this report is available to those who would like to view it.

Our devotion focus this past month at our board meeting and Fall Society meeting was on giving thanks. When we thank God for an answer to prayer that isn't even slightly apparent yet, we are demonstrating true faith. God draws near to those who are thankful no matter what happens.

“Be thankful in all circumstances for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Sending blessings of Peace and Happiness to you on Christmas!

Sue Stang, Board Secretary

Wolf Creek Bussing

We have received word from the Wolf Creek Transportation office that the Wolf Creek busses will be providing transportation for our students on February 19, May 29 and June 12, 2015. These dates originally had no Wolf Creek bussing but as of now bussing will be provided for those days.

Job Opportunities

Two postings for job opportunities, one with Christian Stewardship Services (CSS), the other with AISCA (Association of Independent Schools and Colleges in Alberta) are part of this newsletter.

We have received the following note regarding the CSS position: “The territory is largely the Edmonton to Calgary area, so it would be ideal to have our new consultant in this area. We also want to include any smaller towns and cities which are within driving distance of either of the two major centers.”

Financial Update for December 2014

We would like to thank DB Bobcat for their generous financial gift towards the new sports field. As a school we are blessed by the support we receive from the greater Lacombe community.

Central Alberta Christian High School’s Fall Debt Drive was officially over on December 14th. This year’s goal was set at \$100,000. So far, this year’s Drive has resulted in donations totaling \$67,699.39. We would ask that you prayerfully consider to what extent you can support CACHS through this year’s drive. Please contact Wendy Barnes (Business Administrator) at 403-782-4535 or Clarence Verveda (Board Treasurer) if you have any questions or need assistance. You may also mail your donations directly to CACHS at 22 Eagle Road, Lacombe, AB T4L 1G7 – Attention: Wendy Barnes. The school will be closed for the Christmas break from December 20 to January 4th. If you would still like to donate you can drop off your cheque in the mailbox outside the front doors. We will be picking up the mail during the break, or give Wendy a call at home. A deposit will be made by noon on December 31st. We would like to thank the many people who have contributed to our annual Fall Drive. The school is blessed by the support we receive from our membership through monetary or prayer. The fall drive form can be found at <http://www.cachs.ca/images/stories/pdf/FallDrive.pdf>.

May you have a Blessed Christmas as you spend time with your family and friends remembering the birth of our Savior!

Wendy Barnes
Business Administrator

Sick, Late or an Appointment?

If your child is sick, running late or has an appointment, please inform the school office first thing in the morning by phone at 403-782-4535 or by email at office@cachs.ca Thank you!

Career Corner

Educating for Life Today and Tomorrow states: "In all schools, the aim of the guidance program is to support the intellectual developments, human and social development, and career development of each student, so that he or she can become a responsible and productive citizen of God's kingdom. In Christian Schools (CACHS), guidance also has a pastoral aspect which is much broader than educational or career planning. Its purpose is to help students find direction, not just the right career. Developing a sense of calling and the desire to serve the Lord in one's life work are more valuable than teaching job-finding skills."

I enjoy the opportunities to talk to all of the students about who they are, and what that means for their future. I wish all the best as we celebrate the birth of our savior Jesus Christ during this Christmas season.

Veronica Den Oudsten
Career Counselor

Library Notes - December 2014

I have been reminded again of the reality and humility of the Christmas story. In reality the stable wasn't a hygienic or even clean environment to give birth to a baby. Life for Mary and Joseph was not an easy "happily ever after" story. Obedience and total commitment to God will require sacrifice.

If you would like to look at the Christmas story from another perspective, I'd encourage you to pick up Francine River's book Mary. Recently I came across a nonfiction book written by Leith Anderson, Jesus: An Intimate Portrait of Man, His Land and His People. I am sure there are many books by a variety of authors that you could find.

I encourage you to read the Biblical account, read between the lines and see the reality and the sacrifice that was made so that we could experience hope and a future.

Merry Christmas!
Yvonne Reed
Librarian

Student Council News

The month of December has been a busy and interesting month. This year we integrated masquerades into our formal/prom dance which was a great success! We had fun music along with snacks and refreshments. Congratulations to Shelby Goedhart and Jenna Ubels on winning prom king and queen. We have begun our fundraiser for World Renew and are off to an awesome start! It's nice to see so many people participating. Because of the recent cold weather, we postponed comfy day, but still had lots of students dress up. As Christmas break nears, students are diligently working hard to finish assignments and tests. We will have our last spirit day of the year on Friday, December 19th. Dress up in anything Christmas related! Merry Christmas and see you all in the New Year!

Nathan Hazelhoff, Student Council Secretary

A Great Big Thank You!!!

Lacombe and District Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) would like to thank the volunteers from CACHS for another evening of fantastic volunteer service.

Lacombe BBBS provides a service to our community that matches adult mentors with young children who need a mentor. The Bigs (Adults) and Littles (children) work together either in school or out of school doing things together that are important to the Littles. Through this time they develop lasting relationships and positive influences. Every December we have a great big Christmas dinner and awards night which is our biggest event of the year. It is very special as our Bigs and Littles can have supper together with their families and visit.

We would like to thank CACHS for sending 10 students and Mr. Hoekstra to help run the event. They were busy with the photo booth, pictures with Santa, selling raffle tickets, serving dinner to 180 people, bussing tables, doing dishes and cleaning up after everyone left. This is the fourth year in a row that CACHS has sent us volunteers and it is a huge help for us!! The students are hard working and reliable. We can spend time visiting with our families and the CACHS volunteers take care of the details. Thank you once again and we look forward to working with you again next year!!

Lacombe and District Big Brothers Big Sisters

Merci beaucoup - Europe Trip 2015

Dear participants and parents

Thank you for getting your cheques to Mrs. Barnes in the office in a timely manner! You have taken care of the major financial obligation, which will send us on our way. The countdown is on! Our dates of departure and return have been confirmed as March 26 to April 4, 2015 but departure times have yet to be finalized. We could leave as early as 2:00 a.m. or as late as 10 p.m.

This week we are sending home with the students the forms parents will need to fill out for legal "Parental Consent" for all participants under the age of 18 at the time of departure. Both parents must sign this form in the presence of a lawyer (or a notary) and the form must bear the seal of the official. Even if one parent will accompany the child on the trip, the other parent must sign this form in the presence of a lawyer. If a parent will not accompany the underage student on the flights going both directions, the legal form will still need to be signed and notarized as described. We ask that these forms be returned, with the official signatures and seal, by February 15, 2015.

More news will be forthcoming after Christmas Break and the end of first Semester – about transportation to and from the Calgary airport, suggested amounts (in Euros) for spending money and tips, and an important evening meeting to be scheduled before departure.

In the meantime, have a wonderful Christmas Season, all of you! What a very special time of year when we can celebrate the coming of Christ to this Earth as an infant!

Blessings to you all,
Carolyn Snipes-Hoyt and Peter Hoekstra
Coordinators for the 2015 Europe Trip

CACHS Catering

We have received numerous requests for bookings for next year. However, we are only able to do one banquet on a weekend and only two functions a month so if you would like to book us, please call as soon as possible as we work on a first come first serve basis.

If you are able to help serve and/or clean up at any of our functions, please contact Anne Siebenga. Please consider volunteering a couple hours of your time to help at one of our functions. The 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
Jennette Oosterink
Clase van Iperen
Rosemary Vander Ploeg –
Ester Verhoef

Emma Den Oudsten
CACHS Catering

Calendar

December 20 to January 4 – Christmas break
January 5 – classes resume
January 13 – English 30-1 & 30-2 – Part A – a.m.
January 14 – Social 30-1 & 30-2 – Part A – a.m.
January 20 – English 30-1 & 30-2 – Part B – a.m.
January 21 – Social 30-1 & 30-2 – Part B – a.m.
January 26 – Math 30-1 & 30-2 – a.m.
January 28 – Chemistry 30 – a.m.
January 23-28 – Exams for Grades 10 & 11
January 29 – Exam make up day/School ski trip
January 30 – Semester break
February 2 – Second semester starts
March 26 to April 4 - Europe trip