



A Calvin Christian School Publication

in TOUCH

2017 - 2018 / Issue 1



ARN BOONSTRA

New Principal's Welcome

INTRODUCING
NEW STAFF

CCS EVENTS
& ACTIVITIES

CCS SPORTS
UPDATES



A Note from Arn Boonstra

New beginnings are often exciting and full of potential. Calvin Christian School is poised for change as it looks at some new endeavors. The school's inTouch newsletter has been completely revamped, as you can probably tell. We are excited about its new design, its polished look, and its magazine style. In addition to the new look, we have decided to publish twice, rather than three times a year. The plan is to publish once per semester and provide glimpses of student life and the latest developments at the school.

In addition to a new school magazine, the board of directors has hired a number of new staff members and appointed some new roles for existing staff. I have taken over the principal role from the recently retired

Ted Postma (see more under **ABC** report) and Deb VanEgmond has taken on the role of Vice Principal of Student Life. Part of Mrs. VanEgmond's job is to help implement a new initiative--Responsive Classroom. Responsive Classroom is designed to support students in their social and emotional development. It's not very often that we can say that we are excited about a new committee, but that is exactly the response when it comes to our newly created Compass Committee.

Compass has been tasked with exploring our enrollment capacity challenge. We have just over 500 students and most classes are operating at capacity. We hope to explore a variety of initiatives to address the challenge. The committee plans to provide an update at our next Spring membership meeting.

However, not everything is new. Calvin Christian School is providing Christian education for a 65th year!

CCS has been blessed by a supportive community and by a faithful God.

We are excited about what our God has in store for us for the future, and we know that we can rely upon his goodness to us moving forward. •

Arn



Grades 3 & 4 Artwork

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VISION - Calvin Christian School's vision is that all God's children are "thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:17

MISSION - The mission of Calvin Christian School is to assist parents by providing for each student a Bible based elementary education in a supportive Christian classroom community that nurtures growth in knowledge, maturity and commitment to God for sharing in the life and work of his people in the world.

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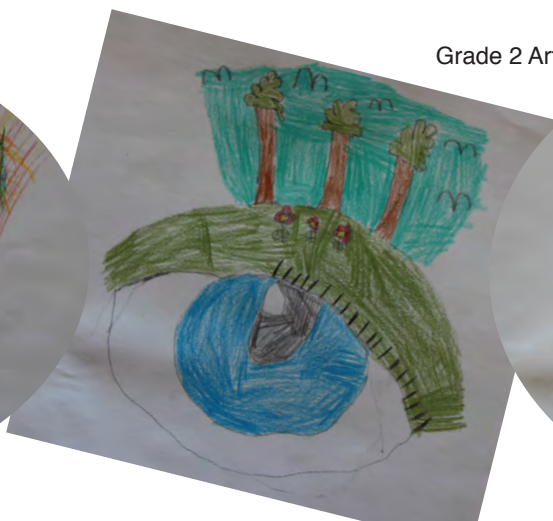
Our theme for the year - "Fix My Eyes on God"

(Based on Psalm 121)

The entire student body and all staff are challenged to work together to create a positive environment in the classrooms and on the playground. Using Jesus as the example of how to live our lives, provides us with the perfect role model to imitate. •



Grade 2 Artwork



*I lift up my eyes to the mountain, where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. Psalm 121:1-2*

Back to School Dessert Social 2017

By Stephanie Haanstra



Chocolate cake, cheesecake, cupcakes, cannolis, how can you go wrong?!

Add to that approximately 800 Calvin Christian School students, parents, and teachers socializing together - what a fantastic night! On Friday September 15, the Public Relations Committee hosted the first Back-to-School Dessert Social. It was an evening to welcome back the returning families and to give a warm welcome to new CCS families.

Students had an opportunity to show off their classrooms and introduce their parents to their teachers. Lots of excitement was heard down the halls! The gym was full of yummy desserts and coffee for the parents, and fun treats for the students. Face painting, games, and a popcorn machine kept the students busy outside. Thank-you to the grade 6-8 students who were face painting until dark! It was a great evening of fellowship and community building for our CCS school family. •

Mark your calendars!!!!
Open House & Shine Festival - May 1 from 9AM to 3PM
Grandparents Day - May 2 from 9AM to 1PM



Edu Deo Walk-a-thon

By Jacqueline Dejong & images by Joe & Mary D'Angelo

Our tradition at Calvin Christian School is to participate in an annual walk-a-thon, where students raise funds and then walk up to 10 km to support a worthy cause. This year we supported EduDeo's Road2Hope campaign to bring solar power to Christian schools in Zambia. At our kick-off assembly, students were presented with the need for solar power, and encouraged raise a minimum of twenty dollars each. We set a goal of raising \$10 000.

On the days leading up to the event, each student placed their names on a cut-out sun, which was posted outside their classroom. Each sun meant that a pledge sheet had been started by that family. Judging by the number of suns, participation was high and enthusiasm was great! Monday, October 24th was the big day. Students met up with their buddy classes and as they walked outside they were greeted by Phil Beck and Ryan Geleynse of EduDeo Ministries and given a pair of sunglasses. They then completed a 1 km route in the lane-ways and roads close to the school. Younger students walked up to 5 km, and older students from grades 4-8 walked a total of 10 km.



A big thank you goes to our volunteers who helped the children stay safe along the routes. Students raised \$15,331 and the school edition Road2Hope runners raised an additional \$9,700. It is our hope and prayer that God will richly bless our school's efforts to provide solar power for Christian schools in Zambia. •



While traveling to the forest with a Jubilee student for Outdoor Education:
Teacher: "What treasures will we find today in the forest?"
Student: "Poison Ivy and Mud!"

Thanksgiving Assembly & Food Drive



It is a tradition at Calvin Christian School to hold a food drive for the Neighbour-to-Neighbour Centre on Athens Street. Student Council hosted an assembly, after which CCS students generously shared food and other supplies to N2N. This will go a long way toward helping hungry Hamilton Mountain families. •



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Responsive Classroom

By Deb VanEgmond

In September, CCSI implemented a school-wide Morning Meeting practice. During the summer, a number of teachers studied the principles and practices of the Responsive Classroom. They shared their learning and resources with the rest of the staff prior to the start of the school year. Morning Meeting is only one feature of the Responsive Classroom practice, but the staff agreed it was a valuable starting resource for all classrooms in developing a set of social and emotional skills in an inclusive learning environment.

The Morning Meeting takes place first thing in the morning and may include an interactive morning message, student greetings and sharing, a game or activity that could relate to units of study, integrated devotions, and group prayer. While the morning meeting is similar to past devotional morning experiences, it is the hope that the intentional and interactive social greetings, games, and sharing will allow deeper discussions around

the devotional topics and build a stronger classroom community. You may have already seen pictures of the Morning Meeting in action on the CCS Facebook page.

Thanks to a generous grant from the John & Ellie Voortman Charity Foundation and proceeds from the CCS For All God's Children golf tournament, each classroom is outfitted with a sound amplification system that includes a teacher pendant microphone and student hand held microphone. Even the quietest voice can be heard during the Morning Meeting, as the students share their thoughts and stories using the student microphone.

The staff is excited about the Morning Meeting practice. They are already enjoying benefits of the program as they witness each student engaged in meaningful dialogue, social interaction, and prayer.



We look forward to hearing feedback from parents, with the hope that students are experiencing a positive atmosphere in the classroom, with a climate of trust and sincere Christian fellowship. •



Here are some thoughts from my students about our morning meetings.

"It is a time when we have topics and we get to share our ideas. I like hearing what other people think. I got to share my pet peeve." Jaeda H

"I like (morning meetings) because we learn stuff. I want us to talk about what you want to be when you grow up." Jenna W

"In our morning meeting we stand up and say good morning to someone and he or she says good morning back. A morning meeting has a topic. I liked the one on spiders because I like spiders." Josh S.

Responsive Classroom & The Morning Meeting

By Tony Boer

I must admit, when our staff decided to become more intentional about implementing responsive classroom for the upcoming school year, I felt somewhat reluctant and apprehensive. How was I going to fit this into my curriculum? Even though I attended a few workshops and read a book on the topic over the summer, I still wondered, "Am I ready for this?" In spite of my apprehension, morning meetings have been a pleasure. There is something that is so right and inviting about having the students greet each other

every morning. We have enjoyed delving into topics as diverse as birth order, learning how to lose, our pet peeves, and evaluating how healthy (or unhealthy) our lunch drinks are. Responsive classroom is a great opportunity to bond, to share, and to get to know each other better. There is also a natural platform for students to develop presentation skills, which will be an invaluable skill for them to have. In addition, students learn to listen patiently to each other which is a necessary skill of collaboration. My students enjoy our morning

meetings and sometimes, when I feel we may not have enough to talk about, I find that there is merit in returning to an earlier topic. •



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Arn Boonstra's Trip to Finland

By Arn Boonstra



What Can We Learn from Finland?

At the end of September, I had the amazing opportunity to join 34 other Christian school principals in visiting the country of Finland. Last spring the Ontario Christian School Administrator Association proposed visiting Finland to see first hand what makes their school system successful.

Finland's educational system is world renowned, and known to have some of the highest student achievement results when it comes to PISA* scores. Joining with principals from other local Christian schools, I spent five days in Helsinki, touring a number of schools as well as connecting with their administrators.

In preparation for the trip, we were required to read Pasi Sahlberg's book, *Finnish Lessons*, which outlines some of the reasons for Finland's educational success. Not only did we have an opportunity to read the book, we actually had Mr. Sahlberg join us on many of our school visits. We were able to pick his brain to explore what makes the Finnish model so successful.

"At CCS, we are in the unique position to look for opportunities that allow our students to shine"

A few years ago, I had the privilege of going on a similar excursion to San Diego, California. We visited High Tech High, and a few other schools. We brought back some amazing ideas, including Project Based Learning, or PBL. CCS has immersed itself in this strategy of learning for the past couple of years and even designed a specific day for students to share their projects with our broader community. That day of sharing is known as our Shine Festival.

My trip to Finland, however, was a little different than the San Diego trip. It was much more difficult to glean a specific pedagogical approach to learning that connected to student learning. Much of the Finnish success can be traced to the cultural approach the Finnish people have towards education, and changing culture is not an overnight process. However, there are still many lessons to be learned and some subtle changes to consider.

For example, in Finland, education is very highly valued and supported within society. Teachers are held in high esteem, and access to education at all levels is provided for the general population.

The influence of education on culture is further seen in language acquisition. Not only is Finland a bilingual country (Finnish and Swedish are official languages), but English is practiced by most citizens of the country as well.

Furthermore, Finnish education is characterized by meaningful and exciting classroom work, active movement within the classroom, individualized student programs, and students taking responsibility for their academic progress. In other words, students are invested in their education.

I like to think that CCS is well on its way towards implementing some of the strategies mentioned above, however, there is room for us to explore how we can support teachers to empower them to be innovative in lesson implementation and student training. Perhaps a greater emphasis can be placed on deeper learning that teaches children how to be agents of justice in a broken world. It could be that we need to create more space for students to be leaders of their own learning.

At CCS, we are in the unique position to look for opportunities that allow our students to shine. Exploring other school models that help us build upon the programs we already have will benefit the students who come through our doors. It is an exciting time to be in education, and with the grace of God leading us, we will continue to look for ways to serve the students of CCS so that they will be equipped to make a difference in our world. •

* The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a worldwide study by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in member and non-member nations of 15-year-old school pupils' scholastic performance on mathematics, science, and reading. (Taken from Wikipedia).

"In Finland, education is very highly valued and supported within society. Teachers are held in high esteem, and access to education at all levels is provided for the general population."

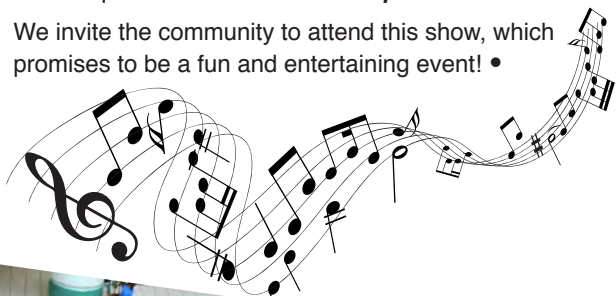
Music at CCS

by Deb Van Egmond

CCS has an active and involved music department! The CCS extra-curricular musical groups, including Flute Choir, Instrumental Praise Ensemble, Jazz Band, Concert Band, Bell Choir, Senior Choir, Junior Choir, and Recorder Choir had a successful fall season of working to prepare musical repertoire for community events and school functions. The dedicated groups of students, including approximately 100 students from grades 4-8, practiced faithfully in preparation for the Christmas events. The students enjoyed tours into the Hamilton community visiting malls, hospitals, and senior residences. They presented at the Re-Source Thrift Store volunteer appreciation tea, school assemblies, and the Hosanna Christmas Concert. It was a busy and exciting season for everyone involved!

In the spring season, the musical groups will turn their attention to the **Getting to Know, Once Upon a Mattress** musical production to be held on **April 11 and 12**.

We invite the community to attend this show, which promises to be a fun and entertaining event! •



We need your support for the
**2017/18
Campaign Drive!**

We often mention that we are here to assist parents by providing a Christian education. Accordingly, we have sought to provide curricular and extra-curricular programs designed to nurture and enrich all of God's children. But, there is something to consider: some families have had to withdraw from Calvin Christian School because they simply do not have the finances to continue. We say farewell to each other with sadness. In this context, we are challenged to be here for their children as well.

There are two ways to address this concern:

1. Improve our Tuition Bursary Fund so that it can be stretched further and be more accessible;
2. Invite the broader community to participate in supporting items in our budget which benefit the CCS community.

The Campaign Drive of 2017/18 focuses on three areas of need:

- **Tuition Assistance** - Please consider helping families in need.
- **Facility Redevelopment** - Maintenance and replacement costs continue to increase as the building ages. This past year, a number of our HVAC units needed to be replaced at a cost of about \$73,000. Preparing for tomorrow also means making sure we have a high quality and an up-to-date school facility for our students, staff, and community.
- **Transportation** - The school owns six buses and each has a life span of about twelve years. We are replacing a bus every two years. The cost of one bus is approximately \$110,000. We welcome your support in helping us transport many children to and from school each day as well as providing transportation for field trips.

Dear friends, please consider donating to our 2017/18 Campaign Drive and help CCS assist parents in providing Christian education so that their children may be "Equipped to Shine".

Mail your cheque to Calvin Christian School or donate online at ccshamilton.ca and click on the blue "Donations" button. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Arn Boonstra, Principal, at aboonstra@ccshamilton.ca or Lianna Reitsma at lreitsma@ccshamilton.ca.

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CCS Welcomes New Staff



Svitlana Bitkina is a new bus driver for Calvin Christian School. She grew up in Russia, and moved to Canada about 8 years ago. In Russia, Svitlana was a professional ballet dancer, a very different job from being a bus driver. She and her husband and two children are building a cottage in Northern Ontario, where she hopes to find time to do her favourite things: reading and gardening. Svitlana is excited to be a part of the bus driving team at CCS, and looks forward to getting to know the students and her co-workers better. •



Thea Voortman is a new face in the Calvin Christian School office. She grew up in the United States. After attending Redeemer University College and meeting her husband Steven, they made their home in Ancaster with their two daughters, Maryn (gr.6) and Laene (gr.4). In addition to her roles as wife and mother, Thea works as the Church and Office Coordinator for Partners Worldwide Canada. Thea enjoys finding time for weekend getaways with her family, hanging out with her church youth, coaching basketball, reading as much as possible and looks forward to the challenge of knowing all the names of CCS students as well as Mrs. Gallea. •

Ben Schaefer is thrilled to join the wonderful team at Calvin Christian school as a teaching assistant in the grade 1 classrooms. He grew up in Sarnia, Ontario in a close family of 6. He spent most of his time keeping busy with sports and youth group. He still enjoys playing hockey in order to keep active and looks forward to helping out with teams at CCS. After high school, Ben moved to Hamilton where he attended McMaster University, studying Geography and Religious Studies. He completed his Bachelor of Education degree at Brock University last year, and now lives in Hamilton. He worked as a camp counselor and direct support worker and was most recently employed by the Salvation Army - Lawson Ministries day program. Ben is excited to be working in education and looks forward to contributing to the positive Christian learning environment at CCS. •

Danielle Reed grew up in St. Thomas, Ontario. She received her Bachelor of Education Degree and Christian Teaching Certificate from Redeemer University College with a major in history and a minor in physical-education. From 2005 until last spring, Danielle taught at John Knox Christian School in Oakville. Danielle and her husband, Peter have been blessed with three beautiful children, Aliya in grade two, Aaron who attends JK, and Ethan who is two years old. When she isn't working, Danielle enjoys spending time with her family and friends, playing and coaching sports, rock climbing, home decorating, crafts and playing board games. Danielle enjoys the Christian community and the strong volunteer base at Calvin Christian School. She has felt welcomed with open arms by staff and students alike. Seeing her own children during the school day is an added benefit of teaching at CCS. •



Spelling Bee

What is all the **h-u-l-l-a-b-a-l-o-o** about? There is no **b-r-o-u-h-a-h-a** here, only stupendous, super duper, awesome CCS student spelling. We recently held a number of spelling bees. Many students signed up and participated in their grade level in-class bees. The words were quite challenging but it was a lot of fun! The four winners from each grade qualified for the CCS Spelling Bee at the primary, junior or senior divisions. This event was held on Wednesday, November 15th. Our guest spell-master, Mrs. Dekok, and two judges, Miss Wierenga and Mrs. Kloet, listened carefully to each letter that was spoken. After several rounds of excellent attempts, three finalists were determined. They moved on to represent Calvin Christian School at the Niagara District Spelling Bee on Friday, December 1st. Representing CCS in the primary division were Josiah L., Sarah I., and Joshua S. (sub); at the junior division Chukwuka U., Jakob V., and Kate W. (sub); and, at the senior division, Eli S., Chibu U., and Caleb B. (sub). Thanks to all the students who participated in this event. A special congratulations goes to Chukwuka U. who finished first in the junior division and to Chibu U. who finished second in the senior division. •





Rachel Kieneker grew up in Langley, BC and loves mountains and the ocean. She enjoys sports and music. Her favourite hobbies are snowboarding and hiking. Rachel graduated from Kwantlen Polytechnic University in May 2017, and worked in elementary and middle schools. She moved to Ontario in June, and is excited to be on staff at Calvin Christian School. She heard a lot of great things about CCS, and has experienced a very warm welcome from everyone here. •



Sandi Tigchelaar was born and raised in Hamilton ON and is a graduate of Calvin Christian School. Initially she was nervous about working with some of her former teachers, but quickly felt comfortable because of the friendly welcome she received. She loves the CCS community and is a big supporter of Christian education. After high school, she spent five years traveling, learning about other countries, cultures and people of this world. She settled down back in Hamilton after traveling, and she and her husband had three wonderful boys who are in grades 4, 2 and SK at CCS. As a family, they enjoy camping, hiking and playing sports together. Sandi worked as a Personal Support Worker in home care and in group home settings. She has a passion for working alongside and supporting people with various levels of needs. •



Justin de Schiffert was born and raised in Strathroy, Ontario, and spend much of his childhood in Montreal. He is an avid reader, athlete and nature lover. He studied history at Redeemer University College, where he played varsity soccer and rugby. He worked in Ottawa as an intern for the Conservative Party, and spent summers tree planting in Northern Ontario. Justin has volunteered at a variety of sports camps, as a Youth Leader at Meadowlands CRC, and he has worked at Indwell. He likes the people-focused approach at CCS, and that social learning is as important as academics. His spare time will be spent planning for his wedding, which will take place in the summer of 2018! He is excited to be part of a school where Project Based Learning and Responsive classroom are implemented. •



Shae Knevel is a lifelong resident of Hamilton, and a graduate of Calvin Christian School. She enjoyed a co-op placement at CCS when she was a high school student. After graduating from Mohawk College in 2016, she worked with the Hamilton District School Board supporting students with autism and other exceptionalities. She is very involved with her church, where she is a GEMS counselor and a Friendship mentor. Shae is also involved with the campus ministries at McMaster University and Mohawk College. Shae is very happy to be at CCS, as she has always felt welcome and at home in this community. She believes that Christian Education is a foundation for children to grow in their faith, to establish community, and learn about God's creation. She feels it is a great honour to be working in this community-based, God-fearing school. •

– WELCOME –



*After a whole lot of rain a student in 2A
looked out the window and said,*

*"It's sunning shine outside!
We can go outside now!"*

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ABC - Arn Boonstra Connections

by Arn Boonstra

Six years ago I enrolled in a Master's Program for Educational Leadership at Calvin College. I did so anticipating that somewhere down the road I would be ready to take on a leadership role as a principal at a school. This past August, I gathered up all my files from the Vice Principal's office and moved them next door to the Principal's office at Calvin Christian School. For the first time in 29 years, I was not going to get a classroom ready for the start of another school year; instead, I was going to get an entire school ready. With excitement, anticipation, and some nervousness, I was taking over the Principal role at CCS. Perhaps more than anything, I felt God was calling me to use the experience I gained as a teacher to serve the CCS community as its next lead administrator. I have been tremendously blessed serving under the school's previous Principal, Mr. Ted Postma, and wish him God's fullest blessings as he transitions into retirement.

These are exciting times to be taking on the role of Principal at CCS. A few of years ago, the school embarked on a new approach to learning called Project Based Learning or PBL. In the PBL model, students are provided an open ended question to begin a unit, and from there they spend the next few weeks delving into the topic in much greater detail in order to explore possible answers to the question. 21st century skills such as collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and innovation are used in creating the final product, which is then presented to an authentic audience. Our first annual Shine Festival was held last spring, where students presented their projects to family and friends. The Shine Festival was characterized by beautiful work. We are eager to share this year's projects at our annual Shine Festival later on in the spring.

In addition to PBL, CCS has also started a program known as Responsive Classroom. The Responsive Classroom approach focuses on the social and emotional growth of children in support of the intellectual growth.

At CCS we are well positioned not only to address the social, emotional, and intellectual growth of children, but also to assist students with their spiritual growth.



The work in all these areas is directly related to the school's mission statement: "The mission of Calvin Christian School is to assist parents by providing for each student a Bible based elementary education in a supportive Christian classroom community that nurtures growth in knowledge, maturity and commitment to God for sharing in the life and work of his people in the world." I think the school's tag-line sums it up very nicely: Equipping to Shine!

Staff and students have embraced the concept of Responsive Classroom, and I already see evidence of God's spirit working among us. Teachers typically begin each day with morning meetings and devotions. These sessions set the tone for the day. Our students learn about responsibility, perseverance, courage, integrity, and other meaningful characteristics. Our theme for this year is taken from Psalm 121:1. The Psalmist writes, "I lift my eyes to the mountains - where does my help come from?" We have taken that verse and adopted the theme "Fix My Eyes on God". Fixing our eyes on God provides us with the template to model ourselves after a loving and compassionate Father. Relying on His Holy Spirit to guide that process is all part of our daily devotions and morning meeting time.

At CCS, we are not satisfied with the status quo when the status quo can be improved. It was not that long ago that we also introduced Restorative Practices to help us deal with discipline issues. Last year we replaced CTBS (Canadian Tests of Basic Skills) with the much more current and effective MAPS (Measurement of Academic Progress) program. It is with eager anticipation that we carry on with PBL, Shine Festivals, and Responsive Classroom. Why do we do this? It is our firm belief that we educate the whole child and that we equip our students for a life of service in advancing God's Kingdom here on earth. It is our belief that these initiatives are an integral part of that vision. •

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Grade 8 Fall Retreat

by Vanessa Koens



On Friday, September 15th the entire grade 8 class went on a fall retreat to Christie Lake Conservation area.

Once we got there, Pastor Schoon, Karis's dad, talked to us about our theme for the year, "Fix our Eyes on God". Pastor Schoon told us about how sometimes you need to slow down and see God in nature. He told us that he had once spent an hour sitting on a bench and finally felt God's presence in nature. He told us to gather into small groups and sit in a square around a small chunk of land. We had to spend five minutes just looking at the ground and writing what we saw and heard. We then talked together about how God is present and how he communicates through his creation.

Afterwards, we had an hour and half of free time before lunch. Some of us took a stroll down the beach and wet our feet in the water. Others discovered a random floating picnic table drifting in the water and still others played spike-ball or football.

When lunch was over, we were able to hop in a canoe with one other friend and paddle around the lake. Three or four of us got stuck in some reeds. Some of us got wet, actually, most of us got wet, but it was fantastic!

Everybody finished canoeing at different times, so a few girls started up a game of bocce ball. Several others played soccer or football. Even though we were covered in grass stains, were wet from canoeing, and one of us had a bruised foot from a bocce accident, the fall retreat was an incredible experience! •

memories

friendship



adventure

Cross Country

by Danielle Reid

Calvin Christian School attended two fantastic cross country meets this year. At the first meet, under chilly, wet conditions, we went to Brantford Christian School with a team of 24 runners from Grades 4-8. Our school did very well on a challenging course, with several students placing in top positions. Our senior girls team placed third overall and our junior boys team placed first overall. Our second meet was the Christian School International Meet at the Dundas Conservation Area, hosted by CCS. We could not have asked for better weather. Again, we had 24 students competing against students from 21 other schools. Our students did very well against some tough competition, placing 4th overall! •



Girls' Volleyball

by Christine Mantel

This year, there was enough interest at the girls' volleyball tryouts to once again create two teams, and give an opportunity for the greatest number of girls to learn and grow in their volleyball skills. Each team participated in a number of different tournaments. There was an HDCH hosted tournament, an afternoon of games hosted by Providence Christian School in Dundas, and a Niagara District Christian Schools tournament hosted at Heritage Christian School. Our initial tournaments were played using the tripleball format. This variation of volleyball is the official competition format offered by the Ontario Volleyball Association for 13U players. The goal of tripleball is to promote better skill development, participation, meaningful competition, and fun. We have enjoyed introducing this format to our teams over the last few years, and seeing how it helps individual players to develop their skills. The A team made it to the semi-finals at the final tournament.

Way to go, girls! •



Boys' Soccer

by Justin de Schiffert

The coaches for this year's boys soccer team were Mr. Boonstra and myself, Mr. de Schiffert. We came into this soccer season looking forward to a time of skill development and growth. We saw a lot of individual talent, but we were not certain that the boys would mesh as a team. The season was not a disappointment. We finished in third place in the Niagara district tournament, held in Dunnville. We were especially proud to see a team that defended and scored well, and showed great teamwork and communication. •

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Boys' Volleyball

by Joanne Bosveld

Twelve eager and very committed boys learned to play and love the game of volleyball in nine short weeks this past fall. There were a few bumps along the way, broken bones, surgeries, and the common cold, but a few other student athletes willingly filled the gap to get us through until we were back to a full team.

The senior boys' volleyball season was jam packed with many practices and four exciting tournaments. Steady improvement was made throughout the season, with good success coming with each tournament. In the Niagara District Christian Schools Tournament, the team displayed true grit and skill as well as genuine care and sportsmanship for all opponents. Unfortunately at the end of the day, a strong Heritage squad just edged us out of a playoff spot by a few points. Much was learned in this season about volleyball, about teamwork and about striving for excellence in sports to glorify God.

Well done, Blazers! •



Girls' Soccer

by Rachel Koning

The girls' soccer team competed in two tournaments this season. Our first tournament, hosted by Hamilton District Christian High was great preparation for the Niagara District Tournament. We played three games against local teams and we were able to finish the day with three wins. The following week we set off to Dunnville for our Niagara District Tournament. We had a great day starting with two wins and one loss. In the semi-final game we were unable to take the win and this is where our day ended.

We had a great season and are very proud of the improvement the team made. Thank you to the girls who made this a successful season! •



Student Teacher Soccer Game



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"I only volunteer a few hours a week and it has been very rewarding! There are so many wonderful people that all get along so well and there is always lots to keep busy with. The time flies by."

"I've made many new friendships, had some really great conversations and enjoy good humoured banter with the other volunteers."



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Second, supply us with donations. If you have any gently used possessions that you no longer need please let us know. Items can be dropped off at the store when it is open or collected by us on our weekly truck run. •

Student Council

by Amanda Breimer, Marjolein Eising, Megan Vandenberg

Student Council has been hard at work! At the beginning of October, they helped organize and carry out the Thanksgiving Food Drive with Mr. Boonstra. Next, they set up a week of festive activities for the school during the last week of December. Monday was "Deck the Halls" day - and the halls looked very festive with the decorated doors! "Tacky Tuesday" was fun - everyone wore something Christmas-y. On "Warm-Up" Wednesday we enjoyed hot chocolate for a dollar while watching a Christmas movie, to raise funds to support our sponsor child. On "Thoughtful Thursday" students engaged in doing thoughtful acts for others. On "Plaid Flannel Friday" everyone wore plaid flannel clothing. Student Council members are excited to plan more events in the new year. •



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Image by Steve Dobrenski

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