



A Calvin Christian School Publication

i n T O U C H

2018 - 2019 / Issue 1

**INTRODUCING
NEW STAFF**

**CCS EVENTS &
ACTIVITIES**

**CCS
SPORTS**

ABC - Arn Boonstra Connections

by Arn Boonstra



It is not uncommon for me to hear that parents are looking to enroll their child at Calvin Christian School because they know their child will be placed in a Christian school environment where the child will be safe. Parents are looking for a school that has a good reputation and provides "excellent" academics. The hope is that through such a school environment, the child

will be cared for and taught what is necessary to succeed later in life. I would like to think that CCS takes care of all the above for parents and that we can ensure that their child will indeed experience much success. Perhaps this also explains why CCS is operating at capacity in terms of student enrollment.

The truth is, however, that we live in a world that presents all sorts of difficult challenges, and that is no different within the school setting for children. Children argue, fight, gossip, cheat, steal, lie, watch inappropriate programs, listen to harmful music and so much more. We know these behaviours are a result of a broken and sinful world, and, although we have incorporated a number of amazing programs, such as Restorative Practices, Project Based Learning, and Responsive Classroom, we still can not shield them from the realities of life, nor can we guarantee that all children will be safe and experience success later in life. Even with the wonderful programs mentioned above, I'm more proud of our vision statement, "All God's children are 'thoroughly equipped for every good work.'" (2 Timothy 3:17), because it sums up what we are really trying to accomplish here at CCS. We are striving to equip our students to shine!

Our ultimate purpose is to equip our students to honour God in the way that they live their lives. Our focus in educating is not just to ensure safety and basic skill training or to place them in a moral bubble. It is so much more. Students are equipped to seek God's wisdom as they ride the bus, interact on the playground, learn in the classroom, compete on the soccer field, act on the stage, and engage life in so many other ways. They are instructed on the importance of discernment when faced with tough decisions. Students are encouraged to seek justice in a fallen and broken world. Students are given tools to help them interact with one another in ways that honour the other. They are constantly reminded that glorifying God is their rightful act of worship as Christians. Together, we strive to model our lives after Jesus.

While attending the Christian School Canada Leadership Conference back in September, I signed up for a workshop entitled "Faithful Justice and a Reconciling Presence." The description of the workshop really resonated with me and reminded me of the opportunity we have to focus on being agents of change. "Through an engagement with biblical stories of hope, we will explore how listening to the cries

of the broken creates in us a deep hunger for justice and reconciliation, one that enables us to be a faithful and reconciling presence in our communities and world." When our math, science, or history classes focus on a hunger for justice and bringing reconciliation to our communities, then we are heeding the call of Jesus to love our neighbour.

At the Edvance teachers' convention in October, one of the keynote speakers delivered a message that emphasized the importance of student formation, where the learning that takes place creates "outposts of goodness and beauty." Although the process can be costly and painful, ultimately, if we are doing education with hope, students can be transformed to help build a world of goodness and beauty. In that hope, it is our desire to educate with the child, rather than to the child. Teacher and educators walk alongside their students to help them deal with whatever brokenness they might experience. Our Responsive Classroom instruction is specifically geared to supporting students socially and emotionally as they tackle the challenges of school life.

Our staff recently decided that we would institute new guidelines that would be the basis for living in community here at CCS and, by extension, for equipping to shine. We created three categories: take care of others, take care of yourself, and take care of our space. Following these basic principles can begin to be the guide in how to live our lives, principles that will help us to pursue how to be outposts of goodness and beauty.

In the midst of all these attempts to equip our students to shine, we still fall short, however, we also still have hope. We know that we don't rely upon our own efforts and that it is only through the grace of God that we move forward in this broken and fallen world. It is through the sacrifice of God's son that we have hope. How do we communicate that hope to our world? We strive to give hope by going out into our communities as outposts, rather than by being content to stay in our own shelters. God has provided us a message of hope to deal with the brokenness, and at Calvin Christian School we are uniquely positioned to work with students in such a way that they themselves can become outposts of goodness and beauty to provide safety and shelter for those seeking love and support. As we seek to carry out our mission, may we experience God's spirit so that all may truly shine. •

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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.

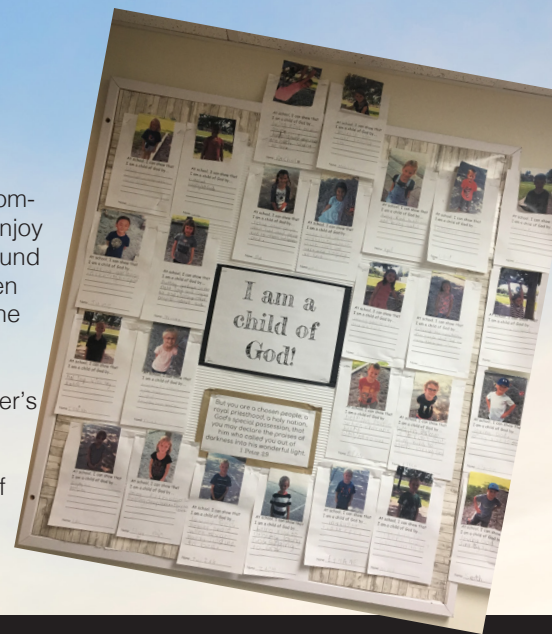
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Our theme for the year - "I am a Child of God"

by Megan Vandenberg

Our school theme this year is "I am a child of God." As we've done in the past, the theme committee chose a theme based on a relevant worship song that we know the students would enjoy singing all year. This year, the song is "Who You Say I Am" by Hillsong Worship. We then found a passage to go along with this theme, and we decided on 1 Peter 2:9 "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession; that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." Each month, our assemblies will be based around a phrase describing us as children of God. For example, October's phrase was "as a child of God, you are blessed" and skipping ahead to December's phrase, "as a child of God, you are the light of the world." We found a corresponding Bible passage with each phrase, and each month we unpack in our classrooms and assemblies what these phrases mean. It is our hope that each student can build an identity as a child of God, and use that identity to help others and share the love of Jesus in our community. •



"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession; that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9

Thanksgiving Assembly & Food Drive

On the morning of October 5, the grades 3b and 8b classes hosted the annual Calvin Christian School Thanksgiving assembly. For several weeks prior, the two classes worked on learning a new Thanksgiving song and shared it with the rest of the school at the assembly. Thanksgiving art, done by the grade three students was displayed and Ms. Charlotte Redekop-Young, a representative from Neighbour to Neighbour came to share with the students, the work of the centre. In the days leading up to the assembly, the entire student body had been collecting food for Neighbour

to Neighbour. It was wonderful to see once again the incredible generosity of our students and their families. After the assembly, the grade 8b students loaded up the red utility wagon, four shopping carts, and the back of Mr. Van Arragon's van to bring to the centre. It was wonderful to see Mr. VanArragon come out of retirement to help us out once again!

God has given us so much. We are honoured to be able to share his blessings with people in the surrounding neighbourhood by bringing food and other items to the N2N center.

Grade 5 Thanksgiving Dinner

by Laene Voortman

On Friday, October 5, if you happened to be at CCS you might have smelled something yummy throughout the halls. Chances are that it was the grade 5 thanksgiving meal!

The grade 5 classes got together on Friday to build community, and what better way to do it than with a nice thanksgiving lunch together. What a meal it was! Every student in grade 5 brought something for the meal.

We enjoyed turkey, ham, stuffing and even meatballs. Oh, and don't forget the pies and cheesecakes. There was so much food that Mr. Boonstra and Mrs. VanEgmond and the other staff

were invited to join us. When we were done there was still a lot of food left. I'd say that there was enough food for a whole other thanksgiving meal!

It was a great day filled with community and excitement. Thank you for sharing the fun. •



CCS Welcomes New Staff



Bryan Cochrane grew up on a farm in the area of Lindsay, Ontario. He moved to Hamilton to attend Redeemer University College, where he received a BA in Psychology, with a double major in Religion and Ancient Philosophy.

During his Redeemer years, Bryan worked as a summer custodian at Hamilton District Christian High, and discovered that he enjoyed working with his hands, and found satisfaction in seeing a job completed. His summer job turned into a full-time position after graduation.

Eventually, Bryan moved on to be the custodian at West Highland Baptist Church, where he spent the past 18 years maintaining the building, working alongside the staff there for all programs. He kept the building clean and usable through three major renovations and expansions.

Bryan loves to spend time with his wife and sons, camping, hiking, and watching movies. He is also involved in Summer Camp life. On Sundays, you will find Bryan teaching an in-depth Bible class with grades 1-6 students, teaching them who God is and more about the scriptures. Bryan has also been a teacher in a midweek kids program, and adult small groups.

Bryan is enjoying the next phase in his career, as the Facilities Manager at Calvin Christian School, and finds something new to learn every day. He is excited to be working at CCS, and being a part of a great community, helping children receive a great education in a Christian environment. •

Beth Terpstra is married to Paul, and they have three daughters, two are currently students at CCS. Paul runs his own business called "Motis" which manufactures and sells tools for firefighters. Beth is a graduate of Dordt College, and has had a variety of work experiences before coming to CCS this year. She worked at First Christian Reformed Church in Hamilton planning and leading worship. She also worked at World Renew in Donor Relations and Communications. She has also worked extensively with children and youth through the YMCA and teaching drama to youth through several community theatre organizations.

Beth loves theatre and literature, and in her free time she is currently teaching a drama class to homeschooled children.

For the past several years, Beth has been at home raising her children, and she is thrilled to be able to get involved more regularly in the life of the school, because Calvin is such a supportive and encouraging community. Beth is currently leading the Drama Club in grade 6, which meets once a week. She is really looking forward to connecting with the students and working in her new role as a paraeducator. •

Colleen Brouwer grew up on a dairy farm near Thunder Bay, Ontario. When she was nine, her family moved to a chicken farm in Jarvis. Colleen is married to Calvin Christian School alumni Luke Brouwer, and they have two pre-school aged children, Brooklyn and Dawson. Colleen and her family live in a home in Mt. Hope.

Colleen graduated from Mohawk College as an Education Assistant. She worked for two years in the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board, and as an EA for four years. Last year, she was a bus driver for Timothy Christian School and Guido de Brès. During the summer, she manages trailer rentals.

Colleen enjoys spending time with family and friends, vacations and camping. She is excited to be joining the CCS community and looks forward to getting to know the children better. Next year, she will be a CCS parent when her daughter attends Jubilee. •

Elizabeth Billiald and her family live in Dundas, Ontario, and her children are here at CCS in SK and Gr. 3. She grew up in Georgetown, but is getting to know the Hamilton area and enjoying all that it has to offer!

Elizabeth's educational and work background is in social services, specifically in working with families who have children with various special needs. During the 2017-18 school year, she was supplying in the Special Education department at CCS, and is very excited to be here in a more regular capacity.

Her husband spent his grade school years at CCS, and she has seen the positive impact that it had on him and his entire family. Elizabeth is thrilled to be working in a school that pairs its education with the teachings of Jesus. •



After doing one of the drill procedure practices, a student went home and told Mom that we had a "tomato" drill.

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AIM French

By Julie Van Eek

After almost four years of teaching the French AIM program here at CCS, I find that I'm really enjoying it!

Top 4 things I like about AIM:

It's fun!

From the start of class time until the end, we sing songs, move around, read, and speak together using French. Each grade is learning a dramatic story with amusing characters which make us laugh as we listen to, read, and retell the story. With its emphasis on developing listening and speaking skills, students are actively engaged in hearing and producing French for the whole class time. Each French word is gestured by me, the teacher, so students can actually watch the language unfold, and be prompted by each gesture to speak with confidence and accuracy in French. Aural, visual and kinesthetic learners can easily remember vocabulary, and can actively engage their whole bodies in learning the language.

It's different!

Sometimes, learning the AIM way is so different, it almost seems weird! Weird in a fun way. Gone are the vocabulary lists to memorize. Gone are the formal verb conjugations. Gone are the endless sentences to rewrite. Gone are the lengthy paragraphs to decode. AIM provides meaningful, engaging, authentic communicative activities. As a result, students first listen, then speak, then read, and then write in French (strictly in that order), which is the reverse of how many of us have learned French (but is, in fact, how one learns a first language)! Because the teacher's gestures help the students speak with accuracy (grammatically and with correct pronunciation), they gain confidence in speaking French right away and develop strong fluency skills. From there, the vocabulary embeds in the students' brains, so that when the written word is introduced, it has strong meaning and can be

easily retained. In addition, a big difference from traditional programs is that of verb conjugation. Instead of introducing all forms of regular and irregular verbs, AIM uses conjugations in first person because these conjugations all sound the same. In order to express the plural, AIM uses conjugations for "on" (we) and "tout le monde" (everyone). These controlled verb conjugations allow students to create full sentences, which then increases their ability to effectively communicate complete ideas right from the start. This increases fluency, which increases satisfaction, which increases desire to communicate more - all of which increases teacher, student, and parent happiness!!!

It offers full support.

During class time, the teacher is the main support for the student, guiding the choral French speaking using gestures, and prompting students individually to speak, with gestural support as necessary. Outside of class time, AIM teachers and students all have access to the AIM web portal in which we can view and hear each song, story and play. In addition, each word and gesture that we learn is accessible for review. For parents, the web portal and website offer more information on the AIM philosophy and methodology, and a means to encourage and help their child in learning the vocabulary of his/her specific kit. Parents: if you would like to get your child connected to this AIM web portal in order to review at home, please email me for login information at jvaneek@ccshamilton.ca. In addition to the AIM web portal, I have created a French website of my own! On it, students can find songs, videos, activities, and worksheets to enhance and enrich the AIM material. I use many resources from this site during our lessons, so students should find it familiar and easy to navigate. To learn how to access my site, please visit your child's classroom webpage.

Merci beaucoup



It works!

The kids are speaking French! Teachers share with me that they hear their students using French phrases appropriately with their peers during other classroom activities. In the hallways, students are greeting me and each other in French and carrying on short, impromptu interactions using French. Parents tell me that their kids are conversing in French at home, as well as noticing French on signs and packaging. Some kids are even singing the AIM songs at birthday parties together! Their brains are absorbing it, their mouths are producing it with confidence, and their hearts are enjoying it. Ça, c'est fantastique!

I'm pretty sure that primary and junior CCS students like the AIM French program for the same reasons that I do! So, just ask them: "Est-ce que tu aimes la classe de français? Pourquoi?", and please report back to me! •



While walking outdoors at the end of the day, an SK student said to Mrs. McKnight, "You are older than Mrs. Hagen." When asked how she knew that she responded, "Because you are in SK and she is only in Jubilee."



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Walk in the Forest

By Arn Boonstra

Visiting the Forest

At the Fall Membership meeting, I teased our Jubilee and Senior Kindergarten teachers about not inviting me to join them in the forest. The forest visit is a regular part of the Outdoor Education program in Jubilee and SK. The program involves a couple of hours of exploring a nearby forest, and I always thought that sounded like a great idea. Well, consider me invited. Mrs. Wiebenga's entire A class hand delivered an invitation that read as follows:

DEAR Mr. Boonstra,
You are the best principal
We are going to
the forest. Can you
please come to the forest
with us? We are going
on December 12.
Love,
Kindergarten A

How could I resist such an invitation! As I joined the class first thing in the morning, I got a glimpse of what is all involved in preparing for the trip. It really is quite an ordeal outfitting 45 children for a trip to the forest. A mandatory bathroom visit was the first step. Mittens, hats, zippers, boots, coats, snow pants and more, all had to be dealt with. These are crucial details to ensure a safe and enjoyable trip. Thankfully Mrs. Wiebenga and Mrs. Hagen arranged a crew of parents, and me, to help out.

After everyone was properly outfitted, the children clambered up onto the bus and took their seats. Some students had very little

experience ever being on a bus, so even this was a learning opportunity. I heard the teachers say: "Be-hind on the seat, please" more than once. It really is sort of strange travelling with 4 and 5 years on a bus, mainly because you don't really see them. Sure, you can hear them chattering, but since the seat backs are so high, the students are virtually hidden from view. I simply saw the backs and heads of the adults.

We arrived safely at our destination, the Dundas Conservation Area, behind the Ancaster Lion's Club Pool and exited the bus. Students gathered with group leaders and proceeded to the "praise circle," a large open area located a short distance into the forest. Just keeping up with the students as they made their way to the circle was a bit of a challenge.

Once students had an opportunity to blow off a little steam by running around in the open area, Mrs. Wiebenga brought the entire group to the praise circle to begin the formal part of the trip. She welcomed everyone and led us in a time of prayer. She thanked God for the awesome opportunity to visit his beautiful forest creation. Next, Mrs. Wiebenga reminded students of the very important rules of staying with your group leader (more on that in a moment) and the need to respect God's creation. In other words, students could explore the forest, but should not be breaking branches off trees or destroying the forest in any other ways.

We were not exploring the forest simply for pleasure's sake, but rather with a specific goal of looking for "treasures" in God's creation and, more specifically, for "letters" in the forest as they revealed themselves to us, via branch growth, log patterns or any other ways. Students were challenged to enjoy the exploration, as well as to look for letters of the alphabet to reinforce some of the learning that takes place in the classroom. The goals for today were part of the broader goals of the outdoor education program that is offered in Jubilee and Kindergarten.

Outdoor education plays an important role in learning, providing children with opportunities to experiment and explore, to ask questions and make observations, to solve problems and build theories, all while enjoying God's wonderful creation.

Once the final instructions were delivered, off we went. My group of four boys were more than ready to go. They quickly selected a path and promptly went off it and up a

steep slope. I quickly learned why rule number one, stay with your group leader, was so important. I corralled the boys back together and decided that I had better take charge or who knows what kind of adventures we could find ourselves in! Typically on a forest hike I might find myself meandering along, but not with this group. They were eager and excited to climb the slopes, scramble over and under logs, jump in the mud, and try every other thing typical 5 year old boys might want to do.

I reminded the boys of our goals, and for the next hour the forest slowly but surely revealed its treasures to us, as well as the different patterns that provided many letters of the alphabet. Moss, sticks, bark, and branches went into our treasure bag (later to be returned to the forest), and after a while we had spied half of the letters in the alphabet. We peered up at trees that were full of holes carved out by woodpeckers seeking a meal. Standing at creek's edge, we watched the water cascade over rocks and disappear into the ground. There was no shortage of beauty to admire, and at times the boys were enthralled.

However, hanging out in the chilly forest for over an hour taxes even the most hardy of children. Besides, after lending my gloves to one of the boys, I was pretty well done too. We headed back to the praise circle to join the others. Mrs. Hagen asked each group what they discovered and how many letters they found. Students excitedly shared their information. Appropriately, we closed the praise circle by singing a song based on our theme, "I'm a Child of God," and offered a prayer of gratitude to our Heavenly Father.

Heading back to school, I reflected on what a great morning it was. Through the outdoor education program in Jubilee and SK our students learned about the amazing forest created by our God. They were

physically active as they carried out their exploration. They poked and prodded stumps, trees, branches, and each other. They carefully navigated mud, creeks, logs, and rocks. Back on the bus, one little fellow fell asleep on my shoulder, and I think it was a fitting end to a wonderful morning. Thanks Jubilee and Senior Kindergarten for inviting me on your forest excursion. I can't wait until the spring trip!



We were not exploring the forest simply for pleasure's sake, but rather with a specific goal of looking for "treasures" in God's creation and, more specifically, for "letters" in the forest as they revealed themselves to us, via branch growth, log patterns or any other ways.



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The Before and After School Care Program

By Ms. Amy

We have begun the 10th year of the After School Care Program. It is a great program that really creates a family like environment as it includes a variety of ages of our school aged children. We focus on manners, role modelling and inclusion. I feel very privileged to work with these children. I treat them as I would like my child to be treated if I couldn't be there with him.

At Before School Care I try to provide a homelike environment as some children need a more quiet time to begin their day. Some mornings it is busy and loud while other mornings are quiet and relaxed. I try to meet each child's individual needs.

After School Care begins with me picking up the youngest children

from their classrooms and then meeting in the music room for snack time. It is fun sitting around the table, family style and catching up on our day or weekend. After clean up we head outside to play, weather permitting, or to the gym if it is raining or cold. Once in a while when we are unable to use the gym and it isn't appropriate weather to go out and play, we have a movie and popcorn day or board games and colouring day or a "Go Noodle" day. Go Noodle is a website that provides a large variety of activities ranging from exercise to coordination to relaxation.

Here are some testimonials from some of the program parents:

"Our girls have enjoyed after school care for years. Between the snacks and the outside play

and especially the laughs with the other kids, they always love their time after school. I believe it starts with the kindness and care of their conversations with Ms. Amy, who plays a big part in their lives." - Dan Postma

"Our family relies on before and after school care. Ms. Amy is a kind and inviting care provider whom our child absolutely loves. We appreciate that we are able to meet our child care needs through the school. It is very important to us that our Christian values are being reinforced throughout our child's entire day."-the Hartman family

"After school care has been so great! As two working parents, we needed somewhere to send our kids after school until we can come get them; somewhere, fun,

safe and where they would be loved. Well, we found it with Ms. Amy's after school program! She takes such care of each child, my two kids are loving it there! My youngest coming home saying, "I skipped rope with my friend today". My oldest said, "we got to have popcorn movie day since it was raining today or a dance party, so fun mom!" It is so reassuring to know that they are being cared for like I would and they get to play and form friendships with other kids in their school. Thanks Mrs. Amy!"-KK
"We have such peace of mind knowing that our kids are being cared for, they are safe, and they are having fun. We rush to pick them up at the end of the day... and they always ask to stay longer."-JW •



This fall, some students and teachers at CCS took part in the fight against cancer in partnership with the Movember foundation. Staff members, Mr. De Schiffert and Mr. Schaefer, both sported moustaches in the month of November to raise awareness for men's health and cancer research. At the end of the month students purchased a fake moustache to wear for the day and voted for which staff member had to shave their moustache in front of those who supported the cause. At the end of the day the students wanted to see both staff members shave their moustache and more importantly, raised over \$250 for the Movember Foundation. Thank you to all who donated. Please visit the website for more information at ca.movember.com. •



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Voice of the Martyrs

By Jacqueline DeJong

This year Calvin Christian School chose to support Voice of the Martyrs (VOM) as its community fundraising project. On October 18, three speakers from VOM led assemblies for the students. Each assembly was tailored for the ages of the students and featured how Christians are persecuted in different countries. Jubilee through grade 2 students learned about India, and made bookmarks for believers in that nation. Grades 3-5 students learned about persecution in China and were encouraged to write postcards to John Cao, a Chinese missionary who is imprisoned. Grades 6-8 students had a presentation on the extreme hardships which face Christians in North Korea, and they wrote letters to Christians in that nation.

In addition to learning about, praying for, and writing to those persecuted for their faith in Jesus, students were also encouraged to try to raise at least \$10 each through a walk-a-thon. We set a goal for \$5000. That walk-a-thon occurred on November 1. Although the weather was drizzly and a bit cool, spirits were high. From the pledges of the walk-a-thon we actually **raised just shy of \$9000**. We pray that the money raised, the prayers offered and the bookmarks and postcards sent will be a blessing for believers who suffer for their Christian faith. •



Steel Beams Ice Rink Crew

We are grateful for the people who set up the ice rink this year! Thank you Mr. Corchrane, Mr. VanArragon, Mr. Groenewegen and the Steel Beams Ice Rink team! CCS enjoy hours of fun on the ice rink! •




Outdoor Games

by Aurora Whitehead

If you are walking around on the playground this year, you will see many students playing some exciting new games. This year two boxes full of outdoor games were installed. There is one on the senior end of the playground and another on the junior end. The games include kubb, spike ball, kan jam, corn hole, giant yahtzee, and giant jenga. The students are very happy to be able to choose from a great variety of outside games. For students who don't love to play soccer or street hockey, these games are a welcome addition. Students can be seen outside at recess enjoying an outdoor game while laughing with their friends. •





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Spelling Bee

by Joanne Bosveld



What is all the **p-a-n-d-e-m-o-n-i-u-m** about? There is no **k-e-r-f-u-f-l-e** 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 14th. Our guest spellmaster, Mrs. Dekok, and three judges, Mrs. Hartman, Mrs. Kloet and Miss Wierenga, 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, November 30th. Representing CCS in the primary division were Youngjae K., Aidan V., and Nadia d. (sub); at the junior division Lex V., Jakob V., and Rachel C. (sub); and, at the senior division, Ife A., Chukwuka U., and Caleb B. (sub). Thanks to all the students who participated in this event. A special congratulations goes to Lex V. who finished first, and Jakob V. who finished third in the junior division and to Ife A., who finished second and Chukwuka U. who finished third in the senior division. •



To the test question, "How do we know that the earth is a large magnet?" a student wrote, "Because my teacher told me it is"

STEEL BEAMS

by Sharon Vander Meulen

Recent visitors to Calvin Christian School may be excused for wondering if our school has instituted an architectural program. There has been a lot of talk in the hallways and classrooms about Steel Beams. The Steel Beams everyone is talking about are not physical structural features, however, but a new leadership program.

Steel Beams is an acronym for **Student Teams Excitedly Engaging in Leadership Because Every Action Matters**. This initiative provides students from grades 4 to 8 with an opportunity to practice leadership skills by participating in a wide variety of activities that contribute to school life. Just as we have steel beams all around the building that are integral to the structure, so too the leadership that the students provide is necessary for the smooth functioning of our school body. Some of our actual steel beams are easily visible, while others are hidden away. In the same way, some of our Steel Beams teams will be doing work that is public, while others will be doing their crucial work behind the scenes.

The Steel Beams program is intended to provide students with an opportunity to practice not only leadership skills but also job skills. Students learned about the program in an assembly in late September, and were invited to peruse the "job listings" of the 44 Steel Beams teams. Each listing indicated the desired skills, the age requirements, the time commitment, and the number of positions

available. Students filled out applications for up to four teams, explaining why they wanted to join and what skills they would bring to the team. The Steel Beams Committee sorted the applications and passed them on to team leaders, who selected as many students as they needed. In the end, every student who applied was chosen for at least one team and most teams had enough applicants to fill each position.

The Steel Beams teams provide for a broad range of engagement. There are students who will be planning seasonal spirit events while others are part of the advertising team which will be creating posters and brochures to promote those events. Some students give up part of their recess once a week to help in the Jubilee, SK and Grade 1 classes, either helping the students get ready to go outside, or doing some tasks in the classroom to help the teachers. Students participate in weeding the gardens, tidying the library, tying skates in the winter, and reading the morning announcements over the intercom. Keep an eye on the CCS website, as there is also a group of students who will be sharing student news and producing blog posts on a regular basis.

It is our hope that students and staff alike will benefit from Steel Beams. While students develop their leadership and work skills, they also provide valuable assistance to the staff. Staff members have the opportunity to train, supervise, and get to know a different group

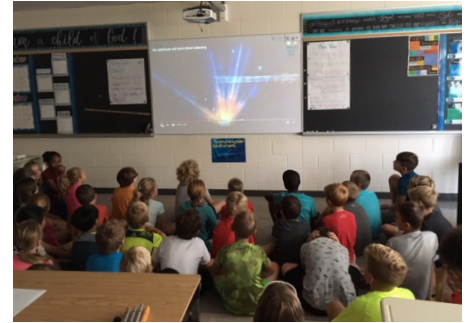
of students. As they serve CCS, students will also develop a greater sense of responsibility for themselves, those around them, and the physical school environment. At the end of the year, we will celebrate the students' contributions during our annual awards assembly. Each student will receive a certificate with stickers representing their Steel Beams and other extra-curricular involvement. If you are the parent of a CCS student, please ask your child(ren) about their Steel Beams positions. Encourage them to serve with glad hearts and with commitment. Each one is needed to keep CCS strong. •



Grade 5 Retreat

by Paul Veldhuis

The grade 5 classes had an amazing time on their September retreat! The day started with a time to reflect on our school theme, "I am a Child of God." The students also participated in singing some praise and worship songs. Later in the day, the students enjoyed playing some cooperative games, followed by a picnic lunch in the forest. The students ended the retreat at the Wayne Gretzky Centre, enjoying the opportunity to swim, go down a slide, and rock climb. This day enabled the students to build strong community and have a chance to more deeply reflect on what it means to be a child of God. •



Grade 7 Retreat

by Christine Mantel

September is always a time of new beginnings; new classmates, new teachers, new friendships and sometimes even completely new schools. It begins with the wonderful possibility of all that will come in the year ahead.

To help begin the year well together and to build community between and among the grade 7 students, on Friday, September 14th, the grade seven classes, along with a few parents and teachers, took the bus to Mrs. Mantel's residence for an afternoon of fun and fellowship together.

The weather was gorgeous as students piled off the bus and were divided into groups of

four in order to compete in the Grade 7 Team Challenge. Once the challenge began you could look any which way and see groups competing in the available games and activities! There were brain-teaser puzzles, skill testing challenges, and various other events. Students tried slack-lining, played badminton with a rubber chicken, roasted and ate s'mores around a fire, and participated in various other team challenges, all while earning points for each event.

Next we spent some time in devotions, learning that when we learn to focus on who God is rather than on what we are not, we see that it is God who is working in us to do the very

thing He has purposed to do in our lives. As we learn to run the race, accept God's batons, and submit to his training, God's work in and through us is always growing and increasing. Christ in us becomes an unstoppable force in our lives and is spilled out into the lives of others.

The afternoon finished off with a few more group games, and then piling back onto the bus. It is our hope that our time spent together has helped each student build new connections and relationships that will continue to grow as we go through the school year together as a community in Christ. •



During a Morning Meeting in grade one, the students were asked to share whom they enjoy spending time with and why. Many students answered that they like to spend time with their grandparents, a friend, a special cousin, and so on. Then one boy said, "That's easy. I like to spend time with Mrs. Heeg because I'm already smarter than my dad!"

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Grade 8 Fall Retreat

by Caleb Bosveld and Ryan Brouwer



friendship



memories



adventure

In early September the grade 8 classes of 2018-2019 had an opportunity to go on a retreat to the Binbrook Conservation Area.

The students climbed on the bus first thing in the morning, and drove the 20 minute ride to Binbrook. The classes first came off the bus to see the beauty of the conservation area. Some of the students played football while others went to check out the beach and the splash pad.

After some free time, we had devotions with Mr. de Schiffert. We learned about the nature around us and went out to seek God in nature quietly, and by ourselves. After we spent

some quiet time with God we learned about the Peacekeeper program from Mrs. Wikkerink. She taught us how to help a child who is lonely by including them in a game. We next spent some time playing some of the new games that we will be able to use on the playground. Then we had our last bit of free time of the day during which we played all the games that we were taught and went in the splash pad. After a day of fun and learning it was finally time to get back on the bus and head back to the school.

We all had a **GR8** time at the retreat! •



Cross Country, Soccer & Volleyball

The boys' soccer team did an excellent job in both of their HDCH and Niagara Regional tournaments this year. One of the most skilled and teamwork-oriented groups we have had in years, the boys finished 1st in the HDCH tournament and fought for a hard won 2nd place in the Niagara tournament.

The girls' soccer team had a lot of fun this season at practices and tournaments. We had the opportunity to go to HDCH for a friendly tournament. While at HDCH we were excited to participate in some goalie and passing skill clinics run by the grade eleven phys-ed class. We also had the opportunity to represent CCS at the Niagara District Soccer Tournament. We had a great day, playing well together and getting a couple of wins. Way to go girls!

Girls CCS volleyball had the opportunity to have two teams this year. Thanks to HDCH for allowing us to enter two teams in their invitational tournament. Both teams had excellent growth and development achieving wins along the way. In the HDCH triple ball tournament Blazers A came in third which was a highlight for the Blazers A team. The Niagara District Tournament was hosted by CCS this year and the Blazers battled hard winning a couple of sets, coming in fourth.



Well done to all the girls who played this season. Great work!

The CCS cross country had two great meets this year. Our first meet was a new one for our school. 24 of our students from Grade 4 to Grade 8 came together with many other Niagara region schools at Agape Valley for a beautiful day of running and competition. Our students placed very well as individuals and as teams, with our junior boys team even taking home a trophy. Our next meet took place at Dundas Valley Conservation Area, where many Christian schools came together for another great day of competition, running in God's wonderful creation. Well done runners!

Twenty-one very enthusiastic boys, two full teams worth, learned to play and love the game of volleyball in nine short weeks this past fall. The senior boys' volleyball season was jam packed with many practices and two to three exciting tournaments, one of which was the third annual CCS Cup Volleyball Tournament hosted by our school. Steady improvement was made throughout the season with great success coming with each tournament. In the final tournament, the Niagara District Christian Schools Tournament, the B-B Blazers demonstrated fantastic volleyball skills and dogged determination to end the day winning the championship banner. Way to go, players! Both teams did an awesome job representing CCS at the various tournaments in which they participated. Much was learned about volleyball, about teamwork and about striving for excellence in sports to glorify God. •



Mike's Miracle

Mike's Miracles Soccer Tournament has become quite a tradition to look forward to in grade 6. Every October, for the past 11 years, the grade 6 classes from Christian schools in the Niagara District have been getting together to play an entire day of soccer. What is unique about this tournament is that we do not play to represent our school, rather we play in a friendly competitive tournament where all grade 6 students are divided over 9 teams represented by colours of the rainbow spectrum. Why a rainbow colour? That idea dates back 12+ years ago when a grade 5 student, Mike Vandendool, from Beacon Christian School, was diagnosed with a cancerous growth located in his leg. Mike fought cancer with all he had, and never lost his spirit. While in grade 6 he lost his battle to cancer, but not without leaving a lasting legacy of Mike's Miracles. This charity is founded on the principle that Mike displayed in his daily walk; inclusion, love for others, belonging, and an undying love for soccer! This year's tournament had a slight twist; for the first time in its history, the day had to be postponed due to poor field conditions on account of the rain. However, God blessed our day two weeks later with lots and lots of sunshine. Gathering with almost 150 other grade 6 students, everyone played 4 great games of soccer. Students who rarely play, mixed with students who play the game everyday. Everyone put forth their best, and all had fun. By the time the day was over, we could all say we had a great day, and everyone went home knowing several other grade 6 students from other area Christian Schools. •



Live & Silent Auction Feb. 23 2019 (Food will be available!)

Book Fair March 20-22, 2019

Open House/SHINE Festival April 30, 2019

Grandparents Day May 1, 2019

Sunrise Fest May 11, 2019

Field Day May 22, 2019

25th Golf Tournament June 1, 2019



Get to Know The reSource Thrift Shop



The re-Source Thrift Shop

at 1050 Upper Gage is 100% not for profit, 100% volunteer run, and 100% donation supported.

The store is a thriving community and uses its financial surpluses to support special projects at Calvin Christian School with a tithe given to a wide variety of agencies and charities that help support the physical and emotional needs of many across Hamilton.

“ We are told by the store that they are busier than ever and continue to appreciate good quality donations : clothes, housewares, furniture and much more (just email resourcethrift@gmail.com or call the shop directly if you have a question about what they like to receive). **The store also has a need to expand its volunteer base and is particularly interested to hear from folks who are able to help and have a regular weekly time slot available.** ” •



On Saturday October 20, the re-Source Thrift Shop thanked their volunteers with a lovely dinner at Calvin Christian School, and they presented our principal Mr. Boonstra with a cheque for \$125,000! In the past, money donated by the re-Source Thrift Shop helped CCS purchase new flooring in many of the upstairs classrooms, security cameras on our busses, and a new Chrome-cart with 30 new Chrome-books. Praise be to God!

**Thank you
re-Source Thrift Shop!!!**

On the first day of school a teacher handed out a survey for students to fill in, to get to know them better. One student answered the questions very honestly!

1. What do you like most about school? **Fridays because it is close to Saturday**
2. What do you find hardest about school? **Early Monday Mornings**

TRIP TUITION REDUCTION INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Thank you for your support of the TRIP program! We are encouraged by the new participants in this year's TRIP program, and thankful for the businesses that participated for their Christmas gift giving. For those not familiar with our TRIP program, it's a great way to support the school by purchasing gift cards. Simply, you purchase gift cards and the school is given a discount. A percentage of the discount is passed on to the purchaser as a credit towards their tuition, or designated to another family's tuition, or the Tuition Assistance fund.

If you haven't participated in TRIP yet, it is never too late to start saving! Check out the link on our website to our online retailer Fundscrip to get started! Fundscrip offers over 200 retailers to meet your purchasing needs from Dollarama to Esso, Indigo to your favourite restaurant, grocery and home improvement stores, travel and hotel. The online website is very user friendly.

If you are a member of the community at large, this is a great way to support the school throughout the year simply by purchasing gift cards for groceries, gas, Tim Horton's – items you purchase every day.

We are grateful for the success of this gift card program. Last year the program raised over \$23,000 and continues to be a benefit to both parents and the school. Please contact the Lianna Reitsma at lreitsma@ccshamilton.ca if you would like to learn more about this great opportunity. •

GENERAL


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FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN GOLF TOURNAMENT 2018

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**Join us for the 25th Annual
CCS Golf Tournament on
Saturday, June 1, 2019!**
ccshamilton.ca/golf

Calvin Christian School thanks the community for 25 years of support for special education through the *For All God's Children* golf tournament. You are welcome to view a special video celebrating this milestone at www.ccshamilton.ca/golf. Thank you to Banko Media for all their work and expertise in creating the video!

The Special Education Department is made up of two full time special education teachers, and up to sixteen part time and full time paraeducators. We work together with the classroom teachers, parents, and community professionals, to provide quality, inclusive education for all students. The financial support from the tournament allows funding for special materials and services such as the Multi-Sensory Reading Remedy Program, Chromebooks and iPads for differentiated instruction, Soundfield Systems for auditory support, accessible equipment for the playground, and paraeducator support. A vital part of the program is the work of the paraeducators as they develop a positive relationship with the students and implement specialized programs to help the students be successful at school.

We are so blessed to have the support of the wider community in creating a safe and caring environment where all our students can flourish and develop their God-given gifts. The 25th anniversary *For All God's Children* tournament will take place on Saturday, June 1, 2019, at the Willow Valley Golf Course in Hamilton. •

Gourmet Meats Ltd.

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Bazaar

by Winona Siebenga

"Click". The clock changes from 9:29 to 9:30 a.m. and Mrs Gallea announces from the loudspeaker, "Good morning! The bazaar is now open for business!"

An exuberant cheer erupts from the upstairs hallway where children are lined up outside of Mr. Hosmar's room, hoping for the biggest and best bottle from the ever-famous "Bottle Room". At the same time, a crowd surges into the "Christmas Room", eager for the latest and greatest in the season's decor. It was a similar scene in the "Home and Style Room", where plants and home furnishings abounded.

The "new" Escape Room trailer was very popular this year, as was the "Glow in the Dark Room" again. The children whose faces had been painted, excitedly brought their parents into the "Games Room" and "Toy Room", where many treasures were awaiting. The "Box Maze", once again, did not disappoint. Shoppers of all ages filled their arms with Dutch treats, veggies, baked goods, soup, previously loved items, croquettes and

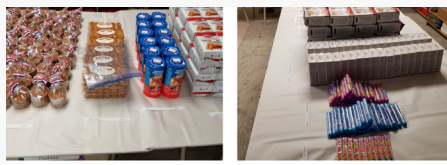
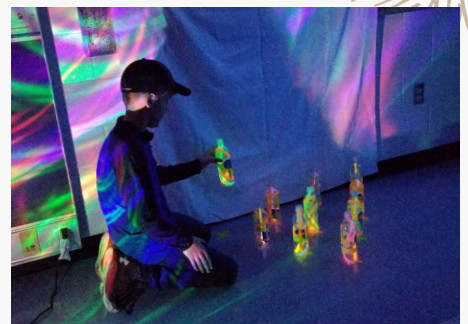
candy, all the while keeping an eye on the clock to see if their "Silent Auction" item was still winning with their bid.

The assortment of food to eat at the 2018 bazaar was also spectacular. Gourmet Meats, Tim Hortons and the Korean Cuisine were all showcased well and for the second year in a row, the "Dutch Cafe" provided a respite from the busy gym with croquettes, boerenkoel and oliebolles.

Wandering through the transformed halls of CCS on bazaar day, hearing the tunes of "Deservedly So" and Brielle Goheen, seeing the welcoming foyer activities and the buzz of a healthy community, a sense of being blessed pervades the soul.

By all accounts, the 2018 CCS bazaar was a huge success in terms of a beautiful community event and of raising funds for our school. A grand total of more than \$30,000 was raised, all to the glory of God.

A special thanks goes out to everyone who helped to make this day the success that it was! •



Capital Campaign



Yes!

We need your support for the CCS Annual Drive 2018/19

The 2018/19 Annual Drive is off to a great start. To-date we have raised over \$ 46,000. But we are still in need of the support of our community to help reach our goal of \$100,000!

This year's Annual Drive is focused on facility and playground redevelopment. We understand the importance of recess to your child's day. Recess is a time for children to play and have fun with their friends. However, for some children even recess can be a challenge. Students with mobility challenges often find it difficult to get around the playground, much less enjoy it. We are committed to providing

a fully accessible playground space that meets the needs of children with a wide spectrum of abilities. With the funds received, we hope to find ways in which all children can enjoy their school experience as well as to provide funding to families who struggle to afford Christian education.

Please consider making Christian education accessible and enjoyable for all children at Calvin Christian School, by donating to the annual drive. Your gift will ensure that all children at Calvin Christian School are "Equipped to Shine".

Mail your cheque to Calvin Christian School or donate online at www.ccshamilton.ca – 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.



"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession; that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9

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