



Community
Christian School

CCS

COMMUNICATOR

INTERIM PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The beginning of the school year at CCS has been an exciting one. Eleven new families have joined our school community, and our class sizes are growing. We have also established an effective leadership team to provide direction. These changes have prompted us to think creatively as we look forward, but at the heart of all these changes, our school mission remains: *Community Christian School partners with families to teach students the Biblical principles essential to walk with God, and provide them with the academic tools with which to become faithful stewards.*

Every year we strive to put our mission into practice, both inside and outside our classrooms. We recognize that God has created each student uniquely, with distinct strengths and challenges. The staff at CCS are committed to supporting each student in order to see them grow. This takes courage and respect, as we teach that God is central to our understanding of the world and ourselves. Our



school theme this year is "Daring to Walk on Water", based on II Timothy 1:17, which says: "The Spirit God gave us does not make us afraid. It is a source of power and love and self-control." We pray this message will be carried in our students' hearts not only during this school year, but throughout their lives.

Living out our faith is important for us all as teachers, students, and parents, as we discover who God created us to be. Our students are stronger Kingdom Builders when we challenge them to make connections between what they are learning and what is happening in the world around them. Our students are stronger Kingdom Builders when they are taught to look at culture critically through a Biblical worldview. Education at CCS engages students in meaningful conversations so they can make a difference - and dare to walk on water!

Rita Bergsma
Interim Principal

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communitychristianschool.ca



THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

I was recently asked to join the CCS Board of Trustees in the role of Board Chair, replacing outgoing Chair, Jacob Zwiers. Having only sat through one Board meeting and one Fall Membership meeting so far, and not having had children in the school for eight years, I am still settling in. One thing that has struck me though, is the commitment of current parents, staff and Board members to make CCS the best school possible -- a place that helps children grow to be effective servants of Christ. For this, we can all be thankful.

Since the departure of Rick Dykstra, our previous Principal, the Board has put a school Leadership Team in place while we assess our leadership needs. The team is headed up by Rita Bergsma in the position of Interim Principal, Kathryn Vedder in the role of Office Administrator, Marie Cooper is Communications and Admissions Coordinator, Deb Hart is Teacher-In-Charge (in Rita Bergsma's absence), and Mary Ruth Downs is our Learning Leader and Staff Support. Tasks that normally fall entirely to our Principal have now been split up among five staff members, who meet regularly to ensure work is completed and deadlines are met.

Thank you to all of you who attended our fall membership meeting on November 9. At that meeting, we adopted the previous year's financial statements and approved this school year's budget. After a few challenging years, we are back on track financially due in part to the generosity of our members and supporters and the addition of eleven new families this fall. The Board effectively balanced this year's budget, except for some unexpected tuition assistance needs. We are currently canvassing our supporting community for donations toward tuition relief, so if you feel led to contribute toward this very important fund, please contact me or any Board member.

In the past few years, it has been increasingly difficult to find members of our school association who are willing to serve on the CCS Board of Directors. While it is a responsibility, it is also a privilege to help shape the future of this wonderful school and our community's children. The CCS Board will again be looking for new Board members next spring and I encourage all school association members to pray about the role they can play in keeping CCS a vibrant place of learning, where the name of Christ is glorified.

Jack deKleer
Board Chair

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FINANCE COMMITTEE

God continues to bless our school in many ways including the area of finances. Last school year (2015/2016) we ended the year \$20,000 better than budgeted. This year (2016/2017) we have a cash flow deficit of less than \$15,000. This deficit is primarily related to unique tuition assistance needs this year. Anyone who would like to donate to our Tuition Assistance Fund may contact me.

Next year, finances at CCS look good as we aim for a balanced budget. Please pray that we successfully reach our enrolment goals for next year; we are praying for 7 new families. Next year's new families will get a tuition discount in their first year, and will pay a base tuition of \$8750, which is two-thirds of our regular family tuition of \$13,000. This will bring next year's new families in line with this year's eleven new families. We were encouraged by the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools to offer new families a tuition discount, and have discovered it is an effective way to have new families join our school.

Going beyond next year, projections indicate that CCS should have multiple years of balanced budgets. Please continue to keep CCS and its finances in your prayers.

Andrew Ferguson
Treasurer@communitychristianschool.ca



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ADVANCEMENT TEAM REPORT

Our Advancement Team strives to increase enrollment, secure the retention of current families, and build positive relationships in the community.

We are delighted to report that our school has **eleven new families this fall**, for a total of 35 families. This not only helps our budget, but it's always good for our school community to have an injection of new energy and ideas. We are ensuring our new families feel welcome.

CCS played a key role in helping organize and promote a recent **Christian Education Expo**. Fourteen Christian schools in Ottawa and the surrounding area had booths set up at Redeemer Christian High School on October 22. Parents who attended this school fair were genuinely interested in knowing more about Christian education so organizers plan to repeat this expo next year.

CCS joined forces with Ottawa Christian School (OCS) and Redeemer Christian High School (RCHS) and sponsored a large Christian women's conference at a Nepean church on November 11 and 12. The Flourish Conference was attended by 600 women from all over the Ottawa area, with another 100+ volunteers in attendance. Sponsorship meant our three school names were on all conference hand outs and on social media posts. We had a booth set up in the lobby during the two day conference, we showed a bumper video during one of the conference sessions, and the conference MC talked about our schools from the platform. Sponsoring a conference was a new venture for CCS, OCS and RCHS, but we felt it was a great opportunity to promote our schools to a captive audience of Christian women.

Welcome Wednesdays

I am in the school every Wednesday, so I encourage all parents, members and supporters to invite friends to come and visit us. Our teachers are prepared to have prospective parents join Wednesday morning chapel, or sit in on classes, and I will give tours and answer questions. Word of mouth continues to be our best

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promotional tool. Eight of our eleven new families were told about CCS by a friend or acquaintance, one of our new parents is an alumna, and two discovered CCS through an internet search.

We will run our Kindergarten readiness program again next April, so tell people with children entering JK in fall 2017 to inquire about **Ready, Set, Kindergarten**. Lastly, students are practicing diligently for the **CCS Christmas musical** on December 14, 7 p.m. We encourage everyone to promote this wonderful production, which showcases our students' many talents. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Marie Cooper
admissions@communitychristianschool.ca



FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE



The fundraising year kicked off with our annual Walk-Bike-Roll--A-Thon on a sunny day in September. With pledges over \$13,000.00, this year's event exceeded our expectations by approximately \$3,000.00, and resulted in the board chair and several teachers getting "dunked" - a price gladly paid.

In October, the CCS community came together for our annual apple pie making weekend. 1,024 pies and 138 crisps were the result of the collective effort. Great things happen when community comes together - many thanks to all the hands that pitched in. There are still some pies available for sale. Please place your order with the school office soon.

The next fundraising event is the annual garage sale held in the CCS gym in March. Consider setting aside gently-used household items, clothing, toys, books, sports equipment, etc. (no electronics please) for this up-coming event.

CCS has recently partnered with Donate-A-Car (Canada) which will enable CCS to receive funds for donated vehicles. Anyone wanting to donate a scrap / used car to CCS, please contact Kathryn Vedder in the school office or me.

This coming spring, CCS will once again be hosting our Auction. This is a great opportunity for the CCS community to come together and raise money for our school. Anyone wanting to volunteer their time and talents, please contact Jenn Post or me.

The success of fundraising events is due to the participation of community members - your contribution is greatly appreciated and helps lower tuition fees. Many thanks to Lisa Douma, Andrée-Anne Kemp, Carlena Schipper, and Becky VanderMolen for all their hard work and dedication, and much gratitude is owed to Jenn Post for her leadership on this committee.

Marc Dominique (Board Representative)
mdominique@communitychristianschool.ca



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MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Have you returned your completed membership form yet?

Non-parent members will have received your membership renewal package by now and we ask that you return the membership forms, with payment as soon as possible. We thank you for your continued support - membership fees and supporter donations are an important source of income for CCS. If you have not received your membership renewal package, please phone or email our school office:

info@communitychristianschool.ca.

If you know a family member, friend, or member of your church community, who you believe would consider supporting our school association, please contact one of our committee members: John and Cathy Vedder (vedder@explornet.com) or Marie Cooper (admissions@communitychristianschool.ca).

We are pleased to inform you that last fall's membership drive resulted in an increase in memberships. We encourage all members to attend our membership meetings and participate in school events. Even if you do not have children in the school, your support and input are invaluable!

John Vedder, Chair

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Committee members continue to take care of any items that need attention. Recently, new energy efficient lights were donated by school association members and installed outside the school.

Our building is in good shape and we don't anticipate any major repairs in the immediate future. Our only concern is that the septic system may need some work in the next couple of years. Our committee has decided not to include this in a future budget because we hope to get donations when the time comes for the repairs.

Committee members are Harry Rylaarsdam, Thom Fuller, Les Forrest, Jim Mallette, Mark Moran, Alan Herbert, Norm Amyotte and Bob Cooper.

Harry Rylaarsdam, Chair



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Community
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JOINING JESUS' FAMILY TREE

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 14

7:00pm – 8:30pm



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GRADES 6-8 STUDENT WORK

Biography Poems: Gr. 6-8

Awesome, short, weird, smart
 Son of Arthur, Child of God
 Lover of God, eater of pizza
 Who feels - happy, sad awesome
 Who fears Hillary Clinton, Obama and tomatoes
 Who needs food, friends and family
 Who gives hugs, high fives and
 Who would like to see Jesus one day
 Resident of earth
 -Isaac, Grade 7

Active, kind, smart
 Daughter of Melissa, friend of Laryssa
 Lover of soccer, Christ and friends
 Who feels happy and tired in the morning
 Who fears spiders, snakes and the devil
 Who needs books, family and friends
 Who gives love, leadership, hugs and encouragement
 Who would like to see the Netherlands and
 the Eiffel Tower
 Resident of Blackburn Hamlet, Ottawa
 -Adalia, Grade 6

Layla

I like sweets
 Sister of Grant
 Crazy around friends
 I have a good relationship with parents, friends
 and family
 Lover of Shopkins, Jesus and hugs
 Who feels panicky under pressure, but mostly
 happy and friendly
 Scared of dolls, death and TOMATOES
 Who needs love, ice cream and friends
 Who gives hugs, gifts and friendship
 Who wants to see a huge magic show
 Resident of Ottawa
 Covey
 -Layla, Grade 6

Me, Myself and I

Awesome, kind, myself, male
 Mom, Dad, Opa, Grandma, best friends
 Lover of cars, soccer, food, video games and God
 Who feels hungry when hungry, love when encouraged
 Who fears fire
 Who needs patience, love, food and sleep
 Who gives kindness and encouragement
 Who would like to see kindness between others,
 peace, and heaven
 Resident of Russell
 -Amos, Grade 8



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GRADES 3-4

Teaching Compassion

Throughout the last five years, the grade 3/4 class at CCS has been supporting a boy from the Dominican Republic, named Brayan. He is 12 years old, and we support him by praying for him. We pray for his education, that he will have enough food and medicine, and that he will learn about and worship Jesus. We also write letters and cards to him, to encourage him and let him know that we are praying for him. It is very exciting to receive the letters from Brayan, and we love hearing about how he is doing and what he likes to do. We feel very lucky to have Brayan as part of our lives and enjoy sponsoring him!

By: Caralee and Esther, Grade 4

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SCHOOL BUDDIES PROGRAM

Every Wednesday afternoon, CCS runs a program called "School Buddies", where 3-4 students from different grades are grouped together. This allows students of different ages to foster friendships and learn to work together. Often the groups will read stories, but other activities are done as a group too.



GRADES 1-2



Grade 1/2 class working on their interactive Bible notebooks. The notebooks have moving parts, tactile features, pictures and student writing to make Bible stories come alive. Throughout our studies, students always focus on answering the question "What does this story teach us about God?"



BRIAN VLAMING
President

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God Made Me

I will praise You for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Psalm 139:14

We have been learning about the amazing way that God made us. We cannot help but praise God for our wonderful bodies. When asked which part of their body was their favourite part, here is what each student replied.

Elijah - "I praise God for my legs because I can run fast and I can skate fast."

Zachary - "I praise God for my head because I like to think."

Jackson - "I praise God for my arms because my hands can go at the end of them."

Micah - "I praise God for my fingers because they can pick things up."

T-J - "I praise God for my toes because they help me walk."

Ryan - "I praise God for my face because that is where my eyes are."

Lauren - "I praise God for my nose because I can smell lasagna."

Isaac - "I praise God for my ears because I can hear dirt bikes."

Hunter - "I praise God for my eyes because I can see school."

Jesse - "I praise God for my tummy because I can eat everything."

Jonathan - "I praise God for my knees because they bend so I can jump up and down."

Andy - "I praise God for my eyes because I saw a BIG snapping turtle."

IN OTHER NEWS

The Volleyball Tournament

The Christian School Volleyball Tournament in Bowmanville was a great experience for everyone. It was very exciting. We all improved and displayed great sportsmanship. Though we lost, we had lots of fun and played our very best. One of my favourite parts was wandering around the big schools and making new friends. The delicious pancake breakfast was also amazing. One of the most important lessons we learned is that winning or losing doesn't matter when you try your best and have fun together.

-Chara, Grade 8



A Tree Lot Christmas: Joining Jesus' Family Tree

This year our school is doing a musical. It is called "A Tree Lot Christmas: Joining Jesus' family Tree." This play is different from the ones that we have done over the years. In previous years, we have done plays about Jesus' birth and working together. This year is more about helping those in need and remembering that we give because Christ gave the greatest gift. I like the Biblical moral this year because we need to find ways to help the needy more often.

It is great taking on one of the leadership roles: dance. We have watched the dancers improve from the first day to now. It's amazing to see the development, from acting, to singing, to dancing. Everyone is working hard to get this play perfected by show time.

-Sophie, 8



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