

iNTOUCH

2016-2017 - Issue 1 A Christian newsletter for Calvin Christian School
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For the

GLORY

of the

LORD

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GOAL: \$10,000

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Principal's Ponderings

Mr. T. Postma

We enjoyed a good start to the school year. The grounds and the building were well prepared and continue to be well maintained. Even with the dry summer, most of the grass looked reasonably healthy. We've already had quite a number of field trips, tournaments, assemblies and other extra curricular activities. Students are reading, writing, calculating, problem solving, performing.... They are reflecting on and responding to questions about faith and values; they are creating projects and designs; they are interacting with each other and presenting their work in the classroom. It is wonderful walking through the school and observing a good range of activities inside and outside of the classroom.

We began this school year with a new theme: "Go... For the Glory of the Lord!" (from Matt. 4:19). The context of the theme is Jesus telling His disciples to follow Him. Following the Lord Jesus is necessary so that we can learn from Him and be taught by Him. By following the Lord Jesus, we are being prepared to go out into the world to "fish for people."

Each year, Calvin Christian School endeavours to help raise funds for special causes. We have done so for cancer research, heart/stroke research, a Christian school in Zambia, Alzheimers, etc. We are certainly intentional about raising funds, but we are also intentional about increasing our students' awareness about the needs of others. On October 24, we had our CityKidz walk-a-thon.

With a large staff, it happens that some members depart and others arrive. This year, we welcome Ms. Aleida van der Woerd to our grade 7 class to replace Ms. Cassandra Lenters, who has taken on employment in Toronto involving computer coding. We welcome Mrs. Lisa Ouwehand to our JK/SK optional classes (see below). We also welcome Miss Anne Wyatt at the grade 5 level. She is filling in for Mrs. Winkel who began her maternity leave at the end of October. We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Winkel on the birth of a healthy baby boy, Asher James. We also congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Dekker (our grade 2 teacher on maternity leave) on the birth of a healthy baby girl. May the Lord continue to bless these parents so that they are enabled to raise their children to His glory and for service in His kingdom.

We continue to add and make changes to our programs. This year, we established additional optional days for Jubilee School (JK aged) and SK aged students. Parents continue to inquire about additional days for their children and so this is what we have put into place:

1) Mes Amis Francais – this program is in its third year and is offered every other Friday for our SK students. The students are exposed to the French language for the better part of the day. Mrs. VanEek is the teacher.

2) Jubilee Friday – this program provides supplementary JK material every Friday for our JK students. Mrs. Hagen is the teacher.

3) JK/SK Tuesday & Thursday – JK & SK students may be enrolled for one or both of those optional days. The program is taught by a new staff member, Mrs. Ouwehand.

We have placed all of these optional programs under one umbrella called: Come-Along K. Each program is self-standing and can only be offered if there is enough enrollment. Parents pay a separate tuition fee for each child. This year's enrollment in these optional programs is beyond expectations; we look forward to further developing Come-Along K.



Finally, there has been a key development regarding student playground space. Mountain Secondary School, located behind CCS, is slated to close June 2017. For the past 16 years, CCS students were permitted to use a portion of this property. We have a lease license in place with the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board. We are very grateful for the ongoing gesture of goodwill on the part of HWDSB. With Mountain Secondary closing, we have attempted to purchase that portion of playground space. In order to do so, we need to have that property severed, but even then, HWDSB must follow a "pecking order" concerning any surplus property. CCS is not high on this list, so we wait and pray that the Lord will enable us to indeed purchase that playground space. This purchase provides us with the status quo. To not buy it will be a setback as we will have reduced playground space. Last summer, the CCS BOD communicated with the membership about this purchase. The response the BOD received has been supportive and encouraging. There are several property and building needs which the BOD is addressing. More information will be conveyed at the Membership Meeting.

CityKidz Walk-a-thon

Mrs. D. Heeg

This year, our community fundraiser supported an inspiring, local ministry called CityKidz. CityKidz seemed like the perfect fit for our school theme of "Go...For the Glory of the Lord" as this ministry is actively going forth into Hamilton neighbourhoods in an effort to teach children about God and His love for them. This important ministry aims to offer children living in low-income communities inspirational, Christian experiences and loving, personal relationships. Some of the ways they accomplish this goal is by sending out buses to pick up children for their Saturday morning program, by offering them healthy food, and by ministering to them through music, activities, and inspiring messages. At the end of the program, they safely deliver each child back to their home. In addition, each child receives a weekly visit at his/her home by one of their many

volunteers. CityKidz is building beautiful relationships, introducing children to Jesus, and offering them hope. So

despite the cooler weather on Monday, October 24, the students in Jubilee through grade 8 enthusiastically walked two different routes in the CCS neighbourhood while enjoying glimpses of the big, red CityKidz bus, driven by CityKidz volunteers, Mrs. Beldman and Mr. Van Arragon. The younger students walked 1 km while the oldest students walked 10 kms in an effort to help raise funds to purchase and to refurbish a used school bus, as well as to purchase healthy snacks for their food program. We look forward to learning if our goal of raising \$10,000 was realized and to offering these funds to CityKidz in support of their desire to follow Jesus and to be "fishers of people", for the glory of the Lord.



Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP)

Mr. A. Boonstra

Over the years, Calvin Christian School has been committed to external assessment tools and measurements to help our school best meet the needs of our students. Canadian Tests of Basic Skills (CTBS) has been the program of choice for many years. However, in the spring of 2015, the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools recommended a new external assessment tool - MAP. MAP promised to be an updated tool that would provide many benefits for both our students and our school programs.

CCS registered for the program this past summer and teachers were required to complete a number of training modules in order to be prepared to administer the tests. Decisions were made regarding the testing period, tech requirements and scheduling issues. The testing period would run from October 4 until October 18. Students would complete the test online using our chromebooks. Teachers worked out a schedule that accommodated all the students in grades 3-8.



So why external assessment? The OACS provides three goals for the use of external assessment tools.

1. Support for individual students academically: MAP provides data on each student taking the test. This data can be used by teachers to quickly identify student strengths and weaknesses, and allow teachers to create flexible differentiated groups for lessons in the future. Our resource program can quickly move to individual diagnostic assessments to further understand students who are significantly behind their peers in skill development.
2. Evaluation of the curricular program and gaps in core skills: Identifying trends in student achievement allows our school to identify its own strengths and weaknesses in the academic programs that we offer. Decisions can then be made as to which curricular programs should be selected to better meet student needs.
3. Measurement of school quality for current and incoming parents: Parents want to know if the school their child attends provides a quality academic program. MAP assists in answering that question.

The plan is to offer MAP again in the spring. We are excited about the possibilities of MAP and will keep you informed as to the progress of the program, but more importantly, the progress of your child.

Happy Staff News

We celebrated the births of two healthy babies born to staff members recently. Allison (grade 2 teacher) and Paul Dekker were thankful to welcome their third child into their family. Everly Hope Francine was born on the Thanksgiving weekend. Rebekah (grade 5 teacher) and Shaun Winkel were delighted to become parents with the birth of their first child, a little boy named Asher James. We thank God for these little gifts and pray that they will grow to know and serve the Lord, and that they will be the source of much joy to these families.

Condolences

We were saddened to hear of the loss of Daniel Won's mother early in the school year. Daniel went to Korea to be with his family. Our prayer is that as they grieve, they will also be comforted in knowing that she is with her Saviour.

On October 17 we heard the news that Mr. Bob Simpkins, husband of Laura and father of Gavin in grade 7A and Jaidyn in grade 5A, passed away while waiting for a lung transplant. We pray that in their grieving the family may experience God's comforting presence as they trust in his sure promise of salvation.

Introducing New Staff at CCS

In this *In Touch* issue we will introduce four new members of the teaching staff. In a subsequent issue we will introduce our two new bus drivers, Mr. Robin Scott and Mr. Gary Kikkert.



Mrs. Rachel Speelman and her husband, Marty, have three children attending CCS. She attended Redeemer University College and the University of Western Ontario where she received her Bachelor of Education degree. She taught grade 7 for a year at Providence Christian School before beginning a family. She is working at CCS as a paraeducator in grade 7 and is also on the Public Relations Committee at school. She is involved in the children's ministry at her church. Rachel enjoys outdoor activities, doing Pinterest inspired crafts, cheering on the Blue Jays, and spending time with family and friends.



Mrs. Lisa Ouwehand is married to Rob, and together they have been blessed with three children, all of whom attend CCS. She grew up in Hagersville and has attended Christian schools at all levels, including Redeemer University College. She has her RECE diploma in early childhood education as well as a diploma to be a child and youth worker. She enjoys baking, especially pies. She also enjoys cooking classes and spending family time outdoors. She is involved in a Reggio Study Group (collaborating with K teachers) and in her local Ontario Early Years Centre. Lisa is the teacher in the optional JK/SK program.



Miss Anne Wyatt was born into a missionary family and grew up in Peru. She attended high school in Calgary and then moved to Ontario to complete her undergraduate degree at Wilfrid Laurier University and then her BE at Nipissing University. She teaches Sunday school and is an active member of her church. Exploring God's creation is a passion of hers, and she loves to hike and run. She loves to travel and learn about different cultures of the world. Anne is excited to be in Ontario right now, teaching grade 5B at CCS.



Ms. Aleida van der Woerd grew up in Chatham. She studied at Redeemer University College, majoring in physical education and biology. The mountains of BC lured her west, and she taught at Abbotsford Christian School for six years before moving to Nicaragua for two years to teach and write curriculum. She loves being active outdoors. Winter sports count amongst her favourite activities. Other cultures and seeing how other people "do life" also interest her. She loves to travel, desiring to better understand the world as a global citizen. She frequently dreams of the next place to explore. Aleida is a part time paraeducator, and she teaches part time in grade 7.

We welcome all of our new staff members to the CCS team. We pray that you will be blessed in whatever role you fill and that you will find joy in your work.

Sports at CCS

Blazer Boys' Soccer *Mr. A. Boonstra*

The boys' soccer team once again participated in two tournaments: the Hamilton District Christian High School (HDCH) invitational and the Niagara District Christian Schools tournament. The HDCH tournament is basically an exhibition tournament designed to provide practice for the players. The team won all three games at this tournament and performed very well. At the district tournament, the team played three preliminary games, winning all three and propelling us into the playoffs. Once again the team won this game, setting up a championship game against Heritage Christian School. In a tightly contested match, the boys found themselves down by a goal at half-time and worse, they were down in spirits as well. Some inspiring words at half-time seemed to motivate the boys to pick up the game and their spirits. A quick goal after play resumed fired up the team, and another goal was scored shortly after the first. Playing skilled and team oriented soccer set the team up for a final victory and a championship placement for the second year in a row.



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Blazer Girls' Soccer *Ms. R. Deweerd*

The girls' soccer team had the opportunity to compete in two tournaments. Our first tournament, hosted by HDCH was great preparation for the Niagara District Tournament. We had a great day making it to the finals with 4 wins and 0 goals against us. The final game ended with a 0-0 tie, resulting in shoot-outs. The girls fought hard but were unable to take home the banner. We had a great season and are very proud of the improvement we made as a team. Thanks to Mr. Brouwer, our volunteer coach.

Mike's Miracles *Ms. R. Deweerd*

The Lord blessed us once again with a beautiful sunny day for our annual Mike's Miracles Niagara District Soccer Tournament held at Beacon Christian School. Students were divided into teams, played four games of soccer, and had a great time with other grade 6 students from the Niagara District. After a long, hot day, we made it back to the bus with tired bodies, but still smiling. Students enjoyed the day of positive competition, good food, and the opportunity to make new friends.

Cross Country *Mr. N. Wensink*

The cross country team had a great season. Our team of 24 students, ranging from grade 4 to grade 8, trained hard for our two meets. The first meet took place at Brantford Christian School on the trails on the property. These trails were narrow and challenging, but it was a great day of competition. Out of the 13 schools at this meet, our senior boys team came in third, while our senior girls team came in second!

Our second and final meet was at the Dundas Conservation Area. This was a meet that will not be soon forgotten. On a cool, wet day, 23 schools and over 400 runners came together to run a very picturesque trail. Our students experienced that cross country is a "run in all conditions" event. At the end of another great day of competition, and very solid runs, our senior girls team finished in first place.



Student Council *Miss M. Buys*

The new student council representatives for the 2016-2017 school year are: Deborah-Peace D., Gideon S., Jack D., Matthew B., Jane J., Rebecca D., Kara d., Emily E., and Hannah W. Thank-you to all student council nominees for a good campaign, amazing posters and well-done speeches. Our first event in November is Movember to raise money for cancer research. Students brought in money and put it in the shoebox of the male staff member that they would like to see grow a moustache. If \$100 was reached for that staff member, he would grow his moustache for the month of November. \$756 was raised. We look forward to a great year together!

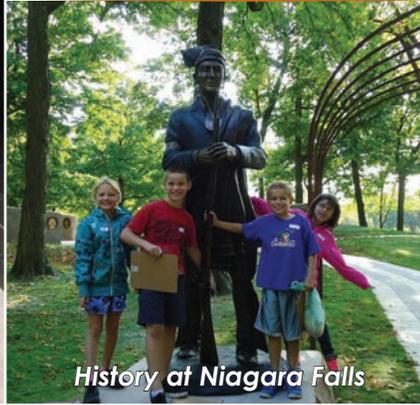




Feeding the goats



CityKidz assembly



History at Niagara Falls



Ancaster Fair winners



Teachers vs students



I wonder...



Walk-a-thon



Teachers' soccer team



Boys' volleyball



Walking for CityKidz



Look what I found!



Fall art



Student council campaign



Walking in the woods



MAP testing



Grade 4 at Niagara Falls



Pumpkin day in grade 2



Dyment's farm



Grade 8 helps grade 3



Grade 7 retreat



Watching soccer



Science in grade 4



Baby shower



Learning about rocks

Fall Senses

By Grade 1A

I know God made fall. - Mv.

Fall is awesome. I like fall so much. - Tyler V.

Fall is fun. I like jumping in the leaves. - Kaitlyn S.

Fall is my favourite season.
- Luke D.

I can **see** fall.
I see orange and yellow. I see birds fly far away in fall.
- Lucas C-H.

I see beautiful leaves. They are only orange and green and red. - Youngjae K.

I can **hear** fall.
I hear fall because leaves crunch under my feet.
- Kaden B.

I hear leaves crunching. It is fun to make them crunch.
- Kristina S.

I can **feel** fall.
I feel cool when I wear my shorts and my t-shirts. But I feel warm when I wear my pants and a sweater. - SaraJayne H.

I feel colder in fall. Fall is colder than before. Water is colder than before. - SV.

I can **smell** fall.
I smell turkey cooking in the oven and it smells good.
- Chiazom O.

I smell delicious pie in the oven. You know it's time to eat.
- Joshua M.

I can **taste** fall.
I taste corn and tea at Thanksgiving. - Hudson V.

I taste Halloween treats. I get lots of treats in fall because it is my birthday. I taste my mom's yummy cake. - Alyvia V.

A Trip to Dymment's Farm

By Grade 2A

We went to Dymment's Farm. My favourite thing was the straw fort. I loved jumping from the rope and falling in the straw. I also loved taking little pumpkins home. It was so much fun. I loved taking a picture in the straw chairs. It was kind of strange sitting at the top. - Josiah L.

We went to Dymment's Farm and we also went on the hay. We liked seeing the animals, and we also had a snack. We went on a tractor ride, and we learned about soil. We had so much fun at Dymment's Farm. - Isabel V.



Songs of Praise

By Grade 2A

Praise the Lord, for being awesome and forgiving me.
Praise the Lord for the Bible and love.
O Lord, you are the best God and a miracle.
You always have wisdom.
Let us tell of your mighty deeds to be good and keep promises.
Praise the Lord! - Nathaniel D.

Praise the Lord for Jesus - dying on the cross.
Praise the Lord for who you are.
Oh Lord, you are powerful and the best person in the world.
You always keep your promises.
Let us tell of your mighty deeds to us.
Praise the Lord! - Levi C.

Praise the Lord for the things you have given me.
Praise the Lord for the Bible.
Oh Lord, you are powerful and mighty, strong, amazing and creative.
You always keep your promises.
Praise the Lord! - Jayden S.

Praise the Lord for he is good.
Praise the Lord for he is mighty.
Oh Lord, you are powerful and wise.
You always stand beside me.
Let us tell of your mighty deeds to save us.
Praise the Lord! - Evan W.

Poems

By Grade 3A

Turkey
Meat, good
Thanksgiving, eating,
praying
Turkey is delicious
Bird
- Leah O.

Beautiful creation
Ever beautiful
A cluster of leaves
Up in the sky
These wonderful plants
In the air
Fall of leaves
Under the sun
Lots of beautiful birds

Love the beautiful colours
Ever in the summer
Always shady
Very lovely
Ever, ever great
Sapwood
- Hannah Z.

Trees are incredible
Rough and smooth bark
Ever so beautiful
Ever so large

Phloem inside trees
Are a home to many animals
Really helpful to nature
Trees are unique
Sunshine helps trees grow
- Peyton R.

Nuts come from trees
Ash trees
The trunk makes it stand straight
Unique
Rings, if you count the rings, that
is how old it is
Evergreen trees

Trees are everywhere
Roots make it stay
Every day trees need food
Every tree has leaves in the
summer

Phloem
Oak tree
Every leaf has colour
Many trees have rough bark
and smooth bark
- Chantelle W.

Grade 4A worked on writing articles for different parts of a newspaper.
Here are some selections from the section entitled,

My Hero

My Mom and Dad

My heroes are my mom and dad. When I play soccer, they cheer me on. When I play hockey and baseball, they cheer me on. When I play anything, they cheer me on. - Trevor S.

My Brothers

My brothers always play basketball and board games with me. My brothers and I do challenges and competitions. My brothers are awesome. - Rachel C.

My Grandma

Meet my hero, my Grandma. My Grandma died when I was five. I loved having sleepovers at her house. At Christmas she always made stockings for all of her grandchildren. I love my Grandma. - Naomi C.

My Family

My family is my hero. They take care of me. They sometimes play with me. - Adam B.

Student Quote:

A worried Jubilee student as grade 4 was being paired up with Jubilee for reading buddies: I want one too!

Teacher reviewing the Judges for an upcoming test: Remember Ehad the left-headed judge.

Grade 1 student during PE: How come the teacher gets to do nothing and the kids do all the work?



Kirstyn Bax 6A



Charlotte Hickox 6A

Community Garden Mr. J. Hosmar

The grade 6 class had an opportunity to go on their first "field" trip a number of weeks ago. We ventured to the Ancaster Community Garden, located on Book Road, to assist in harvesting the produce grown for the Neighbour-2-Neighbour food bank. What is so special about this? In our social studies class we have been looking at how Canada, as a blessed country, has access to many resources and how these resources are being used. One area of focus is how we as Canadians reach beyond our borders to aid other countries with struggles they may be experiencing. We also see this as God's calling on us to reach beyond

our school/home walls, into our community, and aid others through using our abilities and gifts that God has given us. This is where harvesting produce in the community garden becomes so relevant to us. We can use our everyday skills and help out members of the community so that we are all blessed. The old adage of 'many hands make light work' was truly felt in this exercise. In just over two hours, the grade 6 class was able to harvest over 1000 lbs of fresh produce for the N2N food bank. We look forward to exploring other opportunities where we can reach out beyond our borders and into God's world.

New Families

Quite a few new families have joined us in our CCS community. Our hope is that you will all feel at home among us very soon and that we may be a mutual blessing to one another. The following families have joined at the Jubilee School level:



Douwes
Fraser
Fursman
Kraak

Nyman
Schilstra
Vanderherberg
Velasquez

Bokma
Dekker
Geleyne
Kovacsik

Kuiper
Laarman
McLeod
Postma

Sikkema
Silva
Street
Terpstra

And these families have joined us in K to grade 8:

Bevaart
Billiald
Bosma
Blokker
Doucet Campbell
Elliott

Groen
Harris
Hoogland
Horlings
Joose
Jones

Kim
Kwapong
Mafa
Ouwehand
Oyebola
Park

Paul
Solomon
Sommer
Spoelstra
Stassen
Taekema

VanderHeide
van der Woerd
Veenstra
Verbinnen
Weng
Zimmer

Welcome to you and your children!

SHINE Mrs. M. Eising

Every year, new students are enrolled at CCS. Starting something new is not always easy, and to help with the transition of this major change in a child's life, a new program was started. It is called SHINE, which stands for **S**upporting and **H**elping **I**ndividuals **N**ew to **E**verything at CCS. Students who are new to the school are invited to attend a meeting in early September where they are welcomed by two teachers, Mrs. D. Heeg and Mrs. M. Eising. We try very hard to make sure that students are starting to feel 'at home' in their new surroundings and that they are building friendships with their new classmates. During our time together, if students have

any questions, we have some time to answer them. A fun activity is also planned, and students are treated to a yummy snack. We end our meeting by spending some time in prayer, and enjoying our lunches together. We continue to meet for the next few months to ensure that students have transitioned well to CCS and to continue to build relationships with them. Last year, by January, the program was wrapped up for the year, as students no longer felt 'new' - which is ultimately the reason for SHINE. May we continue to shine for Jesus as we share his love with those who are new in our communities!

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re-Source Thrift Shop



A whole team of volunteers at the re-Source Thrift Shop work cheerfully to provide new-to-you items because they are convinced of the value of Christian education and they love Calvin Christian School.

Their hard work recently paid off in the form of a \$54,000 donation. That is fabulous! THANK YOU! Keep up the great work, and if anyone would like to join the effort as a volunteer, just contact the store. Shoppers are also welcome. If you haven't paid them a visit yet, it's worth the drive to the corner of Upper Gage and the Linc.

Food Drive

Holding a food drive for the Neighbour-2-Neighbour Centre has become a Thanksgiving tradition. Students were happy to share their blessings by donating 1298 lbs. of food. That will go a long way toward helping hungry Hamilton mountain families.



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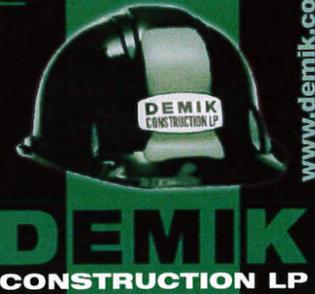
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