

iNTOUCH

WINTER 2013 A Christian newsletter for Calvin Christian School



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Principal's Ponderings

By Mr. T. Postma

Our new school year is already well under way. Each year we establish a special theme to help us glorify God and stay connected to the Bible. This year the theme reads: "Living Lives of Worship" and it comes from Colossians 3:23, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not human masters." At our opening assembly, we explored what worship is and how we worship. It is obvious that praying, singing hymns, studying the Bible and having Christian fellowship are important worship activities. However, worshiping God is also about obeying Him (that includes respecting authority, obeying school rules), it's also about imitating Christ (think fruit of the Spirit), and it's about working hard, playing fair and caring for one another. Worship is about glorifying and enjoying God. At CCS, we will continue to unpack different ways of worshiping God on a monthly basis.

The school's staff has seen a few changes. Mrs. vanderHeiden retired and in her place we welcome back Mrs. Dekker from maternity leave. We also said farewell to Ms. Moerman, our band instructor. In her place we welcome Mrs. M. Heeg. We have added several paraeducators to the staff and they include Mrs. M. Eising, Mrs. R. Cook, Mrs. M. Star and Mrs. D. Wiebenga. Along with new staff members, we also welcomed many new families and students. Our student enrolment remains steady, and believe it or not, we are already beginning the recruiting process for September 2014.

One of our new projects underway for this year includes increased enrichment programs and opportunities for exceptional students. There are many students at CCS who excel in the academics; they score in the 98th to 99th percentile on standardized tests. Teachers strive to make learning challenging and interesting, but more can be done in terms of open-ended activities and multi-level assignments. Our special education coordinator, Mrs. VanEgmond, has introduced a program using iPads and educational apps, activity books involving critical and creative thinking activities/projects, and manipulative games. The plan is to support student interests and strengths. We were blessed to receive money for special education from a family who has recently moved to the west coast. As an expression of their appreciation for the work of the special education staff and teachers at CCS, this family has donated money to the special education department to be used as we feel necessary. We thank the family for



Back to school BBQ.

their generosity and praise God for His goodness in this matter as well.

We are looking ahead to a lot of exciting school activities inside and outside of the classroom... Christmas programs, sport tournaments, skating on our ice rink, Teddy Bear Picnic for new Jubilee School students, etc. We pray for a good school year in which our students continue to grow in knowledge, maturity and commitment to God for sharing in the life and work of His people in the world.

Calendar of Events

- Dec. 2** Hosanna Choir concert at Rehoboth URC at 7:45 pm. The CCS Concert Band and Recorder/Bell Choir will participate
- Dec. 10** Pastor's Breakfast at CCS at 9:00 am
- Dec. 20** Christmas Assembly (9:15 a.m.) & 1/2 day of school
- Dec. 23 - Jan. 3** Christmas Break
- Jan. 6** First Day of School
- Jan. 27** Teddy Bear Picnic for new Jubilee School children at 10:00 am
- Feb. 24** Information Evening (7:30 pm) for inquirers about CCS

Living Lives of Worship

By Miss W. Wierenga

It started as a barely audible hum somewhere in the middle of the classroom. It grew as those around picked up the tune. It grew some more as the chattering stopped. Soon it filled the room as everyone joined in the song. Which song? 10,000 Reasons. It was an unplanned, yet hoped-for moment. It was a little off-tune, as grade one voices can be, yet beautiful! It was worship in the middle of an art class.

Each year in June careful thought is given to the theme for the upcoming school year. Thoughts percolate for a while and a theme begins to gel. This year, it's *Living Lives of Worship*. Each month in our devotional assemblies we explore a little bit more of the theme as it relates to special times in the calendar year. It means that students and teachers will repeatedly hear the message that we are called to live lives of worship – worship in working, in serving with thanksgiving, in trusting, in giving, in loving, in forgiving, in waiting, in telling, in fellowshiping. In short, we are to worship our awesome Creator God in everything we do, say, and even think.

In October, we worshipped by giving thanks for the many, many good things that God gives us. A tangible expression of that thankfulness was participating in the annual food drive for the Neighbour-to-Neighbour food bank. We had an amazing response, and we were able to deliver 1900 pounds of food items, which, I'm told, exceeds a fill-



a-bus goal. As N2N is literally our neighbour, we were able to walk there with our bags and boxes. It took quite a few trips back and forth.

Then another opportunity for giving came up as different grades walked varying numbers of one-kilometre loops around the school and neighbourhood in our Road2Hope walkathon. We wanted to assist a Christian school in Zambia with rebuilding after sustaining severe damage in a wind storm. When all the funds were tallied, we were very pleased to learn that the goal of \$10,000 was nearly doubled. The assistance will be channelled through

EduDeo Ministries. Prior to walking, Phil Beck, a representative for EduDeo inspired and challenged us to think globally and to consider the needs of far-away neighbours. Raising funds for others was also an act of worship.

We trust that as the school year progresses, we will have more planned opportunities for worship. We also hope that many unplanned and spontaneous times of worship will fill our days in the classrooms and on the playground.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul...sing like never before, O my soul. I'll worship his holy name."



Student Council By Miss W. Wierenga



A huge round of applause for all the student council candidates who worked hard to make their voices and ideas heard during the election campaign. The posters in the hallways displayed thought and creativity, and the speeches at the assembly were well-written and presented. Thanks to all the candidates who were willing to work for a great year at CCS! This year's Student Council will be Andrew E., Sarah B., E.V., H. D., Maaike W., Grace D., Michelle K., Natasha L., and William G. We look forward to a great year with fun events for the whole school!

Hill Street Community Garden and enjoys providing healthy meals for her family. She likes being able to walk to church where she serves as an elder. She plays all sorts of sports and enjoys summer camping.



Mrs. Marian Star is both a former CCS student as well as a former teacher. After some time raising her family of five children (two of whom are current students), Marian is back in the grade one classroom as a paraeducator. Besides being "taxi driver" for her busy family, Marian likes

to learn new things and has taken sign language courses. She tutors Mohawk College students and serves on the Missions and Library Committees at her church. She enjoys hiking, camping and exploring the outdoors together with her husband, Gary, and her family.

Mrs. Heeg, our new band teacher, Mrs. Wiebenga and Mrs. Eising, our new paraeducators, will be introduced in the next issue. We extend a warm welcome to all of our new staff members and we wish all of you God's blessings as you work among us. You are part of the team!

New Staff Introductions



Miss Sharon Park is a Korean intern who is spending time assisting in several different classes at CCS from September to January. Her family consists of her parents, her older brother and her younger sister. They all love to travel to many different countries. Besides travelling

Sharon enjoys participating in charity events. Her future goal is to become an English teacher in South Korea.



Mrs. Rachel Cook is a paraeducator in the Jubilee classroom. She and her husband, Justin, have been blessed with three young children. They live in a big communal house with friends downtown and they are enjoying restoring the 96 year old home. She maintains a vegetable garden at the

Staff News

We express our condolences to three of our teachers who experienced deaths in their families recently. In the summer, Mrs. Greidanus' father-in-law passed away in Sarnia. Mrs. Benjamin's father passed away, also in Sarnia, after a long illness. Mrs. Goodwin's brother (also Mr. Boonstra's cousin) passed away in Belleville after a long battle with cancer. We as a staff have been praying for these families for quite some time. Despite the empty places in these family circles, we trust God will comfort and bless.

More Condolences

We offer our condolences also to the Kippers family. Eric, a former CCS student died in a tragic car accident. His sister Amy is a grade 3 student here at CCS, and his mother Carolyn serves on the CCS board. We pray that God will also comfort this family.

Sports at CCS

Mike's Miracles *By E. V. and M. D. 6A*

Mike's Miracles soccer tournament was an awesome experience. We got to play soccer all day with no homework, but that's not the point. The point was that we remember Mike and what he did. Mike encouraged others, made new friends and complimented people. We should follow Mike's example by loving others, being kind, and being willing to help.

Girls' Soccer *By Kyra S. and Magda T.*

On October 2, the CCS girls' soccer team traveled to the Dunnville Sports Park to compete in the annual Niagara District Christian Schools soccer tournament. The day was warm and sunny. We had tough competition, but we did our best, worked hard, and had a great time as a team. We learned a lot about soccer and teamwork. We had a great day. Team members included Alysha B., Alicia R., Alyssa H., A. M., Anna H., Jodie V., Elysha S., Esther L., Hailey B., Jennyfer K., Jessica S., Kaitlyn R., Kyra S., Magda T., Mary W., and Michelle K. Awesome job, Cougars!



Boys' Soccer *By Mr. A. Boonstra*

On Wednesday, October 2, the boys' soccer team competed in the annual Niagara District Christian Schools soccer tournament. The day started with two quick victories over Heritage and Beacon, followed by a 1-0 loss to Dunnville. In order to make the finals, we needed a win against Jarvis. The boys came

through with a 3-0 win. In the finals we were very evenly matched with our opponents – Smithville. Smithville got an early lead on us and although we pressed for the equalizer, we were unable to match their goal. Final score was 1-0 for Smithville. The boys had no reason to hang their heads as they played with determination, heart, skill and sportsmanship. As coach of the team, I was very proud of their play. Way to go team members: Marcus E., Wes B., Philip D., Jesse B., Jacob W., Caleb B., Jesse O., Noah S., Justin K., Josh H., Lucas E., William K., Micah V., Tim B., Adam H., Kenny U., Braden B., and William G.



X-Country *By Mrs. J. Greidanus*

Our X-country season started with the McNab Lions' Invitational. Although we were missing some students, the team put on an excellent performance with Jamie H., Justin B. and Jordan B. coming in 1st, 2nd and 3rd for the junior boys. Aliyah C. came in first in the junior girls' division followed closely by Hannah W. in 4th, Elisa d. in 5th. For some, this was their first cross country meet. Later, we participated in the CCS Invitational in the Dundas Valley. Hannah W. and Aliyah C. placed 2nd and 3rd in the junior girls', Mary W. placed 3rd in the senior girls' while Jamie H. again placed 1st in the junior boys' division. Our school placed 4th overall. Many of us also participated in the wet and rainy EduDeo/Road2Hope run. Students and coaches experienced being part of a large race, complete with chip timing and warm soup afterwards. We are thankful for an excellent year of X-country, the support of parents and the efforts of students. We (Miss Fluit, Mrs. Dekker and Mrs. Greidanus) look forward to running with you again next year.

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At the farm



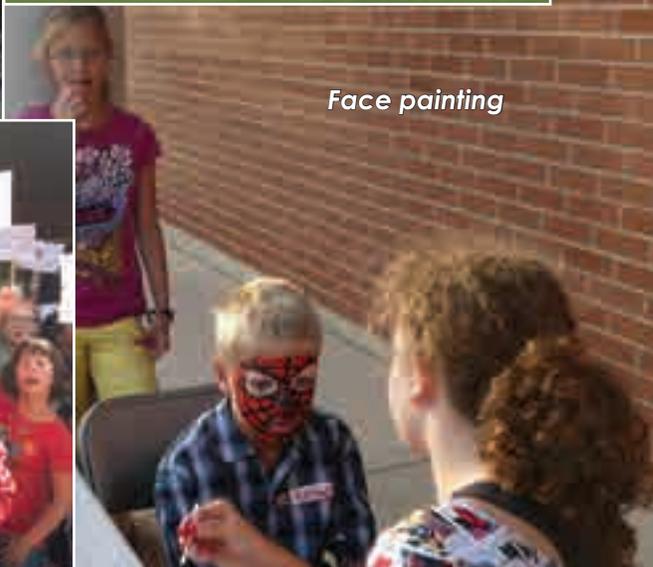
Boys' soccer action



Grade 1 Rainbow Day



Fren



Face painting



Fun in Jubilee



Road 2 Hope posters



Working in Jubilee



Girls' soccer



Grade 8 retreat



K visits the farm

ch animal puppets



Grade 8 canoeing



Jubilee recess



Grade 4 class trip



X-country team



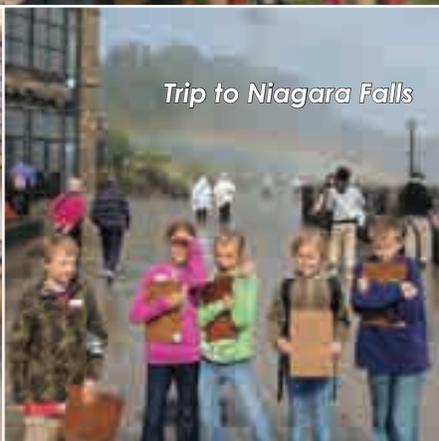
Student council posters



Student council speech



Reading stories



Trip to Niagara Falls



Walking for Zambia



Mike's Miracles

Student Work

PRAISE BE TO GOD By 1B

"God's works are wonderful, I know that full well" Psalm 119:14

I praise God because....

...God made the world so that I can walk on it. God made the animals. God made the sun. God made me. - *Nathan Z.*

...God loves me. He is my God. I praise God because He is Lord of my life. I go to church to worship Him on Sundays. - *Julianna H.*

...God is powerful. He loves me and cares for me. He made me in a special way. His works are great. I know that very well. He gave me Jesus and He died on the cross for you and me. - *J. V.*

...God is powerful and He takes care of us. He loves me. He gave me Jesus. I think of God when I play in the leaves because He gave me all the leaves to play in. He is wonderful. - *Nicole M.*

...God loves me so much. He loves with all of His heart. God is great; I know that. God will help us, don't worry. God will watch over us. God helps me so He will help you too. God cares about us. - *L. D.*

...God made land animals and sea animals. God made a wonderful world. God is wonderful. God is a pattern-maker. God is loving and caring. - *Ava V.*

...God is wonderful, amazing and creative. He is powerful, loving and colourful. God is wise and caring. - *Benjamin H.*

...I give praise to God our King. He gives us strength and He makes us do good things. My God is powerful and He loves me more than

anyone. He is strong. His works are wonderful. He created me in my mother's womb. - *Keegan R.*

...God is so awesome and powerful. He washes away our sins. He died for our sins on the cross. He forgives sin and loves us. I love God. God has a plan for us. - *Megan Z.*

Gr. 2B went on a field trip . . .

We went to Dymment's Farm. It was sooo FUN! When we got there we learned about winter crops. Then we played in the playground. (I played on the horse swing.) We also learned about soil. There are different kinds of soil. There is clay soil and sandy soil. After that, we went to the straw barn. Then we went to see animals. The animals were so cute. When I saw the goat, the daddy goat went to the washroom, but it was fun. Then we went on the tractor ride. I saw lots of colours. After that we picked our own gourds. Finally, we went back to school. - *Deborah-Peace D.*

We went to Dymment's Farm. We played at the playground. It was fun. We saw farm animals. We got to pick a small pumpkin. We went in a straw fort. I was covered in straw! It was fun at Dymment's Farm. - *Anita T.*

Yesterday we went on a class trip together. We saw animals. Then we went on a tractor ride! It sure was AWESOME! We even saw the corn field! We got to feed some goats! Our trip was . . . AWESOME! - *Alexia M.*

We went on a field trip to Dymment's farm yesterday. First we went to the playground and I played tag. Next we went to play with the tractors in the little pieces of grain. Next we

went to the hay barn and I went on the rope swing two times. Next we went to the animals. My favourite animals were the goats. Next we went for a tractor ride around the field and there were two trailers. Then we went to the bee barn and learned about them. And finally we all picked out a gourd. My favourite part was the tractor ride. - *Ryan F.*



We went to Dymment's Farm.

First we played on the playground. Next we saw some fields. Then we played in the hayloft.

Next we saw some animals like chickens, sheep, and goats. Then

we played with tractors in corn kernels. Then we all got a little pumpkin! It was fun! - *Eden W.*

Trip to the Forest

We went on a hike in the woods. We saw all types of leaves and trees. I saw a snake, caterpillar, praying mantis, grasshopper and a blue bird. I carried the caterpillar. We ate our lunch. We played a game to see if we could drink more water than the trees. - *Joel O. 3B*

Christie Conservation Area

We went to the Christie Conservation Area on Oct. 11. It was great! We got there on the bus, and when we got there we ate a snack. Then we went on our hike. We saw one salamander, two caterpillars, and tons of mushrooms and fungi. After we ate our lunch, we played soccer for a long time. Then we had the tree-lympic games. We had a contest to see how fast we could drink water compared to the tree. We had many other fun games but I can't fit them all in this small space. It was awesome! - *Caleb B. 3B*

The Forest

Beauty, beauty
Of the forest
Waterfalls rumbling
And splashing
Beauty of the
waterfalls

Birds singing
Birds humming
Birds hooting

Trees shushing
In the wind
Trees tumbling
In hard wind
- Liam T. 3B



Lightning

Lightning can zap
Lightning can zoop
But I can loop

Lightning is strong
Lightning is fast
But you are too
- Evan T. 3B



The Swan

This is the swan,



Flapping so
gracefully,
Neck perched up,
And ready to fly.
Running so fast,
She's up in the air.
She's up and away!

- Caleb W. 3B

Early Impressions of Grade

Four

Grade four has many new things that I like. We never had to wear gym clothes in grade three. One of the good things about grade four is that for the first time we get to sign up and join new clubs such as cross country, and Battle of the Books. We get to learn how to play a recorder. Being upstairs with the big kids can be kind of scary. In the bathroom, I sometime see kids putting on their makeup or doing their hair. Because I am upstairs, I get to see my older sister more often. Outside, we have a lot more playground space to play on. In grade four, I have my first man teacher! All of my friends are in my class. I have made a new friend too. Her name is Jenna.

- Maddy V. 4B

*In grade 5B, we have been learning to **show** how the writer is feeling, and not just **tell** what the writer is feeling. Read the following paragraphs, and see if you can pick out what emotion each writer is expressing!*

I was finished packing my suitcase and I was sure I was grinning from one ear to the other. It felt like I was going to burst. I was talking so fast no one could hear what I was saying. I flew down the stairs and into the car. We were going to Disneyland! - Rachel H.

I woke up this morning, and my eyes didn't want to open. I had to drag my feet to the stairs. I bet I yawned five times before I even got to the end of the hallway. I almost fell down the stairs but caught myself on the railing. When I was downstairs I started to make my breakfast. I walked with my shoulders slumped to the cupboard to get the cereal and to the fridge to get the milk. I sat down at the table and started to think about the day ahead. I guess I fell asleep, because a few minutes later, I woke up with my face in my cereal bowl. Then my mom came downstairs and said, "What's up with you?" "Grunt," is all I said back. After breakfast I dragged my feet upstairs to get dressed. - Jane W.

It was the day before my birthday! My smile was huge, like an upside-down rainbow. I was hugging myself very tight. I was jumping up and down and shaking. I could not wait, because I was sure I was going to get an iPod. I was running around the house. I couldn't wait! - Emily E.

It was time to go to bed. I slowly opened the creaky door to my dark, empty room. My arms and legs started to shake. My eyes immediately shot out like bullets, looking everywhere around me. My heart started pounding. I felt as if I was in a haunted house. I looked

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Bazaar

On Saturday, November 9 the CCS gym, hallways and classrooms were once again transformed into places where food and many other things could be bought, games could be played, and friends and acquaintances could be greeted. The children were excited to see old favourites such as the box maze, the bottle room and the cake walk. Parents and grandparents were able to buy their boerenkol (kale) their snert (pea soup), their croquettes and their sushi. Fellowship could be had over a Tim Horton's coffee, a dessert or a meal. Bids could be put in for some beautiful silent auction items during the day, and of course, the grand finale was the auction in the evening. Thanks so much to all who donated so many things to be sold. Thanks to the bazaar committee and to all who donated so much time and energy to put on yet another successful bazaar. Approximately \$42,000 was raised

On the Road to Reading

By Miss W. Wierenga

A student reported that after his first day in grade one he hadn't learned anything that day because he still couldn't read. I hope that the disappointment subsides as time passes. When I ask my students on the first day of a new year what they'd like to learn, inevitably learning to read is right up there. I have no doubt that it's up there with parents too.



So, how does it happen? How can we foster literacy development at home? Mrs. Wiebenga (K), Mrs. Heeg (1B) and I (1A) recently hosted an *On the Road to Reading* evening seminar for parents to demystify the process. "Sound it out" is often the first strategy suggested when a child gets stuck on a word. However, there are lots of other strategies, such as using pictures or context, that can be used as well. The objective of using any strategy, of course, is to gain meaning from print and illustrations. Handouts with helpful tips were provided. It was good, as teachers, to see the interest of parents.

Our K and grade one classes have at-home reading "clubs" that we call Come Read With Me or Snuggle Up and Read. They are meant to facilitate regular reading in a comfortable one-on-one setting. Reading often begins with very predictable language patterns heavily supported by illustrations. Gradually, through often tiny incremental steps, beginning readers become fluent and confident. We love seeing it happen.

As primary teachers we are very aware that we are laying a crucial educational foundation. It's been said, that in K to grade 3, students learn to read, and after that they read to learn. It was good to be able to converse with parents who are often their child's best cheerleaders.

Volunteering at CCS

By Mrs. K. Taekema and Mrs. A. Dekker

Some people say that behind a great organization are great volunteers, and that is certainly true of CCS. Early in the year, CCS began recruiting volunteers to help organize various events, committees and programs. Many people responded to the call and for that we are so grateful. The school hosted an orientation session where volunteers were able to discover various ways that they could serve in the school, from library to classroom assistance, to using their own expertise to teach students and visit classes as guest speakers. Our community is such an important part of education and learning, and we truly value any opportunity we have to incorporate that into our school. A big thank-you to all the people who volunteer at CCS, in its many forms. If you are interested in volunteering in any way, please email us and let us know at volunteerccs@ccshamilton.ca.

Volunteers Needed

We count on and very much appreciate the help provided by faithful volunteers. Two specific needs have surfaced. Please consider if you can fill them.

Willing Workers

There are several spots to fill on this team by March. For more information about what the Willing Workers do and what kind of responsibilities are involved, contact Laura Bassie at 905-385-8950 or at lbassie@quickclik.net. She would love to hear from you.

Resource Thrift Shop

There is a need to help out in this fundraising venture as well. Even a small time commitment is welcome. Contact 905-560-5410 or info@re-sourcethriftshop.ca. Something new involves recycling. You can now donate metal as well as old clothing. Put clothing, purses, shoes in a garbage bag marked TEK and it can be sent away to be recycled at ten cents per pound.

TRIP

The Tuition Reduction Incentive Program continues to be an excellent vehicle for generating funds for operating CCS. Parents and non-parents alike can participate. When gift cards for grocery, gas, or restaurant purchases are bought, a percentage is returned by the companies. Since May 1, there is \$19,500. in the TRIP account. This is split 50/50 between the school and the parents. That means lower tuition fees. Contact the school office to find out how you can participate.



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Student Work

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in a mirror and noticed that my eyebrows were up and my teeth were chattering. I quickly climbed into my bed and lay there with my eyes wide open. I finally drifted off to sleep with scary thoughts in my mind. - Sarah B.

Once on a Monday morning, I was late for my bus. The time was 8:15 AM, so I was running as fast as ever to get to the bus. Then, the bus would see me coming and wait for me. I saw the bus stop. My eyes went wide. I had a cold sweat because I was slowing down. There was no bus. I had butterflies in my stomach. I started looking for the bus around the corner and my stomach was churning. Then, I checked my watch and saw the time was actually 7:30 AM. I ran back to the bus stop and there it was...the bus. - Tim S.

Student Quotes

Student to paraeducator:

"You look nicer today than you did yesterday."

Paraeducator: "Thank you..... I think."

A student returned a book to the library that was overdue from more than a year. When the child was thanked for returning the book, the child responded by saying "Yeah, I found the book, and I brought it back, but it doesn't have all the pages in it anymore."

The K class was listening to a story about Noah's ark, wondering what life was like in that "ginormous" boat. Was it noisy? They made all the sounds that the animals might make, and then the teacher queried what Noah might have done in the ark all that time. After some thought, one boy put up his hand and said, "Play checkers?",

to which another boy quickly added, "Play poker?"

Gr. 1 student: "My mom is 32 and my dad is 31."

Teacher: "So, your mom is older than your dad."

Student: "Yeah, right now she is."

Student new to CCS on the first day of school: "I'm going to like this school. It smells like Tim Horton's." (A pot of coffee was brewing in the lobby.)

Gr. 1 student on seeing Mrs.

McKnight: "Bye, Mrs. Goodnight."

re-Source THRIFT SHOP

We are a not-for-profit, upscale Thrift Shop selling clothing, furniture, home and sporting goods, children's items, small appliances and more. Our shop is 100% run by a group of dedicated volunteers! We have over 4,600 square feet of shopping pleasure.

The re-Source Thrift Shop is established to strengthen Christian Education with net revenue going to support Calvin Christian School.

It's all about our kids and grandkids receiving a Christ centred education!

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We are looking for volunteers in the following areas:

- 15 day volunteers - 1/2 day a week, one day a week or month
- 3 day coordinators
- 3 people with a truck willing to do pick-up and deliveries
- 5 people willing to come, once every other week in an evening to sort clothing.
- 2 people for the workshop

Can YOU help?



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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