

iNTOUCH

SUMMER 2014 A Christian newsletter for Calvin Christian School



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Principal's Ponderings

Mr. T. Postma

After a period of illness (concussion and heart attack) I cannot say enough about how wonderful it is to be back at school. It is a privilege to be here and enjoy the presence and work of the staff, volunteers and students. While away, I reflected on several things:

1) CCS is blessed with a strong, supportive community.

I received much support through prayers and best wishes. But the support also came through the efforts of staff members and committee members who willingly added assignments to their plates. With all things considered, the school could continue to move forward in fine style under the capable leadership of the BOD and Mr. Boonstra.

2) As we put our heart into our work, we can forget that each of us has a physical heart which must be managed properly in terms of diet, exercise and rest. I am determined to take better care of my heart. We are fearfully and wonderfully made.

3) During part of my recovery time at home, I was not permitted to read, watch TV or work behind the computer. (My doctor went by the book when it came to concussions.) I was left watching the birds feeding at my backyard bird feeders. It was fascinating watching the different birds' behaviours. The red cardinals tended to stay back in the bushes, shyly and patiently waiting for an all-clear moment. The bluejays aggressively moved in and took over as they pleased. The mourning doves nonchalantly moved about along the ground picking up the crumbs that fell from the feeders. The woodpeckers always hopped backwards down the tree to get to the suet (go figure). Other birds, such as the sparrows, behaved nervously, and the slightest noise sent them scurrying into the bushes. And so you see it. Like us and our students, some birds would benefit from encouragement, others from reassurance, others from reinforcement, and others from admonishment.... All of these birds are known by our heavenly Father – He feeds them. We

are more valuable than they – even the hairs on our head are numbered (see Matt.6:26; Matt. 10:29-31). It is comforting to be reminded that tomorrow is in God's hands.

We are approaching the end of another school year and the plans for the new school year are already well underway. Enrolment looks good and our family numbers also look good. We are slightly above our budgeted numbers. Mrs. Dekker, our grade 2 teacher, will be on maternity leave, the Lord willing, and she will be replaced by Mrs. Eising. Mrs. Walker will be departing as one of our paraeducators. We thank her for her presence and work. We wish them all God's blessings.

Another new development for CCS is an optional French immersion class for our SK students. Our intent is to help SK parents fill the "off Fridays" with worthwhile activities for their SK child. The survey revealed a strong preference for French immersion and so we are pleased to provide such a program. The instructor will be Mrs. Burgsma. She comes with strong French training and has experience teaching elementary students.

We congratulate our grade 8 graduates and wish them well as they move on to highschool and to places where God plants them. May each of them bloom to His glory.

I convey a big thanks to the staff, the bus drivers, volunteers and committee members for their efforts in making 2013-2014 a wonderful school year. All praise be to God. Finally, the staff and I wish to thank the school community for its prayers and support. May God watch over all of you and grant you a safe and enjoyable summer.



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Christian Education Week

Mrs. G. Goodwin

During the week of April 28, Calvin Christian School celebrated the gift of Christian education. Included in the celebrations was a tree planting ceremony on Monday afternoon. Our student council planted a tree on the school property in recognition of the Christian education theme based on Genesis 21:33 – “Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there he called upon the name of the Lord, the Eternal God.”

All day Tuesday there was an open house in which we welcomed parents, supporters of Christian education and anyone else interested in our school to come visit us. Families and individuals were able to tour the school, visit the children and chat with staff. Students were happy to interrupt their lessons to show their guests around the classroom.

On Wednesday we hosted our annual Grandparents/Grandfriends Day. We welcomed a whole gym full of excited guests to a special day in their honour. They were able to join us for a light lunch and then enjoy a short program in which they could hear the school bands, choirs and some classes perform. They were also shown a scene of the Peter Pan play and then were invited to come to see the whole performance later in the evening. Lastly, they were able to go to the classes and spoil their grandchildren. Desks were checked, student work was shown, hugs, candies and thank-you cards were given, and the afternoon was enjoyed by all.

Ending the week was the Spring Program, a musical performance of Peter Pan Broadway Junior put on by the grades 4-8 students. The story took place in Never Land with Wendy, who is told she has to grow up, and her friend Peter, who tells her she never has to. There were fun-filled adventures with the Lost Boys, pirates, natives, and mermaids. It was a show with popular choruses and solos that was thoroughly enjoyed by the whole family. All in all, the performances were a great success and a wonderful experience for all those involved. Thank you to all the amazing community volunteers and staff members who worked so hard to make this production possible! Thank you also to the audiences for their great support and for their generous free-will donations towards the program costs.

It truly is a privilege to live in a free country where we can have a school in which we are able to celebrate a Christian education week and freely call upon the name of the Lord, the Eternal God. He is the reason our school was established and why we chose our school theme for the year from Colossians 3:23 - “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men”.



Gr. 1 teacher while looking at the teachers' baby photos with the class: Look at me. Wasn't I cute?

Class: Yeah!!

Teacher: What happened?

Student: You got old!

Student Quote

Making Music at CCS

Mrs. M. Heeg

We are excited about the music program here at CCS. Music offers students an opportunity to shine in a way that is very different from any other class. God has given us voices to use for his glory - whether in speech or in song and we can worship with instruments as well.

Here at CCS, students can glorify God by singing praises to him in their classrooms and at assemblies. Beyond that, students can also learn a variety of musical skills and have opportunities for performance throughout their years at CCS. In the primary grades, students learn songs and rhythms using voices, actions and small instruments. At the junior level, students continue classroom singing and also learn to play recorders. Students have the opportunity to play in a recorder choir, bell choir or try out for the CCS Chamber Choir, which is open to students in grades 5 - 8. Students audition for the Chamber Choir and they give up one recess every week to work on blending their voices and singing both in unison and in two parts.

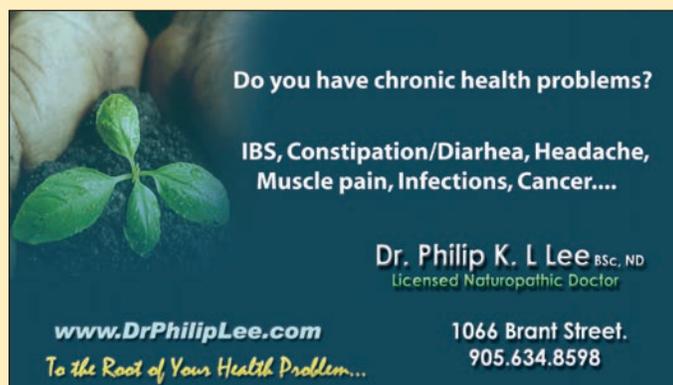
At the intermediate level grades 7 & 8 students start band class. In band class each student gets to choose an instrument he or she would like to play, and we begin to learn how to play that instrument. It is amazing to see the reaction on students' faces when they realize they really can play an instrument. At CCS, after equipping students with an ability to play, each student has an opportunity to continue to play in various ensembles.

One ensemble is the Concert Band. Grades 7 & 8 students are invited to audition to be part of Concert Band. They know that if they join the band, they will give up one recess every week for practice time. The band consists of woodwinds, brass and percussion. We learn a variety of Orff pieces, from hymns to marches and film favourites.

A second ensemble is the Jazz Band. This is a smaller ensemble and requires confidence and skill to learn your own part because it is different from anyone else in the band. In the end, all the parts come together with interesting harmonies and rhythms to form a great piece. Our titles have included arrangements from hymns like, "Jesus Loves Me" to familiar greats: "Louie, Louie" and "Stand By Me".

The next ensembles are both geared to hymns and praise music: the Praise Team and the Praise Ensemble. The Praise Team has electric guitars, bass guitar, percussion, piano, flutes, violin and vocals. The students prepare selections for assemblies and for praise time with their classes. The Praise Ensemble is part of the enrichment program at CCS.

Through all of the classes and music possibilities at CCS, one thing is certain: we bring all praise and honour to our Lord and our Saviour, Jesus Christ. To God be all the glory all the time. May we all, parents, grandparents, teachers and students seek to serve Him in all we do. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow!"



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Sports at CCS

Girls' Basketball

Coaches: Mrs. A. Hartman, Mrs. A. Breimer



It was a successful season for the CCS Cougar Girls' Basketball Team!

On February 22, the team headed to Smithville to participate in the annual Niagara District Basketball Tournament. Morning devotions challenged the girls to use their gifts and talents to honour God. It was a very exciting day, with the girls taking home the pennant to be hung in our gym for the fifth year in a row!

Throughout the day, the team played five different teams from various Christian schools. The Cougars remained undefeated throughout the day. The team played a strong defensive game, but what especially stood out was that they played as a team, supporting and encouraging each other.

On February 27, the team participated in the HDCH Invitational Tournament, coming in fourth place out of ten teams. Congratulations to Michelle K., Mary W., Esther L., Elysha S., Jada C., Anna H., Jessica S., Alyssa H., Alysha B., Jodie V., and Meagan V.!

Track and Field

Coaches: Mrs. J. Greidanus, Mrs. A. Dekker

On February 20, thirty nervous and excited athletes from CCS travelled to First Ontario Centre for the Indoor Games sponsored by the 91st Highlanders. Over 500 students from all over Ontario were competing in some demanding track and field events. Our students did a terrific job with the girls' team placing 10th overall and the boys' team placing 4th overall. Some of the highlights included Lucas E.'s 1st place finishes in high jump and triple jump; Nathan B.'s 2nd in triple jump; Jason V.'s 2nd in long jump and the bantam boys' team 4 x 2 relay 2nd place finish.

It was a great experience to be part of the 89th year of the oldest indoor meet in North America. We are thankful for athletic and willing students, supportive parents who watched and cheered, and a great day with very few injuries.

Boys' Basketball

Coaches: Mr. A. Boonstra, Mr. R. Brouwer



The boys' team participated in two tournaments: one on February 27, hosted by HDCH, and the district tournament on March 1, in Jordan Station. The first tournament served as a warm-up for the boys. We made the semi-finals, but lost to a powerful team from Oakville. With a little experience under our belts, we had an outstanding second tournament. We tied the first game, won the next three and faced the team we tied in the finals. After a disastrous start, we found ourselves behind at half-time 14-1 – almost an embarrassment! However, the boys stuck with the game plan, pressed the other team into making mistakes and clawed back into the game. The tension mounted as we came back to tie the game 16-16. With seconds left in the game, a final basket and insurance point were scored – CCS 19, Smithville 16. Pandemonium broke loose on the floor and on the bench as the team won in thrilling fashion the district championship! Great job guys: Marcus E., Josh H., Tom S., Nick T., Travis V., Dylan V., Jesse B., Matthew K., Justin K., Jacob W., and Noah S.

Field Day

We enjoyed fabulous weather at our Field Day on May 22. There was a great spirit of competition. We had no broken records this year. We really appreciate the help from our volunteers. Thank you!

Student Quote

At about 11:30 on Field Day, a grad 8 team captain was overhead saying, "I'm starting to feel the teachers' pain."



Author Cary Fagan



Go Canadian Women's Team!



Boys' Basketball



Grade 1 at Mountain Gym



Indoor Track Champs



Wendy and Peter Pan



Grade 4 Painting Sets



Student - Teacher Basketball Game



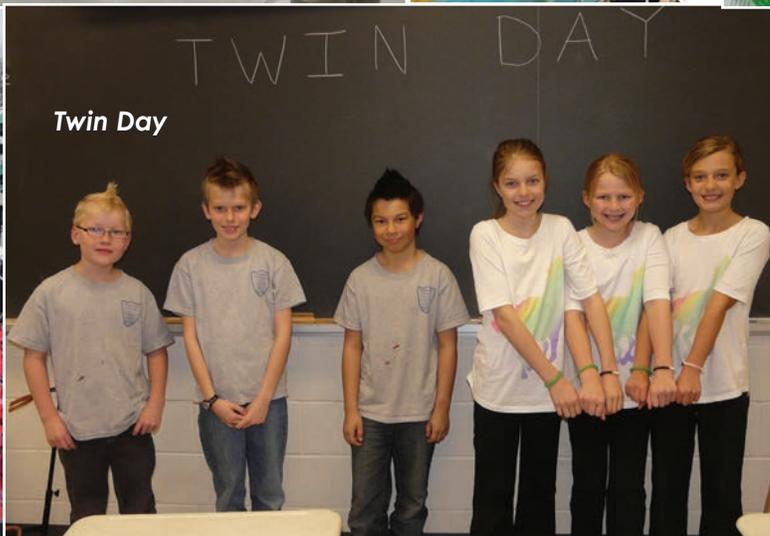
Mrs. Mussche Painting Sets



Scientists in



Winter of 2014!



Twin Day



Grade 8 B



The Hamilton
Gymnastics Centre



Intramural Hockey Champs



Reading Buddies in the Lab



Winter Olympics Pyramid



Toiletries Drive for N2N



School



Narnia
Diorama
Winners



Valentines Day



Grade 1 Reading
Report Cards



Bake Sale



Peter Pan Cast
Members



Grandparents Day

Grade 8 Reflections

We are again graduating a large number of grade 8 students, 50 to be exact. Some of them have spent their entire educational careers to date at CCS, while others have been added in through the years. Regardless of how long they have been with us, we trust that they have been impacted in some way by the Christian education they have received. We asked them to reminisce and reflect on their time at CCS. What follows is a representative sampling of their thoughts.

Attending a Christian school means quite a bit to me. Being here really taught me a lot about God and how to live my life. CCS is a great school! *Micah VM.*

All of the teachers have been extremely understanding and supportive, and their faith shows through in the way they teach. *Kaitlyn R.*

I have grown a lot in my faith at this school and it is growing every day. I hope this school will help expand the Christian community. *Jesse B.* This school has shown me that you need God in everything that you do and in all subjects that you learn. *Marcus E.*

What we learn has a Christian perspective and teaches us how to be stewards of God's creation. I enjoy gym class because we not only talk about how to take care of God's temple, but we get physical and play sports, which I love doing! *Michelle K.*

Here at CCS we teach and learn everything from a Christian perspective and this makes everything we do here more interesting. *Caleb B.*

I don't think anyone could come to CCS and not grow as a Christian. We are shaped by our teachers and our peers and the attitude of the people around us. *Braden B.*

I've been attending Calvin Christian School for almost two years because I came to Canada from Korea to study. It was a great opportunity to come here and I enjoyed it because my teachers and friends are so kind. *Heejoo C.*

CCS encourages developing talents. I personally enjoyed cross country and placing third. *Mary W.* This year I joined Battle of the Books. I really enjoyed being able to try different kinds of books. *Kayla K.*

One of my most memorable experiences at CCS was the Peter Pan Jr. play. I was part of the stage crew, and so my team-mates and I were lifting trees and a cannon onto the stage. In the dark! *Adam H.*

I remember when I learned that I had taken out every book about dogs in our library. I considered myself an official dog expert from then on. *Natasha L.*

One of my memories was from the spring program when I was in grade 4. I was Papa Bear in Goldilocks. I mixed up my lines and said, "Somebody has been sitting in my porridge!" *Matthew W.*

In October we went on a grade 8 retreat. We rocked on the dock, played manhunt, and went canoeing. *Rebecca A.*

My favourite moment was when we watched the women's hockey team come back in overtime and win the gold. *Noah S.*

One of my most memorable experiences was in grade 6 going to Fair Glen. I had just come to the school a month earlier, so it was a good way to get to know people outside of school. *Magda T.*

A few students had the opportunity to go to Redeemer for a conference to learn about the First Nations peoples. *Jessica S.*

I haven't been here for very long, but I enjoyed it because even on the first day I had people welcoming me, making me feel at home. *Jesse O.*

My most memorable experience at CCS was probably being on sports teams like soccer and playing in the tournaments. *Lucas E.*

I like band class the best because I love music. It was fun to play some instruments that I wouldn't be able to play at home. *Joshua I.*

My favourite class at CCS is Bible. I really like how we can learn about God and his plans in places outside of church. *Thomas S.*

I enjoyed art class because I want to be an art teacher, and when I draw something I'm so excited. *Amy L.*

I personally enjoy composition because I get to write what I feel. Also, I get to write stories which I really enjoy. *Iris M.*

I especially enjoy math class. I love working with numbers and solving problems. *Philipp S.*

My favourite CCS memories include a water gun fight in grade 4, Fair Glen in grade 6 and the bake sale in grade 8. *Michael tS.*

I love English class. We read classic literature and have in-depth discussions on many topics. You take a simple sentence or paragraph and find the inner meaning. *William G.*



At CCS I have learned many things. Not only have I learned math, science, and other subjects, but I have also learned more about myself and how God wants me to live. I praise God for the blessing that CCS was to me. *Kyra S.*

Having Christian friends and teachers helps me a lot especially when it comes to making decisions. *Nick T.*

I am honestly going to miss CCS. It gave me such amazing memories that I will never forget. *Lauren D.*

My time at CCS has been good. I have enjoyed this school and will miss it, but I am also excited to move on to high school. *William K.*



- | | | | | | | |
|------------|--------------------|--------------|----------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| Rebecca A. | Heejoo C. | William G. | Kayla K. | Natasha L. | Joshua S. | Caelan T. |
| Jesse B. | Jae Min (Emily) C. | Anna G. | Michelle K. | A.M. | Noah S. | Michael tS. |
| Braden B. | Lauren D. | Stephanie H. | Matthew K. | Iris M. | Elysha S. | Eric VH. |
| Caleb B. | Sophia DM. | Joshua H. | William K. | Jesse O. | Jessica S. | Micah VM. |
| Hailey B. | Philip D. | Adam H. | Esther L. | Kaitlyn R. | Thomas S. | Mary W. |
| Wesley B. | Marcus E. | Joshua I. | Huiju (Amy) L. | Kyra S. | Magda T. | Matthew W. |
| Timothy B. | Lucas E. | Serena K. | Julie L. | Philipp S. | Nicholas T. | Jacob W. |
| Jada C. | | | | | | |

We congratulate each graduate and wish them God's continued blessings in their lives as they begin high school.



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Jubilee Quotes About Our Mothers...

My Mom Is The Best Because....

"...she makes food for me, picks up my toys and cleans up my lego."

Nathaniel D. (JKB)

"...she loves me and plays games with me and gives me supper."

Jude K. (JKB)

"...she bought a new TV."

Isabel V. (JKA)

"...she makes broccoli soup."

Nathan B. (JKA)

My Mom Is As Special

As...

"...a birthday party."

Daimien M. (JKB)

"...my toys."

Deacon M. (JKB)

"...my batman car."

Ryan K. (JKA)

"...my monkey toys."

Chimamanda U. (JKA)

My Mom Is As Sweet As...

"...kisses."

Claire D. (JKB)

"...my daddy."

Joseph T. (JKB)

"...an airplane."

Reuben D. (JKB)

"...candy."

Jayden S. (JKA)

"...her iphone with a new game that she got."

Levi C. (JKA)

"...cereal."

Claire V. (JKA)

My Mom Loves To...

"...make cookies with me."

Evan W. (JKA)

"...watch movies with me and nothing else."

Logan B. (JKA)

"...wash dishes."

Cole V. (JKA)

"...bake with us and loves when we listen."

Eli W. (JKA)

"...pack my backpack."

Destan S. (JKA)

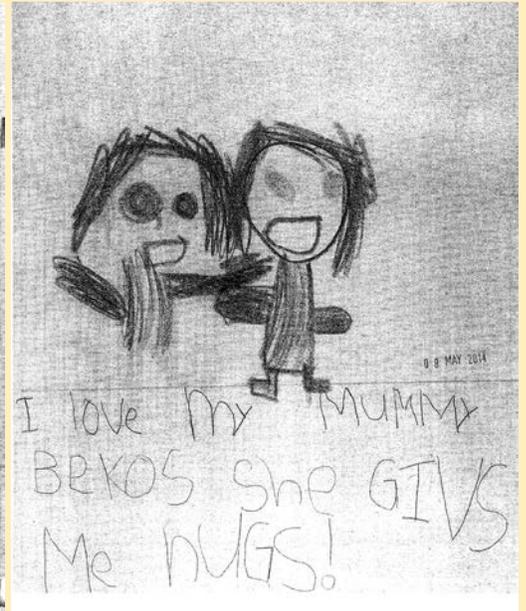
"...push me on the swings and read books to me."

Julia N. (JKA)

SK Work Family is important to SK! Students often write in their journals about parents, siblings and grandparents. Here are a few samples.



Brayden B. (SKA)



Catherine G. (SKA)



Nathan W. (SKA)



Brooklyn D. (SKA)

Hockey *Michelle K.*

This hockey season was so much fun! The Cougars participated in two tournaments: one in Stoney Creek and the second in Barrie. Our coaches, Mr. Boonstra and Mr. Bassie, encouraged us when we needed it, which was basically all the time. At first I was hesitant to be the only girl, but during the first practice I knew I was going to have a blast. At each practice I learned new skills and rules, and I never knew it was possible to sweat so much! At the tournaments I shared a change room with the few girls that played for other schools. I found that during the games the guys protected me from being "checked out" on the ice. During the Stoney Creek tournament we were smoking the other team, so Marcus took the puck up the ice and passed it to me to shoot. I deked around a defender, shot and scored!!! Even though we were winning by a lot, my team was really happy for me. I could tell by how loudly they cheered as the puck flung into the net.



Thanks team: Marcus E., Philip D., Michelle K., Will G., Josh H., Noah S., Jacob W., Wesley B., Matthew C., AJV., Connor B., Justin K., Josh P., Jordan G., Aidan R., and Adrian V.

Battle of the Books

Coaches: Mrs. G. Goodwin, Mrs. J. VanderWindt, Mr. P. Veldhuis, Mrs. D. Heeg

After many weeks of reading, studying and practicing questions, two junior and two senior teams went to Fruitland Christian School on April 3rd to compete against six other schools. Each team played three games and were awarded five points for each correct answer to about 80 questions about the books. At the end of the day the scores were totaled and the winners were declared. Our senior teams won 1st (with a score of 380!) and 4th, and the junior teams came in 2nd and 3rd in a very close race. All of their hard work had paid off, and many of the first time readers were very excited to join the team again next year.

Parents who were able to drive and come to support the students were very impressed by the detailed questions the teams were able to answer about the books.

Book Fair *Mrs. A. Benjamins, Librarian*

This year's book fair was an overwhelming success, and we thank our community for supporting this literary fundraiser. Students in grades 1-4 enjoyed listening to award-winning author, Cary Fagan from Toronto who read some of his stories to them. He also talked about what it is like to be an author and answered questions about his work. The students were excited to meet a "real live" author, especially since they were familiar with some of his books through their weekly reading program during their library time. We appreciate our faithful volunteers, whose contribution of time helped make this week possible. We welcomed Ann Schiekoff, salesperson for Living Books, a company that offers a large selection of Christian books, cards, CD's and DVD's. We also welcomed Scholastic Books which offered a great variety of books at a good value. The benefit to the CCS library this year was approximately \$2,500 in books, which will be enjoyed for years to come!



Staff News

This past school year has seen quite a few staff members grieving the loss of loved ones. We extend condolences once again. Tony Boer's brother-in-law passed away after a lengthy struggle with cancer. Sharon VanderMeulen's father died after a rather sudden decline following an Alzheimer diagnosis. Audrey Benjamins lost her brother-in-law after battling cancer. We are so thankful that the resurrected Lord of Easter gives us hope in the face of death.

We congratulate one of our custodians, Paul Flowersmith who, together with his wife Mary, celebrate God's goodness in 25 years of marriage.

TRIP Update

The fiscal year for TRIP ended on April 30, and we are pleased to report that a total of \$41,430 was earned during the year from May 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014. Of this amount, 50% goes towards reducing tuition for participating families and 50% goes directly towards our tuition assistance fund. What a great way to reduce tuition! Thank you for supporting this worthwhile program. If you are not part of this wonderful incentive program, you can sign up at anytime and start immediately! We encourage friends, grandparents and any family members to help reduce tuition costs for present and future students. Thanks again!

2014 Spring Drive

Currently CCS is in the midst of our Spring Drive to raise funds for three key areas. They are the Tuition Bursary Fund, Bus Reserve Fund and Building Reserve Fund. Please read the enclosed brochure and prayerfully consider how you can help to keep Christian education affordable. Thank you for your support!

We would like to take this opportunity to simply say "Thank You" for your response to our spring drive last year when we raised just over \$80,000. CCS is truly blessed by your support!

Student Quotes:

A grade 1 student in an assembly read the word, "Tableaux" on the screen. Quite puzzled, he said, "Tay blocks! What in the world are tay blocks?"

In a chat about healthy snacks:

Gr. 1 teacher: "Who has something from the vegetables and fruits group? What about the grains group?"

Student: "I have something from the cookies group."



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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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