

# iNTOUCH

SPRING 2014 A Christian newsletter for Calvin Christian School



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# Principal's Ponderings

Mr. A. Boonstra

## So You Want to Be a Principal?

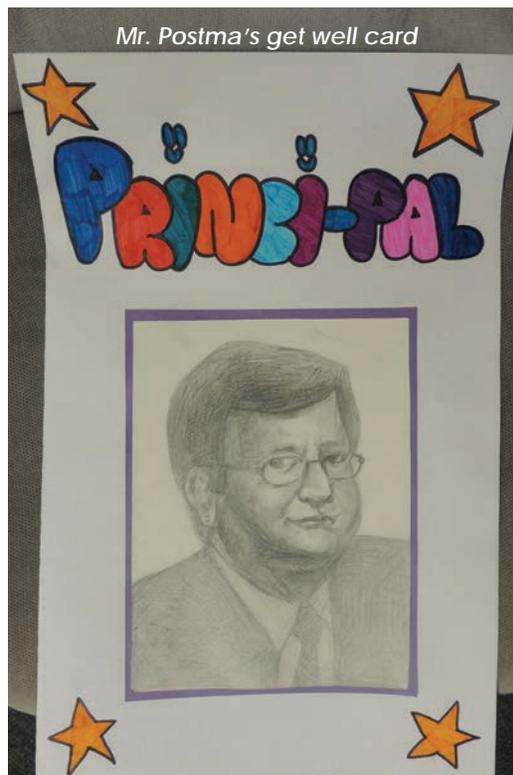
From time to time, my students ask me if I ever want to be a principal. I sort of chuckle and state that perhaps someday, but for now, working with them as a vice-principal is where God has placed me. However, a couple of years ago I enrolled in a Masters Leadership program at Calvin College. With this degree, I will be trained to take on principal duties. While taking the courses associated with the program, I often wondered what it would be like to be a school principal. Over the last month, I have received a crash course on exactly what being a principal here at Calvin Christian School would entail.

When Mr. Postma suffered a concussion a few weeks ago, and then a heart attack shortly after, I gained new insight into the demands of his job. Calvin Christian School has been blessed by an extraordinary leader. Mr. Postma's dedication to his job and his attention to detail are unsurpassed. When I discovered that Mr. Postma would have to take a leave of absence to provide healing for his body, I was suddenly thrust into the role of acting school principal, or as the Board of Directors called it, "Interim Principal". After close to twenty years of being a vice principal, I would now see first-hand some of the challenges associated with being the leader of a Christian elementary school.

One of the first days on the job had me dealing with a mountain of paperwork related to paying bills, approving class trips, reviewing schedules, checking injury reports, and studying committee reports. In between the paperwork, I tried to juggle the student needs that presented themselves during that day. One such need was working to create peace among students who desperately sought to protect their snow forts and snow boulders from others: a concern I remember from my own grade school days!

This day also happened to be the Teddy Bear Picnic: an open house type of day when prospective Jubilee students and their parents come to visit us. It was

important to spend a little bit of time connecting with some of these visitors and making them feel welcome. However, I also needed to squeeze in a meeting with an insurance agent. As I was talking to the agent, suddenly a loud piercing bell interrupted our meeting. The fire alarm! I hadn't planned for any fire drills today and I knew that Mr. Postma wouldn't have scheduled a drill on a day like this. The agent looked at me for direction, and I had to hustle him out of the building along with all of our students, teachers, parents, and three year old guests! Thankfully it was a false alarm. The end of the school day arrived and I went off to an after school meeting and then to a different meeting in the evening. At last the day was done. Phew!



So, do I want to be a principal? I'm not sure. But what I do know is that CCS has been blessed by its present leader. I also know that I am surrounded by a wonderful community of parents who have shared words of encouragement and support as I have taken on some of the principal duties. My colleagues were also quick to volunteer to help with yard duties, classroom supervision, and other student interactions. The rest of the front office staff took on added assignments and pitched in wherever they could. My own class of grade 8 students recognized that classroom life would be a little hectic for a while as Mr. B. took care of other situations. The boys' basketball team even ran their own

practice. To me, that shared effort is what community life at a school should be like. Together we have lifted Mr. Postma and his family up in prayer, hoping for a speedy recovery, but in the meantime, we carry on with God's work at the school, knowing that we labour together.

### Student Quotes:

*"I can't speak French but I sure do love French toast!"*

*"I just already can do a handstand!"*

# Pastor's Breakfast *Mrs. R. Speelman*

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, CCS hosted its biennial Pastor's breakfast. Over thirty pastors and their spouses, from various churches that make up our school community, attended the event. The pastors enjoyed a morning of tasty food and good company, and had the opportunity to hear Justin Cook, Director of Learning at OACS, speak on the importance of Christian Education. The pastors were also treated to some music by the school band and choirs. One of the pastors in attendance said of the presentation: "Cook did a fabulous job of 'preaching to the preachers' in a way that helped [them] see the interconnected roles of school and church."

The highlight for many, though, was the time afterwards, during which the pastors were given the chance to tour the school, and to visit and connect

personally with the various children that make up their congregations. It was also the highlight for many of the students, who were very excited to see their pastor at their classroom door. They were eager to show them around! While for some in attendance, it was one of countless times visiting the school, for others it was a first. Conversations about the school's history, how to promote Christian education in the community, and the challenge to be culture builders, were just a few of the conversations created as a result of the morning event. A big thank-you goes out to the staff, students and all who participated in making the morning event such a success and for all the pastors in attendance. As shared by one of the pastors: "The enthusiasm from the staff and students hosting us for the morning was a gift."

# Worship Through Service Projects at CCS *Mrs. L. Sennema*

For several years the students at CCS have been involved in service projects throughout our neighbourhood and city of Hamilton. What began as one grade 1 class visiting the seniors at the Village of Wentworth Heights, is now a thriving program that offers opportunities for learning and growth for all involved. The most common program involves a classroom of students visiting a retirement home in order to visit and do activities with the residents for an inter-generational experience. The delight and joy of most residents is obvious when the young children arrive.

"The children from Calvin Christian school are an absolute delight...They are a breath of fresh air, always smiling from ear to ear...They remind me of my grandchildren that live far away... My favourite part of the program is when the children split up and come to talk to us each one on one."  
(Residents from Wellington Seniors Home)

Over the years, special relationships have formed between CCS and the individual programs. A sense of community is formed as we all work together to provide a meaningful experience for all participants.

"(The residents) really do enjoy the program, I am so happy that you are able to continue it every year with a new set of Grade 5's." (Resident Support Service Manager)

Some of our students also visit with residents from Christian Horizons. These visits provide students with exposure to individuals with special needs. With the help of staff and parent volunteers, the children are able to share God's love in a very special way. Interestingly enough, the students often feel blessed from these visits too!

"We were there because they do not get to see kids that often. I felt happy to make the old people happy." (Anna, 2A)

"Our grandfriends smile when they see us. We go because it makes our grandfriends happy."  
(Daniel, 2A)

We are so happy to see the teachers and students of CCS taking our mission to serve our community outside the classroom walls and into the lives and hearts of our neighbours. Please keep these efforts in your prayers.

**Student Quotes:** Five year old SK student on skates: "I feel like I'm six years old now."

About the cold weather: "It's so cold out there I feel like a penguin that lost its feathers in the North Pole!"

"My old grandpa went to the same school as I go to! Did you teach him?"

# Staff Introductions

## Mrs. Marsha Heeg



Mrs. Marsha Heeg is the new band teacher at CCS this year. She also enjoys directing and accompanying two church choirs in Jarvis and Port Dover. In 2005 she accompanied the Ambassador Male Chorus in their Netherlands concert tour to celebrate 60 years of liberation. She has released her own CD of sacred and classical music. She studied at McMaster

University and Redeemer University College, and holds diplomas for Piano Performer and Piano Teacher from the Royal Conservatory of Music. She is married to Wayne, and their two children attend CCS.

## Mrs. Marjolein Eising



Mrs. Marjolein Eising and her husband Henry have three children: one at HDCH, and two at CCS. Marjolein has been involved with Christian education since her family's immigration from the Netherlands in the early 1980s. She has taught at a number of Christian schools in southern Ontario. The Eising's own a retail garden centre close to Port

Dover. Marjolein often provides a taxi service for her children's activities and sports. She enjoys reading, camping, gardening, traveling, and time spent with family and friends. She serves on council in her church in Simcoe, and helps with the educational programs for youth. She is thrilled to have been hired as a

paraeducator in grade two and three. She is very thankful to be a part of the incredible staff of CCS.

We hope and trust that by now, you are all feeling like part of the CCS team.

## Mrs. Deb Wiebenga



Mrs. Deb Wiebenga and her husband Will have three daughters, all of them at CCS. Deb is a former Smithville District Christian Highschool teacher. She teaches piano lessons and is on our supply teacher list. If the weather is nice, she enjoys doing anything outdoors with her family, including camping, hiking, skiing, and canoeing. She also plays volleyball. She

is part of the worship team at her church and enjoys being the pianist. Deb is currently employed as a paraeducator in grade 8.

# Staff News

We express our sincere condolences to two of our teachers and our violin instructor who have lost parents recently. Helen Donker's mother, who had cancer, passed away. Also, after a long struggle with cancer, Deb Van Egmond's mother passed away. And, quite unexpectedly, Ruthanne VanVoorst lost her father. We pray that each of these families will be comforted in the knowledge that for those who are in Christ there is eternal life.

Our principal, Ted Postma, has been dealing with some serious health concerns including a concussion after slipping on ice followed a couple of weeks later by a heart attack. We are very thankful that his life was spared and he is recovering at home. We pray daily for God's healing hand to be on him.



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# Music at CCS

Mrs. D. Van Egmond

Christmas music filled the air during the holiday season! Our Chamber Choir, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Bell Choir, Recorder Choir, and violinists had opportunities to provide outstanding performances for the residents at the Wellingstone Senior Community, for patients at the Juravinski Hospital, for our CCS community at the school Christmas program, and for Hamilton residents at a downtown caroling event. The events were a wonderful privilege for the students to use their God-given talents in sharing their music with the community.

Staff coaches are Mrs. D. Van Egmond, Mr. T. Boer, Mrs. M. Heeg, Mrs. H. Donker.



Recorder Choir



Saxophones in the city

# Sports at CCS

## Boys' Volleyball Mr. N. Wensink

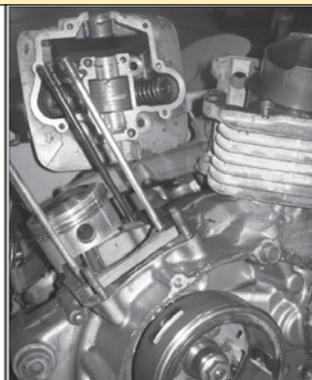
The boys' volleyball team had a good season this year. At the HDCH tournament, we played well and won three of our six games. This put us tied with the other teams in our pools, but after one more game we did not advance. Two weeks later we played at Heritage for their tournament. At this tournament we focused and were able to perform better. For our final advancement game, we faced a tough team and were dropped to compete for fifth place. Overall, the students played well and we learned to work as a unified team. The boys on the team included Justin K., Braden B., Dylan VV., A.V., Jesse O., Jesse B., Marcus E., Wesley B., Lucas E., Caleb B., Joshua H., Jacob W., and Travis V.

## Girls' Volleyball Victoria B. and Alyssa H.

Volleyball was really fun this year. We worked well together as a team. We did well in our last tournament, coming third after a tough game against Heritage. Our team was very energetic and we always encouraged each other, on and off the court. We always tried our best and everyone on our team had a lot of team spirit! We had amazing coaches who taught us a lot of skills. Team members included: Alyssa H., Anna G., Ashton D., Esther L., Jessica S., Kaitlyn R., Mary W., Michelle K., Natasha L., Sophie D., Victoria B., Jessica S. Go Cougars!

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Baking in Jubilee



Grade 4 French clown day



in the park



Grade 3 at Westfield Heritage Village



Let's have a race



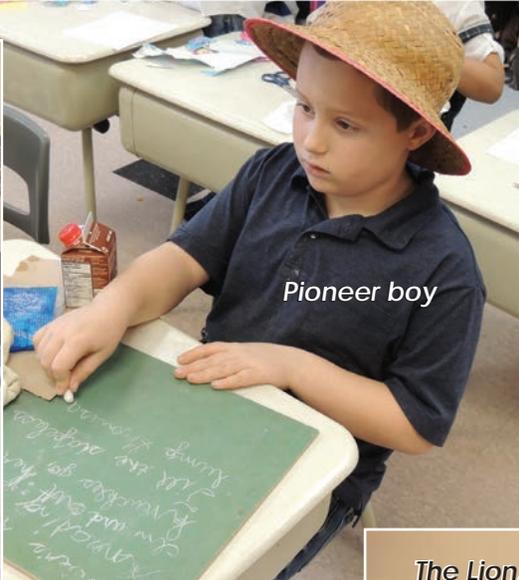
Let's put our heads together



Instruction in the snow at Fair Glen



hday Mr. Boer



Pioneer boy



snow fort



Snow tunnel



SK makes beautiful art



The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe



Penmanship in SK

# Student Work

The following are some New Year's resolutions from the perspective of six and seven year old students in grade 1A.

**2014**

I will never use training wheels.  
- Darren D.

I will listen to my teacher. - G. T.

I will not brag about my work.  
- Justin P.

I will never go biking with no helmet. - Trevor S.

I will eat all my food. - Charlysse M.

I will read my Bible every day.  
- Rachel C.

I will take a bath and eat healthy food. - Caleb V.

I will have a shower and I will sleep in my bed. - Ana V.

I will share my toys. - Bradley W.

I will read my books when my teacher says so. - Shane K.

I will try to wake up at 7:00.  
- Micah D.

I will never whine about dessert.  
- Ethan V.

After one of this winter's snowstorms we listened to a story about being snowed in at school. We wondered what it might be like to actually have to spend the night at school. Here are some grade 1A thoughts on being snowed in at CCS.

What will I eat? Maybe I should eat my crust. - Tristan S.

What will the teacher do?  
- Noah V.

Will I be able to go home tomorrow? - Olivia W.

Our reading buddies will read us books. Then we have to go to sleep. - Elias D.

If there is a snowstorm at CCS, I won't have any clothes.  
- Lilianna S.

We have to move our desks to sleep on the floor. - Joshua R.

What in the world would we eat? We would eat leftovers. - Tori M.

I would get my coat and use it for a blanket. - Halie M.

When we get snowed in, I don't like it because I miss my mommy.  
- Mackenzie S.

There's lots of books at school, so we can have a story so we can sleep. - Rose H.

I want to use my snowpants as a pillow. - Alyssa D.



## Hockey

Hockey  
Icy, fun  
Playing, skating, gliding  
Hockey is the best  
Skating  
- Sophia F. 3A

## Snowman

Snowman  
Frozen, chilly  
Rolling, lifting, stabbing  
Give him a broom  
Snowy  
- Luc B. 3A



## Sledding

Sliding down the hill.  
Leaping into our snow clothes.  
Especially fun!  
Down, down, down we go.  
Doing it again and again.  
It is very pleasing.  
Nothing is as splendiferous.  
Going until our toes are frozen.  
- Alena R. 3A



## Winter

Ice	Breaking
Snowflake	Falling
Snowfort	Building
Snow angel	Making
Stockings	Hanging
Hockey	Playing
Sled	Crashing
Iceicle	Dripping
Hat	Blowing
Snowball	Throwing
Snowboard	Drifting
Scarf	Swaying

- D. V. 3A



## Skating

Skates are kind of hard to tie.  
Kind people gave me skates.  
Ah! I fell over.  
Try not to fall over again.  
I am too tired to do anymore skating.  
Now the ice rink is closing.  
Go back home from the ice rink.  
- Katelyn T. 3A



## Hockey

Have fun skating.  
Our next game is on Tuesday.  
Can you score a goal?  
Keep going, you're doing great!  
Energy is what you need.  
You have to go faster to score.  
- Jack D. 3A



  
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### Little Tree

Once there was a tree that was very lonely because no one wanted to have him for a Christmas tree. He never slept well and more and more trees went to homes. The fields cleared so fast that he was the only tree left. One night animals from the forest heard him crying and slept under his branches. In the morning they told the tree that he had kept safe and warm. Then the tree told them that he wanted to be a Christmas tree. The next night the animals got cherries, holly and a plastic star that they had found on the ground. They put it all on the tree. In the morning the tree looked at himself and didn't feel lonely any more. He thanked his friends for what they had done. - *Tori B. 3A*

### The Aliens Come to Earth

Once upon a time there was a girl named Ava and her last name was Matthews. One day the Matthews heard on the news that aliens were coming to earth! So the family practiced and practiced hiding. Then one day the aliens really did come to earth, but Ava was not ready. So the aliens took Ava. Her family was very, very, very sad. The family prayed for her every morning and every night. Two weeks later three aliens asked Ava if she wanted to go back home. She said, "Yes, but can my family come and live with us?" The aliens said, "Yes". So Ava and the aliens went back to earth. Ava's parents and her brother said they would like to live with Ava and the aliens. They lived happily ever after. - *Kristin D. 3A*

### Crawford Lake

On January 30th, my class and I went to Crawford Lake. First we went to the longhouse. Inside the longhouse there were animal antlers, fire pits, and furs. The furs were very soft! Then we sat around the fire pit and our guide, Al, showed us how to make a fire. I got to rub the two stones to make a spark! Then Al told us about hunting and fishing.

After lunch we went to the forest and played a camouflage game. That's when the 'scout' calls to 50 and we all hide. When Ms. DeJong calls, "Look!" we peek out of our hiding spots and go back down again. If the scout sees you, you go back to the platform that you start the game on.

I had a wonderful time at Crawford Lake! - *Claire H. 4A*

### Blizzard's Coming!

Everyday I go outside to play,  
Running around every which way!  
A blizzard is coming,  
Said my mother who's cunning!  
When it finally came,  
It was just the same,  
Silent and slow,  
Then it began to blow,  
Cold and chilly.  
Inside it was warm and silly!  
- *Sember V. 4A*

### Winter

Snow softly falling on the ground,  
Such a lovely and quiet sound.  
Winter winds are blowing rough,  
To go shopping would be tough.  
All the kids have frozen cheeks,  
Why don't birds have frozen  
beaks?

Huddling together to make a crowd,  
God our Father would be proud.  
- *Lily W. 4A*

*In Grade 5A we are developing the "idea" trait by writing descriptive paragraphs. In one assignment, the class was instructed to "show" not "tell" their audience that their bedroom was messy. Below are some samples of "interesting" messy rooms. Parents, I truly hope that these paragraphs do not accurately reflect the condition of your sons'/daughters' rooms!*  
- *Mr. P. Veldhuis*

As my mom walked into my room, she couldn't believe what she saw. My blankets were torn off my bed and sat in a heap beside it. A half-eaten sandwich was squished under my pillow. Stretchy grey cobwebs were woven in the headboard of my bed. Her hand touched a gooey Kleenex stuck to the handle of my door. My underwear was hanging from a lamp shade. The closet door was almost completely off its hinges. To top it off, a family of skunks was contentedly sleeping in a corner of the room. On seeing my room, my mom fainted. - *S. B. 5A*

As my mom entered my room, she stared in horror at the condition of it. She noticed an apple core on the ground with fruit flies hovering over it. My mom couldn't help but spy a chunk of mouldy cheese under my pillow. As she shuffled forward, she stepped on a puddle

*continued on page 12*



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**JOHN KONING**

## The New Website Mrs. A. Benjamins

Calvin Christian School launched its first website in 2001. In 2007, the website was updated and given a new look. The most recent updated version of the website went live in January 2014. We are very excited about the new design and advanced features available on this new website! We are grateful to Glenn Horning from *Ultimate Websites* for his invaluable support in this endeavour. If you haven't seen the new website yet, you are invited to go to [www.ccsHamilton.ca](http://www.ccsHamilton.ca) and take a look around!

The discussions to update the website have been ongoing for the past three to four years. Last year, Calvin Christian School celebrated 60 years. There was reminiscing of years gone by, and looking forward to CCS in the future. One part of the celebrations included the introduction of an updated logo, and a new tagline, "Equipping to Shine". Once the new logo was established, the initiative to develop a new website began in earnest.

The purpose of the website for CCS is twofold. First, it is used to communicate with the CCS community. Secondly, the website is a vehicle to provide information to prospective families.

Each classroom has a page on which the teachers can provide updated news from their classrooms. This is a place for teachers to highlight significant events that take place within the classroom community, and to communicate the academic activities that are happening on a daily and weekly basis. To protect the privacy of our students, access to these pages requires a password. Once registered, parents and students can easily view all of the classroom pages. Prospective families can find information quickly in the FAQ's, as well as step-by-step details outlining the process for enrollment.

Some new features of the website include a blog to post on which teachers will share their thoughts on a variety of topics related to CCS and education. There are also news articles highlighting the latest happenings and events in which CCS students are involved. The students are quite pleased with the banners showcasing pictures of their daily activities. Navigating the website is made easier with the drop down menus and a search option. The entire website is *Website Content Accessibility Guidelines* (WCAG) compliant, making it accessible for people with disabilities. Each page has a "print" option, where pages can be printed in a printer-friendly format. As with all new things, there have been a few glitches, and we thank our website visitors for their patience as we iron out the wrinkles. It is exciting to be able to serve our community better.

## Tri-Cycle Time Trials Mr. J. Hosmar

On December 11, CCS welcomed a small team of avid cyclists to our gym. This team came to speak briefly to the grade 6 to 8 students about the benefits of bicycling, the enjoyment of the sport, and the opportunities that cycling has to offer. This was followed up with the opportunity to try out one of the specially designed "time trial" bikes that were brought to the school. The bikes, through the control of a computer, simulated a road course by adjusting the level of difficulty pedaling up hill, down hill, and along flat ground. Students were challenged to complete the one kilometre course within a certain time period. This proved to be a challenging exercise, but several students were able to meet the challenge. Those who met the goal were invited to come to a special information evening for the Hamilton Bike Team to hear what opportunities were being offered to those interested. Overall, it was a great opportunity to learn and do something different as well as have a small break from regular classes. We want to thank the Hamilton Bicycling Association for bringing their program to our students.



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## Fair Glen Mrs. A Breimer

Every year the grade 6 class at Calvin Christian School has the opportunity to take a class trip to Fair Glen (a youth camp at Fair Havens). This year marked our 25th year of travelling to Beaverton and taking part in many winter activities. Students had the opportunity to take part in cross country skiing, snowshoeing, tubing, skating, survival skills, a high ropes course and cooperative team games. Students had an excellent time there and we thank God for the safe travels. We are also very thankful for the parents who came along to make this trip possible.

Here are some comments after we got back from Fair Glen.

"Fair Glen gave me a great opportunity to hang out with classmates that I would normally not have hung out with." - Annika R.

"I liked the high ropes course as it was a challenge for me." - Clara K.

"It gave me an opportunity to do things that I would never have challenged myself to do, like cross country skiing and snowshoeing." - H. D.

"I liked the bacon." - J. L.

"We went on a long cross country ski trip and I went much further than I thought I ever could." - Emma K.

"I loved the skiing and the food!" - Justin B.



## A Cold Day for a Cozy Picnic Mrs. J. Hagen

On February 3rd, 2014, Calvin Christian School welcomed over 30 children along with their siblings and caregivers to the fifth annual Teddy Bear Picnic. This morning event involved the careful planning of the Public Relations Committee and targeted families in the Christian community who are making decisions about their children's education.

On the morning of the picnic there was a buzz in the halls of CCS as families and little children gathered. Guarded by their stuffed friends under their arms, these soon to be Junior Kindergarten aged children came ready to explore this somewhat unfamiliar world of school. Many parents came, thankful for an outing on a cold February morning. Everyone received a warm welcome from the PR Committee and Mr. Hosmar, the vice-principal, who also brought along his favorite teddy bear.

Each of the families were then divided into three groups which rotated through three stations. The first



station, located in the music room, offered the children an opportunity to explore various play centres while their parents inquired about the offerings of the Jubilee School program and CCS in general. Picnic snacks were also offered at this station, since a picnic wouldn't be a picnic without some tasty treats. The second station, which was led by the PR chairperson, was located in the gym. This station offered the children an opportunity to play organized games, sing silly songs and hide under the parachute. The last station gave the children an opportunity to explore the Jubilee classroom where I greeted them. We shared a story together, gave our stuffed teddies some exercise, sang songs together and finished by having each child make a teddy bear puppet.

Every child, family member and stuffed friend seemed thankful for the opportunity to discover a little more about the offerings at CCS.

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# The Bazaar

In the last *In Touch* we reported an estimated total for the amount raised. That has been revised to \$51,825. The pie-in-the-face contest at school was an exciting event which helped to boost the total. We thank Mr. Boonstra and Mr. Hosmar, our VP's, for being good sports. We again thank all those who contributed to another successful bazaar.



# TRIP

The Tuition Reduction Incentive Program continues to be an important and successful avenue for raising funds for the school that also benefits parents in reduced tuition costs. The amount raised so far since May is \$32,000. This amount is split with 50% going to tuition reduction. Please contact the school office if you'd like to participate. Mrs. Rumph will be happy to explain how it works.

## Student Work *continued from page 9*

of chocolate ice cream that we had for dessert three nights ago. Mom moaned when she saw a dust bunny the size of a baseball in the corner of the room with a spider web surrounding it. She screamed when she saw our pet bulldog eating my unfinished project. As she went to leave, my mom noticed that the window was open. A swarm of mosquitoes was heading to the ice cream puddle and mouldy cheese. She turned and yelled, "Clayton! Clean your room!" - Clayton M. 5A

As my mom entered my room, I knew I was in trouble. Her eyes took in my dirty clothes and a month of overdue homework on my desk. I flinched as she stepped on a beetle while walking to my closet. As she opened my closet door everything came tumbling down on her. When she turned around and saw me sitting on my unmade bed, surrounded by a mound of toys, her face turned ten times redder than I had ever seen it before (and I think I saw smoke coming out of her ears!!). I knew she was not a big fan of my garbage can with its half eaten sandwich and rotten apple cores. As soon as she saw my collection of furry vegetables from dinner two weeks ago, I decided to flee! - Sophia M. 5A

### Student Quotes:

*During prayer time, "Dear Jesus, thank-you for Christmas day and the song Holly Jolly Christmas."*

*Adult: "What's your dad's name?"*

*Student: "Daddy!"*

*Adult: "But what do other adults call him?"*

*Student: "...DUDE!!!"*

*"My teachers are Mrs. Hagen and Mrs. Bake!" (Cook)*



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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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