

# iNTOUCH

SUMMER 2013 A Christian newsletter for Calvin Christian School



**Calvin**  
*Christian*  
**School**  
Equipping To Shine



## Inside this edition

- 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Grade 8 Graduates
- Squirm Musical
- re-Source Thrift Shop



# Principal's Ponderings

By Mr. T. Postma

As I draft this article, our community just learned of the tragic, incomprehensible death of Tim Bosma. We continue to pray that his family and friends experience the nearness of our Lord and Saviour. Tim graduated from CCS in 1994, the same year as my daughter. He worked with my future son-in-law, and my cousin was a close friend. There are parents currently at CCS who are close friends with the family. A relative sits on the CCS BOD. Families at CCS, whether they knew Tim or not, sought the Lord in prayer and reached out to one another to talk, to comfort, and to understand. In our extended Christian community there are many connections which emerge from the formative years of schooling as well as out of church, employment affiliations and leisure activities. These connections develop into deep spiritual and warm social bonds, which amazed the media and spoke volumes to the broader community. In this broken world we share the Christian faith – a faith that imbeds comfort, compassion, strength and a peace beyond understanding. We also witnessed extreme greed that has no boundaries in terms of its reach and its evil. Our God is a holy God, and His justice will be unbearable unless we are in Christ Jesus. May we all be in Christ Jesus and may that be our prayer for those who live outside of Jesus.

Much has happened this past year at CCS. Our students benefitted from a wonderful array of curriculum and extra-curricular instruction and activities. God's Word and Jesus continue to be the foundation and focus of our education as we equip our students to shine. We witnessed great achievements by our students in many areas. Students again completed the Canadian Tests of Basic Skills and scored extremely well. Check out the numbers on our website, [www.ccshamilton.ca](http://www.ccshamilton.ca). Click on 'enroll your child' and then click on 'accomplishments'.

Our enrolment for September is on track. We anticipate full classes in grades 1, 3, 4, 6. Four staff members will be departing CCS. Susan van der Heiden, our grade 2 teacher, will be retiring after 20 years of service at CCS. Sara Whetstone, our Jubilee School teacher assistant, will be assuming a teaching assignment at HDCH. Ashley Groenwold, an educational assistant, will be moving, and Katherine Fennema, a personal support worker, will be providing home care for a student. We say thanks to them for their dedicated and excellent work and wish them God's guidance and blessing. We have assigned Allison Dekker, currently on maternity leave, to the grade 2 position. We are in the process of filling the other positions.

This past year, the faculty at CCS has been focused on learning about assessment for learning. We often



**First principal at school's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.**

focus on end results and that's assessment of learning. However, assessment for learning is about beginning results. We have a better idea of what to teach and how to teach it if we have an understanding of where the student is at the outset. The intent is for the teacher to assess for learning and then follow up with differentiated learning as much as possible.

At the end of May, we welcomed three evaluators from the School Quality Assurance Program from the OACS. They reviewed our policies, procedures, and day to day activities and then submitted a report to the BOD. Information will be released to the membership in due course.

We congratulate our grade 8 graduates and wish them well as they move on to highschool and wherever God plants them.

I convey a big thanks to the staff, the bus drivers, volunteers and committee members for a wonderful school year. All praise be to God! Thanks also to the school community for their continued prayers and support over the last 60 years of Christian education at CCS. May God watch over all of you and grant you a safe and enjoyable summer.

## Calendar of Events

- June 18** Graduation Ceremony @ 8 p.m. @ Redeemer UC
- June 21** Last school day (½ school day)
- Sept. 3** 1<sup>st</sup> day of school
- Sept. 6** Back to School Barbeque (evening)

# A Stroll Down Memory Lane

By Miss W. Wierenga

Calvin Christian school is wrapping up its 60th year of providing Christian education in the Hamilton area. God, who has provided for our changing needs through all these years, has been faithful to all his promises. The following memory tidbits were gleaned from various publications. Perhaps they will spark memories of your own.

## The First Decade

A two-room school with two teachers opened its doors in 1952 to approximately 80 students at a cost of \$10,000. Tuition fees? \$2.50 per family per week. Burning the day's garbage was a student job and sewing was a favourite subject. Singing "God Save the Queen" ended each day.



## The Second Decade

Enrolment went up to 400 students and the building grew to ten classrooms. Home economics was introduced as a subject. Tuition went up to \$10 per week by 1967 and the first copying machine was purchased. Enough Dominion sales slips were collected to get a tape recorder. Selling cigars and cigarettes at membership meetings was suggested as a fundraiser. Asking if female job applicants were pregnant was quite an acceptable question.

## The Third Decade

PE classes were in a classroom and then at the HDCH gym. Field Day happened at the Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital grounds. A new gym was completed in 1975. It was decided that girls could wear slacks under skirts for warmth but had to take them off in school to avoid wearing clothing that is "distractive and sloppy". Kindergarten was established in 1980.

## The Fourth Decade

The school purchased its third bus. To encourage better membership meeting attendance, less board news was published. Additions included a multi-purpose room and a library. Portables were used to accommodate more students.



## The Fifth Decade

Enrolment stood at 357 students in 1997, ten families over the budget. Clifford, the big red dog paid a visit at the Book Fair. The 1999 bazaar raised \$59,000. The bell choir had its beginning, and a student council was established and began the tradition of child sponsorship.

## The Sixth Decade

The school community watched excitedly as a brand new building was erected on the property and the old building was demolished. Recesses were staggered during this transition year. A significant number of international students from Korea joined the ranks. The student body, including Jubilee School hovered around 450. Computers and promethean boards became part of daily teaching and learning.

To quote Mr. Mark Van Beveren, a past board chair, "The founders of Calvin Christian School felt a strong calling to provide an education that was distinctive and God was pleased to bless those first small steps. In a similar way, if we feel God has called us as a covenantal community to pursue faithful learning for our children, then we can say with equal confidence that He will enable us to continue to provide that education. We can trust Him to be faithful."

## A New Logo

A new logo is being introduced with this issue of *In Touch*. There have been two prior logos. Here is the progression:



# Staff News

## Farewell to CCS By Mrs. S. van der Heiden

In 1987, I had my first introduction to CCS. I was hired to be a TA for the 30 students in Tracy Korvemaker's grade 6 classroom. Following that placement, I had the opportunity to fill in several times for teachers who went on maternity leave.



As often happens in grade 2, a student would do or say something funny and cute and I would share that story with my family during dinner. Occasionally, I would preface my story with the words "I've got to tell you what one of my kids said today." Then one of my children would interrupt me and say: No, Mom, WE are your kids. THEY are your students!" Well, that may have been true, but for one year, these students were also "my kids"!

Recently, I looked through my file of teaching contracts. Tucked inside was a sheet of paper entitled *Suggestions for Interviewing Teacher Candidates*. One question in particular struck a chord with me: If your students were to be speaking about you 25 years from now, what would you like to be remembered for? Good question! Lots of good words come to mind: loving, honest, kind, fair, intelligent, funny; but I think I really would like them to be able to say, "She tried to show us Christ in the way she taught." If they can say that, that would be awesome, because that would include all the other words.

Throughout the years here at CCS, I have had the honour of teaching many children. I thank you, the parents, for entrusting them to me.

Throughout the years I have also had the honour of working with some exceptional teachers. How committed they are to Christian Education in general and CCS in particular! Encourage them, thank them, support them and pray for them. Their job is huge. But together we are nurturing children to love and serve their Creator.

Many people have worked tirelessly to establish this wonderful institution. And many people continue to work equally hard to maintain it as a Christ-centred school. May God continue to guide CCS by his Word and Spirit.

# Parent Testimonial

By Mrs. Margarita Todd

When I was asked to say a few words about my experience as a parent at CCS, I was happy to do so, because my husband and I are very pleased that our daughter Anita is here in grade 1. To me, the most important thing is how happy my child is at school.

We moved to the Hamilton area about two and a half years ago just in time for our oldest, Anita, to start Junior Kindergarten. Being new to the city and the community is always challenging, but from the very first day we stepped onto the school grounds, we felt so welcomed. There is much anxiety for a mother seeing her child go to school, but there is no better feeling than seeing that child excited and skipping and running to the classroom, forgetting to even say goodbye. That has certainly been my experience at CCS. It is a comfort knowing our child is in the care of wonderful Christian adults and amongst children who come from families that share our faith and values. I can see how much my daughter admires and loves her teachers, and how safe and comfortable she feels at school.

Having high academic standards goes without saying, but having the love of God encouraged and reinforced is going beyond. Learning everything through the prism of God's Word is such a blessing. We've just so loved hearing our daughter come back from school and talk about things in the Bible that they've been learning, singing Bible songs absentmindedly while she's playing or doing things around the house, and growing in confidence as she prays and talks about God and to God. I remember her in the playground in summer telling another child that she goes to Calvin Christian School and then asking them, "Do you know God?" as if it's just the most natural thing to know God.

We also really appreciate the wonderful cultural, fun, educational outings. The children have the opportunity to learn to appreciate the blessings they enjoy and, in turn, how to bless their community by visiting grandfriends or collecting food for Neighbour-to-Neighbour.

I'm very grateful for the opportunity to have my child at this school and I would encourage you to bring your child to be a part of this wonderful, caring Christian community too.

# Sports at CCS

## Girls' Basketball *By Mrs. A. Hartman*

The girls' basketball team played in two tournaments this year: the Niagara District tournament and the HDCH invitational tournament. The team remained undefeated in both tournaments, taking home the pennant and winning T-shirts at the HDCH tournament. The days were filled with excitement and it was wonderful to see gifts of athletic skill, team work, and encouragement. Congratulations to team members Chelsea B., Angelique M., Lindsay B., Michelle K., Elysha S., Hannah H., Summer B., Ava M., Kirsten E., Claire V., Zenze G., and Emily K.

## Boys' Basketball *By Mr. A. Boonstra*

Once again the boy's basketball team competed in two tournaments: the HDCH invitational and the Niagara District tournament. The team won the HDCH tournament, going undefeated all day. In the district tournament we made the finals but lost in a tight contest match against Heritage. Team players included: Justin V., William F., Joseph L., Eric K., Alex B., Matthew W., Dustin W., Aaron H., Nick T., and Nathan H.

## Indoor Track *By Mr. A. Boonstra*

The annual Hamilton Indoor Games took place on February 21 and for the third year in a row, CCS sent a team of athletes to compete. Our philosophy regarding our participation has always been that the day is a wonderful opportunity for our students to get exposure to a well run meet with high calibre competition. Our overall expectations were never very high. However, this year, the public school teachers were boycotting extra-curricular sports events, so they did not send teams to the meet. This development opened up all kinds of opportunities for our students to experience more success and they took full advantage



**Race to win.**

of that opportunity by signing up for any and every event that they could. At the end of the day CCS won the prestige competition! The Indoors Games has a long and illustrious history, dating back to 1908, and for Calvin to become a significant part of that history is a wonderful achievement for the thirty students who were able to participate. Congratulations to Lindsay B. who set a record in the high jump event.

## Field Day Records:

**9/10 Boys** - High Jump: Nathan Beere - 135 cm  
- 800 m: Jordan Baker - 2:45.28,  
Jamie Huinink - 2:45:80, and  
Justin Baker - 2:46:66  
- Standing Long Jump:  
Jason VanderHorst - 220 cm

**13 + Boys** - 200 m: Joseph Lee - 26.90 sec.

**13 + Girls** - 200 m: Lindsay Bosveld - 29:68 sec.  
- High Jump: Lindsay Bosveld - 151 cm

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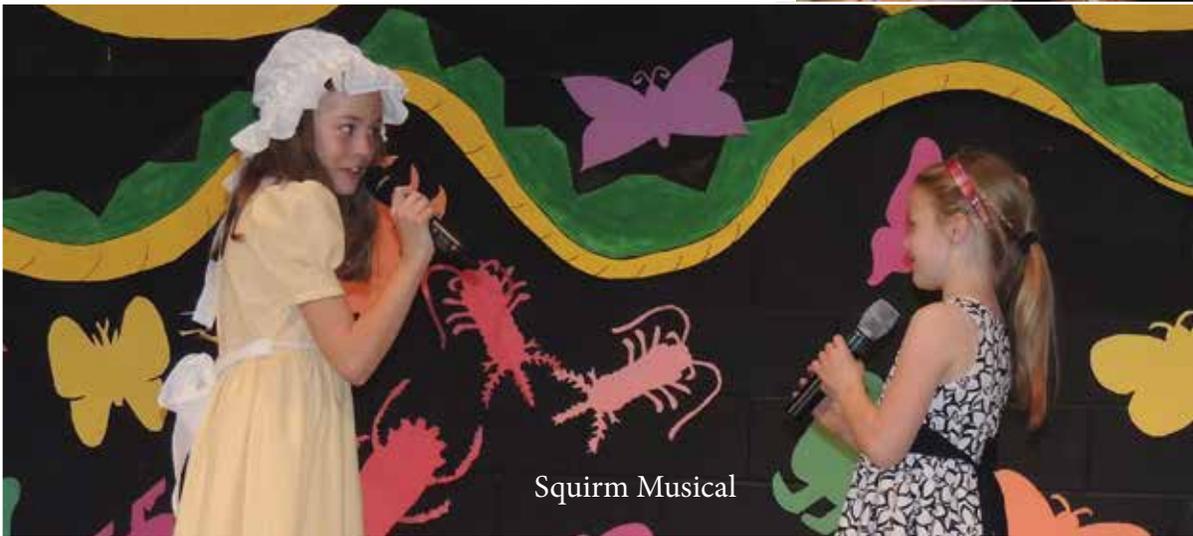
Welcome Grandparents



Grandparents' Day



Squirm Musical



What a Jump!



Science Fun



Jubilee Students



Secretary's Day



# Grade 8 Students 2012/2013



Jennifer A.  
Summer B.  
Cole B.  
Evan B.  
Chelsea B.  
Lindsay B.  
Alex B.  
Eryn B.

Jonah B.  
Francois C.  
Noah d.  
Griffin d.  
Kirsten E.  
Jack E.  
William F.  
Ryan F.

Zenze G.  
Hannah H.  
Nathan H.  
Aaron H.  
Emily K.  
Eric K.  
Iris K.  
Chang Eun L.

Joseph L.  
Jane L.  
Justin L.  
Trisha L.  
Angelique M.  
Ava R.  
Calvin N.

Daniel O.  
Simon R.  
Jeremy R.  
Nate S.  
Hannah S.  
Claire V.  
David V.

Rebecca V.  
O.V.  
Justin V.  
Benjamin W.  
Dustin W.  
Micayla W.  
Jacob W.

## Graduate Reflections

As a school, we have reached a significant milestone – 60 years of Christian education. Our 45 graduates too have reached a milestone, the end of elementary schooling. They were asked to reflect on their time at Calvin. Here is a small, but representative, sampling of their reflections.

- I have enjoyed a lot, but my most favourite experience was *Fiddler on the Roof*. - *Hannah H.*
- I think that the most memorable thing that has happened for me was when we received the news that Tim Bosma had passed away. We all sat in silence for a while and then we all prayed twice together. - *Chelsea B.*
- The thing that stands out the most in my mind is the class trip we took in grade 1 to Mrs. Sennema's place. It was really special being able to go to my teacher's house! - *Jeremy R.*
- One of my fondest memories at Calvin was the ski trip. It was a great bonding experience for the whole class. - *Aaron H.*
- My most memorable experience at CCS was my first day of kindergarten. I remember going through each activity with excitement and trying to find the perfect friend. - *Evan B.*
- I had a wonderful experience at CCS. One of the most memorable things was meeting friends and trying out for the choir and the fine arts team. - *Theresa K.*
- My most memorable moment was playing hokey ball with Mr. Hoekstra. - *Jacob W.*
- I love art and music classes in grades 7 and 8. It was really fun to play different instruments in concert band. - *Rebecca V.*
- I really enjoyed Wacky Hair Day. Everyone's hair was ridiculous! - *Emily K.*
- My favourite part of the year is the soccer tournaments. My favourite subject is probably gym because we get to play sports. - *Ben W.*
- I like French because it gives us the opportunity to learn how to communicate with people who do not know English but know French. - *Ava R.*
- I love learning about how God worked through people and how God made the universe and how it all fits together to make all of us need each other to do God's good work. - *Cole B.*
- One class trip that was really special was when the concert band went to the Village of Wentworth Heights. We played a couple of songs for them but the coolest thing was that they performed for us. - *Claire V.*
- The teachers are so helpful, caring and nice. - *Calvin N.*

- CCS is an amazing school. As I look back and reflect, I realize that this school has helped me so much and that the people here are very influential in living a God-seeking life. - *Noah D.*
- The teachers respect you and help you all the time and help you understand what it means to be a Christian. - *Daniel O.*
- I had amazing teachers and great classmates. What else could I ask for? - *Evyn B.*
- Attending a Christian school is important to me. We often

talk about current events and major topics from a Christian perspective. - *Justin L.*

- We get to learn about God even in school. CCS has helped me grow spiritually by having all these Christian teachers to help and guide me along the way. - *Alex B.*
- I love this school and it saddens me to leave, but it's also a step towards an exciting future. - *Trisha L.*
- Attending a Christian school means that I can show God's love to people that are not Christians

and that as a Christian I can help people less fortunate. - *Zenze G.*

- Attending a Christian school has helped me strengthen my faith in the Lord. - *Nathaniel S.*
- I grew as a Christian here because every day I learn something new about God's love for us. - *Kirsten E.*

As a staff, our prayer for our graduates is that God will continue to be their guide through their highschool years and beyond.

# Jubilee Thoughts — "If I could be an ocean creature I would be..."

a shark because they swim fast and win the race. - *Lucas H.*

a watermelon fish because he catches watermelon fish. - *Ezra T.*

a shark because he eats fish, he swims around and scares other fish. - *Andrew K.*

a zebrafish because there are land zebras. - *Aleah B.*

a sliver thing that is so little. Oh, a minnow! - *Jaeda H.*

a seahorse because I like blue and black and white. - *Hannah Z.*

a shark because I want to have shark teeth and eat yucky fish. - *Rachel C.*

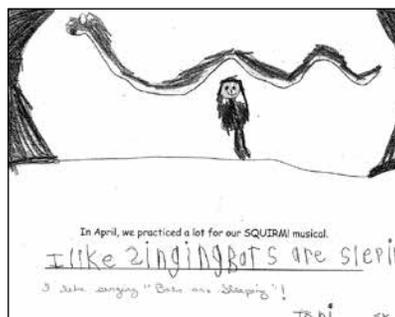
a batman fish and swim in my bat mobile. - *Benjamin P.*

a whale because I saw one when I was a baby and it was flipping up in the air, doing a somersault and I liked it. - *Maddison R.*

a blue whale because they are big. - *Jenna W.*

a shark because they bite other fish. - *Sarah M.*

a superhero fish because he would save other fish from the sharks. - *Maxwell M.*



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## Squirm Musical By Mrs. K. Taekema

It was a wiggly-squiggly, squirmy week with the musical Squirm during Christian Education week. Students and teachers worked hard from January until May practising songs, making sets, memorizing lines, dancing, decorating and much more. All the hard work was worth it in the end as students from JK to grade four performed and reminded audiences that although some critters may seem gross, they are part of God's amazing creation and we can be thankful for them. Students were also able to demonstrate their thankfulness in being who God created them to be, by praising and using their talents of acting, singing, dancing and designing. A huge "Thank-you" to all the parents who helped along the way, the teachers who put time into coaching and organizing, and all the students who made this musical such a success. In the words of the play, "Things that make us squirm can be ok. So let's wiggle and giggle and squirm all day!"



## Book Fair By Mrs. A. Benjamins

This year's Book Fair was an overwhelming success, and we thank our community for supporting this literary fundraiser. Students in grades 5-8 were introduced to plasticine art in workshops run by Della van Dokkumburg, a local author from Kitchener. We thank our faithful volunteers, whose help made this week possible. Your contribution of time is appreciated by everyone at CCS! We welcomed Gail Roth as the salesperson for Living Books, a company that offers a great selection of Christian books and other products such as 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 \$3,000 worth of books which will be enjoyed for years to come!

## Gifted Outreach Conference By Mrs. J. Bosveld

Meeting the mayor, researching harbour clean-up, and learning parliamentary procedure were all part of a day's work for a group of CCS students on April 29. Six students from grade eight attended a Gifted Outreach Conference at Redeemer University College, where they joined more than a hundred students from local public, Catholic, and independent Christian Schools.

The conference was themed "Democracy in Action." After a message from the Mayor and a short presentation on the essentials of parliamentary procedure, the students split into groups to consider and research different issues affecting the City of Hamilton. The CCS students researched the condition of and clean-up plan for the Hamilton harbourfront. Later in the day, the entire body of students gathered to debate and vote on the different proposals. The winning proposal, which will be presented to Hamilton City Council, is to encourage the presence

of domestic chickens within the city. Although the CCS students would have preferred to see a proposal dealing with poverty or the environment, the day was a worthwhile experience, and reminded them of the need to be able to clearly articulate their message when working as agents of restoration in a broken world.

### Christian School Science Fair *By Mr. N. Wensink*

After months of planning and preparation, ten students were given the wonderful opportunity to participate in the 10th biennial Christian School Science Fair at Redeemer University College. Our six projects were set up along with about 170 other projects from various Christian schools around Ontario for a full day of science related activities. The morning consisted of judging and reviewing various projects, with the students explaining and demonstrating their hard work to the many judges. After this, we were privileged to enjoy a wonderful lunch over some Biblical and scientific trivia. The afternoon was filled with special demonstrations of different scientific principles, including some interesting physics experiments, colour changing experiments, and even explosions. Following this, students had the opportunity to be a part of the Science Olympics. There were six different stations set up, but the students found the pasta car building and the egg drop activities particularly fascinating. After all of this, we had the awards ceremony where two of our projects were mentioned and recognized for their outstanding Christian perspectives with the Arthur Custance award. We received an honourable mention and a second place for those Christian perspectives. Students were encouraged to be inquisitive and intrigued more and more by the wonders of God's creation all around them. Through bean plants, coordination, colour, germs, and even Mentos, we can see the work of God's hand in and through our students and our world.

### Sunrise Fest *By Mrs. T. Brouwer*

On Saturday, May 11th we held our annual Calvin Christian School Sunrise Fest! The weather was cool, but sunny - a good day for a big breakfast, selling plants, and looking at beautiful vendor displays. The morning was a great success. Many people from our community turned out to support this event. We had staff and board flipping pancakes, and passing out cheery good mornings with sausage! Families lined up to eat the delicious breakfast, which consisted of pancakes, sausage, juice, and coffee. Then they could look at the 17 varied displays selling things like soaps, necklaces, glassware, bakeware, spices, and Tim Horton's donuts. Many children and adults alike, enjoyed making their very own necklace in the centre of the gym. On the sidewalk outside they could purchase a variety of beautiful flower pots, baskets, and perennials. With the sunny weather, all of the plant items were sold by the end of the day! The event raised over \$3,000 for the school! This is a sign of a great Sunrise Fest and a very supportive community! Thanks to all who came out to help run the event, to those who ate the great food, and to those who purchased items from the different vendors. What a blessed community we live in!



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**Grade 1 Teacher on Thrift Shop opening day:** Do you have some money to spend today?

**Student:** No, but I have my dad with me.

## Student Quotes

After finishing a performance of the Squirm musical, a student excitedly exclaimed, "The audience gave us a standing observation!"

*Primary student:* Girls can't be principals.

*Reply:* Why not?

*Student:* Because they would have to be princessipals.

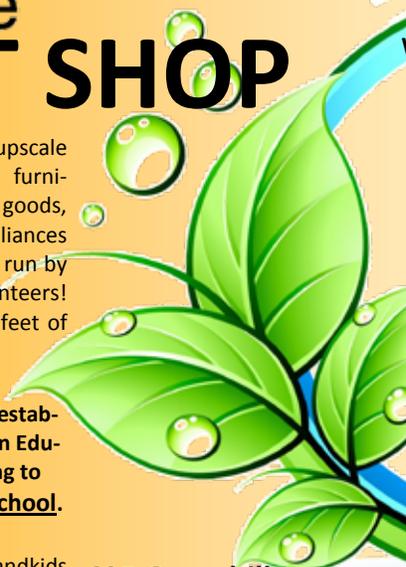
While learning the the memory verse from Joshua 1, "Be strong and very courageous.." someone said, "Be strong and very contagious..."

# 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!



**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

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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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