

April 9, 2020

Dear Members/Supporters of Calvin Christian School,

We met as the board of directors again this week, and write today with further detail on financial tools and supports for our families. We see the incredible challenges within our world, and we are hearing how this is impacting our CCS community.

First a note of thanks. After our letter last week, and after our principal Mr. Boonstra reached out to each family this week, we have heard from many of you, usually centred on two themes. The first theme was parents' gratitude for the hard work of our faculty and staff these last three weeks, in pivoting to the learning at home plan. We are well-served by dedicated faculty and administrators, and we thank God for their labours.

Yet the second theme of our communication from parents was how many of you are facing financial challenges. You have expressed your concerns. As a board, we want the CCS Society to be characterized by support and compassion for each other.

As a large, thriving school, we are blessed to be entering this crisis from a position of relative strength. We have some funds available from previous years' savings. And in combination, we also as a board are willing to face a mild deficit position for this fiscal year.

The board has established an emergency tuition assistance fund to support families that are in difficulty because of this crisis. Our intent is for this support to reach families in need as quickly as possible. The steps to apply are as follows:

Step 1: Contact our finance manager, Melissa Vander Wier, mvanderwier@ccshamilton.ca or 905-932-0213.

Step 2: Staff will gather basic information from families including current household income and household needs. (This process will be simplified and more expedited than the typical FAST programme, which in regular times we use for third-party financial assessment, but which we will not use in this emergency.)

Step 3: Staff will respond to applications within 7 business days.

Step 4: Applicants deemed eligible for tuition relief may choose from two avenues: as credits toward future tuition payments, or as refunds issued by cheque. We expect to issue cheques in early May and in late June, but if you need support more quickly, please reach out to Melissa.

The board also recognizes the Society is accruing savings by suspending both student transportation and our Come-Along K program. The board has approved crediting participating families for transportation costs and for Come-Along K costs, retroactive to March 23rd, 2020.

By default we will credit these costs to families' accounts toward future expenses, or by reducing upcoming payments for families on 10- or 12-month payment plans. Families may choose to request refund cheques, which will be issued per the schedule outlined above. Again, if you need support more quickly, please reach out to Melissa.

Some families may wish to take advantage of the relaxed payment terms described in last week's board communication. This mechanism remains available for families that pay on a monthly basis.

Some families may wish to return their credited transportation and Come-Along K costs back to the school's general operating fund or tuition assistance fund. These donations would be gratefully accepted, and eligible for charitable donation receipts. Please reach out to our staff.

Learning delivery continues at CCS. Our teachers and administration are connecting with families regularly in new and creative ways. We are thankful for this amazing work and acknowledge the enormous value this provides within our families through this challenging time.

The Board meets again next week. Until then, please, send your comments or concerns to school staff or to the board via our secretary. We want to stay in touch with you. We will keep communicating regularly with the Society as we navigate these new waters together.

We rest on the promises of God.

Sincerely,

The CCS Board of Directors:

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An excerpt from the CCS BOD Update #2...

Calvin Christian School exists to assist parents by providing for each student a Bible based elementary education.

This is a season where we lean a little more on one leg of the classic “three-legged stool” of church, home, and school. You as parents have more added to your plates. Our faculty and staff will support you in education, and the Board will support the long-term future of Christian education for you and your children.

And we rest in the grace of Jesus Christ, who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy (Jude 1:24). May He bless the work of our hands.