

# Connect Newsletter



## IMPORTANT DATES:

Secondary Band Concert:  
February 11, 7pm at  
Emmanuel CRC

"Game Time" Spring  
Auction Fundraiser: March  
13, at the Red and White  
Club

"Chitty, Chitty Bang, Bang"  
Main-stage Musical  
Production: March 18 –21

Marit Cup Hockey Game:  
March 24, 10:30am at  
McPhail Stadium

Elementary School, Div I  
Easter Concert: March 24,  
7pm at Bethany Chapel

Fine Arts Night (display of  
all grades art work and  
senior projects): May 19,  
5:30-8pm at Secondary  
Campus

Secondary Spring Band  
Concert: May 27, 7pm at  
Emmanuel CRC.

January 2015

Welcome to Connect, our newsletter for supporters like you! We covet continued participation, involvement and prayers from past parents, alumni and supporters of CCS. This newsletter will inform you of our progress and activities at the school.

## The CCS Environment

By Ken DeWyn, Executive Director

The CCS mission statement speaks specifically of "equipping responsive citizens of God's Kingdom through a Christ-centered educational environment." And that's what we are committed to do. But what is truly amazing to witness are all the little (and in some cases, not so little) moving parts, people, facilities and programs that make up that "educational environment".

When it comes right down to it, that special "environment" has been developed to ensure an amazing, transformational education that is highly *experiential* and *interactive* in nature. After all, it's not standardized information we are looking to impart to our children, but the life-long ability to learn, discern, and serve. That means what we teach, how we teach it and by what means matters. It means our words and actions between each other matter. It matters too how *intentionally* we pursue coming to know our God and his creation through all our activities and academic disciplines.

Looking into the "second half" of our current school year, we are already anticipating making additions to our physical campus. The demand for CCS's brand of Christian education is evident, and these external expectations are challenging us to consider who we are and ultimately what we want to be – in terms of size and program offerings. Already we have immediate facility needs (at least 3 more classrooms for the elementary grades by Fall 2015), as well as impending long term needs (space for a growing middle and high school). It is our hope to share what opportunities God has prepared for us in the coming months.

At this juncture – even with the pressure of a full campus population – it is comforting to remember that the "environment" is more than the edifice we construct. The ultimate measure of its value is the community we build through faith, love and support to serve inside and outside its walls.

**CCS Theme Verse 2014-2015:** 1 Timothy 4:12

*"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."*

## Celebrating Community with Sports

*By Karen Dees, CCS Alumni Coordinator*



The second annual Alumni Sports Tournament held on January 2 and 3 was a great success and a real celebration of the wider CCS community! Over 80 alumni, staff and current students participated in the basketball and volleyball competition and many more came to watch the action. Many of CCS's great sports legends competed for glory once again and it was intense! The High School band group provided some great concession items, including a delicious hot lunch, and dozens of door prizes were handed out to add to the excitement. It was a great weekend of athletics, celebration and reunion. Thank you to those who volunteered and participated, we look forward to seeing you next year!

Making meaningful  
connections in the  
community!  
“Be inspired  
to act.”

## InspirAct

The Secondary Campus will be exploding with excitement and energy on February 11. More than 28 Not for Profit and Volunteer Agencies will be at CCS to transform the gym into a Volunteer Fair. Students are invited to connect with representatives from the different agencies to learn more about what they do, who they serve and why they do it. They may have an opportunity to volunteer at one of these locations on February 27, March 6 and 13. We're confident that young people will be Inspired to Act!

You are welcome to join us at the Volunteer Fair, details can be found on our website or contacting Pastor Layne by phone at: 403.242.2896 ext 342.

## Grade Nine Leadership



Students from the Leadership 9 class put together a bake sale to raise money for the "Ronald McDonald House" and "Free the Children" charities. They sold their baked goods for all of Middle and High School during the lunch hour on December 11 and 12 and it was a big hit as they raised \$604.00! These young ladies have blessed others through the thoughtful and selfless actions. A wonderful example of God's Children Making the World a Better Place!

## What is the Marit Cup?

The Marit Cup is a students vs teachers hockey game that is held in honor of Marit Mackenzie, a Calgary Christian School student who graduated in 2012 – and who, sadly, in January of 2013, at just 18 years of age, and only 6 months after graduating, passed away from a pulmonary embolism.

Marit, who was inspired by a good friend who had undergone a liver transplant, focused her Grade 12 senior project on the David Foster Foundation which helps provide financial support to Canadian families with children in need of organ transplants. Marit's testament to the cause would ultimately go on, even after death, as her vital organs and tissue were donated for use in transplants and future reconstructive surgeries. Since her death, over \$41,000 has been raised in Marit's name for the David Foster Foundation.

As directed by Marit's parents; Bruce and Susan, Calgary Christian School has received a cash gift of \$150,000 from Shopper's Drug Mart to fund the Marit Scholarships at CCS in perpetuity. These scholarships were developed a couple years ago to award graduating students of note who are planning to continue their education in fields of the fine or performing arts (this extends into areas of the humanities as well). The CSCE Endowment Fund, which is managed by Christian Stewardship Services, will generate approximately \$6,000 each year to support multiple awards in this named scholarship program.

The third annual Marit Cup will take place at the Markin MacPhail Arena at Canada Olympic Park on Tuesday, March 24, 2014, at 10:30am. You are invited to come and cheer for a team along with our students in Grades 4 – 12. Marit's beautiful story can be viewed online at the following address: <http://vimeo.com/87743074>



## Way to Go Grade Four!

Grade 4 students raised money for lanterns for literacy in conjunction with the study of light. Light is a gift. The students have been encouraged to earn money or give money to help buy lanterns for people in Bangladesh and India. When these people have light at night, they are able to study, learn and grow. Students have baked and sold cookies, run a tuck shop at lunch time (thanks to all those who bought items on December 11 and 12 we bought 152 lanterns with this money alone!) and given their entire allowance to support this gift of light and literacy. The total raised so far is well over \$1000. Thank you for setting an example for all believers to make the world a better place.

“When these people have light at night, they are able to study and learn.”

## Teachers Share Christian Teaching Methods in Belize School

By Terri Filipski, Calgary Christian School

In November, 2014, four teachers, the principal and chaplain from Calgary Christian High School traveled to Belize to work with teachers in Christian schools there to share pedagogy for the integration of faith and learning. What started with the intent to provide assistance ultimately resulted in a mutual learning experience.

“We went down with the idea that we were going to offer them something, which we did, but we ended up receiving the gift of learning from them,” said Calgary Christian’s chaplain, Pastor Layne Kilbreath.

The CCS educators focused their attention on how teachers in Belize could effectively do their work in the face of the domestic challenges of limited resources, large classroom sizes, few Christian teachers, family neglect, and high crime rates.

A specific teaching tool introduced to the teachers was *Teaching for Transformation* (TFT), a biblically-based curriculum enhancement developed by the Prairie Centre for Christian Education ([www.pcce.tftshare.ca](http://www.pcce.tftshare.ca)). As an aid in developing faith-based learning experiences, TFT uses 10 “through lines” to enhance the presentation and understanding of Christian perspectives in any discipline.

“What an amazing experience, watching the teachers from the school laugh and play through-line

charades, as well as creating beautiful through-line posters. We have introduced them to faith integration and the response was fantastic. They seemed to enjoy their time with Teaching for Transformation and our staff,” said Jason Kupery, secondary principal.

CCS is now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, through the leadership of Phil Bonk, in service partnership with a YWAM base and the school in Roaring Creek. Each spring, Bonk leads an annual Service Learning Trip to Belize for CCS high school students. There, students and chaperones work in the community to building or improve facilities, aid in classroom activities, and furnish sorely-needed school and tech supplies. Students anticipating a March 2015 travel date to Belize are currently raising money through a variety of activities.

For more information on how you can help, please contact Phil Bonk via email: [phil.bonk@pallisersd.ab.ca](mailto:phil.bonk@pallisersd.ab.ca) or visit the Belize page on our website at: [www.calgarychristianschool.com](http://www.calgarychristianschool.com)

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*CONNECT is a private newsletter published by the Community Relations office of the CSCE. It is intended for the greater Calgary Christian School community and focuses on the results of past endeavors and opportunities for new involvement.*

*To stay connected, keep us updated with your current address and email!*

*Our Annual Drive is ongoing and contributions are accepted at either campus.*

