



Connect Newsletter

IMPORTANT DATES:

You are invited and welcome to attend the following events.

Fine Arts/Senior Project Night

May 24

Secondary Campus

Spring Band Concert

June 1 @ Emmanuel Church

Stampede Breakfast

June 3

7:30am @ Secondary Campus

HS Awards Chapel

June 3

9:35am @ Emmanuel Church

MS Awards Chapel

June 10

9:35am @ Emmanuel Church

Grade 9 Celebration

June 14

@ Emmanuel Church

22 Annual Golf Tournament

June 17 @ The Links of Glen Eagles

Grade 6 Graduation

June 28 @ Elementary Gym

CCS 2015-2016

Theme Verse :

1 Peter 4:10-11

May 2016

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.

Soul Surfer coming to Calgary!

We are a school that does hard thing and we are a school that says... Yes! Yes!

We revealed to the school last week that Calgary Christian School is hosting athlete, inspirational speaker, wife, Christian, author and mother, Bethany Hamilton. Bethany is from the movie Soul Surfer, and reality TV show The Amazing Race and will be coming to Calgary on October 6, 2016! Bethany Hamilton is a world renowned surfer who lost her arm in a shark attack at a young age. Through her faith and unstoppable spirit, she has regained her amazing skills as a surfer and has become a role model and hero to millions of people. This will not be your typical fundraiser for our school. We expect people from all over Western Canada to attend this inspiring event - as this will be the first and only time she has ever been to Canada!

Details you want to know!

How did this happen? Amaliya is a Grade 3 student at our school who wrote a letter to her hero, Ms. Hamilton, and was able to connect with Bethany's agent on the phone. They had a wonderful conversation and 8 months later of work and planning, we

are thrilled to be one of the few cities who have the honor of hosting Bethany. We have a video on our school website where you can meet Amaliya and hear the story.

(www.calgarychristianschool.com/fundraising)



On **Thursday, October 6, 2016** at 7:00pm Bethany, along with her husband Adam, will share their incredible journey at the WinSport Arena at Canada Olympic Park. We wanted to make sure the CCS Community and Supporters have the first chance to get tickets to this amazing event as tickets are available NOW on ticketmaster's website using the Advance Pre-sale Code: **Soul1**. Tickets start opening up to other schools and communities soon, so don't delay as there are only 3100 seats available and we anticipate a sold-out event.

If you are interested in sponsoring this inspiring event by having your Company name/brand attached - contact Leona Schaap for more information at 403/242-2896 ext.352.

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!

Community Relations Office: 2839 49 Street SW, Calgary, AB T3E3X9 Phone: 403.242.2896 ext 352/362

Annual Dinner and Auction Fundraiser

by Corrin Brouwer, Development Coordinator



The annual Dinner and Auction “**It’s Your Move Fundraiser**” was a fun and interactive evening with parents, supporters, and parents of alumni joining together at the Red and White Club. Our initial count is just over \$28,000, closing in on our \$30,000 goal! The night was filled with games of friendly competition, good food, and animated discussions. People had fun playing Mega-Jenga, Kerplunk and sending others to (Monopoly) jail. The auctions were successful too! A special congratulations to the family who won the TAKE A CHANCE grand prize – a golden ticket voucher worth \$1000 towards their education fees at CCS! It was so exciting! No one left empty-handed – especially with a bag of treats from our Candyland candy bar. If you weren’t able to attend, we’d still value your support towards our goal. Contact the Community Relations Office to find out how you can make a difference! Ph: 403/242.2896 ext. 362

Items of Prayer and Thanksgiving

*At the time of writing, 31 students and chaperons are hiking the West Coast Trail! Pray for safety and a great experience for all!

*We are thankful for a successful Elementary Principal search. Mike Thiessen from Manitoba, will be joining us in September.

*CCS is thankful for the two students from Fort McMurray who joined our Elementary classes this past week; as well as for the support their family is receiving from Ambrose University and from our school.

*We ask for prayers for students and teachers as they prepare for the end of-the-year exams and tests.

*Please pray for the Principal search for our Secondary Campus as a suitable candidate has not yet been found.

*Give thanks for the many active volunteers and parents we have at CCS, who support our school in so many ways!

*The Mully Children’s Family Mission Choir performed at our Elementary School. We ask that you join us in prayer for this group as they continue the tour, sharing their story through song and creating awareness of the work being done in Kenya.

*Our school has students with leadership talents, in ALL grades, and we are excited for the roles they play in the classrooms, at recess, on their sports teams! May their gifts continue to be used for the Glory of God.

A Little Piece of History

by Karen Dees, Alumni Coordinator

The growth and success of Calgary Christian School did not come easy. The story of CCS began in 1954 with a small, passionate group of Dutch families, who had a vision to establish the first independent Christian School in Calgary. They prayed fervently for the resources to make the dream a reality, often sacrificing personal comforts to support the endeavour. Several obstacles threatened the process, but the determined group worked hard and in 1963, with 53 students, Calgary Christian School opened its doors in the basement of Maranatha Christian Reformed Church. Construction on a four-classroom school building was completed in 1965, and with the help of dedicated volunteers, the project was finished below budget at ~\$44,000.

At the opening ceremonies, Calgary West MLA Don Fleming promised to advocate the Alberta government for consistent funding for independent schools. Just a short time later, thanks in part to Don Fleming's work, a bill was passed in the spring of 1966, to provide a \$100 per year grant to each pupil attending a private school. It should be noted that this year marks fifty years since the monumental decision was made, helping to give recognition and a measure of equality to private schools like CCS in the province of Alberta. It would also help to relieve the pressure on the families who worked so hard and sacrificed so much to send their children to Calgary Christian School.



1965 - MLA Don Fleming, left, speaking with CCS staff in the new 4 classroom building. Gerben Vanderveen (second to left), Principal at the time, with daughter Karen (who is a CCS Alumna and current staff member)

In an article published in *The Albertan* in 1966, it was said, "Beginning September 1, annual provincial grants of \$100 per pupil will be paid to the 30 or so private schools in Alberta, in accordance with a measure passed by the 1966

session of the Legislature. We are happy partly because we think the private schools perform a useful function within the provinces' over-all educational structure. The greatest enemy of education is uniformity, for uniformity breeds complacency, stagnation, ossification."

Thank you so much to Mr. Hank Verhoeff (who was a member of the CSCE board at that time) for sharing his archives and first-hand memories in the writing of this article. At 91 years old, he is STILL as passionate about Christian Education as he was back then!

Robotics is the name of the game, but Calgary Christian Secondary School students are coming away with skills that far outweigh the mechanics involved. Team Robo-Kaos recently took part in the Western Canada FIRST Robotics Regional Competition in Calgary. The event saw almost three dozen teams of high school students from around the world build and program a robot they took into three days of intensive, head-to-head competition.

The team of 10 Calgary Christian students placed an impressive eighth through the qualification rounds, its best-ever showing in three years of competition. The rankings are based on completing very specific tasks in a medieval-type battle, but the lessons learned are much broader in scope. “You learn to work as a team and you learn to use skills you learned in school, like math and science skills,” said Chris Deren, captain of Team Robo-Kaos. The fact the student-competitors are able to test their knowledge and skills in a practical manner and aren’t just reading about it in a book can’t be emphasized enough.

“It’s real-world stuff and when your chain breaks in the middle of the competition, you need to think on your feet and not get upset about it,” added Hendria Nielsen, a parent and team mentor. “And you have to work as a team and under pressure – which can bring its own dynamics along – so it’s a really good experience for the kids.”

Deren has been with the Calgary Christian robotics team since it began and said their “quality of design and quality of critical thinking have improved drastically” over that span. “The first year our robot was barely functional. The next year it had some major quirks, and this year was fantastic,” said the Grade 12 student, adding he’s confident next year’s team will learn from this year and strive to place even higher.

The push for a robotics team was sparked after Kevin Sieswerda, then in Grade 9, was invited to join another Calgary school in the Western Canada regionals. He “caught the bug” and began the process of starting a team at Calgary Christian with his father, John, eventually taking the role of lead mentor. Some school teams are spearheaded by a teacher who is particularly passionate about robotics. The driving force at Calgary Christian has been a half-dozen mentors, primarily parents including some with engineering backgrounds like Nielsen and John, as well as alumni now working in the field.

Principal Jason Kupery said their interest and involvement is not lost on the school. “I think the biggest thing is the idea of community and how it feeds into our school goals and builds into the fabric of mentorship,” he said. “We have older kids in our school mentoring younger kids and getting them excited about robotics and we also have former students, alumni, who come back and lend a hand.”

While there are robotics competitions scheduled throughout the year, especially in eastern Canada and the U.S., the regional event has been the sole focus of Team Robo-Kaos as the cost can be prohibitive. The fee, including the cost of the robot kit all entrants receive, is \$8,700 and the team had to fundraise to cover that amount.

This year’s competition provided an additional twist and a new learning opportunity as the team’s top-eight finish in the qualifying rounds allowed them to be part of the process in picking teams of three for the final challenge. The team’s 11 matches earlier also saw schools compete in teams of three, but the squads were combined at random each time.

A lot of strategy, and scouting of the other schools, is involved in deciding who best to team up with to storm and capture the castle tower of the opposing alliance in the final challenge. “You have to understand what other teams can do and those who are complimentary to whatever the strengths of your robot are,” said John. “In an ideal world, you want to select an alliance mate that brings something into the team that you don’t have.”

Unfortunately, the Team Robo-Kaos entry experienced mechanical problems early in the final challenge and despite its best efforts to fix the robot, the alliance had to press on with just two team members. Both John and Nielsen were impressed that the team didn’t give up and continued with their problem-solving efforts. Deren was just glad their teammates, including one high-profile school, were very supportive despite Calgary Christian’s mechanical failure. Kupery said the robotics competition proves the value of learning through error. “One of the things we are trying to create in our culture is that it’s OK to fail because when you fail, it presents an amazing opportunity to learn something,” he said.

The competition offered students a chance to meet and interact with students in Grades 9 to 12 from across Canada, the U.S., Mexico, Israel and Australia. It’s also an opportunity to decide whether they might want to be involved in robotics or related fields beyond high school.

