



WHAT'S HAPPENING @ CCS

THE PERPETUAL NATIVITY SCENE KEN DEWYN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Decorating for the Christmas season is a longstanding tradition filled with sacred and secular icons of "the season". Evergreen trees filled with lights and ornaments, wreaths, bows, snowflakes, elves and reindeer festoon our homes and public spaces in anticipation of Christmas. One very special decorative tradition is the nativity scene depicting the Christ child's humble birth in a manger surrounded by his earthly parents, shepherds, livestock, and (with some literary licence) the "approaching" magi. It's a tradition that goes back to the 13th Century when St. Francis of Assisi assembled a life-sized, living display – including animals - to "cultivate the worship of Christ" in an Italian village. The practice caught on and lives with us today.

In the US, a nativity scene is sometimes referred to as a "crèche". It's a regionalism, to be sure, but one rooted in an old concept. For some state-side citizens, it means a sacred Christmas decoration; but, in continental Europe, a crèche is more likely a daycare – a place where little ones are cared for by adults other than their parents. Even in zoological terms, a crèche is a place where young animals are gathered in one place so that a small group of adults can care for them while the others go off and do their – well, animal work (this is true of bats and penguins in particular).

Upon reflection, it seemed particularly poignant to me that CCS could be considered a living nativity scene – a type of crèche if you will – where young people come together under the care of a few gifted adults to "cultivate the worship of Christ" in all they say, think and do.

So, maybe you didn't see a stylized baby Jesus in a manger when you dropped the kids off at one of our campuses this Advent season. But if you looked just beyond the parking lot and doorways, you may have recognized a perpetual, living example of God with us – a place where Christ reveals himself on a daily basis to adoring students, teachers and staff. On behalf of CCS - have a Joyous Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

RE-ENROLMENT REMINDER COMPLETE PAPERWORK

Re-enrolment documents for the 2017-18 school year are due back at school by January 9th. Thank you!

CLOTHING DRIVE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES



Thank you, thank you! I received way more clothing donations than I had anticipated, it's so great to see the generosity here at CCS. From Nicole, Grade 12 student who collected warm clothing as part of her Senior Project.

FOURTH ANNUAL ALUMNI TOURNAMENT YOU'RE INVITED

The FOURTH annual Alumni Tournament is coming up on Friday and Saturday, Dec 30 and 31! This year, parents, staff and varsity players will join alumni for a weekend of fun and competition! We encourage everyone, young and old, to come enjoy the action! Our full court, co-ed basketball game is going ahead on Friday, Dec 30 at 4pm. It's sure to be a crowd pleaser! Volleyball action starts bright and early on Saturday, Dec 31, at **9AM!** The teams are looking sharp and ready to play for glory!

For players and spectators alike, the weekend will offer a great community atmosphere, loads of door prizes, plus all-day Saturday concession available (with HOT lunch items).

We are also looking for door prize donations! If you can help out, please contact Karen, our Alumni Liaison at kdees@calgarychristianschool.com or complete [this form](#). We are looking forward to a great weekend!



ANNUAL DRIVE TAX RECEIPTS DONATE BY YEAR END

Our Annual Fund provides essential resource and materials that program fees alone cannot. It also ensures that Christian education at CCS will remain affordable to families for years to come. Please consider a gift towards the Annual Fund today and help strengthen each student's understanding of their unique gifts, their ability to rise to a challenge and to make a difference as children of God. [Donate online](#) by December 31 to receive a donation receipt for 2016.

BLESSINGS AND BURDENS RECENT HAPPENINGS

Our cooking event on November 24th was successful and a lot of fun. We had one group of parents cooking at the Elementary School kitchen and several others cooking individually at home. I would like to use this opportunity to thank everyone who participated and helped fill up the Blessings and Burdens' freezer.

We have received many needs in the last two weeks of November and with all the freshly cooked meals, we have been able to respond immediately. What a blessing it is to belong to a caring and kind community such as CCS!

1Peter 4:10 "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

CHRISTIAN CREDIT UNION WIN AN iPad MINI

To enter the draw all you need is a youth bank account, be in Grade 7-12 at Calgary Christian School and have a MEMBER CARD debit card. Stop by the Business Office to fill out your entry ballot. One entry per member. Don't have a debit card? No problem, sign up for one today! Visit www.christiancu.ca or [Community Relations](#) for more details. Contest runs until January 31, 2017.

SECONDARY SCHOOL INFO

PRINCIPAL REPORT

MR. LLOYD BOODY

December is an amazing month of activity, and the challenge is to navigate the busy times without losing sight of the Why for the season. I am encouraged that so much of our time, efforts and attention have been focused on putting our mission into action - *God's children making the world a better place*. Senior projects, grade 9 passion projects, our Giving Tree, baking for seniors at the Pantry, and supplying meals for members of our community facing health challenges are just some of the practical applications of those values. Seeing others' needs and responding is one of the strengths of our school community; thank you for your part in being grace to others.

Our drama - *Yo Vikings* - has just finished auditions and determining the cast. Thanks to Mrs. Delaney, we are now poised to begin the journey that will culminate in some outstanding team performances this spring. Remember the Business Office is ready to provide you with performance tickets at any point now.

Also beginning are the **9 basketball teams**. We are grateful for the expertise of our coaching staff, and look forward to some outstanding performances in the days ahead. Athletics and performing arts both offer the crucible opportunities of accepting the challenge to do and be your best. Go Cougars, err Vikings!

We enjoyed making *breakfast for our grade 12 class* this month for a new event. The students are actually never together as an entire class, as their schedules have them in smaller groupings. We felt it was important to give them an opportunity to continue their dialog and community development that was so positive back in September at Frontier Lodge.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL INFO

FAREWELL MRS. FRITSCHY RETIREMENT

As a community, we would like to say thank you to Mrs. Fritschy for her 12 years of service in our elementary library. Mrs. Fritschy has displayed a love for both books and students and has been a valued member of our staff. She will be retiring at Christmas time and is looking forward to having more time to travel to Vancouver Island to spend time with her children and grandchildren that live there. If you see Mrs. Fritschy, wish her God's blessings and a happy retirement! Please stay tuned in January for the announcement about our new librarian.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEXT MEETING

Join us for our next Parent Council meeting on Thursday, January 12 at 2pm at the Elementary School.



Looking ahead, everyone is excited to be embarking on a Christmas celebration, and the promise of hope in the New Year. Palliser Regional Schools has developed a pilot **Dual Credit** program with Ambrose University that will see some of our high school students enrolling in Religion 105 on their campus. Students will receive authentic university credits at the same time as they complete credits for an Alberta Learning high school course. Thanks also to our Society for partnering in this agreement, and to Jason Kupery for his leadership in making this project a reality.

January will also see the provincial **parent and student Accountability Surveys** distributed. These annual surveys provide qualitative data for our school's results, so we will be reminding each other of some of our highlights and strengths in the New Year. The surveys typically are completed by grade 7 and 10 students and their parents; this year the survey will be more comprehensive and extend to all of our students. That will provide us with invaluable information from our students' voice as we consider initiatives to improve our learning and school community.

Exams are also just around the corner in the New Year (the schedule is on our website). While making a plan for review and optimizing performance during exams will be a focus in January, let's first enjoy a break in the learning routines to celebrate our Saviour's birth with family and friends. Rest, relax, worship, play... Enjoy the unique foods and activities of the holiday season, and continue to see the opportunities to be God's grace to each other. *Enjoy the gifts and favour of our good Father, in this most joyous of seasons. Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year to you upon whom His favour rests.*

You are invited to the Secondary Winter Band Concert on January 11, 7 pm in Secondary Gym.



KIDS ONLY STORE HUGE SUCCESS!

Thank you to all who participated in our special Christmas store. We made over \$1,000 for families at CCS, thanks in part to a large amount of donated items and stock from last year! It was great to see the Grade 5 and 6 students in their leadership roles helping younger students with their purchases, collecting money and wrapping!



LIGHTS IN THE WORLD WAY TO GO!

In Science, the grade 4 students studied light and shadows. As part of this unit, they raised money to help buy lanterns for people in Bangladesh. When these people have light at night, they are able to study and learn. Five dollars bought one lantern. In total the grade 4 classes collected \$1057.05 which equals 211 lanterns! Our Grade 5 students have collected socks (over 47 pairs!) and other needed items for the Mustard Seed. Thanks for making a difference in our world!