

CONNECT

SYMBOLS OF HOPE AND LIFE

What do eggs, beeswax and Easter have in common? A beautiful creation of pysanky (Ukrainian Easter eggs) by our Grade Three students. This wonderful and unique project has been a CCS tradition for over 20 years! Maybe you have one of these special eggs on display in your home.

First our young students use pencils to draw their designs, which are meant to tell the story of faith in God. Next, the children trace their drawings with a tool called a "kistka", which writes beeswax onto the egg. The egg is carefully dipped into a light coloured dye and patted dry. This process is repeated using a medium coloured dye and then a dark colour. All the wax is then removed (by helpful volunteers!) and a beautiful pysanka is revealed! (*con't on pg3*)



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

JADAN BARTHEL, HIGH SCHOOL VICE-PRINCIPAL

I try to create more than I consume but I have a nemesis constantly pulling me towards the latter. It's name is Netflix. To avoid the well known ailment of chronic scrolling (the inevitable process of swiping through lists of video content in search of the right choice for the right time for the right crowd which typically takes more time than the watching of said choice) I typically rely on the recommendations of friends. This list of recommended options is long but I recently settled on 'This Is Us'. I have sat down to watch this show twice which means I am on episode 9... naturally.

I think 'This Is Us' is worth consuming because amongst the many issues that it tries to tackle are numerous examples of authentic (messy) relationships. The type of honest portrayals that draw you and I in because we can see ourselves in one of the characters. Good relationships put a window into what was previously a wall between you and another human being. They provide a glimpse into what is real and authentic which is (*con't pg2*)

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SPRING FUNDRAISER

The Annual Dinner and Auction Fundraiser takes place on **Friday, April 27** at the Red and White Club.

Tickets available online or phone Leona 403.242.2896 ext 352 to purchase today and support CCS!

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS (CONT)

much different than following a social media highlight reel because real relationships breed empathy, not comparison.

To bring you up to speed, here are some of the current ways that Calgary Christian Secondary School staff are using to connect with our students. Although relationship building is not the primary outcome of all of these events, they all provide an opportunity to strengthen the connection we have with our students:

Belize Trip 2018 - an annual excursion to central america to build structures, capacity, and relationships amongst students and Belizeans

Friday Morning Hockey - a weekly game of hockey amongst staff, students, and parents to build hockey skills and relationships amongst all those who play

Coaching - an ongoing investment into our students as they build physical, mental, and emotional skills and develop relationships outside school hours

Drama Production - an annual event designed to showcase creativity and to bolster connections amongst staff and students

Faith Formation - this year our focus has been sharing 'My Story' - an opportunity for honest life reflection that strengthens trust amongst staff and students

Classrooms - a daily intention to understand the unique, amazing story of each and every one of our students

It is through relationship that successes and failures become celebrated aspects of our journeys. Moments that should foster high fives, hugs, a listening ear, laughs, shared tissues, words of encouragement, and not just a double tap or swipe on a screen. A good relationship is where learning and confidence begin - they are worth our energy. Let's all continue to create the spaces needed for good relationship building and if you need something to consume, check out 'This Is Us'.

ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS AT CCHS

"This eliminates specific barriers within our school, and opens up new opportunities for our community to enjoy what CCS has to offer." Ken DeWyn

When a middle school student, who relies on his wheelchair, expressed his deep desire to attend CCS for high school – just like his siblings had -- forces mobilized to address a long standing need in our facilities: accessibility. Now, thanks to a generous \$45,000 foundation grant, the CSCE Board has approved and prioritized the installation of a wheelchair lift and construction of additional accessible washrooms in our secondary school building. The project will provide access to all three levels of the building and be completed for the start of the 2018-19 school year – in time for this student to start his grade 10 year.

"This eliminates specific barriers within our school, and opens up new opportunities for our community to enjoy what CCS has to offer," said Executive Director Ken DeWyn. "Whether it's a student in a wheelchair, or an athlete on crutches, or a parent/grandparent with limited mobility, the lift will serve our community in many ways."

In addition to the purchase of the lift and build out of washrooms, the scope of work will include replacing door knobs with levers and automating entrance doors.

If you would like to support the purchase and installation of these facility improvements with a Donation, a form is available on our website. Or, contact our Executive Director by phone ([403.242.2896 ext. 320](tel:403.242.2896)) or email Kdewyn@calgarychristianschool.com.



Ms. Bolink helping with Pysanky eggs with Grade 3

PYSANKY EGGS (CON'T)

Sharon Bolink, our current Grade Two teacher, has been leading this project for years with our students as it's a perfect tie-in to the Grade Three curriculum: studying Ukrainian Culture. "As a creation-enjoyer and beauty-creator, this vivid and colourful project brings me great delight! Each pysanka is meant to tell the story of Easter, so the symbols and colours are important. A circle symbolizes that God is infinite and He promises us everlasting life. The cross reminds us that Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins. Many other symbols reflect the various names of our Messiah: Morning Star, Rose of Sharon, King of Kings... Seeing each unique pysanka, written with the story of Christ paying for all of our sins, and knowing we one day get to live in heaven with God, makes me marvel at God's great love for each of us (John 3:16). This very hands-on project, with colours and symbols, is a fantastic way to point out to my students that our great God loves them and that He wishes to give them eternal life with Him in heaven!"

Pysanky, are "the most beautiful Easter eggs of all. They are a symbol of hope and life, of spring's triumph over winter, and of God's endless love for all creatures, great and small."

The Birds' Gift – A Ukrainian Easter Story, retold by Eric Kimmel

SADDLEDOME EVENT

*By Megan
Grade 6 student*

On January 31, 2018, CCS was invited to the Scotiabank Saddledome for a private Calgary Flames practice. There were four main speakers that told us about their careers on the team.

Ed explained his job to make and paint the ice. The amazing videos you see on the jumbotron are done by Richard. Facebook and Twitter Flames post are done by Paul. Rob works on commentating the game for the Fan radio station. Five schools, including Calgary Christian School, were invited to this enthralling event.

When asked the question 'What was your favourite part of the field trip?' Calgary Christian School's teacher of 6SG, Mrs. Gooliaff gave this response, "I liked the possible career options for my awesome students." Same question, the reply from Natasha in 5TM, "I thought watching them do their exercises on the ice was cool."

CCS thanks Everfi (an Education Technology Company) for inviting the students to the Saddledome.



PARTNERS IN LEARNING

Thank you to these alumni, parents and friends of CCS who participated in our first PARTNERS IN LEARNING initiative that took place in December. We appreciate the time you took to share with our Secondary students your knowledge, insights, life skills and professional experience. This allowed our students to get a chance to experience the real world through you; opening their hearts and minds to what it may take to foster opportunities and see what their futures could look like! Another opportunity is being planned for May.

MR. ABMA REMEMBERED

If you've been a part of the CCS community in any capacity since 1983, you will have interacted with Mr. Richard Abma, long-time teacher and CCS parent. In the 32 years he worked at CCS, Mr. Abma impacted the lives of hundreds of students and co-workers, as well as their families. Described by one alumnus as "one of those most influential teachers ... one who encouraged [his students] to think critically and deeply care about what [we] were learning", it is clear he has left his mark on the CCS community in a profoundly positive way.



Mr. Richard Abma

In the fall of 2016, Mr. Abma was diagnosed with cancer. He fought his battle bravely, with the steady light and humor Richard is so well known for. Even in the last week of his life, he was able to laugh and poke fun at those who had the privilege of spending time with him. Richard Abma passed away early in the morning on January 17, 2018, leaving behind his wife Wendy, 5 children, two sons-in-law, one grandchild and many other loved ones. On January 27, Richard's friends, family, former students and colleagues filled the pews of River Park Church to celebrate his life and share memories.

Overwhelmingly, Richard is remembered as a man who loved the outdoors, enjoyed sports, lived his faith, taught with authority and kindness, was passionate about social justice and the environment, served with integrity and humility and had the most infectious sense of humour! It is evident that he was the same person with his family as he was in the classroom as he was in his role with the Justice Film Festival and so on. (con't)



Cara Milne, Rachel Elyas, Clinton and Rachel VanderVeen, Scott Crockatt, Hendrik Greidanus, Rob Bassett, Connie Fraser, Wendell Koning, Chris Prefontaine, Trent Offereins (not pictured).

IN LOVING MEMORY (CON'T)

"Mr. Abma played a huge role in my education and experience at CCS – from learning Social Studies to playing soccer with him as the coach, he was a firm and caring instructor and I have nothing but great memories," says Stephen Okanlawon, class of '14. Jeff Jones, class of '98, remembers, "Mr. Abma cared deeply for his students but he wasn't afraid to challenge them." Alumnus Chris Cramer, who also serves on the Maintenance team at CCS noted that "Richard appreciated the work we did to maintain the school and his classroom was neater than any of the other classrooms in the school." So many former students remember his laugh, his eclectic tie collection, the way he challenged each one to think and explore and appreciate the subjects he taught, the interest he took in his students and the influence he had on so many, lasting many, many years after graduation! Tayah (Dykema) McKenzie ('13) credits Mr. Abma's encouragement as one of the reasons she chose nursing as her profession today.

Even though Richard Abma can no longer teach students at the front of the classroom, or enjoy a weekend in the mountains or play a prank on a sibling, his memory will last and his influence will continue. One of his final words to friend and colleague, Hank Beeksma, is a beautiful motto that can apply to all of us who loved Richard: "Enjoy your friends. Enjoy your family. Enjoy creation. Enjoy God."



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT BY KAREN DEES, ALUMNI COORDINATOR

Tayah (Dykema) McKenzie ('13) recently graduated with her Bachelor of Nursing degree from the University of Lethbridge! She also got married this past June to Clay, whom she met in the College Library there! "God was definitely looking out for me that day," says Tayah with a smile. We celebrate Tayah's exciting accomplishments over the past year!

Tayah is currently working as a Registered Nurse in Sundre, AB, a town about an hour and a half NW of Calgary. "It's a tiny hospital," Tayah tells us, "so I see from birth to death everyday! Which always ensures for an interesting shift!" She and her husband, Clay, live in Olds, AB. Now that Tayah is done school (and living in a small town), she has more time on her hands to explore new hobbies. Tayah loves to bake, read and go

camping! She is excited to start trying out her green thumb! She also looks forward to some more exciting travel opportunities than just driving back and forth between Calgary (home to her family) and Lethbridge (university)!

When asked to recount some memories from high school, Tayah couldn't name just one.

"I went to CCS my entire schooling," Tayah begins. "I loved so many of my teachers. Mr. Dykema was without a doubt my favourite; great guy, very funny; almost like a brother to me." (Mr. Dykema is, in fact, Tayah's brother!) "I also loved Mrs. Jullion, my grade 4 teacher. She was and is one of the best people that I think I will ever meet. (con't)



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT (CON'T)



*“CCS, as a whole,
shaped my approach to
the world.
It allowed me to enter
the adult world with
confidence”*

She was so kind and patient with us, and always encouraged us to be the best that we could be. She always took what 9 year olds said seriously, and treated us with respect. A task I have learned is very difficult. I will never forget her kindness and support.”

“I will also never forget Mr. Abma,” Tayah continues. “He was the kind of man that always challenged you to think bigger and broader. From him I learned how to think beyond my self and how my actions might affect the world. He was actually one of the first people to tell me to be a nurse, and that is a part of why I am one today.”

“CCS gives you the opportunity to make a close knit group of friends. The friends that I had in high school are still the ones that I hold most dear today. The community that you are able to develop at CCS is amazing. I was lucky enough to play sports and participate in some of the theatre productions. This allowed me to have a wide social circle and a community that I felt supported by day in and day out. A community that I still rely on in times of need. CCS, as a whole, shaped my approach to the world. It allowed me to enter the adult world with confidence, to know my value and my strengths. CCS gave me the foundation that my faith needed. To see other believers struggle yet still succeed, to be able to ask questions and feel lost without fear of judgement. My faith has also allowed me to excel at my job where I try to embody Christ with every patient, knowing that my actions and my caring make a large impact on how my patients feel. Nursing can be scary - emotionally and physically draining - and I need God to give me the strength to be calm and confident, and to get through every shift without burning out.”

Thank you for sharing your story, Tayah. Thanks for being the kind of nurse we would all want to have by our hospital bedside. Thanks for your tribute to CCS and the community that has set you up for the successes you are enjoying today, more than 4 years later!

We love catching up with alumni of all ages! If you'd be willing to share your story in an upcoming Alumni Highlight feature, please email:

kdees@calgarychristianschool.com

YOU ARE INVITED

Wednesday,

April 18, 2018

4-6 pm

**Open House
to Honour
former CCS Teacher**

**Mrs. Jane
Nieuwenhuis**

At Calgary Christian High School
5029 26 Ave SW

The Community is invited to send a word, song, short story or photo, which reminds them of Mrs. Nieuwenhuis, to

celebrateMrsJaneN@gmail.com





Players and fans enjoyed the games and had fun re-connecting on and off the court!

FIFTH ANNUAL ALUMNI TOURNAMENT

An increasingly popular event, the Fifth Annual Alumni Sports Tournament, held on December 29 and 30, was another great success! The basketball and volleyball competition drew alumni of all ages and their families, as well as a mix of current parents and students; over 100 participants came together over the weekend, with dozens more watching the action from the stands! The atmosphere was celebratory – of the CCS community, of the opportunity to compete, to reconnect with old teammates and to make new friends!

Several graduates who went on to play college sports returned to compete in the tournament, alongside current students with only a year or two of experience under their belts. Despite the differences in background, age and skill level, with CCS as the common thread, connections were made on the court and off; memories shared and new experiences forged.

“I love volleyball, and I really appreciated the opportunity to play in the Alumni Tournament,” says Lexie Nauta, first-time participant and 15-year old daughter of alumni, Arlie and Chrissie Nauta (‘98). “It was really cool to meet people that my parents grew up with. Everybody at the tournament was very friendly and had great sportsmanship. It was a great experience, and I am excited to participate again in future years!”

Jim Zielstra, who attended CCS in the late 70s, returns to compete year after year because he says, “It provides an opportunity to play side by side with my family (also CCS alumni) in a competitive environment. It is also a great time to get reacquainted with people that I haven’t seen in a long time and share some memories.”

Elenore (Hassenrueck) Doerksen (‘98), who now lives in Winnipeg and was able to watch part of the tournament, said, “It was so nice for me to see people at the alumni tournament over Christmas. It really reminded me about how good it is to connect with people.”

“The tournament always delivers great quality sport and it’s fun to return to something that has always been important in the CCS culture,” says yearly participant, Mark Wiens (‘03).

The goal of the Alumni Tournament is to foster community and to enjoy strong competition in a positive and fun environment. Meeting this goal year after year has contributed to its continued growth and success! We can’t wait for next year!

Special Events

YOU are invited!

Choral Concert

April 25

Emmanuel Church 7pm

**Spring Dinner &
Auction Fundraiser**

April 27

Red and White Club

**Fine Arts & Senior
Project Evening**

May 22

Secondary Campus

Band Concert

May 30

Emmanuel Church 7pm

Golf Tournament

June 15

Note new location:

Valley Ridge Golf Course

High School Graduation

June 28

Bethany Chapel

**CALGARY CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL**

There is still time to participate in our 2017/18 Annual Drive!

You can make a difference by strengthening our ability to provide Christ-centered education at CCS with a financial gift.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school! We welcome your participation and questions. Please connect with our Development Coordinator, Tanya at 403.242.2896 ext 348 or visit us online.

MYSTERY MASTERPIECE FUNDRAISER

Join us for an unforgettable evening on Friday, April 27 at the Red and White Club at McMahon Stadium, where mystery is on the menu and the food is at the buffet! A special piece of commissioned student artwork has gone missing and it's up to our guests to help solve the mystery! The evening includes silent and live auctions, buffet dinner, cash bar and fun, interactive entertainment.

Details and tickets are available on the school website: www.calgarychristianschool.com.

Monetary or item donations are welcome. Please contact Corrin Brouwer in the Community Development Office for further information. cbrouwer@calgarychristianschool.com



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SAVE THE DATE!

Time to start thinking about enjoying the outdoors!

Join Calgary Christian School for their
24th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY, JUNE 15

We're excited to announce a new location:

Valley Ridge Golf Course

11618 Valley Ridge
Park NW

