

June 2019

# Connect



## A Special Reunion!

### Karen Dees, Alumni Coordinator

It was 50 years ago that the very first graduating class of Calgary Christian School celebrated their special commencement day! CCS did not yet have a high school, so these students had to move on to complete grades 10-12 elsewhere. As you will read, despite humble circumstances, there was much to celebrate when the first Grade 9 class graduated in 1969 and even more so today, 5 decades later!

On Saturday, June 15, 2019 the Grade 9 Class of 1969 held their 50 Year Reunion, and for extra fun, the Grade 9 Class of 1970 and a few old teachers were also invited! The event was a simple dinner and dessert evening with a few fun games and a tour of the school. Mostly, it was spent reminiscing, looking at old memorabilia and photos and reconnecting with one another - some of whom hadn't seen each other for DECADES!

Many of the folks in attendance at Saturday's reunion event were one of the "originals"; one of CCS' first students or staff

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## Connecting!

**Monique Wagner**  
Elementary Vice Principal

May 28 was a beautiful day on which the elementary school held its annual Track and Field Day. Students participated in events such as running races, long jump, high jump and shot put. Once they were finally tired, the students were thrilled to reach the rest stop, where they each received a freezie. And to make that rest stop even better, there were special guests at the freezie stop, waiting for them. These guests were seniors from Shalem Manor, who took time from their day to hang out with us and hand out freezies. What a special way for our two communities to connect, and we look forward to more of these activities together!



*West Coast Trail group 2019*

## Hiking the West Coast Trail

**Zaak Robichaud , High School Teacher**

The annual West Coast Trail trip for Grade 10 Outdoor Education students was a resounding success again this past May. 25 students completed the challenging backpacking trip along the southwestern coast of Vancouver Island following months of preparation in Mr. Bonk's Outdoor Ed course. Two teams, each with four chaperones left from opposite ends of the trail in Pacific Rim National Park and met midway to share a campground, a massive bonfire and stories of what was to come on the trail. For 7 days, students carried their gear up steep ladders, across rivers, over boulders, along sandy beaches and sea shelves, through meadows, bogs and forests, and even on cable cars and rope bridges. Students impressed the chaperones with their dehydrated evening meals, among the best ever made on the hike (the north-bound team even had chocolate fondue one evening). Students consistently brought up the natural beauty of God's creation that surrounded them at evening devotions, noting the constant crashing of the waves, the huge coastal trees and the wildlife. Reflecting on their experiences, students express gratitude for the opportunity, amazement at what their bodies are capable of and the appreciation for the deep sense of community they found on the trail - and how stinky the smoke from the campfires are.





*There are flags that represent people from all around the world that come to our school. We are a community here. Grade 4 Student*

## New TFT Throughlines Cards

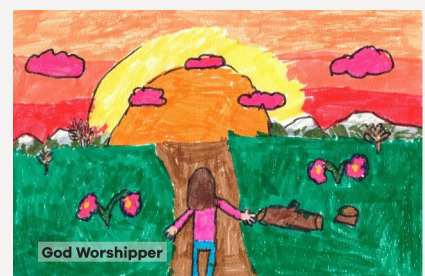
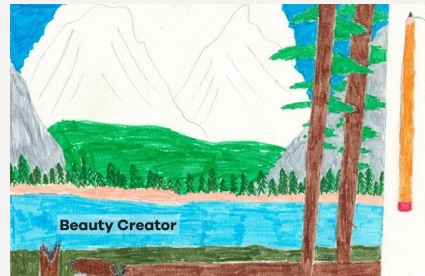
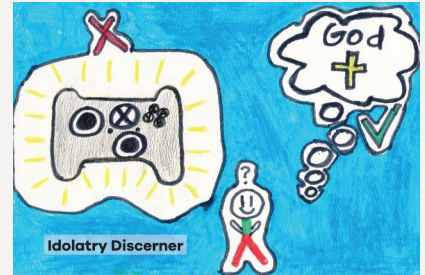
**Mike Thiesen, Elementary Principal**

On the elementary campus some teachers have postcards highlighting the TFT Throughlines (Beauty-creating, Earthkeeping, God Worshippers) around the door-ways of their classrooms, and others in the classrooms themselves. What is TFT? It is Teaching for Transformation; the Christian aspect of our curriculum that all things in this world belong to God. At one point last year one of the teachers on staff said, "why don't we make these posters and postcards using our own students pictures and artwork?" A fantastic idea!! So for the postcards this year our students have worked on their own Throughlines design as one of their art activities. The result is that we now have Throughlines postcards that are made by our own students here at CCES.

We use these postcards at every admissions interview, and it is neat to be able to highlight that they were drafted by the very students that the prospective children would meet in the hallways of the school. Ms. Vandermeer deserves special mention in this regard, taking the project all the way from idea through implementation to fruition.



*There are flowers and trees because I like them and they are beautiful. I love creation. Grade 1 Student*



## Grade 9 Passion Project

### Maria Brouwer, CCS Student

The purpose of the Passion Project for our Grade 9 students, is to help them participate in God's story by using their passions and gifts to meet a real need in the world. This is one opportunity for our students to practice discipleship, or as our tagline states, a way we are helping students "Learn, to shape God's world." It was wonderful to see individuals grow and learn so much during this process! Here is Maria's reflection on her project.

"My church is connected to the Glenbrook school, so I thought it would be cool if I could help them out. I have a really big passion for sports. I wanted to incorporate my biggest passion so I thought I could get the school either gym or recess equipment. When I contacted them, they were in more need of recess equipment, so I followed through with this idea, and had a great time. At first I wasn't sure how I was going to get the money to buy the equipment, until my attention was brought to baking. I love baking, my grandma and I used to always bake every time I visited her. She taught me how to make everything and baking is a big reason why I am so close to my grandma. I fell in love with the idea of doing a bake sale, and I was excited to start baking.



Maria baking with her grandma

I made different kinds of cookies, muffins, and loaves. I also made some of my famous family recipes like squares (chocolate chip squares, similar to a cookie), Koek (a dutch spice cake), and O'Henry squares (layered graham cookies, coconut mixture, and icing). I sold my baking at my church, RockPointe. I spoke in front of the whole church, and told them what I was doing. After the service

ended, many people bought baking and donated money. I made a total of \$947.85. I filled two tables full of baking, and was left with a small bucket which was brought to the staff room at the Glenbrook School. With the money I bought a whole bunch of recess equipment for the Glenbrook School. They gave me a wish list of everything they would want, like soccer balls, frisbees, skipping ropes, chalk, and basketballs. I was able to get all the items on their wish list! Once I got all the equipment I set a time to meet with the teacher I had been in contact with. She brought the recess club to the front office where I waited with all the toys. **It was so cool to see all the faces when the kids saw the equipment.** It was almost like Christmas, when everyone is surprised and excited when opening gifts. The kids were so happy, and it was amazing to see.

Over the course of my project, I learned that it is easier to do something that you love. I love baking, and I love sports. I found that it was easy to bake, I had fun baking, and that's because I enjoy creating delicious treats. And I also had a good time buying all the equipment. Since I love sports so much, I knew exactly what I wanted to buy them. If I had to do a whole paper on the government, I would not enjoy that. I don't like social studies very much, and I don't enjoy writing about that. I think that you will always enjoy doing something when you truly love it. I also found out that it is easier to spend money for other people. It is easier to spend money that's not yours, and is not for you.

### ***This Passion Project was a great experience, and I learned so many different things.***

Another cool thing about my project is about my church. It was really cool to have my whole church behind me and supporting me. When I spoke in front, on the day of the bake sale, all I saw was happy faces cheering me on. My church was so supportive. The fact that I was able to raise nearly a thousand dollars from their donations was just really amazing. After the bake sale, my pastor kept checking in to find an update. He was so excited and into my project. He thought it was really cool what I was doing. After giving away the equipment I spoke in front of my church again. I gave an update on how much money I raised, how the kids responded, and just how thankful I was of their open hearts. The church responded with love, and were so proud of what I was able to accomplish.



Maria speaking at her church





## A Special Reunion (cont'd)

members. It was their families who sacrificed greatly and worked very hard to bring the dream of a Christian school in Calgary to fruition.

Calgary Christian School wasn't an overnight success. The first meeting to discuss the possibility of a Christian school in Calgary happened in 1954. There were many hurdles to jump and much work to do. At times, the plan must have seemed impossible to fulfill. Even when CCS opened its doors in 1963, it was in the basement of Maranatha Christian Reformed Church, with 53 students and just a few staff members. There wasn't much to work with, supplies were scrounged together, the teachers had to be resourceful and creative.

***Yet, God was faithful to Calgary Christian School and through the vision, sacrifice and steadfast dedication of those founding families, CCS grew and flourished.***

In 1964, Calgary Christian School moved from the church basement into a beautiful, new 4-classroom building. In 1966, with 4 teachers and 121 students, another 4 classrooms and a library were added. By 1972, the school had a beautiful new gymnasium, built with money raised through the Hike for Health initiative. In September of 1975, the school added grades 10 and 11, expanding to a second rented location. In 1977, a 2-storey, 12 room addition was built, but even after that, the need to rent additional space was apparent by 1979, due to growing K-12 enrolment. In 1990, CCS made the monumental purchase of the Westwinds Curling Club for 1.1 million and the Secondary Campus opened in the old banquet and office facilities. In 2001, the student population was 679. By 2003, the renovation of the entire curling club was complete and the Secondary Campus now had its own gymnasium, additional classrooms and amenities. In 2010 and again in 2012, more expansion happened at the Elementary Campus and as we speak, plans are in the works to look at another expansion for the Secondary Campus. Currently, 836 students are registered for the 2019-2020 school year.

It was an honour to recount this rich history to those in attendance at Saturday's reunion event and to thank them for sticking it out through those beginning years. Because of God's faithfulness to the "originals" and His blessing of their hard work and commitment, thousands of students have enjoyed learning and growing at CCS over the years. We can take much from their example! We may not enjoy the fruits of our efforts directly or get to witness growth in our lifetimes, but the vision God places on our hearts and the tools He gives us to accomplish His will become the legacy we leave behind for future generations.

## Summit Explores Agile Learning Space Design

By Ken DeWyn, Executive Director

A panel of CCS stakeholders, including parents, board members, teachers, and other CCS staff, invested two days together to articulate values, explore design options, and review current plans for the expansion of Calgary Christian's secondary school facilities. The lively and productive discussion was facilitated by David Stubbs and his wife, Suzanne. Trained as an architect, working for decades with schools, and now designing efficient furniture and storage solutions to support "agile learning environments", Mr. Stubbs is the founder of Cultural-Shift, a design and consulting firm. His work has helped schools in the US and Canada design and develop learning spaces that foster greater student engagement.

Among the many design features reviewed, the panel was asked to consider how the design functioned to support CCS's faith and values, its Five Pillars of Excellence, and encourage a deeper connection between learning and the greater world.

The panel also took time to walk the facility, identifying strengths and challenges in the current facility, as well as opportunities to enhance traffic flow, support health and wellness, improve security, provide efficient storage, and create spaces easily adaptable to varied learning styles and activities. These observations and ideas were then shared by the panel with the project architects, Sahuri + Partners.

A revised set of drawings reflecting the summit's suggested improvements is targeted for review in September. In October, a written rationale and the projected costs for the project will be presented to a portion of the CCS community to gauge support for the project. Results from this due diligence process - affirming the design and assessing the willingness to financially support it -- will be used by the CSCE Board to determine next steps.

## Passion for Christian Education Runs Deep



Welcome Mr. Barthel to his new role as Secondary Principal.

Pictured here with his dad, former CCS student, and his Oma, who was part of the building blocks of our community; fundraising and working hard to help create a Christian school in Calgary.



## 25th Golf Tournament

June 15 marked the 25th Annual Golf Tournament! This year's event was hosted at the Valley Ridge Golf Course and we're thankful the rain was minimal. It is wonderful and encouraging to see old and new faces each year, determining this event is not just about raising money but also about creating community.

This year we were honoured to have members of the **original Golf Committee attend the event; Peter DeBoer, Carolyn Huisman, Glenn Minnesma, Richard Winkelaar and Clarence Weening (Bert Hagens was unable to attend)**. We are grateful for their initiative and drive many years ago to raise funds for our Secondary gymnasium and many other projects. A special thank you goes to DeJong's Insurance who has been our dinner sponsor since the very beginning, what dedication to Calgary Christian!



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