

November 2019

Connect



Celebrating 75 Years

Liberation of Holland

As our K-12 students and staff heard in our special Remembrance Day services on Friday, November 8, 1.1 million Canadians fought in the Netherlands in World War II! This was 1/10th of the population of Canada at that time so many Canadians and their families were affected by this. Many of us know grandparents, seniors from our churches and communities who experienced first hand the realities of having a loved one live in wartimes or fight for freedom. To commemorate the significance of Canada's contribution, the government of the Netherlands recently sent 1.1 million tulip bulbs to schools across Canada. Our Social 20 class and Grade 6 students planted the bulbs on October

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Class of 1979 Reunion



Elementary Gymnasium

Donations Fuel Enhancements at CCS

From Ken DeWyn, Executive Director

The CCS Annual Fund (AF) is our school's primary source of funding improvements. It is used to acquire equipment, materials, and innovative programming. Interest in our alternative Christian program and student enrolment are both on the rise (up to 844 students this year). This places greater demands on our programs, facilities and equipment. **Thanks to the generous donations** of parents and friends, we've been able to address important strategic needs in the last two years to support continued growth and effective learning. In 2018, donations made it possible to install a motorized lift and additional washrooms that improved accessibility at our secondary campus. In 2019, the elementary school benefited from large "rejuvenation projects". These included new lights, a colourful new floor, fresh paint, and improved storage for the gymnasium and a complete make-over for the music room featuring structural reinforcements, new lights, carpet, plumbing, and storage. The library also began its transformation into a more flexible space with the addition of movable bookshelves and tables.

All these improvements are only possible through the generous gifts of our families and friends. **Thank you** for helping make the Christian education experience at CCS more welcoming, more dynamic, and more fulfilling. With your charitable donations, we continue to enhance learning that shapes God's world.



Remembrance Day Chapel with Special Guests

Celebrating 75 years cont'd

31 with guests from Shalem, the senior's living complex next door to CCS. Our guests from Shalem were then invited to our services to share some of their memories of living as children in Holland when the war broke out. It was a meaningful time as Mrs. DeKlerk, Mrs. Joad, and Mr. and Mrs. DeGraaff talked about the hardships of living in Holland during the war and their gratitude to Canadians for their service. We are thankful to everyone who participated in our Remembrance Day services and we look forward to spring when the bulbs have transformed into beautiful tulips!



Special Events

YOU are invited!

December 11 at 7pm

Christmas Concert (Gr7-12)

Emmanuel CRC

December 17 at 6:30pm

K-Gr3 Christmas Concert

Bethany Chapel

January 15 at 7pm

CCS Winter Band Concert

Emmanuel CRC



December 28

Alumni Volleyball Tournament

Secondary Campus, CCS

Games happening all day

Concession available

Calgary Christian School is honoured and grateful to have received a Legacy Gift



Mrs. Tinneke Dooge

Mrs. Tina Dooge, a familiar presence at CCS for many years, passed away suddenly on Sunday, October 6, 2019 in Calgary, Alberta. In the 1970's, Mrs. Dooge often covered long term teaching absences. She was also a regular substitute teacher, and remained connected to the school throughout her life. Tina was born in Leeuwarderadeel, Friesland, The Netherlands. She was a published author of several children's books still widely read in Holland.

In Calgary, Tina served on the Board of Managers and the Women's Fellowship of Grace Presbyterian Church for many decades, offering gracious hospitality and enjoying long-term committed friendships. She was also a long-time volunteer for the Inn From the Cold program. Tina is survived by two sisters, a brother, and numerous relatives in Canada, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Australia. She was predeceased last year by Jasper Dooge, her loving husband of over 60 years.

Mrs. Dooge's volunteer spirit and professional commitments were reflected in her last wishes. Among her bequests was a Legacy Gift to the Calgary Society for Christian Education, the founding and operating organization of CCS. We are deeply grateful for her years of service and her thoughtful gift to our school.



If you would like to consider preparing a Legacy Gift, you are invited to contact Ken DeWyn, Calgary Christian School's Executive Director (403.242.2896) or connect with Paul Stehelin, Christian Stewardship Service (800.267.8890 x230)

Alumna Returns to Teach at Elementary School



*Rachel (Lott) Rand,
Elementary Teacher*

Rachel (Lott) Rand (class of 2000) was a familiar student face around CCS in the late 90s. And now she's BACK walking the halls of CCS again - this time as a TEACHER at the Elementary School! Here's what she told us about changing careers and choosing to return to CCS: "After years in a career as a graphic designer in Ontario, life took a different turn!" says Rachel. "I relocated back to Calgary with my family, decided to enrol in university (after being out of school for 15 years), and have now recently graduated with a Bachelor of Education. As my desire was to teach in a Christian environment, God has opened doors by placing me in a grade 3 class at my alma mater, CCS. It is such a privilege to be back, this time across the soccer field [at the Elementary Campus]. I look forward to what else He has planned for my career, and have truly experienced that it's not too late to go in a different path when His hand is guiding it!"

Thanks for sharing, Rachel! We wish hope you've had a wonderful start to the school year.



Mr. Barthel with Alumni on roadside in Oregon

Relational, Rigorous, Relevant

Article from Metro News reprinted with permission

When Jadan Barthel, principal at Calgary Christian School (CCS), and his wife were on vacation in Oregon last summer, they planned to meet with two alumni of the faith-based alternative high school. Timing was on the graduates' side as Barthel was able to assist with a bike repair by taking them to the nearest town. This type of commitment to students, he says, actually reflects CCS's fresh approach to teaching. "Our students know graduation isn't the end point of their relationship with us because we do our best to ensure CCS is a place they feel welcome and where they know they can be themselves," Barthel says. CCS, an alternative program within the Palliser School Division operated by the Calgary Society for Christian Education, seeks to create an atmosphere in which the Christian faith is integrated into every aspect of academics and in which the overall learning experience is relevant, rigorous and relational. It's these 3Rs which, says Barthel, allow him and his staff to help prepare students for today's world.

"Our students know graduation isn't the end point of their relationship with us."

Jadan Barthel, Secondary Principal, Calgary Christian School

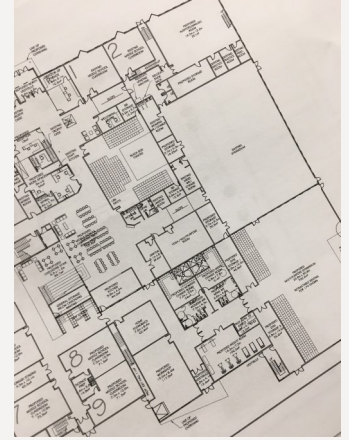
"Relational examines what we can do to know our students," he says. "One way of doing this is by collecting and sharing monthly anecdotes about students among staff to learn who our students are. As a result, an increased sense of belonging is created that makes students more willing to become active participants. "When we look at rigour, we're thinking that students are capable of doing really outstanding work and we challenge them to do their best in academics, sports, arts and spiritual life. Finally, relevance is how we continuously work to understand young people in an ever changing world. We do a lot of listening and engage them in conversations about things we think are affecting them. We want our students to leave CCS and bring light into this world."



Mock up of the front of the entrance of the Secondary school from architects

Study Shows Strong Support for Expansion Project

On November 26, the CSCE Board reported that a recent feasibility study found strong support for the Society to pursue a building expansion plan for its secondary campus. The study, drawn from a sample group of CCS supporters, also showed that more than 80% of those surveyed would be willing to contribute financially to a plan that adds new learning spaces, corrects existing shortcomings, and enhances learning opportunities for students. “We are encouraged by the high level of support shown for an expansion,” said Ken DeWyn, executive director. “Many of the building features proposed are responses to long standing needs. They also address our commitment to improving the quality and scope of our Christian education program at CCS.” Among the building additions are a second gymnasium and activity centre, state of the art science labs, industrial arts shop on the main floor, a black box theatre, and expanded “common areas” for a growing student population. Existing classrooms would also be equipped with movable furniture, storage options, and technology that allow teachers and students to organize the room according to their learning activities whether in collaborative groups, as individuals, or for presentations. The study also strongly recommended that the Board continue to refine the design, propose a “phased approach” to the project in line with the school’s financial abilities, and equip staff to conduct a successful capital campaign.



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