

Grapevine Newsletter

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

How are you? If you said busy, what about planning some time this month for some "down time"? We are living at a time and in a culture which seems to demand more of our time and energy than we care to give. My prayer for myself – and may I pray this for you too - is that God grant us peace and a sense of his presence in the busyness of life.

This past week our teaching staff attended the annual Ontario Christian School Teachers Association (OCSTA) convention in Hamilton. The theme this year was *Culture Making: Recovering our Calling*. The theme comes from a book written by Andy Couch, who gave us the first keynote address at the convention. His presentation was incredibly inspiring and life giving, and many of us attended his workshops later in the day. The second keynote was given by James VanderBerg, campus minister at the University of Guelph. We trust that these days provided some extra time for students to work ahead on their major assignments (such as ISU's) or catch up on homework.

Grade 8 Day happens on Monday Dec. 5. If you know of a Grade 8 student who might be interested in joining us for the day, please pass along the information. There will be information posted shortly on our website www.qchs.ca. Students receive a free lunch from The French Café!

We are eager to communicate with you regularly about your student's progress. We know we are more effective when we can work together to support and encourage your student. You received an *Early Bird report card* three weeks into the semester. Every 2 weeks *progress reports, emails or phone calls* happen for students who are falling behind with homework.

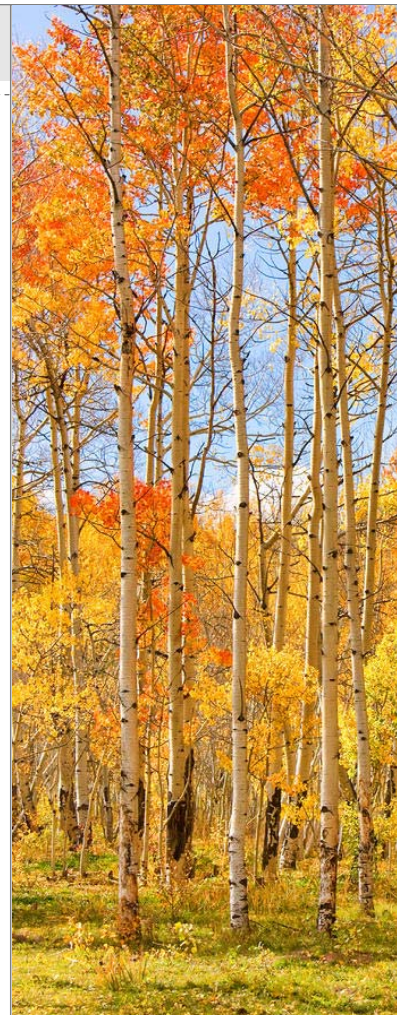
Our sincere thanks to the Willing Workers for their fundraising bazaar for the school.

Our congratulations To Mr. & Mrs. Smeenk on the arrival of their third child, Ellen Jayne Smeenk!

Our condolences go out to Mr. Smeenk and his family on the passing of his grandfather, Mr. Henry Smeenk. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

During years 2 and 3 of the strategic plan, we have been taking a look at staff stressors in the workplace. One of the areas that can be hard to manage for teachers is the extra evening meetings that happen fairly regularly. After a day of teaching and extracurricular activities, evening meetings take their toll. One change we are trying this year is to run parent teacher interviews on professional development days instead of evenings. We are hoping that this one small change can help make a difference for the staff.



GRADE 8 DAY

All Grade 8 students are invited for our annual Grade 8 Day on Monday, December 5, 2011, from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Students who are considering QCHS are invited to spend the day with us.



BOARD REPORT

At the October School Board meeting, we had quite a heavy agenda – lots of great things are happening and some interesting possibilities for the future are emerging.

One item of real thanksgiving is the wonderful response to the Mortgage Reduction Campaign. Between the silent campaign last spring and the Gala, almost \$523,000 has been pledged. Additionally, a group of donors has pledged to match dollar-for-dollar, any more funds pledged before the end of the year up to \$50,000. That could be up to \$100,000 more towards the mortgage, so if the pledge letter has become 'lost' in your mail pile, please dig it out!

To continue growing the school in the future, the board is starting to look at 'marketing' the school better in two areas – the greater Kingston community and the international communities from Korea and China. We will be pondering the implications of these strategies and coming to the membership with information as discussions take place. Meanwhile, we are very pleased and thankful to the Lord that QCHS is such a vibrant, healthy and well run school! Make sure to come to the Fall Membership Meeting!!

“ . . . A anonymous donor is willing to match any new donations designated for the mortgage, up to \$50,000.”

MORTGAGE REDUCTION CAMPAIGN UPDATE

We would like to thank everybody for their support of the Mortgage Reduction Campaign.

Through the silent campaign, general campaign and the gala evening we have raised approximately **\$512,000** in cash and pledges. This will reduce our mortgage from **\$1.4 million to \$888,000** once all pledges come in.

We thank God for such a generous and supportive community and greatly appreciate everybody's prayerful and financial contributions to help ensure affordable Christian education at QCHS.

We also are pleased to announce that an anonymous donor is willing to match any new donations designated for the mortgage, up to \$50,000. That means we could potentially reduce our mortgage by another \$100,000! So if you have not had the opportunity to donate yet or would like to give again, please do so soon, this offer is only valid until December 31, 2011.

EARN CREDIT CARD REWARD POINTS . . .

NEW!! In order to expand the QCHS gift card program we are excepting credit cards for certain gift card purchases. A win-win situation for you and the school! This month we would like to challenge you all to remember the program, *QCHS Gift Cards*, **first before** you purchase your groceries, tank up on gas or take your family to the Quinte Mall.

Remember us **first before** you purchase a cup of coffee at Tim Hortons or Starbucks. Remember us **first before** you purchase a new appliance or piece of furniture. Remember us **first before** you book a holiday through Signature Vacations or a flight aboard WestJet.

Remember us **first before** you begin your Christmas shopping. Contractors, think of us **first before** you head out to one of our many home improvement centres to purchase your supplies.

Now that we have your attention, the next step involves action. You have a number of choices.

1. Simply choose the most convenient one for your family.
2. Send your order form to the school where they are collected and filled.
3. Drop by the QCHS office during school hours to make your purchase. Hermien carries a good supply of our most requested retailers.
4. Call one of the following gift card volunteers in your local community:

Henrietta Couperus	Brighton	613-475-3717
Sue Wiarda	Belleville	613-967-3827
Rosanne Rhebergen	Brighton	613-475-4599
Judy McCaughen	Belleville	613-477-2836

Yes, it is true, this program doesn't cost you any extra money - we make our profit by purchasing the gift cards at a discount. So remember to trade your cash or cheque for gift cards or gift certificates **first before** you head out to make your everyday purchases. It really is simple, just get with the program!

IMPORTANT DATES FOR ACADEMIC REPORTING



We are almost half way through the first semester and want to remind you of some important upcoming events. Grade 9 and 10 half credit courses end on Wednesday November 9. New half credit courses begin on Thursday November 10.

This marks the end of the first half of the semester and therefore midterm report cards will be given to students on November 15. These reports will not be mailed home, but will be given out to the students. The marks on these reports indicate where the student is currently at in the course as well as comments about the student's progress, and helpful advice in how to improve.

Please be aware that 30% of the mark for the course is completed in a culminating activity or exam towards the end of the semester, but without diligent work throughout the rest of the semester it is not a guarantee of the final mark. With increased effort, the mark can be greatly improved over the second half of the course.

There will also be an opportunity for parents to meet with teachers to discuss their student's progress on **November 21**. Interviews will begin at 1pm and run until 8pm. Notification will be sent out as to when you can contact the office to set up an appointment. If you ever have a concern, please don't wait for parent teacher interviews, but contact the teacher to set up a time to meet and discuss your concern.

“We are doing our interviews on one day this fall. Interviews will begin at 1pm and run until 8pm.”

GRADE 9 CLASS BUILDING TRIP

On a beautiful fall morning, 37 grade 9 students along with a couple of grade 12 students, Joy Mackay and Gabriel Zimmerman and teachers Mrs. Boostma and Mr. VanderWindt, boarded a bus for a two-day adventure at Camp Mini-Yo-We near Huntsville. The purpose of the two-day adventure was to begin building leadership skills and importantly give the opportunity for the grade 9's to meld as a group.

After unloading the bus at camp, students had the choice of mountain biking or high ropes and other climbing ropes activities. Joy and Gabriel led them in some games on Thursday evening and Mr. VanderWindt led them in a devotion on the importance of building each other up as well as remembering that they are each uniquely created by God and therefore are all equally valuable.

The following day, after a night of “sleeping” in the cabins (some got more sleep than others) and a wonderful pancake and sausage breakfast, the students were given a choice between archery and repelling. Each of the activities were set up to create working as a team and learning how each individual needs to be encouraged.

We were blessed with wonderful weather, which made the canoe ride to the island for lunch on Friday that much more enjoyable. Many students took a dip in the lake as we waited for the fire upon which hot dogs were roasted.

After we returned back to school, one student's response to the trip, was about how great it was to just hang out with my new classmates.

Two days to build relationships and come together as a class at the beginning of four memorable years in high school.

SCHOOL CLOTHING

The Athletic Council is offering our community an opportunity to purchase QCHS clothing!

Sweatshirts, hoodies, jackets, and a variety of other clothing are available. These items make excellent Christmas presents, and should be ready in time for Christmas. The orders can be kept secret.

This is not a fundraiser; just a way to provide the community an opportunity to show support for our school. Order forms are available at the school office or contact Mr. J. VanderWindt at athletics@qchs.ca. All orders must be in by **November 5**.

STRATFORD CLASS TRIP

The Grade Eleven and Twelve English trip to Stratford last week was a superb success!

Students enjoyed watching a lively modern rendition of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, which included a live band and a blend of colourful Elizabethan and contemporary costumes.

It was splendid to see students meander throughout the beautiful grounds of the theatre while enjoying their lunches with one another. We are looking forward to another wonderful trip next fall.

GRADE 10 CLASS TRIP

You will be going to Ottawa on December 1 and 2. We will visit Parliament Hill and attend Question Period. Keep your eyes open for the Prime Minister.

Have questions ready for the Hastings-Prince Edward MP Darryl Kramp because we will be meeting with him for 45 minutes.

In addition, we will visit the War Museum, where we will see primary sources from the First and Second World Wars.

Remember that teddy bear? It's in the museum. We will stay over night at Redeemer Christian High School. Make sure you bring a sleeping bag along. A note will be coming home at the beginning of November with more details. See you on the bus!



Our school is participating in the Operation Christmas Child Challenge; as a school we have set a goal to bring in **200** boxes for children around the world.

Currently we only have **16** boxes collected. It would be appreciated if you could encourage your son/daughter to bring in their box before the collection date on November 7th.

STUDENT COUNCIL

This October Students' Council hosted "Mexico Day". It is surprising how many sombreros were stashed in closets!

Magazine sales concluded this month – many thanks are due:

- to the students who collected orders
- to the many family members and friends who chose to support our school in this way
- to those of you who ordered online

On November 16th there will be an "Ethnic Heritage Day", when students come dressed representing their cultural background. On the 25th, students have a half-day "gym riot" loosely based on the theme "Amazing Race".

Students will be participating in a number

of wacky challenges. Our hope is to build school spirit and enjoy a quick break from the pressures of academics!

We have just announced the theme for this year's Christmas banquet. Students Council is very excited to present *A Carnival in Venice*. We announced the theme early so that students had time to make or purchase masks, which will be required for some of the evening's activities.



REQUESTED COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

50th Anniversary of St. Thomas Community Christian School (formerly Ebenezer) – Come celebrate with us on Saturday, November 12th as we commemorate 50 years of Christian education in St. Thomas! Our festivities begin with an Open House at the school (77 Fairview Ave.) from 2 - 4 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 p.m. at St. Anne's Centre and an evening of celebration as we reflect upon the past 50 years and give thanks to God for His faithfulness to us. Please reserve your seat for dinner by contacting the school office 519-633-0690, or email info@stthomaschristian.org. Reservations must be made no later than October 28th. Dinner tickets are \$25 per person to be paid at the door.

Judy Groenberg, Administrative Assistant

Tel. 519-633-0690 email: info@stthomaschristian.org web: www.stthomaschristian.org

4 ON 4 VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

The Athletic Council of Quinte Christian High School would like to invite you to bring a team to its annual 4 on 4 volleyball tournament.

The tournament will take place on Saturday November 12, 2011. We are hoping to have enough teams to create two divisions, competitive and non-competitive. This is a co-ed tournament and there must be at least 1 girl and 1 boy on the court at all times.

The cost is \$20.00 a person. For more information about the tournament, or to register your team contact: athletics@qchs.ca or call 613-968-7870 ex. 222.

When registering please identify in which division you would like to participate.

Please register before November 7, 2011.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

It is hard to believe that the fall season will begin play-offs next week. As the fall season draws to a close we thank our parents and fans for their support. November also brings the preparation for the winter seasons of boys basketball and girls volleyball. Games for the winter season will begin in the beginning of December.

Upcoming tournaments

Christian schools tournament for senior boys volleyball in Bowmanville and senior girls basketball in Hamilton on Nov 4, 5.

OFSAA Cross Country in Ottawa on Nov 5

Bay of Quinte Championships for volleyball.

Juniors play at Centre Hastings in Madoc on Nov 8

Seniors play at Marc Garneau in Trenton on Nov 9

COSSA boys volleyball at QCHS on Nov. 15

COSSA senior girls basketball at St. Thomas Aquinas in Lindsay on Nov 15

OFSAA senior boys volleyball on Manitoulin Island on Nov 24 – 26

OFSAA senior girls basketball in St. Catharines on Nov 24 – 26



“It is impossible to capture all the moments from this past month, but here are some of the highlights.”

SPORT HIGHLIGHTS

It is impossible to capture all the moments from this past month, but here are some of the highlights. We encourage you to come and watch our athletes as they compete in our gym or at other schools.

Cross Country

We have a very small team this year, but there were 3 young ladies representing our school at cross country meets this fall. Jessica Barrett, Marlisa Bevaart and Bethany Koenes.

Marlisa was 2nd and Bethany was 10th in their divisions at the Christian School meet in Barrie on Oct 4.

Marlisa was 5th out of 66 runners at the Bay of Quinte Invitational.

Marlisa was 2nd at the Bay of Quinte Championships.

Marlisa was 3rd at the COSSA Championships in Lindsay on Oct 26.

Marlisa will represent QCHS at OFSAA in Ottawa on Nov 5.

Junior Girls Basketball

The team of almost all grade 9, just one grade 10, have played close for most games, but they have been unable to hang on in the fourth quarter for a victory.

They are in last place of tier 2.

Senior Girls Basketball

They have a record of 7–2 with one game remaining in league play.

Currently they are tied for 2nd out of 6 teams in tier B.

Going to the Christian School tournament in Hamilton on Nov 4, 5.

Will play in Lindsay for the COSSA championship and if they win, they will travel to Ottawa on Nov 17, to play a team from the National Capital region for the right to go to OFSAA.



FEEDER SCHOOL VISITS

I am excited that our Christian Elementary Feeder School Visits will be happening soon. I will be putting together a team of our high school students to visit the feeder schools in the last week of November. It is one of the highlights of the year for me. We are excited to be able to promote what we do here at QCHS. We also take that opportunity to invite all of the grade 8 students to the QCHS grade 8 day, which will take place on December 5th, 2011.

Mr. Brent Smeenk
Guidance Counselor

SPORT HIGHLIGHTS

Junior Boys Volleyball

Played in the TDCH tournament in Toronto on Oct 22.

Currently they are 5th out of 11 teams, top 8 make the play-offs.

They will play at Centre Hastings for Bay of Quinte Play-offs on Nov 8

Going to Lakefield College near Peterborough for COSSA "A" championships on Nov 16

Senior Boys Volleyball

Undefeated so far in league play

Currently 1st place in league

2nd place at the Queen's tournament, winning the semi-final game 23-25, 32-30, 17-15 and losing in the finals 35-33, 27-29, 10-15...an exciting and excellent day

3rd place at the all Ontario Catholic School (our school was a host site for this tournament) which consisted of 30 teams,

Going to the Christian School tournament in Bowmanville on Nov 4, 5

Bay of Quinte Play-offs on Nov 10 in Trenton at Marc Garneau

Hosting COSSA "A" championships on Nov 15 for the right to go to OFSAA on Manitoulin Island on Nov 24 – 26.

GAME DATES FOR NOVEMBER

Date	Team	Time	Place
Oct 31	Girls Basketball	Jr. 5pm Sr. 6:30pm	CHHS
Nov 1	Sr. Boys Volleyball	5pm & 6pm	QSS
Nov 2	Jr. Boys Volleyball	5pm & 6pm	NAEC
Nov 4, 5	Senior Girls Basketball	All Day	Hamilton (OCSSAA)
Nov 4, 5	Senior Boys Volleyball	All Day	Bowmanville (OCSSAA)
Nov 5	OFSAA X – Country	All Day	Ottawa
Nov 8	Jr. Bay of Quinte VB	All Day	CHHS
Nov 9	Sr. Bay of Quinte VB	All Day	ESMG
Nov 15	COSSA Volleyball	All Day	QCHS
Nov 15	COSSA Basketball	All Day	Lindsay
Nov 24 – 26	OFSAA Volleyball		Manitoulin Island

Quinte Christian High School

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POLICY FOR DROPPING A COURSE

If a student chooses to drop a course it is important to note that it must first be approved by the guidance counselor. QCHS does not allow spare periods for students in grades 9 – 11 unless there are unique circumstances which are approved by the guidance department.

In addition to this it is important to note that a first semester course which is dropped after November 16, 2010 must remain, permanently, on the student's transcript. The grade/mark which was earned up to that point will be entered on the transcript along with a 'W' to indicate that the course was withdrawn.

If you have any questions about this please do not hesitate to contact me in the guidance office at 613-968-7870 ext. 242 or at bsmeenk@qchs.ca.