



Another successful ACSS Drama Production! Thanks to all supporters!

## Elementary

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## Middle

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*Apr.21* - Grandparent's Day at Elementary  
*Apr.22/25* - Easter - NO SCHOOL  
*Apr.27* - 3rd Report Card at Secondary via students  
*May 2* - Music Monday  
*May 3-13* - AP Exams at Secondary  
*May 17* - Grade 5 Day  
*May 20* - Interims for Secondary Sem2/Trm2 via students  
*May 23* - Victoria Day - NO SCHOOL  
*May 24-27* - Celebration Week  
*May 27* - Grad Banquet & Cruise

**ACS MISSION STATEMENT:** Abbotsford Christian School, operated by Abbotsford Christian School Society members, seeks to serve Christian families by providing a secure learning environment in which God's children can continue to explore, experience and evaluate all of life under God. We aim to nurture students in the discovery and development of their abilities and unique gifts so that they are enabled to be faithful, discerning, obedient and creative servants of God and of neighbour, and stewards of His creation.

**ACS Elementary (P-5)**  
 Roy van Eerden, *Principal*  
 604 755 8101

**ACS Middle (6-8)**  
 Tym Berger, *Principal*  
 604 755 8102

**ACS Secondary (9-12)**  
 Rob Bakker, *Principal*  
 604 755 8104

**Administration Office**  
 Julius Siebenga, *Executive Director*  
 604 755 8103

**Administration Office**  
 Nilah Lewis, *Admin Assistant*  
 604 755 1891 ext 4001

## GENERAL ACS NEWS

### From the Board Chairman-Eric Van Egmond



#### A tribute to Mr. John Kampman

In the spring of 1953, John Kampman's father showed him an advertisement in the *Calvinist Contact* for teaching positions in Abbotsford Christian School which would be opening its doors for the first time in the fall of that same year. John had been trained in Holland as a teacher, had taught briefly in Holland, but since immigrating to Canada in 1950, had worked in the beet fields of

Southern Alberta and in construction laying sidewalks in Calgary. At the encouragement of his father, John decided to apply, and was surprised to receive a letter from the Abbotsford School Board inviting him for an interview that spring. John came to Abbotsford to meet with the school board, who offered him the principal position for the soon-to-open ACS. Surprisingly, John declined the offer, and instead, informed the board that he would be interested in a teaching position if one came available. At that time, there were no other positions available.

On September 8, 1953, Abbotsford Christian School opened its doors for the first time in a make shift school in the basement of the 1st Christian Reformed Church on the Mission highway. The board at that time had expected and planned for 60 students in its inaugural year by hiring a teaching principal and one teacher. They were taken by surprise when 90 students were delivered by parents to the doors of the school on that first day. After a busy first day of school, the staff sent the students home for the rest of that week while the board made alternate plans to support that number of students. They made one immediate hire before welcoming the students back. A second letter was then sent to John Kampman in Alberta, this time offering him a teaching position at ACS, which was accepted by John. He packed his bags and moved to Abbotsford, and started teaching grades 3, 4 and 5 at ACS on December 1, 1953, becoming the fourth staff member ever hired by ACS.

At the start of the 1958/59 school year, Mr. Kampman's destiny had caught up with him, and he became the principal of Abbotsford Christian School. He remained in administration in a variety of capacities including elementary principal and Junior/Secondary High principal, then in 1986 became the Administrator for the entire school system. He knew every aspect of ACS, and saw the organization grow from 90 students in 1953 to 1200 students when he retired in 1993. ACS had become the largest independent school in the province and the largest CSI (Christian Schools International) school in Canada, and John Kampman, also known by some as "Mr. Abbotsford Christian School", played an instrumental role in the development of ACS.

Mr. Kampman was very well respected by the ACS community, and was seen as a calm, thoughtful, articulate, intelligent man who exuded a quiet strength. One of his former staff members describes John as having "the right mixture of striving for the ideal and common sense." In its beginning, ACS was attended exclusively by children of Dutch immigrants and the supporting community was from the Christian Reformed Church. Another former staff member recalls when she, a young British woman, walked into this predominantly Dutch school one day looking for a teaching position, and how Mr. Kampman went to bat for her, and recommended she be hired. With thankfulness, she described John Kampman as a God-fearing risk taker.

Despite the predominantly Dutch presence at ACS in the beginning, John Kampman's vision was that Christian education belonged to all believers. As ACS grew from its humble beginnings, children from a wide variety of denominations began to attend ACS, which John Kampman delighted in.

In June of 1977, Mr. Kampman transferred from the ACS Junior campus to the Elementary campus. The yearbook for that year was dedicated in part, to Mr. Kampman. On the first page of the year book, the students wrote the following:

*Mr. Kampman has been our principal for many years and it is with regret that we have to say goodbye. We know that the Christian School movement has a big place in your heart. We want to express our gratitude for much that you have done. You have made many sacrifices because of your love for the Christian School. We thank God that He has given us you as our principal, and we hope that you will continue to be a blessing at the Elementary School.*

In the same issue, on the very next page under "Principal's Message", is Mr. Kampman's final submission as principal to the Junior high school year book. It reads as follows:

*This year I would like to share with you the words of a famous prayer once spoken by Francis of Assisi:*

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.*

*Where there is hatred, let me sow love;*

*Where there is injury, pardon;*

*Where there is doubt, faith;*

*Where there is despair, hope;*

*Where there is darkness, light;*

*And where there is sadness, joy;*

*Divine Master,*

*Grand that I may not so much seek*

*to be consoled as to console;*

*To be understood as to understand;*

*To be loved as to love;*

*For it is in giving that we receive;*

*It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.*

*It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

*May these words be of inspiration to each one of you, as you continue your studies and seek to do the Lord's will.*

*Sincerely yours - J. Kampman.*

On March 3, 2011, John Kampman unexpectedly died of a heart attack. John Kampman leaves behind a legacy of service and accomplishment at ACS, achieved by exemplifying values and beliefs consistent with the prayer of Francis of Assisi. We are thankful to God for John's dedication to Christian education and, that today, we continue to reap the benefits of the foundation of Christian education at ACS laid by John Kampman. To commemorate the contributions made by Mr. Kampman, the ACS Board has renamed a board bursary "The John Kampman Bursary" which will be presented to a graduating grade 12 student who exemplifies the values of ACS. In this small way, we will continue to remember the contributions made by this humble servant of our Lord.

On behalf of the ACS Society, we extend our condolences to John's 5 children, their spouses and to John's many grandchildren, as well as to the entire Kampman clan.

And with thankfulness to the Lord, we rejoice in the gifts that we can enjoy at ACS, which are the fruit of the labour of your humble servant John Kampman.



## GENERAL ACS NEWS CONT'D

### New Secondary Principal Appointment:

As many of you know, the secondary school has been operating with Rob Bakker as an Interim Principal for the 2010/2011 school year, and the school has been in the process of finding a permanent solution for the leadership of the campus going forward. We give thanks to God for a successful conclusion to this search process and for sending the school a new leader for our secondary campus!

We are very pleased to announce that **Gerry Goertzen** has accepted the position of Secondary Principal, effective at the beginning of the 2011/2012 school year. Gerry, his wife Debbie, and their three children Karly (16), Sam (14) and Kate (18) will be new to the Abbotsford community.

Gerry grew up in Vancouver, BC and went on to get a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, BC, and completed his teacher training at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, BC. After completing his education degree and getting married, Gerry and Debbie accepted teaching positions in Hamamatsu, Japan through a Japanese Exchange Teaching program and taught there for two years. In 1991, Gerry and Debbie returned to BC and both took teaching jobs at Cedars Christian School in Prince George, BC. Gerry started out teaching high school biology and chemistry but ended up in grade 4 and 6 (eventually moving back into the high school) and Debbie taught kindergarten. Gerry received a Master's in Administrative Leadership from Trinity Western University in Langley, BC in 2001, and soon after became the High School Principal at Cedars, a position that he has held for almost 9 years.

Gerry and his family are members of the Mennonite Brethren Church and are faithfully involved at Westwood MB Church in Prince George, where Gerry has served as an elder, a Sunday school teacher and a worship leader.

While choosing to leave Prince George (their home for the last 20 years) was a difficult decision, Gerry and Debbie have truly felt God's leading in coming to Abbotsford Christian School and they are very much looking forward to taking their place in the ACS community.

The school is also grateful to Rob Bakker for his continued work as an Interim Principal through this year. Starting in the school year of 2011/2012, he will continue on as the VP of Learning at the secondary campus and continue in his role as a part of the secondary admin team.  
*The Secondary Principal Search Team*



### Voting for ACS Board Members Starts Soon

Greetings from the ACS School Board Nominations Committee! The Nominations Committee is one of the committees that is part of your ACS Board structure. Our duties span the school year but concentrate especially around this time of year. As a committee, we are blessed with the task to consider which of our Board Directors' terms are expiring, which of them might be called to extend their service to our community with another term, and who among the Society members would make optimal contribution to the Board's functioning as new Board Directors. We are so pleased that this is such a challenge! The challenge has not been finding people willing to serve, but rather considering which people, among an incredible number of talented and capable people, to nominate.

In recent years, we have opted to use an electronic (online) voting system rather than a spring Society meeting for this voting process. It is our hope that in the busy lives that many of us lead, the convenience of an online vote will result in increasing numbers of Society members opting to participate in the process. For those of you who are not able to cast an online vote for whatever reason, there will continue to be a paper ballot available as well.

The Board nominees will be finalized at the April 19 Board meeting and a letter will be sent out to all the Society members to profile the nominees and provide details about how to vote. Voting will be open for the month of May and results will be promptly announced in early June. We encourage you to keep an eye on the mail for this important correspondence! We would love it if the numbers of votes cast this year is higher than ever.

Sincerely,

Ian Van Deventer, Nominations Committee Chair

### 2011/2012 Tuition Rates

ACS has traditionally tried to maintain a consistent tuition increase from year to year for our tuition paying community so that people can plan and budget their finances accordingly. As with the last few years, we expect a 2-3% increase from current year. With the economy in the state it is in, and many families expressing concerns about rising costs all around us, we are firmly committed to maintaining this consistency.

The 2011/2012 school year budget does not get approved by the school board until mid-June, after which we will communicate tuition owing for each family. Thanks for partnering with us and re-enrolling your children with us for another year.

Did you know ... Tuition and the government grant only covers 90% of the operating cost for each student at the school? For more information on why tuition is set at this rate – see our annual fund information on page 5.

## GENERAL ACS NEWS CONT'D

### Bus Routes Rates being Reduced!

Attention all parents! Starting next school year, September of 2011, the rates for our bussing will be cut in half! All full time riders will see their costs plummet from \$168.00 per month to \$80.00 per month, and part time riders will see their costs go from \$96.00 per month to \$50.00 per month. Not only is this excellent news for current ridership, but it is also good news for parents who are discouraged to send their child/ren on the bus because of financial constraints.

Why the drastic change that will benefit our families?

- ♦ In our most recent parent survey (June 2010), there were multiple comments about our bussing rates and there was a desire to see them become more affordable.
- ♦ The bus societies recently (four years ago) combined forces to become a single entity with the hopes of saving substantial costs ... this savings has been realized.
- ♦ To encourage those not riding the bus for financial reasons to possibly reconsider given the new rates. This expected increased ridership will fill our busses to capacity and help to pay the difference with new rates.
- ♦ ACS is taking over the ownership and management of the busses and the transportation to further reduce costs.

To have a deeper explanation of these reasons or to become a family that utilizes this wonderful service with its new and improved rate – please contact: **Karen Thiessen**, Transportation Coordinator at **604.823.0295** or [kthiessen@telus.net](mailto:kthiessen@telus.net).



### ATTENTION ALL PARENTS

Authorities have informed us and others in the surrounding neighbourhood, that a high-risk sex-offender will be living in the vicinity of the middle/secondary campus – starting May 11, 2011. We bring this to your attention not

to stir up fear-mongering or to encourage rallies in opposition to this decision, but rather to alert everyone that we are indeed aware of the situation, and have appropriate protocol in place for anything that might occur at or near the school campuses involving our children. As with most situations that require caution, we encourage all parents to understand the risks and to use appropriate discernment when dropping their child/ren off at or near the school, or when expecting them to walk or bicycle to and from school.

The name, description and address has been supplied to the school (and the surrounding neighbourhood), and if you would like this information, please contact the appropriate campus.

### Endowment News

At the Honorary Members Banquet last December, our guest speaker was Dave Broughton from Christian Stewardship Services (CSS). Dave is the new representative for CSS in BC and he gave a brief presentation on the value of estate planning.

Because ACS is a member of CSS, all our members are entitled to a **free** consultation. We are happy to report that Dave has already had several consultations with our members and the feedback has been very positive. People who have met with him appreciated his relaxed style, his knowledge and the fact that he doesn't push anything.

Proper estate planning can provide money for the charities that are close to your heart while saving significant tax dollars and legal fees. If you would like to make an appointment with Dave, he can be reached at 250-597-3550 or you can email him at [daveb@cssservices.ca](mailto:daveb@cssservices.ca)

If you would like more information about the ACS endowment fund, you may contact ACS Development Director, Al Scholing at 604-755-8108, or one of the Endowment Committee members listed below:

Harry Dejong	(604) 853-0234
Sid Kingma	(604) 859-3899
John Ouwerkerk	(604) 746-6675
John Pool	(604) 853-3625

## Celebration Week!

This year **Celebration Week** will be held **May 24 – 27**.

Secondary students will participate in a number of events throughout the week.

**All ACS families are invited to attend our Celebration BBQ!**

**May 26 – 5 pm – Secondary Campus**

Music, Presentations of Learning, Artwork,  
Fashion Show

Hamburger, hotdogs, salads, desserts  
More details to come!

### Next Year's School Calendar

As usual, ACS sends out a calendar for the following school year in June, however many people like to know important dates so that they can make plans earlier. In light of this, we generally try to let people know about Christmas and Spring Break vacation at this time of year. So, the 2011/2012 Christmas and Spring Breaks are:

**Christmas Break** – Mon Dec 19 (Fri Dec 16 is last day prior) – Mon Jan 2 (Tues Jan 3 is first day back)

**Spring Break** – Mon Mar 19 (Mar 16 is last day prior) – Fri Mar 30 (Mon Apr 2 is first day back)

Cont'd on pg 5

## GENERAL ACS NEWS CONT'D

### 5th Annual Fundraising Drive

"Raising our children up in the training and instruction of the Lord" is one of the biggest responsibilities the Bible lays on Christian parents. Abbotsford Christian School's reason for existence is to partner with Christian parents in fulfilling that obligation.

In a world where success is measured by our wealth and our possessions, it is more important than ever for our children to recognize God's sovereignty over every aspect of their lives. While it's easy for us to say we want this for our kids, we often forget to examine ourselves in this area.

Materialism is the enemy's most powerful weapon, making us think we will be happy or fulfilled or content if only we had more of whatever it is we are chasing. The deceitfulness of wealth is a lie! The enemy wants us to be chasing after something he knows will never satisfy us so we will be kept from pursuing the only thing that can

satisfy! If materialism is creeping into your life, generosity is the best defense against it.

We are preparing to start our annual drive, so I wanted to remind you of our school's funding model. ACS is not a business where we simply divide all of our costs per student or per family and charge that amount through tuition. As a community of believers we feel it's important to have a "Faith Component" in our finances. We intentionally set tuition to cover about 90% of our operating expenses. We do this to keep Christian education as affordable as possible and to offer all our partners an opportunity to be faithful to God and to each other in this partnership. God blesses each of us differently. He does not ask us to give equally but to sacrifice equally. The annual drive is a way for us to collect the last 10% of our costs in a more biblical manner.

Important mail about our annual drive will be arriving at your home in the coming days. Please watch for it, read it, and prayerfully consider your response.

*Al Scholing - Director of Development*

## ELEMENTARY HIGHLIGHTS

### Staff Appreciation *by Roy van Eerden*

March 14 - 18 was **Staff Appreciation Week** at the elementary campus. The theme this year was "Mexican Vacation". It started off with a marguerite (non-alcoholic, of course) being delivered to each staff member's classroom or work area on Monday morning. (*Below: Sheri Langelaar & Amy Van Belle enjoying a sip.*) Each day there was a new treat (flowers, hand lotion, etc.) in staff mailboxes or on their desk, snacks were provided for recess break. Throughout the week, cards and letters arrived from students. The week ended with an amazing Mexican lunch on Friday, with supervision being covered so that everyone could enjoy it. Everyone felt completely spoiled, pampered, and honoured all week. Thank you again to all the parents for such a wonderful affirmation of the work that we do. It truly is a blessing to be a part of this community.



### STUDENT LED CONFERENCES



The Brandsmas admire all of Raya-Linn's hard work.



Jayden serves up his journal entrée, Writing Wrap, to his parents.

### FAIRY TALE BALL (Gr.2A)



L-R: Teiyah, Raya-Linn, Remy, & Kaylynn.



Gretel (Audrey Mills) finds some candy at a mysterious house in the woods.

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS CONT'D

### Playground structure gets new sign

When the new playground structure at the elementary campus was built in 2008, it was dedicated to the memory of Lysa Terpstra. With apologies for a lengthy delay, we now have a sign on the playground commemorating that dedication. Lysa was a student at ACS until her graduation in June, 2001. Lysa had muscular dystrophy and got around at school in an electric wheelchair. It was typical for Lysa to motor around with one of her friends riding on the back, which was the inspiration for the logo on the sign. This logo was originally designed for the *Walk for Lysa* fundraiser held on the first Sunday of every April. Those who were at the elementary school when Lysa was there, have other great memories of her – carrying her up Mt. Cheam on an improvised backpack, her starring role in a musical and, most memorable, her indomitable spirit and love of life. Lysa passed away on July 8, 2002. We are grateful to Lysa's parents, Sid and Sylvia Terpstra, and their family for continued support and involvement in the ACS community.

Roy van Eerden, Elementary Principal



1



### Boris Sichon by Sandra Elgersma, Music Teacher

In the afternoon of February 17, the elementary students were treated to a fabulous concert by Mr. Boris Sichon. He gave a concert on many different instruments around the world. He sang along sometimes while he played different kinds of drums and he demonstrated the skill needed in playing a didgeridoo. It was a wonderful hour! Thank you, Mr. Sichon! Students were impressed by the concert as shown by their thank-you statements to Boris Sichon:

*"Thank you for showing us your instruments. It was very cool!"*

*"I loved the cymbal. It was so cool!"*

*"Thanks for coming to our school and playing wonderful instruments."*



2

### Gardening with Grade Three

If you have been on the elementary playground recently, you might have noticed something new! The garden planters on the side of the hill have grown. (Well not really, but it fits in with our growing theme.) As part of the Grade Three curriculum, we used six planters to grow crops that are important in Canada (wheat and potatoes). We also used the planters to compare the differences between the growth and harvest of wheat, potatoes, some other vegetables, and the maple tree (another important plant in Canada). However, six planters were not enough to engage all three classes, so we enlisted the help of Mr. Stewart's woodworking class, who were kind enough to build us four more planters. We also needed the help of some parents and grade three students, who showed up bright and early on a Saturday morning equipped with shovels and wheelbarrows. They

quickly filled the tubs with the soil that was provided by Transform Compost. We'd like to thank everyone who helped this spring to get our planters ready. Gardening at the Grade Three level is truly a community event. I wonder if we will have to share those potatoes that are growing? *Grade 3 Teachers*



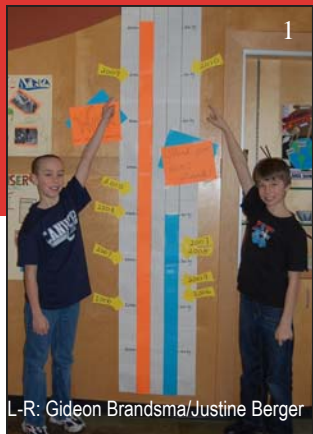
3



4

1. Mike Franzen, Jordan P. having a little fun while they work
2. Sun Hye Yoon and Mikyoung Park really put themselves into the job!
3. Daniel Fedesenko, Fred W., Fatih F., Kohl F. (We can see who really did the most work)
4. Steve Atsma (crew foreman), Erin A., Avereigh E.

## MIDDLE HIGHLIGHTS



L-R: Gideon Brandsma/Justine Berger

### Rice Raiser (pic 1 above)

For the past several years the grade 6 students have championed a school-wide fundraising effort to support Hunger International's Rice Raiser. This year, our grade 6 students really took it to heart, inspiring the grade 7's and 8's and setting a new record at our school for money brought in. In fact, we had five of our nine homeroom classes collect more than \$1000! The total came to more than \$8000 and we had one grade 7 homeroom bring in over \$1700! Keep in mind that this represents more than \$37 per middle school student raised in just over two weeks!

On top of the fundraising, students were also challenged to bring in rice for distribution through the local Abbotsford Food Bank. Again, our school community responded in an amazing way, loading the shipping bin in the front foyer with over 400 kilograms of rice!

While the totals represent an awesome effort by our students, they speak to the compassion of our school community. Thank you to all of you who helped support this worth-while cause!

by Tym Berger

### Pi Day at ACMS (pic 2 above)

March 14 was a very special day; that is when we celebrated Pi Day! Pi is a mathematical constant that can be approximated as 3.14 (it is the constant that is found by dividing the circumference of a circle by the diameter). The Middle School celebrated Pi Day by eating pie and ice cream, having a pie eating contest, and a pi memorization contest. The contests were organized by the grade 8 teachers and points were awarded to the winners towards the intramural house teams. Math is awesome- and yummy too!

by Tym Berger



Pie eating contest-Jenica Lucky



Robotics-Steven Van Huizen



Cooking

### Grade 6 Exploratories (pic 3 & 4 above) by Paul Still

Our grade 6 students are into the second round of their Exploratory courses. These courses focus on the "practical arts" and include a babysitting course (students can qualify for the Red Cross Babysitting Certificate), a course in cooking, a course on robotics (offered through Gateway Learning Centres), a course on photography, a course on the construction of skim boards, a course on cake decorating, a course on advanced use of technology (with an emphasis on video editing and website design), and a course on working with Meccano.

These courses run for three weeks each and would not be possible without volunteers who organize, lead, and help out wherever needed. **A big thank you to the staff, former staff, parents and grandparents who make Exploratories happen: Rita Bot, Aleida van der Woerd, Sally Van Geest, Paul Still, Karen Williams, Tiffany Terepocki, Tracy Temple, Kathy Syme, Bill Tinsley, Pieter Van Belle, Cindy Charlebois, Diane Kampman, Kari Folkerts, Sharon Berger and Tamara Gray!**

Here's what students had to say about their experience:

Brandon Bullet 6C: *"We were introduced to website design and movie making. It was a lot of fun. For our video we featured the Mystery of Missing Locker 99."* (Advanced Info Tech- Sally Van Geest)

Linden Vanderpol 6A: *"The course was challenging and taught me quite a bit, especially about picture editing. I would recommend it!"* (Photography- Tiffany Terepocki and Bill Tinsley)

Jenae Charlebois 6A: *"The course was fun and I learned a lot. I think I will be more confident as I continue to babysit."* (Babysitting- Aleida van der Woerd)

### Academic Contests and Challenges by Sandra Barthel

As the winter months fade, the season of academic challenges and contests wraps up. As announced in the January-February edition of *The Messenger*, the ACMS Spelling Bee was won by Ethan Koetsier, who represented us at the Provincial Regional Bee in Vancouver.

Over 75 students also took part in the Canadian Mathematics League Contest in late February. This test is a 30 minute, 35 question test which is quite difficult. Few students score over 28 points and students with half that, 14 points, should be commended! Congratulations to Daniel Groot and Sheldon Poirier in Grade 8 who scored the highest in Grade 8 (15 points), to Jordan Maarhuis in Grade 7, who scored the highest of Grade 7 students with 27 points, and to Gideon Brandsma in Grade 6, who was the highest 6<sup>th</sup> Grader scoring 23 points!

Our Geography Challenges are also complete. The Level 2 Challenge (Grade 7 and up) was won by Karleena Koot in Grade 8. Jenna Visser and Eden Luymes (also Grade 8) placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, respectively. Katie Luymes, Heather Collins, Isabella Hamm and Ethan Koetsier from Grade 6 advanced to the Level 1 Final (Grades 4-6) which took place on April 11. Katie Luymes placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Isabella Hamm tied for third!

Congratulations to all our finalists and students who participated in these challenges!

## SECONDARY HIGHLIGHTS

**Below are student reflections on the Nicaragua missions trip from Tyler Couperus, Vivienne Veerman, Brigitte Lee and Collyn Lee, respectively.**

Nicaragua was an amazing experience for our students and team to share together. It took people from all different cliques and friend groups and brought them together to help spread the love of Christ our Lord. The team bonded extremely well and we share a lot of memories and making each others minutes. It was amazing to see how the love of God breaks through the language and cultural barriers making it universal. God's love was shown to us by our fearless leaders and hosts, our hard working team and most of all the staff and students of our sister school Centro de Fe y Vida Nueva. We learned to love the land that we live in, but also to love each and every person that enters our school. We learned that the love that Jesus showed us on the cross, can be shown to every person on the face of the earth, we were taught to love until it hurts. And now is the time for us to put that into practice here in ACS.

The best experience that I had in Nicaragua was going to church. When you are there it doesn't matter what denomination you are or what kind of spiritual background you have, you just go because you want to praise God. They are so passionate there in their praise songs and in their sermon, the pastor was so excited to tell us his sermon that he couldn't even wait for the translator to translate it to English. He kept interrupting her and passionately preaching the gospel. It really struck me how they didn't care, with the frustrating language barrier I relied mostly on reading the body language of the praise team and of the congregation, and the reckless abandon that they exhibited while praising the Lord really inspired me.

I was privileged to go to Nicaragua over the spring break. When I found out that I was going, I didn't know what to expect because I never went on a missions trip or to a third world country. But, now it is a place that I would never forget. Nicaragua is a warm, loving and hospitable place. They have given me lots of things in my heart that would change my life forever. It led me to open my heart to the people and welcome people into my life, and also learn to give when you take. Also, we speak different languages we can understand with the actions and hearts that shine through God. The journey of ours was short but it will be an everlasting journey.

Nicaragua will always have a place in my heart as long as I live. The people I have encountered are overwhelmingly friendly and warm, making the place seem like part of your home. Although we only stayed for a brief amount of time, the friendship that I have developed with the Nicaraguan students was indescribable. The Nicaraguans are always smiling and living the life with full optimism. Through the eyes and connection of our hearts, the language barriers were able to broken down, making two separate nationalities to one. Farewells may have left tears running down our cheeks and sinking feelings in our hearts, but good-byes are not forever. Through the connection of Facebook, we will always be in touch, even if we are half way across the continent. Friendship is the real gem that shines brighter than any other jewels in the treasure box.

**MORE ON NICARAGUA ON PAGE 10...**



**Important Reminder! Nicaragua HANDS Team Benefit Concert!**  
**All are invited to attend this family-friendly evening of Praise and Worship at New Life Church in Abbotsford, BC.**

*Featuring popular Christian artists:*

*Perry and the Poor Boys, the Matthew Joel Band, Abbotsford Youth Church Band, Switchlife, and JeBarr*

**When? April 28<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 – 10:00pm**

**Where? New Life Church in Abbotsford**

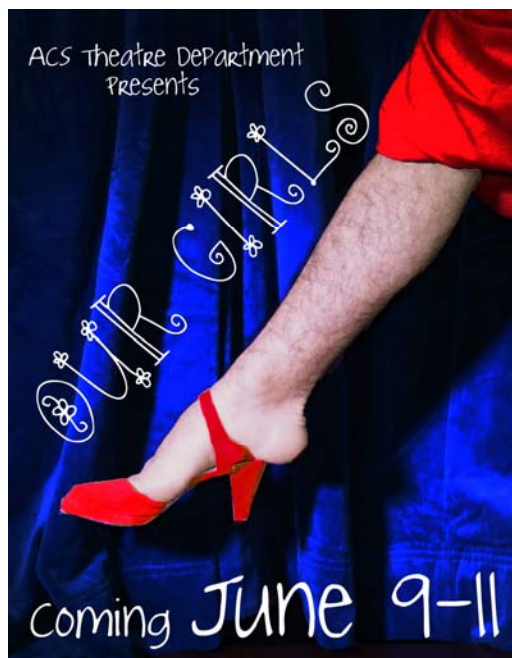
**Why?** To benefit Abbotsford Christian School's HANDS Team's annual service trip to Nicaragua with Worldwide Christian Schools.

**Tickets now on sale - \$10 each**  
 at the Secondary School front office  
 or at the door.

## SECONDARY CONT'D

This year, Drama 11/12 is taking on the huge task of doing our own main stage production. As a class we are so excited to be a part of a play we can make our own. There are a variety of different people in our class, some acting veterans as well as first timers to the stage. So far, it's been a lot of hard work building the set, creating costumes as well as all things technical in the middle of acting everything out. Our biggest excitement factor is to see Rob Wool (Mr. Frank), Justin Hageland (Mr. Dussel) and Aaron Beukens prancing around in poodle skirts and saddle shoes to convince their Aunt that they are girls instead of three rowdy boys. **Our Girls** is going to be a hilarious comedy and tickets will be available at the beginning of May. *Brandi Devries (formerly Mrs. VanDaan)*

# coming this June!



The Lovejoys have named their sons "Jesse," "Francis" and "Vivian," because Mildred's Aunt Jessie doesn't like boys. Aunt Jessie lives in England, so it has been easy to deceive her. She must never know that the "girls" who are to inherit her money are boys—very real boys. They "scrap" with Chester Wattles, are accused by Mrs. Wattles of breaking her windows, and act as other boys do. Each will receive \$5,000 on his sixteenth birthday and more when he comes of age. Vivian is nearly sixteen, and Father plans to borrow part of the \$5,000 to expand his business. Then the blow falls! Aunt Jessie has decided to pay a visit and bestow on her eldest "niece" in person the \$5,000. What can be done? The boys must be girls! You don't want to miss his hilarious romp!

## ATHLETIC NEWS

### MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS NEWS

The Spring Season of Track and Field is well underway; 26 grade eight students have joined the high school team, and grade 6 & 7 students have started training in PE classes for their meets in May. The grade 8 students are excited as there are several new events for them to try; race walk, javelin, hurdles, steeplechase, hammer throw, and pole vault.

#### Upcoming highlights:

- April 27, 19,200m relay @ Rotary
- May 3, ACMS & ACES Sports Day @ Rotary
- May 9, ACMS hosts the Christian Middle Schools Meet @ Rotary

**Parent coaches:** We welcome you to share your love of students and sports by volunteering to coach or help with a team next year. We can often use help AT BOTH the middle and high school during the volleyball and basketball seasons.



### HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

It was not a championship run at the Provincials this year for the Lady Knights. In early March the Sr. Girls Basketball team finished fourth at the 'A' Provincials in Fernie. The team came in seeded number 2 after winning the Fraser Valley Tournament in convincing fashion. However, after winning their first two games at the tournament, they dropped a close semi-final game to Cedars Christian. Thank you to the coaches for your leadership this season. Congratulations to Viv Veerman as she was selected to play in the BC High School Girls Basketball All-Star game at UBC last Saturday. Viv had a great game scoring 14 points.

The Golf and Track and Field teams are in action this month preparing for playoff matches and championship meets in May. There are over 50 high school students in T & F.

**Upcoming highlights:** April 15 @ Rotary, BC Christian Schools Championships; April 27-28, Abby-Mission Championships @ Rotary; May 3 Jr. Golf Playoffs; May 4-5, UFV Championships @ Rotary; May 12, Sr. Golf Playoffs; May 16-17, 19 FV T&F Championships @ Coquitlam Center.

Vince Van Dyk - ACS Middle & High Athletic Director  
[vwandyk@abbotsfordchristian.com](mailto:vwandyk@abbotsfordchristian.com)

The following article is written by *Alison Lammers* - a teacher at the Secondary Campus, who along with Dan Olydam, led the missions team to Nicaragua this year. See page 8 for pics and student reflections.



## Nicaragua 2011

God is incredibly amazing. That is all that comes to my mind when I think of Nicaragua. I am so thankful to God for allowing me the opportunity to go and be a part of something that was way more than 'just another service trip.' When we were departing from the school parking lot, Jordyn Visser prayed that as a team we would remember that this trip wasn't about what we were doing and about what we wanted, but that it would be 100% about what God wanted and His will for this trip. Her prayer touched my heart as an absolute truth that we needed to uphold. As a team, we really challenged each other to live that each day... remembering whose plan we were following. God revealed so much about Himself through our time at our worksite, through our cultural experiences and most of all, through our time connecting with our sister school Centro de Fe.

For the 'labour' aspect of our trip, we were assigned to help with the building of a second story addition to a school. This consisted of painting and repairing desks, painting the metal that would be used for framing, and finally, sifting piles of sand into a fine state for use in the making of concrete. The third of these tasks was incredibly repetitive and certainly tiring. I think that God revealed something about perseverance in big ways. God was also seen in the hard work our students put into each task they undertook. It was so awesome to see the students on the team just commit to their work and lay all their effort out. We had talked about goals early on in the week and one of them was that we would each give 100% of our effort to what was being done at the time. I believe this was done, day after day. And God continued to give us the strength and stamina to continue on doing His work.

Our cultural experiences included two days chocked full of driving and sites. We were able to go to a look-out, witness the making of pottery first hand, eat on the lake, boat through the islands, climb an active volcano, go zip-lining, go to a market, spend an afternoon on the beach and see the countryside from our 15 passenger van. God revealed Himself through our driver, Lester and our translator, Lennin. These two men, along with our team leaders, Peter, Ruth and

## Why we do What we do

Ralph were so keen on ensuring that a lasting love of Nicaragua and the people who lived there remained. The love that these people showed our team could have only come through God, who is love. By their actions, they reminded us of who we are in Christ and why He brought us to Nicaragua.

Finally, and certainly the most incredible time of our trip, was the time we spent with our partner school, Centro de Fe Vida Nueva. This school, located in a small suburb of Nicaragua's capitol, Managua, was exactly what its name translates to: The Center of Faith and New Life. Comprised of about 250 kindergarten to grade 11 students, this school brought us into a new life with Christ. God gave us a new life through our new family at Centro de Fe.

When preparing for this trip, we didn't take much time to reflect and think about how much preparation went into our coming. Unfortunately, we were focused on what we would do and how we would get there. God quickly showed us that there was so much more to it than just us coming and doing. He was going to change us; He was going to bring new faith and life rooted in His love as demonstrated by Centro de Fe. I cannot even describe to you the love that emanated from Centro de Fe... and this love was immediately for us, but most importantly... it was for God. God was given absolute credit and all glory for all things that happened within that school. He was truly at the center and piloted all movement within that place. We felt that and let it envelop us.

So... three parts of our trip, all consisting of very different activities. But one common through line... God is love and He will reveal Himself to us if we take the time to listen to Him and give ourselves to Him. When I look up on my bulletin board in my office, and I see our group photo just below my complimentary diploma from Centro de Fe... I will remember that I have been given a New Life in Christ through my time there, and I will give Him all glory. God is incredibly amazing!

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