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GENERAL ACS NEWS

From the Executive Director



Difference Making

At a recent gathering/meeting that I was a part of, the gentleman presenting for the night introduced himself as a proud citizen of Abbotsford, and graduate of Abbotsford Christian School. His presentation was engaging, and the group that he worked with was invigorated by his leadership skills. I was proud to be associated with ACS at that moment – and this is something that happens with regularity. Our school has graduated thousands of Abbotsford citizens that have contributed positively to the people and community around them. This is not only true of Abbotsford, but also of other places in the lower mainland, the province of BC, the country of Canada and around the world. We can be proud of the fact that ACS has alumni all over that are “making a difference” in the world as they follow God’s calling in their lives.

Research will bear this “difference making” out. The Cardus Foundation, along with Notre Dame University, recently released some preliminary results from their 3 year study on 24-39 year olds and the impact of Christian education in North America. There is conclusive evidence to support that people who have graduated from Christian schools have made a positive impact on society. *“Christian schools seem to be producing “salt of the earth” citizens who provide the backbone of communities, are the pillars of their churches, and are living lives of purpose and hope. Fears that religious schools are the incubators of social unrest, producing a generation of culture warriors, seem to be largely unfounded.”* (Ray Pennings, Senior Fellow, Cardus Foundation). For a full picture of the research done, go to: <http://www.cardus.ca/>. We, of course, have known this information for years, and have been talking about it for years, but it’s nice to have a reputable outside organization, with nothing to gain in its research, say the same thing. To comment on this article or previous *Messenger* articles, go to my blog at: <http://jsiebenga.blogspot.com>

Presentations of Learning

With **Celebration Week** at the secondary, **Here I Stand** projects at the middle school, **No Strings Attached** musical at the elementary, the end of the school year is filled with opportunities to see and participate in presentations of learning of our children. It is with anticipation that we look forward to **“Our Girls”**, a secondary drama class main-stage production, and a secondary **FACT** class marketplace at Immel market entitled, **“Reach”** (Reflect, Eat, Admire, Connect, and Hear). Check our website for more details or for other presentations: www.abbotsfordchristian.com.

We have come to realize more and more that when students present their learning to an audience, their learning is elevated. Often this learning leads to more relevance as it has a tendency to connect with the presenter’s soul. What is so gratifying from a school’s perspective, is that we, the audience, get to see our mission presented in various ways. **Presentations of Learning** (or POLS) will continue to be a major focus in our assessment practices, our learning

activities, and ultimately in attaining our vision of maximizing the potential in every student that is appropriate to their abilities. We look forward to how POL’s will become a larger part of the life of our school in the future. (see “Why We Do What We Do” on pg 10)

It’s Celebration Time

Our last Core Belief strongly states: *“Celebrating creation, the life we have in Jesus Christ, and the life we share in our community.”*

We’ve just come off of a **Celebration Week** at the high school that was highlighted with a **barbecue evening** and a **grade 12 banquet** night. We’ve also just finished up the **secondary athletics awards night**, and we anticipate the **pre-school graduation**, the **grade five farewell chapel**, the **grade eight ceremonies**, and the **secondary school commencement ceremony**. These are nights that are meant to honour the people that are a part of ACS, and as such we want our community to be a part of them – **please come** (check our website – www.abbotsfordchristian.com for details) and be a part of the party!

2011-2012 Tuition Increase

As is our practice – the school sends out the yearly and monthly tuition charges for next school year during the month of July, after the school board has approved an annual budget. This will again be our practice for this year – if you are a tuition paying parent, look for this from the administration office. Please note that early projections for tuition will see an average increase of 5% (higher than what we had originally expected). We realize that this could be a hardship for some families, and, as always, we would never want finances to play an ultimate part in deciding the education for their children. Every year the school budgets financial assistance money to help families who demonstrate financial hardship with regards to tuition. If, after receiving the tuition costs for next year, you find yourself in this position, don’t hesitate to contact us at the administration office and we will assist you with the information and paperwork required.

FREE LINE LISTING FOR ACS BUSINESS OWNERS IN 2011-12 SCHOOL DIRECTORY

As per the insert in the last *MESSENGER*, if you are a parent, honorary member or supporter of ACS and are a business owner or self-employed, we want to support you too! We are offering a **FREE LINE LISTING** in the yellow pages of our School Directory. If you would like to take advantage of this **FREE offer**, please email me with the following info: *Business name, type of business, contact name, phone # and address of business.* *Note: This is **not** to be used for soliciting business.

My email address is:

nlewis@abbotsfordchristian.com

The following article is written by *Tym Berger* - Principal of Abbotsford Christian Middle School.



"If students do not find schooling meaningful and productive, they will be less likely to make real contributions to society after they graduate. Genuine problems motivate people personally and corporately." (From 12 Affirmations, Reformed Christian Schooling for the 21st Century by Steven Vryhof, Joel Brouwer,

Stefan Ulstein and Daniel Vander Ark, page 46.)

One of the key elements of where we are going educationally at Abbotsford Christian School is toward student presentations of learning that reflect authentic, real-world learning. In the past month, we have had the privilege of participating in several examples of this philosophy in action at the Middle School: the Student-led Conferences and the grade 8 "Here I Stand" projects.

We have been working with Student-Led Conferences at the Elementary and Middle schools for quite a few years now and our students and parents have become somewhat "acclimatized" to the format. In the past couple of years, many teachers at the Elementary school began to re-examine student-led conferences, and as a result, have turned the evening into more of a formal presentation of learning. Instead of just paging through a collection of their work (a portfolio) with their parents, students in grade 5 act as waiters and, using "menus" of work samples, they "serve-up" morsels of their learning.

This year, we had a similar shift at the Middle School. Students stood in front of their parents and presented some of what they had learned over the course of a year. But, even more than that, our students engaged their parents in a meaningful conversation that forced both students and parents to apply what they had learned or already knew. For example, some of our grade 7 students shared some of what they had learned in their reading of the novel The Giver. Students had to explain that it is a story about a utopian attempt at a perfect society. Students then shared a video clip they had prepared that focused on five things they would change to make their world more perfect and led to a discussion as to what their parents would change to make the world more perfect. This was followed with a discussion on the question, "Does having more rules make a society perfect?"

Why we do What we do

Likewise, the grade 8 "Here I Stand" projects not only have a presentation element, they also move students to take action on an issue that they feel passionate about. There are three components to the "Here I Stand" projects: Head, Heart and Hands. The Head component is where students research their topic and write about it. The Heart element is where students take a stand on the issue and the Hands element is where they actively go and do something about it. This year students took a stand on issues as diverse as epilepsy, green methods of lawn mowing, and child labour exploitation by multinational chocolate companies. One student shaved her head in support of cancer patients, and many students conducted coin and bottle drives to support various causes. Students had to apply what they had learned and then re-enforce that learning through a presentation as students shared their findings with their classmates and later with the school community on the evening of the Celebration Barbeque.

Projects and the presentation of learning that follows from project work emphasize the application of the concepts they learn. By applying concepts, student understanding is deepened. Many tests [and rote assignments] tend to focus on short-term memory and simple recall of facts instead of the understanding and application of concepts (paraphrased from The Cause of Christian Education, by Richard Edlin, page 168). The learning that results is deeper and richer, when students work to apply the curriculum to their own lives and then present that learning.

As Christian educators, if we truly are about enabling our students "to be faithful, discerning, obedient and creative servants of God and of neighbour, and stewards of His creation" (Abbotsford Christian School's Mission Statement), we need to continue to engage our students in learning that is real and deep. Projects and presentations of learning are some of the tools we use to do just that.

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 have been 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.

NEW ROUTE FOR CLEARBROOK/HUNTINGDON:

We are considering running a new route through the Huntingdon/ Clearbrook area, (west side of Abbotsford).

If you are interested in having your family on this route, please contact: **Karen Thiessen** @ kthiessen@telus.net or **604.823.2095**.

Showcases on our Website

Have you noticed the showcase sections of our website? Click on

<http://www.abbotsfordchristian.com/secondary/Pages/Showcase.aspx> for the **secondary** site or

<http://www.abbotsfordchristian.com/middle/Pages/Showcase.aspx> for the **middle school** site.

The **elementary** site will be launched soon. You will see Presentations of Learning (POLs) in many different forms.

ANNUAL DRIVE REMINDER

At ACS, it is our prayer that parents who send their kids to our school aren't just consumers of Christian Education but that they become **engaged partners** in our community. For many of us, the decision to send our kids here required a lot of thought and prayer.

We believe that this school belongs to the Lord and that His work is being done here. In fact, everything in this world belongs to Him including our finances.

As a community of believers we are not called to give equally but to sacrifice equally. Our community has been blessed with more than enough for us to fund His work. How much God wants each of us to give of what we've been given is something we should pray about. The annual drive is our reminder for you to have that personal conversation with Him. Just imagine what would happen if every member of our community did this.

Many people think the purpose of our annual drive is to ask you for money, but all we are really asking is that you return your response form. Our goal is to get all of these forms back because they indicate that you have prayed about our school, you have asked God what he wants from you, and you are responding through prayer. As **partners**, is that too much to expect from each other?

Thank you to everyone who has already responded! Our Annual Drive ends at the end of the school year, so please return your form by then. Extra copies are available on our website or at the administration office. Volunteers will be following up by phone with those who haven't returned a response form yet to make sure they've received the information.

Alvin Scholing - Director of Development
ascholing@abbotsfordchristian.com

Car-pooling opportunity 2011/12 School Year

Family living near the Abbotsford airport is looking for others who might be interested in ride-sharing for next school year. If you live in central or west Abbotsford and are interested, please contact **Chris or Tanya** at **604-556-7894**.



2011 ABBY- MISSION CHAMPIONSHIPS

GRADE 8 GIRLS—ACS CHAMPIONS!!! --238, MEI—162
GRADE 8 BOYS—ACS--2ND 104, MEI—228
GRADE 8 COMBINED—ACS 2ND 342, MEI-410

JR GIRLS—ACS CHAMPIONS!!!—236, WJ MOUAT-120
JR BOYS—ACS-2ND 124, WJ MOUAT-296
JR COMBINED—ACS 2ND 360, WJ MOUAT-416

SR GIRLS—ACS 2ND 202, WJ MOUAT-208
SR BOYS—ACS 3RD 108.5, WJ MOUAT-298.5, YALE-164
SR COMBINED—ACS 3RD 310.5, WJ MOUAT-506.5, YALE-315

OVERALL COMBINED—ACS 2ND 670.5, WJ MOUAT-922.5

Jr. Girl ACS Aggregate Winners—Three way tie!
 Catherine Taekema-28 pts.
 Stephanie Kies-28 pts.
 Hailey McGrail-28 pts.



FRASER VALLEY TRACK + FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2011 - COQUITLAM TOWNE CENTRE STADIUM

KNIGHTS TEAM RESULTS:

Senior Girls—3RD Place 51 points
 Junior Girls – 3rd Place 77 points

Fraser Valley Champions (Gold Medalists)

Garret Groeneweg—1st Sr. Boys 1500m Racewalk
 Aly Cheese—1st Jr. Girls High Jump
 Heidi Olthuis—1st Jr. Girls 1500m Racewalk

The 42nd Annual **Sports Day** hosted by the S.A.L.T. students started in the rain with seven houses putting their cheering voices together to earn the first points of the day. The rain did not dampen those who came to participate in T+F events, Crazy Obstacle Races, Golf Ball Scavenger Hunts, Trivia Jeopardy, Beach Ball Volleyball, Team Pyramid building and the always enthusiastic Tug-Of-War competition. The final race of the day was the Senior Boys 4x400 Relay with seven teams racing for the gold and the Sports Day Trophy. This year the Purple Palau House of homerooms from Stelpstra, Visser, Buytendorp and Marty were the champions. They were pushed by the White Canada House who, had earlier in the year, won the Rubber Chicken Challenge.



The **Senior boys golf team** won the school's first ever Fraser Valley Championship on May 16th. Landon Kampman won the silver medal for low score during the playoffs. The boys are off to provincials at Northview Golf Course, former site of the PGA Vancouver Open, at the end of May.

KNIGHTS VOLLEYBALL CAMP

WHEN: Aug.30, 31 & Sept. 1
 7-9 pm

WHO: Grade 8 - 12 students

WHERE: ACS Secondary gym

COST: FREE!

FEMALE COACHES: Aleida van der Woerd & Alison Lammers

MALE COACHES: TBA

WHY: To sharpen skills, get coordinated & to have fun playing volleyball

- ◆ Serving
- ◆ Setting
- ◆ Serve Receive
- ◆ Defense
- ◆ Attacking
- ◆ Conditioning
- ◆ Positioning
- ◆ Court Movement

Registration forms available at middle or secondary offices / email Ms. Lammers at: alammers@abbotsfordchristian.com

MIDDLE HIGHLIGHTS



8A Stream Planting Project

The sun shone on 8A on Tuesday, May 17 as we dug into our Watershed unit along Stoney Creek in a partnership with Abbotsford Parks, Recreation and Culture and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. After walking down to our work site in Bateman Park, we learned more about the characteristics of healthy streams and how they can be damaged by invasive plant species, enjoyed our lunches while on guard against hungry crows, and then planted several hundred native trees and shrubs along the banks of the creek. It was a wonderful way to practice stream stewardship in a local setting!

Tym Berger-Principal



Grade 6 Waterslide Excursion

Despite the drizzle and cold temperatures, our grade 6 students enjoyed themselves at the Cultas Lake Waterslides on Friday, May 27. Students and teachers left school after chapel and then spent the afternoon sliding and then trying to stay warm in the hot tubs. The event was a way of building community and celebrating students' first year in Middle School.

Tym Berger-Principal

Grade 8 Celebration Evening

This year our **Grade 8 Celebration Evening** will be held on

Thursday, June 23
at **7:30 p.m.**

In the **Secondary Gym.**

This will be a time of thankfulness for a Christian education to this point and a looking forward to high school. All family and friends are invited. After the program there will be an opportunity for congratulations and refreshments.

We Couldn't Do it Without You!

PARENT AND VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT

Friday, June 10, 9:45-10:20
Middle School Gym

All Middle School Parents and supporting adult volunteers are invited to come celebrate your contribution to our school community. You are appreciated! There will be music, drama, a Power Point presentation, and a short address from Mr. Berger. Stick around after the event and enjoy some refreshments prepared by our Middle School staff. Hope to see you there.

SECONDARY HIGHLIGHTS

A CELEBRATORY WEEK AT THE SECONDARY.

Once again, the Secondary highlighted one of our school's core beliefs and celebrated God's goodness during our annual "Celebration Week". This has become an annual event and, although it is a very busy time, it is a great way to demonstrate that we take our school's mission seriously. During this week, the student's gifts and talents are on display for the entire community and hundreds of people have the opportunity to come in and be a part of the celebration by viewing student work, asking student's questions about what they have done, experiencing presentations of learning and enjoying a community spirit that brings supporters of Christian education together over a period of several days.

It was a great reminder of what a blessing our school is both to parents and students! *Rob Bakker*





“ NO STRINGS ATTACHED” The Story of Pinocchio performed by Grades 1-5 - June 1 & 2

Elementary

...see page 5

Middle

...see page 6,8



Secondary

...see
page 6,
7 & 8
Drama -
pg 7



General

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And much more!

June 9 - Volunteer Tea - Elem.
June 7 - Athletic Celebration at Sec.
June 13 - Kindergarten Roundup
June 16 - Fun in the Sun - Elem
June 17 - Grad Activity Day
June 21-29 - Assessment Week - Sem.2 at Sec.
June 22 - Preschool Graduation
June 23 - Grade 8 Celebration & Grade 5 Farewell Chapel
June 24 - last day of class (K-8)
June 28 - Commencement Rehearsal - 1:00 pm
- Commencement - 7:30pm
June 30 - Rep Card pickup at Elem/Mid - 9:00 - 12:00
July 6-15 - Rep Card pickup at Sec.

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

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Nilah Lewis, *Admin Assistant*
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THE MESSENGER
ABBOTSFORD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

eXploring with a purpose

A publication of the ACS Administration Office

Published six times a year for the interest of parents, students, supporters and friends.
Christine Bomhof - Community Relations
Nilah Lewis - Admin Assistant

GENERAL ACS NEWS CONT'D

From the Board Chair



Greetings to all ACS Society Members.

It is hard to believe another school year is coming to a close. Your ACS board has had a busy year, and I'd like to highlight a few items that we have accomplished this past school year. We finally completed the overhaul of our board

policy manual. It started a few years ago with the revision of our by-laws at our society meeting, and has culminated with the completion of a freshly approved board policy manual which will guide our governance business for years to come. A policy manual is never complete as an active board will continue to add to it, or improve upon it. Already we are adding to it by developing policy to evaluate the effectiveness of the board, individual board members and the board chair, all designed to ensure best practices in board governance. Similarly, we recently approved a board director development policy which ensures a board member is educated with relevant knowledge on board governance and other related topics.

Knowing about governance is only half of it. The other half is to know Abbotsford Christian School. Aside from the monthly reports we receive from the Elementary, Middle and Secondary campuses, on May 6th, the board spent the entire day touring the three campuses. We enjoyed a day of going into the classrooms, interacting with staff and students, enjoying the middle school chapel, and generally getting a very good feel of the day-to-day activities and of the school atmosphere. The board was unanimous in its positive impressions of the day which once again affirmed for the board the wonderful school we have in ACS. The day also allowed us to view the infrastructure, so that when we discuss ideals for building improvement to support education, we can better visualize the setting.

The other ways in which the board remains connected to the school operations is to receive presentations from staff at the board meeting. This year we had two such presentations, one from the grade three teaching team and one from the special education department. We, as a board, are very thankful for the abundance of skill and talent the Lord has provided ACS.

By the time you receive the *Messenger*, our Annual Drive will be near complete. This has become a regular occurrence at ACS, where we approach all of our society members to consider making a donation to ACS. One of our board-established visions is to *"have an innovative, multi-faceted funding structure that provides financial strength and stability to support our annual and long-term objectives, in a stewardly manner that honours God."* Events such as our annual auction, the annual drive, and the recently introduced Gala all serve to raise funds for ACS to support our many

educational initiatives in our strategic plan. We understand that there are many competing demands for finances, and some of our supporting churches are experiencing building programs. We don't wish to impose upon that, but will nonetheless contact all our society members to remind them of our annual drive and to consider a response based on prayerful consideration.

Finally, one last highlight to report, that being the election of two new board members. Eben Louw and Don Luymus have been approved by an overwhelming majority of voters. Similarly, Amy Van Belle has been approved by society members to serve a second consecutive term. We welcome Eben and Don to the board and wish them the Lord's blessing as they begin their task being "keepers" of the Mission of ACS and in doing so, governing ACS along with the other board members. Thank you also to Amy for remaining on the board. This is a good mix of new faces and new talent on the board, and the board obtaining continuity and long term memory. Thanks also go to Jake Groeneweg whose term on the board has concluded. Jake has given us 6 years of continuous service. His wisdom and gentle nature has been a blessing to the board.

This brings me to the conclusion of my article, and, near to the conclusion of my term on the board. It is with mixed emotion that I submit my last article to the *Messenger* as board chair of Abbotsford Christian School. My term is complete and I will be stepping aside after this school year. It has been an amazing journey for me that began in 1999. There are far too many events and highlights that have occurred over these many years for me to mention, so I will keep it at three specific impressions. First, this school is an amazing place for our kids; a place where they can experience and evaluate all of life under God, and where they are nurtured to discover and develop 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. Second, the above couldn't be possible without the gifted and talented staff who grace our halls on a daily basis. You have my utmost admiration. I have had a unique perspective over these many years, and am honoured you have accepted God's call to serve here. Third, it was indeed my privilege and honour to have been in the company of, and sitting around the board table with, many thoughtful, wise, discerning, critical thinking and visionary board members and Administrators over the many years I have served as board chair. These individuals are devoted and committed to Christian Education. I believe in Christian education for our children, and remain committed to serving its cause. Though leaving ACS, I will continue my involvement with the Society of Christian Schools BC where I serve as the SCSBC Board Chair, and through that role, will also continue as a board member for Christian Schools Canada. My involvement with local, provincial and national Christian education stems from a strong belief in Christian education for our children, and I am thankful that you, as ACS society members, believe likewise. It's one of the best decisions we can ever make for our children.

Eric Van Egmond - ACS Board Chair (till June 21st)

STAFFING CHANGES AT ACS

ELEMENTARY STAFF

Departures:

Margaret Cameron taught intermediate French as well as all English Language Learners this year. Margaret completed a one year contract for the French position and has decided not to return to the ELL position.

Jodi Fraser has been an Educational Assistant (EA) in our Special Education department for the past two years. Jodi has decided to further her education next year.

Kari Friesen had been teaching Grade One and was on maternity leave this year. She decided to remain at home once that was completed.

Brianne Klassen taught Grade One this year, filling a maternity leave. Brianne has accepted a position with the Langley School District.

Alida Martens completed filling a maternity leave as a Grade One teacher in February and has since found a teaching position in Manitoba where she and her husband moved in order for him to return to the family farm.

Daniel Penner has been a part time Educational Assistant in our Special Education department for this past year. Daniel has decided to focus on other work opportunities next year.

Leaves:

Christen Bloom has been an Educational Assistant and will be going on maternity leave by or before late September as she and Jesse anticipate the birth of their first child.

Jeremy Hirsch has been teaching Grade Four and will be taking a study leave in the coming year, working on Master's level work in the field of technology and education.

Angela Peters has been an Educational Assistant and will be going on a maternity leave this coming year as she and Brent anticipate the birth of their second child.

Wendy Wiebe has been teaching Kindergarten and will be going on maternity leave as she and Tim anticipate the birth of their first child.

Special Appreciation:

Simone Scholing decided, after much prayer and deliberation, to resign her role as Vice-Principal at the end of this year. Simone has most capably filled this role for the past five years and her wisdom, sensitivity, and dedication has been deep-

ly appreciated by all the staff, and by Donna and Roy as her partners on the admin team. It is with sincere gratitude that we acknowledge that Simone will continue to bring leadership to ACES as she continues teaching Grade Five with Janice van der Leek.

Arrivals:

Anna De Moor will begin teaching our English Language Learning program.

Susan Dykshoorn is returning from her maternity leave and will be teaching Grade One next year.

Debbie Goertzen comes to us from Cedars Christian School in Prince George along with her husband Gerry, (new Principal at ACSS). Debbie will be filling Wendy Wiebe's maternity leave and will head up our new full-time Kindergarten program.

Lorinda Lichty will be teaching our intermediate French program. Lorinda is returning from a maternity leave and previously taught at ACMS.

Karen van Wijk joins us as our new Vice-Principal, replacing Simone Scholing in that role. Karin will be teaching Grade Two. Karin comes to us from Maple Ridge Christian School.

At the time of writing, we are still in the process of hiring for various Educational Assistant positions in our Special Education department.

MIDDLE STAFF

There are no major changes in our middle school staffing for next year.

Kristie Spyksma, a former Grade 7 teacher and elementary French teacher, will be taking one more year off to continue her studies at Regent College.

SECONDARY STAFF

Departures:

Pam Van Dop has been teaching Math and Science and will be with us for a portion of the first semester, but will then be leaving our school.

Diane Marty has been teaching French and is looking forward to the prospect of retirement and will not be returning.

Catherine Bentum will be leaving us to care for a new addition to the family. We are currently looking for a suitable candidate to fill her position in the ELL department for next year.

Jennifer Witttrup will not be returning to her EA position next year as she has elected to stay home with her family.

Sue Wisselink will be retiring after serving 24 years as an Educational Assistant.

Special Appreciation:

Rob Bakker will be returning to teaching Biology and taking up his administrative duties in the areas of curriculum, learning and assessment. We are so grateful for his work as Interim Principal this year and appreciate his tireless efforts to improve learning.

Arrival:

Gerry Goertzen will be joining us as the new Secondary Principal (see write up in previous *Messenger*)

ADMIN STAFF

Departures:

Mike O'Leary, our Maintenance Supervisor, will not be leaving us right away as we are planning a transition for his replacement. At some point, Mike will be heading into full-time retirement as opposed to his "part-time" retirement that he is currently enjoying.

Arrivals:

Jim McGrail will be transitioning into Mike O'Leary's current role as Maintenance Supervisor. Jim is a long term parent and former board member who loves the school and looks forward to aiding the school through facilities and maintenance management.

Karen Thiessen will be joining us as our new Transportation Coordinator as the school takes over the bussing. Karen has been volunteering in this role for the last few years with the bus society and we are grateful that she has agreed to carry this on as a paid position.

We thank all those leaving for their dedication to Christian education, the work they have done at ACS, and the valuable contributions they have made to our learning community. We have been blessed by their presence among us and wish them God's richest blessings as they continue in His service. We welcome all our new staff and look forward to getting to know them as they become part of our community.

A complete list of staff assignments for the middle school will be published in the August *Messenger*.

ELEMENTARY HIGHLIGHTS

2011 Geography Challenge *by Simone Scholing*

You probably know that Victoria is the capital city of British Columbia, but do you know where the archaeological site of Petra is located? Our geography whizzes demonstrated that they knew the answer to that, and many other challenging geographical questions.

All students in grade 4, 5 and 6 participated in the preliminary round. Then, the top 30 participated in round 1. Finally, on April 11 the top 9 competed in the final challenge.

Congratulations to these participants for making it to the final challenge: *Kyle Vaandrager, Lindsay Hempstead, Andrew van der Leek, Ethan Koetsier and Heather Collins.*

Congratulations to our winners: *First – Nicholas Kammenos, Second – Katie Luymes, Third (tie) – James Lee and Isabella Hamm.*



In Grade 5, students learn about the human body and their calling in 1 Cor. 6:20, "Honor God with your body." So, each Grade 5 class competed against the other Grade 5 classes in our Lunch Box Olympics. This fun, nutrition campaign was meant to encourage the students to make more nutritious food choices and teach healthy balance. During this competition, one parent commented that this was the first time their child wanted to eat vegetables at school!



Students from 5A enjoying their healthy treat after winning the competition!

Michelle Ekkert - Gr 5A Teacher

Christian Elementary Track and Field Meet

On May 27th, the grade 4s and 5s from the elementary campus competed in the 2nd annual CESS Track and Field meet at McLeod Park in Langley. They participated with other students from MEI, Pacific Academy, Surrey Christian and Langley Christian. Our students enjoyed meeting and competing against kids from different schools. Teachers and parents gathered together to cheer, measure and watch athletes in action. The events included the typical track races and field events; however, students also got to try their hand at Frisbee Toss and Rubber Mallet Throw. The rain held off for most of the day and temperatures were cool but, as these comments state, it ended up being a fabulous day!

Here are some reflections from grades five students about the day:

"This track meet had awesome food and good opponents." Connor M.

"I think this track meet brought out sportsmanship in everyone." Elias S.

"It's great to be able to hang out with your friends, and get to know people at track and field." Evan F.

"It's great that we can see people from other schools." Jewel H.

On Thursday, June 23rd at 9:00 am, we will be having

our **Grade 5 "Farewell Chapel"**.

This will be a time to reflect on the years our students have spent at our elementary school and to bless them as they move on to middle school. In the afternoon, we will be taking all grade 5 students to the Rotary Outdoor Pool (in Chilliwack) for a year-end celebration. We hope that many parents will join us!

Math Contests *by Simone Scholing*

No matter how you add it up, we have awesome grade 4s and 5s! All of them participated in a very challenging math contest preview. From there, over 60 students signed up to compete in the real deal. We congratulate all contestants for challenging themselves! Our top winners:

Grade 4

1st - Reagan Van Belle
2nd - Andrew van der Leek
3rd (tie) - Lindsay Hempstead, Katie Mun and Josh Rempel

Grade 5

1st - James Lee
2nd - Jake Park
3rd - Nathanael Van Deventer

SECONDARY HIGHLIGHTS CONT'D

News for the Auto Shop. Gary Verbeek

Braeden Schuetz and Dan Herrewynen finished 4th and 6th at the annual Provincial Competition in May. It is the 7th time in the last 8 years that ACS has qualified for the competition. This was, quite possibly, the toughest set of diagnostic problems in 8 years! The boys represented our school very well and we are proud of how they placed.

What's new in the shop? We are building, from the ground up, a 1953 F100 Pick Up that Dan Gilding, (current parent in the school) has given to us. We have many local businesses (some with no real affiliation to ACS) coming on board to help us out. Some guys will be going to midway wheel-abrading to sandblast and bead-blast the frame and body parts; some will go to 360 fabrication to do the body work; some will go to Abbotsford Spring to help build the rear suspension and driveshaft; some will go to MSA Ford to help build the engine and transmission. The idea is to have as many students out there experiencing work at these specialty shops to learn as much as possible. If you would like to be a part of this process, please contact Mr. Verbeek at the school. Hopefully, there will be some Racing news to share with you all soon.



Congratulations to our 7 UFV Contest writers.

Ed VanWoerden.-Math Dept. Head

The contest was held on May 6, 2011, as an all-day event: There was a 2 hour contest in the morning and math workshops for students in the afternoon. We had 5 students finish in the top 10, where there were 155 participants. A special congrats for the Juniors: Jeffrey Lin - 2nd; Levi Zac - 9th; and Landon Stark - 10th; and the Seniors: David Park - 5th; and So mi Ahn - 8th. We were also pleased with Andrew Schroeder who placed - 14th and that Luke Wiens found a pencil to borrow!! Please congratulate your fellow students.



BAND TOUR FOLLOW-UP

by Bill Workman - Music Department Head

This year's band tour to Seattle was amazing! We performed at Shoreline Christian School, First



CRC Church in Shoreline (2 services), and Seattle Pacific University. They played exceptionally well, and were very focused for our clinic with Dr. Gerry Marsh at the University. Each student also enjoyed a Seattle "City Pass" which gave them entrance to the zoo, EMP (Experience Music Project Museum), Arbosy Cruises boat ride, Seattle Aquarium Science Museum, and 2 times up the Space Needle. This year, more than any other, the students really connected with each other; they became a family. The devotions (led by students) were amazing and inspiring, the camaraderie between students was noticed everywhere we went. The students were great representatives of our school and of our Lord. They left a great impression wherever we went. Make sure to ask a band student about tour this year – they will tell you some great stories. Congratulations, Band; you all made this year's tour a tremendous success!

In April, we had 22 Mexican students at the middle school and 19 Mexican students at the secondary school for a short term cultural experience from Ciudad de Mexico and San Mateo School in Mexico. Each Mexican student was buddied with an ACS student for the two week period. As the Mexican students shadowed their buddies throughout the day, it was a wonderful time of learning, questioning, and sharing the similarities and differences of each culture. The Mexican students were able to catch a glimpse of what life is like in Canada and our ACS students were able to hear what life was like in Mexico. In the end, friendships were established and horizons were broadened as students from both countries were able to share their lives with each other. We thank the teachers for their support and patience for all of our students.

Teresa Seo-International Student Coordinator



When Mr. Kiers told our Drama 11/12 class that we would be putting on another production called "Our Girls", everyone was a little frightened at the fact that he wanted yet another amazing show. All of us thought he was a little crazy, especially after putting on an amazing performance of The Diary of Anne Frank. But now that we are two weeks away from opening, we're all glad that we are doing this production.

We have spent countless hours pushing ourselves to the limit, and many more hours working on technical stuff (costumes, promo and building the set). We have all grown into a close knit family. We also know that for some, this is their first time on stage; others, their last. But in the end, it's all worth it. Yes, we may be tired, and we may not feel like practicing sometimes, but we know that this is something bigger than us. We aren't doing this for ourselves; we are doing it for you. We all know that this will be one comedy that nobody will forget.

Allie Haan