

A monthly newsletter of
Bulkley Valley Christian School

Operated by the Christian
School Society
of Smithers and Talkwa

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The Grapevine



Bulkley Valley Christian School Vision Statement

Our goal is to prepare young people to live fully for God with the ability to understand, evaluate, and transform their world from the foundations of God's infallible Word, the Bible.

Editorial by Barry Lester

Since the last grapevine, winter has finally disappeared and spring is here. If winter was not so long, cold and monochromatic I am not sure spring would have the same beauty. Perhaps the same is true when we go through periods of spiritual winter and feel disillusioned and disconnected. The same God that renews the trees with buds is ready to renew our lives. Similarly the Easter weekend gave us opportunity to reflect on the amazing sacrifice Christ made and feel renewed again by the assurance that He bore our sins and rose again.

As this school year draws to a close we have much to be grateful for. As a school society we have been blessed with a rich past and half a century of Christ centered education. This is a time to look back at the beginnings with thankfulness and forward with joy to a rapidly changing educational system, but with a determination to keep our core values. We hope that you will join us in the weekend of 50th Anniversary celebrations and gratitude to God for his blessings.

On May 16th we have our School Society Annual General Meeting. We encourage all our members to attend and become involved in the future of the school. There will be further updates on the campus unification and the rationale and process of developing an educational creed that best reflects our school society.

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From the Elementary Campus Principal



These past few weeks have been a bit of a blur for much of the staff – and possibly the students – of the elementary school. The main reason for this was the amount of work that had to happen to be able to present *The Tale of Three Trees*.

Every time we do a performance, and all is said and done, I cannot but look back in amazement at how things always work out in the end: the beautiful backdrop was finished in time; props and costumes were ready; actors knew their lines; the choir knew the lyrics; the audience enjoyed the end result.

At times like this I am so glad to be working at the school. Everyone pulls together and makes sure that things get done. People are more forgiving than usual when someone overlooks a detail; they just pick up the slack. This to me is what continues to make the people at the elementary a good team, or maybe it's more like a family. There may be squabbles from time to time, and sometimes we may even complain, but in the end we pull together and make things happen. I hope that as we amalgamate we will be able to work together in that spirit.

In the meantime, when you have an opportunity, please take the time to thank that teacher, that assistant, or that secretary for all the work they do, not only for special occasions like the play, but on a daily basis. After all, there is nothing like a kind word to encourage one another.

K. Kort, Elementary Campus Principal

From the Secondary Campus Principal



The winds of change are sweeping the country. When the local candidates, during the all candidates meeting of April 27 at BVCS urged our students to be involved in the exercise of democracy, they probably did not realize to what extent youth involvement would have an effect on the election's outcome. The day after the election we realize we are indeed in a new era. The choices are clearer and the change of stability greater. This bodes well for our country and for the liberties we have as Christians and as parents to provide for our families as we feel we are called to.

Winds of change are blowing in our school as well. By time you read this a number of work bees have brought about considerable alteration to the interior landscape of our school. In the meantime plumbers, carpet layers, drywallers and painters are continuing their work.

It is gratifying to see this process develop rapidly because time is moving on as well. Most of the grade 8 and 9 classes will move to the new rooms in the modular building soon. Six weeks from today will be the last day of school for the high school students and the start of their exams. Another week and the elementary school staff and students will mostly have moved into their new classrooms downstairs.

These are exciting days because they involve us in the shaping of a new community. The unification of the kindergarten through grade 12 students on one campus creates more than an amalgamated operation. We are looking forward to a learning community that offers new opportunities that can be a real blessing for the students.

These days are exciting also because they allow everyone in the school community a chance to be involved and in touch with school life. Work bees are real community building events, they get a lot done and they are fun too. Your help is very much appreciated for the practical difference it makes, but also because it allows you to

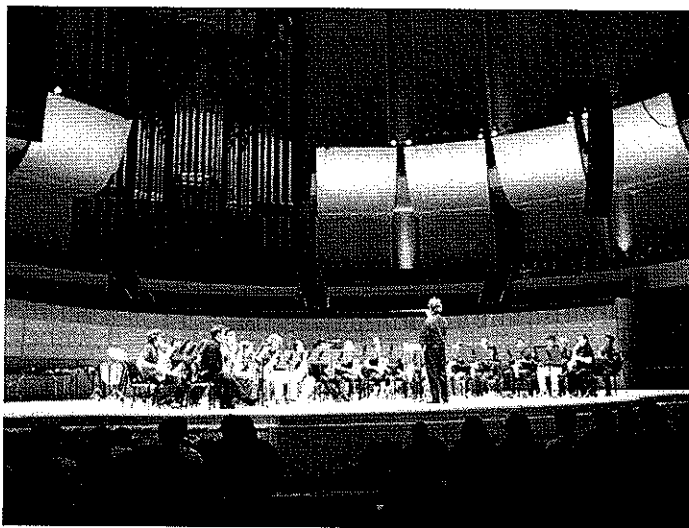
experience the changing and shaping of your school first hand. Please, give some of your time on a Saturday morning or other when the call for volunteer labour comes.

The report of the Educational Creed Committee is another piece in the shaping of that developing community. We published the report earlier and invited your responses. We hope to introduce it in some more detail during the AGM of May 16. In the meantime, the report is available for download at www.bvcs.ca.

Term 2 report cards for semestered courses will be issued next Friday. This puts our grade 10 - 12 students in the last stretch. Our students will be writing some exams on June 21 - 27. The grad committee is busy planning for the grad ceremony that will take place on June 24.

L. VanderHoek, Secondary Campus Principal

Band and Choir Tour Report



Performing in the astounding Winspear Center, singing with 400 plus students in the Cantando Festival's mass choir, playing with 30 to 40 other percussionists or saxophonists in the festival's Saxophone Choir or Percussion Choir, and attending workshops on the students' individual instrument or voice part taught by engaging, energetic, passionate world renowned specialists were just a few of the highlights of this year's BVCS Band and Choir Tour. All of these opportunities are not available

at more local festivals such as ones held in Burns Lake, Terrace, or even Prince George.

Over the seven-day tour, students were involved in an array of activities that gave them the opportunity to grow spiritually, musically, and relationally. Many grew spiritually by leading morning devotions, organizing two worship nights, singing on the praise team for these evenings, and serving through performances. These performances included taking part in West Edmonton CRC's Sunday morning service that took place in a beautiful church that students were in awe of. The other performances included two elementary school concerts (Edmonton Christian Elementary School and Cedars Christian School), as well as two senior's homes (one in Jasper and one in Edmonton, which was a very grateful veteran's home).

Many students also grew musically through the array of opportunities Edmonton's Cantando Festival offered them. All students performed music they have been working on for months in band and/or choir. The band performed at the Winspear Center for a panel of adjudicators that included music professors from the University of Calgary and of BC, as well as the conductor of the University of Alberta Symphonic Wind Ensemble. They received a workshop the next day by Dr. Glenn Price from the University of Calgary. In this workshop he discussed an array of topics including: tone, tuning, balance, blend, dynamics, articulation, and phrasing. He also cautioned them that about 85% of their music including notes, rhythms, and dynamics should be learned at home and not in rehearsals. Band students also attended workshops on their specific instrument where many were taught how to breathe better and thus produce a nicer

sound. Choir students also performed for an adjudicator, Scott Leithead, who is an amazing educator who really engaged all students and challenged them to step out of their comfort zones in order to develop musically. Mr. Leithead also led the men's vocal workshop and the mass choir. This man will not be forgotten by many of our choral students. Tuesday afternoon was filled with choral workshops and rehearsals for the mass choir that all our choir students took part in. On top of all these wonderful music education opportunities, students were also given the opportunity to see and explore two universities, The University of Alberta and The Kings University College (TKUC). TKUC gave them a tour of their campus and presentations from faculty including the music department.

Finally many students developed new relationships and strengthened old ones. At the end of tour students were asked what their favorite part of tour was and the most common answer was "getting to know their peers better." I have also heard that since so many students were gone on tour, back at BVCS students also broke out of their typical friendship circles and made new ones too. I believe that tour was an excellent school spirit building activity. Let us all pray that God continues to nurture these new relationships.

In conclusion, this year's band and choir tour was a success in so many ways. All the hard work that went into pulling off this trip was definitely worth it. We would like to thank all of you who supported us financially in our fundraising endeavors, especially Mrs. Reitsma and Mrs. Weme who organized the chocolate sales. We would also like to thank Mr. VanderHoek, Mrs. Numan, Mr. Kort, and Mr. Buikema, who helped organize the tour behind the scenes. Lastly, this could not have been pulled off without our dedicated chaperones: Mr. Boyes, Mrs. S. Braam, Mrs. T. Mager, Mrs. J. Vandenberg, Mrs. V. Veenstra, Mr. B. & Mrs. P. Weme, and Mrs. J. Wisselink. Thank you very much!

From Crystal Boyes and BVCS Band and Choir students

Two Things to Think About Regarding Grocery Gift Cards

1. Recently, a member of our school society told me the following story. They went shopping to Safeway and spent \$133. They paid their bill with Safeway gift cards. At the bottom of their bill, they were told that they had earned 136 air miles on that particular shopping trip --- 100 air miles because they had spent \$100, 30 air miles because they had bought a certain product, and 6 air miles because Safeway gives 1 air mile for every \$20 spent. This same person told me that they have an Air Miles Mastercard that rewards them with one air mile for every \$15 spent. Because they paid with gift cards and not this Mastercard, they lost out on 8 air miles from Mastercard. How much did BVCS earn because they used Safeway gift cards instead? The answer: just over \$10.

When thinking about this story, two things definitely stood out:

- o First of all, this person lost out on 8 air miles while the school gained \$10! I think we all know that 8 air miles is worth nowhere near \$10.
 - o Secondly, this story points out the reality that often the majority of our air miles are not earned by using a specific credit card. Rather, they are usually obtained by taking advantage of the bonus air mile offers that Safeway provides.
2. The ladies who run our Gift Card program are going to give regular updates on their sales, and these updates will be published quarterly in *The Grapevine*. Here is their first update. In 2011, from January 1 – April 15, a total of \$74 525 in gift cards were

sold to members of our school society. At an average profit of 6.5% that we receive from these gift cards from Safeway, Extra Foods, and BV Wholesale, we ended up with a profit of \$4844 for that three and a half month period.

Now imagine if we had 200 tuition-paying families and other families in our support community participating in the gift card program on a regular basis. Let's say each of those families spent an average of \$500/month on groceries (which is likely a low monthly total). Look at the math that would have happened in such a scenario from January 1 – April 15:

200 families X 3.5 months X \$500/month X 6.5% profit = \$22 750

It's rather amazing that a profit of \$22 750 can be generated in a three and a half month period simply by people doing what they always do --- buy groceries!

The Conclusion of the Matter

We continue to try and push the use of these gift cards. Unfortunately, our sales seem to be in a state of slow and steady decline. What we are failing to see is when we lose all this potential gift card income, we have to generate these revenues elsewhere -- and one of the most likely sources might have to be increased tuition. To avoid such a scenario, we once again ask you to please consider purchasing these gift cards on a regular basis; **there is no easier way for our society to generate significant revenues!**

The History of the our School Newsletters

Did you know that the first *Grapevine* was published in October 1985? For the past 26 years *The Grapevine* has been an excellent means of keeping people informed about BVCS and the vision of Christian Education in the Bulkley Valley. Before *The Grapevine* we had the *S.T.P.* (Students, Teachers and Parents) and before that we had *The Messenger*.

September 1961 was the first issue of *The Messenger*. It was hand-written and "run-off" on the old Gestetner in purple ink. *The Messenger* was made from 1961-1974. The *S.T.P.* came next from 1974-76.

I am looking for any newsletters that were published between September 1969 and January 1974 and again between September 1976 and October 1985.

I have been collecting grad class (grade 10) photos from the early years. I have one for each year from 1971-1982. However, I am missing the 1972 grad class group photo. If you were a part of that class or know if a photo was taken please let me know.

I have also collected a lot of class photos over the past 50 years. I do not have any class photos from: 1962/63 1963/64 1967/68 1977/78 or all the classes from the years 1980 to 1986.

Please contact me if you have any of these newsletters or class photos. I just need to borrow them to scan. Thank you for your help.

Rosalie Brandsma

Highlights of the March 2011 Board of Directors' Meeting

Cornelia Huisman opened with devotions and prayers. The board approved the minutes of February 2011, and then spent time reviewing reports from the various committees.

The Education Committee met on March 7th. Highlights of that meeting include:

- Recommendation was made to hire Roxanne Dykstra as the music teacher during Crystal Boyes' one-year maternity leave.
- Sadness felt by staff and students regarding Noah Stolte's illness. Important to continue to communicate with students. Skype may be set up to allow students to talk to Noah.
- Committee is looking for one new parent representative. List of possible names discussed.
- School Discipline Policy is presently being "cleaned up" and will be placed in Education Committee Handbook.

The financial reports ending March 2011 were available for review. All committees were encouraged to watch their expenses until the end of the year.

The Capital Development Committee met together on March 9th. Plans for the Golf Tournament are progressing nicely. Tickets to the 50th Anniversary banquet at the Hudson Bay Lodge will be on sale after Spring Break for \$40 per ticket. A form has been prepared to record the sales, inventory, and receivables of the grocery card program on a quarterly basis. Information regarding sales and profits will be published in *The Grapevine*.

The Promotion Committee met on February 18th. Changes to the committee mandate have been approved. Committee is looking into changing the pictures hanging in the hospital foyer; will check to see if there is some high school art available. Grandparent's Day is scheduled for April 28th. Invitations will be made available for the kids to hand out, as well as notices placed in church bulletins.

Members of the Building, Grounds and Transportation Committee met on March 8th. The committee is presently working on the bussing situation for the coming school year. As well, the playground/garden plans at the unified campus are being developed.

The BVCS Amalgamation Committee has conducted interviews for the librarian, receptionist, and administrative assistant positions. Recommendations were made to the Board and discussed. All applicants will be contacted.

The Board developed a list of names for recruitment of new board members for the next school year. These people will be contacted and asked if they will allow their name to stand.

The next regular board meeting date: April 26, 2011. As Cornelia is going to be away, please submit any reports to Marlene H. by April 20th, 2011.

Highlights of the April 2011 Board of Directors' Meeting

Fred Reitsma opened with devotions and prayers. The board approved the minutes of March 2011, and then spent time reviewing reports from the various committees.

The Education Committee met on April 11th. Highlights of that meeting include:

- List of names for the one parent rep. position for the committee was discussed. Will provide them with a copy of the Education Committee Mandate to ponder as they seek God's leading in this decision.
- Only the current Education Committee Chairperson and Secretary are able to access archival minutes.
- Discussion regarding how to encourage membership to attend Home and School evenings.
- The committee has hired Debbie Groot to fill Melanie Anderson's position until June 2011.
- Christa LaFountain has been offered the one year maternity leave position of Melanie Anderson beginning August 2011 and ending April 2012.

Fred R. gave a report on his school visits over the last month. On April 5th he visited the secondary campus. He felt very welcome at the campus and found that students were learning, asking questions, and being challenged in life and faith. On April 12th he visited the elementary campus. He had the opportunity to meet some of the parents of the kindergarten and preschool students. He enjoyed his day with some nostalgia knowing that we are leaving that facility.

The Admissions Committee met on April 20th. Two new families have been recommended for full membership. We welcome Victor and Kerrista Dejong and Kevin and Titia Woudstra to our school community as full members!

The financial reports of March 2011 were available for review. The working budget was approved to be presented at the Spring AGM. All parents are asked to attend the Annual General Meeting on May 16. It will be held at the elementary campus.

The Employee Relations Committee met on April 18th. Updated copies of the new Compensation Agreement will be forwarded to the staff and board for possible ratification.

Members of the Building, Grounds and Transportation Committee met on April 5th. Site layout for playground, sandbox, and garden areas were presented to committee.

The Amalgamation Committee met on March 17th. Renovations are progressing well and a committee will be formed to coordinate the library move.

The Board discussed and planned the agenda for the Spring AGM being held May 16th, 2011. Agendas are to be distributed by Friday, April 29th to all society members.

The next regular board meeting date: May 24th, 2011. Please submit any reports to Cornelia Huisman by May 18th, 2011.

Recording Secretaries for the Board, Marlene H. and Yvonne T.

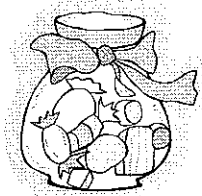
Please Join Us for Our 50th Anniversary Celebrations and Please Invite Others to Join Us, As Well

The 50th Anniversary Committee is excited about the various celebratory events that will be taking place. Please mark the following events and their corresponding dates on your calendar:

Thursday, May 26: Banquet at the Hudson Bay Lodge

This banquet will include an out-of-town comedian named Gery Schubert who is guaranteed to make us laugh. His website says the following, "The man of a thousand voices, a hundred faces and at least 12 wigs." Gery has provided entertainment at hundreds of banquets for schools, companies and other organizations. We look forward to having Gery make us laugh. Tickets are available at either campus for \$40 per person.

Friday, May 27: Events at the Elementary Campus

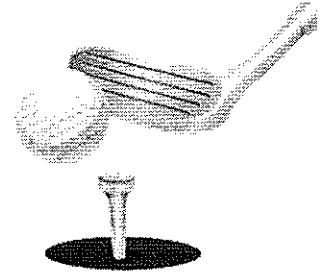


Because of the imminent closing of the elementary campus, we wanted to hold some special events at this campus. Beginning at 5:30 p.m. events will include a light supper, a short program, story-telling by past alumni, opportunities to reminisce about the past, and a return of some past favourite activities such as the fish pond, nail pounding contests, the cakewalk, fill a jar/buy a jar, bean bag toss etc. Our Friday events are intended to be for the whole family, not just mom and dad.



Saturday, May 28: The Annual Golf Tournament

If you've never participated in our annual golf tournament, consider joining us this year. All you need to do is call John Buikema (250-847-4238 or 847-0277) to sign up. As in past years, you will again be placed in a team for a "4- person best ball scramble". Your round of golf will be followed by a barbecue at the Smithers Golf and Country Club. After the barbecue, numerous prizes will be awarded to both teams and individuals (you don't even have to be an accomplished golfer to win a prize). Your round of golf, your meal, and the prizes are all included in your \$60 registration fee. Extra dinner tickets for those who aren't golfing are available for \$20. So call soon (*by May 17th*) to reserve your spot, and be ready for a great day, exciting prizes, all in support of our local Christian school!



We encourage you to attend one or more of these 50th Anniversary events (attending all 3 would be wonderful!), and we especially want to encourage you to get the word out about our 50th Anniversary to others.

(P.S. The 50th Anniversary Committee members are Irene Bakker, Rosalie Brandsma, John Buikema, Marlene Henderson, John McEwen, Teena Nicolai, Wilma Numan, and Tina Veenstra.)

May Hymn of the Month

Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet

Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet, praise the Lord with the harp and lute,
praise the Lord with the gentle sounding flute.

Praise the Lord in the field and forest, praise the Lord in the city square,
praise the Lord anytime and anywhere.

Praise the Lord in the wind and sunshine, praise the Lord in the dark of night,
praise the Lord in the rain or snow or in the morning light.

Praise the Lord in the deepest valley, praise the Lord on the highest hill,
praise the Lord; never let your voice be still.



Praise the Lord with the crashing cymbal,
praise the Lord with the pipe and string,
praise the Lord with the joyful songs you sing.
Praise the Lord on a weekday morning,
praise the Lord on a Sunday noon,
praise the Lord by the light of sun or moon.
Praise the Lord in the time of sorrow,
praise the Lord in the time of joy,
praise the Lord every moment;
nothing let your praise destroy.
Praise the Lord in the peace and quiet,
praise the Lord in your work or play,
praise the Lord everywhere in every way!

Home-stay Family Needed for a Dutch International Student.

There is a possibility that we might need a home-stay family for a Dutch international student. This would be an academically minded male who would enrol in our grade 11 program during the upcoming year. He would arrive in August 2011 and move back to the Netherlands in July 2012.

There is no certainty as of yet, whether this arrangement will actually happen, but we would like to be prepared for the occasion. If you are in a position to consider hosting this student please contact Mr. VanderHoek.

Christian School Society of Smithers and Telkwa

<u>Board Members</u>		<u>Teaching Staff Members</u>
Chairperson	Barry Lester	Melanie Anderson
Vice Chairperson	Glenn Bandstra	Jonathan Boone
Treasurer	Fred Reitsma	Crystal Boyes
Corresponding Secretary	Cornelia Huisman	Shawn Boyes
Admission Committee	Irene Bakker	John Buikema
Building/Grounds/ Transportation Committee	Steve deHoog	Jennifer de Boer
Capital Development Committee	Glenn Bandstra	Myrna Johnson
Education Committee	Warren Vandenberg	Klaas Kort
	Kristine Huxtable	Winette McEwen
Finance Committee	Fred Reitsma	Julie Monn-Djasngar
Promotion Committee	Irene Bakker	Elaine Nanninga
Employee Relations Committee	Mike Bandstra	Peter Rhebergen
Standing Grad Committee	Steve deHoog	Chris Steenhof
Secretary for the Board	Cornelia Huisman	Cathy Taekema
	Yvonne Tucker	Tom Stolte
		Hugo VanderHoek
		Ron VanDriel
		John Vis

The Grapevine is a monthly newsletter for members of the Christian School Society of Smithers and Telkwa as well as others interested in news from Bulkley Valley Christian School. It is distributed via school children and to others by local churches and by mail. We welcome your contribution but reserve the right to edit for suitability.

If you wish to submit an article, please contact Wilma Numan by email at wnuman@bvcs.ca. Submission due dates are normally the first Friday of each month.

