



A monthly newsletter of  
Bulkley Valley Christian School

Operated by the Christian School  
Society of Smithers and Telkwa

October 2010  
Volume 26, Issue 2



# 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.*



## Inside

- Message from the Elementary Campus Principal
- Message from the Secondary Campus Principal
- Board Report
- Message from the Development Director
- School trip reports
- Hymn of the Month

## **From the Board Chair**

Students and staff seem to be settling into their various subjects well and the school year is well underway. The Board is working hard to make the amalgamation of Elementary and Secondary campuses a smooth transition; part of this involves the careful examination of the structure of the new combined campus to provide the best model for space, administration and staffing to best meet student needs for the years to come.

We have been blessed to have wise input from the SCBC executive that has assisted other schools undergo similar transitions to single campuses. As we try to meet the many tight deadlines, we are seeking the input of staff and administrators in order to make Bulkley Valley Christian School a better school on a combined campus.

The Distributed Learning program has seen significant growth this year with enrolment now at 39 full time equivalent students. Mr. Chris Steenhof is capably leading the program with Debbie Groot and Aleeda Vis as newly hired teachers. This is a rapidly evolving and very innovative program, and we are developing into a leading DL school.

Continued on page 2

### **From the Board Chair (continued from page 1)**

Last year's school survey of parents highlighted some real concerns about bullying. The Board has made an Anti-Bullying Policy a priority and a concerted effort will be made to teach, model and address anti-bullying this year. Plans are underway for a presentation at a Home-School meeting.

Sadly, Julie Monn had a serious Achilles tendon injury at the start of the year and her subsequent surgery has kept her away from school for several weeks. We are thankful that she is healing well and wish her a good recovery as she starts back at work this week. Thanks go to Netty Lubbers, Betty Bandstra and Rinse de Boer for stepping in and covering her classes in the interim.

Please feel free to contact Board members if you have questions or concerns.

Barry Lester

### **From the Elementary Campus Principal**



When you read this, the first month of school will be behind us. By this time the students have settled into the daily routine of school. By all accounts everyone is off to a good start, including our new students.

A number of things are happening at our campus. Both teachers and students are becoming familiar with an exciting new math program called Jumpmath. The first responses from the staff have been favourable. One of the foundations of this program is to ensure that the teacher does not move on until all students have grasped a new concept. At the same time it encourages enrichment for students who have no difficulty at all. Teaching this way can be challenging, of course, but the feeling of success is something that can change attitudes towards the subject. If you want to take a closer look at the program, you can visit the website at [www.jumpmath.org](http://www.jumpmath.org).

Throughout the year we will be dealing with the upcoming amalgamation. In this context a decision needs to be made regarding Kindergarten. The ministry of education recently announced that independent schools would continue to receive funding should they decide to stay with the half day kindergarten program. During the next few months we need to consider what direction BVCS should be taking. Due to the size of our kindergarten it is unlikely that we would be able to offer both programs. However, we may need to look at some creative solutions that would satisfy both those who would prefer full day kindergarten as well as those who enjoy the half day program.

Finally, I want you to know that our preschool program continues to grow. We are now in a position where we will soon be advertising for a classroom assistant as we have a waiting list of students who would be eligible to start coming to preschool in January. This is very exciting, as it increases our pool of potential kindergarten students. The success of our preschool program is in no small part due to the work of our teacher Miss. Carolyn. Comments from parents indicate that her work with the children was an important factor in deciding to send their children to BVCS. Praise God for his blessing over the work Miss Carolyn (Visser) is doing for our school community.

K. Kort, Elementary Campus Principal

### **From the Secondary Campus Principal**



Dr. Dan Reinhardt<sup>1</sup> recently pointed out that there is a difference between change and transition. Change is external, it happens to you and it happens quickly. It deals with actions and events and it requires immediate response. Transition is internal, it is based on own deep reflections and it usually develops slowly. It deals with the nature of people or organizations and it is followed by intentional actions.

While working through the amalgamation process our school community finds itself at a point of transition; a journey of developing understanding of who we were and what we should become. It is a blessing that this process has the benefit of time and reflection to assure that the actions that follow are indeed intentional and well considered. Transitioning from a two-campus to a single-campus institution allows us to reflect on the known things we have been able to do and want to keep doing, as well as on the new things we will be able to do together.

Our students' move into their new grade levels is a mixture of transition and change. They move forward with some reflection on the course on which they set out, some choices as to the materials they will study. At the same time they have to go along with changes in their context over which they have no control.

It is a remarkable blessing to see the students' positive energy with which they undertake their work and with which they engage each other in relationships. After just a few weeks it seems as if school has been back in action for a long time already.

Our new students, international students and international exchange students have also made a good start. We are encouraged by their enthusiasm and by the inclusive response of our student body. Our total high school enrolment numbers now stand at 118. That includes 3 international students and 3 exchange students.

We welcome one of our alumni, Meghan DeJong, who has started work as a Special Education Assistant.

Just days before the start of school Mrs. Julie Monn had an accident that resulted in a torn Achilles heel. We were very blessed to find Mrs. Netty Lubbers willing to temporarily take over the Foods classes. Mrs. Betty Bandstra agreed to cover the French classes and Mr. Rinse de Boer assumed responsibilities for the Yearbook course. We are extremely thankful that these very qualified instructors were willing to share their time and abilities to help the school maintain a quality instructional program. This came at considerable sacrifice of their time and effort. Mrs. Monn was able to make her return to school on September 28. We are very thankful that she can resume her work with her students.

The Grade 12 (English) class returned from a very successful week taking in various drama performances in Vancouver and visiting the Legislative buildings in Victoria. The grade 8 students have, in the meantime, completed a very successful overnight hike to Silverking Basin.

On October 6 - 8 staff will attend the CTABC/ACSI Teachers' Convention in Surrey. We are looking forward to spending times of learning and reflection together with some 1700 Christian School teachers from BC and Washington.

L. VanderHoek, Secondary Campus Principal

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://crestleadership.ca/>

### **From the Development Director**

As BVCS begins its third year of having a development office, there is much to report:

1. Last year, we had a very successful year of fundraising. Our auction raised \$23,000, our year-end drive raised over \$57,000, and our golf tournament brought in approximately \$31,000. That's over \$111,000 from these three events alone. If you then add the miscellaneous donations that also came in throughout the 2009-2010 school year, our school was the recipient of over \$125,000 in gifts. What a blessing! What a wonderful supporting community we have! (Because of all these gifts, BVCS was able to end the year with a small surplus rather than the significant deficit that was forecast.)
2. Our back-to-school barbecue was also a wonderful success. Approximately 250 people were in attendance, and it was great to kick off a new school year together as a community. It was especially good to even see some grandparents in the crowd.
3. I continue to be thankful for the volunteer spirit in our school community. Getting volunteers to help out with the barbecue was a "breeze". A couple of people even volunteered before I could ask them to help! It simply doesn't get any better than that!
4. Last May, the development office sent out an 8-page digital alumni newsletter. This newsletter included an article about amalgamation, a summary of athletics in 2009-2010, some trivia questions, a story about our "Guys and Dolls" production, a variety of pictures from the 2009-2010 school year and lots, lots more. It is our hope to collect additional e-mail addresses this year so that we can get this newsletter into the hands of more of our alumni.
5. For those of you who are new to our community or for those of you who need a reminder, pop cans/returnable bottles/juice boxes can be brought to the local recycling depot and the proceeds donated to BVCS. All you have to do is put these items in a bag and clearly write on the bag that your donation is for "Bulkley Valley Christian School".
6. Please mark November 10 on your calendars. The development office will be sponsoring an evening on Planned Giving. Last year, Investors Group brought in a speaker who did a wonderful job of helping her audience to see the many ways that we can make our "charitable donations attain their maximum benefit". This same speaker is coming to the Bulkley Valley on the evening of November 10 and she will be making a presentation at our secondary campus. (More detail in another part of this month's *Grapevine*.)
7. This year, we are planning to hold a fundraising dinner on either the weekend of November 26-27 or December 3-4. This will, in all likelihood, be the last time our school community will gather in the elementary gymnasium for an event of this nature. For those of you who attended our fundraising dinner in the spring of 2009, you will likely remember what a wonderful evening it was. Our plan is to hold a similar event, and our hope is that many will choose to be in attendance. More information to come.
8. It is also the year where we celebrate 50 years of Christian education at BVCS. A celebration is being planned for late May, early June. We hope to have a specific date for you in the very near future. If you know of out-of-town folk who might want to be part of such an event, please let them know that it's in the works.
9. Finally, the sale of grocery gift cards (vouchers) has tailed off as of late. At our most recent Development Committee meeting, a decision was made to try a system where people could pre-order these gift cards. Please take note of the order form on the last page of this *Grapevine* to see how this works, and we again encourage you to support this program that has the potential to raise significant funds for the school in a very "painless" way. For those of you who are new to our school community, our school earns \$8 for every \$100 in Safeway gift cards that are purchased, and \$5 for every \$100 in BV Wholesale vouchers or Extra Foods gift cards that are bought. If you have any questions or want more detail, please call me at 847-4238.

J. Buikema

## **Highlights of Board of Directors Meeting** **September 28, 2010**

J. Buikema opened the meeting with devotions and prayer. The board approved the minutes of August 2010, and then spent time reviewing reports from the various committees.

The board has decided to disband the Technology Committee as a standing committee of the board. Chairperson of that committee, Steve de Hoog, has moved over to become the chairperson of the Building, Grounds, and Transportation Committee. He is thanked for his willingness to take this on. Technology needs will fall under the umbrella of the Education Committee in regards to curriculum, and the board formed an ad-hoc committee for needs regarding technology and the amalgamation.

The Education Committee met on August 30 and September 20, 2010. This committee has spent much time and discussion on future scheduling and plans for programming, staffing and administration of the amalgamated campus.

- Discussions regarding full day kindergarten will happen over the year.
- The committee has hired Miss Meghan DeJong as a classroom aide. She is welcomed to our school society and staff.
- The committee is planning to offer a Home and School evening in the spring with the focus being on anti-bullying. Parents are encouraged to attend these evenings.
- The committee has accepted an Acceptable Use Policy with regards to cell phone, Ipod, etc. use within the school.
- Both principals attended a convention in Edmonton and were impressed with the focus of the convention.
- One of our staff members, Mrs. J. Monn, injured her leg just prior to the school year. We pray for quick healing, and were blessed to have individuals in place to step in as substitutes for her classes.
- School bus rider registration has been processed. All families wishing to utilize SD #54 and BVCS buses were asked to fill out forms for this.
- The Distributed Learning (DL) campus has hired Mrs. Debbie Groot and Mrs. Aleeda Vis. They are welcomed to the DL world. At this time, our DL campus has 32 students enrolled.

The financial reports were available for review. At this early stage in our school year, not much information has changed.

The Capital Development Committee met to make plans for the upcoming school year. Several events will be forthcoming.

- Fundraising dinners to happen in late November;
- A 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration that may have a few days of different events, to be tied in with our Annual Golf Tournament.

The newly renamed Employee Relations (Compensation) Committee met on September 27, 2010. They will be looking at their mandate and submitting it for board approval within the next few months.

The Building, Grounds and Transportation committee met for their monthly meeting on September 7, 2010. Things are moving along, with no major maintenance issues at this time. The committee will also be looking at their mandate.

The BVCS Amalgamation Committee met on September 8 & September 13, 2010. This committee has been extremely busy with plans and developing a timeline for board committees to ensure that the amalgamation of the campuses goes as smoothly as possible. They have brought forward a motion to be voted on at our October 4 Annual General Meeting. This meeting is intended for all parents, staff and members. The committee has also hired a professional appraiser to come and do a thorough appraisal of the elementary school building and property.

Under new business, the board approved their 2010-11 timeline. Board meetings are generally held the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month unless otherwise posted. All submissions are to be given to Cornelia Huisman the Wednesday prior to the meeting.

The board spent some time reviewing the proposed Amalgamation Timeline for committees of the board. This document will be integral in keeping all committees and the board “on track”. It will be updated regularly and reviewed bi-monthly by the board.

An alumni newsletter was sent out to many of our past students. John Buikema spent some time drafting this newsletter and is hoping to keep our alumni connected via this.

An SCSBC Leadership Conference will be held in Langley on November 6, 2010. Board members are encouraged to attend if they wish.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2010. All submissions should be forwarded to C. Huisman or dropped off at the secondary campus clearly marked: School board meeting.

Submitted by M. Henderson

### **Damage Deposits**

This is a reminder to all new students to BVCS in grade 8-12 and also all grade 8 students that a damage deposit of \$50 is past due. If you have not done so yet, please submit a cheque to the secondary campus office for \$50 payable to BVCS. All grade 8 students must also pay a \$12 art and classroom sports equipment fee. Thank you.

### **Silverking Hike**

Silverking was the hike everyone (well almost everyone) dreaded. Sure it was just a night, but it was a night in the cold, dark forest, 8.3 km away from civilization, hot showers, warm food and a bathroom.



We set out for our hike prepared for the worst time ever. But, boy, were we wrong. The hike up was a workout, but it was beautiful! The sun was shining, the path was dry, and the streams of water were very refreshing. When we got to the actual camp site we found an even more beautiful scene. We had lots of fun that night talking and playing mission impossible in the dark. The actual sleeping part didn't go so well, especially since our tent was on a slant and I was on the lower part of the slant – meaning my tent buddies rolled on top of me. The way down was refreshing and quick. After we got back from Silverking we had two hours of volleyball...now that was brutal.

I then got to enjoy a hot bath and my own bed.

Submitted by a grade 8 student.

### **K'san Visit**

On Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup> the first BC First Nations Studies class took an afternoon field trip to the K'san village in Hazelton. The 22 students enjoyed a guided tour of three of the Gitksan longhouses and learned that contrary to popular belief, the figure on the top of a totem pole is actually not the most important figure. Rather, the most important and honoured place on a totem pole is on the bottom.



## **“Giving Smarts 101 – An Introduction to Planned Giving”**

Are your financial gifts doing as much as they could be?

What if the same dollars you are currently giving could do even more for the organizations you care about?

Financial planners will tell you that there are numerous ways to support those charitable organizations that are dear to our hearts. Often we don't find out about these ways because we don't have access to a financial planner, or we think that it will be too complicated. As a result, we continue to write out cheques or make cash donations to our charities of choice without ever realizing the full benefits of our gifts.

If you would like to know more about “smarter gifting”, Bulkley Valley Christian School will be hosting an information evening on Wednesday, November 10. Details of the evening are as follows:

**Time: 7:30**

**Location: Multi-Purpose Room at the secondary campus of BVCS**

**Presenter: Debra Moffatt of Investors Group Financial Services**

**Topic: “Giving Smarts 101 – An Introduction to Planned Giving”**

**Sponsored by: Kelly Jones and Trevor Brintjes of Investors Group**

**Format: One-hour presentation followed by opportunity to ask questions**

**Cost: It's free of charge**

**Refreshments will be provided**

**Door prize for one “lucky” attendee**

Last November, Debra Moffatt also visited Smithers and gave a similar presentation at the “Old Church”. Her presentation was engaging and informative. She has a very unique ability to take the complex and make it easy to understand. Debra has been involved in several Prince George charities and has a real heart for helping charitable and non-profit organizations. She firmly believes that, “the future of charitable organizations depends on increasing the awareness and implementation of planned giving strategies”.

The Development Committee at BVCS is really looking forward to hosting this evening. It believes that Debra will be extremely helpful in bringing the audience to an understanding of the various charitable giving options that exist in Canada. Please make plans to attend and, if someone close to you might also appreciate this presentation, don't hesitate to bring them along.

In closing, we want to emphasize that this is not a sales presentation in anyway. Rather, it is an information session!! We also purposely scheduled this event the night before a civic holiday (Remembrance Day) hoping that this might make it easier for people to be in attendance. Hope to see you there.

## October Hymn of the Month All Creatures of our God and King

All creatures of our God and King,  
lift up your voice with us and sing:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

O burning sun with golden beam,  
and shining moon with silver gleam,  
O praise Him, O praise Him!  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Cool flowing water, pure and clear,  
make music for your Lord to hear;  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Fierce fire, so masterful and bright,  
providing us with warmth and light  
O praise Him, O praise Him,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

People and nations take your part;  
sing praise to God with all your heart;  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless  
and worship him in lowliness:

O praise Him, O praise Him,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



### Christian School Society of Smithers and Telkwa

#### Board Members

Chairperson	Barry Lester
Vice Chairperson	Glenn Bandstra
Treasurer	Fred Reitsma
Corresponding Secretary	Cornelia Huisman
Admission Committee	Irene Bakker
Building/Grounds/ Transportation Committee	Steve deHoog
Capital Development Committee	Glenn Bandstra
Education Committee	Warren Vandenberg Kristine Huxtable
Finance Committee	Fred Reitsma
Promotion Committee	Irene Bakker
Employee Relations Committee	Mike Bandstra Steve deHoog
Standing Grad Committee	Cornelia Huisman
Secretary for the Board	Marlene Henderson

#### Teaching Staff Members

Jonathan Boone  
Crystal Boyes  
Shawn Boyes  
John Buikema  
Jennifer de Boer  
Myrna Johnson  
Klaas Kort  
Winette McEwen  
Julie Monn-Djasngar  
Elaine Nanninga  
Peter Rhebergen  
Chris Steenhof  
Tom Stolte  
Hugo VanderHoek  
Ron VanDriel  
John Vis □

## Grocery Gift Card Order Form

I would like to order the following gift cards/grocery vouchers:

### Extra Foods

\_\_\_\_\_ x \$25

\_\_\_\_\_ x \$50

\_\_\_\_\_ x \$100

\_\_\_\_\_ x \$200

\_\_\_\_\_ Total dollar amount of Extra Foods gift cards

### BV Wholesale

\_\_\_\_\_ x \$25

\_\_\_\_\_ Total dollar amount of BV Wholesale vouchers

### Safeway

\_\_\_\_\_ x \$25

\_\_\_\_\_ x \$50

\_\_\_\_\_ x \$100

\_\_\_\_\_ x \$200

\_\_\_\_\_ x \$300

\_\_\_\_\_ Total dollar amount of Safeway gift cards

\_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT OF YOUR ENTIRE ORDER**

**(Please make your cheque out to *Christian School Workshop*, staple your cheque to this order form, and return both to either campus office.)**

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up my gift cards at the elementary campus office.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up my gift cards at the secondary campus office.

\_\_\_\_\_ You can give my gift cards to my son/daughter named \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please deliver my cards. (The Development Office will happily arrange for delivery if this is what works best for you.)