



A monthly newsletter of
Bulkley Valley Christian School

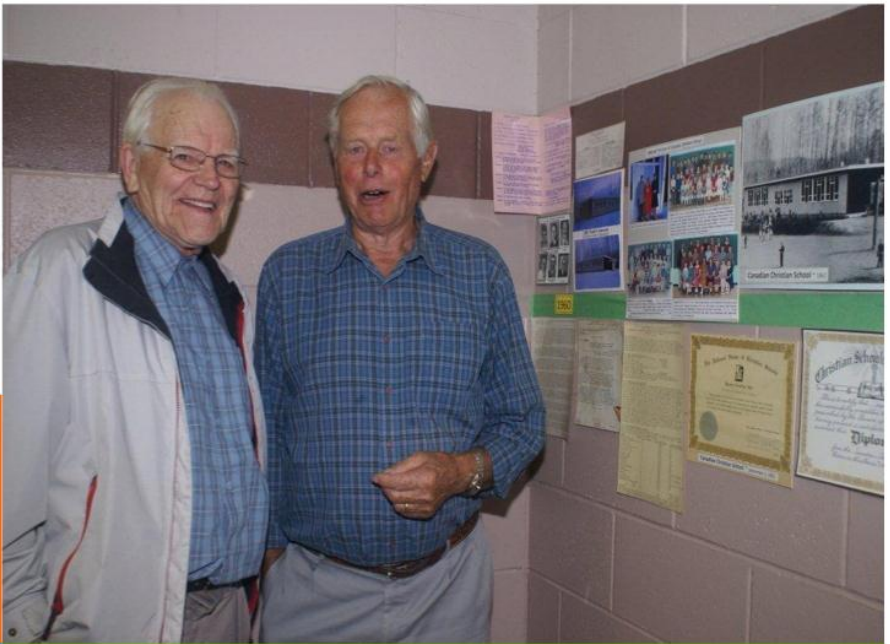
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School Society
of Smithers and Telkwa

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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

The long warm days of coming summer have arrived; school is almost done for the year and many families are struggling to keep younger children rested enough and older children fully motivated to finish their courses and exams strongly. As we all look forward with anticipation to the summer and a long break from school routines, I feel it is important as a school community to look back over the year. It has not been an easy year for our school and its Board. Many hard decisions have been made in order to unify our school campuses to one facility and the Board has struggled, prayed and deliberated about major decisions that had to be made while looking to the future. Many of these decisions have affected peoples roles, employment and futures. In our small and very close Christian school community, this has not been easy and was and is not possible without significant emotional pain to many people: staff, parents and Board members. The task of unification is now well on its way, the school is in a sustainable position that will allow us to continue to provide quality Christ centered education in the Bulkley Valley for the future, something that we so joyfully celebrated at the end of May with our 50 year anniversary weekend events. continued on page 3

Editorial (continued from cover page)

In the closing of this school year we would like to invite all our members to attend final school assemblies on the 20th and 23rd of June, where we will have the opportunity to celebrate and thank retiring as well as long serving and departing staff who have contributed many years of service to Bulkley Valley Christian School. As a Board we pray that our staff, students and parents have an enjoyable and safe summer break.

Barry Lester

50th Anniversary Reflections

Now that our 50th Anniversary celebrations have come and gone, it's important to take a few moments to pause and reflect.

First of all, I'd like to say how pleased I was with the events themselves. Thursday night's banquet was a real treat. The meal was excellent, and our guest, Gery Schubert, often had the crowd "in stitches". While a couple of his jokes or one-liners might have been questionable, Gery did have this wonderful ability to engage the audience and get them laughing. What truly stands out for me about this banquet at the Hudson Bay Lodge was that "it was so different from what we normally do to celebrate special events". Friday night at the elementary campus was also very special. Kids had a great time, parents had a great time, and grandparents had a great time. What more could you ask for? The "Living Library" was a



delightful opportunity to reminisce, the games and meal reminded us of the days of soup suppers and teas & bazaars, and the display of pictures and other memorabilia helped our school's history come alive. Our best 'guess-timate' is that about 400 people were in attendance. **Wow!!** Our Saturday Golf Tournament was also a wonderful success. We had a record number of golfers – 120, a record number of sponsorships – about \$37,000 worth, and we even found a way to ensure that everyone left with at least one prize. My favourite memory of this event was the pouring rain that we experienced at 8:00 that morning, and how it evolved into a glorious day of sunshine. What a blessing from our Father's hand!



it's up to the parents in Year 51, Year 75, Year 100 etc. of our school's history to also step up to the all-important plate "of volunteerism".

During the Living Library (a story-telling room) on Friday night, I was also reminded of something that is easily forgotten. **The past 50 years were not always easy.** In fact, there were lots of trying times! This shouldn't surprise us. Scripture tells us that following Jesus often involves carrying a cross. Scripture tells us that each one of us is

Secondly, I'd like to express my **genuine thanks** to the many people who volunteered to make this weekend such a success. I've said it before and I'll say it again – without a volunteer spirit, our school is in big trouble. This anniversary celebration reminded me that past generations certainly knew how to give of their time and talents, and it showed me that many of our present parents (or ones who've recently had their youngest graduate) also know how to volunteer. Now

prone to making sinful, selfish choices. In light of these two scriptural truths, tough times for a school community shouldn't surprise us. The past 50 years featured some wonderful times and some challenging times. So will the next 50 years. It's easy to stick with Christian education when times are good, but will we also be willing to stick with it when times are not so good. I hope that future generations of BVCS parents will "stay the course" the same way that many past BVCS parents did.

Finally, I'd like to leave you with one of the thoughts that Henry Contant, Executive Director of Society of Christian Schools in BC, shared with us at our Thursday night banquet. He reminded us that anniversaries are wonderful times to look back with warm feelings of nostalgia about days gone by, but that anniversaries also need to be more than that. They need to be times of asking ourselves about how faithful we are in the present, and times of re-dedicating ourselves to faithfulness in the years that lie ahead. I'm convinced that God laid it on Henry's heart to share this thought with us, and I thank Henry for challenging us in this way.

In closing, it is my prayer that amidst all the peaks and valleys of school life during the next 50 years -- may our faithful heavenly Father find each one of us faithful as we continue to be involved in Christian education as a student, a parent, a grandparent, an alumnus, a giver, a supporter, a "pray-er", a promoter etc.

John Buikema

From the Elementary Campus Principal



The approach of the end of the year always brings a buzz of activity around the elementary school. This year is no different. In fact, the impending move may raise the buzz to a frenzy at times.

The grade 5, 6, and 7 had a fabulous outing to Fort St. James. Being able to spend an afternoon in the 1800's, the time of fur traders and the Hudson Bay, was a great experience. The students learned about life at the fort, how to trade furs, and even how to play games. After that, a great time was had at Camp Morice, where games, swimming, and kayaking at 5:30 in the morning, were on the menu. Experiences like this are not only great learning opportunities; they also make wonderful memories.

Other trips are still in the planning stages: a train ride to Houston, a trip to the Houston pool, hiking the bluff; all examples of having fun and learning at the same time. While we are talking about trips, some short field trips are taking place as well. The destination is the same: the 'new' school. Teachers have been taking their students to check out the new facilities. The students of grades 6 and 7 got a little taste of what it will be like to be in the modular building, being taught by specialist teachers. And as we move to the final days, students will have an opportunity to, "take up their desk and walk", as they bring their desk, chair, or table to their new classrooms. By the way, we are still looking for volunteers to help us with the move on June 23 and 24. Please call the office.

On the field there was a lot of activity as well. The intermediate grades spent a day at Chandler Park together with their friends from Houston Christian School, competing, encouraging, and just having plain old fun. It was so good to see the excellent spirit among those who attended. Even those for whom athletics is not a forte understood that events such as these are not about winning; rather it is about participating and encouraging.

Two other outdoor events were the primary games day and the district track and field meet. The first one saw our young students having fun playing a wide variety of games, while more serious competition happened at the SSS track.

As I am reviewing all these events I am hopeful for the future. It is my hope that, just like our students are able to come together as a body to enjoy school life, you, our parents and supporters, will also be able to unite and continue to support your school. It is a venture of which we all are a part; we are then also called to participate. Just like not a single student bowed out of the challenge of completing the 800 m race at track and field, there should be no parent who bows out of being a supportive part of our school community. And just like our students encouraged each other to be the best they could be, so we too need to encourage each other, our staff, and our board to make our school the best it can be.

K. Kort, Elementary Campus Principal

From the Secondary Campus Principal



It is remarkable how a singular event can change your feeling about things. We live in the moment and often have a hard time holding on to the bigger picture. A devastating 8-1 loss makes Canuck fans wonder whether their team can make it. The doubt resurfaces along with fear that another collapse and failure is ahead.

Our focus on the task ahead and the responsibilities here and now help us to do well, most of the time, but it challenges our attention for the work that God is doing among us throughout the years and the generations.

This dilemma of contrasts plays out in our school community well. We celebrate God's blessings over a 50 year period of time, and at the same time struggle with concerns about current enrollment losses and financial strains. Seeing God's faithfulness over a half-century period should be encouragement to us that he is big enough to lead us through current challenges as well. When setbacks hit us we realize that there is much in a circumstance that we can do nothing about, but that we are responsible for the quality of our response. Trials are intended to prove that our faith is genuine (1 Peter 1).

Do we as parents, teachers, and board members choose a response of endurance or bitterness? I am encouraged by the example set by many participants in our school community over the last year. So many people are indicating their commitment to our school through the time and effort spent in the unification effort. They show a willingness to be there when heavy lifting needs to be done, when things need to be built or changed or moved. This involvement expresses hope and it is a sound basis for a new stage in our school's story.

As I write this, the lower level of our campus is completely vacated. All of our grade 8 through 12 classes are happening upstairs and in the modular building. On Tuesday the first of a number of elementary class visits took place to help those students get used to the thought of going to school in a different building. The school grounds are nearly completely fenced off and work on sidewalks is getting set to begin.

Students and staff are on schedule to complete a period of busy classes and exams. The BCFN class will return from Haida Gwaii by the end of this week. The grad committee has a sound plan in place for the ceremony and activities following the ceremony of June 24.

Our last day of school will be Monday, June 20. Exams start the following day. Updates on exams, activities, etc. are posted on our school website www.bvcs.ca

L. Hugo VanderHoek, Secondary Campus Principal

Special Membership Meeting

The Educational Creed Committee met with school society members on Monday, June 6. The group of people was small but the contributions and responses to the proposed documents were very valuable. As a committee of the board we really appreciate the concern for the quality of Christian Education that was evident. It is gratifying to see a desire for continuation of the values and direction that have served the school so well.

As a committee we aim to honour and consider the contributions from board members, parents and staff in the writing of draft 2 of the Educational Creed, Basis & Principles, and Graduate Profile. We will keep you posted.

Work Bee

Tomorrow, June 11, we will again be having a work bee at the secondary campus. A variety of work needs to happen, including a number of jobs that do not require the skills of a tradesperson. The time of the work bee is 9:00 - 12:00. Please do join us if you are able because there is still a lot of work that needs to happen before we break for the summer. Thanks.

June Hymn of the Month

He Leadeth Me

He leadeth me: O blessed thought! O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain

He leadeth me, he leadeth me; by his own hand he leadeth me:
his faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.

Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom, sometimes where Eden's flowers bloom,
by waters calm, o'er troubled sea, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ever murmur nor repine;
content, whatever lot I see, since 'tis my God that leadeth me.

And when my task on earth is done, when, by thy grace, the victory's won,
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since God through Jordan leadeth me.

Summer Tutoring Available

Parents, who are interested in registering their students for the Summer Step Up tutoring program that is sponsored by Smithers Community Services Association, can contact Mr. Buikema @ 847-4238 or Mr. Kort @ 847-9833 for more information. For those of you who are unfamiliar with this program, here is a brief summary: "The purpose of this program is to help students maintain and strengthen their literacy and numeracy skills over the summer. Through small group or one-on-one tutoring, students work on basic skills in a casual summer environment. While this program is currently aimed at elementary school students, it has also tutored a few local high school students in math, science, and the humanities over the past few summers."

Calendar of Events

June 11	Work bee at the secondary campus 9:00 – 12:00
June 18	Graduation dinner
June 20	Last day of classes for grades 8-12
June 21-28	Exams
June 24	Last day of classes for kindergarten to grade 7 Graduation ceremony at MVA at 7:30 p.m.

June 2011 Exam Schedule

- All morning exams will begin at 8:35 and may run until 11:35.
- All afternoon exams will begin at 1:00 and may run until 4:00.
- Exams in **bold face** are Government Exams.
- '**E**' indicates that the exam is an electronic exam, '**P**' indicates paper exam.
- Room numbers are indicated in parentheses.

	Tues, June 21	Wed, June 22	Thur, June 23	Fri, June 24
Morning 8:35 - 11:35	Math 8 (307) Math 9 (310) Comm 11 (224) SS 10 (221)	English 8 (307) Humanities 9 (310) French 10 (308)	History 12 E (217)	
Afternoon 1:00 - 4:00	Principles Math 12 P (224)	English 11 (202)		Geography 12 P (221)

	Mon, June 27	Tues, June 28
Morning 8:35 - 11:35	Science 10 P (224) Comm 12 P (224)	F & P Math 10 P (224) A & W Math 10 P (224)
Afternoon 1:00 - 4:00		Mandarin 12 P (221)

Notes:

1. Students will be expected to remain in the exam room for a minimum of 1 hour.
2. If a student shows up more than 30 minutes late they will not be permitted to enter the exam room.
3. During the exam any pencil cases brought into the exam room must remain on the floor. If you need to access anything from it do so before the exam begins. Once the exam has started you will need to raise your hand and obtain permission to access your pencil case.
4. Students are not permitted to bring books or papers into the exam room.
5. Students are **not permitted to bring any electronic devices** other than approved calculators (see your teacher) into the exam room.
6. Students are responsible to provide their own calculators and batteries.
7. Students who have completed their exams must either leave the school or study in a designated study space.

Requested Announcements

Lost but wanted found & returned to H. Vanderkwaak please: the DVD of Frank Peretti's speech, "*Going through the Middle*", given at the 2010 Breakforth conference. This DVD got passed around over the past months and has been forgotten somewhere, but I would like it back. Will you please help track it down and return it as soon as possible? Thanks, Hermina 847-3666.

Band instruments for sale: a trumpet and a clarinet, both in good [used] condition. Call Hermina Vanderkwaak for more details at 847-3666.

Christian School Society of Smithers and Telkwa

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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.