

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.

*A monthly newsletter of
Bulkley Valley
Christian School*

*Operated by the
Christian School Society
Of Smithers and Telkwa*

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Message from the Board Chair

In the middle of September the board spent an evening in Houston at a short conference with Henry Contant, the executive director of the Society of Christian Schools of BC. We discussed things such as emerging trends in education, the role of the board, more specifically board members, and the importance of strategic planning among other things. Now that we have completed the “physical” part of campus unification and all the students are under one roof it is important that we don't stop planning for the future. The board has committed to set time aside at monthly meetings to develop a strategic plan that attempts to answer the question: What would we like our school to look like in two years, in five years and beyond? As we continue to deal working through the unification process we covet your prayers and support.

Glenn Bandstra



Final Elementary School Garage Sale

Date: Saturday, October 8, 2011

Time: 9:00 – 12:00

Place: Elementary School Gymnasium

This will be the final opportunity to pick up items no longer needed by the school. Items include doors, furniture, books, games, shelving, kitchenware and many more odds and ends. All items may be taken away for a donation.

Editorial

Who do You Live For?

This is the time of year when hockey begins to dominate the sports pages of newspapers around the country; Will Sidney Crosby be ready? Is this the year the Canucks are going to win the cup? And soon Hockey Night in Canada will begin its programming for another year. Chances are we will once again see the banners with the words '*This is what we live for*' prominently displayed in arenas across the country.

Sports, for many people, is almost like a religion. Even around the staffroom table the fortunes of different teams are a regular topic.

Now, I am not saying that we can't talk about professional sports. However, we should be cautious in how much importance we give to *school* sports. The possibility is always there that we go down the same path as followers of professional sports, where it begins to take on more importance than it deserves. I remember the days when above the entrance into our gym there was a mural showing praying hands and a basketball swooshing through a hoop with the words '*not a competition*' below it. As we stand at the beginning of another year of volleyball and basketball, it may not be a bad idea to reflect on this for a moment. How do we approach school sports?

In my mind all the participants have a role to play here. Players, coaches, as well as parents after all are involved in one way or another.

As far as players is concerned, representing our school on the court is a privilege that comes with a certain responsibility; they are ambassadors for BVCS, but more importantly, they are disciples of Christ. As such we may expect a certain level of conduct. They will give their utmost in what they do, whether it is diving to get the volleyball during the game or showing up for practice every single time. Their commitment to their sport is also reflected in attitude. Even when trailing badly, they will attempt to remain positive and encouraging. And this encouragement extends to their teammates, both the talented and the struggling ones; no-one will suffer disparaging comments. A school that is trying hard to erase bullying will certainly not accept this from its own players. I would argue that the expectation of having a positive image extends even beyond the playing court, even into the way players conduct themselves outside of school.

Obviously, coaches too have a responsibility. Sure, there are times when we can get caught up in the emotion of the moment. Sometimes we express our frustration; some of us even start eating our tie. That is part of the game. Yet our goal is to bring out the best in our players. This is expressed both in the way we coach our teams, as well as how we set expectations with regards to their conduct. A victory is celebrated as gracefully as a loss is accepted. Coaches also attempt to instill in their players the need for mutual encouragement.

Parents, especially when they are in the audience, need to be aware that they are looked upon as parents of students of BVCS. With that come similar expectations. Disparaging comments about players, or even the coaches should not be heard on the bleachers. If their own children are on a team, parents ought to respect the coaching decisions; it is not their role to criticize the hard work the coach does to make the team the best it can be.

Why is this important? It is because we do not want to go down the road of "*this is what we live for*". Rather we should consider "*who is it we live for*". This is true for everything we do, including in the context of sports. If we answer that question – and I think we all know the answer – our words and actions on the court, in the change room, or on the bleachers will reflect this. If there is concern in this regard we should have the courage to hold each other responsible, as well as the humility to accept constructive criticism. May this be a year where our teams will be able to shine, in quality, commitment, and conduct.

K. Kort

From the Principal

When you read this school will have been in session for one full month. Full in more than one sense of the word; a lot of things have happened within and outside of the walls of BVCS.



First, a peek inside the confines of our school: students and teachers have begun the process of becoming accustomed to having everyone from grades K-12 in one building. This new community will take some time to take shape, but the first steps have been taken. We have high school students participating in the supervision duties of some of our special needs students. A number of elementary kids reported to me how they enjoyed playing soccer with the 'big boys'. And how they even beat them! Last week the grades 7-9 choir had an opportunity to perform for the grade ones – in the stairwell. Not only were they silent in admiration, the music really moved some of the adults who had the good fortune of hearing these still maturing voices.

But the action has not been limited to our 14th Avenue location. The grade 12 English class made the annual trek to Bard on the Beach and Victoria, a trip that will stand out as a highlight of the year. All the elementary students participated in the National Forest Week activities, which included a tour at the community forest, a trip to the sawmill for some, and the planting of seedlings for others. A small group of students participated in the Resource Management Camp, while grade 8 braved the elements and hiked up to the Joe l'Orsa cabin in the Silverking Basin for a two-night adventure. As you can see, BVCS is a busy place where learning takes place in places beyond the classroom.

On a more serious note, I want to (re)acquaint you with the policy we have in place for students who skip out of school without giving proper notification. Please note that this policy is applied to students in grades 7-12. The following is a summary:

*A SKIP means a student is absent... without proper notification **beforehand** such as a note or phone call from home or an **acceptable** reason brought to the office or teacher by the student. There are adequate measures in place that allow a student... (to be excused)... legitimately.*

The following policy indicates how we are going to deal with the situation:

- 1. First skip in a semester, the student will be assigned to two study halls.*
- 2. Second skip will result in a one day out of school suspension.*
- 3. Third skip will result in a week out of school suspension.*
- 4. Fourth skip will result in a recommendation to the board for expulsion for the remainder of the semester. The student will not be allowed back at school until the board has had a chance to rule on that recommendation.*

As we get used to being together in one location, it is my hope that as parents you will continue to support the work of the teachers and administrators. Working together as a school community will go a long way towards making our vision for our children a reality.

K. Kort, Principal

Bulkley Valley Christian School Conflict Resolution Procedure

Upon occasion, situations may arise when a parent may need to discuss concerns about the education of their children as to what is taught, how it is taught, why it is taught and what is happening in the classroom and at school.

- The first step in this process is meeting and discussing the situation with the teacher.
- If concerns are not resolved at this level, the second step is speaking to the principal.

- The third step is either talking to the board or education committee chairperson; depending on the type of issue. The principal can help direct parents to the proper person to deal with the issue. A formal appeal can be made to the board for certain issues.

Parents are reminded and encouraged that issues or concerns should be dealt with as soon as the matter arises. In this way, concerns may be addressed and solutions found so that the well being of the entire school community may be maintained.

Matthew 18:15 - 17 provides this pattern for dealing with conflicts. It reads:
“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take two or three others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.”

Approved at board level – November 2005

Highlights of the September 2011 Board of Directors' Meeting

John Buikema opened with devotions and prayers.

The board made a decision at the August 2011 meeting to change the board agendas to include a Consent Agenda. This agenda would allow some reports to be approved in a group as opposed to individually to allow for time for discussion during board meetings in regards to Strategic Visioning for BVCS. Therefore, the Consent Agenda of September 27th, 2011 was approved by the board. Included in the Consent Agenda were:

- Minutes of August 23rd Board Meeting
- Principal's Report
- DL Report
- Admissions Committee Report
- Finance Committee Report
- Capital Development Report

Education Committee

- An ad hoc Committee has been created to review high school course offerings due to declining enrollment.
- SCSBC workshop with Henry Contant was held on September 15 in Houston. Many were encouraged by Henry's words.

Financial Report

- Financial Report of August 2011 was received for information.

Building, Grounds, and Transportation Committee

- Playground moving and school garden plans are still in the works. These are big projects that require a lot of planning and volunteers.

The next regular board meeting date: October 25th, 2011.

Recording Secretary for the Board, Yvonne Tucker

From the Stolte Family

Seven months have passed since the day we heard that ugly word: Leukemia. The Lord has brought us safely through the first half of the difficult first year of Noah's treatment. There have been many valleys, but there have also been mountain peaks, where we can catch a glimpse of what lies before and behind us, and helps to bring both into perspective. We don't know why God has allowed this to happen, but we do know that he has a good plan for Noah, with a future and a hope. We praise and thank Him for his faithfulness shown to us, not the least of which has been through all of you. We have been overwhelmed by your support and your generosity. You have supported us in so many ways: meals for our family, cards and phone calls, gifts, flights, financial

support, reading and commenting on the blog, and most importantly, through prayer. We cannot thank you enough.

Please continue to lift up Noah (and the rest of us too) in prayer; we have five more difficult, intense months ahead, then he moves into the maintenance phase of treatment, where he can come back to school and only has to spend a couple of days a month at Children's Hospital in Vancouver.

Thank you again, we couldn't do this without you!

The Stolte family

Student Accomplishment

This section of *The Grapevine* is reserved for students who have come to our attention because of special achievements that are not directly school related. If you know of any student who might deserve special mention, please let the school know.

Congratulations to **Evalin Meima**, one of our grade 8 students. Evalin participated in the Smithers Public Library's summer teen writing contest and received special mention as runner-up with her story *Zombies in the Valley*.



Development "Dreams" for 2011-2012

The 2011–2012 school year promises to be another busy year for the Development Committee at BVCS. Some of our plans for the coming year include:

1. gathering more e-mail addresses so that we can get our bi-annual alumni newsletter into the hands of more of our alumni;
2. finding new ways to increase participation in the grocery gift card program;
3. holding a year-end (December) drive to help offset some of our unification costs;
4. raising funds for the purchase of a new school bus;
5. having a spring auction on March 10 that not only incorporates features of past auctions but also includes a new wrinkle or two;
6. an internet auction, once again, as part of our spring auction; and
7. holding our eighth annual fundraising golf tournament in late May or early June.

Obviously, the above plans include a lot of fundraising efforts, and that shouldn't be a surprise, **because the combination of tuition and government grants simply does not pay all our bills.**

As we move into this new school year, our committee looks forward to:

- your cooperation in helping us track down alumni e-mail addresses;
- your support of the grocery voucher program; and
- the continued financial support of parents, past parents, grandparents, alumni, and the other members of the Bulkley Valley Christian School community during our various fundraisers.

If You Are New To Our School Community (or simply in need of a reminder)

During initiation/orientation of new families to our school society, there are so many things that can easily be forgotten. Just in case initiation/orientation did not include any mention of our grocery gift card program or our recyclables program, please take note of the following:

- Gift cards or grocery vouchers to Safeway, BV Wholesale, and Extra Foods can be purchased from our main office every school



day between 8:00 – 4:00. They are available in denominations ranging from \$25 - \$300. Our school makes 8% profits on any Safeway gift cards that we sell, and 5% on any BV Wholesale or Extra Foods vouchers. **This program has the potential (in a very painless way) to raise large amounts of money for our school society.** It is our sincere hope that more and more families will choose to participate in this program.



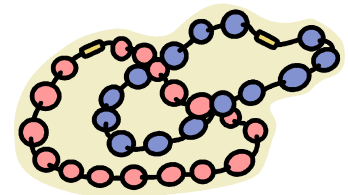
- Recyclable juice containers, pop cans, and other beverage containers can be dropped off at the local Recycling Depot. Instead of waiting in line to have these sorted, you can simply label them “Bulkley Valley Christian School” and drop them off. They will then be sorted and the proceeds will be credited to our school.

We thank you in advance for your support of these two programs!!

Bead for Life

On October 27th & 28th (Parent/Teacher Conferences) we will be hosting our second Bead for Life Fundraiser. Bead for Life is a non-profit organization that works to eradicate extreme poverty in the lives of Ugandan women. This is done through the sale of the beautiful bead products created from colorful recycled paper. In turn the women are educated in business & money management which then helps to provide food, a home and education for their families.

Last year our school community raised \$3900 and the organizers of Bead for Life were thrilled with our efforts. Please come out again this year and show your support. For more information about Bead for Life go to www.beadforlife.org or contact Jacquie Lester or Kim VanVeen.



Janitorial Assistance Required

Because of health reasons of one of our janitors we are in immediate need of janitorial assistance for 2 1/2 hours daily. Please, contact Hugo VanderHoek @ 847 4238 to find out more or to express interest.

HS Hot Lunch

If there are any moms or dads out there who would be interested in making a hot lunch item such as soup, chili, sloppy joes, etc for grades 7-12 students, please call the school office at 847 4238. Reimbursement would be given for costs.

ES Hot Lunch

We are still looking for a hot lunch coordinator for our elementary monthly lunches. If you are interested in taking on this role, please contact the school office at 847 4238.

Distributed Learning

It's been a very busy start to the school year in the DL world. We are currently at 54 students at the K-9 level, up substantially from last year. We have 5 families at a distance, representing Prince George, Kitimat, Stewart, and Hazelton. We've added a new teacher to our staff this year. We welcome Natasha Bandstra, who taught at our elementary campus in previous years, who will be teaching 15 students this year. Aleeda Vis and Debbie Groot are our other elementary school teachers.

On September 30 we hosted a gym/dessert night for local DL families. It was great to get together to enjoy some activities, fellowship, and food.

At the Grade 10-12 level, things are also progressing quickly. We presently have 23 students from 6 different schools for our new Physics 12 course beginning in January 2012. The course is currently being developed by two teachers from Mt. Cheam Christian School in Chilliwack. We also have a large number of our Bricks and Mortar students taking courses through our DL campus.

Please continue to pray for our teachers, parents, and students who are working hard to learn more about God's world.

Woodworking Shop

Two groups of students have begun their woodworking classes this year. We have a good complement of power tools to start with. The shop has been reorganized to allow students safe access to these tools in order to develop their wood working skills.



We are still lacking common hand tools such as screw drivers, pliers, measuring tapes, key sets, levels, angles, chisels, etc. and cordless drills. If you have any of those or any other tools that you would be happy to part with we would really appreciate your donation to the shop program. Please contact Mr. VanderHoek.

Bard on the Beach

The Bard on the Beach trip was an excellent way to start off this school year. The plays and performances that we attended were very entertaining and educational. The Bard festival plays were exceptional. Throughout the three nights, there was a connection formed between the actors, the characters, Shakespeare's mind, and us as an audience. Experiencing the Shakespeare festival strongly influenced all of our views on the importance of the arts, especially live acting. It was not hard to engage yourself in the story of a play, as they were so intriguing with their story lines, humor, and poetry. The privilege of attending Bard on the Beach gave us a higher appreciation for the depth of Shakespeare's writing gift.

The other performances that we attended were all brilliant. The Omnimax show is a wide view theatre on top of science world, and gave us an overwhelming movie experience, while educating us about the Hubble telescope and our universe. Next to Normal, a musical that we attended in the Stanley Theatre, was commendably performed and written. Arnie the Carnie was a hilarious trick show that had all of the students confused but fascinated. Grim and Fisher, a play without any words in full mask, captivated the audience and demonstrated a completely odd and different form of acting that is appealing in its own unique way.

Other than the grade twelve class, the exchange students of the high school went on the trip as well, which was a great way for them to join with the students while participating in some of the best experiences available in BC. Getting a tour of our capital's parliament building, exploring the Royal Museum, spending a morning at Trinity Western University, and enjoying the exhibits at Science World are all valuable memories to the students. Also, much of the time was spent at the hotels or on the bus, where there was a friendly atmosphere that kept the trip very positive.



Bard was a great way to end all the school trips we will have as a class. The time and adventures spent together as a class and the incredible performances we attended made for an epic week that will not soon be forgotten.

Matt Widen



Bulkley Valley Christian School would like to sincerely thank the following businesses and individuals for their **generous sponsorship** or **donation of prizes** for our 2011 Fundraising Golf Tournament held at the Smithers Golf and Country Club:

Action Services
All Seasons Automotive
Andrew and Arlene Leffers
Babine Truck
Bandstra Transport
Beerda's Drygoods
Brantanna Dairy
Brent and Patricia Weme
Bulkley Valley Credit Union
Bulkley Valley Eye Care
Bulkley Valley Financial Services
Bulkley Valley Home Centre
Bulkley Valley Insurance Services
Bulkley Valley Kinsmen
Canada Safeway
Central Mountain Air
D. Groot Logging
Dennis O'Coffey
Dick and Marian Adema
Dick Kronemeyer
Dr. Bob Pipars
Dr. Marius Scholtz
Dr. Isaac Pretorius
Dr. Dan Kinkela
Dr. Barbara Kotze
Dr. Wouter Morkel
Dr. Kevin Woudstra
Driftwood Drilling
Evert and Shirley Dykens
Four Dimension Computers
Franco's Painting and Drywall
Frontier Chrysler
Fulton Place Apartments
Glenwood Dairy
Goldoni Creek Dairy
Helen Veerbeek
Heritage Technical Services
Hawkair
Hoskins Ford

J. Hols Enterprises
John M. Bakker Inc.
Kelly Jones (Investors Group)
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Leo Lubbers (Remax)
Lifeplan Financial Services
Marandy's Car and Truck Wash
Midway Services
Murray and Kristine Huxtable
North Central Plumbing and Heating
Northline Collision
Norman & Alida Groot
Pacific Employee Benefits
Richard Stanton (RBC Dominion Securities)
Rayz Board Shop
Royal Bank of Canada
Sausage Factory
Scott and Stephanie Olesiuk
Shady Acres Farm
Silvern Manor Apartments
Smithers Family Chiropractic
Smithers Feed Store
Smithers Home Hardware
Smithers Lumber
Smithers Parts
Steti Transport
Ted & Joanne Veenstra
Thousand Hills Dairy
Todd Larson & Associates
Triantha Enterprises
Tye Farms
Vandergaag and Bakker
Vandenberg Dairy
Wannabe Trucking
West Fraser Concrete
Westland Insurance
Windfirm Resources
Woodmere Nursery
Wyatt Insurance Services

October Hymn of the Month

Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
to keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills of this world in the next.

All praise and thanks to god the Father now be given,
the Son and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven—
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Calendar of Events

Oct 6 & 7	Professional Development Days (no classes)
Oct 10	Thanksgiving Day (no classes)
Oct 21	Professional Development Day (no classes)
Oct 27	Evening parent teacher conferences
Oct 28	Daytime parent teacher conferences
Nov 11	Remembrance Day
Nov 24	Early Dismissal (1:50)
Nov 25	No public school buses
Dec 16	Last day of classes before Christmas break

Christian School Society of Smithers and Telkwa

<u>Board Members</u>		<u>Teaching Staff Members</u>	
Chairperson	Glenn Bandstra	Jonathan Boone	
Vice Chairperson	Irene Bakker	Shawn Boyes	
Treasurer	Fred Reitsma	John Buikema	
Corresponding Secretary	Cornelia Huisman	Jennifer de Boer	
Admission Committee	Irene Bakker	Roxanne Dykstra	
	Kristine Huxtable	Deb Groot	
Building/Grounds/ Transportation Committee	Steve deHoog	Myrna Johnson	
Capital Development Committee	Glenn Bandstra	Klaas Kort	
Education Committee	Al Brandsma	Christa LaFountain	
	Vicki Veenstra	Winette McEwen	
Finance Committee	Glenn Bandstra	Julie Monn-Djasngar	
Promotion Committee	Irene Bakker	Elaine Nanninga	
	Kristine Huxtable	Peter Rhebergen	
Employee Relations Committee	Dave Ripmeester	Chris Steenhof	
Standing Grad Committee	Cornelia Huisman	Tom Stolte	
Secretary for the Board	Yvonne Tucker	Hugo VanderHoek	
		Ron VanDriel	
		John Vis	
		Carolyn Visser	

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.