

Cougar Connections

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH FRIENDS OF CONESTOGA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



A Letter from the Administrator

I often take time to reflect on the ordinary people in the Bible who allowed God to work in their lives so they could accomplish extraordinary things for Him. He gave Moses a staff, David a handful of stones, and a young boy a bag lunch. Each was unaware of how God might be able to use him, but each had a willing heart to follow God and responded to His call.

For the past nine years God has called me to serve the staff, students, and families that are part of the CCS community. God has given me great joy in this journey. He has shown me over and over again that it is only by His grace and strength that we accomplish anything for the sake of Christ;

He is in control and knows what the future holds. It is with this confidence that I have submitted my resignation to the Board of Trustees, effective the end of this current school year.

Be assured that life will go on at CCS. The Board of Trustees and I are committed to a smooth transition of administration with the goal of identifying the new administrator by June 2010. An Administrator Search Committee of trustees, Spiritual Advisory Committee members, faculty, and parents has been formed, and applicants are already being contacted.

Please pray for the school during this time of transition. As we move forward, be assured of the confidence that



Susan Yoder

comes with knowing that God has always had His hand on Conestoga Christian School, and He will continue to be faithful to carry out His purpose for the life of the school.

*Sincerely in Christ,
Susan Yoder, Administrator*

Spelling Success

Conestoga Christian School sent middle school students Donald Morris, Sadie Shinn, Nicole Mast, Sarah Hahn, Chris Beck, and Natalie Myers to the ACSI Area Spelling Bee competitions on Nov. 8, 2010. Competition was fierce, but the CCS students did the best they have ever done. Every student got to at least the fourth round and one student, Sadie Shinn, placed 2nd and secured a place in the finals. Only four of the eight students participating in the finals would advance to the ACSI Northeast Regional Spelling Bee.

The competition was fierce, resulting in a tough tie-breaker for 3rd and 4th place. In the end, Sadie finished in 3rd place overall and will now represent CCS at the Regional Spelling Bee in Lancaster on Feb. 28, 2011. Sadie is the first CCS student to ever make it to the Regional Bee! She has been studying the very extensive list of words nearly every day, and our prayers and wishes are with her as she undertakes this momentous endeavor.



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Students introduce the new recycling initiative.

HS Students Lead Recycling Effort

Students from the National Honor Society recently introduced the “NHS Recycling Initiative” to the school. The plan includes placing recycling bins in the school’s lunch rooms and main hallways. Each location has a trash can, an aluminum recycling bin, and a plastic recycling bin. Each week the NHS members empty the recycling bins. The plastic products are recycled by Beartown Recycling, and the aluminum is taken to Raymond J. Bannon Metals where the NHS group receives a small refund for recycling.

The idea for the program originated with NHS advisor, Mrs. Ginnie

Lodge, who noticed the extensive usage of plastic bottles and aluminum cans throughout the school and the lack of a way to recycle these products. Mrs. Lodge suggested that, as part of the NHS group service project, the students begin a recycling program for the school. The students were all aware of the need to recycle and began planning the program immediately. Soon enough, the “NHS Recycling Initiative” was ready to be put into action. The NHS members are dedicated to their project and hope to keep it alive by continuing to encourage students and faculty to recycle. All NHS members are excited to help their school to keep

the community clean. The program will, they hope, encourage all students and faculty to recycle at school and at home, as well, in order to help keep God’s creation clean. After all, God declared what He had made to be “good.” Should we not strive to do our part in preserving the creation He has given us?

It was breaking my heart to see all the plastic and aluminum being thrown into our school trash. I thought surely this is a situation we can impact with positive change.

Ginnie Lodge
NHS Advisor

Turning Vision into Reality

Eighteen months ago CCS patron Mike Shoup approached the school administration with a vision to replace the “red shed” and the second smaller storage shed with one sectioned unit that would be both better equipped and more attractive. While a replacement shed was not in the current school budget, the school agreed that if Shoup could raise the money, the school would gratefully support the project.

Shoup moved forward with great enthusiasm. He shepherded the project through permits and approvals. He solicited gifts and recruited volunteers. Students and staff worked to empty both buildings before school ended. During the summer the red shed was removed and the smaller shed relocated to the east side of the high school

building to be used by the technology education program.

The new structure, christened “The Cougar Den,” was completed in time for the Athletic Boosters to utilize the “snack shed” portion during home soccer games. The Auction Committee, Facilities Committee, and Athletic Department also benefit from the larger, more accessible storage space.

CCS is grateful to Mike Shoup for turning his vision into action. The school would like to thank the volunteers who labored to make the shed a reality and the vendors who worked graciously with our patrons.

Mike Shoup is the owner of C&M Automotive. He and his wife Cindy are generous supporters of our school. They are parents of three CCS alumni and a current freshman.

Why Drama?

Reflections on the theater experience:

- My productions are very hands-on. My goal is to allow students an opportunity to participate at all levels of the process (scenery painting, costume design, lighting, directing, etc.) as well as acting. It is rewarding to watch the students rise to the challenge, whether it be bringing a character to life, finding and organizing props, or re-wiring the sound system. If, in addition to the learning process, we can make the audience laugh or cry, so much the better! **–Lisa Betz, director**
- I was able to participate in an extra-curricular activity that I enjoyed and that didn’t involve sports. I made a lot of really good friends and memories. I looked forward to the fall and spring plays every year. I feel that drama enriched my high school experience. **–Katie McKemey '09**
- It has been a great way to stay connected with the school and the current students while doing something I enjoy. I think putting on quality productions is a great way for the school to reach out to the community and show the high standards that can be reached by the students. **–Erin McKemey '02**
- It was a fun way to let out my creative side in a way many other people (such as the audience) can appreciate. **–Steve Betz '10**
- I do drama at CCS because I like to use the abilities God has given me. It’s also REALLY fun, and I get to know a lot of people from different classes. **–Celia Stratton, grade 8**



Grant Newswanger '11 in a costume made by Erin McKemey

First in Math Mini Grant Awarded

Thanks to the efforts of Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit # 13 Reading Specialist Donna Young, CCS has been awarded a mini grant from the Lancaster-Lebanon Education Foundation. The grant money is being used to underwrite the cost of implementing **First in Math®**, (**FIM**) a web-based educational program that provides a systematic approach to basic math facts.

Combining games with drills, students are encouraged to strive for fluency in mental math facts using FIM in classrooms and at home. As part of the grant, Young is training elementary teachers in classroom and computer lab applications of FIM, including student assessments and teacher reports. She is also equipping a faculty liaison to

assume responsibility for the program.

The grant award is an example of the partnership that exists between Intermediate Unit #13 and CCS. Donna Young is an IU employee assigned to CCS on a full-time basis as part of nonpublic school services. Her responsibilities include working with students needing additional support in reading and math. In God's provision, Young is the parent of two CCS alumni. She appreciates the values and worldview of Christian schools.



This Just In...

- Amanda Wolf (gr. 1) was recently named CCS Student Artist of the Month for her marker drawing inspired by Aboriginal Australian art. Caitlin Collins (gr. 8) was Student artist of the Month for December/January for her work in the middle school illustration elective.
- Ninth grade students at CCS had higher average scores in all five areas of the ACT PLAN® than did tenth graders nationwide. The PLAN® is American College Testing's college readiness assessment for 10th graders. CCS uses the assessment with 9th graders to identify career interests.
- Three American Homelife International (AHLI) students are applying for enrollment at CCS in Fall 2011. Housing is still needed before these international students can join the student body. Contact Shannon Bernard at bsb93@ptd.net if you would be interested in sharing your home with a foreign student. Stipend available.
- Thanks to generous donors who gave to the "Please Be Seated" project at this year's Auction, 210 new padded folding chairs have been purchased. Look for them at Grandparents Day chapel on March 18.
- Three middle school students participated in the Secondary Enrichment Experience through the Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit. They attended day-long workshops on podcasting and forensic science.
- High School Supervisor Randy Hepler presented a workshop on biblical integration in teaching history at the Fall MACSA Conference. Development Director Mary Louise Everhart also co-presented two workshops on the shared marketing efforts of the Lancaster county Christian School Alliance.

Mobile Computer Lab Aids Instruction



Middle school students Keerstyne Windle and Amira Sharpe get acquainted with the new netbooks.

Thanks to the Parent Teacher Fellowship donation from their annual Spaghetti Dinner and funds provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, CCS was recently able to purchase 20 netbooks to create a mobile computer lab. Netbooks are smaller than laptops. They come in individual tote bags and can easily be transported to classrooms.

This mobile computer lab will enable students to do online research, present projects, or collaborate on group projects—all without leaving their classroom. In addition to the netbook utilities like the webcam and video-making capabilities, teachers can utilize the host of well-designed educational tools now available on the internet. Teachers are currently receiving training on ways to use this new tool to better integrate technology into their curriculum.

Alumni News:

- **Joseph '92** and Karen (Miller) **Hertzler** welcomed the arrival of Jonathan Robert Hertzler this January.
- **Keri Detweiler '00** married Glendon Hurst this past July.
- **Freeman Hertzler '03** and Alison Stream were wed last August.
- **Rob** and Braelyn **Beaver '05** were wed last September.
- **Dan Madanat '05** and Krystal Plummer were married this January.
- **Karin Good '06** was married to Michael Stoltzfus this fall.

20 ways for alumni to support CCS

1. Speak proudly about CCS to family, friends, neighbors, and church associates.
2. Wear CCS imprinted clothing.
3. Recruit potential students.
4. Attend alumni programs.
5. Check out the school website at least once a month.
6. Support Cougar athletics events.
7. Support CCS theater and music productions.
8. Return to campus for the annual BBQ and auction.
9. Offer to speak at chapel.
10. Offer to teach an elective.
11. Volunteer for improvement projects: landscaping, painting, etc.
12. Keep CCS updated with your address and personal successes.
13. Provide stories/ideas for Cougar Connections.
14. Participate in alumni surveys and feedback opportunities.
15. Let the school know that you work for a matching gift company.
16. Tell your employer about the EITC tax credit that supports tuition assistance.
17. Support faculty and students for Race for Education.
18. Shop online through iGive.com.
19. Make a monetary gift or a gift-in-kind.
20. Make a donation to the auction.

Share your good news with the CCS family. Contact the Development Office at 610-286-0353 ext 402 or conestogachristian.net



Conestoga Christian School

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Fall Sports Highlights

- The varsity golf team successfully defended their CCAC title and remain League Champions. Two golfers qualified for district play-offs.
- The high school girls' varsity volleyball team enjoyed a successful season. Under the direction of Coach Jamie Latshaw, the team finished as runner up in the CCAC and played in the final four in District 3.
- Six high school students were named to CCAC All-Conference teams. In addition, senior Amanda Thompson was named to the All District 3 Team.



Upcoming Events

- Mar 18**
Grandparents Day
- April 7**
Spring Concert
- April 28**
PTF Spaghetti Dinner
- April 29**
Race for Education
- May 13, 14**
Spring Play

Little Conestoga Preschool Opens

After seasons of planning, the preschool opened with an enthusiastic class. Each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning, eight four-year-olds arrive at the CCS elementary building for three hours of fun and learning at Little Conestoga Preschool. Their morning is filled with free play, story time activities, and a Bible lesson. Once each week a volunteer arrives to lead them in an arts and crafts project. CCS is grateful to preschool teacher Mrs. Katy Linky for her work to launch this new initiative.

Registration for Fall 2011 is already underway.



Spotlight on Alumni Coaches

Alumni coaches are not uncommon in the athletic program at CCS. This year the presence of several alumni coaches has allowed Athletic Director Yoder to spend more time with his own family. He says, "When alumni coach for me I can be confident in their ability to take over the program and allow me to step away. I know the skill set of these returning athletes and that they will continue to uphold our expectations of player attitudes and behavior."

It is rewarding to have former players come to coach; it reflects the positive experience they must have had as student athletes.

*Phil Yoder
Athletic Director*

This year the coaching staff includes R.J. Saunders '01, who has coached for many years and is currently

in his fourth year as head coach for the varsity girls' team. Joining him as varsity boys' coaches are head coach Bret Kurtz '02 and assistant coach Jared Kurtz '06.

Basketball is not the only sport that enjoys alumni coaches. While juggling a college schedule and two part-time jobs, Kelly Trine '08 also found time this past fall to assist high school volleyball coach Jamie Latshaw. "I love sharing my enthusiasm for the sport with the girls on the team." Kelly says. "It was fun to show younger girls what I know and help them to enjoy the game."

Conestoga Christian School, in harmony with the home and church, provides a quality educational program for K-12th grade students in an environment that nurtures Christ-like character and equips students for a life of discipleship.