



In Memory of a Friend and Colleague Anita Whisler, 1959-2021

Anita, Miss Whisler to most, was both a friend and colleague of mine for many years. She began her time at CCS as a fourth grade teacher, practical, organized, responsible, and loving her students. At some point, she was called to begin her many-year commitment to serving students with learning disabilities by being trained in the system of educational therapy developed by NILD, the National Institute for Learning Disabilities. She was dedicated to those students who learn differently, advocating for them with teachers and parents and helping others to know how to best meet their needs. She worked hard to help students to strengthen their weaker areas of learning by using individualized techniques for each child, caring for each one.

As the years went on (she had just celebrated 40 years of service to CCS) Anita gathered a wealth of knowledge about our school. Somehow she could remember most of the students who had passed through these halls. Her grasp of the history of the school was legendary! I knew that she was the one to go to if I had questions about what had happened and when or with whom, in the timeline of our institution.



Anita's skills led her to take up the role of Director of Assessment and Reporting which she carried out with the utmost competency. Her eye for detail and precision was vital to the accuracy of report cards and school transcripts. She helped teachers complete the multiple tasks of report card preparation with carefully written instructions and personal support if needed. She read all of the comments, making sure that information was clear



Miss Whisler celebrated 40 years at CCS

and supportive.

In addition to her connection with assessment and reporting, Anita spent many years assisting in the development and writing of curriculum, applying her talents and insights to both the content and the execution of the written documents. Her knowledge of grammar, punctuation, and composition were crucial to having a clear, concise, and well written curriculum.

This skill in grammar was one often depended upon by other



members of the staff. If one needed to have a document proof-read,

Anita was the one to go to. She caught the mistakes that others missed, and made sure that our school continued to look professional in written documents.

However, these professional skills do not adequately describe the most important things about this friend of mine. She loved Jesus. She stood upon the Word of God as the basis for life. From this commitment to the Lord and His Word, she gleaned wisdom. She worked hard, because she knew that she was working for the Lord. She approached challenges with integrity because she knew that was what God asked of her. She had a servant's heart and cared well for those she served. She never forgot a birthday and showed her care for colleagues by praying for us and following up to ask how things were going.

I have no question in my mind that Anita Whisler is with her Savior today. Though I miss her, I know that she is rejoicing in the presence of God.

Written by Ginnie Lodge

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Mission

- Educating the whole student—body, mind and spirit—for God.

Vision

- Conestoga Christian School, in harmony with the home and church, provides a quality educational program for preschool to 12th grade students in an environment which develops critical thinking, nurtures Christ-like character, and equips students for a life of discipleship and service.

Enrollment Explosion—2021

Conestoga Christian School began the 2020-2021 school year with 267 students, which was a decrease from the end of the 2019-2020 school of 32 students. For the previous 7 years the average number of new students at the start of each school year has been 56, and even last year during the Covid pandemic, CCS brought in 57 new students . . . the problem was we lost 89 students from the previous year. CCS graduated 30 and did not return another 59 students from June of 2020 for reasons from Covid, to homeschooling, to finances. While a net decrease of 32 students hurts the budget and is scary as far as the future of the school, last year CCS adopted the theme of “Don’t Freak Out” based off of Philippians 4:6,

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. - Philippians 4:6

The entire 2020-2021 school year was dedicated to three C’s: Care, Community, and Communication. Staying open and having in-person instruction was not always easy, but it was always encouraging. Having students on campus in the classrooms last year brought the CCS community together. Parents, students, and staff bonded in a way that brought joy to our campus. The words of the Apostle Paul came to life from Philippians 2 . . . “we were like-minded, one in spirit, single focused.”

In April of 2021 the admissions team noticed an uptick in interest for the 2021-2022 school year. Family tours began to increase, and we soon realized CCS was going to rebound from an enrollment perspective. The interest in our elementary school, specifically our preschool and pre-kindergarten, was overwhelming but exciting. It became clear that CCS would need to add a new preschool and 1st grade teacher, while keeping 2 kindergarten teach-

ers because we would have completely full classes in preschool and prekindergarten and at the same time need to a second kindergarten and 1st grade class. Praise God!! The elementary grew the most, but we did see new students come join our middle and high school classes. Remember I said the average number of new students has been 56 since 2013? Well, for the 2021-2022 school year God has brought in 124 new students!! To start the year we have 324 students on campus. Praise God!! God’s hand is on us and our campus is full – never “Freak Out.”



Elementary friends praising God in the first Chapel of the year.

Written by Ken Parris

Fine Arts Highlight—A Musical Revue and Special Guests

The Spring Musical is always a loved event in each year and 2021 was no different. With the uncertainties of Covid the “how” and “when” of the musical was not always known. But in the end “The Musical Revue” created an opportunity to remember and reflect. Director Kristin Lunger shared,



“Reflection is an opportunity to see

where you have been, where you are going, and how far you have come. In those moments of reflection, God will often reveal His enduring faithfulness and goodness in our lives.”

That perfectly describes this year’s musical



Left to Right—Hannah Stone, Kristin Lunger, Lauren Fabian, Carrie Warner

which not only featured the songs of past musicals from 2007 to 2020, but it also saw some special guests. Former Directors Lauren Fabian and Carrie Warner were among the audience and the Light and Sound Crew had some Alumni help from Michael Myers, Caleb Schreier, and Ethan Vannoy (all class of 2019).

Soli Deo Gloria (a well loved phrase of Mrs. Stone)—is the desire of CCS in all it does. This musical was no different.

Sports Highlight—Basketball Milestones

There are milestones every athletic team would like to accomplish, like winning a conference or district championship. Similarly there are individual milestones an athlete would like to achieve that are sport specific. Take basketball for example, an offensive milestone in basketball is scoring 1,000 points in your high school career. Prior to the 2021 basketball season, only 4 athletes reached that milestone:

Brett Kurtz (2002) scored 1,152 pts., Jared Kurtz (2006) scored 1,036 pts., Amanda (Thompson) Vittorio (2011) scored 1,023

pts., and Blake Greenly (2019) scored 1,327 pts.

The graduating class of 2021 was blessed with athletes that loved to play basketball and trained hard to try to obtain team and individual milestones. From a team perspective, the boys’ varsity basketball team competed in the CCAC Championships both in 2020 and in 2021, they competed in the PIAA District 3 Championship in 2021, and qualified for the PIAA State Tournament 3 of 4 years. While the basketball team did not win a championship, it was a

blessing to be able to be in big games. From an individual perspective, three young men reached the 1,000 pt milestone: Dylan Greenly scored 1,623 pts., Conrad Yoder scored 1,015 pts., and Collin Weaver scored 1,000 pts. Congratulations to all.



Conrad Yoder, Collin Weaver and Dylan Greenly—left to right

Written by Ken Parris

BBQ and Auction planned for October 15-16

The 48th CCS BBQ and Auction is scheduled for October 15 and 16, 2021. Our BBQ and Auction in 2020 looked a bit different than in years past. We leaned on God's wisdom and faithfulness. He provided a beautiful day for our outdoor Auction, under the tent. The festive atmosphere was a delight to all. Our chicken BBQ sales were the largest CCS has ever experienced. While change can be difficult, at times, we learned that some new ideas work better than our old ones.

The implementation of our BBQ take-out only was a huge success! On Friday, October 15 we will once again be hosting a take-out only event from 11 am to 6:30 pm. Trays of apple dumplings will once again be available for sale that day, until sold out. Our gift certificate store will be open on Friday, located in the front parking lot area. Full dinner and half chicken tickets can be purchased on the school website at www.conestogachristian.net/auction-2021. Please consider joining us to cheer for our HS Boys soccer team on Friday, October 15 at 7:00 pm – if the weather is warm. Folks

will bring blankets and chairs to enjoy their dinners before the game begins.

The Auction on Saturday, October 16 will begin at 9 am and run until about 11 am. It will once again be held outdoors, under a tent, in the back parking lot. Coffee, apple dumplings and other breakfast type items will be for sale. The live Auction will feature selections of favorite items, experiences and a few homemade quilts. Class baskets will be auctioned, beginning at 9:30 am. Also featured the past several years is an Online Auction



Class Baskets Continue to be a favorite event

which will once again run from October 14th to October 28th at noon. Each item will end when no one has placed a bid on an item for 5 minutes. The online auction can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/CCSonline2021>. All items may be picked up starting November 1 (including Win-It-Now items) during school hours as long as your payment has been processed. All items must be picked up at the school by November 22nd unless other arrangements are made. Items can also be picked up on the following evenings in the Cougar Den from 5-7 pm. (November 4, 9, 18, 22)

CCS relies on the generous support of our school family, past and present, along with our local community to make our Benefit weekend a success. Thank you for considering attending one or both of these days to see what is happening at CCS and possibly catch up with old friends you may not have seen in a while. Please join us!!

Written by Deborah Kurtz

Alumni Spotlight—Chris Buck class of 1999

On Saturday, May 1st, Conestoga Christian School hosted its annual Founders Event with the theme, “Praising God through the Storm.” This theme was significant due to the “storm” of the Covid 19 pandemic that was weathered by all this past year. Steve Garrett and Reta (Garrett) Watkins shared many songs of praise and worship that evening. The evening also included a segment that spotlighted and awarded a CCS alum who has made a positive and profound impact on the community and in their place of employment.

This year's Alumni Award went to Chris Buck, class of 1999. Chris shared his story of how God has led him through some trials and storms in his life. Chris is currently employed by the Cocalico School District as a Social Studies teacher. He



Chris Buck (1999) left is interviewed by Jack Greenly, Director of Alumni and Church Relations and Student Life.

currently serves as the Department Chair for the Civics/Social Studies Department of the school. Chris is married to his wife Emily, and they have four children. The Buck family is actively involved in their local church, Petra, in New Holland. Chris still loves music

and plays the drums for the church's worship team. He is actively involved in

local politics and has served as the Chairman of the Lancaster County Republican Committee. He has worked with Senator Smucker and has been a member of the Senator's Education Committee. Chris is thankful for his years at CCS and how they played a part in his education. Chris graduated from Millersville University with an education degree and has since obtained his Masters of Education degree.

Chris credited Mr. Wayne Gascho for instilling in him a love of helping students learn. Chris shared about his storms of losing political races and how God used those storms to place him where he is today. Thank you, Chris, for sharing your story and for sharing the love of Christ in your community and your school.

Written by Jack Greenly

We're on the Web!

ALUMNI FACEBOOK CCS Alumni



ALUMNI INSTAGRAM



Check out the Alumni section of the school website

www.conestogachristian.net/alumni

Upcoming Events

- **BBQ and Auction**—October 15-16
- **ONLINE Auction**—October 14-28
—www.tinyurl.com/ccsonline2021
- **Fall Drama**—Little Women—November 12
- **Cougar Classic** — December 10-11
- **All School Christmas Concert** — December 16
- **Fall and Winter Athletics**—The schedule and information can be found at www.conestogachristian.net/athletics

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITE AT

WWW.CONESTOGACHRISTIAN.NET

SCHOOL FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/conestogachristianschool

SCHOOL INSTAGRAM

www.instagram.com/conestogachristianschool

ATHLETICS INSTAGRAM

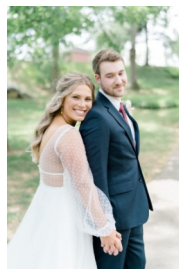
www.instagram.com/conestogachristianathletics

Alumni News

Lindsey Bowman (2002) Volunteering at Wallingford Senior Center

Rebekah Ley Sherk (2007) Works at Bentley Systems and is helping to supporting the CCS photography class through small technology Grants

Amanda (Thompson) Vittorio (2011) married Chris Vittorio on May 22, 2021, at Lititz Spring Park.



Amanda and Chris Vittorio

Brock and Sarah (Hahn) Stoltzfus (both class of 2015) announce the birth of their son, Jack Aiden, born on August 23, 2021.

Sadie Shinn (2015) Graduated with a Doctorate of Physical Therapy in May of 2021

Jamison Leiss (2019) and Brianna (Fuller) Leiss (2019) were married on July 17, 2021.



Jamison and Brianna Leiss

Emma (Stever) Hahn (2019) married Luke Hahn former CCS student on June 26th of 2021

Ellie (Martin) Mellinger (2019) married Tanner Mellinger on June 12, 2021



Ellie and Tanner Mellinger

Emmalyn Foxx (2020) and Christian Corral were married on May 24, 2021, in Kona, Hawaii. They are currently serving in Istanbul, Turkey through YWAM (Youth with a Mission). They are serving with a group who has been called to minister to unreached people around the world.

CONGRATULATION TO THE CLASS OF 2021



**DO YOU HAVE NEWS? NEED TO UPDATE YOUR EMAIL OR MAILING ADDRESS?
CONTACT JACK GREENLY AT JACK.GREENLY@CONESTOGACHRISTIAN.NET
OR AT WWW.CONESTOGACHRISTIAN.NET/ALUMNI**