



The Calvary Connection

Volume 8, Issue 4

December 2011

From Mr. Wickens' Desk ...

RICK DYKSTRA M.P. CALENDAR CONTEST—Congratulations to Josiah Paul, Kwynn VanderWerf, Dain Johnson, and Ryan VandeKamp whose pictures were chosen for the annual Rick Dykstra Calendar. Look for your copy coming in the mail.

PARENT/GUARDIAN & TEACHER INTERVIEWS - Monday, December 5, Tuesday, December 6, & Wednesday, December 7, 2011—Your interview confirmations were sent home last Friday, November 25. Please remember to arrive on time, and keep your interviews to the schedule. **Also, Monday, December 5 is a NOON DISMISSAL to allow for interviews in the afternoon.** As we conclude the first term re-

porting period, we want to thank the parents/guardians for their strong support of their children's progress at school and fostering the school/parent/guardian partnership.

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM—Our Christmas program will be presented in the Church Sanctuary on the evening of **Thursday, December 22, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.** We want to extend an invitation to families, grandparents, and friends to join us. We have enclosed two invitations that you can use to invite guests. If you would like additional invitations, please contact the school office. We look forward to seeing you there. December 22 will be a student council dress down school

day so that students can have their dress uniforms ready for the Christmas Concert. If you have very small children, we have arranged with the church to use the small room at the back of the sanctuary. This room allows parents to see and hear the play and also allows small children a place to play. We are looking forward to a wonderful evening.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS—A REMINDER THAT THE LAST DAY BEFORE Christmas is Friday, December 23, 2011. **School will be dismissed at 12:00 p.m. on this final day.** The holiday period is from Friday, December 23, 2011 – Friday, January 6, 2012. **The first day back is Monday, January 9, 2012.**

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS—This non-budgeted fundraiser is an ongoing opportunity to benefit the school. QSP (the company that offers the magazine subscriptions) has over 700 magazines. They not only offer new subscriptions **but also renewals of magazines.** You can go on-line to www.qsp.com, enter the name of the school (or group #11623), and the school benefits up to 40% of the sale. **Anyone you know, no matter where they live, can renew or purchase** their magazine subscriptions on the internet, and the school benefits. Magazine subscriptions make a great gift for that person who has everything! To contact QSP, please call 1-800-667-2536. We appreciate your support for this optional fundraiser.

Report Card Follow-Up Tips

Report cards are for congratulating students for work that is well done and for encouraging them to set goals in areas that need some focus.

At home, try to set goals that are easily understood and attainable. Don't set too many (usually one at a time is enough). Set the time frame short enough that the student doesn't lose sight of what he/she is working on, and have a

regular "check-up" time to see how he/she is doing. This may be daily for very young students or weekly for older ones. The "check-up" may be as simple as a question related to the goal that can be answered with observable facts or behaviour.

If students know they are going to be held accountable, they can consciously think about how they can report their progress toward their goal. Help them to report

positively by identifying with them, in advance, the signs of progress.

The first time through a process like this, students may have difficulty identifying either a goal or process towards it. You may need to spend some time helping them get started. Record the goal (the desired improvement), as well as, how the student will know that progress is being made. Remember, keep it simple. Our Grade

4 – 8 teachers establish academic term goals with their individual students. We are here to help in any way possible. Please feel free to arrange further discussions about your children with their teacher.

REMINDER!

Please sign and return your report card comment forms to the child's teacher during interview time.

Christmas Adopted Families

We are sponsoring 2 families this year through the Niagara Life Centre. The contribution of non-perishable food and gifts deadline is **Friday, December 2**. If you would like more information, we have posted the information outside the school office, or please call the office.

We are also accepting Canadian Tire money and cash donations at the office. This money will be used to purchase perishable food items and supplies to wrap the gifts and for

stocking stuffers for the families. Thank you for your generous support of this program.

Thank you to those who supported our annual Bake Sale to raise funds for our adopted families and to the grade 8 class for organizing it. This year we were able to raise \$387.00

Student News

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Program—Our original goal was to fill 2 shoeboxes per classroom—one for a boy and one for a girl—for a total of 14. Through your generosity, the ambulance service picked up 42 boxes. The tutoring class is pictured on page 4 with the ambulance personnel after loading the 42 shoe boxes plus the 92 boxes from Calvary Church. Many children, somewhere in the world, will have very big smiles at Christmas.

Spelling Bee—Congratulations to Anastasia Vakoulich, Sidney Morton, Quinn Flavel, Camryn Bylsma, Sean Maguire, Kai Absolom, Trinity Arsenault, Daniel Adeyemo, Chelsea Cheel, and Meredith Lister who went to the ACSI Spelling Bee Competition in Toronto. They competed with 165 students from across Southern Ontario.

Great Experience for Calvary Students Our school Christmas choir has accepted invitations to four retirement

homes this year. This is an important part of our community outreach program and offers a great experience for our students. We will be going to St. Catharines Place on Friday, December 9; Garden City Retirement on Tuesday, December 13; Henley House on Friday, December 16; and Shaver Hospital on Tuesday, December 20. Please pray for safety for our staff and students as we take the message of Jesus' birth to these places.

Christmas T.R.I.P

No need to run around store to store to get your gift certificates for Christmas gifts. We have all your Christmas gifts here! The school office is now stocking the following certificates for the Christmas season: Body Shop, Chapters, Cineplex, Home Depot, The Gap/Old Navy, The Keg, Marks Work Warehouse, Shoppers Drug Mart, The Keg, Toys R Us, Winners, HBC/Zellers, as well as, all the regular items. Gift certificates make excellent gifts for those hard-to-buy-for people on your list! We have enclosed an order form for your convenience. **Last order date for items not in the office stock is Wednesday, December 14, 2011.**

Income Opportunity

We have been contacted by the agents, who have arranged in the past for international students to attend Calvary, to see if there are any school families who would be interested in offering home stay to international students. They potentially have students coming for seven weeks in January and February 2012 and they have one male, grade 6, who is interested in coming in February for one year. Please contact the school office if you are interested. We will pass on your name to the agent who will provide details concerning this. The agents are responsible for organizing the home stay, and Calvary Christian School does not get involved in this aspect of the international student's visit.

Parent Association Report

Fellow Families:

We would like to wish all of you a happy holiday at this wonderful time of the year. As we approach the season, let us remember the true meaning of Christmas - the birth of our Lord! Let us be grateful for this school and the abilities of those teachers here who so gently guide our children every day.

Today, you will find a letter with an envelope attached. This is for the staff Christmas celebration. Once a year, we like to send the staff out for a wonderful meal as a thank you

for all the hard work they do for our children. As we would like to show our appreciation for what the staff do every day for our children, we ask that you prayerfully consider making a contribution toward this meal. We have suggested \$10.00 per family, but please know that we are grateful for any amount that you can contribute.

We are also excited to see the upcoming Christmas play that the students and teachers have worked so hard at preparing for us. Let us look forward to the New Year with excitement!

We continue to thank you for your support and may the Lord bless you and keep you in this season of giving.

If you have any further questions regarding Parent Association events or fundraisers, please call Ann Marie Johnson at 905-984-3111.

Calvary Parent Association Team

Spring Fling Update

This is the time of year that The Spring Fling committee starts to plan for this great event. We will continue to run a Penny Sale and a Silent and Live Auction at the Spring Fling. To run these events, we will be needing items in all different values. These items can be for children, teens, adults, male, and female. These gifts would include toys, health care, tools, household items, sporting events, services of all kinds (massage, carpentry, electrician), gift certificates (restaurants, retail stores), furniture, etc. This is a great time to purchase items (great sales on now!) for this fundraiser. Talk to

the managers or owners of the businesses you frequent and ask them about donating a gift or gift certificate for our Spring Fling. We have letters in the office that you can present to the store owners when you ask for a donation. This letter will introduce you as a representative of the school and the reason for the request of a donation. Let them know their donation is tax deductible, and proceeds from their gift will be used for new equipment for our school. Also mention that this event will be well advertised, drawing many people to the Spring Fling. All businesses donating items or services will be listed for the attendees to see.

Please provide a copy of a receipt or a business letterhead with the value of the donation so we have the value for receipting purposes. If you need somewhere to store the items you have for the Spring Fling, contact Coreen Galenkamp for arrangements.

M & M's School Day Promotions

As we have told you in a previous communication, M & M Meat Shops holds a promotion once a month in support of local schools. All you have to do is go to the Lake Street location (this is the only location that does this promotion) and make a purchase, and

tell them you would like to support Calvary Christian School. Ten percent of your purchase is then donated to the school. The following is the scheduled dates for the School Days Program:
Thursday, January 26, 2012
Thursday, February 23, 2012

Thursday, March 29, 2012
Thursday, April 26, 2012
Thursday, May 31, 2012

Also, remember that you can purchase gift certificates through the school office and use them for your purchases.

Calvary Christian School's Mission Statement

The primary goal of Calvary Christian School is to prepare students academically and spiritually for a life of service, according to individual talents and abilities for the honour and glory of God.

CALVARY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

89 Scott Street
St. Catharines, Ontario
L2N 1G8

Phone: 905-935-3854
Fax: 905-935-0854
E-mail: ccsniagara@bellnet.ca



That in all things He might have the pre-eminence. Col. 1:18

We're on the web!

calvarychristianschoolniagara.com

Prayer List— In previous newsletters, we have had a section for prayer requests so that families can pray for other school families. We will only include prayer requests that have been given to us by individuals who are comfortable with them being included in the newsletter. Also, if there is anything that we, as a staff, can pray for, please let Mr. Wickens or the school office know.

Today's mailing includes prayer calendar, activity calendar, skating permission form, Christmas Play invitations, CPA Mailing, Membership Meeting minutes, and a TRIP Order Form.

Blessing List

The Blessing List indicates the things that are on the schools "wish list". This may be an opportunity for families to donate an item to the school, if it is feasible for them. Another option is a money donation towards a particular item or items on the list. All money donations and product donations, with a receipt, are 100% receiptable for income tax purposes.

- New or used laptop computers, Netbooks or Apple iPads
- Dear Canada & Guinness World Record (any year) books for **Grade 7**
- Littlest Pet Shop animals & accessories for **Senior Kindergarten**
- Educational software (preferably not math) for **Tutoring class**
- Games & puzzles for rainy days

P.S. Another possible way you could help is by connecting us to companies or individuals who may offer discount prices.