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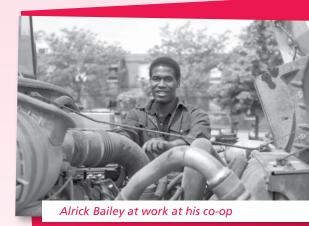
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## AUG 2013

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6488 SMITHVILLE RD. P.O. BOX 40, SMITHVILLE, ON LOR 2A0 PH. 905.957.3255 FAX 905.957.3431 smithvillechristian.ca

CONTACT: MARLENE BERGSMA mbergsma@ smithvillechristian.ca Welcome to the final issue of Echoes for the 2012-2013 school year. Inside you'll meet the Class of 2013 and get a glimpse into their graduation ceremonies, including an excerpt from the keynote address of Eli Banta, who urged the graduates to continue to be transforming agents in the world. You'll also see some of the graduation award-winners and read a reflection on pride from guidance counsellor Linda Booy-Korvemaker. But even as we say good-bye and wish God's blessing on one group of amazing students, we are getting ready to welcome a new Grade 9 class: inside you can read about all the amazing ways there are to get involved, and learn how we are rolling out a powerful new communications tool to help students in their learning.



### Our co-ops are tops

BY MARLENE BERGSMA, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS

While many Smithville Christian High School graduates leave our school to continue their learning in other educational institutions, there are also many students who leave for apprenticeships and jobs.

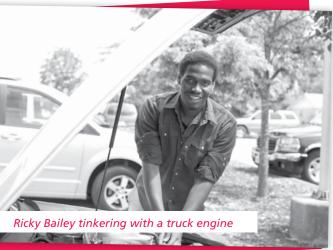
One of the ways in which our school is able to prepare

students for the working world is through our excellent co-op program, taught and administered by Neale Robb. Many students say they have been blessed by the opportunities afforded by hands-on learning, but the students have also been a blessing to our school's reputation.

Here are some comments from recent co-op supervisors.

"It has been my pleasure to have Morgan Schilstra and Cara Needham here. They are lovely girls and fabulous students. We are always happy to have Smithville

Continued on page 2 ...



Christian students. They are a cut above the others. My experience with Smithville Christian has been so positive over the years that my husband and I are hoping to send our girls there when they are older." -- Melanie Felvus, Smithville Christian PreSchool.

"We are so pleased with Dylan Visser that we have offered to take him on as an apprentice. He will be starting with us full time once he completes his last semester of high school." -- Jay DenHollander, Premier Equipment.

Several other students have been hired at their placements, Robb said. Ricky Bailey was offered an apprenticeship at Freightliner, Rachel VanGeest was offered a job at Sentineal Carriages, Lucas

VanHoffen at Adrian Haanstra's farm Victoria Traver at Jodi's Bark and Play, Calvin Thompson at RosaFlora Horinga Devin at Turkstra Lumber. As a result of his excellent performance and glowing а recommendation from his co-op employer, Alrick Bailev has also been offered an apprenticeship at Metro Truck.

## Here are some other comments from supervisors from previous years:

• "This student works well in a team environment and completes tasks as instructed. He learns quickly, asks intelligent questions

and possesses good common sense. I would welcome the opportunity to have him on our team."

• "This student has been, by far, the best co-op student that we have had in my years with the company. It's refreshing to see a young man dedicated and ambitious as he has shown himself to be."

Robb said the students' success means they are good ambassadors for the school.

"We certainly are blessed with terrific students who represent our school well in the workplace," he said.





# Being transformed by God

BY MARLENE BERGSMA, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS

Graduates of the class of 2013 chose departing teacher, Eli Banta, as their grad speaker. Although he has been at Smithville Christian for less than a year, he was greatly appreciated by the students and staff and he also greatly enjoyed his time at school.

"I have been at Smithville Christian a short time and yet I immediately felt like I belonged," he told the graduates and their guests. "It is probably the best compliment I can give the school, since this is how I imagine heaven will be: being in a brand new place and feeling as though I have always been there."

Banta also reflected on the theme verse chosen by the graduates, Romans 12:2.

Banta said conformity to the world comes from within us and is driven by selfishness and an effort to seek happiness and pleasure apart from God.

In contrast, being transformed by God comes from outside us, he said, and results in our reconciliation with God. But it doesn't stop there.

When we continue to walk with God, we can see God's will for our lives, Banta said.

"Notice that God's will is good, pleasing and perfect," he said.

Looking for goodness means that when we are trying to discern God's will, don't ask "is it wrong?" Instead, ask "is it God's best for me? Is it holy?" Banta said.

Similarly, God's will is also pleasing or rewarding.



"It isn't going to be dull," he said. There may be many things that appear to be attractive, but God also appeals to our spirits. Life is fulfilling.

And God's will is perfect or complete, he said, and it's not just for the future. "God's will is for right now."

He reminded graduates that during Spiritual Emphasis Week, Mr. Gord Park had them say to one another: "whatever you want to do with God this week, that's okay with me." And then they said to God: "whatever you want to do with me, that's okay with me."

Banta challenged everyone to keep this attitude.

"Let God," he said. "Let God in. Give the King of Kings the key to the throne room of your heart and life. Let God transform you."

#### **ROMANS 12:2**

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

## Pride in our graduates, pride in our school

BY LINDA BOOY-KORVEMAKER, GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR

Pride is a word that Christians often struggle with.

When humans take pride in their own accomplishments the Greeks call it "hubris," and there are many examples in literature where this kind of pride causes a hero or heroine's downfall.

The Bible also gives us many examples of how pride is wrong and only a few of how pride can be good. Good pride is when we give God all the glory. Good pride is when our legacy is not our own, but God's. Good pride is when we acknowledge God in all we do. Then our pride is more a healthy self-esteem: knowing who we are in the body of Christ and knowing that we are all equal body parts with different jobs, together making up the body of Christ that works for God's glory.

So are we being proud when we acknowledge students' accomplishments at graduation? Or is our graduation ceremony an ultimate tribute to God and a celebration of the gifts he has given our students? These are questions that each of us must answer: do you give God glory for your accomplishments?

I must admit that as a guidance counsellor who works closely with students on post-secondary planning, I am often very proud of our graduates when I see them in their gowns, standing in front and smiling for the camera. I am proud when I read off all the scholarship offers that have been extended to them.

But this is not a personal pride: the success of our students is not because of my work or even because of theirs Rather, the students' success is evidence of a God who created us to work together in his kingdom to be a light to the world. Their success is a testimony of who God is and of his presence in everything we do.

I use this celebration to give honour to God and to praise him for the blessing of the students who cross my path. I use this celebration to be thankful for the school where I work and where I can encourage students to be in relationship with God as they make their decisions.

I pray that as the students move on from Smithville Christian High School that the power of God goes with them and that they stay in relationship with him through the good and bad times that they will face.

I hope that when we announce the success of our students it is as a form of worship to God, and I know that that is good.



#### **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AWARD-WINNERS OF 2013**

#### West Lincoln Town Council Citizenship Award

Awarded to a student who has displayed an exemplary commitment to building positive relationships with staff and students in the school community and has been involved in school activities.

- Rachel Vermeer

#### **Canadian Citizenship Award**

Given to a student who has provided exemplary community or volunteer service in and outside of the Smithville Christian High School community and has participated in a number of extra-curricular activities.

- Nikki Potac

#### Lieutenant Governor's Community Volunteer Award

Given to a student who has displayed exemplary community contribution and achievement through volunteer activity.

- Steven Muysson

### Smithville Christian High School International Student

Given to an international student who has contributed to the life of the school community. The winner of this award has a positive relationship with staff and students at Smithville Christian High, while maintaining a strong academic record.

- Caleb Abraham

## Niagara Peninsula Energy Inc. Fund at the Niagara Community Foundation

Given to a student entering into a field of study that is in line with the business of Niagara Peninsula Energy.

- Frank Gu

#### **PoultryFest Niagara Scholarship**

Awarded to a student who has displayed exemplary involvement and volunteerism within the school and the community at large, demonstrating determination, perseverance, reliability, a positive attitude, and strong leadership qualities.

- Fayth Ponsen

#### **Royal Canadian Legion Branch 393 Poppy Fund Bursary**

Awarded to a student who shows exemplary self-discipline and clear leadership qualities, and whose forebears have been involved in a war. - Micah Vermeer

#### **Royal Canadian Legion Branch 393 Bursary**

Awarded to the student who is a self-effacing, Christ-like example to our community.

- Marisa Vanderlee

#### Groff's Photography Bursary

Given to a student who has contributed to the Fine Arts at Smithville Christian High School.

- Rachel Vermeer

#### A.J. McCarthy Scholarship Award

Given to a student who has made a significant contribution to the quality of student life, and whose character and accomplishments exemplify the mission of the school.

- Veronica Slappendel

#### **Smithville Garden Club Scholarship**

Awarded to a student who is dedicated to pursuing a program in agriculture, horticulture, or landscaping.

- Luke Zantingh

#### **School Plaque**

Awarded to students for outstanding performance and participation in school athletics and school activities.

Katherine Buist Thomas Vanderlinde Emily DeHaan Micah Vermeer Marisa Scholman Ryan Vermeer

#### **Ontario Scholars**

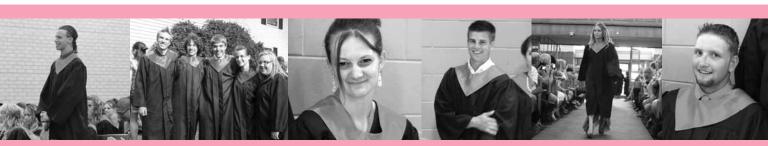
Awarded to students who have obtained an average of at least 80% in any six grade 12 courses.

Veronica Slappendel Rachel Batenburg Isaac Stansfield Katelyn Blyleven Robyn Brinkert Rebekah VandenBurg **Emily DeHaan** Alydia VanderKlippe Jonathan deVries Marissa Vanderlee Frank Gu Micah Vermeer Haley Kamping Rachel Vermeer Fayth Ponsen Ryan Vermeer Megan Schilstra Grace Zhang Marisa Scholman

#### Governor General's Award

Awarded to the student who has achieved the highest academic standing in the class in all Grade 11 and 12 courses.

- Alydia VanderKlippe



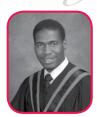
# duating Graduates of 2013



Caleb Abraham



Alrick Bailey



Ricky Bailey



Rachel Batenburg



Katelyn Blyleven



Robyn Brinkert



Katherine Buist



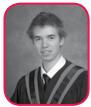
Rachel Buys



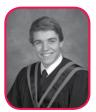
Ayumu Chi



**Emily DeHaan** 



Jonathan deVries



Ben Dieleman



Song Gao



Frank Gu



Cici He



Devin Horinga



Haley Kamping



Ives Li



Cee Lin



Steven Muysson



Cara Needham



Fayth Ponsen



Nikki Potac



Amanda Regnerus



Megan Schilstra



Marisa Scholman



Idalene Shrimer Veronica Slappendel



"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will."

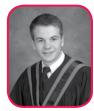




Samantha Sonneveld



**Evelina Spyker** 



Isaac Stansfield



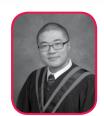
Calvin Thompson



Daniel Tilstra



Victoria Traver



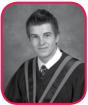
Ben Tu







Rebekah VandenBurg Alydia Vanderklippe Marissa Vanderlee Thomas Vanderlinde Jordan VanSoelen









Gabrielle Veldboom



Micah Vermeer



Rachel Vermeer



Ryan Vermeer



Dylan Visser



Alex Voortman



Christina Vos



Jeffrey Wang



Nygel Washington-Purser



Stacy Wiens



Aron Wilms



Kakisa Wilson



Luke Zantingh



**Austin Zhang** 



**Grace Zhang** 







While parents and teachers may think high school is all about learning facts and earning credits, ask any student and he or she will tell you that high school is really all about making friends and having fun.

That's because the truth is a good high school experience is turned into an excellent experience when a student gets involved. Often, when students participate in portfolio interviews, when they contribute to the three-minute yearbook or when they reflect on the four years they spent at high school, they say that extra-curricular

sports and activities were the highlight. Sadly, some students look back on their high school careers and wish they had dared to try out or been brave enough to sign up.

Some are afraid they won't make the cut. Others are afraid to embarrass themselves or are afraid they won't know anybody. Still others are afraid they will be too busy to focus on schoolwork

But what teachers have noticed is that for many students, the busier they are, the better they do. Being busy helps students focus their efforts, and forces them to be efficient. Busy students decide it's better to buckle down and get that assignment done so they'll be able to go on the choir tour, attend that sports tournament, or run the sound system at the upcoming event.

And don't let try-outs dissuade you from taking a chance: being in a small school means there is a greater likelihood you'll make the cut. So even if you think you're too short to make the basketball team or too slow to make the soccer team, try out anyway. Every team needs a manager and social media manager, and you'd still get to go to games and travel with the team. Other sports, like cross-country and track-and-field, welcome anyone who wants to run, jump or throw.

There are also many activities that are completely open and the more students who get involved the more fun it will be. You might think it's risky to take a chance, but don't let others miss out on the opportunity of getting to know you. You're guaranteed to be glad you joined.

## ACTIVITIES FOR WHICH THERE ARE TRY-OUTS OR ELECTIONS

- Praise team
- Play

• Choir

• Student Coucil

#### SPORTS FOR WHICH THERE ARE TRY-OUTS

- Basketball
- Soccer

Volleyball

• Badminton

Each of these teams sports also needs a manager and a social media manager.

#### **OPEN SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES**

- Cross-Country
- Track and Field
- Art Club
- Audio-visual Club
- Book Club
- Computer Club
- Christmas Parade Float
- Culture Club

- Graduation Planning
- Homework Club
- Photography Club
- Play Make-up and Hair
- Play Publicity
- Play Set Decorating
- Yearbook
- Intramural Sports



## Kingdom building with extra-curriculars

BY MARLENE BERGSMA, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS

As Smithville Christian High School wrapped up its school year, it held its annual awards chapel in June.

Devotions at the chapel were led by Will Lammers, Director of Program, who congratulated students on their involvement in school life.

"Well done!" Lammers said, "I trust that you were blessed as much as you blessed others in your involvement."

But Lammers told students the value of getting involved is much more than just what they get out of their extra-curricular accomplishments.

"When we commit to an extra-curricular activity, we are saying our gifts and abilities matter, and they deserve to be developed," he said. "The Bible calls these gifts talents, and when we invest in developing our talents we are telling God that we would like to grow as individuals. That's awesome!"

Involvement also allows us to show creativity and imagination, he said. "Each of you left a positive, permanent stamp on the school, and the school would not have been the same without you. The Bible calls this kind of contribution a joyful response to God's call to create culture. That's awesome!

Finally, involved students share each other's joys and burdens, he said.

"You make a statement that you are not developing your talents strictly for yourself," Lammers said. "You are not in it only for personal growth and advantage. Instead, you are saying that it was important to help others to grow as well."

Lammers said students were created for acts of service and compassion, and that they are called to develop themselves for the body of Christ and for society. When we live this way we are practicing the Biblical concept of seeking God's kingdom, he said.

And Lammers left the students with a question.

"For what are you living?" he asked. "What habits do you seek to practice? How are you seeking to create a culture that lasts? What testimony will others make of you when they think back to life at Smithville Christian High?

"May we all seek to grow in His grace, as we give Him all glory for what we do."

# Bringing learning to life: taking the classroom on the road

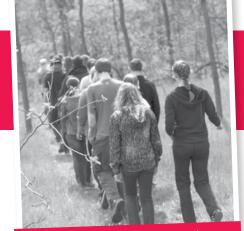
BY AL KORVEMAKER, HISTORY TEACHER

# Are class trips a lark? A chance to escape? Or are they meaningful parts of a student's learning?

At Smithville Christian High School, class trips are tied to the curriculum, and bring to life the learning that occurs in the classroom. Like project-based learning, trips give students an opportunity to experience or to do what they are learning rather than to just talk about it. When students are outside the classroom

and working closely with the real thing in the field, there is more meaning.

A recent Grade 11 History trip to the Royal Ontario Museum was no exception. The focus of that day was on ancient Greece and Rome and we were led on a tour of those sections. We saw a skull and helmet that were found at the site of the Greek Battle of Marathon and sculptures made of Roman emperors who commissioned them.



Grade 9 Science students on a nature walk at Ruthven National Historic Site.

The highlight was going to a lab and handling actual artifacts of the time period. With our knowledge of the historical eras, we had to hypothesize how those

ancient people used the artifacts. Some of the items were simple oil lanterns and others were metal mirrors and spear tips that needed to be handled with gloves to avoid the oils from our hands corroding them.

On the way home some students and I talked about how the people of this era were a lot like us, albeit separated by time and worldview. Students commented on what they imagined it would be like if their family lived in that



Noah Boks at Ruthven National Historic Site in Cayuga.



Shae Vlaar-Philbrick, Caitlyn Duck and Kristen Antonides with historical artifacts at the Royal Ontario Museum.

period. It is through class trips such as these that students gain a better understanding of history. Connecting them to the past makes the stories come to life.

In January 2014, Grade 10 students at Smithville Christian will have another opportunity for hands-on learning, when they travel to Ottawa for a three-day trip exploring the politics, culture and history of Canada.



Grade 9 Science students at Ruthven National Historic Site in Cayuga.

## Admissions interviews: starting conversation

TED HARRIS, ADMINISTRATOR

Smithville Christian High School requires that all new families applying to send a child to our school take part in an admissions interview with the administrator. People often think that the point of this admissions interview is to determine whether we should let a certain student attend our school. While we do always want to make sure that we are a good fit for families and learners, the admissions interview is so much more than that.



I have always thought that one of my tasks as administrator is to have an ongoing conversation with families who send their children to our school. Some of these conversations can be very long ones; some families whose children have graduated this spring have had children here since before my arrival ten years ago.

So what comes up in these conversations I have with parents over years? We talk about the gifts of their children, about what's going on with their kids who have graduated, about financial help they might need, about concerns they have, about their dreams for the school and their children. Sometimes it's smaller things, like the conversation I had this morning with

Continued on page 14 ...

Continued from page 13 ...

a mom about the Taylor Swift concert she took her daughter to. Knowing families and kids helps us do a better job and the admissions interview is a way to get these conversations started.

The other important reason for an admissions interview is to make sure that parents and students are

as well-informed about the school as they can be before getting started. For example, they give us a chance to talk about what we mean when we say students at Smithville Christian Belong, Believe and Succeed. The more parents know about the school and its goals and expectations, the more likely it is

that we will be working shoulder to shoulder throughout the years we work with their children.

Admissions interviews do take time, but beginning a great conversation with a family as its members anticipate the important high school years makes it worth missing dinner once in awhile.

# Introducing Edsby – getting plugged in to learning

BY MARLENE BERGSMA, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS

Smithville Christian High School is launching a powerful new communications platform this year, designed to aid student success. Edsby is a cloud-based tool that allows students, teachers and parents to connect quickly and easily, 24 hours a day.

"We have been focusing on enhancing student success," said administrator Ted Harris, "and our adoption of Edsby fits with that plan."

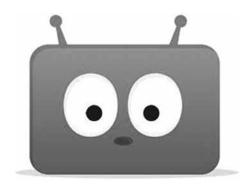
In addition to giving students 24-hour access to assignments, marks and learning resources, Edsby allows parents to be involved in their students' learning. A parent can log in to his or

her secure account and see up-to-date information on how a student is doing, with details on assignments and tests completed, as well as results

Harris said he hopes parents make good use of Edsby.

"One of the key reasons that our students are successful is that the parents of our students are engaged in the learning of their children," he said. "That being said, sometimes it is difficult for parents to know what is going on. Edsby will help us keep parents involved in discussions about learning."

Harris said he hopes parents bookmark the Edsby page and visit it often.



"We have investigated other schools that have adopted Edsby and its success depends on how often parents log on and avail themselves of the opportunities to be connected."

Edsby allows teachers and students to keep in touch with each other, through online forums where students and teachers can converse, and where teachers can post assignments and resources. This is particularly helpful when students miss school because of illness or extra-curricular activities, but it also helps students collaborate – an important tool for project-based learning, said director of program, Will Lammers.



Smithville Christian High School teachers on their first training session with the school's new learning management tool.

Edsby also can also be used by teams, clubs and other school events.

Teachers have been using some of their Research and Development time this spring to explore its features and learn how they can use it to inspire their students' learning.

Lammers said he hopes students and parents use Edsby to ask questions and get answers, and he expects it to be a great way to create and engage community.

It will also help students who have a tendency to misplace their assignments, he said. "Students will be able to access and print these documents in case they lose them."

As the praise team coach, Lammers also expects to use Edsby with the student musicians and worship leaders.

"We will be able to keep a calendar that indicates when praise teams are 'on,' " he said. "I would add files of sheet music and YouTube links for the music they would be using for those chapels, and information about special events or rehearsals."

Lammers said he's excited about Edsby's potential.

"I am looking forward to using Edsby," he said, "because it will streamline and improve communication about all aspects of learning with all members of our community."



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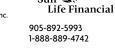
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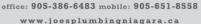
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