



ECHOES

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 GETTING INSIDE
THE WORLD OF
TODAY'S TEENS
- 3 STUDENT'S COUNCIL
- 4 IT TAKES A VILLAGE
- 6 STUDENT ACTIVITIES
- 8 SOUTH AFRICA
MISSION TRIP
- 9 STUDENT SERVICES:
BELIEVING
- 9 FOUNDATION REPORT
- 10 ALUMNUS:
BEN TENOEVER
- 11 CURB APPEAL

DECEMBER
2 0 0 9

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 2
6488 SMITHVILLE RD.
P.O. BOX 40,
SMITHVILLE, ON
L0R 2A0
PH. 905.957.3255
FAX 905.957.3431
www.sdch.on.ca
CONTACT:
MARLENE BERGSMAN
mbergsm@sdch.on.ca

Finding the Blue Ocean

BY TED HARRIS, ADMINISTRATOR

Last year, members of the Smithville Christian High School board read and discussed the book *Blue Ocean Strategy*, by W. Chan Kim and Renee Mauborgne. After this process the board decided that this was not a book simply to talk about and then put back on the shelf; it connected with many discussions we have had about what kind of school we are going to be.

This past month, a group of twenty people got together over the course of two days to talk about how the book's strategy could be applied at our school. The discussions were engaging, invigorating and exhausting all at the same time. I have two key thoughts as I reflect on our voyage into possible blue oceans.

First, we need to recognize ways in which we are already in a blue ocean. Christian parents want an education that will guard, foster and strengthen their kids' faith. We do not struggle under the

control of a particular church, and we certainly do not confine faith to the peripheral edges of our program. We are a Christian school that can integrate faith meaningfully into learning; we help young people develop a faith that is comfortable in work clothes. That is a blue ocean. In an age when statistics indicate that a high percentage of young people from evangelical families lose their faith after high school, we need to offer a practical "What now?" in relation to faith in Jesus Christ, and make sure everyone knows we are doing it.

Second, we need to be bold explorers, not just in order to be different, but to be remarkable in how we achieve our mission. This will involve finding other ways to do Christian education. Do we need desks to learn? or classrooms? or 73-minute time slots? or textbooks? or neatly packaged semesters? Many ask why high school is structured as it is while longing to change it, but not all schools are positioned to play around with that structure. Are we more agile than other schools? We think we are, and we want to find the blue ocean space. Why? So that we can achieve our mission better, so that we can be more remarkable, and so that we can impact more lives for the sake of Christ.

The Blue Ocean discussions will continue in January.

Getting Inside the World of Today's Teens

BY AL KORVEMAKER, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM

In our roles as teachers at Smithville Christian High School, we are always seeking to learn – not just new ways of teaching teenagers but also new ways of understanding them.

This year, as part of our professional development, we are studying, “Hurt,” a book that deals with the unique challenges faced by today's teens. Its author, Chap Clark, an American university professor, spent a year inside a public high school in California, conducting ethnographic research. This means that he did not use surveys but worked among the teens, asking probing questions and developing conversations with them, and then drawing conclusions that formed the basis of his book.

Clark is a Christian, and it is his view that today's teens are facing significantly different challenges and issues than their parents. He describes many of these challenges, including peers, family, sports, school, the party scene, sex, ethics and morality. His underlying theme is that 21st century adults have abandoned adolescents and are not making the necessary connections to walk beside them and guide them through this part of their lives.

Because this study was conducted in a large, urban, public school in the USA

it would be easy to conclude that his findings don't apply to a small, rural, Christian school in Canada. But in today's wired world, there are aspects of consumer, competitive culture that affect kids no matter where they live, and the book's conclusions have made for some interesting discussion among the staff at our regular after-school professional development meetings.

Our goal as a staff is to read, reflect and respond to the many challenges faced by our teens today. Reading and discussing “Hurt” is but one way. On March 3, 2010, we are going to build on our study of this topic by hosting a Professional Development day with Dr. Karyn Gordon, a high-profile expert on Generation Y and teen culture. As part of her visit to Smithville, we would like to invite everyone to her evening presentation, at 8 p.m., as she speaks about how to successfully raise teenagers in an age of overindulgence.



READ THE BOOK

A copy of “Hurt” is available in the school library for parents to borrow. Call the school or email the librarian at library@sdch.on.ca

– Save the Date –

Mark **Wednesday, March 3** on your 2010 calendars and invite your friends and neighbours to what is sure to be an inspiring and encouraging talk by youth expert Dr. Karyn Gordon. Watch the school website for more details.



Putting our Faith into Action

BY ROBYN DEKLERK, STUDENTS' COUNCIL EXECUTIVE



The Rose City Kids table in our school's front lobby was recently crammed with the many Christmas boxes that we collected. Those boxes will be going to children in Welland who are part of the Rose City Kids program. Many come from broken, troubled, or poor homes, and I am sure that the boxes they receive will bring smiles to their faces.

Thank you to all the students, staff and families who took the time and effort to fill a box. We delivered almost 80 of them!

This year, our 30-Hour Famine for World Vision was held in the fall. We had a great evening filled with movies, games, a fashion show, and several rowdy games of capture the flag. We ended the night with a rock concert featuring a band called The 401. Our group of

50 participants raised a total of \$2,221 for World Vision! Thank you to all who joined the famine and also to all who sponsored them.

Having participated in both of these events, I have really started to think about all that I take for granted, and the Christmas season is a good time to really think about this. What do I expect at Christmas time? Most of us expect to get a few presents. We give a couple, and usually get more. What do the children in Africa or even some in Welland look forward to?

"H" is the next letter in our theme SHINE to talk about. ("S" stands for Serve.) Hope is something that we need to give those who do not have any. By filling Christmas boxes for Rose City Kids, and raising money for World Vision, SDCH has shown hope to some people in our community and around the world. Way to SHINE! I'd like encourage all of you to serve others and give hope to them this holiday season.

Theme: "Shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life. Phil. 2, 15b-16a

See pages 6 and 7 for photos from the 30-Hour Famine, the Christmas boxes for Rose City Kids and our successful Food Drive for West Lincoln Community Care earlier this year.



LEFT: Joan Buma and Jim Vanderlinde teaching the cheer to students at Smithville Christian High School; **ABOVE:** Students and staff join Joan Buma's cheer.

EH! O! CANADA GO!

IT TAKES A VILLAGE ...

BY JOAN BUMA

I'm sure you have heard the phrase "It takes a village to raise a child." The staff at Smithville Christian High School live this truth every school day. But lately, there has been a new twist on this statement, "It takes a village to help a retiring science teacher win a contest" – an equally true statement.

A few weeks ago, I was intrigued by a Pepsi commercial to come up with a cheer for our national hockey teams. Since I'm a diehard hockey fan and proud Canadian I couldn't resist the temptation to have a little patriotic fun. After some family input, I finally came up with a cheer I liked. There was only one problem — only two days left and I needed a video.

WHO DO YOU CALL ON? THE STAFF — THAT'S WHO!

My first call was to Jim Vanderlinde, a creative genius with a video camera,

and I asked him if he'd do a video of the cheer if I could get my colleagues to act it out. He immediately answered in the affirmative. The next day I asked the staff to wear red and white and act out the cheer for a video. Their resounding answer came the following day as they all came to school in patriotic attire, game to help me out with my crazy endeavour. Thus a cheer was born.

The day the finalists were to be announced, I got up early and much to my surprise and delight, there was our video. Immediately Ted Harris and



ABOVE: Joan Buma being interviewed by TSN in Summerside PEI; **BELOW:** Joan Buma and Pepsi cheerleader Cameron Hughes in Summerside PEI.



Marlene Bergsma jumped into action spreading the word about the cheer. Then the students and their families, along with the entire staff, began voting regularly. The result was a winning cheer.

I find myself singing "Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow" a lot lately. Not because I won a contest – though that's fun. It's because I've had the privilege to be a part of this beautiful high school community: a community that I've watched over the years always support others when the going is tough, or when others need a helping hand. But to have them come alongside someone when they were just out to have a little patriotic fun – that is simply beyond the call of duty. I'm blessed beyond all measure.

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL FOR BEING MY VILLAGE.

EH! O! CANADA GO!

In November, Joan Buma and her son, Jonathan Buma (SDCH alumnus, class of 2003), travelled to Summerside P.E.I., where her winning cheer was launched. This month, she and a guest will be travelling to Saskatchewan to watch Hockey Canada's National Junior team play for its sixth-consecutive first place finish at the 2010 IIHF World Junior Championship in Saskatoon and Regina. In March, she will be flying to Germany for the 2010 IIHF World Championship. Her travels are all courtesy of Pepsi Canada, along with a special gift that Pepsi is sending to every student at the school.

"Joan's cheer had all the elements we were looking for – it had the potential to engage a crowd, was energetic, fun, original and above all, patriotic," said Cameron Hughes, Pepsi ambassador and official fan for several professional sports teams. "I know from all my years supporting teams that this is going to be a cheer crowds will love to use and will give our teams the encouragement they need to defend Canada's top spot in world hockey competitions."

Buma's accomplishment led to local and national publicity for the school, with television exposure and articles in newspapers across the country. Many students and parents helped propel Buma's cheer to the top by voting for her daily during the month of October, and the school celebrated her win with a pep rally and patriotic cake at a special assembly in November.

You can see and hear her cheer, and Jim Vanderlinde's creative genius, at www.pepsi.ca. You can join her Facebook group, or read some of the articles about her success on the school website at www.sdch.on.ca. Eh! O! Mrs. Buma Go!



FOOD DRIVE

30 HOURS

CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS FOR





R FAMIN

R ROSE CITY



SOUTH AFRICA 2010

BY ROBYN DEKLERK, TEAM MEMBER



The trip that awaits us in March 2010 is fast approaching. For the past few months we – as a team of 14 students, three staff, and one alumnus – have been meeting regularly to talk about passports, what we can bring to Africa, fundraising ideas, and the scary shots that we all need to get. We also have been privileged to hear some great stories about past trips and the giant, creepy spiders that might be in our cabins in Africa! During these meetings, we have all been able to get to know the others that will be going with us on this life-changing experience.

At Theocentric Christian College in South Africa, we are planning to help build a playground, including a soccer field.

Some of us will have the chance to teach the students some soccer drills, though they will probably be running circles around us! We will have the opportunity to go into some of the classes and teach them about our Canadian culture. Lastly, we will be able to get to know most of the children and hopefully, through the time we spend with them, be able to speak to them about the importance of self-worth and purity.

This trip to South Africa is going to be such a good experience for us. The team is so excited to see what God will do through our serving there. We cannot wait to share what we know about God to the people, and also hear what they have to say. We're really excited about teaching them, but even more excited to learn from them. We are looking forward to establishing and growing relationships with the teachers and students from Theocentric, and also getting the chance to spend more time with the members

South Africa Team Members

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Robyn DeKlerk
Kelly Harris
Sarah Westerhoff
Teryl Kiers
Jessica Dekker
Marita Regnerus
Leanne Riebot
Hannah Kikkert
Cody Blyleven
Brian VanBuuren
Mark Eyk
Cody VanSoelen
Scott VanderWier
Lloyd VanOenen
Jen Riebot
Ted Harris
Wilma DeHaan
Fred Breukelman

of our amazing team. We hope that through this trip we can each gain a better relationship with God and have our faith grow to a whole new level.

We want to thank everyone for your continued support. We have been blessed with donations that many of you have given us to make this trip possible. Thank you to all those who came to our fundraising dinner on Nov. 14. It was a night full of delicious food, fun entertainment, and great fellowship. Please keep our team in your prayers as we prepare for this amazing journey.

Believing...

BY LINDA BOOY-KORVEMAKER, STUDENT SERVICES

This word can have many meanings. Sometimes we cannot always see what Christians believe. I have the privilege of being a guidance counselor at a Christian school. This means more often than not that I see students who believe. I see the fruit of our labour – the labour of Christian education.

In Ontario, guidance encompasses three main areas: student development, interpersonal development, and career development. These three areas are directed by the Ontario Ministry of Education. But at Smithville Christian High School, these three areas are surrounded by the four strands of guidance developed by the Canadian Christian School Resource Manual:

- **Directional Growth and Development:**
nurturing commitment
- **Educational Growth and Development:**
equipping with tools for the journey
- **Personal and Social Growth and Development:** being God's image bearers
- **Vocational Growth and Development:**
being God's co-creators

I believe that Jesus can be seen at Smithville Christian on a daily basis and not just in the Christian teachers. When a student celebrates and when a student suffers, the other students at our school surround them and, when needed, lift them up.

That is seeing Jesus – that is believing. We are part of a body, and sometimes an imperfect body rather than perfect, but we are part of the body of Christ. In our imperfections we talk and walk the journey together. After many years in guidance I can say with confidence that we BELIEVE at SDCH!

**SMITHVILLE DISTRICT CHRISTIAN HIGH
OPEN HOUSE JANUARY 14, 2010 AT 7:30 P.M.**

*Invite your friends and family to come
and see how remarkable Smithville Christian is.*



THE SDCH 2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FRONT ROW, FROM LEFT, Liz Witteveen and Pauline Smit.
BACK ROW, FROM LEFT, Tim Van Hoffen, Clarence Keen, Brian Wagter, Uegene VanderWier, Archie Vermeer, John Klompmaker, Wayne Schilstra (Chair), and Administrator, Ted Harris.



Smithville Christian High Foundation

The more we “grow” our foundation, the more real families will be helped...both now and in perpetuity!

In the short-term, this translates into more help for parents in the form of bursary awards. In the majority of cases, bursaries are granted to parents who also have children in one of our partnering feeder schools. With a combined annual tuition obligation of \$22,000+ for many of these families, bursary funding is a facet of our fundraising that requires greater emphasis. Our foundation plays a key role in our efforts to help meet this growing need. As many of you give consideration to your year-end giving, may you also prayerfully give consideration to a special gift for the Smithville Christian High Foundation. Any gift received before Dec. 31 will have an impact both immediately and for many years to come. Thank you!

Executive Director: Henry J. Koornneef, CFP, CSA
(905) 957-8172 • (877) 340-9555 • www.schoolfoundation.ca

Smithville Christian Graduate to Meet the President



Dr. Benjamin TenOever, a Smithville Christian alumnus from the class of 1994, is on his way to meet U.S. President Barack Obama, after being selected by the U.S. government for a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers.

TenOever, who first studied science at McGill in Montreal and who is now an assistant professor in the Department of Microbiology at Mount Sinai

School of Medicine in New York, says the prestigious honour comes with a \$500,000 prize, which will be matched with another \$500,000 from the U.S. Department of Defense, which nominated him for the award.

But that doesn't mean TenOever is a millionaire.

Instead, the money is intended to support his ongoing research. TenOever's lab at Mount Sinai focuses on developing new vaccine strategies to combat influenza viruses and other illnesses. TenOever and his team are studying how cells respond to viruses and the ways in which cells can become resistant to infections. "I make viruses," he said, and then he tries to develop versions of them that will self-destruct.

TenOever said when he first left Smithville Christian he knew he was headed for a career in science, but thought it might be in medicine. It was while he was an undergraduate at McGill that he was inspired by his micro-biology professor, whose research and teaching style "drew me in."

Celebrate Science at SCIENCEPALOOZA

Sciencepalooza is a community celebration of science in action through student project work at Smithville Christian High School. This annual event is scheduled this year from 12:45 to 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 17 in the school gym. Students will be on hand to showcase and share their work. We are very thankful to God for the time and dedication students have devoted to this work, and we are pleased that two SDCH students in last year's Sciencepalooza went on to win 6 awards at the Niagara Region Science and Engineering Fair.

Admission is FREE. Everyone is welcome. We look forward to seeing you!

He said he has good memories of the science classes and science teachers from his years at Smithville Christian "and the hands-on lab work" that he was able to do here. "I can still name all my science teachers, which says something about the science program at SDCH. It was excellent."

He also credits Smithville Christian for some of the traits that have helped lead to his success.

"Developing honest principles and a work ethic have been a huge credit to me," TenOever said. "A large part of my success is simply that I work very hard, and treat others how you want to be treated."

He said being taught to "be honest to yourself and to others made me a better person, and it helps you gain the respect of your peers. In my scientific career, it has made an impression on a lot of people – who I am."

TenOever, 32, is married to attorney Loveena Rajanayakam, and the couple lives in Manhattan. Last year, he was also named a Pew Scholar in Biomedical Sciences, another extremely prestigious award that makes him part of a select group of top American scientists.

Despite the accolades and honours, TenOever said he finds the work itself very rewarding. The research he is doing "is super fun work, we do all kinds of fun stuff," he said. "I could talk about it for hours."

TenOever's meeting with Obama is scheduled for January 13, 2010.

Curb Appeal and Connecting with the Community

BY MARLENE BERGSMA, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS

If you've been to school lately you've noticed the beautiful new sign that's lighting up our front door. Thanks to an amazingly generous donation from Fred Bennink of Zip Signs and the talents of his staff of designers, builders and installers, we have been blessed with a powerful and versatile tool that will help us communicate the excitement of what's happening at Smithville Christian High School and help us connect with our community.

In addition to clearly identifying our location both day and night, one of the interesting innovations of our new sign is the image panel that allows us to subtly communicate what our school is all about. With the help of photographer Elma Regnerus, and the generosity of Fred Bennink, we have four graphic panels highlighting four different aspects of our school. Check out the new panel that went up this month.

The other innovation is the electronic message centre with remote-controlled technology that allows us to change the messages with a few clicks of a keyboard. We can program it in advance and, thanks to our IT expert, Bob Gerrits, we can also change the sign by logging in from an outside location.

With this sign, we can inform our community about events at the school, celebrate our accomplishments, and make connections with our neighbours – by highlighting community events like the Christmas Parade, the blood donor clinic, or the Christmas concert.

Bennink said he has donated signs to other Christian schools and churches

Woods Landscape Design, and Harry and Nancy DeVries of Cole's Florist donated the plants.

Bennink said his faith is a major motivator of his giving.

"I donate to community and secular organizations as well, but those donations are part of my 'corporate responsibility,'" he said. "I believe God gives resources to be shared, and there are many supporters of Christian education who are doing the same thing. We all bring different resources to be put to work in the Kingdom, but it's gratifying to be in such a visible business and to hear how our signs have been a blessing."

Smithville Christian thanks God for the blessings of such a generous and supportive community.



Westbrook

Remember...
Always aim for achievement
and forget about success.

Your Partners in Education

DEKKER'S

General Repairs
& Auto Sales

84028 Reg. Rd. #27, RR#1
Wellandport, ON L0R 2J0

905-386-6253
Fax: 905-386-0265

"Your neighbourhood auto specialist since 1992"



HOME DESIGNER

Ontario Licensed Designer
Serving all of Southern Ontario for the past
25 years

- One fixed fee • Professional & Detailed designs
- Unlimited Changes/Revisions
- New Houses & Additions • Garages & Cottages

JASON SCHILSTRA 905.701.1110
email: Jason@rijus.com www.rijus.com



Bert Mulder
SALES & SERVICE

1051 Broad Street E.
Dunnville, Ontario N1A 2Z1

Office: 905-774-6115
Fax: 905-774-1578
Res: 905-774-8120

LOUIE DAM & HANS DAM
OWNERS
CLARENCE'S SERVICE CENTRE LTD.

801 CANBORO RD.
P.O. BOX 129
FENWICK, ON L0S 1C0
PHONE: 905-892-3652
FAX: 905-892-4828
EMAIL: JDAM@COGECO.NET

Joe's Plumbing

"new installation and repair"

Joe VanGeytenbeek
Licenced Plumber and Gas Fitter

Heat Link
Floor Heat System

RR#1 Wellandport,
Ontario, L0R 2J0

**GOULDS
PUMPS**

905-386-6483
905-386-0703
905-651-8558

Consider a career in horticulture at



Rosa Flora Limited

756 Diltz Road, Dunnville, ON N1A 2W2
phone 905.774.8044 • fax 905.774.2818
email info@rosaflores.com • website www.rosaflores.com



1.888.BAYVIEW ext 344

P.O. Box 2,
3764 Jordan Road,
Jordan Station, Ontario,
Canada L0R 1S0
phone 905.562.7321
fax 905.562.7851
www.Bayviewflowers.com



Grantham Plaza, 400 Scott St., St. Catharines, ON L2M 3W4
Phone: 905-937-8833 • Fax 905-937-7196
website: www.vandendooljewellers.com

Klapwyk Clinic of Massage Therapy

Laura Klapwyk, RMT
Registered Massage Therapist

14 Briarsdale Cres.
Welland, L3C 6R8

lklapwyk@hotmail.com
(905)735-1724



FARM • BUSINESS • HOME • AUTO • LIFE

THE VILLAGE SQUARE
REG. RD. 20, P.O. BOX 299, SMITHVILLE, ON L0R 2A0
PHONE 905-957-2333 • FAX 905-957-2599
TOLL FREE 1-800-465-8256

**WAYNE
SCHILSTRA**
Broker



RE/MAX

Garden City Realty Inc., Brokerage
Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

64 Main St. W., Grimsby, ON L3M 1R6

Bus: 905-945-0660 • Fax: 905-945-2982

Cell: 905-515-8066 • waynes@remax-gc.com

www.wayneschilstra.com

Jerry's Auto Body

Serving the Lincoln Area Since 1969
Complete Collision & Restoration Repairs

5529 Regional Road #81, Beamsville, ON L0R 1B3

Alan & Jerry
Gerritsen

Phone: 905-563-7702
Fax: 905-563-5321



Dwight teBrake

Chartered Accountant

T. 905-899-2424 • F. 905-899-2426
dwright@tebrake.ca • www.tebrake.ca
52026 Hwy #3, R.R. #3
Wainfleet, Ontario L0S 1V0

- ◆ Accounting
- ◆ Consulting
- ◆ Personal & Corporate Taxation
- ◆ Succession Planning
- ◆ Agri-Business Programs, Accounting & Tax

Come visit our
Garden Centre
in Grimsby!

Cole's

Floral • Garden • Decor

Flowers, plants
and unique gift
giving ideas for
every occasion!

Toll Free 1-800-461-7374

147 Main St. E., Grimsby • 905-945-2219
184 Highway 8, Stoney Creek • 905-664-2810