



ECHOES

Chapels and Christian community

BY TED HARRIS, ADMINISTRATOR

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For decades the Christian school has been seen primarily as an academic institution, with the home and church taking different roles in the spiritual nurture of the child. Certainly the school has no intention of taking over the role of the church or the home, but increased attention to the whole child has led us into a much more spiritual space at Smithville Christian High School.

Some Christian high schools assert their academic focus by opting not to have frequent assemblies or chapels. Others put all the “Christian” energy of the school into chapels, while expecting little from teachers in the way of Christian instruction. We firmly believe in a “both-and” approach. We feel very strongly that the heart of Christian education happens in the classroom, where a Christian teacher sheds the light of scripture on everything being taught. But in addition to this, we feel tremendously blessed by our “together” times, the weekly chapels which get everyone in the building together for worship, reflection and prayer.

Let me give you a few reasons why we consider the chapel experience a vital part of our program.

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First, our chapels are our one chance every week to get the whole school together. What we do there is crucial for giving definition to how this community operates. The chance to look into God's word, to worship vibrantly, and to support one another in prayer sets the tone for the rest of our school experience.

Second, our chapel times enable student leadership. Many of our students lead

worship, and most of our students will at some point stand up and speak in front of the whole school, most of them more often. There are many aspects of leadership that are nurtured in our gym on Tuesday mornings. Our communities need Christian leaders; chapels help us deliver.

Third, our chapels give us many opportunities to get students used to the idea that our walk with God involves more than just perspective; our faith needs expression. Though such expression

doesn't erupt overnight, practice certainly helps. We invite students every week to join in the song, to join with all creation in praise to the creator.

I can't imagine a Christian school without the delightful weekly practice of joining together for worship. We have devotions in every home room class every day, but a worship experience with the whole school reminds us every week that we are a community of faith which is part of the bigger body of Christ.

Science and Christian perspective

BY WILL LAMMERS, SCIENCE TEACHER

What is the world like? How should we live in it? These are questions that students in grade 11 and 12 physics and chemistry are seeking to answer as they gear up for Sciencepalooza.

Sciencepalooza is an exhibition of student work, exclusive to Smithville Christian High School, that has been running for a number of years now. This work started at the beginning of the semester,

when each student selected a topic of interest, on which they subsequently developed a research plan.

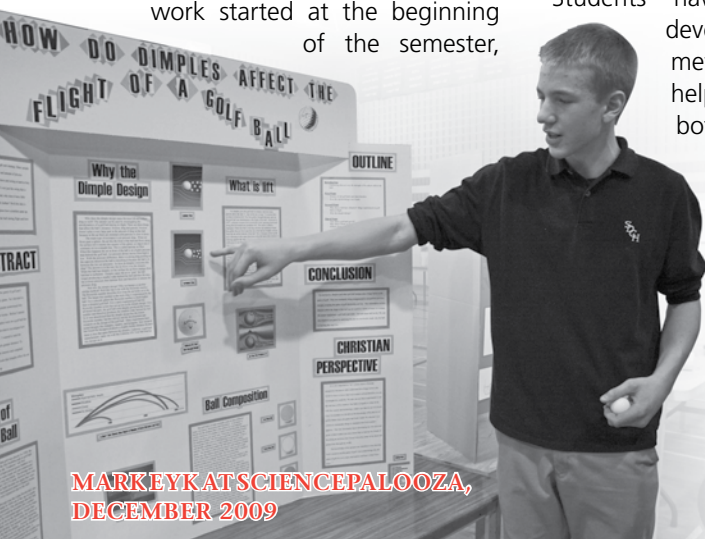
Students have been refining and developing the content and method of their research with help from various individuals both in the school and out in the community at-large.

As they undertake this research journey, students develop perspective from a Christian point of view by making two kinds of connections. The first involves personal gifts. Some students have significant work- or hobby-related

skills or interests that they have the opportunity to recognize as God-given, and to develop by way of scientific investigation. For some, this may involve an interest in art. For others, the interest may lie in study skills.

The second connection is made by way of themes of Christian discipleship that are addressed in course study through the semester. The prayer-filled aim is that, by way of these two groups of connections, these projects will be one way through which students develop Christian perspective; and that they will be able to demonstrate this perspective in a formal interview as well as everyday conversation.

In short, Sciencepalooza is meant to be a celebration of work accomplished that serves to inspire students for further learning through the lenses of Scripture – perspective that helps students to see a Biblically-based picture of what the world is like, and how we should live in it.



MARKEYATSCIENCEPALOOZA,
DECEMBER 2009

What does Shakespeare have to do with Christian faith?

At Smithville Christian High School, teachers and students are constantly making connections between what God's word teaches and what they are learning about the world. Take these examples from Grade 12 English, where students recently completed a unit on William Shakespeare's *King Lear*, and were asked on a test to answer this question: What essential truths does Shakespeare reveal?

Here's what some students had to say:

Katelynn Folkerts

King Lear reveals an essential truth in Cordelia's forgiveness of Lear. This can be compared to how we should forgive those who wrong us, and how God forgave us. Lear banished Cordelia and even disowned her as his child, just for telling the truth about her love for him. Lear did nothing to deserve her forgiveness. In fact, he actually knew that and admitted that she could poison him and he would deserve it. We should forgive others as Cordelia did because that is how God forgives us. We deserved death and poison, like Lear, but we instead received forgiveness and love, just as Lear did from Cordelia.

Taylor Schilstra

I hate to see people suffer and I am glad that Cordelia could offer Lear some comfort in his last hours. As Christians we must help one another through



Katelynn Folkerts



Taylor Schilstra



Ryan Veldman



Colin Bouwers

hurts and suffering, because it is what God desires of us ... God loves us unconditionally, just as Cordelia loved Lear. Kent stuck by Lear as God does, through thick and thin. As a Christian and student, this play speaks to me of what loyalty and love are all about.

Ryan Veldman

As Christians, we can consider this an interpretation of Jesus. Jesus constantly forgave, even Judas, who betrayed him, and ultimately had him killed. We should

try to follow this example, even though it seems impossible.

Colin Bouwers

Looking at the Tragedy of *King Lear*, I can understand that there is always a deeper meaning behind everything – a reality. Goneril and Regan appeared to love their father, however they wanted to kill him. As a Christian, I need to discern from many things and pay attention to reality. Things like drinking may appear to be fun, but the reality is that it is a sin.



Ian Attema at Sciencepalooza December 2009

You are hereby cordially invited to

SCIENCEPALOOZA

to be held on Tuesday, Dec. 21, from 12:45pm– 2:45pm
in the Smithville Christian gym.



Parents at Smithville Christian

BY MARLENE BERGSMA, DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS

Smithville Christian High School is a great place for teenagers, but it's also a great place for their parents. If you know a teen who is a student or graduate of this school, you have first hand knowledge of how Christian faith is integrated into everything we do. If you are paging through this issue of Echoes and have read what's happening in chapels, in science class or in English class, you can't help but be excited about the positive impact this school is having on the leaders of tomorrow.

But Smithville Christian High School is also being very intentional about how it wants to support families to be the best they can be, and about how it wants to bless our community. That's why we've launched our Parents' Forum – a series of lectures by respected Christian thinkers and therapists, who have exciting and helpful information about raising teenagers in a challenging world.

If you've missed the first two presentations, don't worry, there are two more scheduled for next year: Sam DaSilva on February 10 and Samantha Pellegrino on April 7. Mark your calendars and invite your friends. We'd love to see you there and we know you'll be blessed by the experience.

More information about the previous speakers and the upcoming talks can be found on the school website at www.sdch.on.ca.

BOOKS FOR PARENTS

Smithville Christian High School is pleased to announce that parents can be students too. We're expanding our section of helpful and relevant books especially for parents, and you are welcome to borrow them. Not a member of our school? No problem. Just fill in an application form at the school office and you'll be issued a guest patron library card. Invite your friends. We know that Christian principles are a blessing to families, and we want to share them.

Want to read more about these titles? Browse the Library section of our website. You'll find lots of other helpful information for parents – especially if there's someone in your house embarking on a research project.

**Just because it's not wrong
doesn't make it right** by
Barbara Coloroso

The Young & The Digital
by S. Craig Watkins

So Sexy, So Soon
by Diane E. Levin

Single Parenting That Works
by Kevin Leman

**The Five Love Languages
of Children**
by Gary Chapman

The Shelter of Each Other
by Mary Pipher

Parenting by the Book
by John Rosemond

**Get Out of My Life, but
First Could You Drive Me
and Cheryl to the Mall**
by Anthony E. Wolf

Grown Up Digital
by Anthony Tapscott

Toe to Toe With Your Teen
by Jimmy Myers

Growing Strong Daughters
by Lisa Graham McMinn

Parenting Today's Teens
by Mark Gregston

Disconnected by Chap Clark

Hurt by Chap Clark

**Building a Home
Full of Grace**
by John & Susan Yates

**How We Make Our
Kids Angry**
by Roger Cross

Boundaries With Kids
by Henry Cloud and John
Townsend

Yes, your teen is crazy!
by Michael Bradley

Boys Adrift
by Leonard Sax

Girls on the Edge
by Leonard Sax

KICK OFF YOUR SHOES AND KICK UP YOUR HEELS AT SMITHVILLE CHRISTIAN'S JANUARY SOCK HOP!

Don't miss this fun night out where people can enjoy good music and good food, and get to know each other, say organizers Kathy Elmers and Lorraine Wierenga, both parents of students at the school.

Elmers and Wierenga came up with the idea for the January mood-booster after hearing Marty Allen perform at other events, and seeing how much fun people were having. They thought an event at Smithville Christian would be a great way to get students, alumni, parents and supporters together.

"We wanted to do a community-building event that would raise money for something that won't be in the budget," said Elmers. Proceeds will go towards a new soccer field.

Marty Allen is an alumnus of Beacon Christian School in St. Catharines, who grew up listening to the music of Elvis and other 50s artists. As a singer, composer and musician, he puts on a dynamic show that is guaranteed to get you out on the dance floor, they said.

Sock hops originated "back in the days when black heels would leave marks on gym floors, so boys and girls had to take off their shoes," said Elmers. "We hope you'll kick off your shoes and join us."

Tickets are \$15 for students, \$25 in advance, and \$30 at the door. Shop early – buy four or more tickets before Dec. 24 and get them for only \$20 each. Call a student to order yours and help in the competition for a pizza lunch for the class with the highest sales. Or call Lorraine Wierenga at (905) 892-6961 or the school office. Bonus: a free pair of tickets to anyone who can loan a 1950s jukebox!



50s Sock Hop
at the
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6488 Smithville Rd in Smithville

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or Kathy Elmers 905-892-5039 - akelmers@talkwireless.ca
or Donna Feddema 905-945-3736 - hdfeddema@yahoo.ca

Raising funds
for Smithville
Christian
High's new
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Refreshments

Ideal for
Christmas Gifts







JOY TO THE WORLD!





STUDENT ART CARDS

(set of 8 cards)

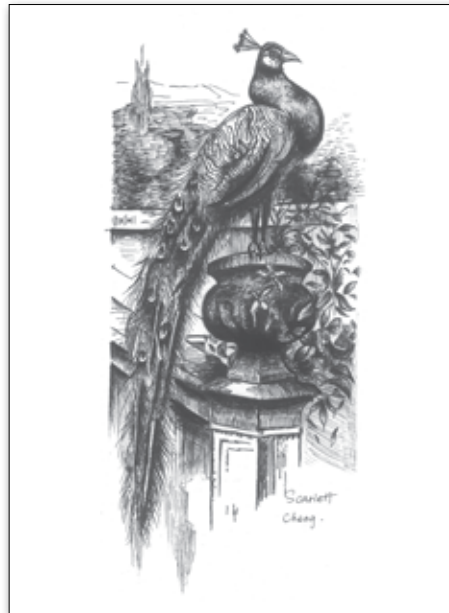


SHARE THE TALENT OF SMITHVILLE CHRISTIAN STUDENTS!

This set of eight all-occasion note cards, featuring nature images by senior art students, is beautifully printed on heavy card stock, making the cards perfect for gift-giving or to have on hand for your own note writing. Each set, with envelopes, is \$10. Proceeds from the project will be used to support acquisitions and the maintenance of Smithville Christian High School's permanent art collection.

Order yours from the school office.

It's a joy to support creative and talented students who are doing amazing work.



The best year of my entire life ...

BY NICO WILLEMSSEN

Going to a different country and learning something about myself has always been one of my biggest dreams to do after high school. That's why I decided to spend a year abroad in Canada, not knowing where I would end up nor knowing what would actually happen to me in a year. Will I change a lot, will I become a better person, what impact will this all have on my future? These are all questions that I was asking myself all the time before my departure.

Then all of a sudden three weeks before my departure date something changed in my life already. I heard that I would end up going to a Christian school and that I was going to live with a Christian family for a year. This was quite the shock at first, because I wasn't really raised in a Christian way. I mean I was raised by Catholic parents but we never really went to church or anything like that. So it was kind of hard to cope with that idea when I first heard it, but then I realized that the upcoming year would be a year of changes and to experience new things. But I had no idea that I was about to become a totally new and reborn person.

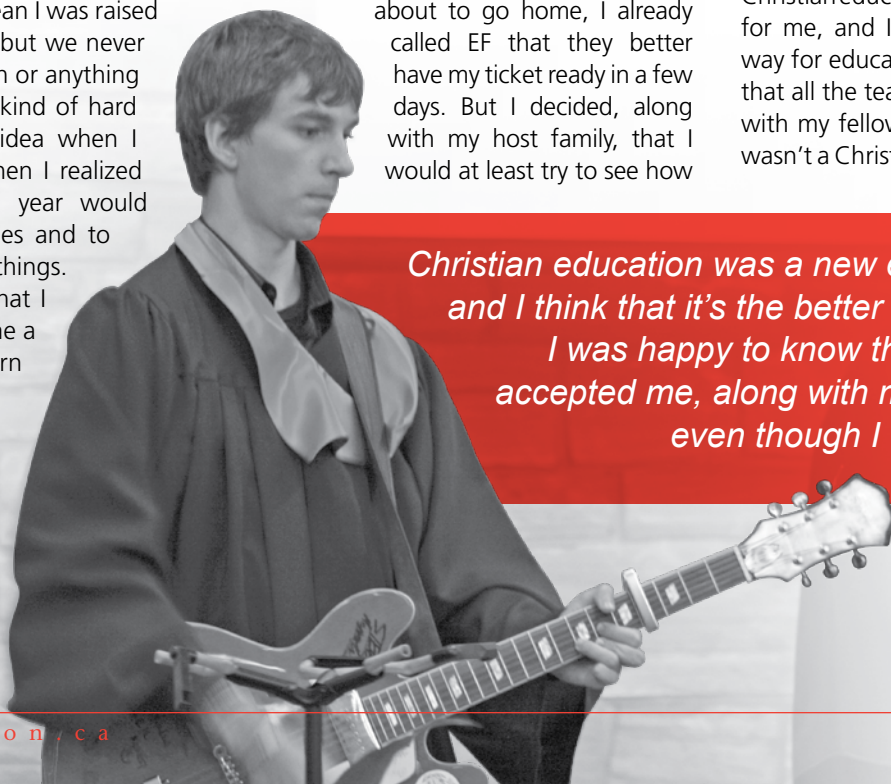
When I arrived in Canada I was greeted by the best host family I could ever wish for. Right away I felt so comfortable

and I saw them as my actual family. They treated me as if I was their son, and I treated them like they were my mom and dad, and I see them as my mom, dad, brother and sister still today. I admit that I had some start-up problems, I was extremely homesick and I was about to go home, I already called EF that they better have my ticket ready in a few days. But I decided, along with my host family, that I would at least try to see how

school would go. And I am so glad that I did. Smithville Christian High School has been such a big part of my experience and everything and everyone at Smithville Christian made my experience complete.

The first day I went to Smithville Christian High School I was really nervous, like I said going to a Christian school was a bit of a shock for me. But from the minute I walked in I felt comfortable and I made new friends right away. Friends that I still have and who will never leave, I just know that everyone has been so good to me and I wouldn't have been able to stay if they wouldn't have been there for me all the time.

Christian education was a new experience for me, and I think that it's the better way for education. I was happy to know that all the teachers accepted me, along with my fellow students, even though I wasn't a Christian. They all listened to my



*Christian education was a new experience for me,
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even though I wasn't a Christian.*

Continued on Page 10 ...

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opinions about topics like evolution and all those controversial topics where Atheists and Christians often collide. But I definitely learned that everything makes sense when God is involved in the subject. It makes sense that God is there for us, and that He sent us to this planet to take care of His creation.

After a few months of being exposed to the Christian way of living, and by joining the praise team at school I felt that something was changing in my heart and soul. God's spirit was working in me and it made me a better and more faithful person inside. I had a dream as soon as I got back in Holland again; I received His calling and His plan for me. And I'm going to follow that calling, which means that I will come back to Canada to continue to worship and please God in a way that He gave to me.

I know that God has chosen Smithville Christian for me, I know that God chose my new friends, I know that God sent me to Canada for a purpose, and most of all I know that God loves me for who I am, not because of what I do.

So thank you to all the staff and students of Smithville Christian High School for making last year the best year of my whole entire life. Thank you so much for everything you have done for me, but most of all thank you God for sending me to Smithville Christian. You are the best.

While he was in Canada, Nico lived with Ted & Karen, Glenn and Cassie Tilstra.

Parents and students putting their faith into practice

BY LINDA BOOY-KORVEMAKER, HEAD OF STUDENT SERVICES

Seeing students practice their faith in a Christian school is something that makes me keep doing what I do. Sometimes it is done boldly and loudly and sometimes it is softly and quietly. In student services it is usually the latter as it is just the student and I in an office.

Guidance counselors' roles are multi faceted. One of these roles is to facilitate a students' in their post secondary planning. This is something that takes up much of my day this time of year as university and college deadlines are fast approaching.

Recently, I held a parent session on post secondary planning. It's always good to be informed about what your son or daughter is facing. What struck me was how many parents whose oldest is in Grade 11 attended. Parents are taking a more active role in the post secondary process, not by doing it for their son or daughter, but by researching and knowing what is expected.

One parent of a grade 11 student asked, "What can we do to help our kids?" Another parent quickly responded, "pray." We talked about that for a little while and I was truly blessed by the trust and sense of community that these parents modeled. What a blessing to be a guidance counselor, where you can talk to students about leaning on God for direction and whose parents are not only helping facilitate the practical elements of post secondary planning, but who are actively praying for their children to find their place in our world.



Student Council Report

BY HONOUR GIESBRECHT,
GRADE 9

Student Council of Smithville Christian High School chose the theme unstoppable this year. One of the ways we hope to be unstoppable is by expressing our Christian faith with student activities. Galatians 6:9 says "Do not become weary of doing good."

Some of the good things we have done this year are Cash for Change days. So far we have had two, where students can pay to not wear their uniform and we donate the funds to a charity. We have raised over \$1000 this year so far. As Christmas is coming, we also have collected 100 boxes for Rose City Kids in Welland.

Our student chapels are a place where I have also seen students express their faith by worshiping and getting involved in different ways. As a Grade 9 student I have felt welcomed by the encouragement and support of students from all different grades. I see Smithville Christian as a great place to grow in faith along with friends. Putting my faith into practice, so I can truly be... UNSTOPPABLE!



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for Niagara & Hamilton area Christian Schools

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email office@schoolfoundation.ca

SMITHVILLE CHRISTIAN HIGH FOUNDATION*

Planned giving is jargon that is still largely misunderstood outside the philanthropic circles that first coined these words. It is simply gift planning that is intended to complement, not compete with, your current giving. One of our foundation's core activities has been, and will continue to be, to promote and facilitate planned giving in support of our school.

The point is that as long as people in our support communities have been arranging deferred bequests through their estates, they have been engaged in planned giving. Planned giving also includes naming charities as beneficiaries of life policies and investment portfolios, donating securities and other tax efficient gifting arrangements. Committed planned givers simply see this as a natural thing to do as stewards of God's resources.

Many people continue to struggle with following through on their good intentions. Those that have embraced the Charity Child concept, however, have generally found it much easier to follow through on these good intentions. For more information please visit:

<http://www.schoolfoundation.ca/pdf/Charitable%20Bequests%20&%20the%20Charity%20Child.pdf>

In fact, for some it offered them the encouragement to prepare wills for the very first time (or to update their current wills). It also blessed them with genuine peace of mind. Whether you accomplish this through my personal assistance, through our partnership with Christian Stewardship Services, or with the help of your current professional advisor(s), this is secondary to whether you actually follow through on your good intentions.

The basic question really is very simple - are you in?



Ian Gerryts

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