

IN THIS

- 2 LIVING OUT LOUD
- 3 SANTA CLAUS PARADE
- 4 BOYS VOLLEYBALL
- 6 MUSKOKA RETREAT
- 8 BELONG. BELIEVE. SUCCEED.
- 10 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- 11 EDIFIDE
- 12 SEASON OF HOPE
- 13 STORM GEAR
- 14 SCH FOUNDATION
- 15 OPEN HOUSE

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Jesus would build a longboard

BY MARLENE BERGSMA, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS



Shop students at Smithville Christian High School are so excited by what they're building these days that they're showing up for class early.

What's got them so pumped up is this semester's final project. Instead of building coffee tables and end tables, as many students have done in the past, this year's shop students have the option of building longboards.

Construction technology teacher Jim Vanderlinde said he got the idea for the radical new project when one of his own children wanted to buy a longboard. Vanderlinde went shopping and when he realized how expensive the boards were and how "massproduced," he knew he could do better in terms of both price and quality.

He did some research on what materials and techniques to use, and then successfully built a board with his son.

"It's a great, multi-faceted project, in terms of skills and materials," he said. "The learning potential here is huge, and there are so many different applications. The process of building it has so many extensions to other building projects and skills."

The students first build custom presses, to shape layers of Baltic birch. They then laminate them with fibreglass and maple veneer, using a vacuum-bag system.

"It was so fun and so successful, I knew it would be a great shop project," says Vanderlinde.

His students agree.

"They can't stop talking about it, they show up for class early," he said. "There's a new board coming out of a press every day, and they can't wait to check out the boards and see how they come out of the press."

Vanderlinde said he's convinced the kind of excitement and creativity that comes with building and custom-decorating such a fun project comes from our Godgiven enthusiasm for making things.

"You are making something fun, and useful and creative," said Vanderlinde. "There is tremendous personal satisfaction, and it's exactly what we are all about as a Christian school."

So that means God would build a longboard? Vanderlinde was asked.

"Well I think Jesus definitely would!"



Living Out Loud

BY TALLIA BEZEMER, STUDENT COUNCIL



This year our school's theme is Live Out Loud. Together we are exploring different ways to show those around us that we are Living our Lives for Jesus and we are striving to be intentional about it!

One of the ways we are Living out Loud is by partnering with Rose City Kids in their Christmas Box program.

Rose City Kids in Welland, Ontario is an outreach centre that is committed to offering programs for children, where they feel loved and valued, and where they can have fun and where they can learn new things and positive behaviours.

The Christmas Box program is an awesome opportunity to live out our theme. The idea is students receive refillable containers that have a child's name, age and gender on the outside. Our job is to fill the containers with things we know that child will enjoy and give it to them as a Christmas gift! Our

school filled over 170 Christmas boxes.

These children really enjoy receiving their gifts.

They feel very special and, often it is the only Christmas gift they receive.

Students really enjoy filling these boxes and feel very privileged to participate, knowing their gifts make a huge difference in the life of a child.

Our last dress down day's proceeds went to supporting Rose City Kids and their programs. We raised nearly \$1,000 in one day! Thanks to all the participants! We are looking forward to continuing our relationship with Rose City Kids!

To find out more about the ministry of Rose City Kids, visit www.RoseCityKids.com

Do Christians mix well with Santa?

BY MARLENE BERGSMA,
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS

Most years, students and staff at Smithville Christian High School make a float for the Smithville Santa Claus parade. Sometimes it features the choir, sometimes the praise team. But there's always some tension between the theme of the parade (things like Disney, or Christmas in Hawaii) that can cause school sponsors some tension. How do the themes chosen by parade organizers fit with our celebration of Christ the new-born King?

This year, we got lucky. The theme of the Smithville Santa Claus parade was "Christmas Characters" and the theme of the Grimsby Santa Claus parade was "Christmas Throughout the Decades."

Who has the corner on the best Christmas character of all? As Christians, we do!

Who has been celebrating Christmas for the most decades? We Christians!

The next challenge was making the two parade themes match our one-size-fitsall entry: the praise team belting out worship songs on a decorated utility trailer. How do we honour the parade organizers' request for a themed entry with our desire to communicate Jesus as the reason for this season?

This year's answer came in the form of three plywood silhouettes of the magi. Just as those three early travellers worshipped the "Christmas character" Christ over 2,000 years ago, we worship him today – "Christmas throughout the decades."

It took the combined efforts of over 30 students and staff to pull our parade entry together, from the members of the Art Club and the shop students who built the silhouettes, to the singers, musicians, truck drivers, and members of the Audio-Visual Club who provided the technical expertise. What a great way to share the message of Christ's birth.

Did you catch us in one of the parades? Did you like what you saw and heard? Or did you miss the parades altogether but would still like to hear the praise team? Go to the school's Facebook fanpage at www.facebook.com/SmithvilleChristian and click "Like" on the status update with the parade video. Better yet, take some time to watch the video and then click "Like."

Let's share our love for Jesus and our love for Smithville Christian High School with the world.





Smithville Christian's Athletes -**BOTH COMPETITIVE AND CHRIST-LIKE**

BY MARLENE BERGSMA, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS

We're proud of the members of our senior boys' volleyball team, and not just because of their recent trip to the provincial championships.

At OFSAA they advanced to the consolation finals after beating two incredibly tough opponents – Manitoulin and Espanola – in those schools' own gyms with deafeningly loud hometeam fans, said Stuart Bender, Smithville Christian's assistant athletic director.

"There were some very tense moments, you'd be sitting at the edge of your seat," recalled Bender, describing an amazing come-from-behind victory in the quarter-finals against Manitoulin.

"We were down 14-11 in the fifth and final set, and you need 15 to win," said Bender. "A turning point came when Nathan Snippe made an extremely large block. We regained the serve and the momentum. Our guys went crazy."

But even better than their fourth place finish at the province's highest level of team who competed at OFSAA on Manitoulin Island.

Front row. from left: Jordan VanSoelen, John Kamphuis, Travis Feddema, Tom Potac, Mitchell Harris, Brad Kerkhof, Nathan Snippe. Back row, from left: Dan Tilstra, Josh Scholman, Kurtis DeVries, Matt Veldman and coaches Rob Greenham and Tim DeVries.



competition, these athletes are first place in our hearts because of the way they conduct themselves. And it's being noticed.

After a game in regular season play, the referee made a point of seeking out staff sponsor Mary Anna Ouwehand to talk about what she had witnessed on the court. It had been a tough game against an arch-rival.

"She said 'I really appreciate refereeing your guys' team," recalls Ouwehand, "because of their sportsmanship. The way they handle themselves is exemplary."

Ouwehand said one example of such conduct was a call that was made in our team's favour, but that was wrong. Instead of accepting an ill-gotten point, right side attacker Nathan Snippe pointed out the error and handed the ball to the opposing team.

Similar praise came from the convenor of the SOSSA Championship, held at

But even better than their fourth place finish at the province's highest level of competition, these athletes are first place in our hearts because of the way they conduct themselves. And it's being noticed.

Confederation High School in Welland in November

"He said he was really pleased with the calibre of play," said Ouwehand, "and it was not only that the guys won, but how the boys conducted themselves on the court. Whether they won or lost, there was such integrity. He commended the boys, in front of both teams."

Bender said he saw the same thing at OFSAA.

"What was really cool was even after we lost the semi-final game how respectful they were," Bender said. "They were disappointed, but they realized the other team was good competition. They were upset, but they were still proud of themselves and how they had played.

"It was an honour to be part of something so great, and to witness their maturity as a team."

What is coming out on the field or the court is Christian character, said athletic director John van den Boogard.

"That's cool," said van den Boogard, "to know we must be doing something right."

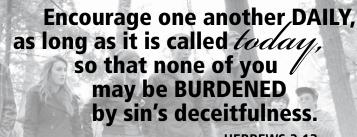
It's also encouraging to other athletes to not sacrifice their principles for a point, van den Boogard said.

"In terms of our conduct, let's all of us raise the bar high."









HEBREWS 3:13

Breaking away to step into leadership

BY GORD PARK, SPIRITUAL LIFE DIRECTOR

For the first time in the history of Smithville Christian High School, the students of the Grade 12 class participated in a three-day retreat this fall at the beautiful Muskoka Woods Sports Resort, just south-west of Huntsville. It was the first time our school has provided such an opportunity for our senior class, although it's an idea that has been recognized for some time as having great merit.

A small committee of teachers began looking into a retreat idea at the end of our last school year, and, with the help of a terrific student committee formed in September, plans were finalized, monies collected, chaperones selected, rides booked, prayers offered, and off we went.

A speaker, Robin Bailey, was asked to join our retreat to lead us in four worship sessions. Robin had asked for a theme upon which he could build his talks, and we gave him this year's Spiritual Life theme from Hebrews 3:13 and this Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children, and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. - EPHESIANS 5:1,2

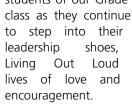
year's Student Council theme of "Live Out Loud" based on Ephesians 5:1-2. Just to keep it interesting we also told Robin this is a first time retreat for our Grade 12s. and 'could he please talk about leadership as well, since these are the seniors of the high school, and their leadership can make such a positive difference?' Should be no problem, right?

Robin was terrific, sharing personal stories and challenging the students on all these fronts. Having the love of Christ in our hearts and living a life of obedience to the promptings and encouragement of the Holy Spirit enables us to love one another, and to bring true encouragement to each other. True leadership is found in the ability to live these truths out with integrity in whatever sphere of influence God has given you, whether you are an older brother, a team member or a Grade 12 student.

Robin challenged the Grade 12s to consider what this could mean to each of them as individuals and as a class, and it's a challenge that applies to all of us.

There was much more to the retreat. including lots of food, rain, Chinese poker, getting to know one another better, rain, the dance, the zip line, Jungle Speed, Spoons, canoe wars, archery, the giant swing, rain, Monopoly, rain, singing, rain, hikes, high ropes, guitar lessons, rain. . . . and a little sleep.

Thank you for your prayers during our Breakaway. Continue to lift up t h e



I LEARNED ...

- ... how to be a leader in school and to grow in my walk with God.
- ... to be nicer to Grade 9ers.
- ... to have more confidence in myself.

I COMMIT ...

- ... to getting to know people better.
- ... to treating everyone kindly and setting an example.













Belong. Believe. Succeed.







Getting an Early Start on Professional Development

BY TED HARRIS, ADMINISTRATOR



In the spring semester this year, the teaching staff at Smithville Christian High School will be starting something new. The last several years have brought so many new directions to the world of education that trying to keep up with the changes has been difficult with current structures for professional development.

It has been our practice to meet monthly during after-school time in addition to a few P.D. days per year. What is apparent in research about career-long teacher growth is that this happens best in the context of ongoing conversations and practice within a teaching staff. Although this does not deny the validity of courses, reading and workshops we do on our own, there is a need to make sure that our time with one another is focused and frequent. A weekly rhythm for professional learning and discussion among staff members is the model we will be testing next semester.

Teachers will be arriving at school early each Friday to spend time together in what will be called "R & D" (Research and Development). The agenda for each week will include a brief devotional time, followed by presentations, conversations, trial lessons and feedback in relation to new pedagogical methods. This is a fancy way of saying we need a focused way of trying new things together.

While teachers start earlier on Fridays, students will start 30 minutes later. The day will be adjusted so that very little learning time is lost (3 minutes per class);

lunch will be 15 minutes shorter in light of the lost class time in the morning. For students, the time before morning classes will bring an opportunity for students to study or do course work, to get together with learning groups, to attend a choir rehearsal, or simply to sleep a little longer. The library will be staffed during this time, and there will be supervision of other spaces. Bus times will not change, since our bus routes are closely connected with elementary routes.

So is this worth all the fuss? My answer is "yes!" Our school has been particularly strong at building a community where students have a strong sense of belonging. This initiative will help us focus on other aspects of our mission. We want to be a school known for its instructional excellence. Though one could argue this is already true, nevertheless instructional excellence is an area of focus in our strategic planning. If we want to do it right, we will need a structure to support it. The pilot project will be reviewed thoroughly prior to the end of the school year as plans are made for the 2012-13 school year.

We will certainly keep our supporters informed about the kinds of initiatives being pursued in our R & D sessions. Stay tuned to your Echoes later in the year.



Christian Teachers have Faith in Education

BY AL KORVEMAKER, OCSTA REP

The Ontario Christian School Teachers' Association was organized in 1954 to promote the profession of Christian teachers by initiating discussions around the direction for Christian education and by encouraging the development of curriculum. Since then it has broadened its mandate to develop the yearly Christian teachers' convention, provide the Christian school teachers' certificate and work with the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools to enable regional PD days and the sharing of curriculum, among many other things.

OCSTA is growing and changing and is exploring how it can be of service to teachers' assistants as well as to Christian teachers in the public system. OCSTA decided it

was time for a name change and went through a lengthy process to find a name that spoke of its growing vision.

The name Edifide is both a modified spelling of the word "edified" as well as a hybrid word made from the words "educators" and "fide," the Latin word for faith. This name clearly describes an association focused on Christian educators but it also describes the mission of the organization and the edification of its members

The new tagline further unpacks the meaning by stating that Edifide is "for those with faith in education." It is a clever double entendre describing both the educator with faith and the educator who is hopeful and passionate about the purpose and future of education.

An unintentional by-product of the name edifide is that it is a palindrome, meaning that it has the same spelling forward and backwards. This speaks to the fact that faith and education are interwoven.

May God bless Edifide as it seeks to enlighten, equip and encourage Christian educators including those at Smithville Christian High School.

Read more about WHAT'S HAPPENING at school on a daily basis!

Visit our school's website at **www.SmithvilleChristian.ca**. There you can "Like" us on Facebook, link to our blog, subscribe to our YouTube channel or follow us on Twitter. Great things are happening at Smithville Christian!



MEMORIES

of the grade twelve retreat to Muskoka Woods Sports Resort





MORE than Just a Season of Hope

LINDA BOOY-KORVEMAKER, STUDENT SERVICES

Recently our entire school participated in the Respect Ed program delivered by the Red Cross Society. The purpose of the program was to educate staff and students about bullying and harassment. As a guidance counselor, I know these issues are real in the lives of some students, and the media have also been informing the general public of the scope of these issues. In November, Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty announced that he plans to put "anti-bullying" laws in place to stop the problem.

But I believe the only way to build authentic community is to "be" authentic. You can legislate respect and community – and that may be necessary – but is that authentic? I read the stories of Jesus in the New Testament and I see who he "hangs" with and who are his followers: prostitutes, tax collectors, temperamental fishermen. At a recent chapel we were reminded by Pastor Paul Dunk that the members of David's first army were people who might be viewed as social outcasts but who did not let those labels define them. I am inspired by these stories because they are stories of hope.

After these two presentations, I had a number of conversations with students, both collectively and individually. The common thread was that we do have problems with these issues, even in a Christian school. So what do we do now? What struck me from both presentations is that change must start from within each individual. We need to care about everyone. If each one of us cares about everyone, regardless of their age, nationality, gender or abilities, we give everyone hope. Hope is powerful, hope will change lives. I am inspired by what I am seeing and hearing from some of our students: the desire to begin the challenge in their own lives and their desire to make our school a safe place for everyone – a place of hope.

To read more about the Paul Dunk chapel, visit our school blog at: http://smithvillechristian.blogspot.com/2011/11/being-culturechanging-champions.html



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Smithville Christian High Foundation

As of August 31st this year, the balances in the SDCH Endowment, the SDCH Computer Technology Endowment and the Bremmer Memorial Endowment were \$113,614.66, \$11,995.17 and \$62,706.03, respectively. In the first two endowments noted, the underlying principal amount continues to grow through new gifts each year while the last was established with a specific bequest (for both SDCH and NACE) from the Daniel and Tina Bremmer estate. However, until further notice, only the annual interest earnings from each endowment are gifted to the school each year.

Does this accurately describe the opportunities provided by an "endowment"?

What is an endowment?

In light of our low interest climate, do endowments create an effective impact?

At a recent Foundation Investment Forum, a speaker from a major university foundation noted that the word "endowment" cannot be found in any tax law. It is, rather, a term created by the charitable sector to describe a fund where the underlying capital is held for the long-term with only the annual interest earnings distributed at least once per year or as designated by the donor of the funds to the designated

beneficiary or beneficiaries. Some insert in perpetuity in place of long-term.

But truthfully, how long is in perpetuity? Do we really mean forever?

Typically, donors that make gifts to one or more endowments generally do so because they are attracted to the longer term feature of their gift. A gift to an endowment is a gift that keeps on giving (via the annually disbursed earnings). However, gifts to an endowment can also be structured by the donor such that the underlying capital (principal) can be distributed to the beneficiary/ beneficiaries over a specified period of time (e.g. – 5, 10 or 20 years) or as requested by the schools to address specific needs.

Others, who prefer to see the major or entire gift put to immediate use, tend to have initiated the flow-through gifts that we have also had the privilege to facilitate for our member schools

One method is not more right or effective than the other – they're simply different. We are pleased to arrange both and some donors actually complement their longer term commitments with short term flow-through gifts. It is a privilege and joy to be able to disburse increasingly larger annual gifts to Smithville Christian High and its partner elementary and sister schools. May God be glorified and honoured in all that we do!

Inquiries may be forwarded directly to:

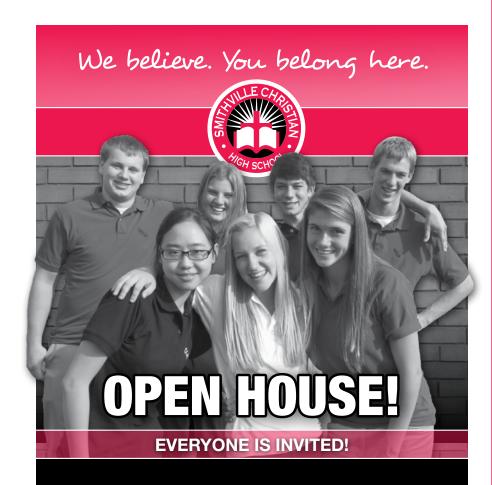
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January 19, 2012 at 7:30 pm

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