

IN THIS

PAGE 1 OFSAA PAGE 3 COACHES'

COMMENTS

PAGE 4 BELONGING & BELIEVING

PAGE 5 CELEBRATION OF LEARNING

PAGE 6 GR. 12 RETREAT PAGE 8 SOUTH AFRICA

PAGE 12 GETTING HOOKED ON GOD'S WORD

PAGE 13 THE BIBLE IS LIKE VEGETABLES

PAGE 13 WHY I CHOSE SMITHVILLE

CHRISTIAN
PAGE 14 NEW STARTS

JAN 2014 VOLUME 34, ISSUE 2

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







Investing in gold

Becoming the best in the province doesn't happen by accident.

Smithville Christian High School's recent victory at the Senior Boys Volleyball OFSAA tournament in North Bay was a result of planning, dedication and heart, says Gina VandenDool, staff sponsor for the team.

"It started with having a vision," said VandenDool, "with recognizing the gifts of cooperation and ability in these

athletes and then investing in them."

VandenDool said the volleyball players and their coaches already knew at the end of last season they had the potential to win gold this year.

"But all of them knew that if this was going to be the goal it would take extraordinary investment of time and focus to accomplish it,"

VandenDool said.

That's why the athletes committed to starting early, holding weekly practices all through the summer.

Volunteer coaches Tim DeVries, Rob Greenham and Chris Wiersma were also dedicated to the goal, she said, with each of them bringing different gifts and approaches.

Continued on page 2 ...



Head coach, Tim DeVries, standing. Coaches Chris Wiersma and Rob Greenham are seated on the left.

"Tim is so intense, but there was a great chemistry of how these three guys worked together," she said. "Tim was the motivator, Chris the technical specialist, and Rob is your ninja. He is a setter himself, so he knows about court movement, body placement. He taught the boys efficiency of movement and focus."

After their own successful careers as athletes at Beacon Christian High School, all three coaches continue to be volleyball players themselves, VandenDool said. "They are sports junkies and very competitive. What makes it magic is they have never forgotten what it was like to be in high school. They are in touch with what it's like to be 17."

As a result, the players trusted the

coaches and trusted each other.

VandenDool said some of the credit for the team's success also belongs with the athletes' respective elementary schools, which "recognized their common

p a s s i o n for the game" and gave them opportunities to play.

But the biggest secret to the team's success was the players' willingness to be a team

"What made

them so mature was they didn't compete with each other to accomplish tasks on the floor," she said. "Each player had unique skills and they cooperated to take advantage of each others' strengths."

"They brought creativity and brilliance to the floor. They were smart, and they got such a kick out of coming up with something new," she said, such as back slides, or the tandem and trick plays they developed as signature offensive strategies and dubbed the X, Y and E balls.

"That was what was so fun for this team, there were no stars," she said. "When they won, they all won."

Team member Tyler Vanderwal described the sense of belonging as being like family. "We are all brothers from different mothers," he said.

In addition to developing the players' skills, the coaches worked on their mental game, VandenDool said.

"There were lots of mental strategies, laying on the floor visualizing plays,"



What do the athletes themselves say contributed to their success?

Here's what some had to say, including a comment from Ryan Bootsma, voted best-dressed team manager:

Nico DeBruyne:

Dedication and a good relationship between teammates.

Tyler Vanderwal:

Passion for the game and a strong will to win.

Wes Schilstra:

Dedication, teamwork, coaching.

Mark Khoury:

Perseverance and team chemistry.

Ouintin Attema:

The coaches.

Adam VandenDool:

Consistency.

Joe Zantingh Memories.

Ryan Bootsma:

Water.

she said. "Tim was never silent. He is all about communication."

The athletes grew in their volleyball skills but perhaps even more important was their growth as a team. They grew as a community, they held each other accountable, and they loved each other even when they messed up,

VandenDool said.

They travelled together, ate together, did devotions together

and had fun together.

Coach DeVries saw the athletes develop spiritually.

"I saw this when Andrew lost his grandfather while we were at the Christian school tournament," said DeVries. "These guys really rallied around Andrew. Then we prayed with Andrew and some of them laid their hands on him. That shows mature faith."

"Tim's gift was teaching them about acceptance," VandenDool said. "It wasn't just about volleyball, it was about life."

COACHES' COMMENTS

The three volunteer coaches of the Senior Boys Volleyball team — Tim DeVries, Rob Greenham and Chris Wiersma — took time off from their jobs and their families to dedicate themselves to the young athletes. Here are some thoughts about the season from head coach Tim DeVries.

What was a highlight of the season for you? The highlights were definitely winning OFSAA and OCSSAA — the Christian school tournament. Away tournaments in hotels are always fun.

What are the factors that contributed to this team's success? The boys were committed and willing to put in the time. Another big factor was the chemistry these guys had on and off the court.

Why do you volunteer to coach? I do it to build relationships with the guys. I love the game and I really enjoy coaching. It also keeps my competitive juices going.

What did you personally gain from this experience? Memories that will never be forgotten. Winning it all was fun, but the journey getting there was just as fun. This team accomplished so much.

Are there things about the character of this team or these players that should be celebrated? The leadership of these guys, the heart they have to win, and the ability to never get down on each other. As coaches we can talk all day, but they are the ones that have to play it out. And they did.

Will you be back? The plan is Yes!

Belonging and believing while succeeding on the court

One of the ways in which this gold-medal season impacted the athletes was the opportunity to support each other spiritually. That was especially evident on the weekend of the Ontario Christian Secondary School Athletic Association tournament in Bowmanville in November.

On the final day of that tournament, Andrew VandenBurg's grandfather, Sibolt Vermolen died in St. Catharines, and his parents had to make the difficult decision of how and when to inform their son and whether he should play or come home.

Through contact with staff sponsor Gina VandenDool, Rachel Vermolen VandenBurg knew it was safe to let Andrew stay.

For the VandenBurgs, the prayer support of Andrew's teammates and their laying on of hands on their grieving friend were "blessings bestowed."







"Thank you so much for what you have done for us and our family," Rachel texted to Gina. "The communion reached far today."

VandenDool was also touched by

watching the young athletes gather together in God's presence to support their friend. The way they depended on each other and on God " was holy and it was good," she said. "It was difficult but it was also beautiful."

Celebration of Learning / Open House January 16, 2014

TED HARRIS, ADMINISTRATOR

The 21st Century has brought with it learning that is based on experience rather than simple instruction. Learning in the digital world is more likely to happen by doing, watching, and experiencing than it is by note-taking, memorizing and test-writing. Today's teachers structure the learning of their students much differently than in the past. And when they consider evaluating that learning, they need to put more in place than a test. At Smithville Christian High School, we try to make learning more authentic with relevant interaction and engagement. That's what is behind a Celebration of Learning Evening.

Some of you may remember the event last January. It was the one where hundreds more people came than we expected, making it one of the most exciting learning events in the history of our school. Our only hope for year two is to do it better!

Here are some of the details about this year's Celebration of Learning and Open House:

What? Celebration of Learning / Open House.

When? Thursday, January 16, 7-9 p.m.

Who should come? Students (current and future), parents and families (current and future), alumni and supporters.

What will we do? Experience the learning of our students and interact with them about it



What will the evening include? Many learning displays and presentations (all on one floor), a mini-chapel, a session for grade 8 students and new families, fantastic food and conversation.

What if I went last year? Go again. The student learning is always different, and the food is still great.

We want to start a tradition in which our community comes out in big numbers for our students every year. Having you there helps complete the learning experience of our students!

Our students will be here, ready to share with you about their learning. Please give them a nice audience so that we can learn together.









FIFTEEN STUDENTS AND FIVE ADULT CHAPERONES WILL BE TRAVELLING TO THEOCENTRIC CHRISTIAN SCHOOL IN LIMPOPO, SOUTH AFRICA IN MARCH TO CONTINUE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SMITHVILLE CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL AND THEOCENTRIC'S TEACHERS AND

STUDENTS. This is a relationship established in 1999 when Theocentric opened, and this will be the fifth Smithville Christian student team to travel to South Africa. Former Smithville Christian principal Marc Stroobosscher and his wife, Dora, have also travelled many times to South Africa with EduDeo Ministries (formerly Worldwide Christian Schools) to encourage and support teachers there. So far, Smithville Christian's student teams have helped with things like the construction of a sports field and computer lab. Last year, two students from Theocentric attended Smithville Christian on a scholarship.

The 2014 team will focus on blessing the students and teachers of Theocentric, with resources and encouragement, and also on developing the leadership of the Smithville Christian students.

The total cost of the trip will be over \$50,000. Students have been fundraising with a phone book delivery contract, a car wash, and a dinner and auction.



PRAY FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE 2014 SOUTH AFRICA TEAM

Front: Kristen Antonides, Esther Zantingh, Katie Horvath, Shae Vlaar.

Middle: Caitlyn Duck, Monika Couperus, Natalie Dykstra, Julianna Vanderlinde, Shannon Bezemer, Adam VandenDool,

Reuben Kikkert, Tyler Vanderwal, Mr. Jim Vanderlinde.

Back: Nico DeBruyne, Mr. Stuart Bender, Joseph Falzone, Mr. John van den Boogaard, Sam Dekker.

Opening my mind and my heart

BY KRISTEN ANTONIDES

I am one of the 15 students selected to go on this incredible missions trip to South Africa. When the team was chosen, I was very thankful to be asked to be a contributing part of this team.

I am loving our regular Wednesday morning meetings and our team is beginning to come together so well; we're all growing together. The chemistry within our group is incredible. We're all excited, fun-loving and hardworking. Our teacher leaders Mr. van den Boogaard (also known as Mr. T), Mr. Vanderlinde and Mr. Bender are crazy awesome guys and we're all eager to go on this trip with them as our leaders.

It is honestly such a blessing to be a part of this community to work our way to go to South Africa to share the amazing

light of Christ. I am so thrilled to be engaged in this new experience. I am excited to travel to a new part of our world to meet new people, to serve others and to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

When I first decided to apply for this trip, I only thought about how fun it would be to travel with some teachers and students to Africa. As I was filling out my application and hearing stories from

previous team members, I truly realized that it wasn't about me, it was about leaving a sincere impact on the hearts of the people there and growing in my walk with Christ and being a steward for him. I really felt called from God to get out of my comfort zone to go out and truly learn what it means to spread God's word.

From this trip, I hope to learn how to put others before myself and how to serve them, how to work well with my team, and how to be the light of God for others. For this trip, I am willing to contribute my best efforts, and I want to give everything it takes to benefit the team and the overall trip so that everything goes well.

Our fundraising efforts are a great time to come together as a team to work our way to making this trip happen. It is awesome to see how willing each and every one of us is to work hard to make everything come together.

I hope this trip will encourage my faith to increase and flourish and I hope that God will open my mind and my heart to experiencing his creation and his people to their fullest potential.

I hope to get a new perspective on my journey with Christ.

Continued on page 10 ...



South Africa team members Adam VandenDool, Caitlyn Duck and Kristen Antonides.

God's plan for me

BY SHANNON BEZEMER

I heard about South Africa for the first time when I was about 11 years old. My cousin Kelly went on the third trip. I thought when she came home she would show me a bunch of cool pictures and I'd move on with my life.

But the Sunday she got back, my family went to her house. When she talked about Africa I knew I wanted to go. High school was still a long ways away though so I suppose it didn't really affect my life that much. Then my sister, Tallia, went on the next trip. When she came back, I saw how much her heart had changed. I saw her new selfless point of view, and I was determined to make this year's team. Two years ago I already had my mind set. I was going to Africa, even if that meant hiding in someone's suitcase.

As time went on, I heard a rumour that there wasn't going to be a team this

year and I was genuinely devastated. So, I went to talk to Mr. T (also known as Mr. van den Boogaard). I honestly didn't expect him to be so responsive about the topic. I was in his math class at the time. I must have talked to him four or five times a week, begging for him to make this happen. I began praying.

One night God whispered in my ear saying, "Don't worry. I have a plan for you." I found a huge amount of comfort in that, so begging Mr. T went down to only twice a week. I remember one day, I was standing at my locker and Mr. T came up to me



with this massive smile on his face. He told me that he had gotten an email from Theocentric saying that they would love for our school to come back. I could tell that things were looking good. This was going to happen!



Shae Vlaar and Natalie Dykstra at the fundraising car wash.



Sam Dekker, Esther Zantingh, Katie Horvath, Shannon Bezemer and Reuben Kikkert lead worship at the fundraising dinner and auction. When the applications for the team came out I was ecstatic. I felt God calling me to sign up and I spent a solid three hours on the application trying to make it look and sound perfect, because I needed to make the team!

I faithfully prayed at least once a day about South Africa, and found God reassuring me to let Him take the lead. Even with all the waiting to find out who was going to make it, my heart was at peace. Now, during the time of applications and waiting, I literally wanted to go so bad that every time someone said "Africa" I was in tears. I would try so hard to hold it in, but every single time, the tears came bursting forth! They had a mind of their own I tell you! These were tears of anticipation.

When I found out I made the team, I cried some more! Those were tears of relief. And now when I cry about Africa, it's because I'm so excited. I'm excited to build relationships with the people there, especially the little children. I'm excited to build relationships with my fellow teammates. And most importantly I'm excited to build my relationship with God. I can't wait to see what he's going to teach me while I'm there, and how much more I will learn to rely on Him while I'm living, doing and breathing for Him.

Julianna Vanderlinde, Natalie Dykstra and Tyler Vanderwal at the car wash.







Getting hooked on God's word

BY GORDON PARK, SPIRITUAL LIFE DIRECTOR

What a blessing to be part of school where a high point in the yearly calendar is Spiritual Emphasis Week.



This is a week where the school discovers how flexible it can be, having a chapel every m o r n i n g , following with

the entire school participating in small group devotions later in the day. Throughout the week, students are also permitted opportunity to visit a prayer room, created by the students for the students, to take time to pray, listen and meditate upon scripture.

Challenging? Oh yeah. Worthwhile? You bet! It truly is an amazing week wherein our school's focus upon honouring Christ becomes a very special experience shared by the entire school.

This year, our speaker was Wes Collins, pastor of Riverside CRC. Collins spoke throughout the week on 'The Bible.'

"My goal this week is to get you hooked on the idea that you need the Bible and you need to read it every day," Collins told students. He advised the students that this year's spiritual emphasis week was a BYOB event: "Bring Your Own Bible." Throughout the week, students were challenged to recognize the power and wisdom of God's Word, to read the Word, to memorize the Word, and to use the Word every day in resisting temptation and following Christ. Pastor Wes' talks truly impacted our students. Check out our blog (www.smithvillechristian.blogspot. ca) if you would like to read more!

Spiritual Emphasis Week is also an amazing week for our praise teams and Grade 12 students. Praise teams prepare and lead worship every morning, and

Grade 12 students lead small discussion groups every day in the gym. It is truly a beautiful thing to see all of our school praising God every morning, and then be seated all through the gym, talking quietly about the Word and praying together.

All in all, it was a tremendous week. Thank you to those of you who were able to join us in a chapel. And don't forget, we have chapel every Wednesday morning at 9 a.m. and you are always welcome.





Top left, student praise team members pray together; top right, student praise team members lead in worship; bottom, students in small group discussions.



The Bible is like vegetables

BY MARLENE BERGSMA, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS

Reading the Bible is like eating vegetables, Smithville Christian High School students were told during the first chapel of this year's Spiritual Emphasis Week. "It's totally necessary for you," said Pastor Wes Collins. "There are passages in God's Word that are hard to chew. There are names you can't pronounce, places you've never been and customs that seem outdated," Collins said. But the Bible is a gift to you, he said, and should be read — daily.

Yet there are Christians who don't read the Bible and that's a problem, Collins said.

Just like we'd rather eat bacon than beets or Gob-stoppers than cauliflower, we may prefer watching a movie, playing a video game or hanging out with friends than reading the Bible, he said.

"But don't be deceived, you need God's word to live," Collins said. Just as we need food to have energy, "we need to spend time in God's word to have spiritual energy."

"This whole book is relevant to your life," Collins said, "every word of verse is relevant. It doesn't mean we always understand it, and it may mean we have to do some chewing, but every word is food."

Collins said in his work as a pastor he has the privilege of studying the word and he is often challenged by what he reads. But he is always amazed by how relevant it is.

"My goal this week is to get you hooked on the idea that you need the Bible and you need to read it every day," he said.

Students memorized a passage of scripture every day of spiritual emphasis week. Monday's passage was Deut. 8:3: "People do not live on bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord."

(This article was first published on the Smithville Christian High School blog. To see pictures, watch videos or read more accounts of Spiritual Emphasis Week chapels, visit the school's blog at www.smithvillechristian.blogspot.ca).

Why I Chose Smithville Christian

BY IAN KANG, STUDENTS' COUNCIL EXECUTIVE GRADE 9

Excerpt from Ian's testimony during the Chapel at Grade 8 day in November.

I am a person who made a very smart decision: the decision to go to this school. So why did I choose Smithville Christian High School?

Well, I chose this school because it is a Christian high school. This makes a deep impact in my life. I can confidently walk down the hallway and say, "all around me, they are lovers of God." This is vital for a strong, healthy life in Christ. This may not look like a big deal to you guys, but trust me; it builds faith and courage in our lives and it's a great place to spend your high school years.

Another reason why I chose this school is because when I visited for Grade 8 Day last year, I noticed a few things like the teachers are awesome and kind; the students were tall and scary, but they were nice. The people were very friendly and they are really fun! Our school is supportive and encouraging. If you make a mistake, don't get discouraged. We are a team and we build each other up. That's why I love this school! We

move together, we play sports together, and we are victorious together.

I also love the variety of clubs here. There is an art

club, culture club (where you learn about different cultures), computer club, and even a homework club! If you have an idea for a club, go for it!

So, there is nothing in this school that isn't for somebody. Whether you like sports, art, homework, or others, this school is always open. This school is great. You can have lots of fun, you can make a lot of new friends, and believe me, we believe you belong here! Smithville Christian High School is awesome. Trust me, you will never regret the decision of coming here.



New Starts

BY LINDA BOOY-KORVEMAKER, HEAD OF STUDENT SERVICES

One of the things I love about teaching – and about teaching high school in particular – is the opportunity for fresh starts. Because high school is only four years in duration, there are fresh starts before (after elementary school) and after (when starting college, university or work). There are even fresh starts at the beginning of each school year and, in our semestered system, every half year.



As teachers and guidance counsellors, we work hard to give our students new beginnings at these critical transition periods: academically, socially, and emotionally. We even have a team that works together to ensure this for all our students, called the Student Success Team.

God also gave all of us a fresh start when he sent his son to earth. Over the holidays I read and heard many versions of the Christmas story. One that stands out in my mind is one I read in which the author challenges the reader: if the people of God were searching for a messiah why were there only angels, lowly shepherds and foreign travellers at the manger? Where were the other people, especially the important people such as priests and prophets? One answer is that their absence is a reminder that Jesus was sent to earth for everyone, not just for the ones we expect. Grace is for everyone; we are all welcome to the Saviour.

I hope a new start is what is offered to Grade 8 students who are looking at high school options. I know that at Smithville Christian we work very hard to offer that new start to all our students. Perhaps as we turn the page on a new year, from 2013 to 2014 we should offer "new starts" to more than just the students. Maybe new starts can be what we do in our schools, but maybe we can also do it in our lives: offer everyone who crosses our path in 2014 a new start—wouldn't that be amazing grace?!

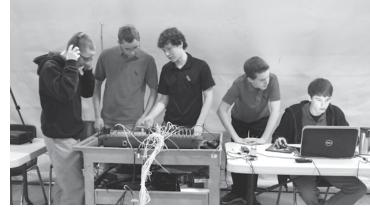


Grade 11 students participating in a math challenge.















Chiropractic for all ages. Your HEALTH is our priority. Your WELL-BEING our concern. deVRIES CHIROPRACTIC CARE

Dr. William de Vries, D.C. drdevries@yourdoc.ca

83 Welland Ave., St. Catharines 905.684.1104

Jerry's

Auto Body

Serving the Lincoln Area Since 1969

Complete Collision & Restoration Repairs
5529 Regional Road #81, Beamsville, ON LOR 1B3
Alan & Jerry Phone: 905-563-7702

www.jerrysautobody.ca



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

WWestbrook

Remember...

There are no short cuts to any place worth going.

Your Partners in Education





Phone 905.774.0612 Fax 905.774.0632 E-mail: careers@rosaflora.com Website: www.rosaflora.com 717 Diltz Road, Dunnville ON, N1A 2W2





Don Nelson* CFP® MBA Don Nelson Financial Services Inc.



Matt Dam* Hon. BA Bus Matt Dam Financial Services Inc.



905-892-5993 1-888-889-4742

*Mutual funds offered by Sun Life Financial Investment Services (Canada) Inc.

© Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, 2012.

PUT YOUR NAME HERE!

Find out how you can be included in the next issue of Echoes. Contact Marlene Bergsma at mbergsma@smithvillechristian.ca

Dwight teBrake C.A. Professional Corporation

T. 905-899-2424 • F. 905-899-2426 dwight@tebrake.ca • www.tebrake.ca 42126 Hwy #3, R.R. #3 Wainfleet, Ontario LOS 1V0

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





Call Kevin at 905.658.2557

675 Metler Road, Fenwick

FENCE SUPPLIES & INSTALLATIONS • STALLS & BARNS



Authorized Dealer & Installer of



• Chainlink Fence • Wooden Privacy Fence • Farm Fence • Electric Fence • Horse Fencing • PVC Vinyl Fence • Ornamental Residential

Come visit our Garden Centre in Grimsby!

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





P: 905.531.5284 , STEVE@ABINGDONHEIGHTS.CA WWW.ABINGDONHEIGHTS.CA



Fred & Adrian Koornneef Suppliers of Greenhouse Vegatables and Tender Fruit

www.koornneefproduce.com







Quality products and

1051 Broad St. E **Dunnville ON** (905) 774-6115 1-800-591-1161

 lumber • hardware • paint • farm • pet • equestrian • feed ... and so much more!



Servicing Wellandport and surrounding area.

Licenced plumber and gas fitter.

office: 905-386-6483 mobile: 905-651-8558

www.joesplumbingniagara.ca





131 College Street, Smithville, Ontario LOR 2A0 905.957.3751 • 1.877.957.3751 • Fax 905.957.0088 E-mail info@carruthersprinting.com

Graphic Design Commercial Printing Personal Stationery

Computer Forms

Digital Colour Copying High-Speed Black & White Copying



Peter Dieleman, CFP Aaent

345 Argyle St. S. Caledonia, On N3W 1L8 (905) 765-5788 fax: (905) 765-1811

214 Broad St. Dunnville, On N1A 1G2 (905) 774-7576 fax: (905) 774-9479

email: peter dieleman@cooperators.ca



Wil Bootsma

1.888.BAYVIEW ext 344

3764 Jordan Road, Jordan Station, Ontario, Canada LOR 1SO phone 905.562.7321 fax 905.562.7851 www.Bayviewflowers.com



for New Homes

Jason Schilstra

PH: 905-701-1110 | info@rijus.com | www.rijus.com

SERVING ALL NIAGARA & HAMILTON - HALDIMAND FOR 30 YEARS







cell: (905) 929-6783

Louie VanderBerg

905.937.6000

louievanderberg@sympatico.ca www.louie-sold.com

ROYALLEPAGE

101 Lakeport Road, St. Catharines, ON L2N 7L7 Toll Free 1.866.999.9497 | Fax 905.935.8215 BROKERAGE INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED

Electric PowerTool • Saw Blade Sharpening Supplier of Quality Woodworking Machines • Industrial Sales

ART'S TOOL SALES & SERVICE LTD.

10 NIHAN DRIVE ST. CATHARINES, ON L2N 1L1 Tel.: 905-646-0728 Fax: 905-646-8938 Email: atsales@artstoolsales.com



www.artstoolsales.com