

ECHOES

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The *In Motion* campaign reaches cruising speed

BY TED HARRIS, ADMINISTRATOR

Many of you may have been hearing the low hum in the community about our *In Motion* Campaign. Launched in January, it has been in the "quiet" phase for the past half year. But it is with great pleasure that I announce we have reached 75% of our destination in just six months: we are at \$1.1 million of our \$1.4 million goal!

We are profoundly grateful to God for his goodness during this campaign. The outpouring of support from those who have been visited in the early days is tangible evidence of this community's love for Christian education and of our supporters' desire to want the best for it. We are also deeply grateful for the hard work of the campaign cabinet and of our many canvassers.

It is our plan is to launch the final phase of our campaign with an evening event on Tuesday, September 9th, 2014. We ask that you join us for a time of praise and thanksgiving, a campaign update presentation, cake and refreshments at 7:30 pm in the lounge. Please mark this date and plan to join us in an opportunity to celebrate God's goodness and to rally together to reach the finish line.

It is important that all members of the community be involved in the campaign and be given the opportunity to contribute according to their means. To allow people to give to a kingdom cause is to give them an opportunity to be blessed. Our lead donors were challenged to start the campaign and give it momentum. They



Continued on page 2 ...

have responded sacrificially. We are now turning to the rest of our community to join us in reaching our goal of \$1.4 M. Every gift to the campaign is significant. Our campaign volunteers will continue to make contacts through the summer months and into the fall

through personal visits and phone calls. Our hope is to complete the campaign by the end of the year.

Please join our prayer team in asking God to bless us as we go through the process of connecting with all of our school

supporters and bringing the campaign to fruition. We also ask those who have not yet been given the opportunity to participate in the campaign to pray about what your involvement will be when we reach out to you in the coming months.

Getting everyone *In Motion*

BY TED HARRIS, ADMINISTRATOR

Our *In Motion* campaign is surpassing our expectations. We did not expect to be where we are now. There is strong indication that we will, Lord willing, meet our goal of \$1.4M in the early fall. The question some might be asking is “what do we do when we get to our goal?” Do we simply stop the campaign? Is it greedy to keep going? Well, here is your answer: it is certainly not the intent that the campaign will be discontinued when the goal is reached. Let me give you two important reasons for this direction based on the wisdom and leadership of the board and campaign cabinet.

First, it is critical that all school supporters are given an opportunity to be involved with and support the campaign. To allow people to give to a kingdom cause is to give them an opportunity to be blessed. In addition, to stop asking for support before finishing would dishonour those who gave early in the campaign. Our lead donors were challenged to start the campaign and give it momentum. They have responded sacrificially. Though gifts given later in the campaign may be smaller, they may be no less significant according to the accounting of the kingdom (see Mark 12: 41-44). We will not stop asking for support for this campaign until all have been asked.

Second, there is much good that we can do to bless tomorrow's students and their families with funds we raise beyond \$1.4 M. Though we have budgeted our

building project carefully, we do not intend to build until 2015, and there are

many variables that impact spending on any such project. In addition, putting



Join the campaign! Add your name to our prayer wall. Download the prayer commitment card from the *In Motion* section of the school website at www.smithvillechristian.ca.

additional funds into our bursary fund is always a good idea, so good in fact that this is what we do with every spring drive.

We will indeed carry on with the campaign during the fall months. It is our hope that the campaign will be complete

before Christmas. To launch the final phase of the campaign, the board and campaign cabinet are planning a celebration event for Tuesday evening, September 9. There will certainly be reminders coming about this event, but we encourage you to mark it on your calendars.

Thoughts from the campaign trail

BY TERRY TALSMAN, CAMPAIGN CABINET MEMBER

A couple of years ago, a friend from out-of-town told me that the only place for her graduating son would be Smithville Christian High School. Why go elsewhere, she continued, when so many parents she knows see such positive, God-inspired development in their kids? Did you know that more than forty churches are represented in the Smithville Christian High student body?! Figuring I would be sending my kids there, that all sounded great.



Being a part of the *In Motion* campaign team over the last several months has shown me that this vibe is alive and well!

The project is bathed in prayer, and of course it is based on passion for Christ's involvement in high school education. The '*In Motion*' project has designs on making the school relevant and welcoming for the long term, and the many staff and volunteers are enthusiastic to share this message.

The energy, the efforts, and the response from the community have truly been awesome. I appreciate the opportunity to discuss the *In Motion* campaign with families - the history of the project, the ideas behind the construction, and the

additional contribution to the bursary. This story has helped to change some visits that began with misgivings and has caused them to finish with encouragement and support. This really speaks to the need to talk about Smithville Christian High's vision for the future, and how '*In Motion*' fits so well with it.

Please continue to pray for the *In Motion* campaign as it keeps on moving!

You're invited!

Everyone needs to be part of the success of this campaign.

You're invited to the launch of the final phase of the *In Motion* Campaign

Tuesday, September 9, 2014 7:30 p.m., Smithville Christian High School

Praise and Thanksgiving

Campaign update and information

Time of prayer for the remainder of the campaign

Cake and refreshments

Belonging, believing and succeeding at Smithville Christian

We say that Smithville Christian High School is a place where students Belong, Believe and Succeed. But don't just take our word for it. Here's a sampling of the hundreds of responses from the students themselves on what it means to them to be able to be a part of this amazing school.

I know I *Belong* because...

I am always included and feel welcomed by staff and students. - *Andrea D*

Everyone smiles at you and no one seems unhappy. People are so helping. - *Kayla D*
I am accepted and I feel included by everybody. - *Miranda B*

I feel like I fit in. - *Makenna B*

I know that, no matter what, someone's always got my back. - *Mariah E*

Everyone is so friendly to everyone. - *Robyn F*

I feel welcomed every day when I walk in the class. - *Alanna V*

I feel comfortable and safe here. It's my second home. - *Brandon B*

People accept me as a friend and make me feel welcome. - *Kyle T*

I feel accepted and people actually listen. - *Daniel B*

People care about me and are friendly and accepting. - *Nicole T*

The students and teachers are welcoming, loving and dedicated. - *Marissa B*

I'm included. - *Greg L*

I am free to be myself. - *Heather B*



Members of one of Smithville Christian High School's three student praise teams lead worship at a chapel during Spiritual Emphasis Week.

Everybody accepts me for who I am. - *Tyler V*

I love this school and I'm glad I'm here. - *Ian K*

I grow in what I *Believe* when...

We have chapel and devotions. - *Larissa B*

We have chapel and we praise God. - *Hunter A*

We have spiritual emphasis week. - *Kirsten W*

I lead the school in worship with the praise team. - *Monika C*

We go on school trips like choir tour. - *Julia G*

My faith is put to the test on mission trips. - *Reuben K*

We gather in chapel which is set up by a very smart and very good-looking team, especially the one who runs the slide show. - *Braden V*

The community of friends and believers around me encourages me to stand up for what I believe in. - *Kirsten K*

There is true community at Smithville Christian. - *Hope S*

I feel God ever-present. - *Sophia B*

I see the work of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ at work in this school. - *Devon H*

I see people doing small acts of kindness. - *Marisa V*

Teachers believe in God and will teach me in a Christian way. - Wes S

The teachers are very encouraging in my faith. - Ayden B

I know I can talk freely about my faith. - Morgan G

I can see God working through his people here every day. - Kristen A

My faith is brought into every class. - Marissa B

Faith is integrated in all my classes. I see the connection between my learning and my spiritual life. - Sam D
- Mark K

My faith in God is growing. - Chris N

I believe this is where God wants me to be, to live my teen life in a Christian environment, to grow my faith before I venture into the world. - Jessica W

This school is a God-honouring school. - Bailey V

I Succeed when...

I am able to learn and have fun at the same time. - Marisa V

The teachers care about helping you. - Sarah P

There is an awesome co-op program. - Jason D

I do shop programs and play ball hockey at lunch. - Kyle T

Games are incorporated with learning; I have fun. - Celina B

I learn from doing fun projects. - Brendan M

I can use my artistic abilities for projects. - Christine V

I get to play soccer because it motivates me to stay on top of my work. - Sarah R

I play sports events like track and field and badminton. - Sean H

I am on AV crew and when I put effort into my work. - Noah B

We can all learn in different ways. - Alanna V

I feel like an involved and valued member of the student body. - Esther Z

It is easy to become involved in after-school activities. - Tyler V

The loving community that welcomes me daily. - Alexandra K

I receive encouragement from teachers and students. - Rachael P

I feel the community with every school activity and event. - John B

No matter what, there is always someone who is willing to help me when I need it. - James S

The teachers care and they really want you to succeed. - Julianna V

The teachers are awesome. - Shae V

I press on toward the goal for which Christ has called me -- I look unto that verse every time. - Byron H

I am encouraged by peers and teachers to step out of my comfort zone and try new things. Everyone is supportive. - Samantha B

I do my best for the Lord. - Sophia B

I participate in class in a big way. - Ben P

I can get help when I need it. - Paige V

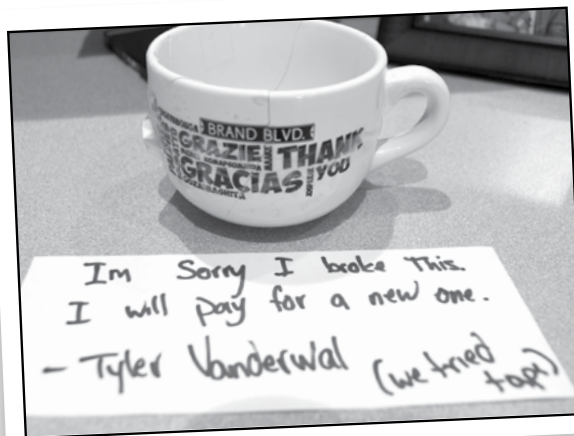
I have friends supporting me. - Dale V

My faith, learning and enjoyment meet. The community here makes that possible. - Morgan S

Every day I wake up wanting to go to school. - Mark K

These statements come from research into the script for this year's Three-Minute Yearbook. To watch the video version, visit the school's website at www.smithvillechristian.ca and click on the YouTube icon or click on the link from the bulletin board.

This year's Three-Minute Yearbook is almost entirely a student project, with Devin Lunshof as a senior producer.



How great is it to be part of a Christian learning community? Check out this note (and the generous use of tape) in connection with the librarian's (former) candy dish.

A strong foundation for the future

After nearly 13 years of making Smithville Christian High School his home, “that guy, in that office” (as he is affectionately known to students) is leaving Smithville. This is both good news and bad news for us.

The bad news is that we liked having a direct connection with what was originally established in 1997 as the Niagara Christian Education Foundation. Henry Koornneef was a good neighbor and a good tenant. (He didn’t drink too much coffee and he only got his tie caught in the paper shredder once!)

But the good news is that Koornneef’s departure from Smithville signals exciting growth in our foundation, which has now

grown to serve 23 Christian schools across the province. The merger of the Foundation for Niagara and Hamilton area Christian Schools with the Grand River Advancement of Christian Education Foundation and the Central Ontario Christian Education Foundation will strengthen the Christian schools’ ties with their supporting communities. It will also position the newly created Christian School Foundation to provide even better support for the schools of the future.

Big picture thinking

The vision for the newly created Christian School Foundation is to make Christian education excellent and accessible for everyone who wants it, said Henry Koornneef, executive director.



Good quality Christian education is expensive, but that doesn’t mean a school should cut corners to deliver a second-rate program or that only rich kids can afford it, Koornneef said.

There are many people in the province of Ontario who love God and who love Christian schools, and who are willing and able to make significant contributions to help schools and students thrive, Koornneef said. An important result of the expanded foundation will be more and better bursaries.

“There will always be some Christian school families who can manage the tuition structure,” Koornneef said. “But there are also a significant number of families who can’t. The Christian School Foundation wants to make it accessible to any family who genuinely desires it and who are willing to do what they can.”

One of the key activities for the Foundation will be helping member schools get their financial houses in order, Koornneef said. Donors who are willing and able to make big contributions don’t want their dollars used by deficit budgets, or used to support families who don’t need help. But Christian schools who have moved to a cost-based tuition structure, who have well-run bursary programs and who are on a sound financial footing are well-positioned to deliver excellence and attract new students, Koornneef said.

That kind of excellence also attracts donors.

Over the nearly 13 years he has spent connecting with donors, Koornneef has seen the potential wealth that could be shared.

What does that mean in practical terms? Could a family classified as “working poor” or a family headed by a single parent also choose Christian



Henry Koornneef and his shredded tie

education?

Koornneef says "Yes!" And he has examples to prove it.

Diversifying and growing enrolment is good for everyone, he said, and donors know that helping some families with bursary support ends up benefitting everyone.

"Donors want to know the funds are getting into the hands of those who need it the most," he said. "If they have the sense that schools are running top-notch bursary programs and that their gifts are going to the families that need it the most, it's an untapped resource."

Koornneef said merging the three foundations has the potential to attract even more and bigger gifts to the cause of Christian education, including major estate gifts.

Making a donation to a strong and established foundation that can help students in 23 different schools across the province is more appealing than helping students in just one, he explained.

"Big donors tend to be big picture thinkers," he said. "If they are giving a bigger gift, they want it to have a bigger impact."

Working smarter together: the benefits of a provincial foundation

- Expertise in fundraising, governance, administration and reporting
- Sophisticated services, making it easy for anyone to donate
- Connections with hundreds of allied professionals: lawyers, accountants, financial planners
- Professional staff and professional offices
- Lower overall costs
- A strong board of directors accountable to member schools, with ambassadors in school communities
- Each member school will continue to have a general endowment in its name, along with one or more named funds and a registered business name. Ours is the Smithville Christian High Foundation.

How to find us

The new location of the Smithville Christian High Foundation and the Christian School Foundation is 235 Queen St. S, Hamilton. 905.769.0798 or 1.877.340.9555 or visit online at www.christianschoolfoundation.ca

Who's In

GRACE Foundation schools: (GRACE – Grand River Advancement of Christian Education)

Woodland Christian High School, *Breslau*
Community Christian School, *Drayton*
Laurentian Hills Christian School, *Kitchener*
Listowel Christian School
Guelph Community Christian School
Cambridge Christian School

COCEF schools: (COCEF – Central Ontario Christian Education Foundation)

Quinte Christian High School, *Trenton*
Belleville Christian School
Heritage Christian School, *Lindsay*
Knox Christian School, *Bowmanville*
Trenton Christian School
Durham Christian High School, *Bowmanville*
Oshawa Christian School

FNHCS schools: (Foundation for Niagara and Hamilton Christian Schools)

Beacon Christian School, *St. Catharines*
Brantford Christian School
Calvin Christian School, *Hamilton*
Dunnville Christian School
Hamilton District Christian High School
Jarvis Community Christian School
Niagara Association of Christian Education
Smithville Christian High School
Providence Christian School, *Dundas*
Trinity Christian School, *Burlington*

When God takes centre stage

BY SHAE VLAAR, GRADE 12

Three months after returning from the most incredible experience of my life, I am still in awe of everything that happened in those two weeks. South Africa was filled with laughter, love, and bonding. Our team was blessed with such an amazing trip in every way possible.

I went into it thinking about how much I wanted to make a difference in the lives of the kids we would meet, but I never imagined the immense impact that they would have on my life. These kids have inspired me with their immeasurable love and their willingness to share it with every single person they meet.

Not only did the children from the school inspire me, but also the entire team was amazing. We had worship together every night and it was so God-centred and spiritual that it is impossible to fathom it. Everything stopped being about what we were doing, and became purely about God and what He was doing through us. We would reflect together on our day, share stories—ones that caused laughter, and ones that pulled at your heartstrings—and lead devotions.

This trip was even better than I had originally imagined, and I hope for years to come that students—both here and at Theocentric—are continuously blessed by it.



SOUTH AFR

Joseph Falzone

I was blessed by this trip. I saw how God shows himself through people. We may have different cultures, history, laws, practices, ethnic groups, languages and industries, but we are united by faith. We are all one family under God.

Shannon Bezemer

In Africa, there's something different about the believers. I remember when the pastor at the youth event said, "Tell all my brothers and sisters in Canada that I love them and that I'm praying for them." The statement was so simple, yet I was blown away at how complex it all seemed. At the time I couldn't understand how on earth he could love someone he's never met or heard anything about, but now I understand that it had nothing to do with him, but the love of God that was poured out through him. It was just incredible and it warms my heart every time I remember that someone on the other side of the world is praying for you and me!

Kristen Antonides

The love we received was so overwhelming and heartwarming. It was amazing to see God's presence in such a different part of the globe! I hope to always carry this love with me and reflect it here at home.

Esther Zantingh

The love and hospitality given to us was unreal. I love how even though we live oceans apart, the African people worship the same God as us; we are brothers and sisters in Christ

Katie Horvath

The amount of love those children share is so overwhelming and so simple. The love of God and love for God there is so inspiring, I'd go back in a heartbeat.

Julianna Vanderlinde

The love that was reflected on to us by the people in Africa – the kids and the teachers – is something I'll never forget. This trip has blessed me in ways that I can't even begin to describe.

Adam VandenDool

I saw Jesus everywhere on this trip. Not only did I see Him through the kids at Theocentric, the pastor at the youth event, or the beautiful creation that surrounded us, I saw Him wherever we travelled. He was with us the whole way there and the whole way back. His presence was very noticeable and comforting.

Reuben Kikkert

I saw God's love everywhere throughout this trip, especially through the people. The people there were amazing. They didn't know who we were yet the first thing they said when they saw us is 'I love you!' They even wrote it on our car!

Tyler Vanderwal

Words cannot express this trip in its fullness. The love of God has hit me in a way nothing else can. In every kid, every teenager, every teacher and every pastor that we came across I saw the light and the presence of The Lord Jesus. It's something I deeply wish to have in all of us!

Nico DeBruyne

This trip shattered what I thought I understood about love. I was able to see God's love shining through in all of the little things, and now that I am home I can see the face and light of God so much clearer in my life. This trip opened my eyes to God's overwhelming love and kindness. It has changed the way I think.

Samuel Dekker

God was all present. Plain and simple, everywhere I looked at the school, in the kids, our team, in our worship God was always there. It's a feeling I will never forget.

Shae Vlaar

Looking back on our trip to South Africa, there isn't one specific moment for me to pinpoint because the entire journey was such an incredible blessing. I went into it thinking about how much I wanted to make a difference in the lives of the kids we would meet, but I never imagined the immense impact that they would have on my life. These kids have inspired me with their immeasurable love and their willingness to share it with every single person they meet.

Natalie Dykstra

One of the things that changed me the most and touched my heart the most was the devotions we had at night when we were all in a circle under the lappa. Just being there with everyone now that we had come so close and singing and worshipping together with these people that had become family to me was amazing. Everyone was so into it and comfortable there together. The Holy Spirit was there with us and you could just feel it and see it in everyone's faces.



Family, faith and the love of God

BY NATALIE DYKSTRA, GRADE 11

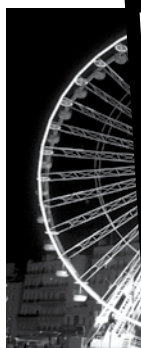
One aspect of the South Africa trip that was extremely empowering to me was the devotions we took part in every night as a group. We would all gather in a circle, Tyler with his cajon (a drum), Adam on one guitar, Mr. Bender on another guitar, and the rest of us just singing as loud as we could. You could feel the Holy Spirit there with us all.

After we sang pretty well all of the songs we brought lyrics for, which was about 25 or so, we would talk about everything that happened to us that day and things that affected us. We listened to each other and laughed with each other. We were like one big family. Being part of a group like that, that's what affected me the most. Listening to everyone's stories about the kids at Theocentric Christian School, the fun that they had, and the places where they saw God at work was so amazing and it brought us all so close together.

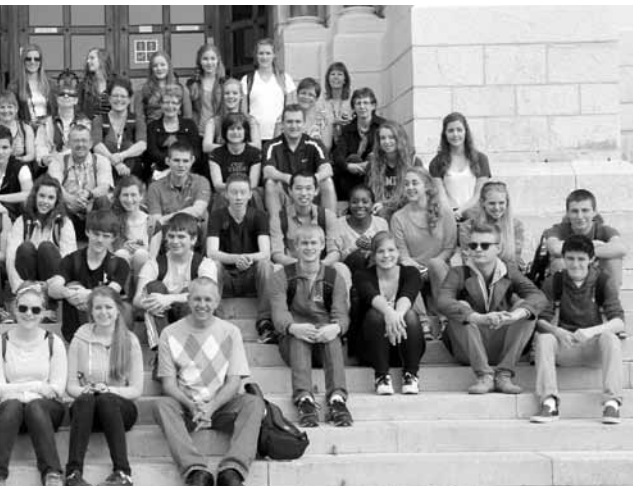
We would finish up our devotions with a prayer. Sometimes a popcorn prayer and sometimes one member of the team would pray for all of us. After prayer we would play a game like any family would. We enjoyed every minute together and praised God for every minute he gave us there.

Throughout the week's devotions we focused a lot on how we saw God's love in every single one of those kids faces. I'll never forget that. But I also saw God's love in each one of my teammates. I saw it in how they interacted with the kids and teachers and our team. It was amazing! It definitely challenged me to make sure people see God's love through me. That's what I'm determined to continue on now that we're home. I want others to see God's love through the way I act and speak. This experience brought me many new friends and brought me further in my faith walk than I have ever been before; I carry the memories with me everywhere I go.





France Trip 2014



Twenty-eight students, chaperones and adults from Smithville Christian High School experienced French art, history, scenery, culture and food during an eight-day trip to France this spring. We travelled with a group of 25 students and adults from Chatham Christian School and enjoyed a whirlwind tour of the French countryside and seashore, starting with a visit to Monaco in the south, and ending with a weekend in Paris. Our tour guide, Kate Lindner, wrote this farewell poem:

*Oh hey Smithville, are you ready to fly?
It's okay, you don't have to lie.
I know you saw Monaco, and its sunny honey shores,
And I know you saw Marseilles with the Chateau d'If core.
I hear you had a good time cooking duck in Nimes,
And a better time eating it, or so it would seem.
Then you went to Chinon, oh dear what a drive!
But a chateau visit later, we saw it ain't no dive.
You saw the streets of Tours, with your bikes and bravery,
And then we ate baguettes,
With apres-vous chivalry.
And you conquered Paris, one Metro at a time,
Notre Dame and Ile de France,
That violin concert was pretty fine.
You cruised across the river,
you hugged the Eiffel tower,
and hopefully more than once you got to take a shower.
But here we are,
At the end of the road,
Au revoir Mona Lisa!
A plus da Vinci code!
We'll never forget you Vladimir! *
There's not much that rhymes with Vladimir!
But France will never forget the day it met you guys here.
(*Vladimir was the name of the bus driver.)*



Music can take you places you've never been before

BY MARLENE BERGSMA, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS

For many students, being part of a choir is about more than singing on key. It's a teambuilding experience and an opportunity to be part of something bigger and better than you could ever be on your own. At Smithville Christian High School, it's also a place where students can learn -- and often memorize -- pieces of sacred music that will remain with them for the rest of their lives.

And this year, being part of the choir meant being blessed with a travel grant from funding organization SEVEC, which paid for 35 round-trip plane tickets for a trip to Halifax, Nova Scotia, as part of an exchange with Halifax Christian Academy. It also paid for coach buses to and from the airport and picked up most of the cost of ground transportation in Halifax.

It was an amazing time of making friends, making music, and seeing a part of Canada many of us hadn't seen before. In October, we will get to host the members of the Halifax Christian Academy band when they pay a return visit to Smithville. God answered our prayers and is good!

Here's a sampling of some choir members' reflections on the experience.

I am very thankful for the hospitality and lovingness of my host family.
— *Tasha Benjamin*

I am grateful for the people that brought us into their homes. They took care of us and made our lives and trip more exciting. Thank you all for making this trip possible and exciting.
— *Sean DeBoer*

I'm thankful for making friendships with my hosts. I'm thankful to see what my grandparents and great-grandparents saw at Pier 21. I'm thankful to share the love of Christ with the people

at Halifax Christian Academy and the soup kitchen. I had soooo much fun I didn't want to say good-bye.
— *Monika Couperus*

Everyone in Halifax showed us so much hospitality and kindness. Our bus driver was awesome and all the tour guides at the places we went were very kind and knowledgeable. I could see the love of God through all the families, teachers and pastors which really made the trip enjoyable. Also, our chaperones were awesome! -- *Katie Horvath*

I really enjoyed going to Pier 21 and learning about how people dropped everything and went on a boat to Canada. I also enjoyed the family we stayed with. They were very welcoming and told us a lot about Halifax.
— *Mitchell Harris*

I am most grateful for the gracious host family that I stayed with during the trip. The host family was so kind and loving. I felt so accepted in their home and never needed anything. I also was very excited

to tour the city and surrounding area of Halifax. I was happy to share the love of God with everyone around me through singing. — *Erin Veldboom*

I am thankful for visiting Peggy's Cove, trying haddock burgers and fillets, an inviting host family, and learning a lot about the background of Nova Scotia through music and dance. — *Aydan Schat*

I am grateful for the chance to go to Pier 21 because I had the opportunity to see where my grandparents landed and got to experience what they went through. It was amazing and educational and I learned a lot. — *Nick Vermeer*

What I am most grateful for from this trip to Halifax is how welcoming and kind our host family was to us. I also enjoyed being able to learn more about Halifax and meet some great Christian kids and sing and play songs that glorify God together! — *Heather Bowman*

I really enjoyed singing for people on this trip. Something that really stood out to me was the love of the people and how accepting they were. I also loved going to Peggy's Cove, and for the first time I got to see the ocean up close. — *Elaina Maloney*

I am grateful for all of the opportunities we were blessed with on this tour to Halifax. We got to go to museums that taught us about the history of Halifax and the people there. We got to sing in churches and schools for the people there. We got to spend five nights with amazing, loving host families. All in all, it was an amazing experience in which I learned a lot and met lots of new friends and

hopefully blessed many people as well. — *Alexandra Kamphuis*

I am so thankful for coming on this trip. I'm thankful to God for opening this door at the very last minute. — *Christine Vermeer*

I am grateful for the love, hospitality and the easy-going-ness of my wonderful host family, for the trips we were able to go on and learn about Halifax -- it was beautiful, the opportunity to experience a different way of living, and the way we blessed so many hearts. This blessed mine. — *Keri Ludwig*

I felt so blessed by this experience. The host families treated us like we were their own family. I also felt so blessed by the kids at HCA. They were all so touched by our singing and that was ultimately one of the main goals of this trip. Although we went to touch the hearts of others, I, myself felt moved and touched by this experience. The school and churches had such a loving atmosphere. The touring was also a very interesting thing but I think the kids were my favourite! — *Kirsten Klompmaker*



Teamwork

BY FRED BREUKELMAN

Being a part of a sports team is a special privilege. Many of the students at Smithville Christian High School have had the opportunity to experience this privilege: some only once and others multiple times. Who is this athlete? Is the experience the same for everyone? Is success only measured in wins? What constitutes a memorable experience?

For a Grade 9 student stepping into high school for the very first time and trying out for a team it is a radically different experience than for a veteran senior student who has participated many times. The growth that occurs in student athletes in only four years is incredible. Some of this growth is organic and innate but much of it is visible in skill development, training sessions, practices, and mentoring circumstances.

Experiencing this growth of the athlete from the beginning of high school to their graduation is a beautiful story and picture. It is a story that every athlete carries. Sometimes it's an OFSAA-winning monster volleyball hit, or the raw talent that is nurtured and coached into a leadership position or a pep talk that an athlete will remember for the rest of his or her life. Memories.

This past year was another banner year at Smithville Christian. It started with the most successful team in school history – our senior boys volleyball team. Never before has there been a team that captured both the Christian high tournament (OCSSAA) and the provincial high school championship (OFSAA)! Memories.

But success isn't only measured in victory. The coaches of the senior boys volleyball team will tell you that even more important than winning was the chemistry the team experienced and the support and love they showed to each other in good times and bad. And there are many more stories from other teams of great digs, beautiful strikes, great hustle, extra effort or 46-metre javelin tosses. And our badminton team is a success story in itself because it has such a high percentage of our student body participating. If you come to the gym there is nearly a 100% chance at least one net will be set up. adminton players come out regularly throughout the year one morning a week to play... they play at noon...they play ALL THE TIME! Beautiful! By the way ... they have also done their share of adding to our banners hanging on the south wall in the gym. Memories.

This sports year ended in celebration on June 10 at the Athletic Banquet.



Congratulations to athletes of the year Ava Pozojecic, Byron Horinga, Morgan Schilstra and Mitchell Harris. Thank you to all athletes, coaches and parents for another memorable year and your commitment to the Smithville Christian Storm! @smthvllchrstn #gostorm #memories



Calling or Career?

BY LINDA BOOY-KORVEMAKER, HEAD OF STUDENT SERVICES

For many senior students the decisions have now been made. The dreaded question, "what are you doing next year" is answered...for now. The preparations for the next chapter in their lives, whether it is school, work, travel or other plans they have made, are now becoming a reality. These plans are important and necessary, but I would like to take a moment to challenge these plans and encourage each person, not just the graduates, but their younger siblings, their parents, their grandparents and everyone reading this, to consider their calling.

Personally, I do not believe your calling is your work or your career. Sometimes you can incorporate your calling into your career, but the truth is you can incorporate your calling into every square inch of your life. When the Bible refers to your calling I don't believe it is speaking about a mere job but rather your entire purpose here on earth. Let's face it – God does not need my work or yours. Instead, our calling is to be like Christ so that each person we meet can 'see' Jesus in us. Can you imagine the revolution if each person who knows Christ accepted this calling?

I also do not buy into the idea that if you choose the "right" career path you will be happy. I am guessing that Paul wasn't thrilled to be imprisoned and beaten. Didn't Jesus even ask his father if this cup (or calling) could be passed by him? The reality is that calling is who you and I are – it's our character – it's our purpose. We fulfill our calling when what we say matches what we do. We fulfill it when a person who has never experienced the love of God experiences it in some small way because they have met you or me.

I am thankful that I work at a school where I am free to share my faith with students. Calling is about every part of your life and mine and about who we share it with. Let's show the world who Jesus is!

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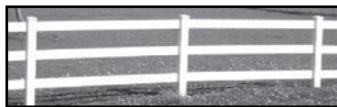
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