



ECHOES

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How do you define success?

BY MARLENE BERGSMA
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & ADMISSIONS

At Smithville Christian High School, we know that success is much more than a student's mark on a project, his final grade, or her graduating average. For us, having a successful graduate is much more than watching her get into the right university, or seeing him land a great job. Sure, those things are important to us, and we work very hard to help those things happen.

Our student services department, our resource department, and every teacher in our school are all working to help each student achieve his or her full academic potential. But at Smithville Christian High School we know that true success is measured in the quality of one's relationships – with each other and with the Lord. That's why "Belong" and "Believe" come before "Succeed" in the phrase we use to describe ourselves.

Being an independent Christian school means we can open the Bible and pray with our students every day. But even more importantly, we can apply God's truth to everything we talk about and everything

we teach. We can ask our students to consider a Christian perspective on the work they are doing, and to apply Christian principles to all the activities, sports and programs in which they participate.

As you flip through this issue of Echoes, you'll see that definition of Success shining through – whether it's in the faces of the students who travelled to South Africa or France, in the choice of the play we are performing this spring, or the students who won prizes at a science fair. We thank God for the many ways in which we can help students succeed.

SUCCESSFUL LEADERSHIP

One of the ways in which we can continue to operate a successful school is through the dedicated leadership of committed and capable board members. The board of Smithville Christian High School is currently seeking nominations for three new board members for a four-year term. Please prayerfully consider yourself for one of these positions, or consider nominating someone you know. The board seeks exceptional leaders from the Christian community, and it especially seeks diversity in age, experience, church background and expertise. For more information contact Wayne Schilstra, Board Chair, at waynes@remax-gc.com, or (905) 957-0074. To submit a nomination, contact Liz Witteveen, Board Secretary at noechicks@sympatico.ca, or (905) 957-1438.

South Africa: blessed and being a blessing

BY TED HARRIS, ADMINISTRATOR

Now I know why those who have come back from our previous school trips to South Africa have found it a life-changing experience. They finally convinced me to go, and I am very glad I squeezed the adventure into my life. Let me share with you a small glimpse of the story.

A group of 14 students and four adults was selected almost a year ago in

preparation for our school's third South Africa experience. The team members spent much time developing team unity and raising funds, all of which went very smoothly. We prayed and planned for the trip and connected with our partners at Theocentric Christian School in Limpopo about how we might be a mutual blessing to one another. We were led to plan for a trip that would involve more interaction as opposed to building something for their facility.

Upon arrival in this beautiful country, after plenty of flying and driving, we settled into our rustic cottages, where we made our home for a week. We spent a Sunday in worship and fellowship with a small all-black church, an experience several of our students noted was the "best church experience ever!" On Monday morning, it was off to school.

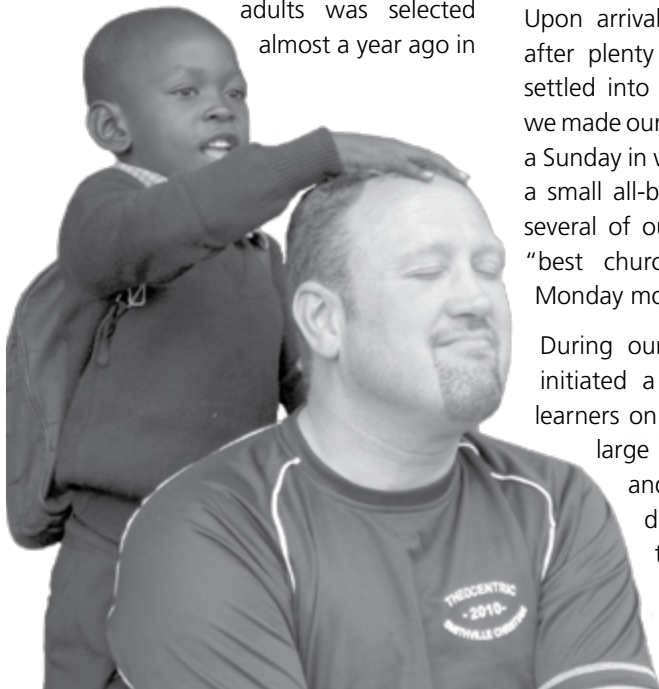
During our days at Theocentric, we initiated a soccer program for their learners on their new soccer pitch – a large beautiful field with goals and nets and smoothed out dirt. Later in the week, our team enjoyed games against and with their more soccer-savvy students. At the same time, many of our

students taught their younger learners about Canada. Alongside these other programs, a team was formed consisting of students from both schools to initiate a discussion about sexuality with students in their grade 7-12 classes. This was a terrific opportunity for our students to bless our friends there with the Christian perspective they have been taught in regard to one of God's good gifts. It's a topic that is very prevalent in the media there but is seldom talked about within families or school communities. Our students did us proud on all fronts.

One day mid-week was spent touring other Christian schools within an hour's drive of Theocentric Christian. We enjoyed warm hospitality in each situation. Students from every class we visited brought us one or more "items" (songs, poems, dances, or special greetings). Our students got very used to bringing spontaneous items in response.

After our school week was completed, the team spent a few days touring, mostly in Kruger National Park. The sights were so spectacular that it seemed almost like a dream.

It will be hard for me to describe how exciting



our interaction was with the students there, and being swarmed everywhere we walked was only part of it. I hope you have opportunity to talk to one of our team members about the experience. On behalf of the team, I would like to thank those who offered prayer and financial support for this venture; our lives will never be the same. Thank you also to our student body and staff here who were so excited to hear our stories and partner with the team in so many ways.

There is no question that our students were a blessing to our friends there, but as one hears so often, it cannot be compared to the blessing we all received. It is exciting to see how God uses these experiences to shape his image bearers. He surely has great things in store!

Turn to pages 6 and 7 to see South Africa photos.



The best time of my life

BY LEANNE RIEBOT, GRADE 11

(This is the testimony Leanne shared with the rest of the school at the assembly after the team returned from South Africa.)

Basically I experienced the best two weeks of my life when I was in South Africa.

I had heard that it would be a life-changing, amazing experience. I knew that it would be, but I didn't know to the extent.

The beauty of the country alone was life-changing. I've never appreciated God's creation more than I did in the moments when we were driving and there were mountains upon mountains and beautiful clear blue skies.

When we pulled up to Theocentric Christian School hundreds of little kids came running up to our vans and they were so excited to see us. It was overwhelming, and the feeling that came upon me is indescribable. I've never seen someone's face light up to someone that they didn't know so quickly. They were so happy to see us.

Going to Africa I had prepared myself for experiencing a culture where they didn't have much at all. After my time there, it now seems to me that they have so much more than I could ever imagine having. Looking through the hurt you can see in their eyes, there is a fire shining so brightly. As they sang

with their beautiful voices, they sang as if nothing mattered at that moment except God. They sang at the top of their lungs, wholeheartedly, with so much passion. It doesn't matter whether or not they got supper last night, doesn't matter if they got in a huge fight with their parents the night before, when they worshipped, they gave their complete heart and soul to God.

Throughout the two weeks that I spent in South Africa, I grew in my ability to trust, to take risks, to get out of my comfort zone, and to give my heart to people who really needed it.

I believe that I would be a changed person and I don't believe that I would have grown in so many ways without the team that I got the privilege to do this with. The bond that grew, and will continue to grow was such a highlight for me. The way that we could open ourselves up to each other, and be 100% comfortable with each other was such a privilege. It's crazy to me how much I grew to love each one of my teammates in such a small amount of time. I grew so much as a Christian in the couple weeks that I spent in South Africa, and I have put my life into a whole new perspective. It's tough to be back in Canada and get used to the normal way of life, because it feels like I left my heart in Africa. But I am so excited to live my life being thankful for every moment because I truly am a changed person and I thank God every day for giving me the privilege of going to South Africa.

Scientific Success

BY MARLENE BERGSMÄ

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS.

Smithville Christian's annual science fair, Sciencepalooza, features some of the best student work in Grades 11 and 12, and, if judged worthy, some of those projects are sent on to be evaluated at the annual Niagara Regional Science and Engineering Fair. This year, two student projects participated in the regional fair, held March 26 at Brock University, and both were selected for awards.

Adam Vermeer and Scott Vanderwier's project, An Energy Revolution, was awarded a University of Ontario Institute of Technology Award.

The project, Plants and Chemical Warfare: Allelopathy, by Kendra Antonides, won three awards: a United States Army Certificate, the Ontario Institute of Agrology Award, and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Award.

Adam and Scott said participating in the

regional fair was an excellent learning experience.

"It was exciting and tiring but worthwhile," said Adam. "We learned a lot about green energy generation."

"The judges were very kind and insightful," said Scott, "giving us helpful criticism and advice."

Kendra said her project explored allelopathy, which is the process by which plants kill other plants. She studied sweet potatoes, which release rhistin, and wondered if allelochemicals could be used as pesticides for croplands.

Kendra said one of her judges "was fascinated and pleased by the fact that the fair had allowed me to keep the 'Christian Perspective' paragraph on my display. He told me it was 'magnificent' that students like Scott, Adam, and I could enter science from a Christian perspective and work to glorify God and benefit others."

Kendra said that she began the work on her project without much enthusiasm, but, in addition to what she learned about allelopathy, her work taught her several other valuable lessons.

"From this fair I learned that even if you don't like science that much, you still have a chance to make an impact," she said. "You can use science projects in class to help you learn about the scientific method, lab procedures, and to benefit others while wisely using your talents in ways that please God."



Kendra
Antonides



Adam
Vermeer



Scott
VanderWier

Spring Fling

BY AL KORVEMAKER,
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM

On Saturday, May 22, the fundraising committee of Smithville Christian High School will be hosting its 16th annual plant sale, dinner and auction. The goal of this event continues to be to raise funds for capital purchases and projects that directly benefit student learning and life at our school.

This year's plant sale, dinner and auction will address a number of requests. First of all, we are in need of furniture to make our gym a better worship and assembly space. We need many new chairs and new sturdy plastic round



Students worshipping at a recent assembly. Proceeds from this year's spring plant sale, dinner and auction will help pay for upgrades to the projection equipment in the gym.

tables to replace many of our old worn wood tables. Secondly, the science department would like to enrich the laboratory experience of our students by purchasing a series of probes and sensors which enable students to gather and process data to enhance their learning in Chemistry, Biology and Physics. Thirdly, we continue in our quest to provide classroom projection technology to every classroom in the school. Almost every learning space in the school has this technology, thanks to the efforts of the fundraising committee and supporters like you, but a few remain. The gym is one space where including built-in projection capabilities will enhance our weekly worship, our instruction in PE, and ability to rent the space for banquets and other events. Finally, the weight room will be a complete package if we have machines that give a cardiovascular workout. As it is, we have fantastic muscular workout machines but this plan will add an important cardio element to what this room has to offer.

As you can tell this is an ambitious plan but it will help us continue to be a school of excellence. Can we count on your support?

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- ✓ Donate to the auction. Call or email the school.
- ✓ Purchase plants at the plant sale at 8 a.m.
- ✓ Attend the dinner at 6 p.m.
- ✓ Shop at the auction at 7:30 p.m.

Being a success in business but still being a failure

ANNUAL PRODUCTION EXPLORES THE CONFLICT BETWEEN BUSINESS ETHICS AND PERSONAL MORALITY

BY MARLENE BERGSMA

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & ADMISSIONS

What happens when a good business decision is a bad moral decision? Is it possible to be a successful business person and still hold fast to your principles?

In an age when corporate scandal and corruption regularly make the headlines, Smithville Christian High School's annual mainstage production, *Radium Girls*, explores a true-life catastrophe that forces a factory owner to confront a moral dilemma.

"It's very much like any of those stories in the news where business ethics and personal morality come into conflict with each other," said director and drama teacher Gord Park.

Park said he chose the play, which is based on a true story, because he thought the "tough decisions" being made in the play "were really interesting."

"History seems to be loaded with examples where something that we thought was the best thing ever is the very thing that is killing us," he said. "This is a story where somebody realizes what they are doing is causing harm, but legally, they don't have to do anything about it. That's where the personal morality is."

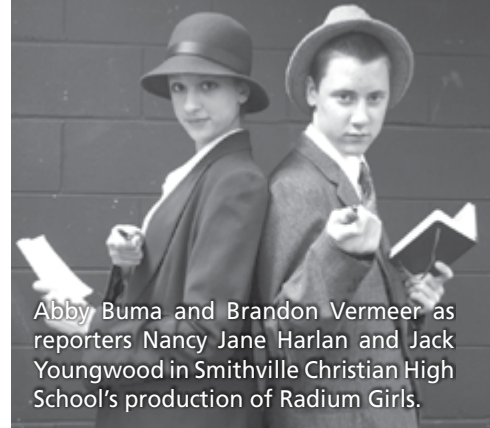
Based on events that happened in Orange, New Jersey during the Second World War, *Radium Girls* features the young women hired by the US Radium Corporation to paint luminous dials on watches and other equipment, mostly for the military. Instructed by their supervisors to lick the paint brushes to sharpen the points, the girls begin to get sick. As the factory workers are slowly poisoned, the corporation denies responsibility and even blames the women for "contributory negligence."

"The question explored by the play is can we trust big business?" Park said. "What hooked me is the person who takes over the company is a Christian guy and there's this great scene where his wife reminds him you can do as much good for people in the boardroom as you can in the pulpit."

The lawsuit launched by the workers, who came to be known as the Radium Girls, attracted international attention, and changed workers' rights in North America, contributing to modern labour laws.

"At the end of the story, and I don't want to give the ending away, the business leader carries a burden with him for the rest of his life," Park said. "He's a compassionate guy, but he's totally stuck. I think the lesson is that there is nothing that is worth sacrificing human compassion for."

Radium Girls: May 7, 8, 13, 14 & 15. All performances begin at 8 pm, and tickets are \$12.50 in advance, and \$15 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at the school, at 905-957-3255 or sdoffice@sdch.on.ca.



Abby Buma and Brandon Vermeer as reporters Nancy Jane Harlan and Jack Youngwood in Smithville Christian High School's production of *Radium Girls*.



SOUTH AFRICA 20



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A very successful Christian High School Book Club Year-End Event

BY ANNELIES DE GROOT, LIBRARIAN

In March we hosted about 50 students from five different Christian high schools for *The Final Word*, an all-day literary celebration!

At this event, we also announced the readers' choice winner of the 2010 Christian High School Book Club Award. The readers picked *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins. If you haven't read it yet, you're in for a real treat, and it comes very highly recommended.



During the festival, book clubbers from the five participating schools mingled as they competed in book-related games, and were inspired by guest author Eric Walters' awesome presentation. The students in our Smithville Christian High School book club (Jacopo Bibbiani, Julia Smit, Katelyn Stieva, Rebecca Stieva, Bethany Stuive, MaryAnna Wilson De

Boer and Leah Witteveen) did a great job preparing for this event and were excellent hosts on the day of celebration. Check out our blog at <http://chsbookclub2010.blogspot.com/>.

There is already a buzz going about next year's reading list. We'll keep you informed. Please visit the school's website www.sdch.on.ca and check the library catalogue Destiny under the Library link. From home, you can see what titles we have and then feel free to contact the librarian, Mrs. Annelies de Groot, if you are interested in borrowing books. You can reach her by e-mail at library@sdch.on.ca or by phone 905 957 3255.



France, 2010

HOW A MESSED-UP ITINERARY TURNED INTO A EUROPEAN SUCCESS STORY

BY BOB ANDREE, FRENCH TEACHER

What should have been a one-week tour of Paris-in-depth ended up being an almost two-week stay in France.

The history and French students of Smithville Christian High School had spent the last year and a half planning a Spring Break trip to France. On the day of departure, weather conditions prevented our group from flying out. We flew out the next day, but our itinerary was completely jumbled. Instead of flying to Paris, we flew to Germany. We spent a full day touring Frankfurt, and enjoying the sights and sounds of a German city. Later that evening we flew to Paris where we enjoyed a meal of wonderful French cuisine.

After spending an absolutely fabulous week in Paris, spoiling our palates with French delectables, visiting museums, exploring cathedrals, climbing the Eiffel tower, and visiting the palace of Versailles, it was time to return home; however, that was not to be.

For some unknown reason, our group's return flight was never confirmed, which meant our group of 13 students and two chaperones could not return home as scheduled. The fact that British Airways was on strike made it doubly difficult to rebook. The tour company realized that they had made a huge error, and sent our group touring the French countryside and the Normandy beaches, all expenses paid!

We were also blessed by Marguerite, the tour guide, who said our students were the nicest, kindest, and most responsible group she had ever had. And while visiting the Canadian and American cemeteries in Normandy, she was impressed with their knowledge of history and the war. She said she learned from them!

We all got more than we bargained for and it's a trip we will never forget.

Paris Diary

BY NICOLE HEERSINK, GRADE 12

Saturday, March 13th:

Scheduled to fly at 3:45 pm, delayed continually, finally told flight is cancelled (all of Newark shut down due to weather), have to get rides home from Buffalo. Sunday and Monday, March 14th and 15th: depart Toronto airport at 4 pm for Ottawa, one-hour layover then on to Frankfurt, arrived at 6:30 am local time; toured the city, shopped, arrived in Paris at 5:30.

Took a bus to hotel, walked to dinner.

Tuesday, March 16th

Continental breakfast by 8, left for bus to Versailles by 9. Toured gardens, then the palace, took bus back to downtown Paris, went to opera house for lunch, haute couture/fashion walk followed by a tour of Fragonard (parfumerie). Ended up at Champs Elysées, metro to Eiffel tower tour, followed by a cruise of the Seine river.

Wednesday, March 17th:

Left at 10 for the Louvre,

explored there until 2, saw the church of St. Chapel, Notre Dame cathedral, walked through Latin quarter to the Luxembourg



Gardens, saw the Pantheon on the way to dinner, played metro tag to race home.

Thursday, March 18th:

Left by 10 for the Musee d'Orsay til 1, had crepes for lunch, walked to the war museum, then went shopping in the Latin quarter. Had dinner, then home for crepes made by our guide Marguerite.

Friday, March 19th:

Left by 9 for bus tour, stopped at the Sacred Heart church, continued tour to L'arc de

Triomphe. Visited the catacombs, went for lunch, then shopped til supertime. Found out about trip extension then walked to the church again to see the painters/souvenir shops.

Saturday, March 20th:

Slept in and had lunch around noon, left near 1 for Normandy on bus. Stopped at St. Germaine, then went to Chartres around dinner time and looked at the world's biggest cathedral. Around 9 we arrived in Caen and had

supper, then went to our

new hotel.

Sunday, March 21st:

Went at 10:30 to memorial of Caen, saw war movies/displays til 1, then went to Juno Beach walked along there, saw the Canadian cemetery (in Reviers), stopped for lunch (baguettes & cake), went to American cemetery, then Omaha beach, then Pointe du Hoc, finished with dinner, then back to the hotel.

Monday, March 22nd:

Left by 9:30 for Rouen, saw church de Saint Maclou, toured

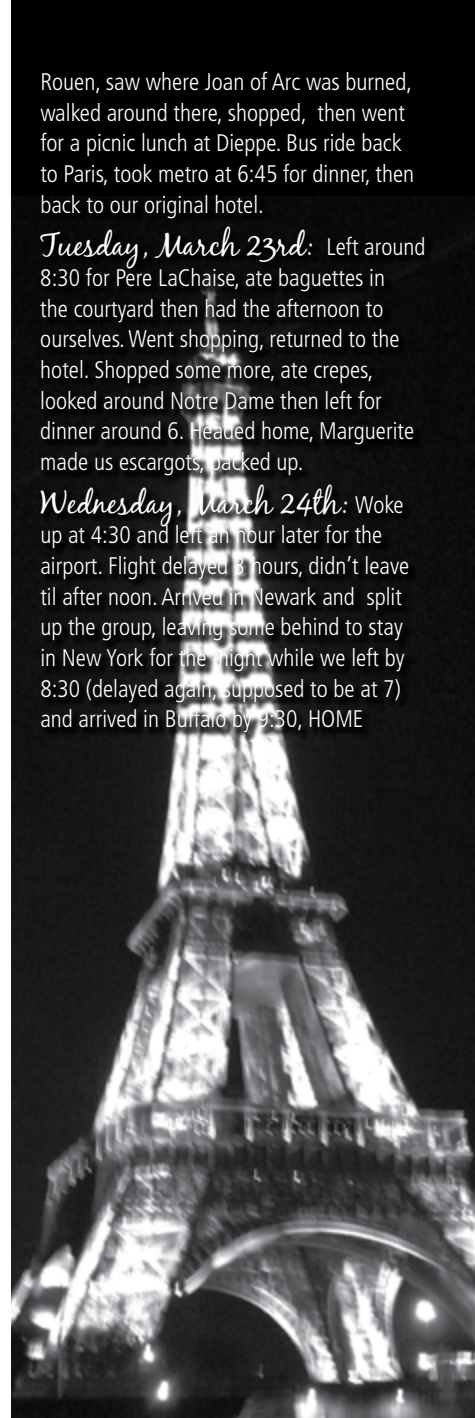
Rouen, saw where Joan of Arc was burned, walked around there, shopped, then went for a picnic lunch at Dieppe. Bus ride back to Paris, took metro at 6:45 for dinner, then back to our original hotel.

Tuesday, March 23rd:

Left around 8:30 for Pere LaChaise, ate baguettes in the courtyard then had the afternoon to ourselves. Went shopping, returned to the hotel. Shopped some more, ate crepes, looked around Notre Dame then left for dinner around 6. Headed home, Marguerite made us escargots, packed up.

Wednesday, March 24th:

Woke up at 4:30 and left an hour later for the airport. Flight delayed 3 hours, didn't leave til after noon. Arrived in Newark and split up the group, leaving some behind to stay in New York for the night while we left by 8:30 (delayed again, supposed to be at 7) and arrived in Buffalo by 9:30, HOME





Dan Tilstra, Isaac Stansfield and Jacob Folkerts at Bowl for Kids' Sake.

A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE ON SUCCESS

BY RYAN VELDMAN

STUDENTS' COUNCIL VICE-PRESIDENT

Alright, so, Echoes, Succeed, what to write about?... Oh! Right! There's so much that what's not to write about!

To start off, Our Spring Banquet was a huge success. This year's theme was A Night With The Stars, featuring Hollywood decor. The food and decorations were amazing and the night was a great success!

Another great success we achieved with our entire student body, was our Big Brothers, Big Sisters Bowl for Kid's Sake. This was a school-wide event, where we collected money to bowl. In total, we raised \$2,368, almost 40% of the total \$5,966 raised for the In School Mentoring program, which made our school the winner of the High School Challenge Award. See below for comments from Big Brothers, Big Sisters. You have your own sons and daughters to thank for such a great collection!

Another project which we expect to be a success is our school play. We've been in the process of making it since January and we all have a very bright outlook on the outcome.

Success is an interesting topic to write about. Really, success is only the result of a positive outlook and perseverance. And it's a very good thing to succeed, when you've been trying in God's name. We, as Smithville Christian High School, try very hard to succeed for God. It fits our school's philosophy – Belong, Believe, Succeed – as well as that of Students' Council – SHINE.

"The In School Mentoring program helps local kids in our community who need support. This total (\$2,368) makes you the official winner of the High School Challenge Award! Without your contribution and enthusiasm our event would not have been such a success. Thank you for helping make our community a better place."

Brenda Baughman-Falconer, Big Brothers, Big Sisters caseworker

ALUMNI PROFILE

Holding fast to what you believe in

BY HANNAH CHALEEN
ROBB, CLASS OF 2003



I find the most important lessons in life are not learned from a text book but from the people around us.

I learned many things during my years in school but it is not the books I read, the lectures I listened to or the facts I memorized that are ingrained in my mind. Rather, it is my teachers and fellow students that taught me the most. From my teachers I learned dedication as they went the extra mile. From my peers I learned the importance of acceptance and the insignificance of conformity. The most important lessons I learned (from teachers and students alike) was to never compromise what I believe in.

These are important lessons that I have been glad to carry with me as I met with Christians of varying backgrounds at Prairie Bible College and people with a plethora of histories, worldviews and attitudes at my various jobs and courses. As I travelled and met with people in other countries I remembered these lessons and was able to stand steadfast without compromise while keeping an open mind to others' beliefs and opinions.

Teaching English in Kiev, Ukraine, (as I am now) these four lessons are all especially useful.

I am trying to be as dedicated to my students and their learning process as my teachers were. Ukraine has only been an independent country for a few years and the attitudes fostered in oppression and communism abound. Acceptance and conformity often go hand in hand so the act of accepting while not conforming, or expecting conformity, is not common, so the classes and the time spent with Ukrainians are revelatory. Due to the long time spent in communism, religion has drastically different views. Most religious people are Orthodox Christians though other Christian sects and religions exist, but there is also a very high level of atheists. It is especially important that I not compromise or I would destroy the witness I am trying so hard to be. I must, as must everyone, live uncompromisingly starting with the small things and continuing to the paramount.

How to Succeed in High School

BY LINDA BOOY-
KORVEMAKER
STUDENT SERVICES

This is a question often asked by students in grade 8 making the transition to grade 9. What do we need to know to be successful in high school? At Smithville Christian we have addressed this question with our annual Grade Nine Blast. This is an annual event for all grade nine students that we have had for more than twenty years. The first Friday of the new school year, after school, staff and all grade nines connect **socially** and **spiritually** within the school building to **physically** make our school their school.

This year we added a fourth component to the day: an **academic** component. We changed the event from an after school affair to an all day affair and added some key tools that will help them succeed in high school. We had three thought provoking sessions interspersed among the usual events of the Grade Nine Blast. These sessions targeted Study Skills, Bullying Prevention and Computer & Library skills. We look forward to continuing this event at Smithville Christian this coming school year...always improving how we help students **succeed in high school**.



Contact Henry Koornneef at 1-877-340-9555 or email office@schoolfoundation.ca

In our secular world, defining “success” is often reduced to a comparison of who has more material wealth. As stewards of God’s creation we are called to have a different perspective. Borrowing from John H. Rudy in *Money Wise Meditations*, I believe that when we can lay claim to the following excerpt, we are successful...in God’s eyes.

We sometimes receive packages in the mail with a bold message: HANDLE WITH CARE. It’s probably a gift from someone: a china cup and saucer, a glass figurine, a clock, a doll, a toy. Isn’t Christian stewardship something like this? We receive packages from God. They are gifts from him: strength, ability, time, money, heritage, land, relationships. The gift list goes on and on. And aren’t the packages always marked HANDLE WITH CARE?

Throughout the Bible we are told that God is the Great Giver. He gives us the ability to produce wealth. He gives strength to his people. God gives good gifts to those who ask him. He gave his only Son. He meets all of our needs. God richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

God says, “Receive these gifts. Accept them with joy and gratitude. Manage them responsibly. Share them generously.

Use them to accomplish my will and purpose. And always HANDLE WITH CARE.” Maybe we begin our stewardship journeys when we freely proclaim, “I am a gifted person!”

Any inquiries may be forwarded directly to our Executive Director, Henry J. Koornneef. His contact information is above.

Please visit us online: www.schoolfoundation.ca or on Facebook: www.facebook.com/FNHCS

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