# ECHOES

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#### **The Most Frequently Asked Question**

BY TED HARRIS, ADMINISTRATOR

This year 43% of our student body is new to our school. We have students from around the world and across the peninsula. There are new students transferring in from our area who have never experienced Christian education before, and there is, of course, a big group who have come to us from Beacon Christian High School. We have long been in conversation about how we can build a school that attracts Christians from many denominations and from all over the Niagara Peninsula and beyond. We feel honoured when God blesses us with the desire of our hearts, and our prayer is that our desires are well aligned with the cause of his kingdom.

The question I am asked most frequently is, "How is it going with all those new kids at your school?" Parents ask it. Board members ask it. Alumni ask it. My own kids ask it. Well, my short answer is "Great!" Let me take this opportunity to give you a more complete response:

My sense is that everyone is enjoying the opportunity to get to know new people. Students, whether new or returning, have embraced opportunities to reach out to new classmates.

Parents from the Beacon community are telling me constantly how much their kids love being at our school. I can only assume that they are telling the truth.

Having another elementary school community to partner with is a great blessing which serves to benefit all involved. We now have four official partner elementary schools in addition to other groups with whom we have formed relationships.

We have discovered that the incoming students are just as amazing as returning students. They have contributed immediately to classes, clubs, student council, sports teams, lunch-time activities, and every aspect of school life.

Our board will be nominating two names from the Beacon community for our board this month. This will ensure that our expanded catchment area is well represented in leadership.

So what's next? Have we arrived? We are enjoying this school year very much, but there is certainly more work to do. Many Christians do not yet have a clear picture of

#### ... continued from page 1

the blessing that a Christian high school education can be, and our school still faces the challenges of a shrinking population demographic. That's where our many initiatives in the area of communications come in. Pay attention to communications from the school via our web site – such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and our blog -- and accept our invitation to participate in this communications effort as you interact with others.



### What students are saying

#### WHAT HAS BEEN A HIGHLIGHT SO FAR?

Devotions.

It's been great, best year so far!

I liked Welcome Week, mixing all of the grades together, meeting more people.

Seeing the school get to know each other in Welcome Week.

The different, more welcoming atmosphere.

# Meeting new people and feeling so welcome!

Making new friends.

The assemblies have been a highlight for me.

How much energy this school has!

It's clear that both new and returning students are energized by the excitement of meeting new people and they loved the effort that went into Welcome Week. They also appreciate chapel and the opportunity for praise and worship.

You'll see Welcome Week photos throughout this issue of Echoes.



# Praising God in assembly

Welcome week helped me meet new people and make new friends. This is a great school.

> Students compete in the Amazing Race tug-of-war during Welcome Week activities. From left, John Boerefyn, Josh Scholman, Esther Zantingh, Alexandra Kamphuis, Alydia VanderKlippe and Emma Dykstra.

# smithville christian high school Class of 2015



**Quintin Attema** 



Tasha B





Shawn DeKlerk



John Boerefyn



Ben Bonsma



Jessica Buys





Noah Jones



**Kyle Lunshof** 

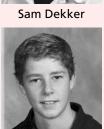




Joseph Falzone



Alexandra Kamphuis



Simon Folkerts



Breanne Keen



Julia Glasbergen

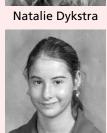


Reuben Kikkert





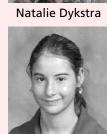
Kirsten Klompmaker



Stephanie Janssen



Olivia Korten









#### Smithville Christian High School Grade 9 Class 2011/2012



Katie MacMaster



**Rachel Ponsen** 



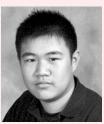
Sean Thiessen



Joel Vanderlaan



**Destiny Veldhuis** 



Tombo Zhang



Aydan Schat

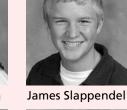
Kyle Tiersma

Danielle Veldman

Wes Schilstra



Hope Scholman







Mitchell VanHoffen



Jessica Wagter









**Kirsten Weaver** 



Andrew VandenBurg





Megan Vermeer







Tyler Vanderwal



Sydney Vermeer



















# smithville christian high school New Students 2011-2012



Alrick Bailey Grade 11



Adua Dalla Costa Grade 12



Adrian Kuipery Grade 12



Tom Potac Grade 12



**Ricky Bailey** Grade 11



Caleb DeBoer Grade 10



Bruce Li Grade 12



Jillian Prinsen Grade 12



Ryan Bootsma Grade 10



Grade 10



Phume Ngampornsukswadi Grade 12



Chantal Rauwerda Grade 10



Natasha Buys

Grade 12

Cara Needham Grade 11



Megan Schilstra Grade 11



Monika Couperus Grade 10



Monica Jackson Grade 10



Favth Ponsen Grade 11



Christina Teeuwsen Grade 12



Tyler Couperus Grade 12



Mark Khoury Grade 10



Nikki Potac Grade 11



Michael Teeuwsen Grade 12



Nico DeBruvne







Nicole Thiessen Grade 10



Adam VandenDool Grade 10



Lucas VanGeest Grade 12



Janae Vlaar-Philbrick Grade 12



Jaco van Rensburg Grade 10



Ariana VandenDool Grade 12



Rachel VanGeest Grade 11



Shae Vlaar-Philbrick Grade 10



Alydia VandeKlippe Grade 11



Grade 12





**Stacy Wiens** Grade 11



Rebekah VandenBurg Grade 11



Marissa VanderLee Grade 11



Gabrielle Veldboom Grade 11



Aron Willms Grade 12







**TOP IMAGE:** Mary Anna Ouwehand, Science

**BOTTOM IMAGE:** Karen Greenham, Math











# LOL

#### BY JANAE VLAAR-PHILBRICK, STUDENT COUNCIL SECRETARY

"BE IMITATORS OF GOD ... AND LIVE A LIFE OF LOVE." Ephesians 5:1-2

Live Out Loud. That is the student challenge for this school year because we need to focus on what really shows God's love for us: our actions. We are all capable of talking and having discussions about God, but we are called to be imitators of God and live a life of love. At the Student Council assembly, Tallia spoke about the theme for the year and about Jesus' time here on earth. "Who did Jesus spend most of his time with?" she asked. "The sinners. We are all sinners. We all fall short of his glory." Not one person is perfect, yet we are made in God's image, and God is love. We are called to love everyone and to let that action speak louder than our words.

So how are we going to show love instead of just talk about it? The Food Drive raised almost 2,000 pounds of food for the shelves at West Lincoln Community Care. Cash for Change days are planned each month to raise money for local charities. Students will be going hungry in February for the 30-Hour Famine. Awareness will be raised as bare toes wander the hallways in April for One Day Without Shoes. Community will be shared in March during the Bowl for Kids' Sake event. Student Council is challenging the students, teachers, and entire community to show love this year and LIVE OUT LOUD!

### Living the Love of Christ

#### BY LINDA BOOY-KORVEMAKER, HEAD OF STUDENT SERVICES

Sometimes people come into our lives and leave a mark, and depending on the experience, that mark can be positive or negative. Sometimes the mark a person leaves on another person's life changes who they are for good, and at other times, even for the worse.

If we want to wear the name Christian or Christ-follower it is important that the mark we leave on others is one of love. When Jesus walked on earth he called us to live out what he called the "greatest commandment" to love one another as He loved us. I think that no matter how hard I try I will fall short – but I do know that I cannot stop trying.

I am often amazed at the support of family and friends for the students at our school. There truly is a body of believers who live out the love of Christ at Smithville Christian. But there are times when I meet with a student who does not experience the love of Christ from others. What happens when we encounter students who cannot feel, see or hear the love of Christ in our hallways or in our classrooms?

As part of our guidance program this year we hope to have an assembly that teaches students how they can promote respect among each other. There are so many stories in the news today about students who are bullied. By educating and empowering our students we can enable them to show the love of Christ to everyone. It is my hope that each new day is an opportunity for each one of us – teachers, students, parents, guardians, and anyone else that walks the halls of our building – to take the opportunity to encourage one another. I hope that every new transitioning student and every returning student feels the encouragement and encourages one another to live that love out loud. Isn't that the beauty of being a Christ-follower? We can start each day again – trying again to be like Jesus.



# **21st Century Learning: Using Parts to Make Meaning of the Whole**

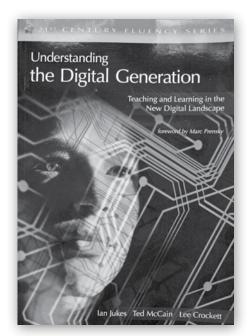
BY WILL LAMMERS, ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

Sometime last year, Mr. vandenBoogaard passed me a challenge he had received from one of his students. The challenge was to twist a string of small cubes in a way that would produce a larger cube. This assignment was a challenge because it was not possible to disconnect these small cubes from each other without snapping the elastic link. The goal was quite difficult to achieve because the link connecting the cubes to each other was short, and it was possible to fold the small cubes back onto each other only in certain ways. You knew you had reached the goal if you were able to twist the arrangement into a block that had three cubes on a side.

At Smithville Christian, we strive to help students make meaning of their learning in ways that mirror this block-building challenge.

The question: How does assembling a string of cubes connect with education at Smithville Christian? The answer: It does in many ways that address 21st century thinking from a Biblical perspective.

At Smithville Christian, it is common to see students working in teams as they analyze for patterns, solve problems, and strive to show credible big-picture thinking. In their collaboration, students have many opportunities to use technology to act on intuition, express with emotion, and create products that show unique form. In their book, Understanding the Digital Generation (Jukes et al., 2010), the authors point to precisely these learning skills as necessary for students to live and work in current settings. Yet while all of these modes of learning ideally suit Smithville Christian students for work in the 21st century, what makes learning at our school unique is that there is a link, in both spirit and substance, that ties together all of what we do: Spirit-led Christian perspective. In a world where



information grows exponentially, and yet so many people lack a community that shares a hope-filled view of world and life, at Smithville Christian we boldly proclaim: May we be found faithful as we seek to learn for life and work as agents of Christ, wherever he sends us!

#### Want to keep in touch? Check out what we've been up to!

YouTube (SmithvilleCHSchool) | Twitter (SmthvlleChrstn) | Blog (SmithvilleChristian.blogspot.com) Facebook (Smithville Christian High School) | www.sdch.on.ca



# EARTHWISE

#### BY FAYTH PONSON AND GABRIELLE VELDBOOM

This poem was submitted to Mr. Will Lammers for an assignment in which Grade 11 Chemistry students were asked to use a creative way to express what God has given to us and our stewardship of these gifts.

Grade 11 Chemistry students Micah Vermeer, Veronica Slappendel and Gabrielle Veldboom work on an experiment in which they detoxify soil that has become contaminated with copper.

Way back in time, when God made creation, Millions and millions of species were created. What do we call that here and now? Creative Fruitfulness! 93 million miles away The sun Keeps the earth at the perfect temperature How cool (or warm) is that, the energy exchange! Next we pedal on the carbon and hydrological bicycle where we Breathe in Breathe out H2O in H2O out. God is the provider of everything. Plants and soil are made rich (Yes, rich!) Through soil building. In order to keep alive the riches and Life-sustaining plants, We incorporate the world's one and only Incredibly magnificent Ventilation system! Next comes the purifying of water. Where would we be today if we had no Percolation through sand banks? We wouldn't have the nice clear water we do now! Last, but definitely not least Is the human ability to learn, Through which God Takes care of us. I'm curious (about things) How about you? We've got minds We've got senses We have the tools God created in us To, for his glory, l earn Therefore making us Earthwise.

### When the Spirit Says Go, You Should Go.

BY MARLENE BERGSMA, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS



Smithville Christian High School students who travelled to South Korea in August of 2011, from left: Bethany Stuive, Anastasiya Syargeichuk, Anne Kang, Brian Vandermey and Josiah Dieleman.

# Last spring the Holy Spirit led five Smithville Christian High School students to embark on an adventure that would change their lives.

At the request of the Church of Vision in Ulsan, South Korea, the students began planning a trip that would allow them to assist at the church's Vacation Bible School, teach English to eager learners, and share the love of Christ.

Grade 12 student Anne Kang, whose father, Rev. Paul Kang is the pastor at Stoney Creek Korean Presbyterian Church, was the leader of the initiative, and she was joined by fellow Grade 12 students Josiah Dieleman, Brian Vandermey and Anastasiya Syargeichuk and by Grade 11 student Bethany Stuive.

Each of the students had to raise about \$1,200 to pay their own travel costs, but while they were in South Korea from August 3 to 18, they were hosted by different families from the Ulsan church, said Anne, who is currently studying at McMaster University.

The students paid for their trips out of their own earnings, with family support and by hosting fundraising events such as bake sales and garage sales. The school supplied them with some materials for their Vacation Bible School.

"God is wonderful," said Anne after the trip. "So many amazing and miraculous things happened on this trip. I can confidently speak on all of our behalf that we came back changed, and we left a dent in their hearts too."

Brian Vandermey, who is currently studying Biochemistry at the University of Guelph, said the trip made him realize the importance of connecting with Christians around the globe.

"Seeing the smiles on the children's faces also had a big impact," said Brian. "They had never met us before, but they were so eager to learn from us.

"As well, the trip made me re-examine how I live my life," he said. "Before, I only had one perspective on the world, mine. Now I don't know where I'll go in life, but I know God will lead me there."

Brian said he uses Facebook to stay in contact with the teenagers he met in South Korea, and "God willing," he hopes to go back.

In addition to helping with the VBS, the students also went on a retreat with some Korean teenagers and did some

"Before, I only had one perspective on the world, mine. Now I don't know where I'll go in life, but I know God will lead me there."



sightseeing, including a visit to the massive Hyundai factory, tours of traditional villages and a trip to Seoul.

Anne said it is her hope that this is the first of many such trips made by students from Smithville Christian to South Korea.

At a presentation at a recent chapel at school, Anne told the students that people in South Korea are amazed at our Christian culture, and they long for the things that Canadian Christians take for granted.

"The church there is too small to accommodate all the souls hungry for God's word," she said in an interview, and the Korean church is also trying to operate outreach programs for that country's poor and homeless.

Anne is inviting interested students to sign up in the office for next summer's trip to South Korea. Planning for the trip will begin in January, but Spiritual Life Director Gord Park encouraged students to begin thinking and praying about their possible involvement now.

"That's a good challenge for all of us," said Park. "In our prayer time and in our devotions, to go before God and say 'next summer, is there something for me? Is there something you want me to look into?'

"Pray about this idea," he said, "because when the Spirit says go, you should go."

#### To see more pictures from the trip, see an online scrapbook at http://uvision.kr/







crucial part of their success in Canada. Mrs. Brouwer is an accredited ESL teacher with additional qualifications in special education and guidance. She was also a missionary for three years in the Dominican Republic, where she lived and worked in a country where she did not know the language.

"This helps me to understand not only how difficult learning a second language can be, but also gives me a good understanding of issues like culture shock and homesickness," said Mrs. Brouwer.

Some of the international students come here simply to get an Ontario education and the chance of entry into a Canadian or American university. But others "are really seeking God," said Mrs. Brouwer, "which places a responsibility on the students and teachers of Smithville

### A Daily Chance to be Salt and Light

#### BY MARLENE BERGSMA, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS

Not everyone who is enrolled in Smithville Christian High School is a Christian, so that means those students who do call Jesus the Lord and Saviour of their lives have a daily opportunity to share God's love.

Since 2010, Smithville Christian High School has welcomed students from China to live and study with us. This year, there are 14 international students from China, in addition to a student from Italy, a student from Swaziland, a student from Thailand, and two more students we hope will be coming from South Africa in January.

We are grateful to the many host families who welcome these students into their homes, and for the efforts of Nicole Brouwer, our teacher of English as a Second Language (ESL), who is a Christian to really be salt and light."

"Talk to them, give them a word of encouragement and be ready to work at communicating," said Mrs. Brouwer. None of us should make assumptions or judgements based on what we think we know about each other or our different cultures.

International students "can point out things that we may take for granted, and help us to really examine how we live out our faith," she said. "The more I get to know, the more I see that we are far more alike than we are different."

# Duct tape and base hits make for successful day

Congratulations to Rick Voortman and his team, "That Team," which won the Smithville Christian High School baseball tournament held in Wellandport in August, beating out five opponents. The school's thanks and appreciation are also extended to the tournament organizers, who put together a very fun and successful event which raised \$1,520. The day was hot but the food was great, said organizer Bonnie VanGeytenbeek.

Rick, who wore a knee brace for the tournament, says his team was victorious "because of age, experience and duct tape." Rick promises they'll be defending the trophy next year so your team will have a chance to steal it back. Watch the school website in June for details of how to register.

Seated with trophy and knee brace: Captain Rick Voortman.

Second row, from left: Quinn Geerlinks, Christian Van Driel, Alex Voortman, Tina Wikkerink, Tanya Zwier, Trish Vandervelde and Meagan Vandervelde.

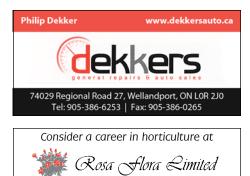
Back row, from left: Ian Zwier, Stan Langendoen, Rob Zwier (hidden), Irene De Boer and Leo Van Driel.











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