



# ECHOES

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**NOV 2014**  
VOLUME 35, ISSUE 1

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## Crossing the goal line but still moving

### THE BLESSING OF A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY

BY TED HARRIS, ADMINISTRATOR

We have been moving on the *In Motion* campaign for almost eleven months now, and there is less than a month to go. The campaign has gone very well, and we are pleased to say that we have surpassed our goal. But we are not stopping. We will continue until everyone connected to our school has a chance also to be connected to this campaign. You may have noticed that I used the word connected twice in the previous sentence; it is indeed the opportunity to get connected with school supporters that is a particular blessing of being part of this campaign.



Certain aspects of this campaign have had a profound impact on me as the leader of this organization. First, knowing that, even before they receive a call, some people have been led by God to be involved in a campaign to support Christian education gives a crystal clear picture that we do our work in community. So many times I have called supporters who said they were waiting for my call — sometimes longer than they wanted to.

*Continued on page 2 ...*

Jason Brouwer, right, of Brouwer Architecture, meets with structural engineer Dean Glenney, of KLS Engineering, to review the original drawings of the school in preparation for the upcoming addition and renovation.

...continued from page 1

Second, I have been repeatedly amazed by the sacrificial giving of our supporters. We normally name an amount of money for a donor to consider and ask them to pray about what they will be able to give. It is a strong encouragement when, in several cases, the amount given has far exceeded the amount requested. To be part of an organization that supporters have high on their list of priorities speaks well of a community's desire to train young people in what it means to serve Jesus as members of his kingdom.

Third, when I visit donors it is clear that the school is always on their hearts. I hear many memories, I find out how many people read our Echoes from cover to cover every issue, I hear about how much people talk about the school, and I hear how often people pray for the school. It is clear that Smithville Christian High School is simply part of their lives.

Things like this make it exciting to go to work every day. The learning experience of our young people matters to our supporters, and they notice what's going on. It makes us want to do right by our supporters as together we seek to do right by the God who holds both our lives and our school in his hands. If you have not yet been contacted about being involved with our *In Motion* campaign, you likely will. If the wait has been too long, feel free to give us a call.



*Mary Maida of The Dennis Group, working in the school office, takes a call from a donor.*

BY JACQUELINE JONES, THE DENNIS GROUP

**The final phase of Smithville Christian High School's *In Motion* campaign is designed to ensure that every person has a chance to be part of the campaign's remarkable success. Every contribution, no matter the size, is important.**

Campaign volunteers are continuing to make visits through November and early December, while other potential donors will be contacted through the *In Motion* flyer distributed to local churches, a personal letter or through our phone campaign.

The phone campaign will be held on three evenings — Nov. 25, 26, and 27 — from a central location at Northland Floral in St. Catharines. Volunteer callers will be reaching out to as many individuals as possible during these evenings. When you are contacted by one of our many campaign volunteers, whether through the phone campaign, for a personal visit or through a letter, we hope that you will prayerfully consider your support of Smithville Christian High School.

If you have not been contacted by the scheduled end of the campaign in early December and would like to make a contribution, please visit the *In Motion* Campaign website at [www.smithvillechristian.ca](http://www.smithvillechristian.ca) and click on the *In Motion* logo. You can choose to download the campaign donor form and donate by cheque, or make an online donation by clicking on the Canada Helps link or the link to our Foundation. A donation made through the Foundation generates a further benefit for our school. Thank you for furthering Christian education at Smithville Christian High School.

# Seeking to Gain an Advantage

BY TED HARRIS, ADMINISTRATOR

The staff leadership team, a group of six staff members and administrators, has been studying the book, *The Advantage*, by Patrick Lencioni. The book charts a course for achieving organizational health and clarity. Just like many organizations, we at Smithville Christian High School wonder if we have clear enough answers to some big questions, such as:

**“Why do we exist?”**

**“How do we behave?”**

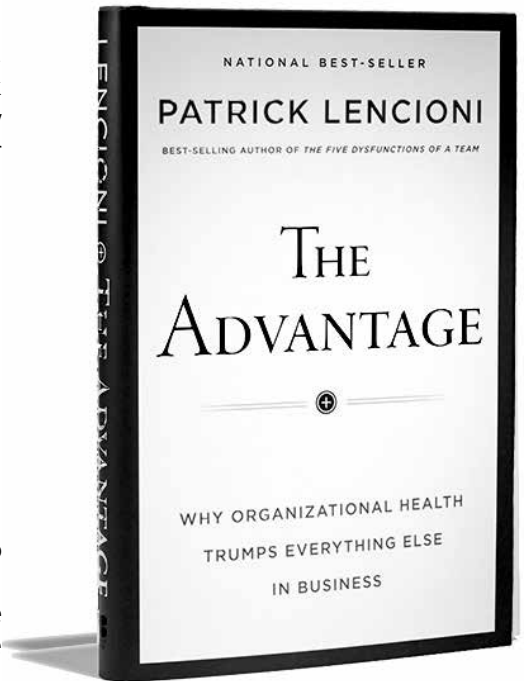
**“What do we do?”**

**“How will we succeed?”**

**“What is most important right now?”**

**“Who must do what?”**

Even though we think we have pretty clear answers to some of them, it is great to work through our responses to these questions before we start planning ahead. Since the board is discussing a plan for its next phase of strategic planning, we as staff leaders are working at setting the stage for these discussions. If you are someone who likes reading and discussing books about how organizations can become healthier, I would be happy to lend you a book and have a chat with you. Also, if you have strong thoughts regarding any of the above questions, I would love to hear them.



## STAFF PARTICIPANTS



**Ted Harris**  
Administrator



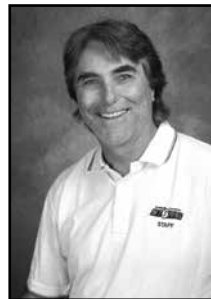
**Fred Breukelman**  
Assistant Administrator,  
Student Life



**Will Lammers**  
Assistant  
Administrator,  
Program



**Linda Booy-Korvemaker**  
Head of Student  
Services



**Gordon Park**  
Spiritual Life Director



**Marlene Bergsma**  
Director of  
Communications and  
Admissions



# Going green, going continental

BY MARLENE BERGSMÄ,  
DIRECTOR OF  
COMMUNICATIONS AND  
ADMISSIONS

Observant readers might be noticing something slightly different about this edition of Echoes. You might have noticed that the paper in your hands looks and feels different.

The new paper is called Cascades Enviro100 Satin, and we made the switch at the suggestion of Steve Ecker, one of the owners at Carruthers Printing. Made of 100% post-consumer recycled fibres, the paper is the “environmental superstar” of stewardly care for creation, Ecker says.

It is made in Canada and is produced at a paper mill in Saint-Jerome, Quebec that uses biogas (piped in from a landfill 13 KM) away to produce 83% of its thermal energy needs. According to the manufacturer, the paper also results in significantly less greenhouse gas emissions than comparable recycled or virgin papers, largely because there is no environmental cost of wood extraction and there is very little waste. It is processed without chlorine. As a side benefit, the Enviro paper is also easier for our neighbours — the printers at Carruthers — to handle, Ecker said. The ink dries faster on this paper and it

builds up less static electricity than the glossy, coated paper Echoes has been printed on for many years.

Since we were making a paper change, we also considered changing the design of Echoes, but we decided that the familiar shape and colour make this publication a product that is clearly identified as ours.

But we are making some distribution changes. Starting with this issue, roughly one-quarter of our distribution is going out by Canada Post. In the past, we have relied

heavily on the member mailboxes at 12 Niagara-area Christian Reformed Churches to reach our target audience. But the families at our school attend 45 different churches, so using just one denomination as a distribution channel no longer makes sense. We will continue to blanket the CRC congregations of the Niagara Region — the denomination has an official policy of supporting Christian education



*Contract office assistant Elaine (Slappendel) VanHoorn, Class of 1990, works on updating the Smithville Christian High School alumni database.*



— but many people across North America will receive this magazine by mail. With the help of Carruthers Printing we are using Canada Post's publications mail service — hopefully providing a good balance between being cost-effective and efficient in reaching our readers.

Some of the recipients will be alumni. We now have thousands of alumni and we have been putting some effort into updating our contact information for them. If you are a graduate, we want you to know about the interesting and exciting things that are happening at your alma mater, and we also want to hear from you. **See the box to the right** for information about keeping in touch with us and details about our reunion hosting program. We want to hear from you!



*Speaking of environmentally friendly, Fred Breukelman, whose Assistant Administrator role includes managing our facility, has been making some stewardly decisions too – including the installation of some low-flush toilets.*



It's been more than **three** decades since the first graduating class and we have thousands of alumni all over the world. You are among them and we want to hear from you.

You are among them and we want to hear from you.

We want to **hear** of your *accomplishments*, **celebrate** your *successes*, and **learn** of *God's faithfulness in your life*.

We also want to be able to invite you to celebrate with us, to read our bi-monthly **Echoes** news magazine and to take advantage of our reunion hosting program. When you are planning a class reunion, you can book use of the school for free, use our contact info to get in touch with classmates, and receive a cake and school mementos.



Send your updated contact information and any news you want to share to [alumni@smithvillechristian.ca](mailto:alumni@smithvillechristian.ca)

*Smithville Christian High School... where students Belong, Believe and Succeed.*

## Doubled Up?

If you received two copies of Echoes — perhaps one at church and one through the mail — let us know! If you would like us to cancel the copy by mail we will happily take you off the list. Readers also have the option of receiving Echoes by email instead. Contact us with your preference at [office@smithvillechristian.ca](mailto:office@smithvillechristian.ca).

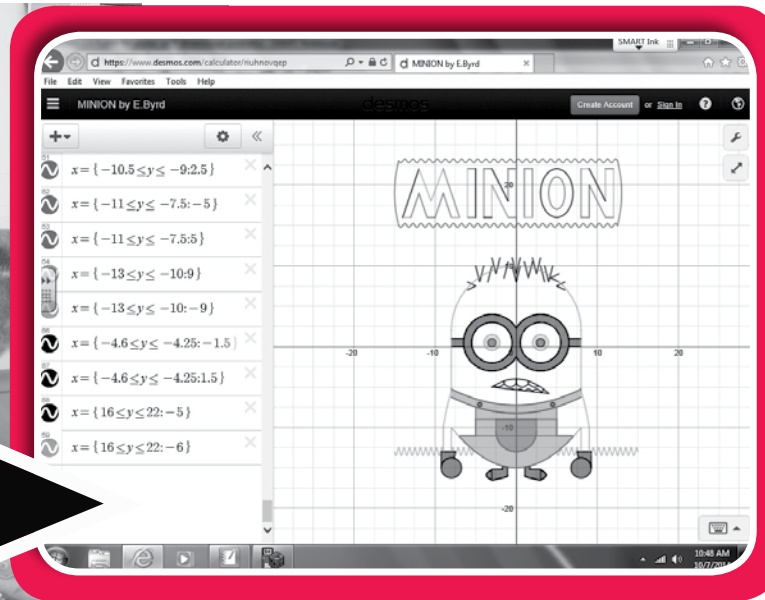


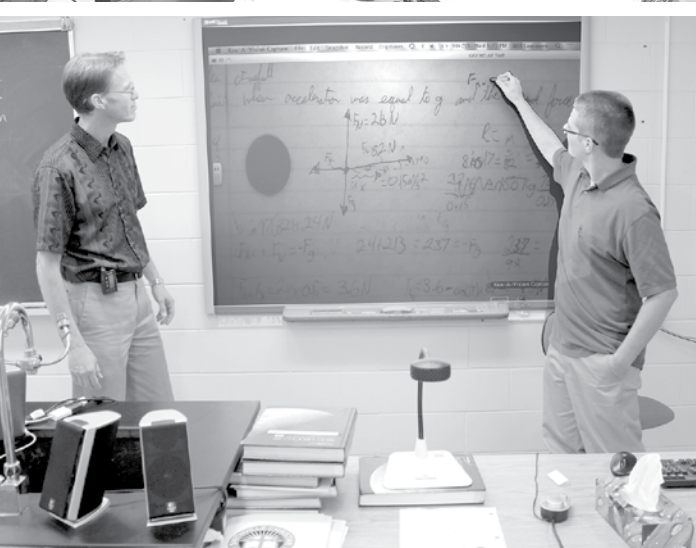
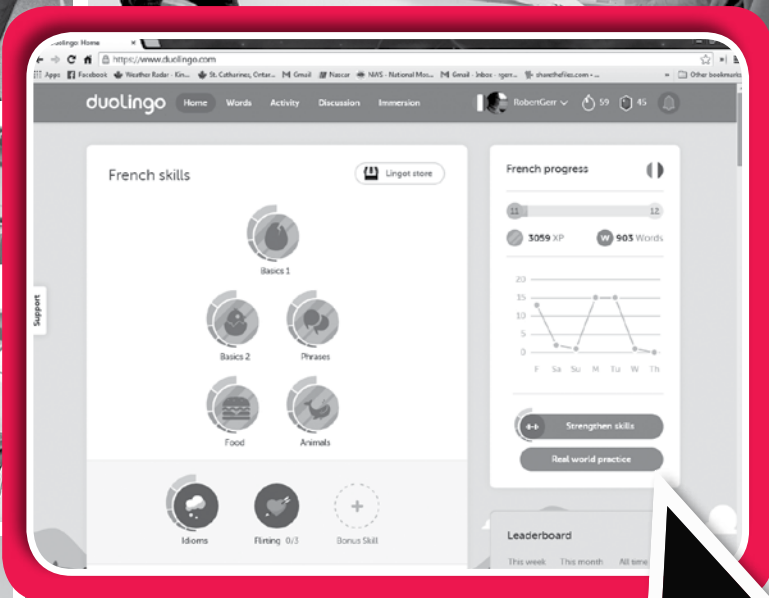
# TECHNOLOGY

## *in the Classroom*



***With smart boards in every classroom, an online learning management tool, three computer labs (including a mobile suite of laptops), digital video cameras, teacher iPads and a host of digital learning tools, students and teachers at Smithville Christian High School are making good use of the gifts of technology. Here are images and samples of teachers and students at work, compiled by technology coordinator Robert Gerritys.***







# Welcome to *The Class of* 2018



Trevor Aantjes



Vanessa Bennett



Marijke Boerefyn



Hailee Boks



Cheyenne Boucher



Nisha Breukelman



Danica Buys



Jewel Byker



Anna Cho



Spencer Damm



Katelyn DeBoer



Rebekah DeHaan



Rachel DeJong



Bailey DenBak



Curtis Dieleman



Brennan Dykstra



Keiley Dykstra



Elias Ellis



Harrison Exelby



Meagan Hanemaayer



Tyler Heeg



Annie Jeong



Mirna Khoury



Kaitlin Lunshof



# Welcome to *The Class of* 2018



Leanna Meinders



Shannon Mellema



Joshua Moraal



Rachel Rahm



Owen Ricker



Tyler Scholman



April Smith



Marissa Talsma



Shannon teBrake



Ethan Vahrmeier



Matthew Van Geest



Tawnya Van Hoorn



Nicholas Vanderlinde



Benjamin Vanderwal



Noah Vanderwal



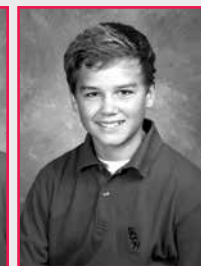
Julia VanderWier



Jordan VanHerwynen



Owen VanHuizen



Zachary VanRyn



Gabriella VanSoelen



Michael VanStaalduinen



Ed Veenhof



Mikayla Veldman



Angela Voortman



Sara Weaver



Hannah Zondag

# Welcome to more new students and staff!

They come from as far away as Zambia, Qatar, China, Switzerland and Florida and from as nearby as Fenwick, Smithville, St. Catharines and Dunnville. But no matter how far they travelled to get here, we are glad to welcome...



Stefan deVogel  
Grade 11



Arnell Dykstra  
Grade 10



Brittney Dykstra  
Grade 10



Annie Hamill  
Grade 12



Tamara Ng'ambi  
Grade 10



Gemma Ricker  
Grade 11



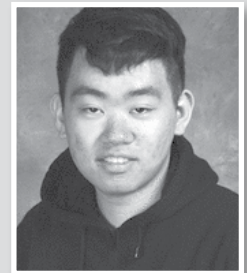
Mitchell Van Hoffen,  
(returned to) Grade 12



Lily (Nanyue) Wang,  
Grade 11



Nancy (Ruotong) Wang,  
Grade 10



Kevin (Guangxue) Xu,  
Grade 10



Wilma DeHaan,  
Librarian



Marg Horvath,  
ESI, Accounting



Scott Antonides,  
Science, Biology, Chemistry,  
Math, Geography



# Going Deeper With God

BY GORDON PARK, SPIRITUAL LIFE DIRECTOR

Back in the late 90's (waaay back), a band by the name of Delirious released the song "Deeper" as a single from their CD "King of Fools." (I highly recommend a listen.) In "Deeper," the song writer expresses his desire to go deeper in his relationship with Jesus, yet at the same time struggles, seeing his own weaknesses as stumbling blocks. He wonders if Jesus also desires a deeper relationship with him, despite these weaknesses. In the chorus, the singer's quandary is resolved in his realization that "the wonder of it all is I'm living just to fall more in love with you."

Relationship. That's what Christianity is all about. That Jesus loves us, calls us and empowers us to follow Him. And following Jesus is not a stagnant state of being. Following Jesus happens in relationship, and this relationship necessitates going DEEPER. This is the underlying theme or message being shared with students through the Spiritual Life initiatives at Smithville Christian High School this year. On our Grade 12 retreat, we visited this message by looking at Jesus' calling of Peter in Luke 5. I've also had the privilege of visiting most first period classes to share a devotion on the same text and theme. This year's chapels will also often come back to this theme, encouraging our students to desire and develop a DEEPER relationship with Jesus.

Students have initiated a Guys' group and a Girls' group, wherein they meet weekly, usually in the Spiritual

Life Office (come check it out!). Here they support one another, pray together, and of course encourage one another to go 'DEEPER' with God. In November, we will hold Spiritual Emphasis Week and we will have the opportunity to spend more time going DEEPER.

Feel free to drop by the school any time to check out the Spiritual Life Office, or visit us on a Wednesday morning at 9 am for Chapel. You are always welcome.





# Making Choices

BY LINDA BOOY-KORVEMAKER, HEAD OF STUDENT SERVICES

Recently I travelled with 35 grade 12 students to an Ontario University Fair. I observed the students talking to admission counsellors and I realized how many different messages they were getting. One student even came up to me and said, **"I am not sure that everything they told me is true."**

When today's students are getting so many different messages about post-secondary options and must wade through these discussions and make choices for their futures, what can and should they believe?

The truth is that we all have choices and decisions to make that are influenced by the people and institutions around us. We have choices such as where to spend our money, whether or not to repeat that juicy story we heard or what career to choose. Each one of us faces a long list of decisions we have to make in life.

Perhaps as Christians, we have an advantage, whether we are the student at the university fair or the person facing a different life choice. We can use our discernment when we hear competing messages, but more importantly, we know that it isn't what our career or job is, but rather how we do our job that tells others who we are and who we belong to — Jesus.

If we really dig into the Bible to determine what our career choice is or should be, I think we will all find out we have the same calling — to tell the world about Jesus. We

tell the world about Jesus when we treat people with kindness and gentleness in the hospital or in the bank, when we fix their car or cut their hair. Our career is not our greater calling.

So rest in the knowledge as you or your loved ones make choices about school, work, life or marriage — when we are in relationship with the one who calls us we speak and act like the hands and feet of Jesus in our decision-making. Our God, the God of the universe, will work his plan through us — whatever career path we choose.



*Grade 8 students on a recent visit to Smithville Christian High School participate in a choreography exercise led by students in the Grade 11 Drama Class. Choosing a direction or making life choices is guided by our calling to be representatives of Jesus.*

## Celebrating student success

Smithville Christian High School works hard to make sure it's a place where students belong, believe and succeed. One of the ways we know we're succeeding is when our graduates are sought-after.

At the June graduation ceremonies of the Class of 2014, Linda Booy-Korvemaker, head of Student Services, identified the following students as recipients of entrance scholarship offers to a number of colleges and universities, including Brock, Redeemer, Dordt, Calvin, McMaster, Trent, Redeemer, Ottawa, Toronto and Waterloo.

Jonathan Attema, Kristen Antonides, Marisa Benjamin, Monika Couperus, Caitlyn Duck, Mitchell Harris, Katie Horvath, Mark Khoury, Nick Li, Chantal Masselink, Morgan Schilstra, Jodi Scholman,

Chandler Shi, Nicole Thiessen, Adam VandenDool, Jaco van Rensburg, Shae Vlaar, Esther Zantingh and Joseph Zantingh.

In addition to the awards printed in the graduation program, Lucas Van Hoffen received the Grimsby Firefighters' Association Bursary, Marisa Benjamin received the Wainfleet Lions Scholarship Award, Ashley Buist received the Dunnville Hospital Auxiliary Award, Adam VandenDool received an athletic plaque and Jordan Pols was an Ontario Scholar.



*Members of this year's student council executive at Smithville Christian High School, from left, Alex Boekestyn, Sophia Bradbury, Danielle Veldman, Joseph Falzone, Sean DeBoer, Owen VanHuizen and Sydney Vermeer.*

## Being student radicals

BY SOPHIA BRADBURY, STUDENT COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

### What does it mean to be a radical Christian?

We easily fall into the habit of listening to a message, reading a devotional, or attending a big youth event and coming out inspired — but not doing much about it. God is our source of inspiration and He is our guide. He opens doors and the hearts of others when we approach them in His name and with His purpose.

We can choose to live radically everyday... starting with prayer. For example, every morning take a few minutes to ask God to

provide opportunities for you to love someone. The theme verse we chose for this year is Hebrews 10:24. "Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds." (NLT)

We are called to put our faith into action by loving others and doing good deeds to glorify God. When we invest in our relationship with God, good deeds don't become a burden, and they are especially not used as way to Heaven, or to earn a reward. Rather good deeds become a joy.

As a community it is important for us to encourage and excite each other to live like Christ did, and to love and invest in the people around us. We can think of special and personalized ways to encourage the people in our lives, to remind them how great it is to glorify God with our actions. It may only take 20 seconds to step out of your comfort zone and show someone the love of Christ through a kind action — imagine that you could be part of how God would change their day or even their life.

The definition of radical is "of the root." To be "radical Christians" we need to be rooted in Christ. For us to live for Christ — to take up our cross and follow Him — includes sharing the amazing gift we have received in Him with the people we meet. We need to go "all-in and all-out" with God. So let's encourage each other and be active followers of Christ. Be radical!

Students also received a number of monetary awards:

**West Lincoln Town Council Citizenship Award** — Mark Khoury  
**Canadian Citizenship Award** — Ashley Buist  
**Lieutenant-Governor's Community Volunteer Award** — Andrea DeVries  
**Smithville Christian High School International Student Award** — Chandler Shi  
**Niagara Peninsula Energy Inc Fund** — Ali Kovalevich  
**PoultryFest Niagara Scholarship** — Samantha Bowman  
**Royal Canadian Legion Branch 393 Poppy Fund Bursary** — Mitchell Harris  
**Royal Canadian Legion Branch 393 Bursary** — Monika Couperus  
**Groff's Photography Bursary** — Adam VandenDool  
**A.J. McCarthy Scholarship** — Shae Vlaar  
**Smithville Garden Club Scholarship** — Lucas Van Hoffen  
**Mike VandenDool Award** — Chantal Masselink  
**Governor General's Award** — Katie Horvath

***Congratulations graduates!***

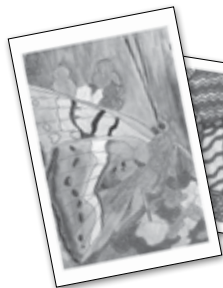
# Storm Gear for sale

Just in time for Christmas gift-giving, to show your support of Smithville Christian High School or to treat yourself. Contact the office at (905) 957-3255 or [office@smithvillechristian.ca](mailto:office@smithvillechristian.ca).



## STUDENT ART CARDS

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**PUT YOUR NAME HERE!**

*Find out how you can be included  
in the next issue of Echoes.*

Contact Marlene Bergsma at  
[mbergsma@smithvillechristian.ca](mailto:mbergsma@smithvillechristian.ca)



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