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ECHOES

WILMA DEHAAN

The South African Experience

Wow. What can we say? South Africa is an amazing country; beautiful beyond belief, and full of amazing people. Our recent trip was an incredible success. We (12 students and 4 chaperones) were able to go half way around the world and accomplish our goal of building a computer lab at our sister school Theocentric Christian College. The trip was really the chance of a lifetime for all those involved!

Those of us that went on the trip, both as students and chaperones, would like to thank the SDCH community for giving us the opportunity to experience something so incredible that it's hard to even put into words. We thank all of you who kept us in your prayers during the trip, and all of those who helped to make the trip a success by contributing in the ways that you were able. As chaperones, we would also like to thank the students of the 2008 South Africa Team. You truly are a unique group, blessed with so many gifts from God. You represented SDCH so well and you did an amazing job on this trip. In fact, looking back over the past year, as we worked side by side fundraising and preparing for this trip it was evident all along that you were a thoughtful, hardworking, and respectful group of people. We were, and still are very proud to have been a part of the team and this school.

Lastly, we would also like to thank all of the people in South Africa who so graciously welcomed and hosted us. If you get the chance to read this know that your smiling faces and warm hearts are still near and dear to us.

While we were working alongside each other at Theocentric, we learned so much about each other. There was great passion on this team to help others, and we were all able to open up our hearts and minds to a world so different from ours. We went to South Africa in hopes of helping them, which we did, but we were given an even greater gift and blessing, they also helped us. We watched the whole team be welcomed, loved and changed by a school of wonderful students, who loved God so completely and unconditionally that it was hard to leave it behind.

Each day we were there we discovered a new joy and experience that overwhelmed us all. We also shared in so much fun, all of us together, laughter and tears and so much love. God brought us on an amazing journey together and guided us the whole way. To him, above all, we say thank you.

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6488 SMITHVILLE RD.
P.O. BOX 40,
SMITHVILLE, ON
L0R 2A0
PH. 905.957.3255
FAX 905.957.3431
www.sdch.on.ca

CONTACT:
AL KORVEMAKER
akorvemaker@sdch.on.ca

Administrator's Report

TED HARRIS



Though this winter did not seem to want to end, it is a blessing to have spring here in all its splendour. Christ is risen, blossoms and other signs of spring are flourishing, and young people are growing in wisdom and knowledge. There is much to celebrate.

Students have moved well beyond the mid-point of the second semester, and the results of their work so far are very positive. We are blessed with teachers and students who care deeply about learning and therefore pull in the same direction.

The weekly assemblies feature meaningful worship under the leadership of an excellent praise team, and the SDCH choir is set to go on their spring tour April 30 – May 2, culminating with the Christian school choral festival in Toronto.

Our spring teams (badminton, track and soccer) are all keen for very successful seasons. Coaches have high hopes to put more banners on the gym wall this spring to join the ones already earned this year.

We look forward to the second annual Grade 12 Portfolio Day on May 22. Last year it was the highlight of our spring; this year we again look forward to seeing a clear picture of how God has been blessing us and the students who will be sent to the next phase of God's plan for their lives. Ours is work that is filled with hope; God does not let go of his children, and his plan for them will be perfectly completed.

The Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools, in its recent evaluation of our school, found that instruction was excellent, community within the school was very supportive, and outside support for the school is strong. The evaluation team also helped us with some insight into the challenge we together must face: how to market the school to a wider group of Christian families in Western Niagara. We have been working at this for some time, but it will take much more effort yet.

The discussions regarding amalgamation have given us much to think about. No matter what becomes of our discussions, it has been a blessing to know that we and our partner schools are very much together in our resolve to make Christian education from JK-12 the number one choice for Christian families in our area. May God bless us as we continue, with God's help, to enable the next generation of kingdom builders.



Farewell Grace & Frank

The students and staff of SDCH have officially said farewell to their beloved "upstairs" custodian Grace Zwaagstra and her abundantly capable assistant Frank Zwaagstra. The duo has blessed our school with five and a half years of service. Their efforts in cleaning and small repairs have helped us keep our building looking sharp. Since their departure earlier this winter, they have spent much time traveling. Their recent return to the now-warmer North has brought back memories of their delightful personalities. Thank you for being part of the life of SDCH, Frank and Grace, and may your retirement be blessed!

14th annual plant sale, dinner and auction

MAY 31

Now that Spring is finally here, the Fundraising committee is looking forward to hosting some Spring-like activities, and you are invited! On Saturday, May 31, a plant sale will take place from 8 – noon, featuring a wide variety of flowers, shrubs and trees for your garden. You are welcome to attend a full-course dinner at 5:30 p.m., followed by an auction at 7 p.m. that will feature a wide variety of goods and services. If you are able, please order tickets (\$18 each) by calling in reservations in advance at the SDCH office.

GR.12 FUNDRAISER: SCRAP METAL DROP-OFF

Scrap Metal Bins will be at the school
APRIL 21ST–26TH
for our scrap metal fundraiser.

All proceeds go to the grade 12 trip to Quebec City in June.

STORM CALENDAR

APRIL

April 22	Badminton: Midget/Junior Zone @ Governor Simcoe
April 23	Badminton: Senior SOSSA
April 21-26	Grade 12 Scrap Metal Drive
April 25-26	Badminton: OCSSAA at Brock University
April 28	Soccer: Boys GLCC @ SDCH
April 29	Badminton: Midget/Junior SOSSA

MAY

April 30 – May 2	Choir: Southwestern Ontario Tour
May 1	Soccer: Boys and Girls SDCH @ SL
May 2	Choir Festival at Toronto District Christian High, "Gloria" concert at 7:30pm
May 1 – 3	Badminton: OFSAA (senior only) at Brock University
May 2-3	Drama Production: 'The Death and Life of Larry Benson' – 8PM
May 5	Soccer: Girls TSS @ SDCH, Boys BCC @ SDCH
May 5	Track and Field: OCSSAA @ Mohawk Park
May 7	Soccer: Boys SDCH @ TSS
May 8	Track and Field: Zone 4 Meet @ Westpark (Preliminary)
May 8-10	Drama Production: 'The Death and Life of Larry Benson' – 8PM

May 9-10	Soccer: OCSSAA Boys Tournament @ Smithville Leisureplex (Friday) Oakville (Saturday)
May 13	Soccer: Boys and Girls ND @ SDCH
May 14	Soccer: Boys and Girls SDCH @ Lakeport
May 15	Track and Field: Zone 4 Meet @ Westpark
May 19	Victoria Day
May 20-22	Soccer: Boys and Girls Zone Playoffs
May 22	Track and Field: SOSSA @ Mohawk Park
May 22	Grade 12 Portfolio Day
May 23-24	Soccer: OCSSAA Girls Tournament @ Toronto
May 27	Soccer: SOSSA "A" Finals
May 28	Athletic Banquet 6PM
May 29-30	Track and Field: Regionals @ Mohawk Park
May 31	Spring Plant Sale and GST Auction

JUNE

June 2 – 5	Grade 12 Trip to Quebec
June 5-7	Track and Field: OFSAA @ Mohawk Park
June 8-11	Soccer: OFSAA
June 13	Canada's Wonderland
June 16-20	Exams
June 25	GRADUATION

Student Services

LINDA BOOY-KORVEMAKER

As we head into the spring, its always good to reflect on what the students have accomplished beyond the classroom. From a Guidance Department perspective here is what SDCH grade 12 students are busy with now:

- 24 students are busy in cooperative education: on the job experience for credit
- 18 students have completed Ontario University Applications
- 32 have completed Ontario Community College Applications
- 10 students have Ontario College Applications in progress.
- 25 Christian College applications have been made

As we are beginning to hear about the awards and scholarships, here are some noteworthy accomplishments of SDCH students:

- Esther Vermeer has received a full scholarship (tuition, housing, books, etc.) to Duke University in North Carolina for Cross Country and Track. Esther had many NCAA Division 1 schools courting her including: Florida State, Syracuse and West Virginia.
- Heather Eyk has received the University of Toronto National Book Award for 2008. This honour is in recognition of Heather's exceptional abilities, both personal and academic, in the eyes of our school and of the University of Toronto.
- Amanda Harris has received the Calvin College Trustee Scholarship valued at \$10,000 US. Selection for this 4 year renewable scholarship involves academic achievements, student involvement, leadership roles and honours received in school, church, and community.



STORM REPORT

JASMIN ELMERS, ATHLETICS COUNCIL

The badminton season is well underway with many tournaments ahead. On April 8 our school hosted the Senior SubZone where 6 out of the 10 teams advanced to Zone play. The Midget and Junior teams will be competing in Beamsville on the 10th. Our school is also the host of the Ontario Christian High Tournament held at Brock University at the end of April.

Track and Field has begun practices and we are happy that the weather is finally warming up. We look forward to seeing their hard work at practices pay off at their first competition of the season, the Chrisitan High meet, held in Hamilton on May 5.

Socccer season is here! They too look forward to getting outdoors in some dry, warm conditions.

And finally, the Athletics Council is busy planning for the annual Athletics Banquet to be held on Wednesday May 28. Be reminded that all athletes and their parents are invited to this event to celebrate the efforts and accomplishments within our athletic program this school year. ◀

Board report

WAYNE SCHILSTRA


Do you remember your first day of high school? Some of us do, some of us do not, and some would rather forget. I remember my first day at SDCH, some 28 years ago. There were people there from Dunnville, Grimsby, Beamsville, Smithville, Fruitland, Wellandport and beyond. We were all nervous, but before long we found new friends, got down to learning, working and having fun. Serving on the Board of SDCH makes me think of those days, and even though they were a long time ago, some things never change. Today, I have the pleasure and privilege of reuniting with old friends and making new ones; all the while making sure that the Board directs and protects the interest of the parents, students and supporters of SDCH. Some days the task is overwhelming and other days it is a joy. But this I have learned while serving on the Board: What an amazing school SDCH is. What a wonderful group of students we have. What a hardworking Administrator we have. What a caring Staff we have. God has been good to our school – His school.

THE DEATH AND LIFE OF LARRY BENSON.

A family has been torn apart dealing with the crisis of a son being lost in action on a distant battlefield for three years. But when the soldier comes home, the family is truly in crisis!

Tickets are on now on sale in the office. Tickets: \$15, or two for \$25. SDCH students with a student card \$10.

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"Just like in 2006, I had a wonderful trip. I enjoyed every moment of being with this team of 16 people. Going to church in a rural village in South Africa was a highlight for me. God's purpose was felt by all of us as we sang and worshipped with fellow Christians in a totally different culture. Praise the Lord.

JOHN VANDENBOOGAARD

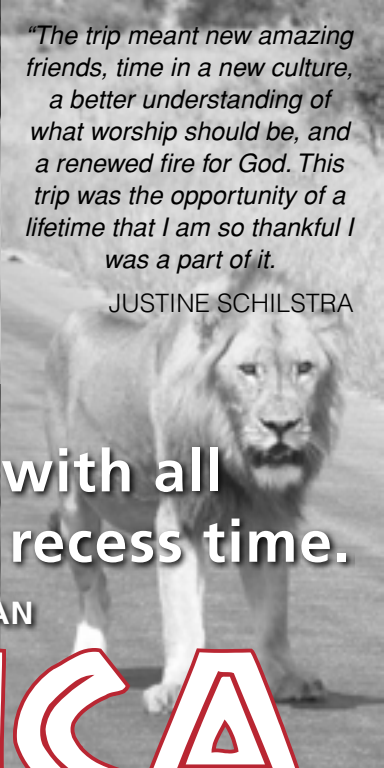


"My favourite part of the trip was the Thursday that we finished the computer lab."

MARK HESSELS

"The trip meant new amazing friends, time in a new culture, a better understanding of what worship should be, and a renewed fire for God. This trip was the opportunity of a lifetime that I am so thankful I was a part of it."

JUSTINE SCHILSTRA



"I especially enjoyed playing games with all the kids at Theocentric during their recess time.

CALVIN BELDMAN

AFRICA BOUND

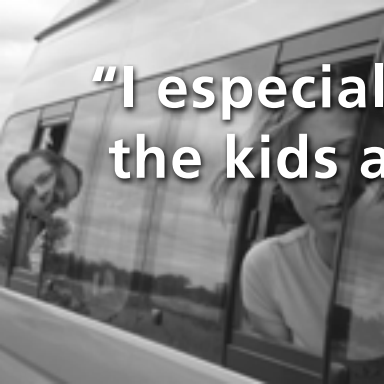
"My favourite memory was the time we spent together as a group hanging out, and doing evening devotions under the lappa. I also enjoyed all the games we played until the wee hours of the morning."

ERIC KORTEN



"My favourite memory was the gigantic spider in our cabin, or the time Mrs. DeHaan pretended to be a dolphin. Or the night Mr G., Mr. T, and Mrs. DeHaan were trying to sneak up on people and Mrs. DeHaan fell. DUCK!"

ELISE FEDDEMA



SARA STUIVE

Students' Council has been busy! Throughout our long winter, we have not had a moment of free time. For Valentine's Day we had a visit from not one, but three cupids! Around this time we also kicked off our magazine campaign. This pays for our athletics and activities at SDCH, as we do not pay for these activities through tuition, and we do not get provincial funding. We raised around \$25 000, and although this was not as much as we had hoped to raise, the students still impressed us. To inspire the students to sell, we had a battle of the sexes. It was close, and although everyone knows that the results don't necessarily reflect the truth, the guys came out on top. This means that, from April 15th – April 17th, they will receive favoured treatment from the teachers. Another successful event for Student Council was the Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl-for-Kids' Sake (BBBS). Our students impressed us, but also the BBBS Foundation, as we raised more money than any of the other local, participating high schools (Grimsby, Beamsville District, South Lincoln, and Blessed Trinity). Our 30-hour famine for World Vision is schedule for April 11 and is promising to be an awesome time, because it is ending with a concert featuring Niagara United and speaker Bill Markham. The following week will feature our annual Spring Banquet. This year it promises to be a night of mystery, with the theme of masquerade. As we head into Spring, we will continue to serve our students at SDCH!



SDCH'S VERY OWN CUPIDS

Students' Council



RETRO DAY



THE VISION CONTINUES ♦♦♦

FRED BREUKELMAN

Just prior to our SDCH South Africa team leaving, three men from South Africa, Wilson Mendende (Principal of Theocentric), Sammy Mamafha (Chairperson of Theocentric), and Derrick Mashau (Professor at Potchefstroom University, originally from Theo. Area) travelled to Southern Ontario for the South African Roundtable.

The passion and vision these men have for the growth of Christian Education is admirable. 'Way back' in the late '90s a dream was to start a Christian School. Well, today Theocentric Christian College has 3 campuses with close to 600 students K-12. A part of that dream was to have Christian higher education, a place where Christian teachers could be trained in a Christian institution; a place where

Christian thought would be advocated in undergraduate and graduate education, encouraging learners to research and write ultimately for the betterment of South African Society.

During their visit in late February/early March Tree of Life Institute for Christian Studies in Africa (TICSA) was founded. It was determined that it would be constructed on the same site as Theocentric Christian College so that it could practically serve the Theocentric teachers and community, as well in the near future serve other Southern African countries.

Who would have thought that the relationship between Theocentric

and SDCH would continue to be so active and real only a few years after inception? Where will this lead to? What does the future have in store for future students, teachers, parents and community of both SDCH and Theocentric? What a blessing for our SDCH community to be so actively involved in this incredible endeavour. To see the Hand of God moulding and shaping the vision of Christian Education in South Africa has been a blessing both for our friends at Theo. and us here at SDCH. Please continue to pray for our Christian brothers and sisters in South Africa as they continue to pursue opening the doors of TICSA for the 2009 school year.



"My trip to South Africa was an amazing time that I will remember forever."

SHARON KERKHOF

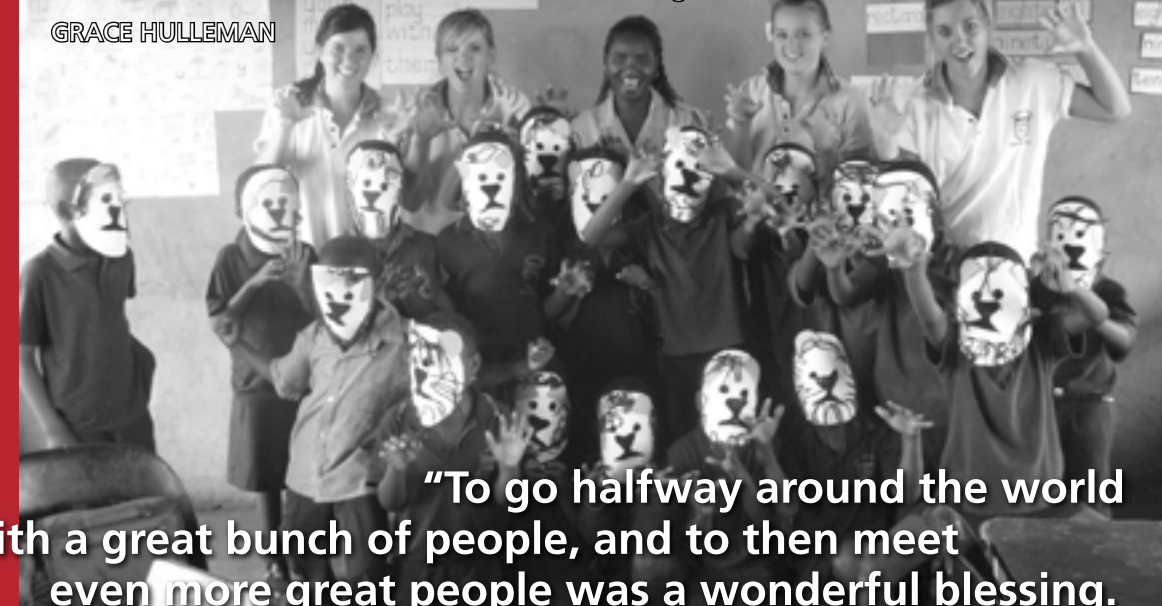


"There are a lot of wonderful memories but if I have to pick one it would be the first day we arrived at Theocentric school. We pulled in with our vans, opened our doors, and we were all really nervous. But as we stepped out of our vans 541 students came running over cheering, clapping, smiling, and hugging us. We were overwhelmed with joy. All our inhibitions were gone, and we were moved to tears."

WILMA DEHAAN

"My most memorable event was the church service on the first Sunday. Everyone was so happy and excited to be there worshipping God and singing praises to Him. They were also so willing to share the few Bibles and songbooks that they had with us. The communion of the saints has never felt so alive to me as it did during that church service."

GRACE HULLEMAN



"To go halfway around the world with a great bunch of people, and to then meet even more great people was a wonderful blessing. This trip was so much more than building a computer lab (we did that too!)."

BOB GERRYTS



"My favourite time of the trip was every night at devotions. It was really awesome to get to know friends and teachers in a more personal way. We really grew together as a family, and we'll never lose the memories our experiences."

SAMANTHA AANTJES



THEOCENTRIC CHRISTIAN COLLEGE



WHERE FAITH AND LEARNING MEET



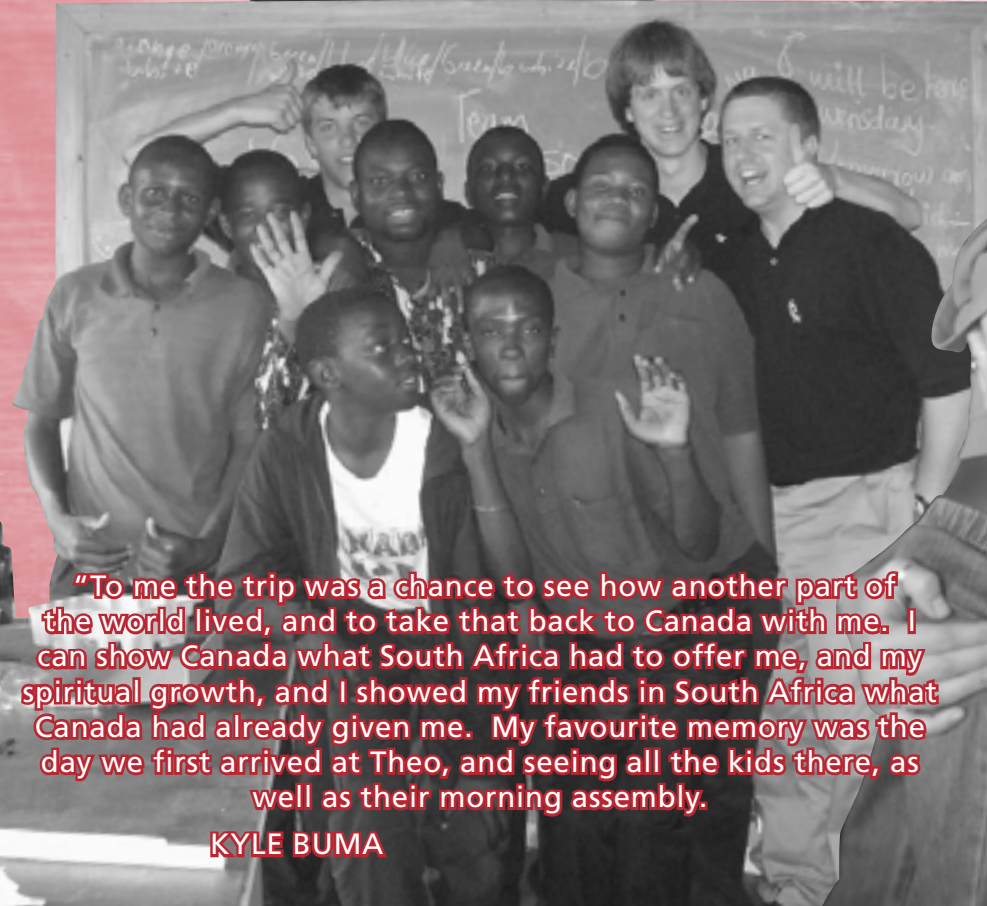
"My favourite memories would be being at the church and hearing the singing. Also being with the kids at Theocentric was incredible – as well as the whole trip and team were amazing! You could really see God throughout the worship."

NICOLE LINDEBOOM



"One of my favourite memories of the trip was watching the guys play with the kids. It was soooooo cute!"

MICHELLE HEEMSKERK



"It changed my life."

COLIN WASSENAAR

"I loved Africa. It was an amazing opportunity to see a whole other culture and how they lived. I especially loved meeting all the kids at Theocentric, and talking to them about their lives and mine. The team of people I went with was awesome!"

CHARITY EGGINK

"To me the trip was a chance to see how another part of the world lived, and to take that back to Canada with me. I can show Canada what South Africa had to offer me, and my spiritual growth, and I showed my friends in South Africa what Canada had already given me. My favourite memory was the day we first arrived at Theo, and seeing all the kids there, as well as their morning assembly."

KYLE BUMA



THE MYSTERY THAT HAS BEEN KEPT HIDDEN FOR AGES AND GENERATIONS, BUT IS NOW DISCLOSED TO THE SAINTS. TO THEM GOD HAS CHOSEN TO MAKE KNOWN AMONG THE GENTILES THE GLORIOUS RICHES OF THIS MYSTERY, WHICH IS CHRIST IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY. WE PROCLAIM HIM, ADMONISHING AND TEACHING EVERYONE WITH ALL WISDOM, SO THAT WE MAY PRESENT EVERYONE PERFECT IN CHRIST.

COLOSSIANS 1:26-28