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The Echoes is a periodical published five times a year by Smithville District Christian High School. Editors are A. Korvenmaker, W. Lammers and G. VandenDool



ECHOES

MATT ZANTINGH, GRADE 12

Where the "rubber hits the road"

This year's theme for Echoes is "where faith and learning meet." Essentially I believe this is where the "rubber hits the road"; faith is seen through actions, and learning helps you to choose what actions to take. The influence of learning on our faith at SDCH means that we are learning not just how to live our Christian faith in God and in the world, but also how to live in ways that strengthen that faith. This year, we as Students' Council have been striving to 'live the mystery,' – to live this faith. In James 2:26 we read, "As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead."

Since September, working with the student body, we have been able to do a number of things that I feel show that our faith is more alive than ever. This faith allows us to play an integral role not only in this physical community of Smithville and area, but also in furthering the Kingdom of God globally. By living the mystery of Christ, we are helping two families in our school community that have been hit by cancer; we donated more than 3000 items of nonperishable food to West Lincoln Community Care; we filled 106 "Operation Christmas Child" shoeboxes; and we raised enough money from our County Fair Day "Throw-a-Pie-at-Mr.-Harris" to fund the digging of a well through CRWRC. This is just a snapshot of how we hope to pay the love of Jesus forward.

I look forward in the months to come to see what God has in store for this school and the ways He can use it even more to become a stronghold of faith in Him, that we can radiate His light out into the community. Our learning through faith will thereby prepare us, "God's people, for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:12-13). Where faith and learning meet, I'm sure you'll see a big black tread mark going in the direction of fullness in Christ. ◀

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TED HARRIS

Administrator's report

Now, this won't hurt a bit...

There was a day when parents took more a "Buckley's" approach to family matters, when medicine was given regardless of whether the kid like the taste, and when the parents decided where the kid went to school without much attention to emotional feedback. Those days are not completely gone; parents still need the guts to stand firm on decisions that ought to be theirs. At the same time, it is wise for parents to communicate with children about life's big

decisions, and today's parents seem more in tune with the feelings of their children. This has changed the way we talk with families about the high school experience.

It is for this reason that is always soothes my heart when I hear from parents that their children love school. There is no question that we want our students to love their SDCH experience. If students are excited about going to school, there is a better chance that they will achieve their potential. If they like their teachers, they will respect how learning is structured and put forth their best efforts. If they enjoy their peers, they will learn more about the body of Christ as they build community together. If they enjoy assemblies, they are more likely to worship meaningfully. If they have positive things to be involved with, they are less likely to get into less positive things. Simply put, happy kids learn better.

Recently we held our Fall learning conferences with parents and, in many cases, students. Between conferences, I always try to ask grade 9 parents I see about the experiences of their children. This year I seemed to hear so many overwhelming responses. I had a few parents tell me that they had to console their children on P.D. days because there was no school. I had many parents tell me that new friendships are bursting to life, and that the new friends all seem like such nice kids. I heard about how much their kids enjoy the teachers. I had a few tell me that it's a thrill to go to learning conferences where it is clear that the teachers really know the kids. And I heard from almost all of them how much their kids love school.

Parents are always concerned that their children feel good about their experiences. Though I can guarantee there will be times in the life of all students when they feel school is too stressful or boring, we are nevertheless blessed to be able to say that our students love their school. It shows in their behaviour, in their effort and in their relationships. Christian education is medicine meant to help restore shalom in the world, the world in which our students are learning now and in which they will serve for their entire lives. It's a blessing when medicine isn't just something to swallow quickly but is a here-and-now experience to be savoured. The SDCH staff knows what a great opportunity this is. We promise that we will continue to make the most of it, and enjoy the goodness of God along the way. ◀



STORM CALENDAR

DECEMBER	
11	Jr. and Sr. GVB @ South Lincoln Jr. and Sr. BBB South Lincoln @ SDCH
13	Sr. GVB @ Niagara District Sr. BBB Niagara District @ SDCH
17	Jr. BBB SDCH @ Thorold
18	Jr. and Sr. GVB Thorold @ SDCH Sr. BBB SDCH @ Great Lakes Jr. BBB SDCH @ Westpark Community Hymn sing @ Smithville CRC
19	Jr. GVB West Part @ SDCH
21	Elf Bowling
24 – Jan 4	Christmas Break
JANUARY	
4	Classes Resume
7	Jr. BBB SDCH @ Laura Secord
8	SDCH Open House
8	Jr. and Sr. GVB SDCH @ Beacon Jr. and Sr. BBB Beacon @ SDCH
9	Sr. GVB Lakeport @ SDCH
10	Jr. GVB SDCH @ McKinnon Park
11	Jr. and Sr. BBB SDCH @ Lakeport
15	Jr. GVB SDCH @ Lakeport Jr. BBB Lakeport @ SDCH
17	Jr. and Sr. GVB Heritage @ SDCH Jr. and Sr. BBB SDCH @ Heritage
21 – 25	Exams
28	Ski Trip
29	Turnaround Day
30	First Day of Semester 2 Ice Skating and Hockey Tournament (pm only)
FEBRUARY	
4 – 15	Magazine Campaign
5	Sr. GVB SDCH @ Lakeport Jr. and Sr. BBB SDCH @ South Lincoln
7	Jr. GVB Niagara District @ SDCH Sr. BBB SDCH @ Thorold Jr. BBB SDCH @ Niagara District
8, 9	BBB/GVB Christian School Tournaments
11 – 15	BBB Playoff Week
15	Project Work Day
18	Family Day
22	BBB SOSSA
MARCH	
3 – 5	BBB OFSAA

France Trip

Eighteen SDCH students went with 3 chaperones to France this summer and had an unforgettable time there. We did lots of sightseeing (Paris, Loire castles, beaches of Normandy) and were impressed by the rich history and culture. We also had a lot of fun together and made memories that will last for a lifetime.





CROSS COUNTRY

COLLEEN SLAPPENDEL,
ATHLETICS COUNCIL

STORM REPORT

The mighty Storm has ended its first season with GREAT results. The Senior Girls Basketball team wrapped up its season with an amazing 21-4 record, and is the Zone 4 champion, Redeemer Invitational Champion, Collegiate Invitational Consolations Champion, and OCSAA silver medalist. WOW! The team advanced to SOSSA to play a tough game against Guido de Bres. That loss dampened the team's dreams to move on to OFSAA. They played an amazing season and made our school proud.

The Senior Boys Volleyball team also had an awesome season, finishing as Zone 4 Champions! The team was down 2 games in final match against Beacon. With some help from the huge home-court crowd, the team got fired up enough to win the next three, resulting in a win that advanced the team to SOSSA, but with disappointing results. Oh so close, guys!

The Junior Girls Basketball team ended its season in third place, while Junior Boys Volleyball team finished in sixth. Great work, teams!

The new season has already begun. Check out the home game schedule for Boys Basketball and Girls Volleyball teams and come on out to cheer on the storm to more great victories! ◀



SR GIRLS BASKETBALL



JR BOYS VOLLEYBALL

RICK BATENBURG

From the Board

Your Board would like to thank the membership for its support at the Fall Membership meeting. It was good to see people come out and vote for our new Board members and to review our finances.

As a Board we were very pleased with the work of Ted Harris and the finance committee; their dedication has kept us in good shape financially.

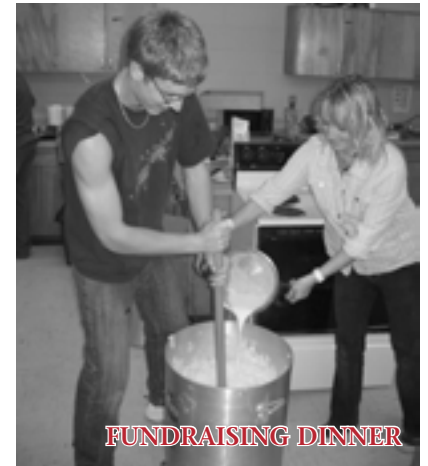
While the school year is already rolling along it is a sort of new start for the Board, as Leo DeVries and myself are finished our four-year terms. At our next Board meeting, we will welcome our new members, Archie Vermeer and Tim VanHoffen. We know you will fit right in. We would also like to thank Marco Zwaan for standing.

Please remember your Board in your prayers as they continue in God's good work in this school.



PHONE BOOK DRIVE

Thank you to
everyone who
helped make these
fundraisers fun and
successful



FUNDRAISING DINNER

BY KYLE BUMA AND
COLIN WASSENAAR

Africa-Bound

The South Africa Team has had a good start so far in preparing for their trip. The fund raising dinner and silent auction on October 20 was a great success. Mr. Mendende, principal of Theocentric Christian School, was the main speaker for the evening. It was a great experience to have him visit and inspire the team. They raised \$6,500. In addition, student, parent, and teacher volunteers delivered 13,800 phonebooks on Dec. 1 to raise another \$6,000! Thank you to everyone who helped make these fundraisers fun and successful. Please pray for the team members as they continue to prepare for their trip. ◀

— REMINDER —

Magazine Campaign
Feb. 4-15, 2008

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magazine
subscriptions!

Thanks,
Students' Council





OPEN HOUSE

Parent of grades 6, 7, and 8 students
you are welcome to come to our

OPEN HOUSE on

**Thursday January 10, 2008
at 7:30pm.**

Come with your children and meet the
teachers, look at the curriculum, enjoy a
brief program and tour the facilities.



Students' Council



Grade 8 Day



TOP-LEFT – County Fair
Pie throwing at the
County Fair raised over
\$250.00 to buy a well
through CRWRC.

TOP-RIGHT – Pink Day
In honour of all those
who have been diagnosed
with cancer.

**BOTTOM-RIGHT –
Operation Christmas Child**
SDCH students
generously donated
over 100 shoeboxes to
children in need.



Student Services



LINDA BOOY-KORVEMAKER

“Keeping doors open” is the phrase we like to use at SDCH.

It's the time of year when grade twelve students often dread the question “What are you doing next year?” Part of the dread comes from the overwhelming feeling that the decisions they make this year will be for the rest of their life. The importance in making decisions in the last year of high school is to have many options.

“Keeping doors open” is the phrase we like to use at SDCH. It encourages students to explore possibilities they may never have considered and allows them the time to research and investigate a variety of paths. So much can change in one year of high

school, particularly the last year, and having a variety of options allows students to actually have choices.

Visiting colleges and universities is very helpful in making an informed decision. Experiencing for yourself everything from classes to staying in the dorms overnight and eating the food can help a student with their decision. College and university is more than a path to a career – it often is a home for 2-4 years and students have to feel comfortable with the whole package, as one aspect may be detrimental to the rest.

Finally, once a decision has been made and the student is attending a post secondary institution, it is important to stick with it, at least to the end of the semester or term. A college or university transcript may transfer to another program down the road – even if the programs are unrelated, but only if the courses have been completed.

Studies show that the average adult switches careers 3 to 7 times – change is not a bad thing, and is often a learning opportunity. How many adults, when they honestly look back at their decisions, planned that they would be where they are today back in high school? So next time you see a grade twelve student maybe a good conversation starter would be... “What options are you considering for next year?” ◀

Paraphrase of PSALM 104:5-9

HE SET THE PROTON IN ITS PLACE,
THE ELECTRONS IN THEIR ORBITS.
YOU CREATED THE VALENCE SHELL
THE *perfect way* THEY BOND.
BUT **YOU GAVE** THE RULES TO OBEY
YOU ARE *all powerful*
YOU ORGANIZED THE CHARGES
THE WAY THEY SEEK TO GAIN OCTETS
YOU SET THE LAWS THEY WILL NEVER BREAK
Always, **YOU ARE IN CONTROL.**

KATIE MONSTER GR.11 CHEMISTRY

Welcome to our NEW Grade 10's!



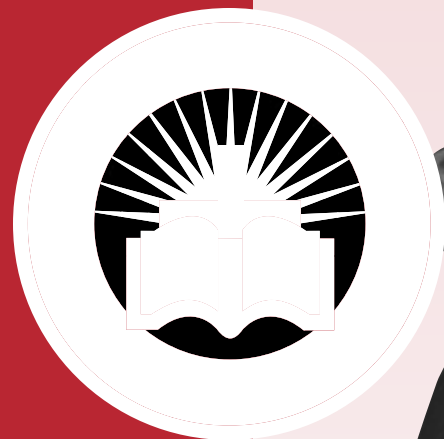
Yoon Jeong Lee

Yoon is 15 years old, and comes to SDCH to join the grade 10 class. After finishing her grade 9 schooling in Korea, her family wanted her to continue her high school studies in a highly rated Canadian Christian school. Based on research and recommendations, her mother discovered that SDCH fit this description, and enrolled Yoon in grade 10 once a guardian family – Philip and Sandra Dekker – was found. She has felt welcomed at SDCH, and is enjoying her stay and studies, though she is receiving tutoring in English for language-intensive courses. Welcome, Yoon!

Michael Leytham

Michael came to SDCH in September from Cardinal Newman High School, but as a grade 10 student, it did not take long for Michael to become re-acquainted with former classmates at John Knox Christian School in Fruitland. He has appreciated the ways in which his teachers have helped him succeed and feel supported in his learning. Welcome, Michael!

Yoon and Michael, we pray that you will feel at home at SDCH, and that you will grow in your knowledge, skills, and faith. God bless!



WHERE FAITH AND LEARNING MEET



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