



*developing minds
building character
nurturing faith*



A GLANCE AHEAD!

DECEMBER 2021

The small things!
So many conversations I've had in the last week start with, "have you started your Christmas shopping?" back-and-forth the conversation goes about how each other's shopping is going.

Gifts is one of my "love languages" so this is my kind of conversation, and I like thinking of gifts, choosing gifts, I like buying gifts, I like giving gifts, and yes I like receiving gifts too😊

Maybe it's my age, or maybe it's that I have less money now - I don't know what it is, but recently I've been appreciating small things like they're gifts. Small things that might not be able to be wrapped up like a gift, but most certainly make me smile, make my heart happy and made make someone feel loved. Things like my friend collecting and donating new towels for a senior home, a kind word said in private, a sweet text or note, helpful acts and thoughtful gestures, and a random hug are just a few and I've experienced in the last month that really feel like a gift!

When it comes to gifts, we all have different budgets, ideas, and even convictions. When comparing what Christmas might look like for you, I'm sure there is a vast difference between what is "normal" even amongst our CCA families. Traditions, finances, time, health, family dynamics and beliefs all play a part in what our Christmas experience will be. One of my favourite experiences at CCA is the Kids Shopping Day. Watching the kids look through every item wondering if it's the right one for mom or dad or their brother or sister. When they spot something they know will be a treasure, they are so excited to wrap it up for that special person. They are 100% certain that you are going to LOVE it and they are so excited to have you open it. I wish I could have seen Mrs. Hamelin's expression when she opened the gold clown pin my son chose for her almost 10 years ago. He "knew" she would love it! Indeed, she did, and still has this little treasure.

Children's unrestrained love is so refreshing and truly is a gift. OK, so they might be a little greedy when it comes to halloween candy or sharing a toy at times, but truly they love to give, and especially a gift. It sort of reminds me that we are all created in Gods image, and our giving nature to show love, is how God displayed His love to us. He didn't send us a golden clown, or a tacky tie, he wrapped His son Jesus in flesh, and sent Him to earth as a baby. Jesus, God's gift to us, is indeed greatest of all gifts. Jesus is the main reason for Christmas season. We celebrate his birth, he's coming, and His love by giving gifts to each other as a reminder that he is generous and loving.

Whatever circumstance you find yourself in this season, I want to remind you as I have reminded myself, that the small things are not that small, and as you go about this Christmas season with all the big ideas, distractions and busyness watch for the small things and be blessed by them.

Have a Merry Christmas, Sylvia Bourne

Auction

The auction is set to go live in just about 2 weeks!! It is very exciting to see the items piling up! If you have not yet sent in your families' donations, please do so by November 30th - and don't forget to include your Auction Donation Form.

If you have a particularly large item that can't be taken to the school easily, **contact the Auction Team directly at auction@calvaryca.com** for instructions.

Assemblies

Assemblies are a highlight of our week, watching kids battle their nerves to show a talent or gift, tell a joke, skip, dance or perform a skit. It's always a good variety and provides a chance to highlight individual skills and share something they've passionate about.

Wednesday, December 8th at 2:00 p.m. - Regular Assembly.

Thursday, December 16th at 2:00 p.m. - Christmas Assembly

Book Fair

A huge thanks to all families who participated in our book fair.

Thank you to those who purchased books for your student's classrooms. New books to choose from at reading time are always appreciated! Thank you to Mrs. Connor for organizing the book fair. We spent a record breaking \$4000 earning us 60% back in Scholastic Rewards! Thank you!

CCA Parent Facebook group

If you are interested in joining the CCA Facebook parent page it is called CCA Parent 2 Parent Connection and is a good place to track down lost uniforms, arrange sports event rides and so on.



Christmas Cards - Due by December 10th

This season Mrs. Mayhew will be leading CCA in blessing senior citizens who may be feeling lonely this season by making homemade Christmas cards, or pictures - as many as we can and deliver them to local homes for residents. Please consider spending time as a family to make some thoughtful Christmas cards with a message or picture for a senior citizen. Families are encouraged to sign the cards but not to address them. Staff at the home will give the cards where they are most needed. All art abilities are welcomed and encouraged! Cards can be given to Mrs. Mayhew who will collect and distribute them in time for Christmas.

Christmas Carol Songs

During the last two weeks of school, staff and students will begin each day singing traditional Christmas Carols during the final two weeks of school before the Christmas break to help foster the Christmas spirit and start the day in a joyous way.



Christmas Holidays

Our last day of school before Christmas holidays is Thursday, December 16th. Classes will resume on Monday, January 3rd, 2022.

Deer Hunter

The tradition of the "Deer Hunter" game during deer hunting season continued this year. In the junior division, a winner hasn't been crowned yet but Jaxen West and Chandler Powell are battling it out. In the senior division, two classmates battled it out on the field in a one-on-one chase that resulted in Ebony Adegbile placing first and Caleb Bourne second - good job to all of you! Congratulations to William Bourne in grade 6 for finishing third. Thank you Mrs. Reid for organizing the game.



Events

Dress Down/Donation Christmas Themed Days - Friday, December 3rd and 10th

You can enjoy a CCA Christmas Spirit Dress-Down day for a \$2 donation or a non-perishable food item for the food bank (Canned fruit, Canned vegetables, Baked beans, Cereal, Cans of soup, Condiments (Ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise), Toilet Paper, Kleenex, Muffin/cookie mix, Stuffing mix, Juice, Juice boxes, Honey, Jam, Peanut Butter, Sugar, Instant coffee, Coffee whitener, Chocolate)

Arise Ballet - Christmas Presentation - Friday, December 3rd at 1:00 p.m.

We are looking forward to welcoming Arise Dance Studio to present 2 back to back performances of their Christmas special, Handel's Messiah. Grade K-4 will watch from 12:30-1:15 p.m. and grade 5-12's will watch from 2:15-3:00 p.m.

A Christmas Blessing - Donations needed

Each year CCA has the opportunity to bless the Interval House with a generous donation of new pajamas, toys and gift cards. This year the need is great, please consider donating some of these items. A financial donation is also appreciated, and tax receipts can be provided (by the Interval House)

Candy Cane Hunt and Hot Chocolate 2:00 p.m. - Wednesday, December 15th

We will continue our tradition of an outdoor candy can hunt and hot chocolate on the last day of school before the winter break. Students will spend the afternoon outdoors. Dress warm 😊

Grade 8 vs Staff Volleyball Game - Thursday December 16th

Staff are taking on the graduating grade 8 class of 2022 in a friendly game of volleyball on Thursday December 16th beginning at 9:30 a.m.



Christmas Play - Virtual

This year's Christmas play will be sent via email for you to enjoy together as a family. It is about how Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises throughout time, from Adam and Eve all the way through to the angel's message to the shepherds.



Field Trip

JK-2's enjoyed riding the bus to Arden, for a fun day at Circle Square Ranch. The day included a wagon ride, bucket train ride, brushing a pony, a pony ride, and a barn tour where they got to pet some bunnies - and hot chocolate and smores at the campfire.

French Fun

The last Friday of each month is French Fun! Mme. MacFarlane spends the day outdoors with each class. It's a great opportunity to enjoy the beautiful property CCA has.

Inclement Weather Info

Bus cancellations and school closure will be circulated by email generally by 7:00 a.m. There will also be a message on the school phone detailing the decision. CCA follows the UCDSB cancellations, which means that if the UCDSB cancels local bus services, our school is closed.

The Student Transportation of Eastern Ontario website will post bus delays or cancellations.
www.steo.ca

Hot Lunch Order

January's order form has been emailed out and is available online. Please get your order in before December 10th. <https://calvaryca.com/food-program/>

Non-Uniform Days Dress Down Days

Christmas Dress down day on Dec 3 and 10 if you bring \$2.00 or a non-perishable food donation (cereals, pasta, peanut butter) for the food bank.

Operation Christmas Child

A big thank-you to Sharon Connor and each of you that that made our 2021 Operation Christmas Child campaign another success! Much effort, energy, time and resources are put into this campaign. Each of us are blessed as we reach out to bless less fortunate children around the world. **The total number of shoeboxes packed and collected at CCA was 400!**

Right Now Media - Free Membership to online bible studies, videos, lessons, and more

On November 24th each of you were sent an invitation from Mr. Bourne to open a FREE Right Now Media account. Right Now Media is a Christian resource for men, women, and children of all ages. CCA has paid for a group membership for all CCA and CCHS families, please sign up and take a

look at the timely and relevant programs and resources offered there. We'd love to hear what you are watching so send us a note with some of your favorites.

Skating Rink

This year we intend to have a skating rink again so classes will have the opportunity to use the rink for Phys. Ed class or special events as determined by homeroom teachers. Parents are encouraged to have a pair of skates and helmet for children and be able to send to school on skate days.

Spirit Days

Thank you to everyone who dressed up for November's Spirit Days, it was fun to see such creative and colorful costumes! Below are some pictures from the 6 spirit days.



Special Shopping Event for kids - Gently used items needed

This year the Grade 8's are bringing back one of the kids favorite events - kids shopping day! On December 15th, the gym will be set up as a shopping center for kids. Each grade beginning with JK will have the opportunity to shop for their loved ones and bring home a wrapped specially chosen gift - for you!

For this event we need your no-longer-wanted- but-still-in-good-shape gift items. These items will be organized by the Grade 8 class, and little shoppers will have the opportunity to buy gifts with the help from Grade 8's. The gifts will be wrapped and labelled and sent home that day. Please send cash to shop with, whatever amount of money they bring will be sufficient for their shopping.

In preparation for the shopping day your little shopper will need a list of people to shop for, it is helpful if you can include ages so we can help steer them in their selection. (see sample list below).

Please send in your gently used items beginning December 1st. You can also send in tape, ribbons, gift bags, bows, and gift wrap and lots of shopping bags (plastic and reusable).

Mom - knitting, reading

Dad - coffee, tools

Brother Scot 12 - cars, games

Sports

Football

Grade 3 and 4 took full advantage of the beautiful November weather we had and learned some football skills with Mrs. Vala at lunch time - thank you Mrs. Vala for leading.

CCHS Volleyball

CCA and CCHS are always a good competitor for placing in the top spots in local tournaments. We are happy that sports have resumed in a limited capacity this year and are proud of our

CCHS Senior Boys who placed first in the Eastern Ontario Christian Schools tournament in Trenton qualifying them for the Ontario championships in Wainfleet (Near Niagara Falls). We are super proud of our team for winning gold at the OCSSAA Ontario Christians Secondary Schools Athletics Association - Congratulations!

The CCHS Sr. Girls participated in a one day tournament in Ottawa to start their season. The girls played super well, had good team spirit, and came home with the championship. Well done girls!

Grade 7/8 Volleyball - December 8th

The Grade 7/8's will participate in a tournament on December 8th. Girls will be held at Notre Dame in Carleton Place and the boys at St John's in Perth. The teams have been practicing hard and hope to place. More information will be sent home with the athletes.

Student of the Week

Beginning in January homeroom teachers will be submitting a name for Student of the Week. The student of the week is a student who engages in the classroom, sets a positive example to their peers and is a leader by their example. Nominees are announced on the announcements and presented with a certificate of achievement. You can look for monthly nominees in the newsletters!

Traffic Study and Speed Safety Zone on Hwy 15

Mr. Bourne has received feedback from MTO as a follow-up to our request to consider changing the speed limited in front on hwy 15 in front of the Academy. MTO completed a road safety analysis and found the Hwy meets all current safety measures, so no changes are necessary.

We were not satisfied with this response, nor are we in support of the decision, so we brought the concern to the Public Works Committee meeting of Lanark County Council on November 24th to ask for support to lobby MTO to reconsider their decision. Lanark Council has agreed to write a letter of support on behalf of the county to MTO. Please pray that the motion passes and the speed limit is lowered in front of the Academy.

Winter Wear

Now that the winter is here, please be sure to send appropriate winter wear for your child. Hat, gloves, winter coat, boots and snow pants when there is snow, are necessary for all grades. If students are not dressed warm enough they will sit outside of the office during recess.

*grade 7/8 are not required to wear snow pants, but if they choose to not wear them, they cannot play in the snow.

Vaccine Policy for Volunteers

In keeping with the Ministry of Educations mandatory Interim Vaccine Policy for all private schools, all volunteers working during school hours must be a) willing to produce a rapid antigen

test (supplied by CCA) or b) proof of vaccine. Volunteers that are NOT working during school hours are NOT subject to the Vaccine Policy.

Volunteer Opportunities

As you know, each family is responsible for 25 hours of volunteer service to the Academy. We know that because of Covid restrictions and the resulting changes to programming, it can be more of a challenge to get your volunteer hours. Each month we will try to provide volunteer opportunities and hope that each one will find something that suits their interests and abilities. If you have strengths or interests and would like to offer assistance in some area please email the office.

Volunteer Opportunities this month include;

Cleaning - We are also looking to form a list of volunteers for a deep clean team that can self-schedule to come in over the break or periodically in the new year (weekend or evenings) to deep clean areas of the school that need it. Supplies will be provided.

Classroom Help - Homeroom teachers will send out requests as needed. If you have a particular interest or skill that may be helpful or useful in the classroom, feel free to reach out and offer your time. Some examples are art or craft prep or lesson, video presentations or lessons.

Planters - We would love for someone to fill the 2 planters at the main entrance and one at the kindergarten entrance with something wintery. There is a small budget for this. Please let the office know if you are interested in this job.

Making Playdoh - The younger grades are in need of batches of playdoh each month. A recipe will be provided. If you think you can help with making playdoh once a month please let the office know.

Kids Shopping Day - We are looking for 3-4 volunteers to help with the Kids Shopping Day. Set up, clean up, helping shoppers, wrapping gifts. Contact jenns@calvaryca.com

Community

Snow Pass Program

The Canadian Ski Counsel offers a "Snow Pass" for grade 4-5 students. For \$29.95, kids can ski at hills across the country up to 3 times each year with no additional lift fees. This program is not run through the school so please check out their website for more information.

<https://www.skicanada.org/grade-4-5-snowpass/>

A warm Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each of you!

Tom Bourne, Principal

