



Secondary School News

Coventry Christian Schools

Vol. 13, Issue 17

January 25, 2010

Calendar of Events

January

1/22--2nd Quarter Ends

1/24--Ski Club Trip

1/31--Ski Club Trip

February

2/2--MS Spelling Bee, 7 p.m.

2/5--Progress Reports Issued; Ski Club Trip

2/12--Re-enrollment Deadline; Prospective Family Open House

2/14--Ski Club Trip

2/15--President's Day--School Closed

2/21--Board Meeting, 1:30 p.m., PV

2/25--Creative Minds Fair, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

March

3/2--Grandparents Gathering, CV, 9 a.m.

3/8-19--Stanford Achievement Tests

3/8--PTO meeting, 6:30 p.m., PV

3/20--Coventry Challenge 5K

3/21--Board of Trustees meeting, 1:30 p.m., PV

3/24--Market Day Pick-Up at PV

3/26--Third Marking Period Ends

SEE www.coventrychristian.com for sports schedules! Go Eagles!

Bible in History Class?

"For by him [Jesus] all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."
--Colossians 1:16-17

Several years ago, I was blessed to step in for Mrs. Thomas and teach her 6th grade World Cultures class. I came in on the chapter about the Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian empires. Much of the material in the textbook was drawn from the Bible itself, but the Bible is not given credit, which is not unusual with secular publishers and historians. I thought this intellectually dishonest so I took the 6th graders on a journey through not only their textbooks but also the historical books of the Bible that document the rise and fall of these empires and their treatment of the peoples they conquered. The Bible even provides the exact text of a decree by a Persian king--the textbook doesn't provide any authentic ancient documents. Most interesting is the Biblical explanation of why these empires were successful and why they fell from power. The Bible outlines all of this for us, and has been proven historically accurate time and time again with corroborating evidence still being found today.

Still, when the test I administered included many questions that required knowledge of the Biblical account, I came under heavy fire from students, and maybe some parents (though I didn't here from any) for teaching Bible in history class. Though I had a passionate response to the questioning of my methodology, I was not angry for being questioned. I was extremely concerned about this glimpse into a fragmented worldview held by my students and the lack of respect for the Bible as a legitimate, relevant source on history and God's role in it. I explored the student concerns more thoroughly to discover what was at the root of their concerns. When I asked them whether it would be okay for Mr. Shipman to use a history book in Bible class, they said yes. But to using a Bible in history class, they said no. Yes to an encyclopedia, but no to Bible. The final conclusion (students', not mine) was that the Bible is relevant to Bible class and church services.

Wow.

I did my best to share with those students the importance of recognizing the Bible's relevance to all facets of life and all school disciplines. The truths revealed in the Bible are the integrating core of our curriculum at CCS. This is vitally important because a person who sees the Bible as isolated from the rest of life and as less reliable than a textbook will never let those Biblical truths influence his thinking and behavior except when in religious settings. The scriptures teach that Christ is

before all things and that in Him all things hold together. By treating the Bible as a separate, parallel subject and Christ as relevant to only church and Bible class, knowledge is not coherent, and students become frustrated, confused, or even worse, fragmented in their knowledge and schizophrenic in their living. When the Bible speaks directly to the curriculum in any subject at CCS, it will be heard, and students will be accountable for its instruction. That is the nature of the Christian school curriculum, and to do any less would be to forfeit our integrity seriously by our faculty and administration.

Work Day in Events Center, Saturday, January 23--Come Help!

A work day has been planned, starting at 8 a.m., Saturday, January 23, to complete some urgent work in the new Events Center. We need help with putting down tile floors in the bathrooms, spackling drywall to prime for painting, and painting drywall and plywood. Juniors, seniors, and parents and friends of CCS are encouraged to join us and lend a helping hand.

Senior Updates

A senior meeting was held on Friday, January 8, to discuss several key senior events/tasks that are swiftly approaching or already upon us. Please be aware that senior portraits will take place in February. We have secured a photographer who will provide a disc of several poses for you, with all copyrights, for only \$15. Look for forms to come home over the next two weeks. Pictures will be taken at the school, so you do not need to schedule your own appointments. The senior class trip to Mexico was moved up one week to April 17-24.

MS Spelling Bee, February 2

Go ahead and mark your calendars for Tuesday evening, February 2, 7 p.m. This will be the time of our annual middle school spelling bee. Next week we will announce the top spellers from each grade level (6-8). If your child makes the cut, he or she will be in the middle school bee. Plan on attending now!

Coventry Challenge 5K/1 Mile Fun Run/Walk--Some BIG Changes This Year

Goodbye Bowl-a-thon, hello Coventry Challenge 5K! That's right! The bowl-a-thon and jog-a-thon have been replaced by our 6th annual Coventry Challenge 5K. The date of the 5K/1 Mile is Saturday, March 20, 9 a.m. It will once again be held at the Pleasantview campus. Stay tuned for more details about how all of our families will be participating. This year's event has been generously sponsored by the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation, and we are committed to turning this into a great CCS community event. Last year we had over 200 participants, and this year we are looking for at least 450! Mark your calendars, start training, and stay tuned!

Progress Reports Coming

Exam week has ended and life will now return back to normal. Look forward to progress reports, which will be coming home on Friday, February 5.

Ski Club Trips

The ski club is off to a good start, although we have been rained out once. That trip will be rescheduled. Stay tuned for that. Please note that the next trip is Sunday evening, January 24. We will meet at the school at 3 p.m. and return to the school at 10:45 p.m.

Midterm Madness Planned!

The SGA has planned an evening of fun to celebrate passing the halfway point of our school year and the end of midterm exams. The event will be held on Friday evening, January 29, from 7 to 10:30 p.m. at the Pleasantview campus. All secondary students are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Spirit Week is Upon Us

The SGA has planned a spirit week for this week, January 25-29. This means that as a part of the festivities, students are encouraged to dress according to themes. Monday is clash day. Tuesday is sports day (your pants must meet dress code, but team shirts and jerseys are acceptable). Wednesday is twin day. Thursday is hippie day. Friday is Eagles (CCS) pride day. If you have any questions, see your SGA rep or Mr. Dove.

Players and Coaches Needed for Spring Sports Teams--Please Read

We are very close to fielding multiple teams for the spring season, but we are running out of time. We are still short a few players for high school girls' soccer, middle school girls' soccer, and high school baseball. We will not be fielding a softball team this spring. We are also in need of one more soccer coach and the high school baseball coach. We will make final decisions regarding each sport and each schedule on Monday, January 25. If you are considering playing for a team or would be interested in coaching, you must let Tina McIntyre know by Monday, January 25. You can email her at tinamicintyre@educatingforlife.com or sign up on the bulletin board by the end of the day on Monday. We are so close to a great spring season, **but we need everyone to participate!**

Turn in Those Campbell's Soup Labels and General Mills Box Tops

The Grandparents' Club is seeing low numbers in the secondary program. Students and parents, please remember that when you take just a few seconds to cut out those box tops and those soup labels, you earn money for the Grandparents' Club to spend on educational supplies and improvements for your students. Students, remember that we are having a homeroom competition. The winning homeroom gets a half day in the spring and a picnic with your favorite foods included during that school day. Start bringing 'em in!

Upcoming Academic Assessments/Projects:

Middle School

Day	5th	6th	7th	8th
Monday	Spanish test			
Tuesday			Open Book Science test	
Wednesday	Reading test			
Thursday	Science test (DNA)	Math test		
Friday		Life Science test		Physical Science test
Monday, February 1				

High School

Day	9th	10th	11th	12th
Monday	Read Psychology packet	Read Psychology packet	Read Psychology packet	Read Psychology packet
Tuesday				
Wednesday				
Thursday				

Day	9th	10th	11th	12th
Friday				
Monday, February 1				