



The Eagle Express

Coventry Christian Schools

Vol. 15, Issue 16

January 9, 2012

Calendar of Events

January

- 1/10 Dads' Prayer Meeting, 8 a.m.
- 1/13 Open House for Prospective Families, 9 to 11 a.m.
- 1/15 Board Meeting, 1:30 p.m.
- 1/16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day-No Classes, EC available; Teacher In-Service
- 1/17 Moms' Prayer Meeting, 8 a.m.
- 1/23-1/27 High School Midterm Exams
- 1/25 Market Day Pickup
- 1/27 2nd Marking Period ends
Preschool progress reports issued

February

- 2/1-3 Kindergarten Interviews
- 2/6 PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 2/7 MS Spelling Bee; Grandparent Gathering
- 2/10 Re-Enrollment Deadline; Report Cards Issued
- 2/14 Dads' Prayer Meeting, 8 a.m.
- 2/19 Board Meeting
- 2/20 President's Day, No School
- 2/21 Moms' Prayer Meeting, 8 a.m.
- 2/21 Boosters' Event, O'Grady's Restaurant, Phoenixville
- 2/22 Market Day
- 2/24 Elementary Creative Minds Fair, 6:30 p.m.

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

Setting Our Hearts for 2012

“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”

Colossians 3:2

Perhaps one of the reasons we all love Christmas and New Year's so much is because for the month of December we all have our hearts and minds set on better things than the rest of the year delivers. We all enjoy the anticipation of sharing with our loved ones and of receiving gifts from them as well. Christmas and New Year's celebrations are all about love and hope and peace. Eager anticipation of the season begins in November and carries us through two months filled with more joy and excitement than the rest of the year. People are kinder, more compassionate, more generous. Christ is honored. Commitments are made to better living, a higher moral standard for ourselves as we anticipate a new year better than the last. We see the world and our lives through different eyes during the Holiday Season.

Living in hope-filled joy and expectation changes us. I see it every year at this time. While I can appreciate it, I've always thought it was sad that most people don't live with hope-filled joy and expectation all year long. This time of year, the most ordinary things stir joy and peace--the ringing of bells, the aroma of holiday recipes, the sound of the cousins romping around the house, the chill in the air, the first snow of the year. Ordinary things--but during the holidays they are harbingers of joy and peace. What if such ordinary things held the power to bring hope and change us all year round?

Jesus delivers us from the drudgery and futility of the other 10 months of the year--of our lives for that matter--by giving us an eternal perspective. The sunrise brings me the message of a faithful God who is in control. The trials and struggles of day-to-day living remind me that God is refining me, reshaping me into someone better. A cold front's arrival on a hot, humid summer day reminds me of God's power to bring me times of relief and refreshing. Each student that enters our school brings the joyful anticipation of seeing what unique treasures God put inside him or her. I think to myself, “I can't wait to see what it is that God loves so much about this one.” Every “Mr. Fisher, can you please. . .” is an opportunity to honor my Lord by humbling myself and tending to the needs of others instead. Ordinary events in my day-to-day life with extraordinary power to bring me closer to God and closer to my eternal goal--eternity with Him in the new heaven and new earth he is making for all who set their hearts on things above. Christ's coming could be today, so I can live every day in joyful expectation of my best dreams coming true. Since my life is in Christ, every day of every season of every year is full of rich meaning because every experience, every word, every action prepares me and those around me for an eternity beyond our comprehension.

When the apostle Paul penned the scripture quoted on the front of this newsletter, he was laying a foundation for how to live like Christ. It is my prayer that as we celebrate this season of joy and look forward to 2012, we will set our hearts and minds on things above and find the joy of living each and every day in Him. Yes, finding that Christmas spirit all year long is possible, and unlike the underwear wrapped in that misleading paper or the failed New Year's resolution, the things above will not disappoint us.

Paul Q. Fisher, Director of Advancement

Prospective Family Open House, January 13

Invite family and friends with school age children to join us for our Open House from 9 to 11 a.m. on Friday, January 13. We have a very special program planned to help them learn more about why CCS is school as it should be! If you have any questions, let us know. Attendees should RSVP to Melissa Gelwicks at melissagelwicks@educatingforlife.com or should call the front office. A flier is attached to this email so that you may forward it to friends and family.

View and Share New CCS Admissions Video

The new admissions video is available to view on the front page of the CCS website, www.coventrychristian.com. With the upcoming open house on January 13 and the new enrollment season upon us, you are encouraged to share our website, specifically mentioning the video on the front page. Your referrals strengthen our community and are a vital part of making CCS all that we can be.

Kindergarten Information Night

Kindergarten information night is scheduled for Friday, January 13, at 6:30 p.m. The evening is a great way for preschool parents to learn why the Coventry Christian elementary school program is school the way it should be. Encourage other preschool parents you may know to attend this important evening. Kindergarten spaces are limited, so it is important that all families interested in kindergarten plan to attend and to sign up for kindergarten interviews.

Snow Closing and Delay Information Attached

Please note the attached letter below regarding snow closings and delays. It's that time of year, and we do not want anyone surprised or clueless when the first major snowstorm hits us.

Check Out Box Top Update Below

The Grandparents' Gathering is doing an outstanding job at motivating our CCS family to do those little things that make a big difference. See the update at the end of this newsletter to see what little things you can do to help them as they help do big things for our Coventry Kids.

Mark Your Calendars--CCS Sports Day at O'Grady's

Join us on Tuesday, February 21, for CCS Boosters' Night at O'Grady's Restaurant in Phoenixville. This will be an evening of celebrating CCS and our sports teams. CCS Sports Day will be the biggest fundraiser the Boosters will conduct this year. Great gift baskets will be raffled, there will be face painting for the young and young at heart, and Talon, the CCS eagle, will be there in person--or bird. O'Grady's is giving back 10% of the entire day's proceeds to CCS athletes! Thank you, O'Grady's!

Boosters has been actively supporting CCS athletes for two years, providing basketballs, soccer balls, first aid kits, senior recognition gifts, trophies, and new uniforms. They are also planning a new concession facility for the Events Center. You can help Boosters by planning to enjoy a meal with your family and the CCS family at O'Grady's on February 21. You can contribute to the fundraising baskets by contacting Traci Hoffman. Teachers and house leaders can rally the other students. Athletes can meet and greet customers at O'Grady's on CCS Sports Day. Regular customers enjoy meeting CCS athletes at this very special event.

If you have any school spirit at all, plan to be at O'Grady's. What a wonderful way to celebrate each other and to express our love for our student athletes and their dedicated coaches.

Project Purpose Needs Tutors

Project Purpose, CCS's outreach program for underserved youth in Pottstown, needs tutors on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons, 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. We have tutoring and mentoring needs for children ages 7 to 18. Whatever your talents, willingness, or availability, we have a place for you! Email assistant director, Rachel Kratz, at rachelkratz@educatingforlife.com.

Shop at GIANT and support CCS PTO--Here's How!!

Did you know that shopping at GIANT can earn money for CCS every time you swipe your Bonus Card at the cash register? Currently we have 69 Bonus Cards registered, and as of the end of December our YTD total that we have earned is \$456.92. So as you can see, this program has quite a potential to earn us a large amount of money. The link to the home page for the program is <http://www.giantfood.com/aplus>. Simply visit the website to learn more and to sign up.

Elementary Musical Opportunity for All Elementary Students

Mr. Minor is very excited to announce that our elementary musical for the spring, *The Amazing Grace Race*, will begin preparations soon. All of the details aren't worked out completely yet, but since he is already receiving questions from some parents here are the answers to those questions.

There will be three levels of participation in this show:

Group A - By Audition Only (Solos and Acting Roles which will rehearse after school. Stay tuned for the dates and times of the parent meeting and the audition.)

Group B - The entire "Children's Chorus" (Smaller group numbers rehearsing Tues and Thurs mornings)

Group C - Every elementary student from grades K-5 (The BIG songs. These will be rehearsed during general music classes.)

The performance dates are April 19-21.

All students are free to audition for a featured role in the musical even if they are not currently enrolled in the Children's Chorus. However, if they are cast in a role, they will be required to pay the activity fee, thus enrolling them in the Children's Chorus as well. Any students not currently enrolled in the Children's Chorus may also choose to join now whether they want a role or not. Doing so will automatically include them in Group B. New students will need to pay the Activity fee of \$50, which pays for all materials. [Contact Mr. Minor](#) directly for enrollment information at scottminor@educatingforlife.com

Stay tuned for more dates and details. We are waiting for all the material to arrive before we schedule the informational parent meeting. The books and CDs are currently back-ordered with the publisher, but they should not be delayed too much longer.

Russian Choral Group to Perform in Secondary Chapel, Friday, February 3

This fine musical ensemble grew out of Konstantin Zhigulin's efforts to share his spiritual music with churches of Christ in Russia. Throughout 1995-96, Konstantin and Leena Zhigulin developed a small group of singers into a choir to perform new hymns for the body of Christ in Russia. Their first recording of hymns was made, and this recording was shared with churches throughout the former Soviet Union. As Konstantin composed more music, the group began to perform for various congregations and evangelistic outreach efforts in Barnaul, Rubtsovsk, Tomsk and Irkutsk. They sang at the annual Siberian Winter Retreat, and were later invited to sing at the Western Russia Seminars of the churches of Christ in Moscow. Konstantin has also participated in and shared his music at the annual song-leaders workshop in Donetsk, Ukraine.

When the Zhigulins moved from Siberia to St. Petersburg a new ensemble was created, and they re-recorded his now extensive collection of hymns and spiritual songs. As a result of this work, Konstantin's hymns are being sung in churches throughout Russia, the Ukraine and the former Soviet Union. The music was so beautiful and spiritually uplifting that two American brothers – Mark Shipp of Austin Graduate School of Theology and Jeff Matteson, former missionary to Siberia – began translating several of Konstantin's hymns into English to share them with American churches. Through the efforts of Joel Petty (Institute of Theology and Christian Ministry) the ensemble - Konstantin, Leena, Luka, Sasha and Jeff, and others – have been able to travel extensively in the United States introducing Konstantin's music to American churches. During their time in the states they have made 3 recordings of their hymns in English and have had the honor of performing for various congregations and seminars at Pepperdine University, Lipscomb University, Abilene Christian University, Calvin College, and others. Their latest contribution has been working with Professor Mark Shipp of Austin Graduate School of Theology. They have collaborated with Dr. Shipp in producing his new Psalter, "Timeless: Ancient Psalms for the Church Today."

Secondary Test/Project Schedule

Below you will find *projected* quizzes, test, and assignments for Secondary Students (grades 6-12). We often change due dates to adjust to student needs. Please check or contact your teacher for more details.

Day	Assessments/Projects Due
Monday	6th Grade Science Test
Tuesday	Omnibus II Summa Due Omnibus II Ecclesiastical History of the English People quiz (Book 3, Ch. 15-30)
Wednesday	Omnibus II The Dragon and the Raven exam
Thursday	12th Sociology Chapter 5 Test Middle School Creative Writing-Research Due
Friday	8th Grade Grammar Quiz on 6.5-6.8 8th Grade Class Permission Slip & Deposit Due High School Creative Writing - Research Due 9th grade Biology Test A & P Test British Literature - Sonnet Project Due World Literature - Unit III Project Due
Monday, 1/16	No Classes-Teacher In-Service



Coventry Christian Schools

Ut vitam habeant

Educating for life

January, 2012

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As winter approaches, I would like to share the following information with you regarding our school's closings, late openings, and early dismissals.

Coventry Christian Schools draws students from fourteen different school districts. Most of these provide transportation to and from school, some do not. Since CCS has no control over the transportation schedules of these various districts during inclement weather, we are **usually** open (occasionally delay) or have cancelled classes but offer Extended Care. We rarely close early even if the public schools have made the decision to have early dismissals.

What this means to you as parents/guardians is that you must do one of the following:

- Check the CCS website, www.coventrychristian.com
- Watch Channel 69, CBS 3 Eyewitness News, or CW Philly 57 to learn whether CCS is open or closed.
- Check Channel 69's website, www.wfmz.com, or KYW's website, www.kywschools.com
- Listen to the radio KYW 1060 in order to learn whether CCS is open or closed.

You may also need the following information if your child depends on public school transportation:

BROADCAST SCHOOL NUMBERS ANNOUNCED OVER KYW NEWS RADIO 1060 AM

Coventry Christian Schools	3136	Phoenixville	856
Boyertown	893	Pottsgrove	290
Daniel Boone	894	Souderton	309
Methacton	316	Spring-Ford	308
Owen J. Roberts	857	Upper Perkiomen	282
Perkiomen Valley	317		

If you have checked the above resources and are in need of further clarification regarding CCS openings or dismissals, please call the school at 610-326-3366 or myself at 484-769-6839. **PERKIOMEN VALLEY SD FAMILIES – If Pottsgrove is closed or delayed, the bussing provided to us will follow suit.**

If the weather changes during the day, check our website for our current status or feel free to call the school for up-to-the-minute information. As always, the decision to send your child to school or pick them up early is a parental one. Should your child's residential public school district close early, we will follow the procedures indicated on the online form you filled out before school started.

The Transportation Form is on ParentsWeb. Please go to ParentsWeb and update this form if necessary. Also, be sure your student knows these instructions and what to do. Please email or call Melissa Gelwicks (melissagelwicks@educatingforlife.com, 610-326-3366) with any questions regarding the web form.

Sincerely,
Mark E. Niehls, Superintendent

Administration

Mark E. Niehls, Superintendent
Paul Q. Fisher, Director of Advancement
Peter M. Shipman, Secondary Principal
Jill L. Barton, Elementary Principal
Mary C. Niehls, Preschool Director

Pleasantview Campus

699 North Pleasantview Road
Pottstown, PA 19464-2615
610-326-3366 (Phone)
610-326-0085 (Fax)



a fresh start on earning

report card

thanks for supporting:

COVENTRY
CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS



your school's
2011-2012 goal: **\$1500**

[YOUR SCHOOL'S EARNINGS →](#)

help your school reach
its goal this year:

[SEE PARTICIPATING BRANDS →](#)

[SHOP ONLINE & EARN →](#)

[SEE BONUS OFFERS →](#)



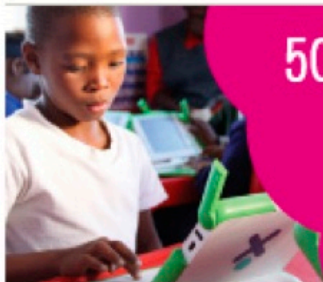
250,000
BONUS BOX TOPS,
INSTANT-WIN PRIZES, AND MORE!

BUILDING with **BOX TOPS!**

Box Tops' favorite interactive town is back! Stop by each day for a fun chance to build up your earnings.*

[PLAY NOW →](#)

See who won **\$25,000** from Building with Box Tops last fall! →



50 schools will each win **1,000** Bonus Box Tops!



Plus, for every 1,000 entries, Betty Crocker® Fruit Flavored Snacks will donate a laptop to a child in Africa.**

[ENTER DAILY, MAKE A DIFFERENCE →](#)

start saving!



Exclusive coupons to help you save on Box Tops brands and stay on budget.

[PRINT COUPONS →](#)

THIS WEEK'S FEATURED NEW BRAND



