



Secondary School News

Coventry Christian Schools

Vol. 13, Issue 6

October 19, 2009

Calendar of Events

October

10/18 Board Meeting, 1:30 p.m., PV

10/19 Spiritual Emphasis Day at Camp Manatawny; 5th Grade to Paradise Farms

10/21 Market Day Pick-Up, 6:30 p.m., PV

10/27-10/30 Middle School Trips

November

11/3 Grandparents' Gathering, Coventry, 9 a.m.

11/4 Picture Day

11/6 First Quarter Ends

11/13 Open House 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.--Invite families you would like to see at CCS!

11/15 Board of Trustees Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Pleasantview

11/18 Market Day Pick-up

11/20 Progress Reports Issued

11/25 No Classes

11/26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday--No School

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

A Firm Place To Stand

"He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand." --Psalm 40:2

A few days ago I was speaking with the father of a young man who went off to college and made some poor choices during his freshman year. The young man is now facing felony charges, and all of the doors that were open to a bright future and slamming one at a time. While I spoke of to his father of hope, reconciliation, and a new perspective, I had to admit that much had been lost in the young man's life. The reason is all too familiar to parents of young men and those of us who work with them. Young men are becoming increasingly directionless and unmotivated. The statistics are astounding. A visit to the CDC and U.S. Census websites will give you enough data to demonstrate that our young men are in big trouble. They take their own lives at a rate five times that of young women, they are incarcerated ten times as much, and they are 25% less likely to complete their college degrees once they start. While there are many more indicators, these are enough for the scope of this article.

In speaking with my educational colleagues about this problem, we often come back to some common cultural forces that are feeding this epidemic. For the last thirty years, popular culture and media have consistently and relentlessly mocked men, creating generations of men who do not take responsibility seriously. Watch the commercials during sporting events or watch any sitcom on the television and you'll see that men are oafs. They feed on a steady diet of music that portrays an animalistic masculinity based upon sexual prowess, alcohol consumption and drug use, greed and sensual pleasure and athletic superiority. While there is nothing wrong with the God-given pleasures of life, especially when enjoyed as a consequence of hard work and with self-control, young men are subscribing to the idea that they can have pleasure without responsibility. Even parents are reinforcing this lamentable trend by not only allowing their boys to consume media that weakens their senses but by spoiling them with too much sensual pleasure with no work or responsibility. They have lost the paradoxical truth that less is often so much more. Finally, to prevent our young men from experiencing pain, we bail them out of consequences for their poor choices.

We should not be surprised at the disastrous consequences we are seeing in our young men. We are seeking to partner with you, the parents, in stemming the tide that is sweeping our young men into the miry pit of 21st century masculinity. We want to restore the biblical image of masculinity in our young men, one of faith, discipline, self-control, humility, respect, and honor.

The young man who is facing felony charges does not fit any stereotype we may have about convicts. He graduated with a respectable GPA from a well-respected local high school and was always respectful to his teachers, coaches, and part-time employers. He looks harmless enough. However, his teenage years were built upon a foundation of countless hours video games, social freedom without supervision and accountability, viewing of music and movies unmonitored by parents, romantic relationships and friendships that reinforced this lifestyle of pleasure without responsibility. A very nice boy? Yes. A boy respected by adults? Yes. A boy who kept a clean record in high school? Yes. A boy with a firm place to stand? No.

The psalmist writes about God setting his feet on a rock and giving him a firm place to stand. God accomplishes this by providing his moral law, discipline, and ongoing guidance. The psalmist did not always like God's law, discipline, and guidance, but when God rescued him from the miry pits of life, he was always full of praise for God's wisdom even though he had first spurned it. In our joint efforts to raise up a generation of young men who possess biblical masculinity, we must be united in our commitment to providing for our boys not what they want or what makes them happy now, but rather what will give them a firm place to stand when they are faced with future decisions carrying far greater consequences. And, of course, this begins with us modeling biblical masculinity for them.

Some of Our Families Need Your Help

We are all far too familiar with the stress of figuring out how to pay for field trips and especially the overnight class trips in the midst of a tight family budget. This year, many in our school community are struggling to pay for their children's class trips. This past week we learned that several families would not be able to pay for class trips. While we wish that we could simply award class trip aid, we do not budget for these circumstances. At this point, we we could secure \$850 in donations, we could make class trips possible for these families. If you are capable and moved to help, would you please let me know? (paulfisher@educatingforlife.com)

Ground Breaking Friday, October 30

The ground breaking ceremony for the new Events Center will be held on Friday afternoon, October 30. Plan to leave work early so that you can attend. Stay tuned for more details.

CCS Blood Drive, October 26

The PTO/HSCA is sponsoring a blood drive from 12 noon to 6 p.m. at the Pleasantview campus on Monday, October 26. To register, go to www.pleasegiveblood.org. Search by sponsor code 13975. You can also email colleengawlas@comcast.net or debbiebeck@educatingforlife.com as well.

SGA Laser Tag Outing Planned

Come join SGA for a fun night of unlimited Laser Tag games at Laser Quest in Reading, PA. The event is open to all grades 5-12. **Cost:** Around \$30 per person **When:** Nov 13th, 2009 **Time:** 9:45 PM- 8 AM. SGA needs payments by November 6. Because we need your word, there are no refunds. As a general rule, you may not charge any payment to your account. Arrive at the Pleasantview campus between 9:45 and 10 PM on November 13. Pizza and drinks will be provided for the whole night. All students must ride the bus. Please bring snacks to share. If desired, you may bring sleeping ware, since there will be time to rest. SGA needs 30 or more students to come, so if you are interested, please sign up in the office before October 30th, 2009.

Begin Getting Ready for PTO Clothing/Household Item Drive

You may remember the clothing/household item drive that PTO held last school year. This drive raised hundreds of dollars. Just go through your closets, basement, garage, and attic, and put all of your gently used clothing small toys, and linens in your car. Drive to the Pleasantview campus during the week before Sunday, December 6, and drop your items off. No books, appliances, electronics, or media items such as movies and DVD's will be accepted, so please don't bring those. Our donations are put in a truck and weighed, and we are paid by the pound. This is a great way to get rid of things we don't want or need anymore and to help PTO as they help our kids! Look for more information as the date approaches, but begin cleaning out now!

Very Important Spiritual Emphasis Day Announcement

Spiritual Emphasis Day is scheduled for Monday, October 19. All students will go by bus to Camp Manatawny for a day of classes and activities centered around spiritual and moral themes. This will be a dress down day, and lunch will be provided. Students who live close to camp may be dropped off at camp instead of school but should not report before 8:00 a.m. **If you did not turn in your permission slip and \$10 on Friday, you will not be going on this trip. Plans are in place to accommodate you at the school for the day instead. We are working hard to enforce all deadlines given for field trip paperwork and payment this year. Please understand this is vital to our efforts to be good stewards and to plan events that run smoothly for all participants.**

College Planning Seminar for CCS Families October 20

The first of many opportunities we will be providing to support you as your children approach their college years will be held on Tuesday, October 20, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Pleasantview Campus. The seminar is free and is open to all secondary families.

McPrincipal's Night, Tuesday, October 20

Prior to going to the college planning seminar, stop by McDonald's on High Street in Pottstown. From 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., a portion of proceeds from all orders come right back to CCS. It will be a fun time of fellowship and celebration of CCS.

Middle School Boys' Basketball Meeting/Practice

The middle school boys' basketball team and any boys interested in playing this year will have a meeting and practice in the gym on Thursday, October 22, 3 to 4:30 p.m. All interested boys should come out dressed and ready to play.

Secondary Chorus Concert, December 15

The secondary choral concert is scheduled for Tuesday, December 15. Come out and enjoy music that is certain to get you into the Christmas spirit. Mrs. Baumgarten and the chorus students have been working hard and are eager to perform before a large crowd!

Upcoming Academic Assessments/Projects:

Middle School

Day	5th	6th	7th	8th
Monday	Paradise Farms Trip	Spiritual Emph. Day	Spiritual Emph. Day	Spiritual Emph. Day
Tuesday	Paradise Farms Trip	Math Quiz		
Wednesday			Math test	Bible test
Thursday	Science test			Spanish test
Friday	Reading test			Spelling quiz; Algebra I, Ch. 2 test
Monday, 10/26				

High School

Day	9th	10th	11th	12th
Monday	Spiritual Emph. Day	Spiritual Emph. Day	Spiritual Emph. Day	Spiritual Emph. Day
Tuesday		Am. Lit. Persuasive essay due		
Wednesday	English test		Physics Test	
Thursday	Biology test	Songs of the Revolution quiz, Am. Lit.		
Friday	Worldviews test	Worldviews test	Worldviews test	Worldviews test
Monday, 10/26				