



# Secondary School News

Coventry Christian Schools

Vol. 13, Issue 9

November 9, 2009

## Calendar of Events

### November

11/13 Open House 9 a.m. to 5 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

### December

12/4 Parent/Teacher Conferences

12/6 PTO Clothing Drive Ends

12/15 Chorus Concert, 7 p.m.

12/17 Drama Showcase, 7 p.m.

12/18 Drama Field Trip

12/24-1/1 Christmas Break

SEE [www.coventrychristian.com](http://www.coventrychristian.com) for sports schedules! Go Eagles!

## Thoughts on the End of the First Quarter

*"Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life—in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing."*

--Philippians 2:14-16

The race is long and the work hard when training young people. At times, especially during the teen years, parents find themselves asking, "Have I labored all for nothing?" Teachers often ask the same question when time and time again their exhortations, lectures, rebukes, and creative discipline do not yield the changes in either performance or character of their students. For students, the long school year ends with a final mark in each class that delivers to them the message of success or failure. It can be a time of elation or disappointment and frustration. My encouragement in this final newsletter of the first quarter is intended to help us look beyond the obvious successes and failures of the first nine weeks of this school year to take a close look at where we have grown or failed to grow in ways not revealed by letter grades.

For those of us who live in institutional education quarter after quarter, there is a blessing of finality and of a new beginning. Progress report time is always bittersweet as the joy and pride of success is mixed with the gall of failure and goals not reached. When the last grades are entered into Renweb on November 20, the final verdict will not be in on the outcome of this school year. The value of this year will be decided by how each student, parent, and teacher builds upon both the successes and failures of the first nine weeks. The end of the quarter is really rather arbitrary. The grades on the report cards are not final grades. They provide a starting point for building upon what we have learned from the first quarter. They are not the end. They are a means to an end. The end is yet to be realized.

Let's not bask in the success of the A or wallow in the self-pity or despair of the F. Let's analyze the path that led us here. Let's decide what the next step is, determine what lessons from this quarter will help us set and reach goals for the next one. God has given us the blessing of new beginnings. We can create them simply by deciding that we are starting anew. The past is the past. Its only value is in teaching us so that we may build a better future. If this quarter has been a success, the race is not over; there is more hard work to be done. One success is meant to be the foundation for greater successes to follow. If this quarter has been a failure, the failure is only a tool to teach what is needed for future success. The race is not over; the work is not done. Lessons learned

from failure are the building blocks of success.

When the apostle Paul wrote the Philippians, encouraging them to attack life with a positive attitude, he knew that the secret to being shining lights in a dark generation was in the attitude. He knew that his teaching and training in the faith would not be in vain if his Philippian students would refrain from negativity and blame but would rather continue to press onward, working out their salvation with fear and trembling—that is, an ongoing process of growth and maturation fueled by reverence for God and singleness of purpose. We certainly are prayerful that our students, parents, and colleagues would reflect on this first quarter as only a part of an ongoing process of growth and maturation, but our greatest prayer is that when Christ comes, we will look back and know that our labor was not for nothing, that our students grew to be the light of their generation.

## Help for Discerning Parents

Those of you who read the newsletter faithfully know that I am concerned about the influence popular media, especially television and music, have on our young people. Trish Luberda, mother of two CCS students, sent me a link to TV Smarts ([www.tvsmarts.com](http://www.tvsmarts.com)), a site designed to alert parents to engaging, high quality programming that enhances the education of their children. The site provides programs that parents can choose to watch with their children to spawn engaging conversations about history, science, politics, and even religion. While not every program will draw conclusions that are consistent with the biblical Christian worldview, they all provide wonderful opportunities for discerning parents to be engaged the the education of their children to become critical thinkers and to use the television for good rather than evil.

## Invite Your Friends to CCS!

We have periodic Open Houses every school year to remind us to invite our friends, family, and neighbors to come see what CCS is all about. Our next Open House is November 13 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you know someone who might be interested in enrolling their children at CCS or a student who might be interested in our school, invite them to come see us on November 13.

## 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 (perhaps on the 4th, parent-teacher conference day), 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!

## 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!

## Drama Showcase, December 17

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the fall drama showcase, which is sure to be a blast. The drama students will be performing on Thursday evening, December 17, 7 p.m., at Pleasantview.

## Parent/Teacher Conferences Approaching

With progress reports coming home November 20, conferences are scheduled for December 4. Be certain to plan ahead so that you can get off of work to come speak with your child's teachers. Next week an appointment reservation form will be sent home with the newsletter. Be certain to return your form as soon as possible so that we can confirm an appointment time that will work for you.

# Upcoming Academic Assessments/Projects:

## Middle School

Day	5th	6th	7th	8th
Monday			Open book science test	English creative minds book selection due
Tuesday		Life Science test		
Wednesday				
Thursday			Math quiz	
Friday		Amer. Lit. Group Projects due		Spelling quiz; Physical Science test
Monday, 11/16				

## High School

Day	9th	10th	11th	12th
Monday			Brit. Lit. Writing assignment due	World Lit. honors project due
Tuesday			Brit. Lit. quiz	World Lit. Unit 1 exam
Wednesday				
Thursday				
Friday			Brit Lit Creative Minds Thesis Statement and Outline due	Chem II, Don Quixote quiz
Monday, 11/16				