



Secondary School News

Coventry Christian Schools

Vol. 13, Issue 21

February 22, 2010

Calendar of Events

February

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

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

March

3/1--Coventry Challenge 5K Early Registration Deadline (shirts guaranteed)

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

3/4--Golf Team Meeting, 5 p.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--Events Center Dedication, 6 p.m.

Blood Drive, 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Third Marking Period Ends

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

Don't Trust Your Instincts

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet forfeit or lose his very self?"

Jesus, Luke 9:23-25

I just returned from a teacher recruitment trip to several Christian colleges. On such trips I meet two kind of teaching candidates: those who want to know which job will do the most for them, and those who want to know where they can do the most for someone else. The former desire to "save" their lives, the latter have already lost theirs. Christ calls us to be the latter. The central paradoxical truth of life is that we gain the best kind of life by giving up the rights to our own lives. When we are freed from concern for self and consumed with concern for others, we find unity with Christ and the abundant life about which I wrote in my last article.

The nature of paradox is that it goes against our instincts. Our instincts lead us to provide the best of everything for our children so that they can have a better life and prosperous future. Our instincts tell us that we must provide the leverage necessary for our children to get into the best colleges and to secure the most lucrative careers. Our instincts tell us to push our children to succeed for their own glory and recognition--and perhaps even for ours.

Such instinctive aspirations do not come from God. When we position our children to be successful and make decisions about what or what not to provide for them, it should be with the desire to offer them as tools fit for the hand of God to accomplish *his* objectives, not *ours*. At times, this may mean letting go of our own dreams for our children, our own desire for safety and security for them, and our own desire for their success to reflect well upon us. We must raise our children for the express purpose of letting God do with them what he wills, and we must prepare our children to be motivated not by glory for themselves but by glory for God--to give up their rights to their own talents and success so that God may use them for greater, nobler purposes in the lives of others.

God does not bless parents with children for the benefit of the parents themselves. He does not bless our children with talents for their own benefit. He does not bless them with success for their own gain. He blesses us and our children so that we may be a blessing to others. These truths do not lessen the joy that we and our children experience with each other; rather, they heighten that joy. It is a paradox. Join with me in asking God to help us realize that we find life when we lay our lives down. Let's also ask him to help us empower our children to live by faith and not by instinct by giving their lives to God for his glory.

Schedule for Events Center Dedication, Feb. 26

The schedule for the Events Center Dedication has been finalized. See you there!

4 p.m. Middle School Girls Basketball v. Middle School Boys Basketball

5 p.m. Faculty Women v. High School Girls Basketball

6 p.m. Events Center Dedication

7 p.m. Faculty Men v. High School Boys Basketball

Dorney Park Trip, 2010!

Has your child told you about the new way to earn a trip to Dorney Park on our annual Dorney Park day this spring? We sent home packets last week outlining the annual fund drive effort being conducted in conjunction with the Coventry Challenge 5K/1 Mile Fun Run/Walk. Students can earn a trip to Dorney by participating in this important event that promotes both a healthy lifestyle and supports the annual fund drive for the school, which in the current economy is more important than ever. Your family will need to set up your fundraising page and should also register for the 5K/1 Mile by March 1. If you have any questions or did not receive a packet regarding this event, please let Mr. Fisher know ASAP.

Meet Coach Przemieniecki

There will be a meeting for both middle and high school girls this Wednesday, 2/24, at 1:30 p.m. in the cafeteria, so that they can meet our new girls' soccer coach, Chris Przemieniecki. He will share with them the plans for the upcoming spring soccer season. The high school girls will begin indoor practice on March 1. Hopefully the snow will melt soon! At this point, we do not have enough middle school girls interested to have a soccer team at the middle school level, but Coach P is interested in bringing middle school girls in for some training and practice in hopes of elevating skills and interest as we look ahead to 2010-11 and to building a girls soccer program at CCS. We are blessed to have a talented and credentialed coach like Chris helping us build the girls' program.

Golf Team Meeting March 4

Coach Rock Emery has scheduled a meeting for Thursday evening, March 4, 5 p.m., for all students interested in the golf program. CCS has a very successful golf program. It is available to the rookie and the experienced golfer, grades 5-12. It is a coed program. This is a great opportunity to learn the game of golf, even if you have never picked up a club. Rock and his assistants are great players and teachers of the sport and are eager to have as many new players as they can get. If your child has any interest at all, please plan to attend the meeting. If you cannot attend but are interested, please let Mr. Fisher know.

Senior Portraits and Graduation Announcements

This year we attempted to get a more affordable senior portrait option for parents by leveraging our numbers and getting a group rate for senior portraits. Due to lack of interest on the part of several photographers we have contacted, at this point, we have decided to once again let parents simply choose their own photographer if they wish to have formal senior portraits taken. We were very excited about the photographers we had found because they were willing to simply provide parents with a CD of eight poses for only \$15. However, you get what you pay for, and these photographers have not been responsive in moving our plans forward. Every senior has had a school picture taken, but no formal pictures have been taken at this time. If you desire to have formal portraits, you should go ahead and schedule those with the photographer or studio of your choice since you will want to send out the portrait with graduation announcements in late April or the first part of May. You can order your announcements/invitations for graduation at <http://www.jostens.com/graduation/HS/announcements/index.asp>. You can personalize your announcements and order them directly there. You are not required to use Jostens. You may shop elsewhere if you like, but Jostens is easy to use and provides high quality products at an affordable price. If you have a good photographer you would recommend to our families to use on an individual basis, please forward to me. Some of you have already done so, and we pursued those to no avail. They were not interested in our business.

High School Baseball Coach Needed

For the first time in CCS history, we have the students to form a high school baseball team. We have had a history of support for baseball in middle school but not in high school. This year we finally broke that barrier! If you are interested or know someone who might be interested in coaching the high school boys, please contact Tina McIntyre at sports@educatingforlife.com, or call 610-326-3320 weekdays between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Physical Science and Chemistry Field Trip to Generating Station

The 8th grade physical science and 10th grade chemistry classes will be going to the Limerick generating station on Monday, March 8. Please be sure to look for a permission slip to come home soon.

Blood Drive March 26

We are hosting another Keystone/Miller Blood Drive at the Pleasantview Campus on Friday, March 26, noon to 7 p.m. Call the PV office to sign up, 610-326-3320.

Basketball Season Comes to a Close

Basketball season will come to a close Monday night, 2/22, as the middle school teams travel to Faith Christian School to finish their season. This year's basketball teams struggled against long odds all season long. They are to be commended for their perseverance and commitment. Thank you to Dave Snyder, Josh Dove, Mike Borders, and Deb DeLuca for their excellent coaching contributions and commitment to our students. Golf, girls' soccer, running club, and baseball up next!

Financial Aid Applications Due April 15, Get Started Now

If you want to re-enroll your child but know that you will need financial aid for the 2010-11 school year, you must go to www.ffna1.com to complete a financial aid application. Financial aid decisions will be made in May. Aid is limited, so late applications may not be accepted. You must still complete your re-enrollment form and pay the re-enrollment fee in order to reserve a spot for your child. Financial aid applications are not considered unless re-enrollment has been completed.

PTO Meeting Monday, March 8

As the school year flies by, we can sometimes forget about the work that PTO is doing. PTO has another meeting Monday, March 8. Since we are just two months away from the annual PTO auction, it is more important than ever that we have high participation in our PTO meetings. Why not come out the the next meeting, Monday, March 8, 6:30 p.m., Pleasantview chapel.

Creative Minds Fair, February 25

Be sure to ask your child about their Creative Minds Fair project. The fair is fast approaching, and there are certain to be very big deadlines that have already passed or are looming on the horizon. Your partnership is essential to making certain your child gets the most out of this opportunity.

Spring Play, *Our Town*, March 25-26

The spring drama production, *Our Town*, is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, March 25 and 26, 7 p.m., in the Pleasantview gym. Reserve the date on your calendar now for an enjoyable evening with our talented actors and actresses. Be sure to invite family and friends to join us as well.

College Funding Seminar

There will be a college funding seminar on Tuesday, March 30, in the Pleasantview chapel. The seminar is for parents of children of any age. It will provide a cursory view of the college funding challenge and will provide follow-up opportunities with a consultant, Mr. Pete Dewalt, should attendees be interested. If you attended the fall session, this will be a repeat of that information. The seminar is free, but the follow-up consulting is not. Parents who simply wish to meet with Mr. Fisher to get help with the FAFSA(college financial aid) or college application process can simply make an appointment with Mr. Fisher.

Stanford Testing, March 8-12

The Stanford Achievement Test (SAT) and Otis-Lenon Scholastic Aptitude Test (OLSAT) will be administered to grades 5, 7, and 9, the week of March 8. Make-up tests will be given the following week. The SAT provides a comparative assessment of your child's academic knowledge and useful feedback to us for evaluation of curriculum and instruction at CCS. The OLSAT is a school ability test, similar to an IQ assessment. When taken in conjunction with the SAT, we can determine whether your child may be under or overachieving. Please be sure that your child gets plenty of sleep that week and that he or she eats a nutritious breakfast every day, preferably including protein and not too many simple sugars. Studies have shown that we all perform better when those physiological needs are met. While these are not high stakes tests, it is important that your child's efforts represent their best work, or the validity of the tests is compromised.

Annual PTO Auction, April 17

Be sure to mark your calendars! The annual PTO auction is a great evening of fun and celebration of the CCS community. Look for more details to come home from PTO soon, but go ahead and mark your calendars so that you have the evening free. This year's auction will be held at the French Creek Golf Club. If you have not been before, why not make this your first auction? It won't be your last!

Free YMCA Memberships for 7th Graders

Beginning February 1, 2010 **ALL** 7th grade students are entitled to a **FREE** full privilege YMCA membership at all of the Freedom Valley YMCA branches. This membership will last until August 31, 2010. On September 1, 2010, the new 7th grade class will have the same benefit until August 31, 2011. This is a fantastic opportunity. This membership is good at Audubon, Phoenixville, Pottstown, Spring Valley (Royersford/Limerick), and Upper Perkiomen YMCA locations. Simply go to any of these YMCA locations with a parent and a proof of 7th grade status/school membership such as a school ID and/or report card or class schedule and complete a membership application and you can immediately enjoy the YMCA and its programs, including summer swimming in the outdoor pool at the Spring Valley YMCA. Parents, this is a great way to get your kids active or to keep them active!