



The Eagle Express

Coventry Christian Schools

Vol. 15, Issue 20

February 6, 2012

Calendar of Events

February

- 2/1-3 Kindergarten Interviews
- 2/6 PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 2/7 MS Spelling Bee; Grandparent Gathering
- 2/10 Prospective Family Open House, 9 to 3
- 2/17 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.

March

- 3/5-3/16 Stanford Achievement Testing, Grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 9
- 3/13 Dads' Prayer Meeting, 8 a.m.
- 3/17 Coventry Challenge, 9 a.m.
- 3/18 Board of Trustees Meeting
- 3/20 Moms' Prayer Meeting, 8 a.m.
- 3/21 Market Day Pick-Up
- 3/29 3rd Marking Period Ends
- 3/30 Parent/Teacher Conferences

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

Without a Doubt!

"Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates."

Deuteronomy 6:5-9

I have often written in this column about the superiority of an excellent Christian education. Its unrivaled ability to help young people grow in wisdom and discernment, in character and hope, and to set them on a solid foundation upon which to build remarkable lives, is well documented by both research and anecdotes. My family has committed itself to the cause of Christian education at Coventry Christian Schools because we believe there is no other option for our children and our neighbors' children. As a professional educator steeped in the tradition of high academic ideals, it is common for me to dwell on all things academic. This article is not so much about the intellectual superiority or even the academic results of what we accomplish through our curriculum. It is about the shepherding of the hearts of our children. Last week we were reminded to build our hopes on things of eternal value. It is to those things that we turn this week.

It's re-enrollment time for parents. It's letter of intent time for teachers (when teachers declare their intent to return next school year). It's time to find out how much we will have to sacrifice next year to provide the best education and the best environment for our children. The numbers are big, the burden heavy. As parents, this is always a time to count the cost. For teachers and staff, it is a time to count the cost in another way. It is natural to feel the weight of the expectations of Christian education, which are far greater than secular education, to see the salaries of those working in the public system, and to count the cost of a career in Christian education. I am inspired by the beautiful partnership that reflects the apostle Paul's words about each part of the body, the church, doing its unique work to create a beautiful whole. Parents pinch and work and do without to pay tuition, and teachers, administrators, and staff work long hours for half the public salary average, both sacrificing for the immeasurable value of nurturing our children in our precious faith.

Moses' words (quoted above) in Deuteronomy call for our children to be completely immersed in God's word. God's will for us is that we shepherd our children into abundant life by connecting all of life, every waking and sleeping moment, to our covenant relationship with God in Christ Jesus. In ancient Israel, the children did not run off to school. They spent the day with their parents, learning about life from them. The op-

opportunities to shepherd their children to abundant life were available 24 hours per day. Society has changed. Most of us do not have that opportunity. We leave our children in the care and instruction of others for seven to twelve hours per day. Will those caregivers and teachers fulfill the commands of Deuteronomy 6? I praise God that he has provided a way for Sheri and I to confidently place Elijah, Arden, and Isaiah in the Christ-centered hands and hearts of the faculty and staff at Coventry Christian Schools. We can be confident that the lessons we are teaching them at home will be not only reinforced but expanded upon at school.

One of my greatest joys is to sit with alumni during the Christmas break and to learn about the lives they are living away from home and on their own. Far more often than not, I am so impressed by how much farther they are along in their maturity, intellect, and faith, than I was at their age. I see that the 24/7 approach taught by Moses in scripture yields the results that God promises. They are indeed loving God with all of their being. Recently Christine Navin ('11) sent me an email in which she expounded upon matters of conviction that are guiding her life in college. They were convictions rooted in her deeply held assurance that her life belongs to Christ. As she is considering her studies and her future career, she is deeply concerned with fulfilling her calling and not in simply embracing the status quo. She is chasing after and finding abundant life. The complimentary partnership between her home, her church, and her school have primed her heart for things of eternal value. True treasures. She closed her email with the following, "Being at Wheaton has really increased my appreciation for CCS and all of my teachers. Last week at church, the theme was "Where your treasure is...", and thanks to memory verses from elementary school my mind immediately finished the sentence, "there your heart will be also." So, thank you so much for investing in the lives of 'Coventry Kids.' I can't even begin to imagine who I would be if it were not for CCS or how much you have put into us." No, Christine, thank you for reminding us as we count the cost this week, that you are worth the investment.

So at re-enrollment time, as we, parents and educators, jointly consider the cost and whether it is worth it, I say with a resounding, even joyfully tearful stroke of the keyboard, "Without a doubt!"

Re-enrollment Deadline Moved Back to Friday, February 17

Due to unexpected delays in implementing an online re-enrollment system (which will now not be in place until after 2/17) we have moved the re-enrollment deadline to Friday, February 17. What does the deadline mean to you? Quite simply, re-enrolling before the deadline guarantees your child's spot in his or her class. For larger classes, this is particularly important, as we open enrollment to new students after the deadline. Your prompt response to re-enrollment also helps us set our operating budget for the 2012-13 school year. This budget is approved by the school board by the March meeting every year. Personnel decisions and assignments, curriculum implementation and acquisition, physical plant issues--literally everything that goes into planning a great 2012-13 school year, all hinge upon enrollment numbers. If you are not going to re-enroll, it is also important that you notify your child's principal so that we can plan accordingly as well. We need your help and cooperation to most effectively plan for next year. If you have any questions or concerns about re-enrollment, let us know.

"The Amazing Race" Calendar

Monday, Feb 6th @ 3:15pm-5pm - Audition

Wednesday, Feb 8th @ 3:15pm-5pm - "Callback" Audition (This is a more specific audition in the event that I need to see more before casting some of the larger roles.)

Rehearsals:

Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:15pm-5pm (Group A and sometimes B)

Performances:

Friday, April 20th @ 11:30am (During Chapel)

Friday, April 20th @ 7pm

Saturday, April 21st @ 2pm

Saturday, April 21st @ 7pm

There will be three levels of participation in this show:

Group A - By Audition Only (Must attend Monday, Feb 6th Audition)

Group B - The entire Children's Chorus (This is the ensemble that currently meets Tuesday and Thursday mornings.)

Group C - Every elementary student from grades K-5 (The BIG songs. These will be rehearsed during general music classes. NO ACTIVITY FEE)

Any student may 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.

Mark Your Calendars for the Great PTO Auction

The 18th Annual CCS Auction is coming! Our auction will be held on April 14, 2012, at the French Creek Golf Club in Elverson. Please add this date to your calendars and start putting aside a little cash at a time now so you do not miss out on the biggest social event of the year for CCS parents and supporters. CCS has an incredible PTO, and this event is the key fundraiser that makes all of its work possible. Look for more information to follow in the next couple of weeks.

PTO Auction Needs Your Support

Please see the attached letter from PTO requesting your involvement with the PTO auction. We have also attached an item donation form should you feel led to donate something or to secure a donation to be sold at the auction.

Parent Volunteers Needed, Grades 6-12

With the PTO auction approaching, the house deans are busy working with house leaders to create gift baskets and house projects for the auction. PTO would like to also auction off class (grade level) projects. To do this, we are going to need parent volunteers at each grade level to organize the design and creation of a class project. If you have been to the auction before, you know that these homemade projects, reflecting the work and unique personality of every class member, can generate great revenue for PTO projects on behalf of our kids. If you are interested in leading your child's class project, please contact Clare Herkendaal at mail2clh@yahoo.com. Clare is working on the auction committee for PTO.

Share Some Love with a Lolli-Gram!

Send a fun token of kindness to a student or staff member during the week of February 13th. Ask your Spirit Squad members for a Lolli-gram form to send a sweet something and message to your student, friend or staff member. The Spirit Squad is hosting this fun event and students will receive their lolli-grams during the school day. Contact Traci Hoffman (tracihoffman@educatingforlife.com) with questions.

Biblical Parenting Seminar in Lancaster, February 25

Cooperation, Consequences, and Keeping Your Sanity, presented by Jon Brady and George May will be held on Saturday, February 25, 9:00 am to 2:30 pm, at Calvary Church, 1051 Landis Valley Road, Lancaster, PA 17601. The cost is \$20 per adult. Light breakfast and lunch are included. Sign up online at biblicalparenting.org or call (717) 560-2341. Registration and breakfast begin at 8:30 am. You will learn practical ways to move from a behavior modification approach to a heart-based approach to parenting. It's amazing how children change the way they live when parents adjust the way they work with them. This seminar is provided by the National Center for Biblical Parenting and is a practical, biblical approach to parenting. You'll be so grateful you attended because you'll be able to use the material right away.

Phillies Fans Get Ready

Reading Phillies mascot "Screwball" heard about CCS Sports Day at O'Grady's and plans on being there that evening.

Houses and Elementary Classes, Get Ready to Compete at CCS Sports Day

The elementary grade and secondary house with the highest participation in the CCS Sports Day at O'Grady's will enjoy an ice cream party, compliments of Mr. Ray Coffey.

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.

MS Spelling Bee Tuesday, February 7, 7 p.m.

Congratulations to the finalists of the class spelling bees! The following students will be representing their classes in the middle school bee on February 7. Come out and enjoy a fun and suspenseful evening, and support these young people as they compete for this year's crown. These participants should report to the music room by no later than 6:45 p.m. on Tuesday.

6th Grade: Sam Lewis, Riley Minor, Jill Bedell, Christian Molfetto, Caleb DeJesus, Vivian Torres, Lexie Hallman, Mason McIntyre

7th Grade: Alex Fonder, Brennan Sheetz, Zach Evans, Abby Barton, Anna Ling, Kyleigh Gelwicks, Stevie Swigart

8th Grade: Justice Hewlett, James Lowery, Linda McIntyre, Kaylie Niehls, Liz Wetjen

Prospective Family Open House, Friday, February 10, 9 to 5

Be sure to invite family or friends who might be interested in learning if CCS is right for their children! Open houses provide parents an opportunity to see school in action at CCS. We set aside our other to-do's and normal tasks to be available to visitors and to welcome them to our campus. We are at their disposal without distractions so that we can share the good work happening at CCS. While not required, it is best if families RSVP to paulfisher@educatingforlife.com.

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	A & P Muscle Test 6th and 7th Grade Spelling Test 7th Grade Bible- 5 Books of Moses Test Spanish 1 & 2 Tests 12th Sociology - Quiz on pages 146-159 CPR Course begins for the entire week (Feb. 6th-10th) for 10 grade Health/PE

Day	Assessments/Projects Due
Tuesday	British Literature - Milton Quiz Omnibus II - <i>Winning His Spurs</i> Quiz (Chap. 9-12) Middle School Spelling Bee at 7pm
Wednesday	
Thursday	High School Creative Writing-Memory Verse Quiz Omnibus II Summa Due--Winning His Spurs, Ch. 9-12
Friday	8th grade science test 8th grade memory verse quiz Sociology memory verse quiz Middle school creative writing memory verse quiz
Monday, 2/13	7th grade science test



Coventry Christian Schools

Educating for Life

February 3, 2012

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Parents, Teachers, and Others organization (PTO) of Coventry Christian Schools will be holding a dinner party and auction to raise funds for PTO for the coming school year. The Auction is in its 18th year and is PTO's biggest fundraiser. Our goal is to raise funds that will provide enriching experiences for our children and that will equip those who teach, coach, and mentor them. We realize you may receive numerous requests from local organizations for donations and sponsorship. PTO is your organization! Please allow us to share with you our objectives to assist you with making a decision. This year the PTO goals include:

- Teacher allowances to enhance their classrooms and instruction and staff development
- Transportation Equipment – 20 to 30 passenger bus for field trips and extracurriculars
- New Playground Equipment – physical development
- Enhancements for the Music program
- Security Stations for Preschool and Event Center
- Family Fellowship Programs

Our Auction will be held on April 14th, 2012 at **French Creek Golf Club, 4500 Conestoga Road, Elverson, PA 19520**. 100% of the Auction proceeds will benefit the CCS PTO. We hope each family will consider donating an auction item, gift certificate, or gift basket to our verbal or silent auction. In addition, CCS qualifies as a non-profit organization (501c3); as such you can use your donation as a tax deduction.

This year we will offer babysitting on a first come, first served basis. The Spanish students and Mrs. Lucy DeJesus will be providing this service. Monetary donations will be accepted and greatly appreciated. The funds raised will help offset the costs of sending our Spanish students to **Puerto Rico!** Due to allergy concerns, the children will be expected to bring their own dinner and snacks. Time and location information will be provided at a later date.

The success of the Auction depends on the generosity of our CCS community. **May we count on your help?** We respectfully request you submit your donation prior to March 30, 2012. We genuinely thank you in advance for your donation and support of the Coventry Christian Schools PTO.

With sincere appreciation,

Valerie Overend and Beth Tsakonas
Coventry Christian Schools PTO
Vlo214731@comcast.net
bethtsakonas@educatingforlife.com
Valerie – 610.970.4529, Beth – 610.370.0277

The Joy of Generosity

Administration

Mark E. Niehls, Superintendent
Paul Q. Fisher, Director of Advancement
Peter M. Shipman, Secondary Principal
Jill Barton, Elementary Principal
Mary C. Niehls, Nursery & Preschool Director
Cecelia Schimmel, Business Manager

Pleasantview Campus

699 N. Pleasantview Rd.
Pottstown, PA 19464-2615
Phone: 610.326.3320
Fax: 610.326.0085

2012 Auction Donation Form

Supporting our Coventry Kids!

We thank you in advance for your generous gift to the CCS Auction. Please complete this form and attach it to your donation/s to ensure we capture it correctly in the auction booklet. Please print clearly. In the Item Description area, please be very clear, as this info will be used in auction brochure.

Item Description: _____

Estimated Value: _____

Donor's Name: _____

Donor's Phone Number: _____
(in case we have questions)

CCS Family Contact: _____

Donated in Honor of: _____

We are accepting donations now through April 02, 2012. All donations will be reviewed by the auction committee and put to good use for our Coventry Kids.



