



Secondary School News

Coventry Christian Schools

Vol. 13, Issue 2

September 21, 2009

Calendar of Events

September:

9/20 Board Meeting, 1:30 p.m., PV

9/23 Market Day Pick-Up at PV

9/24 Open House for Prospective Families 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (tell your friends) and Parents Night 6 to 8 p.m.

9/28 PTO/HSCA Meeting, 6:30 p.m., PV

October

10/1 Career/College Fair for juniors/seniors

10/6 Grandparents Gathering, 9 a.m., CV

10/8 Grandparents' Day, PV

10/12 Columbus Day--School Closed

10/17 All school yard sale, CV

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

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

According to His Good Purpose

"It is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose."

Philippians 2:13

I met with one of our seniors this week to discuss some big, tough decisions she needs to make as she looks forward to college. A junior asked me to help her determine what career path or college major she should be considering given her interests. At the ripe old age of 17 years old, this is a monumental task! How much have you learned since you were in high school that you wish you had known when you were making such course-setting decisions for your future?

As I counsel Christian young people regarding their futures, I always ask them to consider how they could work to fulfill God's purposes with their own unique talents and passions. How can you serve God in a medical career? As a stock broker? A veterinarian? A teacher? One of the hallmarks of a Christian education is the focus upon God's purpose for our lives and for the blessings he has given us. Why would God have given me a mathematical mind? For what purpose would God have me study mathematics? These questions are prompted and answered in part by our philosophy of education and philosophy for each discipline taught at CCS. You can read those philosophies and mission statements on our website under "About Us," "Curriculum Guide." We believe that every discipline taught and every career or major studied can be properly understood in light of God's purposes for us, which are revealed in scripture.

The Apostle Paul did not say, "It is God who works in you to will and to act to make America competitive in the 21st century or to provide the kind of workplace skills demanded by an increasingly global economy." Such lingo is foreign to scripture. God works in believers to will and to act according to his good purpose: to bring about reconciliation in a world divided and separated from God by sin. We do not discount the importance of graduating students who are equipped to compete, as it were, in their chosen studies or professions, but the ultimate purpose for such equipped students must be God's purposes. Success in a profession must be a means to a greater end that reconciles the world to God, not an end in itself.

May God fulfill his good purposes in our work together at Coventry Christian Schools. May we view all that we say and do as parents and teachers as subject to God's expressed purposes in our lives and in the lives of our children.

Be Sure to Turn in Your Signed Club Choices by Friday, September 25

The club descriptions and sign-up sheet are attached to the newsletter after the tests and project calendar (see the end of this newsletter). Please be sure to print yours and to return it by Friday, September 25. Clubs will meet every Friday during 3rd period starting October 2. If you have any trouble printing yours, a hard copy is available in the school office.

Plan Now for Middle School Class Trips

6th, 7th, and 8th grade class trips are scheduled for the week of October 27-30. 6th and 7th grades will have their trip October 27-29, and 8th grade will be gone October 27-30. You will be receiving detailed information about your child's trip this week. There will be fundraisers this year to help you pay for your child's trip, but some will happen after the trip. Please begin planning accordingly and letting teachers know if you are interested in chaperoning. If the cost is prohibitive for you family, please let Mr. Fisher know so that we can try to make arrangements. While we want to avoid "putting trips on accounts," we are able to explore a payment plan for your child's trip. We are working to reduce the cost of class trips and are considering major modifications to the 8th grade trip for 2010-11. If you have ideas and input, let me know. The prices below are estimates based upon previous year's costs. The exact price will be sent home in the near future.

6th and 7th grade trip (combined) to Black Rock Retreat for their Outdoor Education Camp(Mrs. Price)
--The program will focus on nature studies and teamwork skills. This will be a 2-year program that alternates between an earth science (geology, weather, astronomy, etc.) and life science (ecology, water, animal habitats, wildlife identification, etc.) curricula. This is a three day/two night trip. The total cost of the trip, which includes all food, transportation, lodging, and educational programs will be between 120.00 and 150.00. Look for much more information to come home this week.

8th grade trip to Boston (Mr. and Mrs. Shipman):

--\$450 (\$100 per chaperone plus cost of meals)

--Oct. 28-31

--Plymouth Rock, Mayflower II, Plymouth Wax Museum, Paul Revere House, Freedom Trail (Old North Church, Copp's Hill Burial Ground), Bunker Hill Museum, USS Constitution (Old Ironsides), JFK Museum and Library, Duck Tour of Boston, Museum of Science, New England Aquarium, Quincy Market, and more

Parents' Night and Open House September 24

Parents' Night is scheduled for Thursday, September 24, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at both campuses. The purpose of this event is to give parents an opportunity to meet teachers, get acquainted with their child(ren)'s schedule and to tour the school. All parents are encouraged to attend. This is really not a night for conferences about student progress since there will be no privacy and teachers will want the opportunity to meet lots of parents, which does not allow for conferencing. If ever you want to conference with a teacher, simply give them a call to set something up. Open House is for prospective families and students to visit the school to see what CCS may have to offer their children. If you know anyone whom CCS may serve, please let them know about our Open House, which will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the same day, September 24. Open house is really not for current CCS families but for guests.

Spiritual Emphasis Day October 19

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. The cost of the trip is \$10 per student. A permission slip will be coming home soon. Please remit payment with that. If you have any questions, give us a call.

Not Too Early To Begin Planning for Grandparents' Day

Grandparents are important to us at Coventry Christian Schools. We recognize the invaluable role that they play in educating our students for life. The Pleasantview Campus Grandparents' Day is scheduled for Thursday, October 8. Invitations will be sent out shortly, but since oversights sometimes happen, please be sure to extend an early invitation to your grandparents.

PTO Gives You a Chance to Have a Voice!

The first PTO meeting will be held on Monday, September 28, 6:30 p.m. at the Pleasantview campus. PTO is for all parents, teachers, and others who are a vital part of our school community. PTO exists to serve our children by raising funds for activities, projects, and purchases that enhance the education our children receive at CCS. The PTO has an annual budget in the tens of thousands, and those who come to meetings vote on how to spend those monies on our students. If you want to have a voice, come to the meetings! This year we are adding the subtitle (which may eventually become the new name of our PTO), Home, School, Community Association (HSCA) to emphasize the connectedness, partnership, and teamwork we want between all facets of our school community and local community at large. Don't miss your chance to get involved.

7th Grade Fossil Trip October 5

The 7th Earth Science class will be taking a trip to Swatara Gap State Park on Monday, October 5. In years past, we have had an annual caving trip, but due to a strange disease that is killing eastern brown bats, all caves are currently off limits in this part of the country until farther notice. However, we have been looking for a fall fossil digging location and have found one. Look for a permission slip to come home soon.

11th and 12th Grades to Attend College and Career Fair

The juniors and seniors will attend the Tri-County Area Chamber of Commerce Career and College Fair at the Gilbertsville Fire Company on Thursday, October 1. A permission slip with more information will come home before the trip.

Instrumental Lessons Available

Band brochures and registration forms are attached to this newsletter email. Please mail the registration form to Mr. Rusin (his address is on the registratino form) as soon as possible so that he can begin scheduling your child's lesson times. All individual and group lessons and band sessions are during the school day. An instrument rental meeting will be held at the Coventry campus on Tuesday, September 29, 7 p.m. Lessons will and practices will begin on Wednesday, October 7.

Open Gym for Girls' Basketball

The first of several open gym sessions will be held in the Pleasantview campus gym from 3 to 4:30 on September 16. Other open gym dates will follow and will be announced at the first meeting.

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. in the chapel at the Pleasantview Campus. The seminar is free and is open to all secondary families.

Juniors Take PSAT Wednesday, Oct. 14

The juniors will be taking the PSAT on Wednesday, October 14. The PSAT serves as a practice test for the SAT and gives students an idea of how they will score on the SAT itself. It will provide you with a guide for areas that will need the most preparation to improve for the official SAT in June and again next fall. Following the PSAT, students will be given information and resources for studying for the SAT itself. Students scoring in the 99th percentile will qualify for National Merit Scholar Awards. Stay tuned for more college support to come.

Upcoming Academic Assessments/Projects:

Middle School

Day	5th	6th	7th	8th
Monday				
Tuesday		Math Test, ch. 2 Science Test, ch. 2		
Wednesday	English Test, Unit 1			
Thursday				
Friday				
Monday, 9/28				

High School

Day	9th	10th	11th	12th
Monday				
Tuesday		U.S. Heritage Quiz, American Lit.	Brit. Lit. Quiz	Superman Quiz, World Lit.
Wednesday	English Test			
Thursday	Bible Test	Bible Test	Bible Test	Bible Test
Friday				
Monday, 9/28				

Club Sign-Up Form

Please read about each club below, discuss with your child, complete, and return to school. If a club has a cost associated with it, do not send payment. If your child is assigned to a club with a cost, you will be billed at a later date. Please be sure to rank the top five clubs of your child's choosing in order of preference, with #1 being most preferred and #5 least. We will not be able to give every child his or her first or perhaps even second choice since some clubs have a cap on the number of students that can participate. Clubs will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis. Club assignments will be announced by the end of the week (Friday, September 25, and will begin meeting on Friday, October 2.

Please write the numbers (1-5) indicating your preferred clubs in the blanks to the left of your top five club choices and print your name at the bottom of this form before returning to your homeroom teacher or to Mr. Fisher.

_____ Craft Club--Are you creative? Do you want to be creative? Do you enjoy making crafts? Come join us for a fun time making and creating. We will be working with rubber stamps along with a variety of fun projects. There will be a cost of \$10 for supplies for this club.

_____ Self-Defense Club--Are you interested in martial arts but don't have time to commit to formal training? This club is the opportunity for you to learn the basics of self-defense techniques. You won't earn a black belt, but you will gain the confidence that comes from possessing an array of skills that will equip you to defend yourself from a variety of physical threats. There is no cost for this club.

_____ Chess Team--That's right, it's not just a club. This year there will be Chess competition against other groups/schools. There is no cost to Chess Club.

_____ Photography Club--You need to have a digital camera you are capable of using. You will be required to go to different school activities and take pictures of these events. We will be supplementing the yearbook and other publications with our photographs. We will work on the slideshows for different events as well as share our photos with each other. It will also be helpful if you have a laptop that you can use to edit photos. We will be discussing ideas that will help to improve picture taking and enhancing. No cost.

_____ Performing with Purpose--Come join the chapel drama ministry club called Performing with Purpose where you will have the opportunity to entertain and inspire the students of CCS. Together we will develop performances with a spiritual focus to present in chapel. Performances may range from comedic and lighthearted to dramatic and heart-wrenching. Flex your creative muscles and prepare to move the hearts of many! No cost.

_____ Science Olympiad (Olympics)--Are you interested in being a Disease Detective? How about building an elevated bridge? Do you even know what the word Herpetology means? How about that stuff under your feet? Or the bright lights in the sky on a dark night? Can you launch an egg and have it land unbroken? Energy and alternative energy is all in the news - do some experimenting and exploring on your own to come up with some ideas. Are you a wanna be inventor, check out the Junk Yard Challenge. All these options and more are available to 6th through 12th graders who are curious about science. The Science Olympiad Club is open to up to 15- 6th through 9th graders and 15 -10th through 12th graders. You pick your topic and compete against other schools. Only come if you are the curious type that wants to find answers! Cost is about \$20 for registration at the Olympiad itself, depending on the number of members on the team.

_____ Youth and Government--Students participate in a statewide program in which they serve as congressmen, judges, members of a press corps, and lobbyists as they work together with students from other schools and participate in bill proposals, elections, and a congressional session. Go to <http://www.ymcapa.org/YouthAndGovernment.html> for program information. There is a cost of about \$300.00 for this club due to three trips to Harrisburg for the conventions (meals, lodging, etc.). Last year this fee was waived by the YMCA (They provided scholarships for us). We will once again look for outside support to help cover the cost so that any students who want to participate may do so. If you have any questions about this club, please see Mr. Shipman.

_____ Tabitha Club--Tabitha Club is a great chance to learn or to practice some skills that you can use now in your home or in the future when you live on your own. We will practice some cooking skills, sewing skills, how to wire a lamp, making gifts, helping people, etc. We will share the results of our labor with others where the need arises. There are lots of skills we can learn and practice and lots of ways to be of service to others. Come with a willing heart and lots of ideas to plan and have some fun.

_____ FBLA--Interested in the business world? Want to gain skills and experience that will equip you to be an entrepreneur? How about learning leadership skills and practicing them in "real world" projects that make a difference in our community? Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is the club for you.

_____ Lamplighter Book Club--Calling all readers! Join the Lamplighter Book Club for a chance to share your love of reading and learn about the process of selecting award-winning books. While you're at it, challenge each other to some friendly competition by quizzing each other on the books you have read.

_____ Bereans--This club is for students who want to discuss and debate philosophy, religion, and the Bible and come to their own conclusions about it and about the competing moral and spiritual messages out there. This will be a student-led club with Mr. Fisher providing supervision and direction.

_____ High Five--Give a Helping Hand! Calling all Type A personalities! Join High Five and spread your love of cleanliness and organization throughout the school community. High Five will pick up where the maintenance teams and Sojourners left off this summer. We will take on service projects on campus to continue the transformation of our school from Ghetto to Glamorous! Our focus will be joyfully serving CCS.

_____ CCS Cares--This club is focused on serving Pottstown and showing our local community that CCS cares! We will be researching needs within the Pottstown community and will be organizing service projects that make a difference in the name of Christ in Pottstown. If you join this club, you must be willing to give some time outside of the school day and must be willing to help recruit fellow students to serve on schedule projects.

Student Name_____

Student Signature_____

Parent Signature_____