

Theme:
"Forever Faithful"
Dec. 21, 2012
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THUNDER BAY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



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Our Mission:

To serve God and assist Christian families *by*:

- providing a quality, Christ-centered education within a loving environment,
- exploring and evaluating all of life under God,
- nurturing students in the development of their abilities,
- encouraging a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Eagles' Eye

The insert of the quarterly Newsletter is the **Eagles' Eye**, which is published by the high school students as part of their curriculum.

PRINCIPAL'S PEN

Greetings TBCS,

Recently I have been pondering the concept 'to flourish' and what it means in the context of education. Earlier this week an article was published on the Ontario Alliance of Christian School's (OACS) website entitled; How Christian Schools can help kids Flourish? The article begins by saying it is more than "Being Good". The foundation lays in a relationship with Jesus Christ, which is no surprise to Christian educators and supporters. According to Dan Beerens (An Educational Consultant for K-12 Christian Schools), "This is where true flourishing begins." He also goes on to say, "Helping students flourish also requires schools and educators to be first-class." This is more than looking good, it stems out of a gratitude for our salvation, a joy we feel in our heart."

He suggests that in order for flourishing to take place, "Christian schools need to be grappling with new thinking from

educational theorists and schools need to focus more on creating entrepreneurial students, people who are inclined to be creative and innovative and come up with new things," leading to Kingdom building." Beerens has developed some indications that students are flourishing:

1. A passion for further learning.
2. A desire to serve and make a difference.
3. An ability to think divergently and creatively about problems and solutions.
4. An ability to demonstrate empathy for others, which is a key element in human flourishing.
5. A desire to act morally and ethically across all aspects of life, based upon a Christian World View
6. An understanding of how God has gifted and called you as a person.
7. A determination to bring joy and hope into the lives of others.

flourish

He also states that educators should be asking their students, "Did I increase your passion for learning and help you grow in your faith this year?"

Personally, I love the word 'flourish'. It promotes images of growth, beauty, and exploration of life, which to me is a powerful vision. So how is our school doing? Perhaps we need to discuss and examine how our school is doing.

As a result the Board of directors has marked **February 11, 2013 at 7:30 pm** as a Town Hall Meeting date for our community. We will be exploring some topics that are listed later on in this Newsletter, and it is our prayer that everyone who is able, will attend.

Shalom,
Andy Alblas

TOWN HALL MEETING

School Improvement Plan

Everyone is invited by the Thunder Bay Board of Directors to attend a town Hall meeting on February 11, 2013, in order that we can create a school improvement plan. The topics below are areas we will be examining. A more details letter will be sent home on January 11, 2013. Please make every effort to attend.

1. **Education** (curriculum and student learning)
2. **Financial** (tuition, fundraising, expenditures, budget priorities)
3. **Communication** (home - school and school - home, board to membership, board - committees and committees - board)
4. **Governance** (administrator moving toward C.O.O. position, and how that relates to reducing committees, restructuring the constitution, participation/volunteerism)
5. **Promotion/Enrollment**

CHIEF OPERATIONAL OFFICER(COO)

Chief Operational Officer (COO) - what does it mean for T.B.C.S.?

It has been the intention of the Board of directors to have our Principal become the COO and that is why we advertized the position as Principal/COO and the contract that was offered had that title.

The COO model allows the principal to make decisions within existing policy regarding the day-to-day operations of the school without having to rely on volunteers to fill committees.

The principal has four management areas where he/she has authority to makes decisions, as it relates to STAFF, STUDENTS, FACILITIES, and carrying out the MISSION. The board provides support through good governance.

The board has four management areas: VISION, FINANCES, MEMBERSHIP, LONG-TERM PLANNING. The principal provides support to the Board in these areas.

All decisions that that COO needs to make are based upon: Board Policies and the school's Vision and Mission Statements. These two areas will govern how the COO directs school operations.

The COO would oversee the hiring and suspension of all staffing at TBCS. He/she will report to the Board regarding any needs the school may have. The COO may call upon members of the Board and society to assist during the interview stage. If any grievances are brought forth, they will follow all grievance policies at TBCS.

The COO will oversee the enrolment of all students into TBCS. If questions arise regarding space or resources to

meet the needs of a student(s), the COO will consult with the Board of Directors (BOD) or their delegate. As for membership matters, the BOD will oversee this.

All curriculum matters and the addition of new programs will be the responsibility of the COO. He/she will consult with the teachers of TBCS and will use Professional development Days /Staff Meetings to review curriculum and make recommendations to the BOD. The COO will report these recommendations and reasons for them to the BOD.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of T.B.C.S, you are invited to contact Principal Andy Alblas at aalblas@tbaychristianschool.ca with any questions or comments.

FUNDRAISING RESULTS

1. Pancake Breakfast (Toronto/Nicaragua Trips) - \$7,619.63
2. Bazaar & Auction (General Fund) - \$38,500.00
3. Chocolate Bar Sales (Student Fund) - \$1,935.65

Thank you for your support!

JK/SK COMMUNITY HELPERS

Armed with lots of questions, the inquiring minds of the Junior and Senior Kindergarten students visited the OPP Station, Ornge and the Fire Department as part of our November God's Community Helpers theme. Opportunities to visit these particular places allowed the students to have a first hand view of the different careers associated with each facility. We thank all the volunteers that made these field trips possible!



VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM "O Come All Ye Faithful"



RIGHT TO LIFE ESSAY CONTEST

"On behalf of the Right to Life Association of Thunder Bay and Area, I would like to thank all of those who participated in last year's essay contest and a special thanks goes out to Mrs. Drost for promoting the contest in her class. I would also like to congratulate our three winners, Bethany Goral, Leah Drost, and Julia Himanen. Thank you for helping spread a culture of life. On behalf of Right to Life, have a happy and holy Christmas and blessed new year."

Alexandra Calnan, President

Our community was blessed under the direction and musical talents of Mrs. Hawkins with an inspirational Christmas program. Great performances, students!

REGISTRATION/OPEN HOUSE 2013

A flyer for Thunder Bay Christian School's Registration/Open House 2013. The flyer features a central logo with a cross and a lamp. On the left is a photo of a smiling young girl, and on the right is a photo of two young boys. The text provides the dates and times for the event.

Thunder Bay Christian School
REGISTRATION/OPEN HOUSE
for new students in JK - 8 will be held on
Tuesday, February 5, 2013 - 9:00 am-3:00 pm & 7:00-9:00 pm
AND
Wednesday, February 6, 2013 - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Principal - Mr. A. Alblas
Vice-Principal - Mr. P. Himanen

TBCS ADMINISTRATION

Administrative Assistant - Mrs. G. Boyes
Secretary - Mrs. J. Bakker