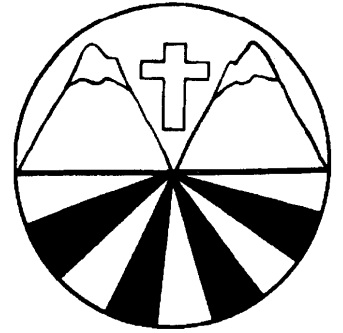


Lifeline



"Bringing family and school together"

November, 2005

Issue 3

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

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Call the office if you have a question about any of the activities that are taking place.

SINK OR SWIM

Part of getting to know my way around the Christian School Community in Alberta is the process of acquainting myself with a whole new set of acronyms. One of the first and most important of these acronyms is C.E.A. It stands for Christian Educators Association. It is the association of teachers in P.A.C.S. (another acronym meaning the Prairie Association of Christian Schools). The C.E.A. supports the work of teachers in Christian schools by producing publications for teachers, by advocating for teachers regarding employment, and by providing opportunities for professional development.

The recent Teachers' Convention in Calgary was planned and hosted by the convention planning committee of the C.E.A. I found the convention to be a time of learning new things and a time of calling into question some of our existing practices and thinking. All of this leads to constant improvement of what we do and believe regarding Christian teaching. And that leads to a constantly improving Rocky Christian School.

Last week Friday, our school acquired a new position of prominence, importance, and helpfulness on the Prairie Christian school scene. Rocky Christian School is the home (employer actually ☺) of the new president of the C.E.A. Congratulations to Joel Soodsma who was elected to this important position by the membership of the C.E.A. Joel will need our support and our prayers as he takes up this important position. When you see Joel please offer him your support for this new calling on his life. As a community we should consider it an honour to provide a gifted man for a position that requires his wisdom and maturity.

Submitted by Rob Duiker



Learning, loving, living for our Lord.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS – September 29, 2005

- Corinne Soodsma is our new Home School Coordinator.
- Our very ambitious House Building Fundraising Project is well underway! Stay tuned for a volunteer time-schedule as we will be calling to ask for your help. Many hands make light work!

FUNDRAISING



The grade 7/8 class fold boxes for the pie sale.

APPLE PIE SALE

A big thank-you goes out to the many people who helped with the pie sale. It was a great success. We made approximately \$7,320.

Also, we would like to thank Rocky Bakery & Deli for the use of the bakery and the Anglican Church for the use of their facilities. Without them this sale would be impossible.

The apples came from Hanna & Hanna Orchards in Salmon Arm, BC. If you ever pass through Salmon Arm, stop in and thank them for their support.

There are still apples available for 50¢/lb. Call Sandra at 845-5373 to purchase.

DINNER THEATRE

The Dinner Theatre will be held the last week of February and the first week of March. Anyone interested in acting or helping with set design, please call Sandra S. at 845-5373.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



God has blessed us abundantly that we may in return bless others. Through Operation Christmas Child we are putting together shoebox gifts for needy children around the world. You

are invited to fill a shoebox with school supplies, toiletry items, little toys, etc., for a child (please see the pamphlet for more details). The Dollar Store is again offering a 10% discount on any purchase towards this valuable program. Empty boxes are available at the school or consider filling a plastic container which can be put to good use by the families. Please return your completed shoebox to the school by Friday, November 4.

REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY

will be held on Thursday, November 10, at 2:30 p.m. Come and join us for a time of reflecting on our blessings and committing to working towards peace and justice.



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14 – Wild Rose School Division is closed for a P.D. day, however buses will be running for St. Matt's and our school. Please let the bus driver know if your student won't be on the bus.

FROM THE TREASURER – Tuition Statements to October 31 will be sent home on November 3.

MOO CLUB – The new block for Moo Club will begin on *November 7*. Please send your form back to the office by November 2.

HOT LUNCH – *November 3* - Forms must be back by tomorrow.

GRADE 1-4 CHOIR has been invited to the Covenant Church to sing at their Reformation Service on October 31 at 7:00 p.m. Please return the permission slip to the office by tomorrow.

REPORT CARDS & PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Report cards go home on November 18. As usual, they will be followed up with Parent/Teacher Interviews on Thursday, November 24, from 4-9:00 p.m. and on Friday, November 25, from 9:00 a.m. - noon. You will be scheduled for interviews with homeroom teachers and with teachers who request to see you. Mrs. Van'tBosch will meet with grade 5 parents, Mr. Duiker will meet with grade 6 parents. Mrs. McNair and Mrs. Bootsma will have interviews by request. Please call the office to make appointments by Wednesday, November 9. Interview schedules will be included in the report cards.

SCHOOL PICTURES – Retakes will be taken on November 22 at 11:00 a.m. If you need retakes be sure to bring your picture package with you on retake day.

DID YOU KNOW...

that on this day in 1954 the Rocky Christian School Society was formed? The aim of the society was to make Christian education available to Christian families in the Rocky Mountain House area. At the membership meeting held in October 1954 the membership fee was set at \$10.00 per year.

After lots of planning the school finally opened its doors in September 1970. Tuition was set at \$400 for a family with children attending and \$300 for a family with no children. The total budget for the year was \$17,141. There was a total of 38 students enrolled. Miss Dudley taught grades 1-3 in one classroom and Mr. DeRegt, Principal, had grades 4 and 5 under his care. Grade 6 and up were added to the school in subsequent years.

HAVE YOU BEEN TELLING SECRETS?

Some things are meant to be spread around the phone lines and coffee tables. There are many Christians in the area who wonder a few things about RCS. When you are talking about your kids or school, ask them, "Would your kids want to go to RCS?" Listen to their response, answer their questions, encourage them to tour the school.

Children who learn in an atmosphere of faith are not isolated from the lures of Satan, but their education will be tugging them towards Christ and not subtly planting doubt or lulling them asleep spiritually. Tell the secret: Rocky Christian School is for children from homes where Christ is acknowledged as Lord and king!

ANNUAL MEETING

The Board will set an Annual Meeting date for some time in November at their meeting tonight. An agenda and financial information will be sent out prior to the meeting.

GRADE 7/8 LITERATURE: The students studied a revised version of Lew Wallace's novel, *Ben-Hur*. On their unit test, they had to explain the different characters' responses to the crucifixion scene. Here are excerpts from some of their essays:

- In her conclusion, Rachel Soodsma wrote, "The characters I have written about, are just a few people touched by this true story of God's son, Jesus. We and many others have been saved by this. We are gentiles that have been saved by the spreading of the gospel. We must also do our part by telling the good news of Jesus, 'the Christ'."
- Brittney VanSteenis determined that, "After reading this beloved story, I have learned to not only ask God to help us forgive our friends, but also our enemies, and to tell everyone about God, Jesus and his word."
- Alissa Piers surmised that, "The portrait of Jesus Christ in this story is very real. The crucifixion scene changed the main character, Ben-Hur, and will hopefully change all of Lew Wallace's readers."



SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

“Flashing Red Means Stop”

When coming up to a school bus, drivers must always use caution:

- Drivers are required by law to stop before passing a school bus that has the alternately flashing red lights activated. This applies both to buses on your side of the road or buses facing you on the other side of the road, except if the bus is on the other side of a highway divided by a median.
- Drivers may proceed past a stopped school bus only when the flashing red lights on the bus have stopped.
- Remember to keep an eye out for school buses loading and unloading children in urban areas, even if the lights aren't flashing.
- Always watch for children crossing the road.

The fine for passing a school bus with its red lights flashing is \$402 and six demerit points.

GRADE 7/8 SOCIAL STUDIES is learning about how the movement of ideas, people and products affects the environment and culture. They were asked to write about how Christians can use the movement of ideas, people and products to live out their faith. Here's what one student wrote:

“We as Christians can give. We can donate money and clothes. We can fill shoe boxes for kids who may never get another gift again. Our money can go to a bunch of different places. Some places like World Vision, Leprosy Mission, or Compassion. Jesus says to look after the widows and the orphans, the poor and the sick. By sending stuff (money, or other things) we can live out this command Jesus gives us. That is not the only way we ourselves can go. We can go on a serve project. We also can sponsor a missionary that is sharing God's word, and love. People like our grandparents also go to those who are in poor or disaster struck places. Like going to help those hit by the tsunamis, or hurricanes. These are all ways to show love for others and to live out our faith. “

by Rachel Soodsma

S ✦ P ✦ O ✦ R ✦ T ✦ S



GRADE 5/6 SOCCER – Thanks to our coaches, Leanne Headon and Joel Soodsma, and to the parents who transported and supported the team. The kids worked hard for their 2 games and we finally beat Rimbey. It's great for kids to get involved in organized sports so they can learn how to cooperate with each other and submit to the rules of the ref in order to achieve greater things than they could individually. We pray that these lessons will be transferred into other areas of life as well.

VOLLEYBALL Divisional Tournament for the A Teams is on Tuesday, November 8, starting at 1:00 p.m. at West Central High School. The Tournament for the B Teams is on Thursday, November 17, starting at 1:00 p.m. Boys play at St. Matt's and girls at Rocky Christian School. Come watch some great volleyball and cheer our teams on.

HOCKEY practice started today. Do you have any hockey equipment that is not getting used? The grade 7-9 P.E. class is looking for a full set of equipment for each person. Please bring anything you are ready to part with to the office.

Don't forget to pay the
\$10 sports uniform fee
for each
extra-curricular junior high
sport that you participate in.

Christian Educators Association Teachers' Convention

AMAZING RACE, A JOURNEY OF FAITH

Bob Koole from the Society of Christian Education in BC lead a workshop titled "Training for Wisdom". He explained that teaching knowledge is not enough, God's people must be able to use what they know in ways that build up His kingdom. A head full of curriculum is just information. The challenge is for the teacher to show the student how the information affects their life. The Christian school teacher must help nurture their faith as well, because their faith will ultimately determine how this knowledge is used. Just look anywhere in the adult world. Christian faith determines the direction of our lives and the purpose of our actions. The more sincere our faith, the more consistently our lives build God's kingdom. Knowledge of everything from art to zoology will only translate into wisdom when God's children believe that this world is God's, and He expects us to use what we have learned to restore creation and culture to the way it was intended in paradise.

Joel Soodsma

Last week I had the privilege of attending a two day K-3 Social Studies conference prior to the convention. I had the rewarding opportunity to work with other Christian school teachers at my grade level, developing ways to put Christian perspective into the new Alberta Social Studies curriculum. We focused on 'Essential Questions', the key concepts we would like our students to learn about God through the Social Studies units we teach.

At the convention I also attended a workshop on folk dances from various countries. As dance is part of the P.E. curriculum, folk dance is an excellent way to teach students cooperation, rhythm, and movement through a cultural experience.

Kristina Klugkist

I went to the teacher's convention a day earlier than my colleagues, in order to learn more about our new grade 3 Social Studies curriculum. We have lovely new books, but they are not geared to the Christian perspective we like to have in our classes. This was a good time to think of the "big questions" we would like our students to take with them when our year is completed. Where does God fit into our lives and the lives of other children around the globe?

A session on ADHD was very informative and I feel the more knowledge we can acquire on learning disabilities the better for our students. There are many ways of testing and ways in which our students can learn to cope with their individual needs. These are tools we should use to make learning easier for our students and hopefully we can use this information to form a clearer picture of their needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to learn more and be enriched on so many levels by keynote speakers as well as session leaders.

Marinda Wolmarans

On this Amazing Race, A Journey of Faith, we were blessed with thought provoking presentations by keynote speakers who encouraged us to constitute a change in the lives of our students.

A very worthwhile workshop was presented by Marilyn Hahn on motivating preadolescent boys to pursue the gift of written language and creativity. She provided us with principles and skills in engaging boys to be creative in writing.

Once again, I was humbled to acknowledge and celebrate the diversity of how God had created each one of us to bring glory to his name.

Dina Heystek

I would like to thank the board once again for supporting the teachers with the opportunity to attend the CSI convention. It is an uplifting time to strengthen our sense of the purpose of Christian teaching, and to stimulate us to perfect this calling. One of the sessions I attended dealt with the upcoming changes to the social studies curriculum. Throughout this presentation I was reminded of how subtly society is shaping our thinking patterns into accepting everyone's views as valuable. As Christian teachers we are grateful that we can teach children, our future leaders, how to see the world through the lens of God's eyes. We can challenge them to take Biblical knowledge and apply it to everyday learning and living. Throughout this entire convention, I sensed the urgency to teach our children the truth about our world, and to model for them how to live a faithful life in service to our Lord. I thank God for committed parents and church families who share this calling.

In His Service, Bettie Van'tBosch

As usual the worship time with 350 teachers was a highlight for me. It makes me think about what it might be like in glory. I also appreciated the session with Barb Ferrier on teaching science with a Christian perspective. So many of God's characteristics are visible in His world. Tim Sine, one of the keynote speakers, also made me think by asking the question "what is your reason for getting out of bed each morning", following it with "why are we educating our children"? This conference was not without its fun aspects and some good staff bonding time especially as we tried to complete the "amazing race". Finally, and this should come as no surprise, I especially enjoyed the last session I attended which was on coaching basketball!

Naomi McNair

First, let me begin by saying that this was for me one of the best conventions I have attended. It was both relaxing and interesting. The keynote speakers were very thought provoking and I have a lot of things to contemplate and mull over.

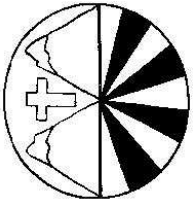
Since this is my first year as resource teacher, that was my main focus for my sessions. I gained insight into how a child's brain works that has AD/HD, medication, and how to help and diagnose further their individual problems. I also further understand how to read a psychologist report and based on this, how to go about further testing to fine tune the exact difficulty a child may be experiencing. I also learned the differences in the brain activity with each type of learning disability.

Marcia Bootsma

I always look forward to convention time. I am always refreshed and renewed by the variety of sessions that are offered. My heart is particularly refreshed by the wonderful times we spend worshipping and singing together.

One session that particularly encouraged me dealt with using music to teach and reinforce concepts taught in language arts and math. I will be using some of the rhyming and opposite sounds songs with kindergarten!



Jacquelyn Magnus



Rocky Christian School

Learning, Loving, Living
for our Lord.

NOVEMBER 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Volleyball Sunchild @ RCS - A & B girls/ B boys	2 Deadline to sign up for moo club	3 Volleyball RCS @ Condor - B teams RCS @ Pioneer - A girls Ed. Com. Meeting	4 Deadline for: 	5
6	7 Block #2 for moo club starts	8 A Teams Volleyball Division Tournament 1:00 p.m. @ WCHS	9 Promotions Meeting Volleyball Caroline @ RCS - B girls	10 Remembrance Day Assembly - 2:30 p.m.	11 Remembrance Day 	12
13	14 P.D. Day for WRSB/regular school day for RCS. Buses will run. Volleyball RCS @ St. Matt's - B teams	15 Volleyball RCS @ St. Matt's - A boys	16	17 E.C.S. Fun Lunch B Teams Volleyball Division Tournament - 1:00 p.m. Boys @ St. Matt's Girls @ RCS Board Meeting	18 Report Cards go home	19
20	21	22 School Picture Retakes - 11:00 a.m.	23	24 Newsletter goes out Student Council Fun Day Wacky Hair Day Parent/Teacher Interviews 4:00 - 9:00 p.m.	25 Parent/Teacher Interviews 9:00 a.m. -noon No School	26
27	28	29	30			

"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves." Romans 12:10