



THUNDER BAY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

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Theme:

**"WE ARE SECOND TO
THE ONE"**

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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.

Team Leader of Principal Duties

Getting Rid of Self

The days are getting longer and warmer with the coming of the spring and summer season. As the days move ahead, we are getting closer to the Easter season which we have to consider as the most important Christian dates of the year. We celebrate Christmas as the coming of our Lord and Saviour, but without the death and resurrection of Jesus that took place at Easter there would be no redemption of sins, no salvation, and ultimately our faith would be useless and redundant. As it says in 1 Corinthians 15:17, "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins." So, to say the Easter season is very important can only be an understatement.

When we think of the events that took place during that first Easter, it is important to remember the sacrifice that Jesus made on our behalf. As we think of that sacrifice, it can be hard to think about how difficult it must have been for Him to make that sacrifice. Jesus sacrificed himself completely for us, and we need to

remember that while He was God, He was completely human at the same time. That means He felt all the pain and anguish from the crucifixion and the beatings that He received. This is not even mentioning being separated from His Father. Even during the time of His ministry, Jesus was giving of himself sacrificially on a daily basis as He served the people around Him. As we think about the life of self-sacrifice led by Jesus, we need to ask ourselves this question. Where do we see this same type of self-sacrifice in our lives today?

Everywhere the world is telling us that we need this or we need that. Watching the television commercials, listening to the radio, or reading the magazines we are 'told' that we need to satisfy our wants and desires as often as we can, and as quickly as we can. Rather than telling us that we need to sacrifice, we are encouraged to be self-indulgent in all that the world has to offer. We also hear a lot in the media about being a self-made individual, about self-help books, and about self-fulfillment. We hear very little about this idea of self-sacrifice. This self-directed

worldly way of thinking is in direct contrast to what the Bible tells us about how we are to live in Romans 12:2, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." The journey that we, as followers of Jesus, are asked to make in life is that which takes us away from this thinking first of self, but rather leads us to a greater love of God and our neighbours.

The unique irony about our faith in Christ and moving towards a life of self-sacrifice is that in order for us to save our life, we must first lose it. Matthew 16:25 tells us, "For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it." This passage tells us we give our lives to God but unfortunately giving up control of our lives is many times the last thing we want to do. The more that we 'die to self' and the more we become committed to our Lord, the more real fulfillment and joy we will experience in our lives. We cannot surrender only parts of our lives to God. We need to allow Him to lead

us in every area of life. Surrendering ourselves completely to God is the first and often the most difficult thing for us to do.

Jesus is our example to follow for this life of self-sacrifice. Jesus came to earth to serve and as His followers we are called to serve one another as well. Our acts of service to one another are done

following the Lord's leading and demonstrate how He is working in our lives and molding us into the people He wants us to be.

Living a life of self-sacrifice is not something that is easy or comes naturally to us but it is a life that God calls us to. Too often we get so busy with our own pursuits that our priorities get completely

out of order. As we move towards the Easter season let's remember to put our 'selves' where they belong and remember that We are Second to the One!

Peter Himanen
Leader of Principal Duties

Classroom Activities



The JK/SK class has been very busy during this last month. The class recently did a great job performing their assembly for the students and their families. The class has also enjoyed several field trips visiting the police and fire stations as part of their Community Helpers theme. They learned a lot about how these jobs help keep us all safe. We really have to appreciate the job they do each day a lot more. The students have also found time in their busy schedule to complete some really cool science experiments in class.

The Grade 1-2 class has been working with a number of activity centres during the year. One of these has been a literacy centre where the students have fun building sight word towers as they learn the words. In other activity centres during the week, the students have the opportunity to make their own Lego creations and design different patterns using pattern blocks.



The Grade 3-4 class also did a great job with their assembly as they showed the rest of the students how important it is that we can show love to one another by doing acts of service. Putting others first rather than thinking about ourselves is how we can follow the example of Jesus every day. The class can be seen serving one another at their Bonus Buck store throughout the year and developing their math skills at the same time.



Winter Electives: Downhill Skiing

The Grades 5-10 students had a great opportunity to participate in a 4 week period of downhill skiing at Loch Lomond Ski Hill this year as part of their winter elective program. The students received a one hour lesson each day of the program and then had some time to practise their newly found skills for the rest of the afternoon. It was great to see the students improve each week and have a real sense of accomplishment as they challenged themselves on the more difficult hills. Some of the students were skiing for the very first time. The students really had a great time participating in this elective. As part of the high school Outdoor Education program the Grades 9-10 students were also able to spend a day skiing at Lutsen Mountain. The hills there really challenged the skills that the students had learned.



OACS School Evaluation

During this year the school went through a school evaluation that was run by the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools (OACS) which is the organization that supports all the Christian schools in Ontario. The parents were asked to complete a survey requesting information about many different components of the school and its services. The school received a report from the OACS outlining the strengths of the school as well as the areas where some improvement may be necessary. It was a worthwhile experience for everyone involved, and a thank you needs to go out to everyone for participating in the process.

School Bake Sale



The Student's Council was able to organize and host a bake sale for the students of the school. The money that was raised went to the LifeWater organization that digs wells providing water for people in underdeveloped countries. The Grades 5-8 students provided the baked goods and everyone was able to enjoy a tasty treat during the afternoon on that day.



Remembrance Day Poster Winner

During the fall our students participated in the annual Royal Canadian Legion Remembrance Day Poster Contest. Several of our students were fortunate to do very well in their respective age categories in the local contest. The selected posters were then sent on to the regional contest where one of our students, Joanna Haveman, won for her age category. Her poster will now be entered into the national level. Congratulations on a job well done.

High School Students to Costa Rica



The Grade 9-10 students have been provided with a wonderful opportunity this spring to experience life in the country of Costa Rica. The students will be helping with the construction of a local school as well as learning about the country as they participate in some sight-seeing activities. Please pray for the safety of the students and the chaperones as they take part in this adventure which can become an eye-opening and life-changing experience.



Mastering Some New Art Skills

The Grade 1-2 class recently had the opportunity to learn some new art skills from an experienced artist. Matthew O'Reilly, a local professional artist, visited the school and showed the students in the class how to create some neat images and designs using the process of dot painting. The students were excited to try this new technique and they had fun making their designs.



Skate-a-thon



Thunder Bay Christian School recently held its annual Skate-a-thon fundraiser at the NorWest Recreation Centre. This is one of the main fundraisers for the school each year, and once again it was a fun filled event. The students, parents, and grandparents really enjoyed their time skating and then a great meal was enjoyed by everyone back at the school. Thank you to everyone for supporting this event again this year and a big thank you to all the people responsible in making the Skate-a-thon a great success.

TBCS ADMINISTRATION

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Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Grace Boyes

Board Rep.: Mr. Bram Drost

Team Leader of Learning: Miss Sandra de Haan
Board Rep.: Mrs. Jolene Makkinga