

## Mr. Verburg's Message:

### Chromebooks

We have recently purchased and deployed twenty-five Chromebooks in the school. The decision to purchase these Chromebooks was based up a strategic goal, identified in our strategic plan, to introduce this technology into the classroom. The students are excited to be able to use this tool and I am sure that they have shared this news at home and in other places, but there might be some questions. I will answer a few here.

**What is a Chromebook?** A Chromebook looks like a laptop, but operates more like a Smartphone. Instead of using a Windows operating system, it uses a Google operating system. It has access to the internet, cloud storage, and cloud programs. It uses Android apps instead of software. If you have an Android phone, it would have much of the same functionality of a Chromebook.

### Who is using the Chromebook?

Currently all students at Community Christian School have login privileges that would allow them to use a Chromebook. However, teachers control when they are used or if they are used by their class. The Chromebooks are stored in charging stations that will be secured and locked. Teachers will have the key to access the storage unit.



### How will they be used?

Technology is as similar to any other form of technology in a school like a pencil, whiteboard, text book, or desk. It is a tool that supports learning goals. The teacher determines the learning goal and use the Chromebook if it is the best tool to support learning.

**Are they safe?** This is a question that has many different aspects to it, but overall I am convinced they are safe. The Chromebooks are registered and controlled through an administrative console. This console also controls things like our school email system. The console is licensed through Google for Education, which is designed for schools. I am the administrator for this system and the console allows me to customize the Chrome browsing and Chromebook experience. I have many different tools and options to control the experience. For example, students are unable to install anything onto the Chromebook. If a teacher needs an app added, I add the app at the administrative level and it loads it onto all of the Chromebooks when the student logs on. Students can only access the Chromebook through their student account and they only work with a school account. I can install different apps for different grade levels. If something is not useful or appropriate for a

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younger grade, they will not see the app even if the same Chromebook is used by an older student. I have all the Chromebooks set to Safe Browsing Mode. It will not allow students to proceed to malicious sites. All pop ups are blocked. I have set different levels of safety including YouTube searches for different grades and for teachers. We can track who has signed into a Chromebook. No one can delete the browser history. I have access to all of this information if I need it because of concerns. We have made them as safe as we can and we can make further adjustments if we know something is not right. What I really appreciate about the Chromebook is that we can tailor it to our educational needs and only use it for educational purposes.

**What about the computer lab?** We are still using the computer lab. It is our hope to purchase another set of 25 Chromebooks over the next couple of years. This would allow a set to be in almost every classroom. This will likely be the last year that we have a dedicated space for the computer lab. We will take that space and use it to meet different learning goals.



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

Fri., September 21	Terry Fox Walk
Tues., September 25	Picture Day – Bring your smiles!
Tues., September 25	Pizza Lunch
September 25 -28	Principals Retreat
Thurs., September 27	Soccer Tournament – Budd Park
Mon., October 1	Dental Screenings
Tues., October 2	Board Meeting
Tues., October 2	Hot Dog Lunch
Thurs., October 4	Cross Country Meet - Cambridge
Fri., October 5	Thanksgiving Assembly 2:30 p.m. – no buses
Mon., October 8	Thanksgiving Day – No School
Tues., October 16	Pizza Lunch
Fri., October 19	Cross Country Meet - Dundas
Tues, October 23	Hot Lunch - Tacos

Congratulations to the following people who are celebrating birthdays next week:

Petra N	September 23
Joshua V	September 24
Hunter C	September 25
Joel R	September 26

**FYI:**

- Our first **Pizza Lunch** is Tuesday, September 25.
- **Picture Day** is Tuesday, September 25. Don't forget your smiles!
- **Dental Screenings** for those students in JK, SK, Grade 2, as well as Grade 7, are coming up on October 1. If you have a child who is not in one of these grades, but would still like them to have a dental screening, please contact Public Health.
- **Principal's Retreat:** We wish Mr. Verburg a great time next week. We pray for travelling safety, great workshops, as well as relaxation.
- **Tuck Shop for Ruth:** On Tuesday morning, during our first nutrition break recess, the Grade 3/4 class will open a tuck shop. Snacks and treats will be available to purchase. Students will be able to eat their purchases with their pizza lunch during second nutrition break. All proceeds from the tuck shop will go toward supporting our sponsor child, Ruth.
- **Scholastic Orders:** Order forms will be sent home in next week's envelope for October. All proceeds go towards the purchase of new books for the school library.

### Dates to Remember:

- **International Terry Fox Walk:** Over 30 years ago, Terry Fox set off on his most incredible journey to prove to the world that cancer could be eradicated. His goal continues to inspire and excite us just as it did in 1980. Our annual Terry fox Walk is planned for Friday, September 21. If the weather doesn't co-operate tomorrow, the walk will be held next Monday, September 24 for Grades 3-8. The students are encouraged to bring in a donation which will be sent to the Terry Fox campaign. This year we have set a fundraising goal of \$200. We have a long way to go, so don't forget to bring in your donations! The date to bring in donations has been extended to next week Friday!
- **Picture Day** is Tuesday, September 25. Please try to have your children at school that day.
- **Soccer:** The **soccer tournament** is next week on Thursday, September 27 at Budd Park in Kitchener. We will be leaving the school at 7:30 AM so please arrive a few minutes early to board the bus. The buses could return as late as 4:30 PM depending on how the teams do. Please check your emails regularly, as Mrs. Parker will send an email if we will be returning earlier in the day.
- **Cross Country:** The season for cross country will soon begin. Practices will be held during the second nutrition break. We plan to participate in two meets in October, the first one in Cambridge on October 4 and the second one in Dundas on October 19.
- **Change in Bus Route:** There have been some changes to the morning pick-up times for Terry's bus route. These changes will come into effect on Monday morning, September 24. Please be sure to check the schedule attached to the email to see if this affects your pick-up time.

### ENVELOPE:

- The students are bringing home **important papers** today. Please look for:

1. **Photo Day Order Forms:** The deadline to return order forms is Monday, September 24!

### FROM FUNDRAISING:

- Just a note to update you on our fundraiser – **Gift Cards/Grocery Cards!** As parents purchase vouchers, a percentage of the purchase can be used towards your tuition payment and a percentage will go towards the school's budget. Gift card sales are the easiest way to make money for the school. We encourage everyone to start using the voucher program – many stores accept the vouchers. Post-dated cheques can be left at the office and gift cards will be sent home with your oldest child.
- **Bazaar:** We have heard you and we are changing things up. Our "REGULAR" traditional "BAZAAR" is being revamped into hopefully something exciting and new to CCS for 2019. If you are new to the school, this is usually one of Community Christian School's largest fundraising events that was held every 18 months. We raised over \$50,000 at our Bazaar in November 2017. It normally consists of a live and silent auction, games, crafts and baking along with dinner available. This is not a small event but with the changes ahead and with our new ideas, could this be the start of the "NEW" traditional "GALA"? If you would like to know more, share your thoughts and ideas, If you have ideas/comments/questions but cannot make this meeting please forward them to Sheree

- **Mabels Labels:** If you are in need of any labels for your children's clothing, school belongings, and accessories, please consider Mabel's Labels. Our school is signed up to receive 20% from any order received. Shipping is free! Please visit the following website to place your order: [campaigns.mabelslabels.com](http://campaigns.mabelslabels.com)

#### **FROM THE GRADES:**

**JK / SK:** We are settling into the routine of school quite nicely so far. There is a lot of enthusiasm and curiosity for learning happening every day. For example, the students had found a swarm of little red bugs last week and were told by older students that they were termites. JK/SK students were very concerned that our playground would be eaten by the termites. We decided that we better investigate what the bugs were. We took pictures and compared them to pictures on the computer and found a match to the 'red shoulder' bug. The students were relieved that they were not termites and learned that these bugs only eat leaves and they are not dangerous, just a nuisance (pesty).

#### Dates to Remember:

**Terry Fox Walk - Monday September 24th @ 10:45 am.** Thank you to all who have volunteered to walk with us. Please note that if you would like to join us but are unsure due to young children at home, we would love for them to join us as well.

**Mapleton Organic Farm - October 22nd @ 12:30 pm - 3ish** - More information will come home in the next couple of weeks.

Next week we will be starting to focus on learning letters 'Aa' and 'Tt'.

We are continuing to talk about the fruits of the spirit and making connections to how we can be a good friend.

#### Grade One/Two:

**Math:** Grade 1 continues to work on numeracy skills, including correct number formation and direction. They also began exploring more, less, most, and least. Grade 2 completed their first unit and began to look at finding the core of a pattern.

**Language Arts:** We began writer's workshop this week. Students explored how to find ideas for writing and began their own stories. Our 1/2 authors are writing some very creative stories!

**Creation Studies:** We learned about the different jobs in our school community and how we all work together.

**Bible:** We learned about the fall and began looking at God's promises to Noah. Our memory work for September is **Psalms 100:1-3** and is due **Friday, September 28**.

**Show and Share Friday:** Grade 1.

**Parent Read Aloud:** Tomorrow, Mrs. Cynthia Deen will join us. Next time, Mrs. Kabbes will come. Thank you for sharing your love of reading with us. *If you are able to come read to our class, we would love to have you too!*

**Terry Fox Walk:** JK/SK and Grade 1/2 will be going on our walk on Monday. If you would like to join us, please let me know.

#### Grade Three/Four:

**Memory Verse:** Books of the New Testament (to be recited Friday, September 27)

**Bible:** We are learning about the early days of the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah.

**Math:** Today was our first math test. Following this unit, both grades will begin a number sense unit. Students will begin to practice regrouping and adding two digit numbers. Students are encouraged to continue practicing addition and subtraction facts in order to increase math fluency.

### **Grade Three/Four continued:**

**Daily Five:** We had our first spelling test yesterday. We were very close to earning baking (ask your child how the class can earn this). New spelling sorts will be coming home today in the envelopes. Grade 3's are learning about possessive pronouns in grammar, and the Grade 4's are reviewing common nouns.

**Marbles for Excellence:** Throughout the year, Grade 3/4 students will look for ways to be excellent. Excellence may come through achieving personal goals or exceeding expectations, both behaviourally and academically. As students work towards excellence, marbles are moved from one jar to another. Once all the excellence marbles have earned, we will have a class celebration.

**Tuck Shop for Ruth:** Tuesday will be our first "Tuck Shop for Ruth." Students have been busy creating advertisement posters, supply lists, as well as price points for the tuck shop items.

### **Grade Five/Six:**

Respect was the main topic this week during our RAM (responsive advisory meeting). We discussed what it was, what it looked like, sounded like and felt like in our classroom and in the school when respect is being shown. We even listened to a little bit of Aretha Franklin.

- Math - Grade 5 wrote a short math test on their first section of Patterning. They did an awesome job! These will be coming home by the end of this week. Grade 6 will write a short test today on the same topics. Students spent yesterday reviewing and discussing their work.
- Creation Studies - We were able to use the Chromebooks this week to work on some research for our Animal and Plant booklet.
- Bible - We have started looking at the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth.
- Memory - This is tomorrow. There were a number of students that were not prepared for the Memory work last week. Please try and remind your child to review it.
- Terry Fox - We will be participating in the walk tomorrow. Our goal as a school is to raise \$200. Let's meet it!!
- Soccer - permission forms went home yesterday, please return as soon as possible

Coming up.....

Thursday - Soccer Tournament

Friday - Memory Work - Psalm 139:7-10

Spelling test

### **Grade Seven/Eight:**

**Math:** Both classes have just completed unit tests. The Grade 7 class will move on to Algebra while the Grade 8 students continue in Number Sense.

**Language Arts:** The class is really enjoying the novel Hatchet. At this point, the plane has just crashed in the Canadian wilderness. Writing folders are due this Friday.

**Science:** This week we looked at the roles of Producers, Consumers, and Decomposers in an ecosystem. We also created food webs for our lunch.

**Geography:** This week's assignment deals with map skills.

**Memory Work:** Psalm 139:16-18 for **Wednesday, Sept. 26.** (The day change is due to the soccer tournament.)

**History:** Our focus this week will be on the relationships of the relationships between the British and the First Nations after 1713.

**Bible:** We will be finishing our overview of the events leading up to the story of Joseph.