

Mr. Verburg's Message:

As we approach our national holiday of Thanksgiving, I recently read a reflection written by Fred Bittner entitled, "A Biblical Model for Thanksgiving." In this article, Fred laments that in the broader culture, which creeps into the Christian community Thanksgiving, has shifted from giving thanks to "our beneficial Father" to being about turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, and football. As a starting point, he gives us four principles to enjoy a Biblical thanksgiving. The four principles that a Biblical model for thanksgiving, that Fred highlights are: reflection, prayer, songs of rejoicing, and sacrificing.

I think that the first three principles would not stretch us that much since they are part of our common practices. If I think about our practices and rituals at school, we include reflection, prayer, and songs of praise into our classroom activities and assemblies. For example, during tomorrow's assembly, we will have a video where Kindergarten through Grade 4 students share what or why they are thankful to God. Early this week, I placed a Thanksgiving challenge calendar in the staffroom that asks staff to give thanks for different things each day, such as what food am I thankful for, which smell. Mr. Adams used one or more of these items in his morning meeting. We are good at reflecting. Also at tomorrow's assembly, pray and singing are woven into the program. This is what we do.

However, I had to stop and think about how thanksgiving includes sacrifice. In the Old Testament, offerings of thanksgiving required the sacrifice of cakes, grains, or animals. 1 Chronicles 21:23-24 tells a short story where David insists that he himself will cover the cost of a burnt offering.

Araunah said to David, "Take it! Let my lord the king do whatever pleases him. Look, I will give the oxen for the burnt offerings, the threshing sledges for the wood, and the wheat for the grain offering. I will give all this." But King David replied to Araunah, "No, I insist on paying the full price. I will not take for the Lord what is yours, or sacrifice a burnt offering that costs me nothing."

Upon reflecting further, I realized that tomorrow we are including and highlighting sacrifice and thanksgiving through a new practice. As part of desiring to create a culture where we share stories about the school and its impact, Kelly Robertson is putting together a slideshow highlighting why some parents are thankful for Community Christian School. This slideshow will play before and after the assembly. Sending your children to Community Christian School is an act of thanksgiving. It is an act of thanksgiving to God as a response for His gift of the saving grace of Christ. Your desire is for your children to learn about God, His creation and that gift of grace. It is why we exist as a school. This act of thanksgiving does come with a cost that you are aware of. Tuition is a financial sacrifice, but it is a sacrifice that you are willing to make as an act of thanksgiving and faithfulness. Please join us tomorrow as we give thanks to the Lord in these four ways.

Inspiring Minds. Engaging Hearts. Building Character.

Community Christian School

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

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
Thur., October 25	Teacher’s Convention – No School
Fri., October 26	Teacher’s Convention – No School
Tues., November 6	Registration Open House
Tues., November 6	Hot Dog Lunch
Tues., November 6	Board Meeting
Wed., November 7	Grade 7 Immunization
Sat., November 10	Family Skate Night
Mon., November 12	Remembrance Day Observance
Tues., November 13	Hot Lunch – Chicken Burgers
Tues., November 20	Pizza Lunch

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

Mark D October 9



FYI:

- **Cross Country Meet:** We wish the cross country runners a good day! Have fun!
- **Tuck Shop for Ruth:** The next tuck shop will be on October 16 during the first nutrition break. 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.
- **October Hot Lunch:** Please note that the date for October’s hot lunch (SOFT TACOS) has been changed to October 23.
- **Membership Letters:** Please watch for your membership letter in the next few days. Associate and Member letters will be mailed out or placed in church mailboxes this week.

Dates to Remember:

- **Thanksgiving Assembly:** please join us on Friday, October 5 for our Thanksgiving Assembly at 2:30 p.m. **Please note: there will be no busing on the PM route.** Please contact office@ccsdrayton.org if your children will be going home with someone else.
- **Cross Country:** Practices continue to be held during the second nutrition break. We wish the cross country runners a good day as they run in Cambridge today! Have fun! Our second meet is in Dundas on October 19. Permission forms will be sent home next week.

FROM FUNDRAISING:

- **Gift Cards/Grocery Cards!** Gift card sales are the easiest way to raise funds for the school. As parents, members, associates, and supporters purchase gift cards, a percentage of the purchase is used towards the school’s budget and a portion can be used towards next year’s tuition payment. This voucher program includes many types of gift cards and can be purchased directly from the school anytime during office hours from cards we have on hand. We encourage everyone to start using the voucher program. Post-dated cheques can be left at the office and gift cards will be sent home with the family’s oldest child.
- **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

FROM THE GRADES:

JK / SK:

Happy Thanksgiving! May you enjoy spending time with family and friends this holiday weekend.

- Thank you for keeping your child's "oopsie" bag well stocked. This past week was full of fun puddles to explore and play in.
- The students are doing so well at learning how to do up their zippers and fixing their sleeves or splash pants that are inside out. They are very proud of themselves when these tasks are accomplished independently.
- Next week we will be focusing on letters 'Pp, Ii, Nn' and exploring the 'in' family words.
- This past week we talked about the story of the shepherd and his lost sheep. We talked about how God is like a shepherd to us, His sheep.
- We have been looking for signs of fall and observing the changing colours.

Grade One/Two:

If you have any **plastic bags** that you can spare, please send them in! We are always in need of them when the weather is wet.

Oopsie Bags are coming home today – please ensure that your child has seasonally appropriate clothing to change into when needed, including socks. Thank you!

Math: Both grades have been studying patterns. Grade 1 learned how to find the core of a pattern while Grade 2 has been describing and extending patterns. Grade 2 *conquered* this unit! Did you see your child's math test?!

Language Arts: We are learning "short a" word families. Grade 1/2 readers are rapidly learning their sight words – a sight word party may be coming soon!

Creation Studies: Grade 1/2 scientists have been examining the roots, stems, and leaves of a plant closely. How did God create these parts to help the plant function?

Bible: We are learning about the promises God made to Abraham. They took a long time to fulfill, but we know that God always keeps his promises. Memory work for October: **Psalm 100:4-5** and is due **Wednesday, October 31**.

Show and Share Friday: Jolene, Mykayla, Averi, Ellanna, Sam, AJ.

Parent Read Aloud: Tomorrow, Mrs. Brittany Deen will join us. Next time, Mrs. Claus will come. Thank you for sharing your love of reading with us.

Author Visit: We will be going to the library on **October 16 at 10:30** to hear from author Lisa Dalrymple. Parents are welcome to join us.

Crest Partnership: Our first visit will be on **October 17**.

Field Trip: We will be taking part in a program at Everdale Farm on **Wednesday, October 24**. Please return permission forms as soon as possible.

Grade Three/Four:

Memory Verse: We have begun learning Psalms 51:7-13. We will be reciting this Friday, October 5

Bible: We have seen the downward spiral of the kings of Israel with each king taking the people further away from God. Right now, we are learning about Elijah. Tomorrow and Monday, small groups will be presenting various highlights from Elijah's life and ministry.

Math: As we have begun diving into our number sense unit, students are practicing writing numbers in expanded form. Both grades will be adding using regrouping as well as comparing numbers using the greater than and less than symbols.

Daily Five: As students have been finishing their leveled reading books, they are beginning to work on their first book reports of the school year. New spelling sorts will be coming home today in the envelopes. We have been applying our knowledge of verb tenses through creative sentences, which had students eating in fancy restaurants, travelling the world, and driving tractors and buses.

STEM: Our STEM projects are almost entirely complete. Be sure to watch SeeSaw for our presentation videos.

Music: Students must bring their recorders on Tuesday and Fridays.

Grade Five/Six:

What a grey and rainy week we have been having! We wish our classmates on the cross country team good luck as they run in Cambridge today.

Math - Both grades wrote a Math test yesterday. The results will be coming home soon. Their next math unit is focusing on place value, decimals and addition and subtraction skills.

Creation Studies - Booklets were due yesterday. There are still a few that I am missing. We are continuing with our Biodiversity unit and will now be looking at invasive species.

Writing - Students have been busy writing away in their writing journal. There has been a lot of excitement about "free" writing.

Bible - We have been comparing the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth to that of Mary.

I hope that everyone has a blessed long weekend. Happy Thanksgiving!

Coming up.....

Friday - Happy Birthday Ainsley!

Word Work due and Spelling Test

Thanksgiving Assembly

Friday (October 12)- Spelling Test and Word Work due

Memory Work - Psalm 1: 1-2

Grade Seven/Eight:

Blessings to all for your Thanksgiving Weekends!

Language: This week we have had our first formal Oral Presentations. The students each prepared a journal entry as a character from the story 'Blindsided' to share with the class.

Math: Both groups will be having Unit Tests next Friday, October 12th. The Grade 8s will have completed their first Number Sense unit, while the Grade 7s will have completed an Algebra unit.

Science: We are currently looking at Energy Flow in an Ecosystem. The class has a Google Classroom assignment which is due next Wednesday at noon.

Geography: Now that we have worked through Map Skills, we will begin to examine landforms and their creation.

Google Classroom: I hope everyone has accepted their Google Classroom invitation. This is an excellent way to receive updates on your child's work.

Memory Work: Proverbs 21:2-3 for Thursday, October 11

History Test: Wednesday, Oct. 17 - Review questions were handed out today.