

- **Opening prayer** – Cindy Hebers
- **Introductions** – All in attendance
- **Devotional**

Cindy Hebers read a devotional from “Emotionally Healthy Spirituality Day by Day”; message about taking on Jesus’ easy yoke and his way of life

- **School council meeting guidelines**

Taken from Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA); briefly went over ground rules for all school councils, including confidentiality, active listening, respect for other views, taking responsibility for learning.

James 1:19-21 “My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.”

- **Approval of September 2025 Minutes** – Motion by Amber Abel, second by Candace Rottier

- **Technology Update**

- **JOMO “Joy of Missing Out”**

A webinar was attended in late September by school council executive and principle to learn more about JOMO. It is a faith-based curriculum, focused on formation of healthy habits around technology use and understanding, rather than restriction and fear. It leads school communities by providing common language & understanding.

Principle Jenna Haugan reported on a follow-up with Jeremy Horlings (PCCE) – 3 PCCE schools are piloting JOMO this year. There is a \$6000 per year investment to use JOMO curriculum– awaiting pilot results to consider outcomes/feedback before committing, in a process of discernment right now regarding adoption of JOMO.

Jennifer Lozeau has created a digital citizenship slide show for teachers and will collaborate to work on lessons for each division, to be completed by end of semester 1.

Staff have guidelines re classroom use of technology – videos to be previewed by teacher, must be linked to curriculum; videos not to be used as classroom management tool; there is rating criteria regarding movies allowed to be shown in each division.

- **Communication (school and society)**

Currently the Chronicle is used to relay information, sent weekly on Wednesdays by email to parents, also posted on school website and facebook page each week; Jenna Haugan is responsible for curating content for Chronicle, trying to keep content focused on CCS, community bulletin board may be used to share external events happening in the community.

Society communication: LSCE has a new website, news is also communicated through the Chronicle. Information about, including the purpose of LSCE is communicated through their website, and through new family interviews. Any questions about LSCE can go directly to Lisa Gatzke in the school office.

LSCE fundraising communication: there is a facebook page separate from the regular Covenant page, called "Covenant Christian School Fundraising" with posts about fundraising efforts. Most communication is through direct emails to parents, as well as Chronicle posts, and a postcard sent to families at the beginning of the year.

- **Principle Report** Jenna Haugan

This is the first evening school council meeting in years, the move was made in light of community building throughlines, with the goal of opening these meetings up to parents with daytime commitments, as well as enabling use of the larger, more comfortable staff room which is unavailable for day time meetings.

Teachers strike update: staff have been reflecting on Hebrews 10:23 since returning to work.

"Instilling Hope" has been an important theme, focus on stories sharing hope in action within the CCS community.

Operational adjustments following strike: 3 PD days missed due to strike, 2 converted to instructional days, which has resulted in missed staff meetings. Time is being built in following Tuesday morning devotions for meeting topics.

Dates for parent teacher conferences and school photos were moved due to the strike; report card dates remain unchanged.

Advent/Christmas Preparation is happening around the school, with a theme/focus on Jesus as fulfillment of our greatest hopes.

Santa's Helpers donation bin in office, looking for new toy donations. Pickup date is December 12.

Information about upcoming Christmas/advent theme days will be coming out in the Chronicle.

- **Questions/Comments?**

Post-it notes were distributed to collect suggestions for topics to discuss at future school council meetings.

- Christmas gift Wrapping for teachers, December 11 @ 8:45am
- Next School Council Meeting scheduled for January 27 @ 7:00pm

- **Closing Prayer – Nicole Hennink**



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Principal's Report

Good evening, everyone, and thank you for joining us for our first evening School Council meeting in several years. It is encouraging to see so many of you investing in your child's education and in our school community. One of our Teaching for Transformation throughlines is Community Building, and I really believe that thriving communities grow when we intentionally make space for meaningful connection.

Last year, several parents shared that daytime meetings made participation difficult. Their feedback reminded us that opportunities for connection should be accessible to more families. Moving our meetings to the evening widens participation, welcomes new voices, and allows us to gather in larger, more comfortable spaces in our school.

Updates Regarding the Teacher Strike

As we hold onto the *Bright Hope* part of our theme, we've been reflecting on Hebrews 10:23: "*Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.*" This has been a challenging time, but I am incredibly proud of our teachers and how they've chosen to move forward and support students. A few examples of hope in action:

- Our music teachers and staff continue to give up many recesses so students can participate in worship teams, the Hymnsters, the O Canada/Lord's Prayer team, and the Celebration action team- sixteen students were involved during Celebration just last week.
- CCS Drama delivered an amazing performance featuring an original song by Ebony Matter and a play written by Andy Jenkins, choreographed by Nici Drader. Despite tight time constraints, the students and staff pulled it off beautifully, and the result was so powerful.
- A group of teachers attended the Leduc Tiger Cats' provincial semifinal and final games on chilly Saturday mornings to cheer on students.
- Last Friday, our volleyball coaches led the Coaches vs. Students game and pep rally, hosted a wrap-up celebration after school, and then took the team to King's University to watch a game together that evening. Even though the season was cut short, they wanted to honour our athletes and celebrate community spirit.

These are only a few of the many ways our community shines, even in challenging times. The courage to show up, support one another, and live out our purpose is Bold Joy in action. I am so grateful for every staff member who consistently gives their best to our school community. Their dedication brings hope and light, even on the toughest days.

Operational Adjustments

We also recognize the impact of the strike on families, and we sincerely thank you for your understanding.

Key adjustments:

- Three PD days (Oct. 14, Nov. 3, Dec. 1) were converted to instructional days.
- Missed staff meeting time is now built into the end of Tuesday morning devotions. We meet each Tuesday at 7:55





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- Parent-Teacher Conferences moved to Dec. 3-4
- Picture Day was rescheduled; families will receive ordering codes approximately ten days afterward. We transitioned to Edge Imaging based on parent feedback
- Report card dates remain unchanged due to our two semester reporting periods

Advent Season and Christmas Preparations

Advent is one of the most meaningful parts of our school year. Kindergarten–Grade 3 students are preparing The A-MAZE-ing Christmas Maze for their Concert on Dec. 18th, and our Celebration theme focuses on Anticipation: Jesus as the fulfillment of our deepest hope. Mrs. Glesman will begin our reflections this week.

Our Grade 9 Advent project, *Preparing Our Hearts: Sharing our Bright Hope and Bold Joy*, will guide our school-wide reflections this season. Each school day during Advent, one student or staff member will share a 1-2 minute recorded reflection responding to one of four questions:

- Where do you see the Hope of Christ in our school community?
- Where do you see the Peace of Christ in our school community?
- Where do you see the Joy of Christ in our school community?
- Where do you see the Love of Christ in our school community?

This Digital Living Advent Calendar invites us to slow down, pay attention, and recognize Christ's presence among us- in our classrooms, our relationships, and our hearts. It cultivates attentiveness, strengthens our shared identity, and draws us into Advent with purpose and delight. These videos will also be shared with our school community on our CCS Facebook page.

Classroom teachers will be dedicating devotional time to Advent conversations beginning next Monday. Students will participate in weekly Advent readings and candle lighting during Celebration- a tradition we all treasure.

Classroom door decorating begins soon, with each class selecting a theme, hymn, carol, or verse that reflects the season. Some staff may reach out to parents for volunteer support.

Other Christmas initiatives include:

- Our Santa's Helpers Christmas Bin
- School-wide caroling in the auditorium in the afternoon on December 19th- embracing our theme of *Bold Joy*
- Buddy classes creating cards of *Bright Hope* for one another
- 5 dress-up days on the last week of school before winter break
- Our annual Junior High community-building morning and pancake breakfast

Thank you for coming tonight and for being intentional about connecting with the CCS community and your child's education. As always, this update provides a whole-school overview, but if you ever need additional information or have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher directly for matters specific to your student.

