

Covenant Christian School Council Meeting  
October 27th, 2022

**Agenda**

1. Introductions and devotional. Shauna Balehowsky, Malissa Huiellery, Leanne Simmons, Donavin Simmons, Candace Dreger, Emily Barnard, Laura White, Nicole Dodds, CoraLee Abel, Anne McDonald, Nicole Chapman
  - In this place and this time, and across the prairies, we acknowledge the territory upon which we gather this morning. We acknowledge that we live, work and worship on the treaty land of the First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples.
  - Devotional - Shauna Balehowsky  
Giving Our Kids A Big View of God  
3 things to remember: The power of repentance, learning with your kids and keeping the end goal in mind.
  
2. Nicole Dodds - Survey from the Alberta School Council Engagement Task force.  
The ASCA's goal is to identify what we know and what we don't know so they can effectively advocate for parents.  
Nicole will send out a survey and then compile responses and send the parent council a summary of what she will submit to the ASCA. If you'd like to participate please complete and turn in your answers by Friday, November 4th.
  
3. Mr. Simmons and Mrs. Huillery attended a Council of School Council meeting. They will share what they learned or found challenging. Malissa and Donavin represented CCS and reviewed some important roles and procedures pertaining to School Council. Many things discussed in the meeting didn't apply to our school because the LSCE deals with many of the responsibilities that the School Council would usually run, for example, fundraising.

4. The Principal's Report.

\*See attached Principal Report

Important upcoming dates

November 4: Remembrance Day Ceremony 10:30-11:30

June 6-9: Jasper Trip Gr.7

June 10: Golf Tournament

June 13-16: Jasper Trip Gr.9

June 23 - Grade 9 Grad

5. Update on Mrs.Gulley and Mrs. Clark's health.

Mrs. Gulley's surgery was a success! Recovery is going well.

Mrs.Clark is enjoying being back at the school at a 0.3 FTE position.

6. Rachelle Mclvor - new family emails update.

7. Questions or concerns? Next School Council meeting scheduled for November 30th?

Next Parent Council Meeting will be held on November 30th



*Flourishing Learners, Delighting in God, Inspired to Serve*

## **October Principals Report**

As I mentioned earlier, a few weeks ago I was in Winnipeg for the Christian Schools Canada conference. Rather than a keynote speaker, our keynote was the National Museum for Human Rights. The experience walking through was formative and memorable, yet the most impressionable takeaway from the conference was what occurred after our day-long tour of the museum.

For those who do not know, the museum is not a typical museum. Rather than being loaded with artifacts, it is loaded with stories and experiences from a variety of human rights issues from Canada and the world. The building itself is designed specifically to journey the participant from darkness to light as you walk up through the building; beginning with the darkness of genocides, and ethnic cleansings in Canada and worldwide. From there (four floors worth), it slowly moves through the evolution, celebration, and future of human rights. It ends in the tower of hope, where I spent about 20 minutes simply praying while looking down over the city of Winnipeg. As you can imagine, this was deeply difficult and reflective for many of us as Christian leaders.

Once we finished our tour, we were invited outside, where our hosts asked us to get into two large (about 80 people) circles. In these circles, we were asked to give either a “Praise, Lament, or Hope” about our day in the museum. Little did we know that in the circles, we would all end up sharing a big lament.

You see, soon after we broke into circles and were given our task, a young indigenous man noticed our very large group break into the circles. For some reason, this irked him, and he came over. He broke into the first circle that I was a part of and did a lap, sizing up the people within the circle. He asked some expletive-coated questions of us, basically amounting to why we were there, and what we were doing. As educational leaders, who have dealt with students who have become agitated, we simply paused and waited. This strategy seemed to work for us, as after one lap of the circle, he left, moving to the other. In this circle, the educators tried the same tactic, some even welcomed him in, asking his name and if he would join us. This did not go to plan. He became more agitated, and the anger, resentment, and rage began to come out even more so. He increased his speed, and rounded over and over, getting into people’s

faces and challenging them in different ways. His mouth began to froth as his vitriol grew greater. For minutes that seemed much longer, he screamed, challenged, and accosted those gathered. His words were filled with loathing and hate, and it would have been easy to be angry at him, and normally I would have been, yet for some reason (not in my control), I was saddened by the event.

Once we realized that the situation wasn't going to resolve itself, we decided that we should dissipate rather quickly, and many began moving to our next scheduled location. The man, feeling victorious, took this opportunity to bang his chest and verbally accost those leaving. I stuck around, giving a wide enough berth to this person, and ended up walking back with the last few who were left, who either arrived late and were not aware or were too tired and taken aback by the events to move quickly.

A quick aside, it is interesting to see how people react to such a situation. As I mentioned, some welcomed him and asked him questions, while others became quite afraid. Still, some others were in fight mode, ensuring that he knew what he was doing was not okay. I always seem to go into some sort of protector mode and was looking around for those in vulnerable positions. I have said quite often that I for some reason seem to think I am 6'4 and 250lbs because I think I can control those situations and stand up if needed. I'm not, but have dealt with my illusions.

Now, I tell you this story not to gossip, or for it to become some sort of cautionary tale, but specifically for the learning that happened after the fact. You see, I, like many others, did not feel great about how this finished, and spent many hours in thought and prayer that evening trying to figure out if we could have done anything differently. What we came up with over evening discussions, was that we couldn't have handled it any different and that what we witnessed was brokenness caused by what we earlier had seen in the museum. We got to experience firsthand how things that happened decades ago affect God's people today. As we discussed it again the next morning as a larger group, the theme that came from this experience was one of lament.

Just as we at CCS explore "The Stable Table" this year as a school community, this one experience, this one lament, rang through from my conference. The thought is that when we welcome people to our table, we also welcome the hurt, anger, brokenness, and experiences of lifetimes of our collective histories. We cannot fix something quickly (although we like to try), but as we gather together, as we fellowship together, and as we work together to build God's Kingdom, it can be messy. Things often do not go as planned. The table is not just a place for fun and happiness. It is a place of brokenness. The young gentleman's name was Billy, and God brought him to us, not to scare us, but to teach us about every person in His Kingdom.

I felt honoured that I could learn this in a way that books, papers, or museum tours could not.

2. Christian Teachers Convention gave our teachers a lot to think about. One of those things that I was challenged with is how technology has created an expectation of immediacy. We want things now. One of those items that our keynote speaker mentioned and challenged us on is how it has made our teaching staff spread their focus. Their job is to teach our kids. It is not to reply to admin emails nor is it to reply to parent communication immediately. Often, a parent will email a teacher to tell them not to send their child on the bus, or that they will be picking them up early, or that they forgot their jacket etc. Often this occurs minutes before the time. While email is a great means for communication, we can't expect our teachers to be actively teaching our kids, and monitoring their emails. This is a good reminder for me as an administrator, but also for our parent community as well.

3. The Remembrance Day Ceremony will take place on November 4th, with a start time of about 10:30. We will have a typical ceremony and will also have our Drama CTF do a play during as well. As November break takes place, we need to have the ceremony beforehand.

4. Our division I Christmas Concert is coming up soon. It will take place on December 15th at 7:00 pm. Auditions occurred yesterday, and practicing will begin quite soon. As both a parent and principal, I can say the students are quite excited to perform in person!

5. Grade 9 Grad has been moved to June 23rd. This is to allow for the Grade 7's and 9's both be able to go on the annual Jasper field trip. As we are no longer allowed to go to Frontier Lodge due to insurance concerns, we will have the next two years where our 9's will go to Jasper, and then find another trip for them

6. Assurance Plan - This year our assurance plan (previously called 3YEP) will focus on three main goals. These include a literacy goal, a numeracy goal, and a wellness goal. The literacy and numeracy goals will focus on closing the gaps we have seen in students over the last three years, and our wellness goals will be for social emotional learning focused on our students and our staff. I think it is important to remember our staff when we think of that third goal. The indicators that we will be looking at come from our screening tools that we administer at the beginning of the year, precision reading scores, DIBELS scores, and our MIPI math data we also collect.

7. Council of School Councils Conversation - Thank you to Malissa who joined me at the CSC meeting last night. We had the head of ASCA speak to us about the role of the board chair. It was quite informative, although many of the things that were talked

about felt more how we deal with issues at an LSCE board level as well. As we are an alternate program, this is where many of the fundraising questions come into play etc.