



Secondary School News

Coventry Christian Schools

Vol. 13, Issue 3

September 28, 2009

Calendar of Events

September:

9/28 PTO/HSCA Meeting, 6:30 p.m., PV

October

10/1 Career/College Fair for juniors/seniors

10/6 Grandparents Gathering, 9 a.m., CV

10/8 Grandparents' Day, PV

10/12 Columbus Day--School Closed

10/17 All school yard sale, CV

10/18 Board Meeting, 1:30 p.m., PV

10/19 Spiritual Emphasis Day at Camp Manatawny; 5th Grade to Paradise Farms

10/21 Market Day Pick-Up, 6:30 p.m., PV

10/27-10/30 Middle School Trips

SEE www.coventrychristian.com for sports schedules! Go Eagles!

Hey, No Complaining!

"Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life . . ."

Philippians 2:14-16

In the secondary program, our primary responsibility is the instruction of teenagers. Most of our parents are parents of teenagers. I'm sure we all have a little trouble imagining a community, whether a family or a school, free of complaining and arguing. What would it take to create that kind of community?

Apparently it is a very important characteristic of any group of Christians who are truly living their faith. Paul writes that the foundation to any community that will make a difference in the world is the absence of arguing and complaining. We will never shine like stars in a dark world until we find a way to rid ourselves of arguing and complaining.

What causes quarrels and arguments among us? What causes complaints? Is it not pride? At the heart of every complaint or argument between students at the school, and dare I say between members of my family, is an unhealthy concern for self. It is no coincidence that Paul exhorts us to abstain from arguing and complaining after telling us that we need to model the humility of Christ. When we seek to have the same attitude as Christ, to do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, to look out for the interests of others rather than ourselves, we will be a community of peace, thanksgiving, and joy. We will truly be able to do everything with out arguing or complaining.

I challenge us to make a deliberate effort this week to do anything but complain when we are offended or discontent at work, home, or school. I challenge us to seek to understand rather than to be understood. I hope you will join me in praying for all of us in the Coventry Christian family to have the same mind of Christ as we work and live with each other this school year. If CCS is going to live up to its calling and its name, if we are really going to be a bright spot in our community, our nation, and our world, we must be united in this cause and hold each other accountable when our light grows dim.

The Very First PTO/HSCA Meeting is Monday, September 28!

The first PTO meeting will be held on Monday, September 28, 6:30 p.m. at the Pleasantview campus. PTO is for all parents, teachers, and others who are a vital part of our school community. PTO exists to serve our children by raising funds for activities, projects, and purchases that enhance the education our children receive at CCS. The PTO has an annual budget in the tens of thousands, and those who come to meetings vote on how to spend

those monies on our students. If you want to have a voice, come to the meetings! This year we are adding the subtitle (which may eventually become the new name of our PTO), Home, School, Community Association (HSCA) to emphasize the connectedness, partnership, and teamwork we want between all facets of our school community and local community at large. Don't miss your chance to get involved.

Instrumental Rental Meeting Tuesday, September 29

Band brochures and registration forms went home last week. Please mail the registration form to Mr. Rusin (his address is on the registration form) as soon as possible so that he can begin scheduling your child's lesson times. All individual and group lessons and band sessions are during the school day. An instrument rental meeting will be held at the Coventry campus on Tuesday, September 29, 7 p.m. Lessons will and practices will begin on Wednesday, October 7.

11th and 12th Grades to Attend College and Career Fair

The juniors and seniors will attend the Tri-County Area Chamber of Commerce Career and College Fair at the Gilbertsville Fire Company on Thursday, October 1. A permission slip with more information will come home before the trip.

Clubs Begin on Friday, October 2

Club selections are in, and rosters will be developed this week. They will be posted in homeroom on Wednesday. Be sure to ask your child about his or her club after their first sessions on Friday.

7th Grade Fossil Trip October 5

The 7th Earth Science class will be taking a trip to Swatara Gap State Park on Monday, October 5. In years past, we have had an annual caving trip, but due to a strange disease that is killing eastern brown bats, all caves are currently off limits in this part of the country until further notice. However, we have been looking for a fall fossil digging location and have found one. Look for a permission slip to come home this week.

Spiritual Emphasis Day October 19

Spiritual Emphasis Day is scheduled for Monday, October 19. All students will go by bus to Camp Manatawny for a day of classes and activities centered around spiritual and moral themes. This will be a dress down day, and lunch will be provided. Students who live close to camp may be dropped off at camp instead of school but should not report before 8:00 a.m. The cost of the trip is \$10 per student. A permission slip will be coming home soon. Please remit payment with that. If you have any questions, give us a call.

College Planning Seminar for CCS Families October 20

The first of many opportunities we will be providing to support you as your children approach their college years will be held on Tuesday, October 20, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the chapel at the Pleasantview Campus. The seminar is free and is open to all secondary families.

Juniors Take PSAT Wednesday, Oct. 14

The juniors will be taking the PSAT on Wednesday, October 14. The PSAT serves as a practice test for the SAT and gives students an idea of how they will score on the SAT itself. It will provide you with a guide for areas that will need the most preparation to improve for the official SAT in June and again next fall. Following the PSAT, students will be given information and resources for studying for the SAT itself. Students scoring in the 99th percentile will qualify for National Merit Scholar Awards. Stay tuned for more college support to come.

Upcoming Academic Assessments/Projects:

Middle School

Day	5th	6th	7th	8th
Monday	Math test, Unit 1			English test, ch. 4
Tuesday	Reading test (Faith and Eddie story with vocabulary); Drama Improv Performance due	Drama Improv Performance due	Drama Improv Performance due	Physical science test; Drama Improv Performance due
Wednesday		History test		
Thursday				
Friday			Math test, Earth Science test	Algebra I, Ch. 1 test
Monday, 10/5				

High School

Day	9th	10th	11th	12th
Monday	Online Bible test due midnight; Dear Doug Bible essay due	Online Bible test due midnight; Dear Doug Bible essay due	Online Bible test due midnight; Dear Doug Bible essay due	Chem II test; Business Math test, ch. 3; Online Bible test due midnight; Dear Doug Bible essay due
Tuesday	Drama Improv Performance due	Chem I test, America Lit. quiz; Drama Improv Performance due	Drama Improv Performance due	Drama Improv Performance due
Wednesday			Unit I exam, Brit. Lit.	
Thursday	Geometry, Ch. 1 test		Trig Ch. 1 test	
Friday	Biology test	Algebra II Ch. 1 test	Physics I test	
Monday, 10/5				

Club Sign-Up Form

Please read about each club below, discuss with your child, complete, and return to school. If a club has a cost associated with it, do not send payment. If your child is assigned to a club with a cost, you will be billed at a later date. Please be sure to rank the top five clubs of your child's choosing in order of preference, with #1 being most preferred and #5 least. We will not be able to give every child his or her first or perhaps even second choice since some clubs have a cap on the number of students that can participate. Clubs will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis. Club assignments will be announced by the end of the week (Friday, September 25, and will begin meeting on Friday, October 2.

Please write the numbers (1-5) indicating your preferred clubs in the blanks to the left of your top five club choices and print your name at the bottom of this form before returning to your homeroom teacher or to Mr. Fisher.

_____ Craft Club--Are you creative? Do you want to be creative? Do you enjoy making crafts? Come join us for a fun time making and creating. We will be working with rubber stamps along with a variety of fun projects. There will be a cost of \$10 for supplies for this club.

_____ Self-Defense Club--Are you interested in martial arts but don't have time to commit to formal training? This club is the opportunity for you to learn the basics of self-defense techniques. You won't earn a black belt, but you will gain the confidence that comes from possessing an array of skills that will equip you to defend yourself from a variety of physical threats. There is no cost for this club.

_____ Chess Team--That's right, it's not just a club. This year there will be Chess competition against other groups/schools. There is no cost to Chess Club.

_____ Photography Club--You need to have a digital camera you are capable of using. You will be required to go to different school activities and take pictures of these events. We will be supplementing the yearbook and other publications with our photographs. We will work on the slideshows for different events as well as share our photos with each other. It will also be helpful if you have a laptop that you can use to edit photos. We will be discussing ideas that will help to improve picture taking and enhancing. No cost.

_____ Performing with Purpose--Come join the chapel drama ministry club called Performing with Purpose where you will have the opportunity to entertain and inspire the students of CCS. Together we will develop performances with a spiritual focus to present in chapel. Performances may range from comedic and lighthearted to dramatic and heart-wrenching. Flex your creative muscles and prepare to move the hearts of many! No cost.

_____ Science Olympiad (Olympics!)--Are you interested in being a Disease Detective? How about building an elevated bridge? Do you even know what the word Herpetology means? How about that stuff under your feet? Or the bright lights in the sky on a dark night? Can you launch an egg and have it land unbroken? Energy and alternative energy is all in the news - do some experimenting and exploring on your own to come up with some ideas. Are you a wanna be inventor, check out the Junk Yard Challenge. All these options and more are available to 6th through 12th graders who are curious about science. The Science Olympiad Club is open to up to 15- 6th through 9th graders and 15 -10th through 12th graders. You pick your topic and compete against other schools. Only come if you are the curious type that wants to find answers! Cost is about \$20 for registration at the Olympiad itself, depending on the number of members on the team.

_____ Youth and Government--Students participate in a statewide program in which they serve as congressmen, judges, members of a press corps, and lobbyists as they work together with students from other schools and participate in bill proposals, elections, and a congressional session. Go to <http://www.ymcapa.org/YouthAndGovernment.html> for program information. There is a cost of about \$300.00 for this club due to three trips to Harrisburg for the conventions (meals, lodging, etc.). Last year this fee was waived by the YMCA (They provided scholarships for us). We will once

again look for outside support to help cover the cost so that any students who want to participate may do so. If you have any questions about this club, please see Mr. Shipman.

_____ Tabitha Club--Tabitha Club is a great chance to learn or to practice some skills that you can use now in your home or in the future when you live on your own. We will practice some cooking skills, sewing skills, how to wire a lamp, making gifts, helping people, etc. We will share the results of our labor with others where the need arises. There are lots of skills we can learn and practice and lots of ways to be of service to others. Come with a willing heart and lots of ideas to plan and have some fun.

_____ FBLA--Interested in the business world? Want to gain skills and experience that will equip you to be an entrepreneur? How about learning leadership skills and practicing them in "real world" projects that make a difference in our community? Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is the club for you.

_____ Lamplighter Book Club--Calling all readers! Join the Lamplighter Book Club for a chance to share your love of reading and learn about the process of selecting award-winning books. While you're at it, challenge each other to some friendly competition by quizzing each other on the books you have read.

_____ Bereans--This club is for students who want to discuss and debate philosophy, religion, and the Bible and come to their own conclusions about it and about the competing moral and spiritual messages out there. This will be a student-led club with Mr. Fisher providing supervision and direction.

_____ High Five--Give a Helping Hand! Calling all Type A personalities! Join High Five and spread your love of cleanliness and organization throughout the school community. High Five will pick up where the maintenance teams and Sojourners left off this summer. We will take on service projects on campus to continue the transformation of our school from Ghetto to Glamorous! Our focus will be joyfully serving CCS.

_____ CCS Cares--This club is focused on serving Pottstown and showing our local community that CCS cares! We will be researching needs within the Pottstown community and will be organizing service projects that make a difference in the name of Christ in Pottstown. If you join this club, you must be willing to give some time outside of the school day and must be willing to help recruit fellow students to serve on schedule projects.

Student Name_____

Student Signature_____

Parent Signature_____