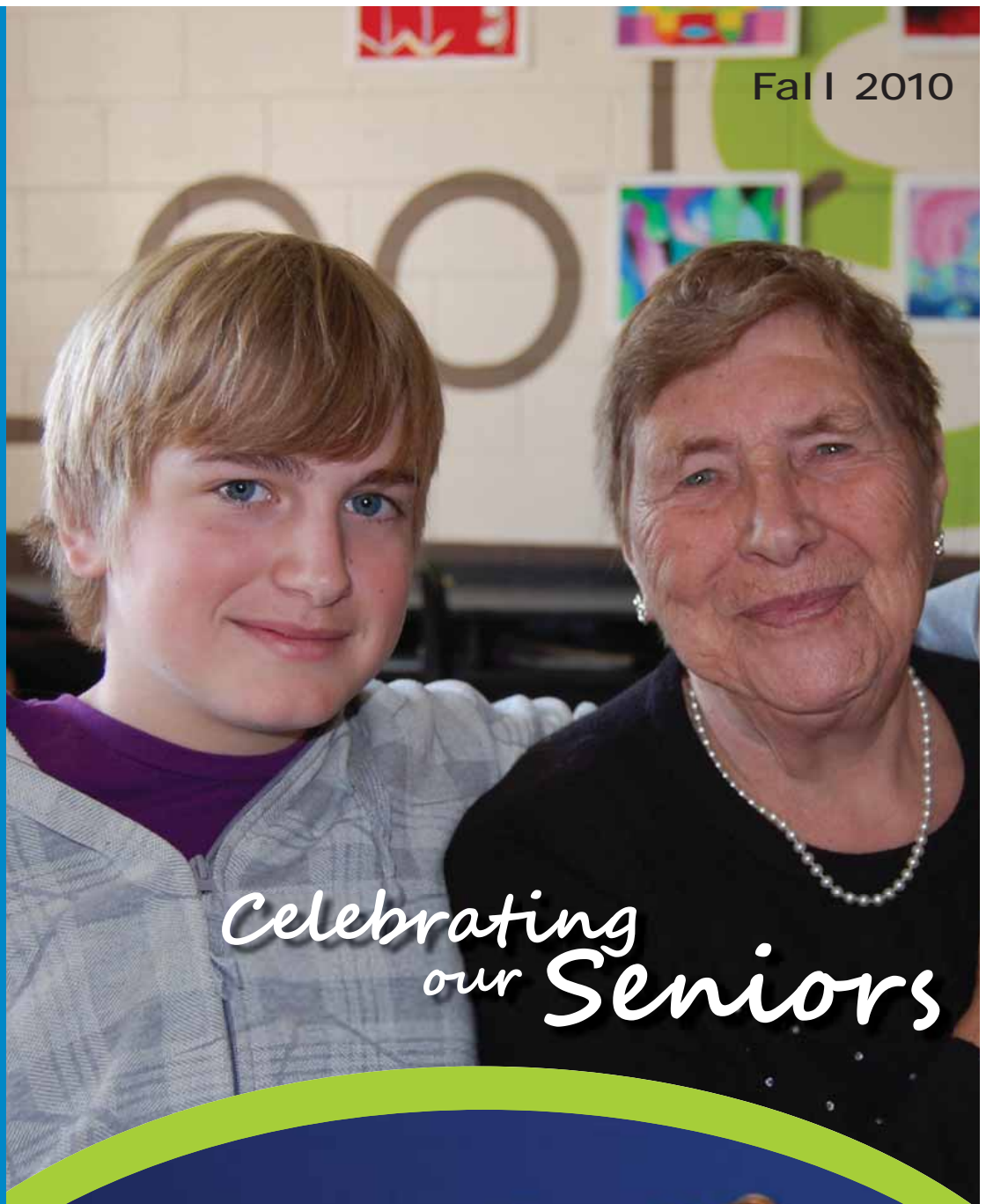


Durham Developments

Fall | 2010



*Celebrating
our Seniors*

in this issue ...

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to French students

What's new !



Praise Team

Making a Joyful Sound to the Lord!

Why Christian Schools?

EDITORIAL

For many parents, the decision to send their children to Christian High School is a difficult one. Along with the concern for the cost of tuition, parents sometimes wonder if their children need to stand on their own and be part of the real world. The high school years are years of growing independence, diminishing parental influence, increased peer group influence, and an ongoing search for place and meaning in life. But as we know, the real world is one in which Christ is acknowledged as Lord of Life and in which all things are considered from that perspective. As students live their lives in high school and beyond, how does a Christian high school education help ground them in their faith and help to prepare them for a faith based life?

Durham Christian High School provides students with an excellent grounding in the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary for further study, work, citizenship and life. Our grads do very well in post-high school studies or in work.

As a faith based community, we recognize that we are all at different points in our journey of faith. Students are challenged to grow in their faith in the context of relationships with staff and fellow students and are provided with a trusting atmosphere for Christian thought and

growth. They are involved in a community characterized by acceptance, focus, encouragement and safety.

Our faith-based perspective shines in the type of community we work to create and the values and worldview which permeate our curricular orientation. Life is complex. We need to ask the difficult questions and struggle with complex answers. Christian young people need to establish and build on an orientation of thinking as Christians and living out our beliefs in their daily lives.

Come find out more about the experience of a real world education at Durham Christian High School.

Prayerfully consider joining us.

Fred Spoelstra
Principal



Allison Karelsen - Gr 12 student



Senior boys volleyball

Alumni Spotlight



Lavonne Zwart attended 9th grade at O'Neill, a public high school in Oshawa, in the gifted program. Feeling overwhelmed as one of 1500 students, Lavonne and her parents explored the option to attend Durham Christian High School. After one visit to hear a panel of students speak about the school, Lavonne and her parents were sold. The more intimate setting of the school and the fact that the teachers would know her by name appealed to them very much. During her time at DCHS, Lavonne made close friends, was academically challenged, and participated in a wide range of activities including: the badminton team, the school play, and the choir.

Lavonne graduated from DCHS in 1988. The Ontario Academic Credits (OAC's) she took in her last year of high school prepared her well for college; particularly Henry Knoop's English class and Mark Ward's history class where she had to write a mini-thesis. Lavonne majored in psychology at Calvin College and graduated in 1991.

Lavonne married Philip Schaafsma and traveled for a year doing both short term mission work and sight-seeing. After this year, Lavonne attended Fuller Theological Seminary's School of Psychology. Lavonne received a Masters degree in Theology and a Doctorate of Psychology.

Lavonne and Phil now have 3 children, Owen (age 9), Isaac (age 7), and Grace (age 3). They live in downtown Grand Rapids. Lavonne now works in private practice as a therapist and her husband, Phil, continues to work for the City of Grand Rapids. They attend Mars Hill Bible Church and are thankful daily for the good gifts God has given them.

Faith on Fire 2010



by Samantha Marshall, Grade 11

This year, during our annual Faith On Fire week, we had the pleasure of having Jenny Boot come and encourage us in our faith. She spoke on topics that everyone has struggled with at some point; like knowing God's presence with you on a daily basis, and knowing your area of calling to serve Him and to fulfill His desires for you.

She spoke on knowing the commands of God early in your life, and my personal favourite message on disillusionment. Then, at the end of the week, she finished with how we can effectively share the good news with others. Speaking on behalf of the students, Faith On Fire week is something that is much anticipated every year. During the week there is an almost tangible buzz in the air because of the excitement and the fire in our hearts.



Faith on Fire week renews and strengthens our passion for God personally and in the greater school community. It encourages students in all grades in their relationship with Christ and their ability to share Jesus Christ with others.

Faith On Fire week brings hope, comfort and understanding to students through the speaker and through the support of the school. It truly does fan the flames of passion for our faith in God, and is something that we all can say we are looking forward to again next year.

French Students take on Quebec



Last month, thirteen 4A Durham students and their French teacher, Ms Grace VanNiejehuis, enjoyed a 4-day trip to Quebec.

This uniquely Canadian cultural experience was intended to allow Durham students to see the richness of diversity that is present in our country.

Many thanks to Ms Van for organizing this wonderful trip for our students and a special word of thanks to Len Broersma for being such a fantastic bus driver!



German Students take on Durham

We had the privilege to host 30 students from Ramstein Germany for 2 weeks in October.

Durham families housed the students/staff. This was a very positive cultural experience for all students and staff as we learned from each other.



what's new at Durham!

A lot of new initiatives are on the go here at Durham!

- new digital bulletin boards in main hallway (student leadership will maintain postings)
- new school slogan that encompasses our school vision

developing**minds**strengthening**hearts**changing**lives**

- new website going live soon! (*home page example shown below*)

The screenshot shows the website's header with the slogan "developing minds strengthening hearts changing lives" and navigation links for "about us", "student centre", "parent centre", and "contact us". The main content area features a "welcome to Durham Christian High School" message, followed by three paragraphs discussing the school's focus on "minds", "hearts", and "lives". To the right is a photo of students playing trumpets. Below this is a "what's new!" section with three news items: "Germany invades Durham", "New Mascot Revealed", and "Grade 8 Day Photo's", each with a "click here for details" link. The footer contains the school's address, phone, and fax numbers.

- new school mascot (unveiling assembly November 18th @ 3pm)



2010 - 2011 School Year

for full calendar, visit dchs.com, *denotes No School

November

- 16 Local Band Tour
- 17 Grade Eight - Open House Night
- 26* **Project / PD / Report Card Writing**

December

- 1 Second Third Report Cards
- 14 Christmas Concert
- 22 Last Day of school before Christmas

January

- 6 School resumes
- 21 Last Day of Semester 1
- 24 - 28 Exams

February

- 1 Semester 2 Begins
- 3 Report Cards Go Home
- 4 & 5 OCSAA VB and BB Tournaments
- 21* **Family Day**
- 24 Math Competition Grade 11



developing **minds** strengthening **hearts** changing **lives**



*A Christian High School
offering Grades 9 - 12
with a focus on
individual enhancement
of each student's
potential.*

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