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christian high school
developments



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for faithful living

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Week

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Graduates now?

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Christmas traditions



*Who or what is
Impacting your Teen?*

*The learning environment of our teens plays a
crucial impact on their character development*

CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION

An Investment for the Immediate and for the Long Term

EDITORIAL

Making a decision in regards to what high school a son or daughter will attend can be complex, difficult and challenging. It is complex in that there are a variety of factors to consider, difficult in that it may require weighing the relative importance of some factors against others, and challenging in that the process will drive us to the point of recognizing what is most important to us — our underlying values as they relate to our vision for faith and life.

Here are some things to consider:

Studies show that the rate at which students who come from Christian families fade away from their faith-based upbringing while in a public university or college is well over half. Part of the reason they leave the faith is simply because they have not been introduced to the tools for dealing with an overwhelmingly powerful anti-faith message.

An education that challenges students through the study of apologetics (how to answer for our faith), critical worldview analysis of culture and cultural products, an introduction to the major religions of the world and much more begins to lay a solid foundation upon which to build.

A Christian high school education helps lay the foundation for faithful living and not for isolation from the world both for the immediate and for the long term. The faith journey of most high school students takes them through a time of asking serious, fundamental, existential questions. They are questions of meaning,

of truth, and of purpose. They must struggle with these questions if the roots of their faith are going to grow deep.

Where better to have these questions faced than in a classroom led by a Christian teacher who can wisely lead and be deliberate about nurturing the faith walk of our students?

Coherence

Where better to have faith nurtured than in an environment which includes faith encouragement through weekly chapels and our week of Faith on Fire?

And where better than in a school which is deliberate about building community and character through student-teacher relationships? Also, our annual school campout at Algonquin creates opportunities for students to grow and shine.

When you buy a house, you consider not only the immediate needs of your family but the long term goals. There may even be times when the house purchase will create short term and immediate sacrifices that you are willing to make for the long term good. This may also be true for educational choices.

Consider Christian high school education which provides not only quality academic grounding but also helps lay the foundation for faithful living.

Fred Spoelstra
Principal

Connection



Community

SERVICE EDUCATION WEEK



The Grade 10 class enjoyed a week discovering Toronto and seeing how the urban physical needs of others can be so different from their own but the spiritual needs are so very similar

Some of the highlights of the Service Education Week

Working with the various agencies and talking to people who are working in the trenches reminded me of how complicated the problem of poverty is. It's as much a relationship problem as a money problem.

Students were poignantly reminded of how blessed they are in their families and throughout their lives. The people we met and their problems became all that more real for all of us.

It's an incredible eye opening experience for our students and they are very appreciative of the opportunity they have through our school. Over the years our grads have affirmed the S.E.W. experience, some even stating that it was instrumental in how the Lord led them to their life's vocation.

- Shane Jones, Instructor

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



2011 Graduate Destinations:

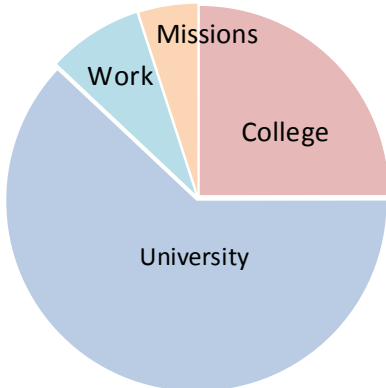
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- College, Durham
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- College, Kemptville
- College, Mohawk
- College, Mohawk
- College, Whatcom
- Mission Work
- Mission Work
- University of Ontario
- University of Toronto
- University of Toronto
- University, LakeHead
- University, McMaster
- University, McMaster
- University, OCAD
- University, Queens
- University, Queens
- University, Queens
- University, Queens
- University, Redeemer
- University, Redeemer
- University, Redeemer
- University, Redeemer
- University, Redeemer
- University, Trinity Western
- University, Trinity Western
- University, Waterloo
- University, Waterloo
- University, Western
- University, York
- Work for a year (3)
- Music
- Psychology
- Office Admin
- Dental Assistant
- Agriculture - Equine
- Legal Office Admin
- ECE
- Office Admin
- YWAM
- YWAM
- Nuclear Engineering
- Humanities
- Bachelor of Ed
- Outdoor Recreation
- Kinesiology
- Kinesiology
- Visual Arts
- Engineering
- Engineering
- Science
- Nursing
- General Arts
- Bachelor of Ed
- Art
- Biology
- General Studies
- Computer Science
- Linguistics
- Psychology
- Civil Engineering
- Actuarial Science
- Media
- Graphic Design

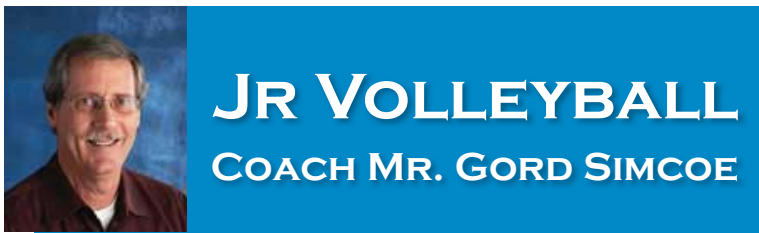


"Durham... To me it was more than a school, it was a community. A community that still lives on not only through the current students that are attending there, but through alumni and past faculty. The connection I shared with my fellow classmates and teachers is something that will last forever. At the University of Waterloo, my class size is about the size of the student body at Durham, and we share all our classes together. I can already sense the friendships growing within our classmates. The student teacher relationship at Durham was vital in helping me through my first year of university, for without it I would have not been able to talk to my professors as personally as I did. Thanks Durham!" - Jared Murphy, 2010

"I was very glad as is my wife that we decided to send our son to a Christian High school. We went to another grad last night and it was all awards and very impersonal. They even gave them all a penny to make a wish, like that is how you go through life making wishes and hoping for the best. God has guided us to this school and gave my son a very very good Christian education. I am very proud of the man he is growing into and we know that Durham has played a big part in getting him ready for what ever comes across his path."

2011 Graduate Destinations





JR VOLLEYBALL

COACH MR. GORD SIMCOE



The junior boys' volleyball team had a great season which began in August with a 4-day volleyball camp held at the school and led by the coach, Mr. Gord Simcoe. The team played in the LOSSA "AA" league with another six schools. We played each school twice and at the end of the regulation season were tied for second along with two other schools.



All in all, the team had a successful season. There is an excellent core group returning next season. We are looking forward to the new grade nine recruits who will help round out an already strong team.



SR VOLLEYBALL

COACH MS. TAMMY DIBBITS

The senior boys volleyball team experienced a strong season of skill building this year.

Our boys had the best defensive attitude in the league by far. At the end of this season we were Silver medalists in LOSSA and 5th place in a very competitive Christian School Tournament we hosted.

We look forward to building on our strengths for a fantastic season next year.

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING



CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY

This fall marked the offering of a **Construction** course through St. Stephen's High School in their technology program specifically for Durham Christian High School students. Presently we have 22 students enrolled in the program.

This course introduces our students to building material processes through opportunities to design and build various construction projects. Our students are learning to create and read working drawings; become familiar with common construction materials, components, and processes; and perform a variety of fabrication, assembly, and finishing operations. They will use a variety of hand and power tools and apply knowledge of imperial and metric systems of measurement, as appropriate. Students are also developing an awareness of environmental and societal issues related to construction technology.



PARENT FORUMS



Mother Daughter Night - hosted on November 10th

This evening was a special night just for moms and their daughters to come together and learn from our keynote speaker, Sheila Wray-Gregoire. Sheila brought her own two teenage daughters with her so the ladies were able to hear from both sides, the mom and the daughters' point of view. It proved to be a very practical evening where the moms and daughters were able to participate in activities together and daughters praying with their moms at the end. We had 54 in attendance which was a great start for seeing how Durham can become host to these type of evening specials for the future.



Social Media Forum - hosted on November 22nd

Social media is all around us, but do we know how to use it and to guard against abuse of it. Our very own Durham instructor, Karl Nielsen, led the discussions and brought fantastic facts and highlights of the social media forum to us. What was most beneficial in this discussion was the opportunity for both parents and their teens to hear together first hand about the positive and negative implications of today's digital social media platforms. I am sure many returned home after this evening and changed their privacy settings on their Facebook accounts ... I know my 14 yr old son did ... on his own accord! Thank you Karl for keeping us informed!



SPRING FORUMS:

If you have ideas for Parent Forums for the spring, please email Linda Wielinga at development@dchs.com

The Advantages of **HIGH SCHOOL CO-OP**

A High School Co-op is more than just a job; it is a learning experience that allows students to explore career options and possibilities. Students will not only witness firsthand the inner workings of their career field, but they will also begin to make the transition from student to professional. As they explore a work environment, the co-op placement will help them to learn more about themselves, their skills and aspirations. It will also assist students in increasing their marketability after graduation, allowing them to narrow down major and career choices, and to provide insight into prerequisites needed for employment, and further post secondary study choices.

Durham is pleased to reinforce our student's education through practical, hands-on work co-op experiences.



Angela Shaban, Restaurant Services



Colleen Westerman, Dentistry

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS *as told by our staff & students*

Having Christmas dinner with family

Male "feats of strength" contests involving snowmobiles and 4-wheelers

Going Christmas caroling in the neighbourhood

Going to listen to a Handel's Messiah concert

Spending Christmas in Florida

My dad is a grinch ... we have no traditions!

Spending Christmas eve together with family at church

Going out Christmas morning delivering lunches for Community Care

Learning the Christmas songs in Ukranian

Christmas morning breakfast with a white tablecloth decorated with red ribbons spread across it, candles and homemade Christmas bread made by my dad

Making cookies together

Decorating the Christmas tree together while listening to music from the TV

Getting up early and sitting on the stairs with my sister waiting for our parents to wake up

*I was an angel ...
I was a shepherd ...
I was a donkey ...
I was the Inn ...*

Singing hymns together as a family and reading the Christmas story

Dad making Eggs Benedict for Christmas morning breakfast

Sitting in the dark watching the Christmas tree lights and thinking about all the things I am thankful for

I got to sing a solo when I was 6 years old!

THE *Music* DEPARTMENT @ DCHS *"The morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy." Job 38:7*



Mr. Glenn Ward
Concert Band,
Jazz Band Instructor

God loves music! We were created by God to respond to music and also to respond with our own music. Think of how an infant's babbling becomes tuneful, how a toddler's intent concentration is often accompanied by an organic drone, how an adolescent is drawn to their instrument when words don't seem to be enough, or how romantic hopefuls turn to songs for sharing the words their hearts feel but cannot say. We were made for music and music was made for us. As an outpouring of that created reality, humanity, the world over, uses music as an expression of their worship, regardless of the object. The children of God are no exception. Scripture abounds with examples of His children responding in song as an expression of their heart's cry. And It commands us to "Sing to the Lord a new song," (Psalm 96) and to "Praise the Lord" with the sound of many instruments (Psalm 150). When we are obedient to that call, we are living out more fully the intentions of our Divine Creator than if we stay silent.



Mrs. Gwyneth Zylstra
Worship Team Instructor

At DCHS, we strive to provide an excellent Christ-centered education which enables students to develop their sense of wonder at God's work, their awareness of humanity's role in culture, and their gifts for a life of service to God and others. While we were all created to appreciate and to also create music, we recognize that God has gifted some with a greater degree of musical aptitude, creativity and passion. In recognition of this, DCHS sees the Instrumental Music and Praise & Worship classes as ideal settings for skill development and artistic exploration, within a context of offering those gifts back to God as acts of service.

All three bands participate in yearly tours, including a tour to the United States, local school performances, and leading performances in our local hospital. We also participate in the Ontario Christian Music Festival which will be held at Durham Christian Academy this year.

"It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High, proclaiming your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night, to the music of the ten-stringed lyre and the melody of the harp." Psalm 92





FAITH ON FIRE
 SEPT. 19-23, 2011
 GUEST SPEAKER: CARLO RAPONI
KANARHTA YOUTH UNLIMITED
 NEW THIS YEAR
 CAMP FIRE FRIDAY NIGHT, 7:30
 DAILY CHAPEL SERVICES
 CLASSROOM DISCUSSIONS
 PRAYER



art class



athletics



around campus



let's talk 
science
 inspiring discovery



Twin day! We spend so much time together that we start looking like each other!



2011 - 2012 SCHOOL YEAR

*denotes no school. For full calendar, visit www.dchs.com/calendar

December

23 Last day before Christmas

January

9 School resumes
23 Last Day of Semester 1
24 - 31 Exams

February

1 Semester 2 Begins
3 Report Cards Go Home
3 & 4 OCSAA VB and BB Tournaments
20* Family Day
21-22 Grad Photo Day
23 Math Competition Grade 11
23, 24, 25 Drama Production



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Wishing you a very

Merry Christmas

and a safe &
Happy New Year!



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and tour our school
campus.*

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