

# D U R H A M

# Dialogue



BI-WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF DCHS

FEB 15/12

## *For our Uncertain Senior Students*

Recently, I was in a conversation with two senior students about their exams, their course selections for the current semester and their plans for university. One was quite uncertain in regard to future direction and the other exploring a number of different options.

I shared with them that the process of decision making in regards to their future seems to be much more difficult than in the past. The need to be flexible and adaptable is more important than ever. The linear progression of education, career, family ....isn't nearly what it once was. The rate at which economic, technological and social change impact employment has grown ever great.

By sharing my own journey with them I encouraged them to be open minded about possibilities that may not occur to them now and to not "burn bridges in front of them" enabling them to keep their options open. My own career journey included:

-The summers after ninth grade and tenth grade I worked for my uncle on his dairy farm. I loved it and I thought it would be wonderful to be a dairy farmer.

-The summer after 11<sup>th</sup> grade I worked for a plumber and thought this would be a good trade enabling me to start my own business.

-In grade twelve I enrolled in a business program at Mohawk College.

-In the summer after grade twelve I decided that I needed a break from school and, with a good friend, hitchhiked to Vancouver where I worked for six months.

-Returning in late winter and after conferring with a wise counselor, I decided to enroll at Calvin College in Grand Rapids Michigan. Honestly, one of my reasons for doing so was because that was what my friends were doing.

-After flirting with the possibility of a career in either teaching or in social work I settled in on a major in

history with the goal of becoming a teacher.

-After teaching for seven years I started to get a bit restless and considered grad school for social work or for education. I chose education, enrolled at the University of Toronto and obtained a degree in educational administration.

-Two years later I was offered the position of principal at Chatham Christian High School and, seven years later, came to Durham.

Allow me a few observations and words of advice:

◆ If you had told me when I was in grade twelve that I would be a high school principal for more than twenty five years I would have told you that you were nuts.

Be open to possibilities that you may not even consider on the radar at this point in your life.

◆ I always thought that grad school was for very, very smart people. Be open to challenging yourself to things that you may consider a long reach.

◆ My years in high school and my first years in university were characterized by pretty much indifference to my faith. It wasn't until I looked back that I could see the evidence of God's gracious leading in my life. God's leading comes through our seeking that out and our actions. Passivity isn't the answer.

◆ On a number of occasions I have been blessed by the wise counsel of those whom I have sought out for advice. A wise mentor can be invaluable.

More and more I encounter people whose career paths have taken a number of unpredictable twists and turns. Don't feel bad about being uncertain about your hoped for career path. If you are certain, recognize that it is a very likely that your plans will change – likely a number of times. Keep searching things out and, foremost, be open to God's leading.

*Mr. Fred Spoelstra*

## *Everything is Not Enough*

Are you ready for another great DCHS production? Relational abuse, the desire for independence and struggles with alcohol are all themes running through this years play *Everything is Not Enough* as performed by the Durham Christian High School Drama Club. Directed by Ms. Kathy Thompson, this hard hitting drama features Warren VanNiejehuis as Michael who is struggling with himself and his friends as they face these issues.

**Performances will be Feb. 23-25 at 7:30 p.m. This play is rated PG13. Tickets are \$12/adult and \$6/student. For your reserved seats call the school at 905-623-5940.**



### *Welcome!*

Welcome to Austin Cole and his parents Mr. Clint and Mrs. Catharine Cole. Austin joins our tenth grade class. Also welcome to Vanessa Strasser who joins our school for six weeks. Vanessa is from Germany and staying with relatives in the area and is visiting in 11<sup>th</sup> grade classes.

### *Worship Service @DCHS - Sunday March 4*

You and your family (and friends!) are invited on Sunday, March 4 at 6:30 p.m. to Durham Christian High School for the Regional Church Service. The students are thoughtfully preparing a time of worship for the evening service, along with a "coffee house" beginning at 6 p.m. provided by local area churches. Please plan to be a part of this event and support our community in worship of our amazing God.

### *Thanks!*

To Student Parliament for organizing a wonderful evening for the Valentines Dinner & Dance. Great to see so many guests from other schools. Thanks also to the parents who came in and helped with the dishes!

## Grade 10 Literacy Test



Gr. 10 students will be writing the EQAO Literacy Test Thursday, March 29. Sample tests and study guides can be found at [eqao.com](http://eqao.com), under Student Resources. Check out the Durham library web site for links to study helps and sample questions to help you prepare. [dchslibrary.pbworks.com](http://dchslibrary.pbworks.com).

### Maternity Leave Position

We are looking to fill a maternity leave position for the months of May and June of this year. The position is 2/3 time. The two wonderful courses to be taught are Biology 3U and Chemistry 4U. Qualified applicants are invited to contact Mr. Spoelstra at the school. Application deadline is Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>.

### Prayer Requests

▣ Wesley is doing well. He is regaining weight and his energy levels, while they do fluctuate, are improving



▣ For the Board and committees of our school as they provide leadership in meeting the needs of our school community and in holding true to the vision and mission of our school.

▣ For our new students that they would feel welcomed at our school and for our enrollment for next year.

### Student Parliament

- ☺ Good job on dressing up for Where's Waldo Day!
- ☺ pizza is for sale tomorrow for \$2.50 a slice.
- ☺ Thanks for coming to the Valentines Banquet and THANK YOU to our chaperones & dishwashers!
- ☺ Games Night coming soon!
- ☺ CHAOS is still alive.

### CHESS



We have a dedicated group of student chess players who would like to challenge you to a game of chess during our lunch time and possibly during some spares in the DCHS library. Please contact Mrs. Bonsma at [library@dchs.com](mailto:library@dchs.com) to set up a game and challenge our teens.

## Guidance

If you wish to make a change your application for college or university please see Ms. Dibbits.

Key websites:

Comparisons: [globecampus.ca](http://globecampus.ca)  
Money - [studentawards.com](http://studentawards.com)  
Universities - [electronicinfo.ca](http://electronicinfo.ca)  
Colleges - [ontariocolleges.ca](http://ontariocolleges.ca)  
[redeemer.ca](http://redeemer.ca), [calvin.edu](http://calvin.edu)

If you would like to make a change to you course selection please discuss with your parent and have them email Ms. Dibbits with permission.

During March Break most colleges and universities have Open Houses for High School students. Plan on doing some hands on research.

### Sports Report

The junior girls volleyball team willing be participating in LOSSA play-offs tomorrow afternoon in Whitby at Garnier.



The senior girls volleyball team will be playing in LOSSA finals Tuesday, Feb 21st at Garnier. The game starts at 6 pm.

The junior boys basketball team finished their season last week losing their quarter-final play-off game to Clarke.

### Prayer Group

Prayer Group will meet every Wednesday at 9 a.m. at DCHS in the Multi-purpose Room. Please join us in making the greatest difference in the lives of our teens, staff and supporters. Contact Linda Wielinga if you have any questions or prayer requests, at [development@dchs.com](mailto:development@dchs.com)

### B&G Spring Work Day

Our Buildings & Grounds Spring Workday is scheduled for Saturday, April 21st from 9:00am - 2:00pm. Please plan to be here to help with a variety of jobs and to share in our community. Lunch is provided.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Feb. 20 Family Day
- Feb 21-22 Grad Photo Day
- Feb. 23 Gr. 11 Math Competition
- Feb. 23-25 *Everything is Not Enough* Drama Production
- Feb. 25 Night to Remember
- Mar. 4 Regional Church Service at DCHS
- Mar. 7 Gr. 8 Basketball Tournament
- Mar. 9 Project/PD/Report Card Writing Day
- Mar. 12-16 March Break
- Mar. 19 First Term Report Cards
- Mar. 22 Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences
- Mar. 29 Gr. 10 Literacy Test
- Apr. 21 B&G Spring Work Day

### Change to Calendar

Please update your school calendar. The new date for Art's Night (Instrumental / Visual) is Tuesday, June 5, 2012.

### Night to Remember Evening

Mark the date on your calendar! On Saturday, February 25 you will be able to enjoy a delicious dinner, silent auction, and entertainment by Ron Moore, "The Voice of Elvis". Tickets are \$70.00 each (with a \$30 tax receipt). All proceeds go to Durham Christian High School West Chapter. For ticket information, please contact Angela Hosmar at 905-728-9600. This event will be held at Durham Christian Homes, Whitby and will begin at 5:00 pm.



### International Student – Home Stay Needed

Needed – more Home Stay homes for international students who may be joining us in the fall. If you are interested in the possibility of being a host family for next year, please check out the Home Stay expectations as listed on our web site. Click **Home, International, Home Stay**. Remuneration is \$800. per month. Please contact Mr. Spoelstra at the school.

### *Empty Printer Cartridges*



We recycle your empty printer cartridges. Please drop off your used printer cartridges at DCHS or at Knox Christian school and we will recycle them.

### *School Closure*

Should inclement weather necessitate that we close school, we will do our best to make and communicate that decision prior to 7:00 a.m. The



decisions to cancel buses are made by those in charge of transportation in the different parts of our catchment area. The "rule of thumb" they generally go by is whether or not local bus lines have canceled buses for their area. The decision to not run is conveyed to the principal who then makes the decision to close school based on how many students will be missing. This information is communicated through bus telephone chains, posted on our school web site and announced on 1580 AM and 107.7 FM. Those in charge of transportation are asked to call Mr. Spoelstra at his home at (905) 623-5778 well before 7:00 a.m. if your bus will not be running. If certain buses are not running but school is open we will post homework on the school web site for those unable to come in.

### *Musical Opportunity for Those who Home School*

Students who are being home schooled through high school are invited to participate in our Ministry Credited Instrumental Music Program. This includes both Senior Wind Ensemble which meets Tuesdays and Thursdays before school and Jazz Band which meets Tuesdays after school. If you know of those who may be interested in this option, please invite them to contact Mr. Spoelstra at the school.



### *Sponsor Ads Now Available!*

We are opening up sponsor ads on the back page of our Durham Developments publication. We currently publish the Durham Developments three times a year with a distribution of 1600 to our supporting churches and elementary school families. If your company would like to advertise on our sponsor page, please contact Linda W i e l i n g a a t [development@dchs.com](mailto:development@dchs.com).