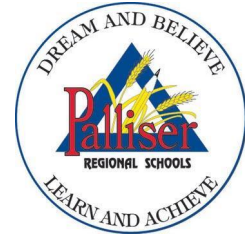




**Calgary
Christian
School**



Hello CCES families

On this, the last day of school, and at the end of my time here at CCES, I wanted to update you regarding staffing for next year, and give you my final words. First, with regard to staffing:

- In Kindergarten, Mrs. Jonker and Mrs. Groot will return. Mrs. Bruins, however, is taking a Personal Leave of Absence (LOA) for a year. Mrs. Parschauer, who was a grade one teacher up until this year when she was gone on a Maternity Leave, will be taking a half time LOA from her 1.0 teaching position. She will return next year to teach Kindergarten for a year, which is a half time position, while Mrs. Bruins is away.
- Mrs. Ermter will be away for all of next year on a Medical Leave. I am sure she would covet your prayers for a return to full health. She has been the halftime Early Numeracy Intervention (ENI) teacher. Mrs. Schollaardt, who has been a grade one teacher, will also be taking a half time LOA from her 1.0 teaching position. She will return next year to fill the ENI position, which is a half time position, while Mrs. Ermter is away.
- Mrs. Ermter's position also included a Faith Formation component, where she led chapels. That part time component will be filled by a non-teaching staff member next year, Mrs. Rachel Jesse. Mrs. Jesse is the Associate Pastor at Glamorgan Church, where she has worked especially with Youth and Children.
- Mrs. Pagenkopf will continue to be the halftime Early Literacy Intervention (ELI) teacher.
- With Mrs. Parschauer, who was a grade one teacher, in Kindergarten, and Mrs. Schollaardt, who was a grade one teacher, in the ENI position, there will be two new grade one teachers next year, accompanying Mrs. Bowen, who is returning.
- Mrs. Becca Garnett will teach grade one next year. Mrs. Garnett has been filling the ENI position since May, with Mrs. Ermter away on Medical Leave. She is a recent graduate of Ambrose University, and she did a student teaching practicum in Mrs. Bowen's grade one class last year. She did another student teaching practicum in a grade one/two class this year, so she is very comfortable with

teaching grade one students. Mrs. Garnett and her husband attend the C3 Calgary West church, where she is on the worship team.

- Ms. Amanda Wolfe will also teach grade one next year. Ms. Wolfe has been teaching grade two and Kindergarten during the previous three years, and grade one this current (now past) school year, for the Calgary Board of Education. She has been taking Biblical Studies courses online since 2020 toward a degree from Portland Bible College, and attends Love City Church here in Calgary, where she is also on the worship team.
- Mrs. Cassidy, Ms. Bachinski and Mrs. McMillan will continue teaching grade two.
- Mr. Heppner has also requested a half time LOA for next year, and so will be teaching Physical Education (PE) half time. He will be joined in PE by Mrs. Parkin, who has been a half time grade three teacher, and will therefore be a half time PE teacher for next year. Mrs. Parkin has taught grade four to six students French, as well as grade one, three and five classrooms over the course of her years at CCES, and has a minor in PE in her B.Ed. degree, so she is completely comfortable with her new role, and the students she will teach.
- Mr. Bird and Mrs. Steinke will continue to teach grade three. Mrs. Jahnaya Johnson, who was a half time grade three teacher, will not be returning from her Maternity Leave. She has also requested a LOA for next year, and with Mrs. Parkin teaching PE, there will be a new grade three teacher next year.
- Mrs. Hailey Hinton will be teaching grade three next year. Mrs. Hinton is a recent graduate of the University of Lethbridge (U of L). She did her four month U of L Education Internship at Trinity Christian School (here in Calgary) in a grade four setting. She has been a Youth Group Leader and Praise Dance Instructor at Ponoka First Baptist Church, and she and her husband currently attend Experience Church in SE Calgary.
- Mrs. Williams, Ms. Janz, and Ms. Vandermeer will continue teaching grade four.
- Mrs. Rachel Homann, who has been teaching grade five half time with Mrs. Jullion, will be away next year on a Maternity Leave until mid-April. Also, as you likely already know, Mrs. Jullion will not be teaching grade five half time next year. So there will be two new half time grade five teachers joining Mr. Vriend and Mrs. Thompson, who will be returning.
- Teaching half time grade five next year will be Mrs. Elchuk, who has been teaching grade three in either half time or full time capacities here at CCES over the last number of years. Mrs. Elchuk has also taught grade four and tutored grade five students earlier in her teaching career. Also teaching halftime grade five until the return of Mrs. Homann will be Mrs. Rand, who was teaching grade five at CCES last year.

- In grade six Mrs. Gooliaff and Ms. Makila will be returning. Mrs. Hussey will be away all of next year on a Maternity Leave. Moving into grade six for next year then will be Mrs. Gillard, who has been teaching grade four to six French this year. Prior to coming to CCES, Mrs. Gillard taught grade six for a number of years at Covenant Christian School in Leduc, so she is completely familiar with teaching that grade level in a Christian school.
- With Mrs. Gillard in grade six, Ms. Nicole Yu will be teaching halftime grade four to six French next year. Ms. Yu graduated in 2019 from McGill University in Montreal, taught in the equivalent of a French Immersion school there, and then attended a two year Bible School program in California. She attends a congregation in the NW called The Church in Calgary.
- Ms. Bolink will continue to teach Div. 1 Music (grades 1-3) and Mrs. O'Brien Div. 2 Music (grades 4-6) next year.
- Ms. Visser will continue to be the school Learning Support Teacher (LST).
- Mrs. Wagner, who served as a half time ELL (English Language Learning) teacher as part of her Vice-Principal position, is leaving her Administrator role. She will teach ELL .7 at CCES and .3 at CCSS next year.
- Mrs. Glenda Jullion, who has been teaching grade five half time for a number of years, will be the CCES Vice-Principal next year. Mrs. Jullion has served as the Vice-Principal of CCSS as well as CCES in previous years.
- Mr. Daniel Magnan will be the CCES Principal next year. Mr. Magnan has been an Administrator at Heritage Christian Academy (HCA), here in Calgary, for quite a number of years. At HCA, which is a K-12 school, Mr. Magnan served as the Vice-Principal, working with K-6 students.

Wow! That is quite a few changes, with new people on staff, as well as a fair number of internal reassignments. I am confident that the new and returning staff members and Administrative team will work well together, and continue to deliver a quality Christian education to CCES students.

Another change for the start of the next year is that virtually all the COVID era restrictions will have been removed. It is related to the past two Covid years that I would like to share my final words with CCES families.

Some of you know that prior to working in school divisions in Manitoba and here in Alberta, I was a Hebrew and Old Testament Instructor at a Christian college & seminary. Due to that background, I have a firm belief that God has revealed to us in the Bible everything that we need to address all the various situations that may arise in our lives.

When COVID hit in March of 2020, we encountered a situation that few of us had faced before: the worship of God's people, as we knew it, was taken from us. The word at the time that we often heard was "*unprecedented.*" It wasn't actually unprecedented, but it *had* been over a 100 years since the Spanish flu pandemic, so it was unprecedented in terms of almost everyone's *lifetimes*, no matter how old.

As I thought about this, that our worship, as we knew it, had been taken from us, I realized that in terms of the scriptural revelation there are actually two times that are talked about in the Old Testament where the worship of God's people as they knew it was taken from them; so it wasn't unprecedented for God's people in the Bible either.

The first of these is in the book of 1 Samuel. At that point in the history of God's people they worship the LORD by making sacrifices to Him at the tabernacle in Shiloh. Some or many of you know the story of how in chapter 4 Eli's sons took the ark of the covenant to the battlefield to serve as a sort of good luck charm ("*Let us bring the ark of the LORD'S covenant from Shiloh, so that it may go with us and save us from the hand of our enemies.*" - 1 Sam. 4:3). But the LORD (Yahweh in Hebrew) is not a good luck charm that we invoke to serve our worldly interests, and the ark was captured. The succeeding chapters show that the LORD was completely capable, without the help of His people, to show the Philistines His great power.

What is not expressly talked about in 1 Samuel though, is what happens to the tabernacle at Shiloh, which housed the ark. For that we need to turn to Psalms and Jeremiah; it is a Psalmist speaking in the Psalms passage, but Yahweh Himself in Jeremiah:

- Psalm 78:60 - *He abandoned the tabernacle of Shiloh, the tent He had set up among men. He sent the ark of His might into captivity, His splendor into the hands of the enemy.*
- Jeremiah 7:12 - "*Go now to the place in Shiloh where I first made a dwelling for my Name, and see what I did to it.*"

What is evident from these verses is that the Philistines destroyed the tabernacle in the battle where they captured the ark. This is why later on in 1 Samuel the ark winds up in Kiriath Jearim in Israel; it did not get put back into the tabernacle in Shiloh because there was no tabernacle left there to put it into.

God's word is not without hope, however, and Scripture records how His people responded when their worship, as they knew it, was taken away from them. *It was a long time, twenty years in all, that the ark remained in Kiriath Jearim, and all the people of Israel mourned and sought after the LORD.* - 1 Samuel 7:2

This then is the story of the first time in the Old Testament that worship, as God's people knew it, was taken from them, and their response. Later on in the history of God's people the temple was built by King Solomon in Jerusalem, and they worshiped God by offering sacrifices to Him there at that building. But the LORD eventually takes away their worship, as they knew it, again.

The second time is spoken of in Jeremiah, when the LORD Himself says He is going to destroy the temple. *"Do not trust in deceptive words and say, 'This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD!' . . . What I did to Shiloh, I will now do to the house that bears my Name, the temple you trust in, the place I gave you and your fathers."* - Jeremiah 7:4,14.

So like the tabernacle, the temple was destroyed. Once again, though, after the LORD takes away the worship of His people as they knew it, scripture records words of hope. Later in the book of Jeremiah there is included a letter sent to the exiles in Babylon from the prophet Jeremiah, recording Yahweh's words to them. Not surprisingly, the message is almost identical to after the first time the worship of God's people was taken from them. *"You will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,"* declares the LORD. Jeremiah 29:12-14

I mention these stories from the Old Testament because they show us the scriptural response to the LORD when our worship, as we know it, is taken away from us. It is tempting when our worship is restored, as it has been, to go back to the lifestyle that we had before, with all of its busyness and distractions. The scriptural message, though, is that we should learn from when our worship as we know it is taken away from us, that when that happens we should seek the LORD with all our hearts, and when we do, He will be found by us.

Precious CCES families, this is my prayer for us in these post-COVID days. I pray that we would not miss out on the lesson of our worship, as we know it, having been taken away from us for a time. I pray that renewed busyness and distractions would not capture our hearts, but rather that we would learn from having our worship taken away for a time, and seek the LORD with all our hearts as His word instructs us; then the beauty of finding Him, as He promises, will be ours.

Mike Thiesen
Principal, CCES