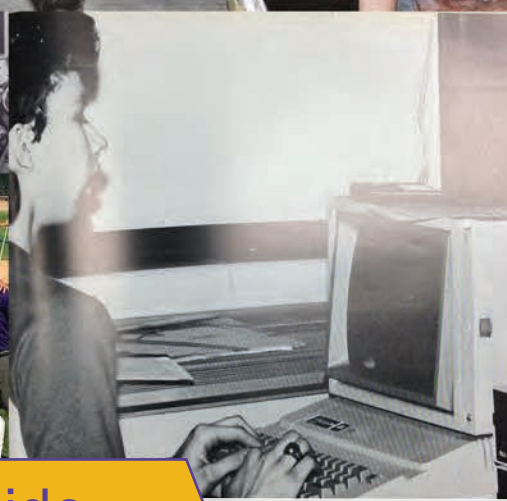
SOUTHWEST CHICAGO CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

THE VOICE

Spring 2018



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GOD'S PROVIDENTIAL CARE OVER 100 YEARS

This year CCHS is celebrating its 100th anniversary – an incredible milestone! What an evidence of God's providential care over these last 100 years. Recently, I have been looking through the anniversary book that was put together in 1968 for our 50th Anniversary. Going through that book reminded me that so much has transpired over the last 100 years since the beginning of CCHS:

- In 1918 we were near the end of WW I. That was followed by the roaring 20's, the great depression, WW II, and several more global conflicts. The 1960's brought the advent of space flight and landing on the moon followed by several decades of unprecedented growth and advancement in technology.

- September 11, 2001 marked the beginning of a new way of life dealing with terrorist threats around the globe. School shootings are now occurring at a much too frequent pace.

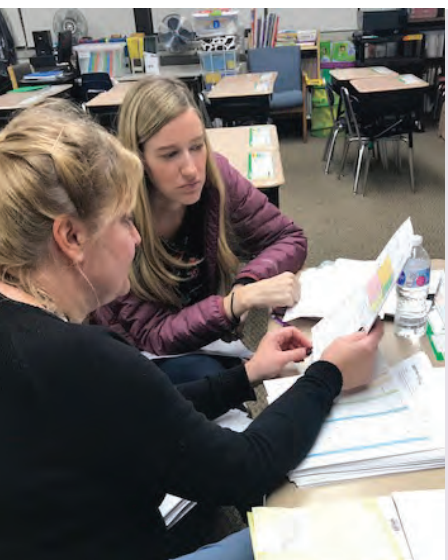
In some ways, so much has transpired and changed over the last 100 years. However, in other ways, not much has changed. I was reminded of that recently because we are in a sermon series at my church on the book of Ecclesiastes. In chapter 1:9, the author says, "What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun." Here at CCHS we still have the same core mission of coming alongside Christian parents to provide a quality, distinctly Christian education in the reformed tradition for their children. I trust that will never change. For over a century, we have been a "Christ-centered learning community intent on restoring God's world".

Over the last couple of years, the history of CCHS has also begun to come alive for me personally, partly in anticipation of celebrating our 100th anniversary. One thing that has brought this history closer to home for me is being a volunteer at the Pass-it-on Thrift Store, which pays a significant portion of the tuition for our current families. The volunteers at the store are primarily alumni and former parents whose children, and often grandchildren, have gone to CCHS. I am reminded of their level of dedication and commitment to the school: first, having sent their children to the school, having given sacrificially to annual fund drives, doing work in kind for construction projects and renovations, and likely serving a term or two on the board or on one of many committees. Now they are volunteering significant hours in retirement to make Christian education attainable for their grandchildren, great grandchildren and thousands of other students. Volunteering at the store myself on the pickup and delivery truck has allowed me to see their dedication up close; being on the truck has also given me the opportunity to drive past the former location of CCHS at 71st and May, in the Englewood neighborhood of Chicago. That building is still operating as a Chicago Public School location. It has been especially gratifying to show this location to some of our current and former students who are not familiar with the school's history. We have so much to celebrate for these past 100 years.

But now, we also have the calling and responsibility to look forward. To look ahead to the next 100 years of Christian education. I remember being told by several people throughout my lifetime that "God blesses us to be a blessing". How will we take this blessing of Christian education we have been given and make it a blessing to others? There are days when that task looks quite daunting to me and probably to our principals and faculty also. However, we know that we serve a God who owns the cattle on a thousand hills and who has promised to be faithful from generation to generation. Praise God.

In His Service,

Mr. Henry Doorn, Jr., Superintendent



A PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY

By Sue Tameling, CCHS Principal

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Chicago Christian as a high school, it is interesting to think how education has changed. Back in 1918, as well as when many of us were in school, the focus was on what the teacher taught and he or she was the "sage on the stage". The teacher was in many cases, an island unto him/herself. Over the past number of years, a shift has occurred in education with the focus now on what the student has learned and to encourage collaboration among teachers. We are now what educators call a Professional Learning Community (PLC) school.

2nd Grade Teachers Beth Kickert (Tinley Park) and Kelly Voss (Oak Lawn) collaborate during In-Service on February 16.

OAK LAWN REMODEL

By Nate Pettinga, Oak Lawn Principal

In 2015, SCCS launched the Our Legacy Their Future capital campaign seeking $3,725,000. The goals of the campaign were to:

1. Improve our physical facilities at all three campuses
2. Create Rolling Endowments for continued improvements in technology and STEM curriculum

In the spring of 2017, the financial commitments to the Capital Campaign had been made with the generous gifts and pledges received and the land sale on the Oak Lawn campus to the Anthem Memory Care group totaling $4,400,000. Over the past year, Chicago Christian High School and the Tinley Park campus have completed the planned improvements to the facilities including:

At Chicago Christian High School:

- Remodeling of all the bathrooms, locker rooms, and the Slager gymnasium
- Upgrade the auditorium with new seating, lighting and HVAC
- Resurface the outdoor track

At the Tinley Park campus:

- Resurface the gymnasium floor
- Install new signage

In the spring of 2017, the original plan for the improvement at the Oak Lawn campus was put on pause due to the requirements from the Village of Oak Lawn. The original plan intended to put an addition on to the 2-story building and remove the 1-story building to create one building to allow for improved visibility and traffic flow. The requirements had driven the cost estimates up significantly for the initial scope of work and the administration and board felt we needed to rethink our strategy.

In response, the SCCS Board created an Ad-Hoc Oak Lawn Building Committee that was commissioned to review and recommend a building option to the board for the Oak Lawn campus with a budget of $1,250,000. The Ad-Hoc Committee met numerous times over the previous summer and into the fall; the final report and recommendations were presented to and approved by the SCCS board at its October 24 meeting. The recommendations approved by the board include the following:

• A modest remodel of the 2-story building to: (1) relocate the main office area to the east entrance to improve the visibility and accessibility of the main office, (2) relocate storage, maintenance and concession areas to other locations in the building, and (3) some redesign and modification of the library and computer rooms.

• An extensive remodel of the 1-story building. Major components of the remodel include: (1) remodeling of bathrooms, (2) roof repair and replacement, (3) reconfiguration and design of preschool, kindergarten and first grade classrooms, (4) new carpet and paint, (5) upgrading (where needed) of electrical and mechanical systems, (6) remodeling of the south half of the building to create large multi-purpose spaces, (7) renovation of the entry corridor, (8) relocation of the transportation office to a new transportation building to be located on our Tinley Park campus, and (9) new landscaping around the building.

• Construction of a walkway element between the two buildings to better facilitate movement of students.

• New signage for the campus along Central Avenue and for the new main office location.

We anticipate construction to begin in late spring and continue into the fall of 2018. We are grateful and excited for the new changes to our campus. We believe this will enhance our current program and benefit students for generations to come! God is good! ■

As a PLC, our focus is on what the student has learned, rather than what the teacher has taught. At its core, a PLC is defined as: teachers collaborating with other teachers about student learning. Our teachers begin lessons by asking four basic questions:

1. What do we want students to learn and be able to do?
2. How will we know if they've learned it?
3. What do we do if they haven't learned it or can't do it?
4. What do we do if they have learned and are able to do it?

Working and collaborating in our PLC groups provides teachers a better opportunity to do the task set before us as Christian educators. We know each student is an image bearer of God and we are called to educate the whole child, mind, body, and soul. What a marvelous calling it is to be a part of a Christ centered learning community that seeks to mold covenant young people into independent learners who will be able to go out and be agents of change in God's kingdom. ■

PRESCHOOL AT TINLEY PARK - LEARNING DURING EVERY PART OF THE DAY

By Terry Huizenga, Tinley Park Principal

If you have the opportunity to visit the elementary hallway at the SCCS Tinley Park campus, about half way down there is a classroom filled with very young students who are busy with building roads and towers. Students are exploring sea shells using magnifying glasses, writing post cards and letters to friends, and using the smart board to learn about topics such as weather, geography and nature. Students use time on the rug for learning Bible stories and listening to wide variety of books. They are learners during every part of the day. What may appear to simply be a time to "play" actually has many layers of learning built into the activities.

The new preschool classroom was designed and directed by Mrs. Rebecca Rael who is the lead teacher. Rebecca has her bachelor's degree from Northwestern College. She taught kindergarten and preschool for several years before coming to SCCS. (She's also an alumni of SCCS Oak Lawn and CCHS!) Mrs. Laura Visser serves as the classroom aide. Laura studied both elementary and special education at Trinity Christian College. She also has a master's degree from Concordia University Chicago and worked in education at Elim Christian School. Both Rebecca and Laura's children attend our Tinley Park campus. These ladies have worked together to create a vibrant preschool that prepares students well for elementary school.

We hoped to begin this current school year with eleven preschoolers. God abundantly supplied 29 three to five year-old students! All of the morning classes are at capacity with 20 students each day. We have a waiting list for current families who are asking to add more days to their children's week. There is also a waiting list for families who would like to join the SCCS preschool if we have openings. Because of the strong start and continued interest, we are excited to announce that we will open a second preschool classroom for the 2018-2019 school year! ■

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

Chicago Christian High School's Theater Department presented Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* the first weekend in March. Mrs. Cristin Lenters and Ms. Anna DeBlecourt directed a fantastic cast of students. Alice was played by Allie Boss, Tweedledum by Emily Goudzwaard, Tweedledee by Lucy Maloni, the Queen of Hearts by Aariah Moore, and the White Queen by Jillian Rice. Great performances also by Drew Vande Kamp as the White Rabbit, Tony Reppmann as the Caterpillar, Emma Vander Plaats as the Duchess, and Jake Van Dyke as the Mad Hatter among many others. ■

1871 is home to over 400 start-up businesses; serves as a headquarters for many national accelerators, and functions as satellite offices for several local universities and colleges.

DECA VISITS ENTREPRENEURS IN ACTION AT 1871

By Tim Schnyders, Director of Recruitment and Alumni Relations

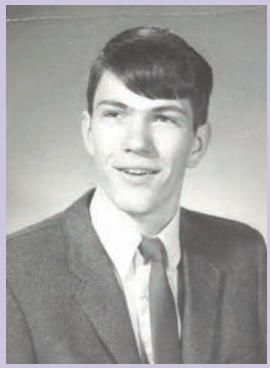
This past November, business teacher Ken Kreykes and thirty-seven Chicago Christian High School DECA (Distributive Education Club of America) students enjoyed the unique opportunity of visiting 1871 in the Merchandise Mart. 1871 is currently home to over 400 start-up businesses and serves as a headquarters for many national accelerators. It also functions as satellite offices for several local universities and colleges, including Trinity Christian College.

The students toured the 1871 facility, seeing entrepreneurs in action – collaborating and working on business plans. Students heard from Trinity Christian College Business Department Chair, Mr. John Wightkin, and Assistant Professor of Business, Mr. Omar Sweiss. These business experts emphasized that being an entrepreneur does not just involve starting one's own business, but also requires devising creative solutions to today's problems. The students appreciated the experience, and a few of them shared their thoughts: "After visiting 1871, I started to realize the beneficial impact DECA has had on me over the last three years. I saw, first hand, business interactions happening in a real setting. 1871 is known as a 'business incubator.' These are places where current and future start-up business owners can collaborate ideas for the betterment of their companies. Having created various virtual businesses during my years in DECA, I appreciated seeing ideas turning into a reality for the members at 1871." – Matt Wolterink, senior and DECA Chapter President

"1871 made me realize that the city of Chicago provides many business opportunities. I also learned that anyone with an idea can become a successful entrepreneur. Our trip to 1871 made me excited about my future career in business!" – Leah Kuipers, senior ■

19 ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS

Congratulations to 19 members of the senior class at Chicago Christian High School who were recently recognized by Illinois as State Scholars. This represents over 20% of the senior class! State Scholar recognition is awarded to high school seniors based on ACT or SAT scores, class rank, class size, and unweighted grade point average. Pictured in the photo are back row (L to R) Blake VandeKamp, Mark Schaaf, Matt Wolterink, Eleanor Tiemens, Mark Kamp, and Bethany Regnerus. Middle row (L to R) Victoria Sluis, Alessandra Luciano, Niara Foster, Carly Byrnes, Ashley Akrami, Catherine Van Lonkhuyzen, and Leah Kuipers. Front row (L to R) Emily Goudzwaard, Anna Huisenga, Alicyn Boss, and Elizabeth Czajkowski. Stephen Fry and Izaak Tanis were also named State Scholars but are not pictured. ■



COACH KWAS TO BE HONORED ON APRIL 27TH

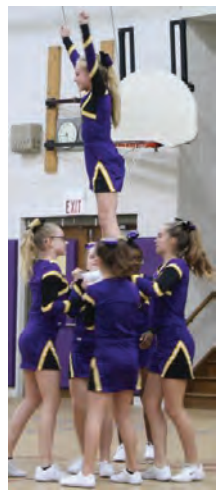
Coach Jim Kwasteniet has been on the scene at Chicago Christian High School for many years. He attended CCHS, graduating in 1968. He began his career at the high school in 1981, and over the years coached, acted as the athletic director and taught Bible, P.E., and the History of Chicago among other things. He retired in 2015 after 34 years. Kwas created the CCHS' track invitational 30 years ago. To honor his legacy, CCHS will rename the event to the *Jim Kwasteniet Track and Field Classic* on April 27th. The meet will begin at 4pm with a dedication at 5pm, and will be followed with pizza and a casual reception at the northeast corner of the track stadium. Everyone is invited to attend – let's see how many former athletes can come out to congratulate Coach Kwas! ■

A SPORTS UPDATE

By Ellie Tiemens, Senior

TINLEY PARK

Girls' Basketball – The sixth and seventh grade team wrapped up their season in December. They improved as the season went on and ended with a thrilling 3-point victory over Lansing Christian. Special thanks to Coach Angelique Drzik-Edman. The eighth grade team and Coach Rachel Voss (photo left) had a historic run as the team went undefeated for their 6th, 7th, and 8th grade years. They ended their middle school years with a 48-0 record. They were also tournament and conference champs this year.



Cheerleading – The cheerleaders supported the teams at all home games this season. Some highlights included cheering at the Tinley Park vs. Oak Lawn game at Chicago Christian High School, and participating in a final competition at the end of February. Thank you for your leadership Coach Erin Stewart!

Boys' Basketball – The sixth grade team finished their season before Christmas. The team was inexperienced, but the players improved throughout the season, and finished with three wins. Special thanks to Coach Phil Schaafsma. The seventh grade team also finished in December, and they were much more competitive the second time through conference play. The team, led by Coach Paul Robinson, ended with four wins. The eighth grade team and Coach Steve Veldman (photo above) is heading into their conference tournament. The boys picked up some key wins throughout the season.

OAK LAWN

Girls' Basketball – The sixth grade team had a very successful season posting a record of 7-2. They did well at the conference tournament defeating Calvary Academy and Timothy Christian, but lost to Trinity Christian (Shorewood) in the championship game.

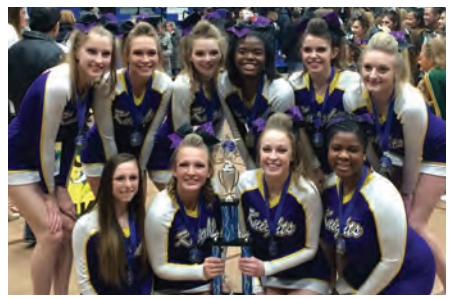
The eighth grade girls (photo left) enjoyed a successful season as well with a record of 6-4. Thanks for your leadership, Coach Brian Nichols.

Boys' Basketball – The eighth grade team (photo left) coached by Mr. Jack Mudde, worked very hard all season and has been competitive. The team ended with a record of 3-8 and although they lost in the first round of the conference tournament, they played tough and lost by only 3 points.

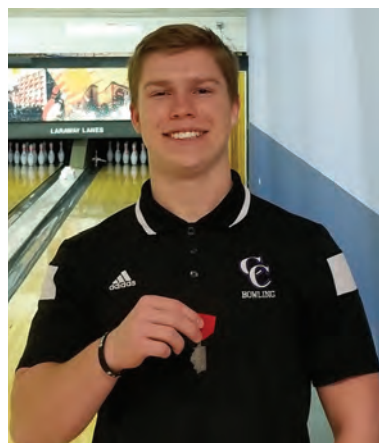
HIGH SCHOOL

Boys' Basketball – The team ended with a record of 15-11 including 9-3 in Metro Suburban Conference (MSC)-Red Division play. Some highlights from their season include traveling to Disney's Wide World of Sports in Orlando, Florida for the KSA Holiday Tournament over Christmas break. They went 2-1 at that tournament and took 3rd place. The Knights also defeated rival Illiana Christian 62-59 in overtime in the last game between the two schools on Illiana's current campus. Senior Isayas Aris and Junior Matt Stuursma were named to the MSC-Red All Conference team. Sophomore Micah Schnyders (above) qualified for state in the IHSA 3 point competition held at Bradley University.

Girls' Basketball – The girls finished the season with a record of 11-16 including 6-6 in MSC-Red play. The Lady Knights defeated Illiana Christian 51-47 and also topped cross-town rival Shepard by a score of 61-60 in overtime. This season, they also exploded for 71 points in two different home victories-defeating Ridgewood and Guerin. This point total is the second highest scoring output for the Lady Knights since 2011. Seniors Bethany Regnerus and Emily Bulthuis were named to the MSC-Red All Conference team. Bethany also qualified for the state finals in the Country Financial Three Point Showdown. She finished tied for 11th at the state competition.



Cheerleadering – The girls had a banner year, taking first place in three out of six competitions! They placed first at the North Pole Invitational at Lincoln-Way East, the Lake Zurich Invitational, and the MSC-Red Competition hosted here at CCHS. This is the first Conference Championship for the girls since 2013. Five seniors earned MSC Red All Conference Honors – Hannah Isenmann, Ellie Gallman, Lauren Voss, Brooklyn Seiber, and conference MVP Rylei Jackson.



Bowling – The boys finished the season with an 8-6 record in dual matches. Senior Matt McCarthy qualified for the state finals by taking 2nd at Sectionals. He is the first male bowler in CCHS history to make it to state. He placed 30th in state which ranks as the highest finish by any bowler in CCHS history. The girls team finished with a 3-9 record in dual matches. ■

YESTERDAY, TODAY AND FOREVER

By Jean Bergeson, Director-Mission Advancement

I officially became part of the Chicago Christian High School community in August 2016 when my daughter began attending in her sophomore year. We were moving to Chicago from Pennsylvania due to my husband's job change. My daughter, as well as my husband and I, chose Chicago Christian High School. We felt that this was where God wanted us to be, so with faith in Him, we planted ourselves in the southwest suburbs. We moved into our home in July with no relatives or friends within 250 miles. Soon after the school year started, I began volunteering at Pass It On. My relationships within the school community expanded. In June 2017, I was hired to work in the Association Office, and again, my relationships expanded. It's been enlightening to find this little enclave, to say the least. In the past six months, I've met many wonderful people – school employees and their families, grandparents, students and parents, business owners, alumni. This warm community has been a Godsend to our family.

DR. & MRS. RICHARD AND PATTY DEJONG

I spoke with the DeJong's recently. Dick began attending SCCS in 7th grade when his family moved to Palos Heights as his father took the position of president at Trinity Christian College. His mother, Joanne, worked at the Oak Lawn campus for over 20 years as a teacher and librarian. Dick was involved in some sports, and he was in a few plays while at CCHS – He was Winnie the Pooh in his senior year! He especially enjoyed the science classes – which, along with his older brothers, helped him decide to go into the medical field. He graduated in 1972 and met his wife while attending Trinity Christian College. He attended Loyola Medical School and is a family practitioner. He and Patty raised four children that all attended SCCS and CCHS. Dick knew his children would get a solid education, they would have Christian mentors, and their academics would be taught from a Biblical perspective. Dick and Patty remain involved in the community. Dick just stepped down from the board, serving as president for two years. He's assisted with several fundraising campaigns, and he and Patty are excited to celebrate the high school's 100th Anniversary in April.

MR. & MRS. BOB AND CAROL DERUITER

Another family long involved with the Southwest Chicago Christian School community is the DeRuiter's. Bob remembers playing on the construction site at the Oak Lawn campus when he was a child. He attended Roseland Christian School at the time. Members of the Christian Reformed community all worked together on the weekends to help build the school. When the school was complete, Bob and his siblings began attending. After Oak Lawn, he naturally attended CCHS where he was involved in cross country and track. He remembers teacher and coach, Mr. Griffioen, as a humble and calm man. This coach left a memorable impression on young Bob. When Bob graduated in 1968, he attended Trinity Christian College, where he too met his future wife. (Do you see a pattern?) Bob owns and operates Office Assistants in Oak Lawn. He does a lot of printing work for the schools – like this magazine! He and his wife raised six children that all attended our schools. He knew from his own experience that this school would provide excellent academics along with a strong Christian experience. When I asked him what made him decide to send his kids to SCCS, he said, "It was just expected. Just like when my parents sent me to the school. There was no decision. You just knew it was where they were supposed to be." Bob and Carol now have 30 grandchildren, and several of them attend the SCCS Tinley Park campus.

REVEREND JOSEPH HUIZENGA

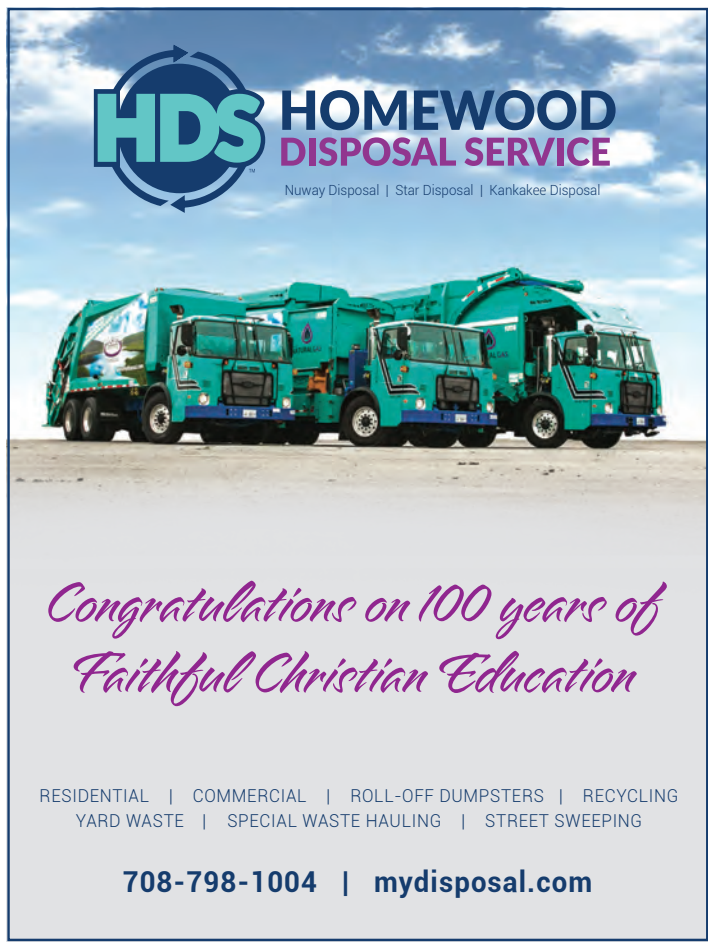
Joe attended SCCS and CCHS too, graduating in 1996. So did his two siblings. They followed their mom's footsteps as she also graduated from CCHS. You could say she still attends SCCS – Terry (Boerema) Huizenga, class of 1972, is the principal at the Tinley Park campus. Joe is now the pastor of Roseland Christian Reformed Church and Roseland Christian Ministries. He has three sons, Steven, Michael, and Ryan, that all attend Tinley Park. According to Joe, "My kids love the sense of community at SCCS. They love chapel. They love recess. They love Bible stories. They adore their teachers. And they are known and loved and we place great value on that." When Joe attended CCHS, he was influenced by Reverend Roger Nelson who led chapel at CCHS at the time. He instituted what we now celebrate as Kingdom Building Day at the high school – it connects the entire student body to neighborhoods that have serious challenges of poverty, crime, and hunger. All of the students spend this day out in the community, volunteering at different churches and non-profits. Joe shared, "It was invigorating to be a part of something that connected gifts to needs. A light went off for me and I was able to think about faith as embodied throughout the community and through serving. You

know … like Jesus in the Bible. My career choice came from a clear connection between the work I do and my time at Chicago Christian."

MR. & MRS. DAVID AND LINDA EDBORG

I've also visited with Linda who is a new parent at CCHS, just like me. It wasn't family tradition that led her family to CCHS – they attended a different grade school. But she felt God leading her family to CCHS none the less. Her sons attended sports camps with Coaches Tim Schnyders, Nick Cook, and Kevin Pittman. These men spoke highly of the school. Coach Cook told her that he worked at CCHS because it was his calling, and not just a job. And then she remembered the moms in her MOPS group from when her sons were younger. Many of these moms had children at SCCS and always spoke well of the schools. God put so many people in her life that all raved about SCCS and CCHS – teachers, babysitters, sports trainers, etc. As the years went by, she and her husband, David, began thinking about CCHS for their boys. After touring and shadowing, Ben too became excited about the high school. He is now a freshman at CCHS, and his younger brother, Matt, will join him next year.

I reflect on these stories, and see God's hand in all of our lives. As parents, we have dreams for our children … that they would grow to love and serve God, pursue excellence in their careers, and be filled with joy regardless of their circumstances. That hasn't changed. In the early 1910's, when parents and church leaders took faithful steps to open a school, they had these dreams for their children as well. During the 1930's, regardless of the financial depression, parents sacrificed so their children could pursue these dreams. The same was true during World War II – when everyone sacrificed for the boys overseas. And in the 1960's when "free love" was popular – strong parents chose SCCS and CCHS to provide a Christian foundation for their children. The same was true through the recession in the 80's, and terrorist attacks in the 2000s. Choosing an excellent Christian education is still a sacrificial choice, and the right choice for us. Though our halls are now filled with students from different backgrounds – various denominations, zip codes, and cultures – we celebrate what we have in common. We celebrate that we are all children of the one, true God. *Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever.* Hebrews 13:8 ■



Join us as we celebrate 100 years of God's faithfulness to generations past, present and future at Chicago Christian High School.

CHICAGO CHRISTIAN 100 YEARS HIGH SCHOOL

APRIL 20, 2018

THE TINLEY PARK CONVENTION CENTER

6PM - RECEPTION

7PM - DINNER AND CELEBRATION

REGISTER BY APRIL 5TH

To register, find more information, or to make a donation, go to www.SWChristian.org.

This event is being provided by generous donors. Donations are accepted and will be matched dollar for dollar.

Tinley Park Convention Center
18451 Convention Center Drive
Tinley Park, IL 60477

CHICAGO CHRISTIAN 100 YEARS HIGH SCHOOL

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE SPONSORS FOR CHICAGO CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

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WEDDING BELLS AND BABIES

Congratulations to Nathan, Julie and Sierra Jann. They welcomed baby sister Aria Francis on February 14th. What a cute valentine she is! Nathan heads the IT department at all of our campuses.

Aria Francis Jann

Future Knight Hailey Lynn was born on January 11th to Mark and Rebecca (Kamp) Zylstra. Mark is the Athletic Director and Rebecca (class of 2008) heads up the Academic Support Center at the high school.

Hailey Lynn Zylstra

Congratulations to Mission Advancement Assistant, Sandy (Langland) Waterlander (class of 1974), and husband, Don, on the birth of their first grandchild! See the alumni for more details on baby Annika Ruth.

These weddings are in the works at the high school:

Math teacher, Phil Stanton, and his fiancee', Sienna, are planning a December 2018 wedding.

Science teacher, Heather Van Maanen, was recently engaged to Mr. Eric Van Drunen of Lansing, IL. Their wedding is set for this summer. ■

ATTENTION ALL ALUMNI – LEAVE YOUR LEGACY

You may be wondering why you did not receive a donation request for an alumni project this year. Instead, we are asking all alumni to make a donation to the 100th Anniversary. This opportunity allows you to **Leave Your Legacy** at Chicago Christian High School! Here are a few important reasons to support the anniversary:

1. Your gift will be matched, dollar for dollar thanks to a generous donor! Your gift can literally make twice the impact!

2. Donations will also fund a renovation to the front entrance of the high school. If you make a donation of $100 or more, we will engrave a brick for you that will be displayed as part of the renovation. Wouldn't you like to see your family name each time you visit CCHS?

3. A portion of your donation will go toward the Southwest Chicago Christian School Foundation. Your gift will be invested, and will continue to support our school year after year. You will truly be supporting the legacy of not only the high school, but all three of our campuses, for future generations.

Thank you for supporting Chicago Christian's 100th Anniversary.

Go online to www.SWChristian.org to make a donation and **Leave Your Legacy** today! ■

ALUMNI...FAMILY NEVER GRADUATES

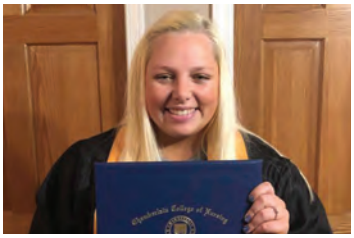
Eddie Damstra III, class of 2015, is currently a junior at the University of Notre Dame majoring in Economics and Political Science with a minor in Constitutional Studies. Since his freshman year, he has been a writer for *The Observer*, the student-run newspaper. He has a column which allows him to write bi-weekly opinion pieces. He writes mainly about relevant political issues, advocating a conservative viewpoint. Check out Ed's articles at: http://ndsmcobserver.com/author/edamstra/

Anna Kamp, class of 2015, and a member of the Calvin College volleyball team, was named the AVCA Division III National Player of the Year by the American Volleyball Coaches Association. Anna is the fourth member of her family to receive the honor joining sisters, Rebecca (currently a teacher at Chicago Christian), Lizzie, and Maggie. Congratulations Anna!

Congratulations to Leah Kamp, class of 2015, for being selected to the NAIA National All-American Team. She helped guide the Dordt College volleyball team to an NAIA National Runner Up finish this year. Great job Leah!

Kristen Duh and Kyle Campbell, both from the class of 2013, were married on December 16, 2017 at Palos Heights CRC. Their reception was held at Cog Hill Golf and Country Club in Lemont. As for future plans, they are excited to see what God has in store for them!

Matthew Gallman, class of 2012, is creating a seven book children's comic series titled "Captain Longbeard". It is a story about a pirate captain with an unnecessarily long beard who goes on silly adventures with his crew of bearded bandits. He just completed the second book of the series and is working on number three. You can purchase the "Captain Longbeard" books, along with his other children's book, "Invite a Duck to Dinner", on Amazon.

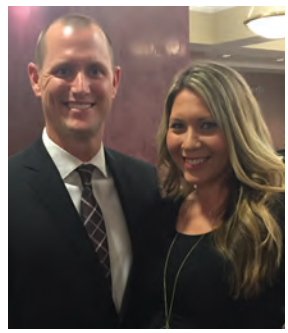


Donelle Engelsman, class of 2011, graduated from the Chamberlain College of Nursing on January 10, 2018. She plans to be a pediatric nurse and pursue a master's degree.

Darren van Beek, MD, class of 2002, was recently hired by Palos Health. Specializing in interventional radiology, Darren completed his residency at the University of Chicago Medical Center and his fellowship at Washington University School of Medicine/Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology in St. Louis. He received his medical degree from Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

Jeremy Kamp, class of 2011, and Jamie DeYoung were married on September 9, 2017 at Jamestown CRC in Michigan. Jamie and Jeremy met at Calvin College. Jeremy works at Prein & Newhof as a Municipal Engineer-in-Training. He mainly works with wastewater collection and drinking water. The Kamp's live in Hudsonville, Michigan.

Josh Hoekstra, class of 1997, was recently named "Teacher of the Year" by Clay High School in Florida for his work in and out of the classroom. Josh works with students with intellectual disabilities and is also the Head Varsity Football Coach at Clay. Pictured in the photo are Josh and his wife, Erin. Congratulations Josh, and may God continue to bless your work.



Congratulations to Ryan Kuyvenhoven, class of 2010, on his graduation from Valparaiso University's graduate school in December. He earned a degree in Health Administration.

Wisconsin State Representative, Dale Kooyenga, class of 1997, was recently recognized with a special award by the Associated Builders and Contractors of Wisconsin. Congratulations to Dale and may God continue to bless his work as a political leader.

Matt Iwema, class of 2008, and his wife, Olivia, welcomed Corbin Jay on December 6, 2017. Baby Corbin is the first grandchild of Jay Iwema, class of 1979, and his wife, Sharon (David), class of 1978. Congratulations to the Iwema clan! Matt and his family live in Indianapolis. Matt attended Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute and he currently works for Eli Lilly and Company as Senior Associate, Operations Lead.

Tim Swiney, class of 1993, and his wife Christina welcomed Colton Daniel Swiney on November 4, 2017 at 9:46 pm. Colton was 8 lbs and 4 ounces and measured in at 21.25 inches. Congratulations to the Swiney family! ■

Emily (Wierenga) Waterlander, class of 2004, and her husband, Jon, welcomed baby Annika Ruth on February 12th. Congratulations to the Waterlander and Wierenga clans!

MY TIME AT CHICAGO CHRISTIAN
FRANCIE BOSS - CLASS OF 1987

By Elizabeth Czajkowski, Senior

This Chicago Christian High School alumna, Francie (LeGrand) Boss, looks back on her high school years with happy nostalgia. She fondly remembers the friendships she formed, the spiritual life she discovered, the personal growth she experienced, and the silly, good-natured high school humor that she was surrounded by every day.

Francie LeGrand, class of 1987

During her time at CCHS, Mrs. Boss says that she most enjoyed, "The small community of believers and being able to know at least one thing about everyone who passed by." She recalls that her participation in the CCHS fan base was one of many ways that she was able to take part in this great community and meet new people. CCHS had a huge fan base--everyone went to the sports games, and she too found herself in the bleachers, gathering with friends, and joining in on the funny cheers. She went to so many sports games, she commented, "It felt like I practically lived at school!"

Miss Mary Ann Van Loh taught home economics at CCHS for 42 years. She retired in 2007 and still resides in Palos Heights.

A lasting impact on Mrs. Boss's life came from a relationship with her Home Economics teacher, Miss Mary Van Loh. Mrs. Boss usually arrived at school early, and she would often talk with Miss Mary before class and help her out with plans for spirit week and homecoming. Mrs. Boss really enjoyed this time because, "Miss Mary was such a great mentor and Christian role model."

Along with great teachers and great community, Mrs. Boss also enjoyed the CCHS sense of humor. For instance, when she was a freshman, there was a teacher who owned a Volkswagen bug. One morning, the car was found parked in A Hall--an upperclassmen prank. Other funny memories include pet mice on an excursion through the auditorium. A student let the mice out during assembly, causing a 'wave' of shrieks that started in the back of the room and slowly moved to the front as the mice progressed down the aisles. The pep rally challenges were always interesting too, such as the year when a person from each grade level was chosen to sit on a block of ice; whoever lasted the longest won.

Francie Boss today

Mrs. Boss had many memorable experiences at CCHS, but the most important part of her high school experience was the growth she experienced both spiritually and personally. She says, "High school is when I became a Christian, and CCHS was a big part of that. I saw something different in the people there, and I wanted to know what it was. I would ask myself, 'What is that joy—that hope— I see in these people?' I came from a public school background and had never experienced something like that before." The Christian joy she saw in her friends made her want to dive deeper into the Word and establish a personal relationship and walk with the Lord. She also says that CCHS gave her a fantastic education, prepared her academically for college, and gave her a sense of confidence to face whatever came next.

Not only that, but if she hadn't attended CCHS, she would not have met her husband, Tom. Mrs. Boss and her husband have continued the 'CCHS tradition,' sending all three of their children to Chicago Christian High School. Andrew graduated in 2013 and Luke in 2015. Her youngest, Allie, will graduate this year. ■

"CCHS had a huge fan base--everyone went to the sports games, and she too found herself in the bleachers, gathering with friends, and joining in on the funny cheers."

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Christian education is more important than ever. Keeping it affordable for generations to come is what the Southwest Chicago Christian Schools Foundation is all about. Your donation is permanently held in trust. Proceeds from the trust help sustain Southwest Chicago Christian Schools and Chicago Christian High School. Your gift keeps giving, year after year. To find out more about giving to the Foundation, contact the Advancement Office at 708-388-7656 or visit the website: www.SWChristian.org/Foundation.

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ILLINOIS INVEST IN KIDS ACT – TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

You've heard a lot about this new legislation over the past several months. Illinois will allow individual and business taxpayers to contribute up to $100,000,000 to Scholarship Granting Organizations in exchange for a 75% state tax credit. On January 2nd, the state began accepting reservations for these tax contributions, and as of March 1st, Cook County has seen $37.5 million reserved. These contributions will provide needs based tuition assistance. If you have not yet contributed, there are still credits left for taxpayers wanting to take advantage of this opportunity. Don't miss your chance to redirect your tax dollars and support families in need, Southwest Chicago Christian Schools, and Chicago Christian High School.

Our schools have been blessed with a large number of scholarship contributions. If you have financial need, consider applying for a scholarship. If you know of a family that you feel would be a great addition to our community, please encourage them to apply at our school and for one of these scholarships. To qualify for these scholarships, family income shall be below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (for a family of 4, that is an annual income of $73,800 or less.) Before April 1st, priority will be given to families with income less than 185% of the Federal Poverty Level ($45,510 or less) and/or families that reside in a focus district. A focus district is a school district identified by the state as having lower performing schools. The entire city of Chicago is considered a Focus District, as well as several other districts in the surrounding suburbs. Students who qualify and are awarded scholarships will receive either 50%, 75%, or 100% of their tuition in assistance.

If you believe you qualify for assistance, we encourage you to apply for a scholarship through two separate SGOs:

- Children's Tuition Fund of IL
  www.childrenstuitionfund.org
- Empower Illinois
  www.empowerillinois.org

Both of these organizations are currently accepting applications. They may charge a nominal fee for processing. For more information on tax credits and tuition assistance scholarships, go to our website at www.SWChristian.org or call Jean Bergeson in the Advancement Office at 708-388-7656. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 22	7pm	CCHS Choir show
March 28	7pm	CCHS Improv Show
March 30		Good Friday – No School
April 1		Happy Easter!
April 2-5		Spring Break
April 20	6pm	CCHS 100 Year Celebration at the Tinley Park Convention Center
April 27	9:30am	Grandparent's Day at CCHS
May 8	7pm	Tinley Park Middle School Play, *Robin Hood*
May 15	7pm	SCCS Annual Association Meeting at CCHS
May 17	1pm/7pm	Oak Lawn Middle School Play, *Comic Book Artist*
May 18	11am	Tinley Park Preschool Program at Faith Christian Reformed Church
May 18	6:30pm	Oak Lawn Preschool Program at Calvin Christian Reformed Church
May 22	7pm	CCHS Spring Band Concert at Trinity Christian College
May 24	7pm	All School Choir Concert at Trinity Christian College
May 31	7pm	Band Concert, 5th – 8th Grades, at Trinity Christian College
June 5	7pm	Oak Lawn 8th Grade Celebration at Calvin Christian Reformed Church
June 6	7pm	Tinley Park 8th Grade Celebration at Faith Christian Reformed Church
June 7	7pm	CCHS Graduation at Trinity Christian College

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Southwest Chicago Christian Schools

A Christ-Centered Learning Community Intent on Restoring God's World

The VOICE
The VOICE is published throughout the year for families, alumni, and friends of the Southwest Chicago Christian School Association. Please contact the SCCS office to report a change of address or to request a free subscription to the newsletter. You can call 708-388-7656 or email SCCS@SWChristian.org

SCCS Statement of Purpose
SCCS provides a high quality Preschool - 12th grade education in the Reformed tradition which emphasizes the lordship of Jesus Christ over all life. It prepares students spiritually, socially, academically, and physically to serve society effectively and to glorify God by honoring Him in all aspects of life.

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17171 S. 84th Avenue, Tinley Park, IL | 708-429-7171

Chicago Christian High School | Grades 9-12
12001 S. Oak Park Avenue, Palos Heights, IL | 708-388-7650