

**UNITY CHRISTIAN
HIGH SCHOOL**

The Inner Loop

The Bi-Weekly Newsletter for Unity Families designed to keep you, "In the Loop!"

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 7

DECEMBER 8, 2011

**SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:**

Tollendale Christmas
Concert

Christmas Concert

Athletic Transportation
changes

**IMPORTANT
DATES IN
NOVEMBER:**

Tollendale Dec. 15
Christmas
Concert

Christmas Dec. 21
Concert

Unity Student Dec. 23
Christmas
Pot-luck and
gift exchange

Last day be- Dec. 23
fore Christ- 2:00
mas holidays- early
dismissal

* Denotes
School closed



"Unity Ugly Christmas Sweater Day"

Student Council often sponsors fun Spirit Days for Unity students. Even the staff gets into it. We wish all Unity families a safe and happy Christmas holiday season.

A Message from the Principal, Mr. Peter Bulthuis



It's True!

A monumental study done by CARDUS, a Christian think tank based in Hamilton, researched this question: *Do the Motivations for Private Religious Catholic and Protestant Schooling in North America Align with Graduate Outcomes?* This year-long research has developed a partial set of conclusions (the Canadian study is currently underway). Part of the executive summary is quoted below. May I strongly suggest that you go to our website, on the "News" page, and click on "CARDUS EDUCATION SURVEY" for the complete results of this survey.

IN CONTRAST TO the popular stereotypes portraying Christian schools as promoting a socially fragmented, anti-intellectual, politically radical, and militantly right-winged lifestyle, this comprehensive study reveals a very different picture of the Christian school graduate. Compared to their public school, Catholic school, and non-religious private school peers, Protestant Christian school graduates are uniquely compliant, generous, outwardly-focused individuals who stabilize their communities by their uncommon commitment to their families, their churches, and larger society. Graduates of Christian schools donate

money significantly more than graduates of other schools, despite having lower household income. Similarly, graduates of Protestant Christian schools are more generous with their time, participating far more than their peers both in service trips for relief and development and in mission trips for evangelization.

Administrators of Catholic and Protestant Christian schools both report emphasizing family as one of the most important values in their schools; Protestant Christian schools, however, are more likely to make family the top-

Principal's Message cont'

ranked emphasis than any of the other options given. This emphasis seems to be taking hold in Protestant Christian school graduates, who are having more children and divorcing less frequently than their peers from public and Catholic schools.

This study shows that the stereotypical picture of the highly political right-wing Protestant Christian is false. We find no evidence that Christian schools are breeding grounds for the right-most wing of political conservatives, nor do we find that Christian school graduates are "culture warriors." Graduates of Christian schools are less engaged in politics than their peers, talking less about politics, participating less in campaigns, and donating less to political causes.

Instead of the picture of the Christian positioned on the offense in the "culture war," these graduates harbour distinctive hope and optimism about their lives and their futures, and have the tools to engage in healthy relationships and address the problems in their lives. Protestant Christian school graduates are the only private school graduates more thankful for what they have in life than their public school peers. In addition, Protestant Christian school graduates are the only private school graduates to report greater direction in life than their public school peers, with non-religious private and Catholic school graduates feeling statistically the same as their public school peers. Unlike their peers in other schools, Protestant Christian school graduates do not report feeling helpless when dealing with problems in life. In many ways, the average Protestant Christian school graduate is a foundational, reliable, and indispensable member of society.

As you read the survey results, I believe you will be emboldened and invigorated by what you read: it's true; God has blessed your children through the work of Christian schools. And more: He has blessed society through the work of Christian schools.

There are times when we speak with people concerning our choice to send our children to a Christian school. We all know about the tuition costs, the volunteering that we do, and other elements of life-changing activities. Yet, we also know the incredible gift that Christian education is for our children's present and future.

Guidance Department

Grade 12 students completed a seminar on how to navigate the Ontario university application center website. Each student has their access codes and can work on their application over the next several weeks. The deadline is January 11, 2012. Students applying to Christian colleges and universities should begin their application process as well. Application forms are available on the website for these schools. Grade 12 students also completed a seminar on how to apply to community colleges. They have set up their accounts and can complete those applications as well. The deadline is February 1, 2011. Students need our prayers and support during this time as they discern God's will for their lives after high school.

Students are in a busy time here at school. The semester is in its last four weeks, which means assignments, tests and culminating activities are all part of the daily routine for students. It is important at this time of the semester that students prioritize and set aside time every evening for homework and assignment completion. Please pray for our students during this busy time of year.

Unity for Christ Service Learning reports should be completed and handed in to the guidance office when students complete volunteer work. Forms are always available in the guidance office.

Unity GIFTS - Monday Dec 12 is the last day to submit orders for gift cards in order to guarantee delivery before Christmas. We have gift cards for (nearly) every store you will find yourself in this busy season. If you give a bonus to your staff at Christmas, please considering ordering those gift cards through GIFTS. The GIFTS program made \$563 in November. So far in Dec, profits are at \$332. Thank you using gift cards. Enjoy shopping!





Unspeakable Joy!

Unity's Music and Drama Students are pleased to present to you our Christmas Concert for 2011:

Unspeakable Joy!

Please join us on Wednesday, December 21st
At 7:30pm

In the Unity Performing Arts Centre
For an evening of carols, bands, choirs, drama, and
special surprises

*All students involved in the evening's concert must be at the school by 6:45pm



Our concert is going on the road!

On Thursday, December 15th, all music and drama students will head to Tollendale to bring a little Christmas music and drama to the residents. This concert starts at 10:30am, and parents are welcome to join us this day as well, for a slightly lighter version of our **Unspeakable Joy!** program.



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"He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together" Colossians 1:17



UNITY'S PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for:

- Our Students: that they may grow in character and in love for Christ and others.
- Our Staff: that they may rely on the Lord as they plan, teach and interact with students.
- Our Board: that they may boldly make wise and discerning decisions for our school.
- Our Community: that they may prayerfully support our board, staff and students
- Our Churches: that they may teach and lead our community in truth and grace.
- Our Grade 12 students: that they receive God's grace as they plan for next year.
- All of us: that we may celebrate with joy the blessings of Christmas.

Notes and Needs

Extra Poinsettias are available so it's not too late to purchase a plant. We have all sizes available at school. There are also some extra table centerpieces available.

Unity school cancellation due to inclement weather conditions will be broadcast on Life 100.3, B101 and KICX 105.9, Barrie stations. They will specifically mention Unity and/or all buses.

Dear Unity Parents:

Recently, the staff has made some updates to our school athletic transportation policy to streamline our driving experience and provide the most logical solutions for efficient transport for all Unity teams. Please have a look at the updates below. They will be added to the current **Field Trip and Athletic Permissions Policy** under **Section XI: Field Trip Transportation**.



"Regarding local athletic events (inter-collegial sporting activities within Barrie city limits), Unity will provide transportation to the event, but will not be responsible for transportation at the conclusion of the event. Parents should make their own arrangements so that their student-athletes return home from the event in a timely manner."

"Regarding local athletic events (inter-collegial sporting activities within Barrie city limits), individual students-athletes possessing a valid driver's licence may drive themselves to the facility at which the activity is being contested PROVIDED THAT the attached form (Athletic Form 3) has been signed by a parent of that student-athlete."

Yesterday, Athletic Form 3 was emailed out to all parents of students currently involved in an athletic event.

Thank you to all who help make our sporting seasons a great success! GO LIONS GO!!!!