Volume 4, Issue 1

Winter Edition 2019

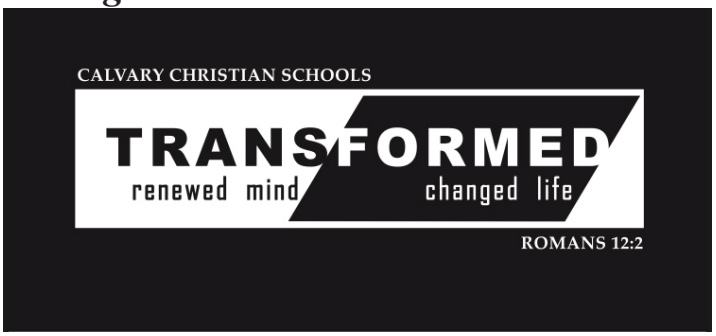
Upcoming Events:

March 7:
Kindergarten Round-up
March 8:
1st-5th Grade Speech Meet
March 22:
No School; End of 3rd Qtr
March 26:
CCS Open House & Community Event 6:00-8:00

April 1-5:
Spring Break
April 11:
CCS @ Showcase
April 18:
Spiritual Emphasis Day
April 19:
No School: Good Friday
April 26:
Prospective Students Day
CCS Carnival

May 3&4:
CCS Spring Musical
May 9:
MS/HS Spring Concert
May 10:
Grandparents Day 10:00
K-5 Concert 1:00
May 11:
Junior/Senior Banquet
May 14:
CCS Sports Awards 6:00
May 16:
Senior Chapel
May 17-23:
Senior Trip
May 24:
Kindergarten Graduation
May 27:
No School; Memorial Day
May 28-30:
5th Grade Overnight Camp
May 29:
1st-4th Field Day
May 29-30:
8th Grade Chicago Trip
May 31:
Last Day of School
H.S. Graduation

To Begin With: "And Enoch Was No More…"



Each year we have a new theme that we introduce at High School Retreat, and they use periodically throughout the year in chapel and other events. This year's theme is "Transformed: Renewed Mind, Changed Life" based on Romans 12:2.

Back in September, I told our CCS high school students that there was a young man, a junior, who wanted very much to be with them this school year, but we were having difficulty getting him to Calvary. I explained that the first obstacle was distance. He lives more than 12,000 miles away. The second obstacle was resistance from forces beyond our control. You see, he lives in a country that does not let places like Calvary Christian Schools exist. In fact, they would not let the various churches and youth groups represented in our school exist. (In his country, students under the age of 18 are not allowed to attend church.) In fact, this young man's father is a pastor who just finished serving a 2.5 year prison term after their church was raided by authorities.

I was limited to what I could say, but I told our students, "This young man who wishes he were here with you right now lives in China. Had our plan worked to get him here, he would be in the Junior Class. His name means "walks with God." It comes from the verse is Genesis 5:24, 'And Enoch walked with God and was no more because God took him.'" Talk about a transformed life. POOF! Gone! Hebrews 11:5 says Enoch did not experience death. The Enoch I spoke of is a modern-day Enoch. He also desires the path God has for him, but getting to that path is going to take a miracle."

Enoch had learned of Calvary from a friend of mine, the Chinese refugee/pastor who spoke at our Fall Banquet in 2015 (whose name we choose not to include here). Within a week of his release from prison, Enoch's father began a plan to see if his son could come to Calvary. That was when Enoch and I began daily email communication. Calvary sent everything he needed to come to Calvary (for the visa process, etc.), but the first attempt had been rejected. We sent all new paperwork again in October in hopes that Enoch could arrive by November, but that paperwork was intercepted. (The links at the end of these paragraphs are about this pastor whose alias is "Yang Hua" which means "Look up to Jehovah.")

We continued to pray and to carefully comply with US or China immigration procedures for international students. In December, CCS made its third and final attempt to get the necessary documents to Enoch (though this time at a different address). The sequence of events was a nail-biter that we won't discuss here. Enoch said more than once in his emails, "God is in control of tomorrow." In that spirit, we kept praying, but I confess it seemed unlikely to happen.

Then on the day before New Year's Eve, 2018, I received an email from Enoch. His contact had gotten the packet; he had gone to the consulate alone AND THIS TIME HE HAD GOTTEN HIS VISA. Pause… There are many other details I cannot share, but upon returning after Christmas Break, I went to the Junior Bible Class to update them on their future classmate. "I know we've been praying since September, and he is not 'out of the woods yet,'" I told them, "but Lord willing, Enoch may be here Wednesday night." Their faces beamed.

Enoch's plane did arrive as prayed for, his daily presence continues to be cause for celebration at Calvary. It is cause for celebration for his parents and a few "guardian angels" who helped make it happen and who must remain nameless, but to thousands of people in his life, Enoch simply "was no more."

https://chinachange.org/tag/yang-hua/

https://www.chinaaid.org/search?q=Yang+Hua&by-date=true

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We have gone digital!

We will now be sending out the CCS newsletter via email!

If you would like to add someone to our email list to receive the newsletter only, please call the office at 231-865-2141 or email Julie Beals at beals@calvaryeagles.org.

Hard copies of the newsletter will be available outside the school office.

Office Hours
Monday– Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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I often use this space to talk with you about the things that set CCS apart from other schools- our distinctives. With a mission statement that guides us to equip students toward personal excellence and pursuit of God's purpose for their lives, it does make our school special. But, what comes to YOUR mind when I ask, "What sets CCS apart?" Small size; personal attention; spiritual training and instruction; academics; friends; extracurricular activities…you might answer any of these. The answers I hear most commonly from people are "Faith" and "Family". In God's economy, could there be any higher calling for a school? Are there any lessons more important for us to teach our children than to love God and love others? We are a Faith Family.

God's Word tells us that He often uses the hard times in our lives to teach us to cling to Him, cling to each other and learn lessons we might not otherwise grasp. Our school family experienced one of these hard times in December as our student, Luke Anhalt, lay on the gym floor in cardiac arrest. Most of you have heard and read about the details of the medical response. God had prepared for this event, placing the necessary equipment (AED) and personnel at Luke's side. Are there any words sufficient to express our gratitude to God and to each person who played a part in saving Luke's life? Not often do we see such dramatic miracles. Glory to God in the Highest!

Let's expand our focus beyond that spot on the gym floor. What else was happening? Word was being spread at the speed of text messages, and almost instantaneously, our Faith Family was alerted. The news struck us to the marrow- because we are Family. Even those who do not personally know the Anhalts, grieved- because we are Family. But we are not just a family, we are a family of Faith. In West Michigan and beyond, people dropped to their knees in Faith and interceded for Luke. We were galvanized together in heartfelt, persistent prayer and it was God's pleasure to say, "Yes!" God values communities of Faith and He has blessed ours at CCS.

Let's not move forward without growing. In Ephesians, Paul instructed us to be "…built up until we reach unity in the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." Everything happens in our lives to help us become more like Christ. Will you join me in thinking deeply about the lessons God is teaching us through this? What have you learned about Him? What have you learned about prayer? What have we learned about ourselves as a Faith Family? Will we let these lessons change us? Please join me in asking God to continue to grow us in our Faith and bond us together as Family. Let's grow in God this year.

Tom Watkins
CCS Board President, 2018-19

To read more about Luke's story, click on the link.
https://www.google.com/search?q=mlive+luke+anhalt&rlz=1C1AVFB_enUS824US835&oq=mlive+luke+anhalt&aqs=chrome..69i57.6181

A friend and member of our Calvary family recently shared with me the difference between thankfulness and gratitude. Thankfulness focuses on the gift received, but gratitude swings her gaze to the source of the gift - the Giver. Our family has been on quite a journey these last two months, and we have witnessed God's mighty work. I want to express our gratitude to our CCS family, for enfolding and supporting us with such kind care these many weeks.

However, we are not only grateful to all of you. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said that *Gratitude changes the pangs of memory into a tranquil joy.* Though we celebrate the awesome outcome of Luke's Sudden Cardiac Arrest, many of us are sometimes still challenged by what we witnessed on December 13. There are forever-etched images we can't un-see, a cacophony of sounds we can't un-hear, and real fears that sometimes still shake us. We know the gravity of what occurred and understand the possibility of what could have happened but for the mystery and mercy of God's intervention. These pangs of memory can stop us in our tracks; they can leave us breathless. Gratitude, where we focus on the Giver of life, the One who chose to reveal Himself to us when He saved Luke that day in a POWERFUL way, can change those pangs into tranquil joy and that is precisely what He's doing. We are truly, deeply, grateful.

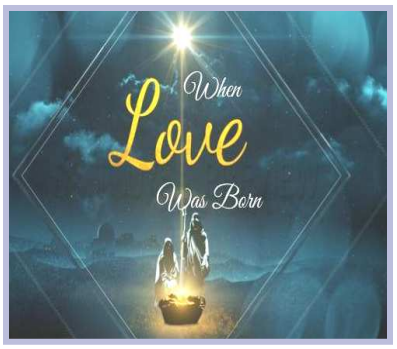
Samantha Anhalt for the Anhalt family

Remember not the former things…Behold, I am doing a new thing…
that the people whom I formed for Myself might declare My praise. Isaiah 43:18-19, 21

2018 High School Retreat

What a wonderful way to start the school year...rekindling friendships from years past and developing new friendships for years to come. The high school students and teacher and staff chaperones spent three days on their high school retreat at Springhill Camp! This is always said to be some of the most wonderful memories of high school.

Kindergarten-12th Christmas Concert



One to One Muskegon Rescue Mission Gift Giving Collection

The CCS Student Council was excited to once again organize a school wide effort to partner with Muskegon Rescue Mission in providing gifts for approximately 100 children during the holiday season. Students were able to collect and place their unwrapped gifts under the Christmas tree in the rotunda and then we all gathered in the rotunda to pray for these children and the gifts they were about to receive and that their lives would be blessed through this effort.

"An Old-Fashioned Christmas Spectacular"

The Calvary Players Drama Club held its first annual fundraiser, *"An Old-Fashioned Christmas Spectacular"* show on December 1st! This nostalgic "walk down memory lane" included songs, dances, and humorous skits, centering on the joy of Christmas! The funds raised will support our spring musical, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Our Middle and High School Calvary Choirs made special appearances in the show, directed by our music instructor, Mrs. Laura Lopez. The sets, props and costumes were coordinated by Mrs. Kelly Walker, and the show was directed by our new Drama Club director, Amanda Boothe (Nousain), CCS class of 2006. Amanda is excited to bring her 10+ years of teaching/performing experience and her love for drama to CCS, along with her husband Daniel, who is also an actor.

Congratulations to CCS Juniors Matthew Anderson and Tyler McKee who performed as members of the Cornerstone University High School Honors Band. Matt and Tyler represented our school well and had a great learning experience rehearsing all day alongside Cornerstone University students and music faculty!

One of the Elementary's favorite things to do each week is to visit their very own CCS Library! Follow them on Instagram!

@littleradlibrary

Elementary Robotics Club

Congratulations to the CCS Elementary Robotics Club who won "Mechanical Robot Design Award" at the First Lego League Regional Competition!

The top three seniors of this year's graduating class, Luke Anhalt, Rena Malek, and Emily May, were honored with the opportunity to be guests of the Muskegon Rotary Club on January 10. Accompanied by Rick Maine, CCS high school principal and athletic director, and Samantha Anhalt, CCS NHS advisor and librarian, the three enjoyed lunch, and had the opportunity to speak about their future plans and gain exposure to some of the great community service in which this respected organization participates.

HOMECOMING 2019

Homecoming Queen: Rena Malek ***Homecoming King: Luke Anhalt***

Senior Representatives: Emily Wesner, Jordan Poindexter, Zach Zehr, Jacob McFarren, Nick Cadena

Junior: Alexandria Assaad, Tyler McKee **Sophomore:** Emmalee Dykman, Ethan Pollock

Freshman: Larissa Gloeckner, Joel Walker

Dress Up Days…

Super Heros

Disney

Color Wars

Theme…

A Blast from OUR Past… 2000-2010

CCS Fall and Winter Sports Teams

Boys Varsity Soccer

Boys M.S. Soccer

Girls Varsity Volleyball

Girls JV Volleyball

Girls M.S. Volleyball

Cross Country

Boys Varsity Basketball

Girls Varsity Basketball

Boys JV Basketball

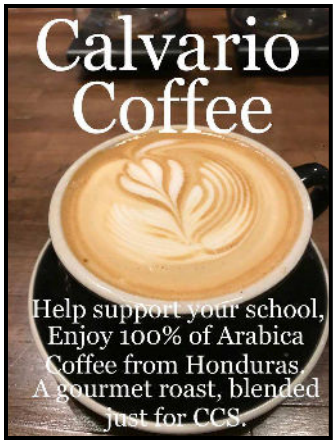
Girls JV Basketball

Boys M.S. Basketball

Girls M.S. Basketball

Boys 4-6th Grade Basketball

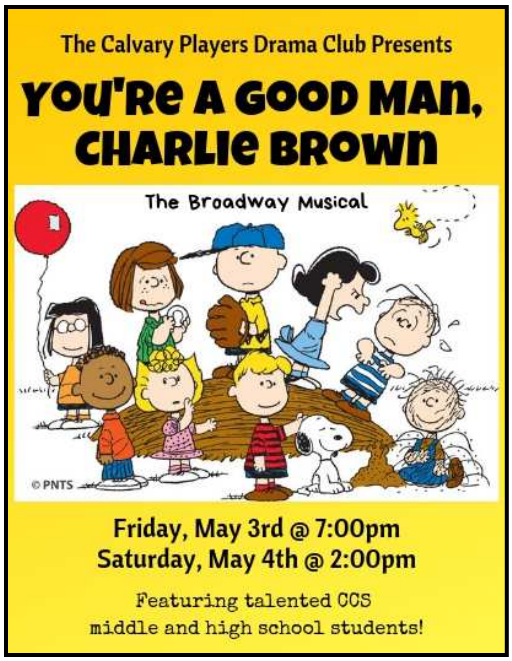
Girls 4-6th Grade Basketball



Come join Mr. Kapanka and others for coffee time in the mornings from 7:30-9:00 at Calvary Christian Schools. At the same time, pick up a pound of our very own Calvario Coffee. This is a great time to get to know people along with having a great cup of coffee. Call 231-215-9120 for more information.

Go to the CCS Website to find the link to our Eaglewear Online Store!

Get your name, number, club or sports team printed on your CCS shirt!



CCS Mission Statement

Partnering with parents
to equip students
toward personal excellence
and the pursuit of God's purpose
for their lives.

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CCS Open House & Community Event
Tuesday, March 26
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

*** Tour the building**
*** Meet the teachers and staff**
*** Review the curriculum**
*** Watch our CCS Girls and Boys Basketball Teams as they host No More Sidelines and play the Fruitport Fire & Police Department in some friendly games of basketball!**
*** Enjoy refreshments**

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