



developing minds

building character

nurturing faith



A GLANCE AHEAD!

DECEMBER 2025

I confess, when I think about Christmas, my mind immediately goes to tangible things like decorations, gifts, events, food, time with family and friends, Christmas music and movies, and, of course, a Christmas service at school or church. All great things. All great people. All great. But I'm guilty of forgetting to stop and take a sacred pause to think about how all of this began. There were no bells jingling, no sleighs riding, and contrary to the popular song, the beginning of what we call *Christmas* was not a silent night. Andrew Peterson captures this beautifully in his song *"It Was Not a Silent Night."*

"It was not a silent night, there was blood on the ground. You could hear a woman cry, in the alleyway that night, on the streets of David's town. And the stable was not clean. And the cobblestones were cold. And little Mary full of grace, with the tears upon her face, had no mother's hand to hold. It was a labor of pain, it was a cold sky above. But for the girl on the ground in the dark, with every beat of her beautiful heart, it was a labor of love. Noble Joseph by her side, calloused hands and weary eyes. There were no midwives to be found, on the streets of David's town, in the middle of the night. So he held her and he prayed. Shafts of moonlight on his face. But the baby in her womb, He was the maker of the moon, He was the Author of the faith, that could make the mountains move. For little Mary full of grace, with the tears upon her face, it was a labor of love."

The Spirit of Christmas existed long before we celebrated it by giving gifts. Christmas is God's Spirit revealed - He gave His Son to us. It was an ancient plan that God foretold in the Holy Scriptures long before Mary was even alive. I've been told that we give gifts today because the wise men gave gifts to Jesus. But I think it makes even more sense that we give gifts because we recognize that God first gave us the greatest gift, Jesus, and He created us in His image to be gift-givers. We love to give gifts! Just wait until you see your child or "little shopper" watching you open the gift they picked out at the CCA sale. Their face will light up with joy as a giver.

I know, we can't always afford to give a tangible gift. Remember that sometimes the most meaningful gifts are less material: our time, our presence, our words, a listening ear, helping hands, a thoughtful text, a handwritten card, homemade baked goods, or something we already own and want to bless someone with. There may not be a price tag on these gifts, but the impact is just as real because they are given as a *labor of love*. John 15:13 reminds us, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

This Christmas season, I encourage you to take a sacred pause from the busyness. Thank God for His perfect gift. And then take time to consider how you can lay down your life in love—by giving something, doing something, or saying something that doesn't require pulling out a credit card. Gift someone with something less tangible, more intentional—a true labor of love.

"To give a good answer is a joy to a man, and how pleasing is a word given at the right time!" —Proverbs 15:23

Merry Christmas, may God bless you!

CCA Board of Directors and Governance Model

Did you know that CCA is governed by a Board of Directors? Each year, the Board hosts an Annual General Meeting (AGM) to share school updates, introduce Board members, and outline the important role the Board plays in providing oversight and leadership to the Academy.

Meet Our Board of Directors

We are grateful for the faithful service and expertise of our Board members. The 2024-25 Board of Directors includes:

- Board Chair: Terry Wills
- Vice Chair: Luke Wilson
- Treasurer: Cindy Adegbile
- Secretary: Esther Houle
- Directors: Mark Lyons, Carole Ivay, Jacalyn Grimes

Governance Board vs. Working Board — What's the Difference?

Have you ever wondered how a governance structure differs from a working structure? Here is a helpful overview:

Working Board

A working board is actively involved in the day-to-day operations of an organization in addition to carrying out strategic and fiduciary responsibilities. These boards are most common in small organizations, startups, and community groups that may lack the resources to hire paid staff.

Governance Board

A governance board provides strategic guidance and oversight at the highest level of an organization. Rather than running day-to-day operations, a governance board ensures the long-term health, direction, and accountability of the institution.

Key responsibilities of a governance board include:

- Governance and organizational oversight
- Strategic planning and long-term direction
- Risk management and policy oversight
- Hiring and evaluating leadership
- Legal and regulatory compliance
- Advocacy and representation
- Supervising one employee — the Executive Director or CEO (for CCA, the Principal/CEO)

A Board Charter or set of Bylaws clearly outlines these responsibilities and defines the scope, authority, and expectations of the Board, supporting transparency and ethical governance.

CCA's Governance Model

When CCA began in 1997, the Board of Directors functioned as a working board, filling both operational and governance roles. As the school has grown, so has the leadership structure. Today, CCA operates under a Governance Board model. The Principal/CEO is directly accountable to the Board, while the Principal/CEO provides leadership and oversight to the Academy's staff team of 35. Each year, the Board participates in an external financial audit, and the Board Treasurer provides an annual financial update at the AGM. We are grateful for the dedication, prayer, and leadership of our Board as they help guide CCA with wisdom, integrity, and a long-term vision for flourishing Christian education.

Annual General Meeting

Thank you to everyone who made it out to the Annual General Meeting on November 24th. Thank you, Pastor Kenny, for sharing a devotion on the sufficiency of Scripture. Updates and information were given on the various activities of the Academy. The slide deck from the evening was distributed by email on November 25th.



Angel Tree

This Christmas Season, CCA has decided to partner with the local Lanark County Interval House and take part in their Angel Tree Program. From November 17 - December 11 CCA and CCHS will run the Angel Tree Drive, where each of our classes will "adopt" 2-3 angels, and students will have an opportunity to bring in items to fulfill their angels' wishes. Homeroom teachers will share a Wishlist sign-up sheet with you, so you can decide with your child what to contribute. Of course, this is NOT mandatory; we will pass on whatever people are comfortable with giving.

As a family, you may wish to "adopt" an angel as well. You will find the Angel Tree in the front foyer, where you are welcome to choose an Angel.

Donations must be received by December 11th, so we can pack and deliver to the Interval House for timely distribution. They kindly ask that you refrain from wrapping the gifts, but feel free to use a gift bag, clearly labelled for the intended "angel".

Apple Seeds Preschool Registration

Early Preschool Registration for 2026-2027 for our current /former CCA families begins January 15, 2025. Preschool children need to be 2.5 years (30 months) old to attend.

Assemblies - December 11 and 18

Our regular monthly assembly will be on December 11th at 2:15 pm. This is a chance for students to practice their emerging skills and talents in front of their peers. It is always a good time!

There will be a special Christmas Chapel on Thursday, December 18th, at 2:00 p.m. Parents are invited to join us.

CCA Events

Arise Ballet- December 4 - 2 Presentations

We are looking forward to welcoming Arise Dance Studio (with some of our own students!) to present 2 back-to-back performances of their Christmas ballet. Kindergarten to grade four will watch at 1:00pm and grades five to twelve will watch at 2:00pm. The performance is about 45 minutes. Parents are welcome to join us for either performance.



Dress Down in Red and Green - Friday, December 12

Dress-Down Day is coming up! Students may dress down for a \$2 donation, or—if your family would like to bless the residents of Interval House—you can donate new socks, pajamas, hats, or mitts instead and dress down in red and green!

Candy Cane Hunt - Monday, December 15

Elementary students will enjoy an outdoor candy cane hunt at 2:15 😊

Grade 8 vs Staff Volleyball Game - Thursday, December 18

As the tradition goes, staff will take on the graduating grade 8 class of 2025 in a friendly game of volleyball on Thursday December 18th beginning at 9:30 a.m.



CCA Parent Facebook group

If you are interested in joining the CCA Facebook parent page search CCA Parent 2 Parent Connection. It's a good place to track down lost uniforms, arrange carpooling for sports and connect with other parents.

Christmas Cards - Due by December 12

This season CCA will bless senior citizens who may be feeling lonely this season by making homemade Christmas cards, or pictures - as many as we can and deliver them to local homes for the residents. Please consider spending time as a family to make some thoughtful Christmas cards with a message or picture for a senior citizen. Families are encouraged to sign the cards but not to address them. Staff at the home will give the cards where they are most needed. All art abilities are welcomed and encouraged! Cards can be given to Mrs. Becker or Mrs. Vala who will collect and distribute them in time for Christmas.

Christmas Carols

Staff and students will begin each morning beginning at 9:25 am singing traditional Christmas Carols in the gym for the final two weeks of school before the Christmas break. We want to help foster the Christmas spirit and start the day in a joyous way.

Christmas Holidays

CCA will be closed for Christmas holidays. The last day of school is Thursday, December 18th. There is no school on Friday, December 19th. Classes will resume on Monday, January 5th, 2026.

French Fun

The last Friday of each month is French Fun! Mme. MacFarlane spends the day outdoors with each class. It's a great opportunity to enjoy the beautiful property CCA has.



Christmas Play – Wednesday, December 17 – 3 Performances

This year's Christmas play follows a writer who has been tasked with creating a "modernized" version of the Nativity story to help today's children understand it better. However, each time he tries to update a scene, he's drawn back to the beauty and power of the original story. As he works through his ideas, the scenes unfold behind him—brought to life by the actors as though his imagination is appearing on stage. The message is simple and meaningful: the Nativity doesn't need modernizing—its truth stands timeless.

CCA will have three Christmas play performances on the December 17th beginning with a Grandparent tea at 10:30. The office has sent out a digital invitation to send your special grandfriend. The matinee performance will be held at 1:30 pm for friends, family and guests. Our last performance is the evening performance at 7 pm for parents only. Due to limited space, please aim for only two guests per family.

Dress Rehearsal will take place on Tuesday December 16th, 2025

Christmas Concert Dress Code

Boys: Black dress pants (black uniform pants work) with a nice Christmas top; dress shirt or nice Christmas sweater. Think Christmas colours. (Not 'funny' or 'ugly' Christmas sweaters, please).

Girls: Christmas dress, or skirt and top. Think Christmas colours (Red, green, white, or black - If it's a solid colour dress they can include a red, green, white, or gold type scarf, belt or accessory to look Christmas-like).

We encourage everyone to spend time listening to the whole school song to help familiarize the kids with the lyrics.

Angels (Glory to God) by Phil Wickham <https://youtu.be/gmY6j4AocUg?si=eDVDJZLkAjqPdpnN>



CCA Wings Athletics Update

The Junior Boys' and the Junior Girls' Volleyball Teams had their tournaments this past month and represented CCA well. Each team played hard, having fun and learning new skills. The Senior Boys' tournament is on Thursday, December 11, while the Senior Girls' Tier 1 tournament is on Wednesday, December 10 and Tier 2 is on Tuesday December 9th. More details will be sent home when more information is received.

Our Junior Boys' Volleyball team represented CCA and played well at their tournament. The B team made it to the semi-finals. Thank you to all who were involved.



CCHS Wings Athletics Update

The fall season wrapped up with incredible success for our boys' volleyball teams. Both the junior and senior squads captured the Lanark League titles, each battling through tight finals in front of packed opponent gyms. The boys rose to the challenge and showed tremendous grit under pressure.

The senior boys traveled to Quinte to compete at OCSSAA, facing Christian high schools from across Ontario. They went undefeated through pool play and met Hamilton District Christian High School—four-time consecutive OFSAA champions in their first game of the day on Saturday. The boys defeated Hamilton and went on to face them in the finals. In another thrilling game between the top two ranked teams, Hamilton handed CCHS their first loss of the tournament in the last possible game they could play. After a weekend of outstanding effort and teamwork, our boys proudly brought home the silver medal.

With volleyball season transitioning, we now look forward to the start of girls' volleyball and boys basketball. Both seasons tip off in the first week of December, with the senior girls already preparing for tournaments later this month.

Adding to the excitement, Mrs. Chapman and Mrs. Kravacek, alongside several high school students, have designed brand-new CCHS Wings merchandise. This gear gives our athletes and fans a fresh way to show school spirit and represent CCHS proudly.

We're thrilled about the momentum from the fall and can't wait to see what the winter season brings!



Fundraisers

CCA

Grade 8 have a few Live Balsam Wreaths left. Email jsalisbury@calvaryca.com to order yours!



On Wednesday, December 3rd the gym will be transformed into a festive shopping center where students can pick out Christmas gifts for their families! Students will complete their shopping in the daytime, but the shopping experience will run from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m., for parents a chance to browse and grab treasures for just \$5.

We also welcome donations for the sale! Any gently used, sellable items are appreciated. Ideas include trinkets, jewelry, toys, books, games, tools, clothes, movies, collections, trinkets, unused perfumes, winter wear, posters, and stuffed animals.

Donations can be dropped off in the CCA trailer in the parking lot anytime from now until December 3.

Come snag some deals, spread holiday cheer, and support our Grade 8s as they fund their grad trip! Thank you!

CCHS

CCHS has a couple of fundraising initiatives going on in December. Senior students are raising funds for their trip in May. Families have been emailed about an online auction of Sens Vs Habs tickets. The game is on January 17th at 7:00 pm, seats in the second bowl (row 204), three rows above the goalie. The tickets come with a parking pass - total value of \$540. Bidding closes on December 12th at 7:00 pm.

Bake Sale - CCHS seniors will hold a bake sale for CCA on Tuesday, December 9th. Baked goods are welcome and count as volunteer hours!

Gratitude Gala - Friday, January 23, 2026

Save the date for our 2025-26 Gratitude Gala - a night of gratitude. Dinner and a comedy performance are sure to brighten a cold January night. Last year we raised \$100,000 together through sponsorship, pledges and individual donations, we are excited to see how God provides this year.

Every tuition paying family has two tickets to the evening - and we hope you can join us. All you need to do is rsvp to tickets@calvaryca.com to claim you tickets by January 1st, 2026. If you require additional tickets, you can purchase them for \$100 each.



Lego Robotics Club

We are excited to announce that CCA will be competing province-wide in the Ontario Skills Competition for Lego Robotics, taking place in Toronto in May 2026.

Currently, we have nine teams, from which we plan to qualify two teams: one in the Lego Mechanical Engineering category and one in the Lego Autonomous Robotics category.

Students will be training during activity break recess on a bi-weekly basis—or more frequently, depending on the demands of competition preparation.



Lunch Program - Winter Order - Must be submitted by the end of 2025

January - March lunch order form will be in your family portal soon. Please get your order and payment in before the end of 2025 to be included in the new year order. Payment for lunches must be made with the order.

Non-Uniform Days - Christmas Themed Dress Down Days

Christmas Dress down day on December 12th for \$2.00 or a donation to the Lanark Interval House. (food, new pyjamas, socks, hat, mitts).

Operation Christmas Child

A big thank-you to Sharon Connor and each of you that made our 2025 Operation Christmas Child campaign another success! Much effort, energy, time and resources are put into this campaign. Each of us are blessed as we reach out to bless less fortunate children around the world. Together with the surrounding area 1200 boxes were packed!



Right Now Media - Free Membership to online bible studies, videos, lessons, and more

Right Now Media is a Christian resource for men, women, and children of all ages. CCA has paid for a group membership for all CCA and CCHS families, please reach out to the office to learn how to get a free membership. You will find so many timely and relevant programs and resources offered there. We'd love to hear what you are watching so send us a note with some of your favorites.

Featured This Month: Every Thought Captive: How Renewing Your Mind Can Change Your Life (Kyle Idleman). Learn how God made your brain and can transform your life as you learn to take every thought captive and submit it to the truth of his Word.

Snow Days / Inclement Weather Information

With the arrival of winter weather comes the possibility of snow days. When STEO cancels ALL transportation, CCA is closed. You will know this by checking their website to see the message "all transportation cancelled". Some days there may only be specific routes cancelled, or bus delays, in this case our school is open. Since CCA's bus is a private charter it will never be listed on the delay or cancellation list. CCA bus cancellations will always be confirmed by the office through email.

The Student Transportation of Eastern Ontario website will post bus delays or cancellations here www.steo.ca

In rare circumstances, our bus may not run due to freezing rain, mechanical or other problems, in this case, *only bus families* will receive an email and school will be open.

In any case if you ever feel unsafe driving, please do not drive. Let the school know you will be home for the day.

Student Life - Spirit Days

Thank you to everyone who dressed up for November's Spirit Days, it was fun to see such creative and colorful costumes! Below are some pictures from the four spirit days.

Student Life - Deer Hunter

The students enjoyed, and some are still enjoying, a competitive game of Deer Hunter. The primary students have completed their game with Cecilia Powell coming in first and Abigail Racine coming in second. Way to go girls! The junior/intermediate students are continuing their game. Thank you, Mrs. Reid, for organizing this fun game.

Student of the Week

Beginning in January homeroom teachers will choose one Student of the Week. The student of the week is a student who engages in the classroom, sets a positive example to their peers and is a leader by their example. Nominees are announced at Chapel each Monday and presented with a certificate of achievement. You can look for monthly nominees in the newsletters!

Special Shopping Event for kids - Gently used items needed

The Grade 8's are busy planning one of the kids favorite events - kids shopping day! On December 3rd, the gym will be transformed into a shopping center for kids. Beginning with JK, students will have the opportunity to shop for their loved ones and bring home wrapped, specially chosen gifts - while supplies last!

For this event we need your no-longer-wanted- but-still-in-good-shape gift items. These items will be organized by the Grade 8 class, and little shoppers will have the opportunity to buy gifts with help from the Grade 8's. The gifts will be wrapped and labelled and sent home the same day.

Please send your children with cash. Whatever amount of money they bring will be sufficient for their shopping list. In preparation for the shopping day your little shopper will need a list of people to shop for. It is helpful if you can include ages so we can help steer them in their selection (see sample list below).

Please continue to send in your gently used items for the sale. You can also send in tape, ribbons, gift bags, bows, and gift wrap and lots of shopping bags (plastic and reusable).

Sample List → Mom - knitting & reading, Dad - coffee & tools, Brother Scot- 12yr cars, games

Used Uniform Sale

There will be a used uniform sale in the back storage shed on December 4th before and after school. Used uniforms that are in good sellable condition can be brought to the sale to be included in the next sale. All sales are CASH only. Thank you to the wonderful team of volunteers that lead this program.



Winter Wear

Now that winter is here, please be sure to send your child with **appropriate winter clothing**. Hats, gloves, winter coats, boots, and snow pants are necessary for all grades. We want the children to enjoy the outdoors and get fresh air. Students who are not dressed warmly enough will remain indoors in the office during recess.

Grades 7 and 8 are not required to wear snow pants, but if they choose not to, their play areas will be limited. Repeat offenders may face additional consequences, and parents could be asked to bring the necessary items.

Volunteer Opportunities

Families who opted in for 25 volunteer hours throughout the year have opportunities each month to get involved. We aim to provide a variety of options so that everyone can find something that matches their interests and abilities. If you have particular strengths or skills and would like to help in a specific area, please email the office.

Before volunteering, all helpers are asked to provide the office with a current Vulnerable Sector Check and to sign off on the Volunteer Policy Binder, which is available in the office.

Volunteer Opportunities this month include:

Cleaning - We are always looking to form a list of volunteers for a deep clean team that can self-schedule to come in over the break or periodically in the new year (weekend or evenings) to deep clean areas of the school that need it. Supplies will be provided.

Classroom Help -If you have a particular interest or skill that may be helpful or useful in the classroom, feel free to reach out and offer your time to your homeroom teacher.

Kids Shopping Day - We are looking for 3-4 volunteers to help with the Kids Shopping Day. Set up, clean up, helping shoppers, wrapping gifts. Contact jsalisbury@calvaryca.com

Gala - We still need a few volunteers to help with the Gratitude Gala in January. Set-up, clean-up, and food are some areas where there is need.

Painting - Mr. Connor built some stage risers for our Christmas production, and they need to be painted. We need 1-2 volunteers to help us get this done as soon as possible. Equipment and supplies will be provided.

Ski Club Volunteers - We are looking for two parent volunteers to help with Ski Club. Volunteers are welcome to sign up for just one evening—you do not need to commit to every outing. If you're available to assist on any of the scheduled ski nights, we would greatly appreciate your support.

CCA Community Events

CCA's After-School Ski Club - Grades 4 to 12

We are excited to offer an After-School Ski Club again this winter for our students in grades 4-12. This program provides a fun and active way for students to enjoy the season, learn new skills, and spend time with friends outside the classroom. Whether they are brand new to skiing or snowboarding, or already confident on the slopes, students will have a great opportunity to participate in lessons, develop their abilities, and enjoy time outdoors.

Ski Club is dependent upon a minimum registration number, and adequate adult-to-student supervision. Pricing is based upon minimum registration.

- **Sessions:** Wednesdays December 10, January 7, January 28, February 11, February 25
- **Location:** Pakenham Ski Hill
- **Pricing:** see details in sign-up sheet
- **Schedule:** Depart CCA by bus at 4:30 PM, return by 8:40 PM
- **Requirements:**
 - Non-refundable lift pass and rental bookings, regardless of weather
 - Night chairlift readiness assessment for students not taking lessons

We are seeking 2 parent supervision volunteers per session to support students on the hill. Selected volunteers will receive a complimentary bus ride and lift ticket. All volunteers must meet CCA's Volunteer Policy requirements, including a valid Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC).

We're thrilled to offer this opportunity and look forward to seeing our students and families on the slopes! More information and a sign-up link will come from the office.

Ontario Snow Pass Program

The Canadian Ski Counsel offers a "Snow Pass" for grade 4-5 students. For \$39.99, kids can ski at hills across the country up to 3 times each year with no additional lift fees. This program is not run through the school so please check out their website for more information.

<https://www.skicanada.org/grade-4-5-snowpass/>

2025 Christmas Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.
Numbers 6:24-26

