CALVARY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

developing minds
building character
nurturing faith



A GLANCE AHEAD!

December 2026

Throughout this school year, we have been reflecting on a beautiful name of God: Jehovah Jireh — The Lord Will Provide. It is a reminder that we serve a God who sees our needs, knows our circumstances, and faithfully provides for His people.

As we approach the Christmas season, I have been thinking about this beautiful theme and how wonderfully it connects to the birth of Jesus. The Apostle Paul reminds us in Galatians 4:4-5:

> "But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship."

I love that phrase, "when the set time had fully come." God's provision was not early, nor was it late. At just the right time, according to His perfect plan, God sent His Son into the world. What a beautiful reminder that God's timing and His provision are always purposeful, even when we cannot fully understand them.

When we think about God's provision, our minds often turn to the practical things in life: our homes, our families, our finances, our health, and the opportunities before us. These are certainly blessings for which we should be thankful. The Apostle Paul says it so well in Philippians 4:19:

> "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."

But God's provision is not always about receiving what we want, when we want it. Sometimes His provision comes through unexpected circumstances, unanswered questions, or seasons that require us to trust Him more deeply.

Have you ever walked through a circumstance that you would have done almost anything to avoid? Perhaps it was a season of disappointment, uncertainty, loss, or difficulty. At the time, you may have wondered where God was or why He was allowing you to walk through it. Yet, looking back, perhaps you can now see His faithfulness in ways you could not recognize at the time. Maybe you can see how He sustained you, shaped you, strengthened your faith, or even brought something beautiful out of a difficult season.

That is often how God's provision works. We may not always recognize it in the moment, but His faithfulness is not dependent on our ability to see or understand what He is doing.

Consider the very first Christmas. God's people had waited generations for the promised Messiah. They longed for deliverance, hope, and restoration. Yet when God fulfilled His promise, He did so in a way few would have expected. Not through a powerful earthly king or an impressive display of wealth, but through a baby born in humble circumstances, laid in a manger.

Christmas reminds us that God did not simply provide something for us; He provided Someone for us.

As we enter this busy season, it is easy to become distracted by everything Christmas brings: shopping, decorating, concerts, gatherings, and the many activities that fill our calendars. These can all be wonderful traditions, but I want to encourage our families to be intentional about remembering what we are truly celebrating.

The greatest gift of Christmas cannot be purchased, wrapped, or placed beneath a tree. It is the gift of God's love revealed through Jesus Christ. In Him, God has provided what we need most: forgiveness, redemption, reconciliation, and the hope of eternal life.

My prayer for our Academy community is that, amid the busyness of this season, we would take time to recognize God's provision in our lives, give thanks for His faithfulness, and remember that the same God who faithfully fulfilled His promise in Bethlehem continues to be faithful today.

May this Christmas season be filled with gratitude, renewed hope, and the peace that comes from knowing our faithful Provider. Jehovah Jireh — The Lord Will Provide. And Christmas reminds us that He already has.

Merry Christmas, may God bless you!
Mr. Bourne

Annual General Meeting

Thank you to everyone who made it out to the Annual General Meeting on November 23th. Thank you, Doug Sprunt, for sharing a devotion to start the evening off. Updates and information were given on the various activities of the Academy. The slide deck from the evening will be distributed by email.

CCA Board of Directors Update

Meet Our Board of Directors

We are grateful for the faithful service and expertise of our Board members. The 2026–27 Board of Directors includes:

- Board Chair: Rev. Dr. Terry Burns Sr
- Vice Chair: Doug Sprunt
- Treasurer: Chris Evoy
- Secretary: Andrew James
- Directors: Pastor Chad Monaghan, Rev. Milton Lam, Pastor Kenny Wallace, Terry Burns Jr., Lee Turco, Micere Thuku, Leah Weima



Message from the Board Chair

The 2026 AGM is now behind us and I wanted to thank everyone who came out Monday night. I saw some very tired faces out there and we did our best to get through things as expeditiously as we could.

The only new business transacted was the election of two new Directors. We welcome Micere Thuku, and Leah Weima to the CCA Board. Yes, it is wonderful to have some ladies working with us and they both have resumes and life experiences that are really going to add value to us. There was a policy issue raised both last week, and last night concerning the language contained in the Parent Covenant document, so we will make a revision an immediate priority to ensure clarity and the highest level of tone and word choice quality. I am a former Literature and Writing Teacher so I too am a stickler for words, and when it comes to policy, we can continually be improving and strengthening our practice after reflection. (Bylaw changes, on the other hand, must be approved by the Board and Membership at AGM or Special Meetings.)

Your Board's next priority is to interview and engage a consultancy to work with us on our 360 review of Governance, Operations, and Student Engagement, and we hope to have news for you on this early in the New Year. Future strategy will be based in part on the data from the 360.

As we move forward together, your Board is committed to being fair, transparent, and available to anyone who wishes to engage us either informally or through scheduling time to make a brief presentation during an upcoming Board meeting. Our next full meeting will be in early February, although committees will be continually engaging in their respective work!

As we reflect as a community, we should be adjusting, transforming, and growing stronger together in every way. Every Christian community can either please and attract the Holy Spirit's presence, favour and blessing, or as we read in Ephesians 4:30, "Grieve the Holy Spirit." As for me, I want to be growing and not grieving; trust you are with me! Interesting that "Grieving the Holy Spirit" has a whole lot to do with our individual and community speech! Now there is a great family devotional for everyone!

Terry Burns,
Board Chair



Angel Tree



This Christmas Season, CCA has decided to partner with the local Lanark County and take part in their Angel Tree Program. CCA and CCHS will run the Angel Tree Drive, where each of our classes will have the opportunity to participate in two ways: Particpate in the classroom initiative or choose an individual angel from the tree in the lobby. Of course, this is NOT mandatory.

Donations must be received by December 9th, so we can pack and deliver in time for 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 15th, 2026. Preschool children need to be 2.5 years (30 months) old to attend.

Assemblies –*Christmas Assembly December 17*

There will be a special Christmas Chapel on *Thursday, December 17th, at 2*:00 p.m. Parents are invited to join us.

Arise Ballet

Thank you to Arise Dance Studio (with some of our own students!) to present 2 back-to-back performances of their Christmas ballet. Parents are welcome to join us for either performance.

January 12-13 We are excited to announce a special workshop with Arise School of Dance in January Classes from preschool to grade 12 will have the opportunity to participate in movement and dance workshop.

Bus



In response to growing interest in bus service from Almonte, Carleton Place, and Beckwith, we are conducting a survey to gauge actual family interest now that we have reviewed the associated costs. In the coming weeks, families will have an opportunity to indicate their commitment to the proposed service and its cost.

CCA Events

Dress Down in Red and Green – *Friday, December 11*
Dress-Down Day is coming up! Students may dress down for a $2 donation, or—a box of cereal. We want to collect as many boxes of cereal as we can!

Candy Cane Hunt – *Monday, December 14*
Elementary students will enjoy an outdoor candy cane hunt at 2:15😊

Grade 8 vs Staff Volleyball Game – *TBD in January*
As the tradition goes, staff will take on the graduating grade 8 class of 2026 in a friendly game of volleyball on Thursday December 17th 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 / Art Club

In December, a parent volunteer will do Christmas card workshops to provide cards to seniors in our community.

In January and February, Mrs. Stoneman will run an art club during one or two recesses per week, with a final showcase of student work displayed at the book fair. More details to follow in January.



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 17th.There is no school on Friday, December 18th. Classes will resume on Monday, January 4th, 2027.

French Fun

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

Christmas Play – *Wednesday, December 16 – 2 Performances*

"THE SHEPHERD'S GUIDE TO SURVIVING CHRISTMAS" By: Tracy Wells

It's Christmas Eve at the Shepherd house and Molly Shepherd has a lot to do if she's going to make the holiday perfect for her family... that is, if she can survive until Christmas morning! From informative neighbors and unexpected guests to unsent cards and missing packages, to a ruined dinner and non-stop interruptions from a bunch of carolers, Molly is at her wit's end! Luckily a couple of Biblical shepherds are on hand to steer Molly in the right direction and remind her, and us all, what Christmas is really about.

CCA will have two Christmas play performances on the December 16th. 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 15th, 2026

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.

Finale Song: Joy to the World https://youtu.be/VkaFSmEXxn0?si=XYIj1drZztgYrt25

Wings Athletics Update

Both Junior Volleyball teams played well at their tournaments. Well done, everyone.

The Senior Boys have been practising hard for their upcoming tournament on Thursday, December 3rd at SJCHS. The Senior Girls' Tournament is in January; more information to follow.



Congratulations to our CCHS Sr. Boys on an outstanding season! These boys finished second in the LCIAA league, losing a close match in the finals. They then travelled to Trenton to compete in the Ontario Christian Schools Tournament that saw 22 Christian schools in the province compete for the title. Our boys went undefeated in round robin and playoffs making their way to the finals. The boys played hard against a very strong team in the finals and came away with the silver medal. Quite the accomplishment! Well done!



CCHS

November was an eventful month, filled with many great moments! Our school took part in a school-wide Amazing Race organized by our Student Leadership Team. It was...well, amazing! Our Grade 12 students had an excellent trip to NAV Canada, where they learned more about careers in aviation. They also had the opportunity to try out the simulators and tour the flight tower. We look forward to hearing from professionals in policing and the military later this month and into December.

December is shaping up to be another fun month at CCHS! The girls are busy with volleyball and will start league games at the end of November. The teams are led by our awesome coaches: Mr. Walcott with the junior girls and Mrs. Walcott with the seniors. Mr. Bourne is coaching the varsity boys' basketball team and has even been spotted scrimmaging with the team like he is 17 again!

The CCHS events calendar is full! Students are encouraged to keep the calendar tab easily accessible and check it regularly. Things happen on the fly at CCHS! We have lots of dress-up days planned for December, and we are looking forward to our Christmas party at the end of the month. VLC will still hold its regular schedule on December 18th (first day of CCA/CCHS Christmas holiday).

Some of our Grade 12 students have already received early university admissions offers, while others are busy finalizing their applications as deadlines quickly approach. Please pray for Grade 12 students as they make important plans. In preparation for course selection in the new year, Mrs. Chapman will be meeting with students on Tuesday afternoons to discuss their diploma plan.

Grade 8 parents have also received an email introducing CCHS and VLC as they begin planning for next year. We will be hosting an Open House/Information Night on February 9th. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out at kchapman@calvaryca.com.

Mrs. Kathryn Chapman





Fundraisers

Grade 8 want to thank everyone who purchased a wreath! We sold 165 wreaths!!

Christmas Shopping Event for kids – Gently used items needed

On Wednesday, December 9th 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 too.

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

Gratitude Gala - *Friday, February 5, 2027*

Save the date for our 2026-27 Gratitude Gala – a night of gratitude. Dinner and a comedy performance are sure to brighten a cold January night. Last year we raised over $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 8th, 2027. 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.

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

Looking Ahead

January 22, 2027 – Report Card Writing Day – No School

Lunch Program – Winter Order – *Must be submitted by the end of 2026*

January – March lunch order form will be in your family portal soon. Please get your order and payment in before the end of 2026 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 11th for $2.00 or a donation of a box of cereal to the Lanark Interval House.

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.

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 Novembers Spirit Days, it was fun to see such creative and colorful costumes! Below are some pictures from the spirit days.

Student Life - Deer Hunter

The students enjoyed a competitive game of Deer Hunter.
Thank you, Mrs. Reid, for organizing this fun game.

Winners
Grades 1-4: First Place: Gavin Ulker (Grade 4)
Second Place: Liam Ratcliffe (Grade 2)
Grades 5-8: First Place: Caleb Kruszelnicki (Grade 8)
Second Place: Jonathan Garcia (Grade 7)

Ski Day – Pakenham Ski Hill

Our annual Ski Day is on January 20th. Ski day is optional, there is a fee for ski day. Parents are invited to ski with us!

CCA will remain open on Ski Day for the following grades:

- Kindergarten to Grade 2
- High School

Students in Grades 3–8 who are not attending Ski Day will not have school that day and should plan to stay home.

Ski Day Details
Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2027
Location: Mount Pakenham
577 Ski Hill Road
Pakenham, ON K0A 2X0

Arrival: 8:30–9:00 a.m.
Pick-Up: 3:00–3:30 p.m.

Transportation: Parents are responsible for arranging transportation to and from Mount Pakenham. Please ensure your child arrives within the designated arrival window and is picked up between 3:00 and 3:30 p.m.



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!

Used Uniform Sale - December 3

There will be a used uniform sale in the back storage shed on December 3rd 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.

Writing Workshop for Grades 2, 4, 6, and 8

Miss Rebekah Smith will return in January 11-15. Students in these classes will build a book that corresponds with the theme of the upcoming bookfair. (Theme will be announced in the new year). Books will be on display and available for purchase at the fair.

Worship and Arts Club – NEW

Mr. Ceballos will be starting a new club for students interested in music and worship. The club will run on Thursdays mornings at 8:30 for interested students. More details will follow by email.



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, Plan to Protect, 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.

Cleaning Co-Op Families - If cleaning afterschool works well for your schedule, extra cleaning shifts (after your assigned six) count toward volunteer hours.

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 fprinsep@calvaryca.com.

Gratitude Gala – We need a set up and clean up crew. Please email the office if you can help with either. Thank you!

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/

2026 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