



January 2010

Blessings and Challenges

I am pleased to report some of the recent activity at the Edmonton Society for Christian Education. First of all, on behalf of all of us at the Society office, I would like to wish you a very **Happy New Year!** We trust that God will continue to bless all of us as we continue with what his purpose is for our lives. We also trust that God will continue to bless our efforts to move Edmonton Christian Schools forward into 2010.

On November 23 we celebrated the Society's 60th anniversary of offering Christian education in the Edmonton area and the 10th anniversary of our partnership with Edmonton Public Schools. The celebration service was a tremendous success because of those who attended and participated. It was good to see many of you who have sacrificed so much over the years to make our schools what they are today.

It is an upbeat time here at the Society. Essentially, our schools are full and we can pay our bills. We are making plans to upgrade and rebuild parts of West School over the next six years. Last summer's renovations at West have been well-received and we plan to finish the upgrade this summer. The Lord

willing, we will pay down the mortgage significantly in the next five years so that we will be in a better position for future improvements.

The Society board and School administration have been discussing some issues that arose at the May Society meeting. Parents and teachers identified various

community development and program needs including families needing extra support for children who have difficulty coping with the everyday school environment. We hope to support these families by partnering with outside organizations that have the appropriate expertise.

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Calendar of Events

February 1	New enrolment season begins Packages available at schools, on website or by mail
March 8	High School Open House
March 23	West School Open House
March 24	Northeast School Open House
May 8	Goods & Services Auction
May 17	Society Meeting-West School
September 11	Golf Tournament
See www.edmchristian.net for event details	

Volunteers Needed: *If you can dedicate some time to help plan the Auction, please call 780-408-7939. Thanks!*

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17th Annual Goods & Services

AUCTION

SATURDAY, MAY 8, 2010 at the HIGH SCHOOL

*Concession, Babysitting, Kids' Games & Store
Silent Auction at 4:00 p.m., Live Auction at 5:30 p.m.
Bid on hundreds of terrific products and services!*

All proceeds toward renovations at West School

**Donations of new items and services accepted now; drop off at your
School or the Society office (14304 109 avenue)**

(Charitable tax receipts for new items when accompanied by store receipt)

The board recently adopted a new “Safe School” policy. This formal abuse prevention policy is a first for us. Society staff including bus drivers and Preschool volunteers will receive training and be required to submit police checks if working with children. This will be a challenge especially when it comes to volunteers, but it is necessary for safety and liability reasons. Our schools already have policies and procedures in place.

The board also adopted a new fundraising policy having to do with recent developments regarding events/trips that schools want to take part in. You may recall that we implemented our *Shop Now & Save* program four years ago. This program allows families to purchase gift cards to cover the costs of their “grade-level fees” which pay for field trips in which all students in a grade participate. It has become clear, however, that other program enhancement initiatives like Band trips and French exchanges do not fit into the category of field trips because students are not required to participate; they have a choice. In order to make these events accessible to all students, some fundraising activities may be necessary. Therefore, the board has enhanced the fundraising policy to allow Principals to approve optional activities and any related fundraising, with the following caveats:

- All fundraising must be voluntary and parent-run.
- Families may choose to simply pay the cost of the activity.

- Principals are encouraged to approve fundraising activities that involve community building, or that allow students to provide a service (collecting bottles, doing odd jobs etc)
- Selling products such as chocolate bars will be discouraged, realizing that it sometimes cannot be avoided to raise the money needed to participate in the activity. An example of this might be the High school band trip which requires significant funds.

Lastly, I want to say **Thank You** to our parents and membership for all the continued support and very friendly interactions. It is a pleasure for all of us at the Society office to have so many of you drop in, say hi, buy gift cards or chat with us about the school. We certainly want to encourage you to drop by or call us with any suggestions or concerns that you have. Remember, you can contact us through our website at www.edmchristian.net.



Peter Buisman
Executive Director
Edmonton Society for Christian Education



300 Edmonton Christian School supporters packed the Northeast school auditorium as we celebrated 60 years of Christian education and 10 years of partnership with Edmonton Public Schools.

Together, we were invited to *Come and see what God has Done* at ECS!

We remembered God's amazing faithfulness through music, singing, fellowship, food and congratulatory speeches. Thank you to all who participated!