

# High School Monthly Newsletter

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 2009

## Verse of the Month

Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22:6

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We are fast approaching our first marking period. As parents, you must all have very high expectations for your child(ren). It is our hope that your expectations include more than just a high number on a page. We trust that it includes the desire to see your son or daughter develop to their potential, using the strengths and talents that God has given them. In Proverbs 22:6 it states that we should, "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." The Message says it this way – "Point your kids in the right direction— when they're old they won't be lost." We sometimes limit the meaning of this verse to a spiritual and moral direction, but it also refers to directing our children to develop in the giftedness that God has created within them. Each of our children is fearfully and wonderfully made, with a purpose to be used of God to impact this world. He has given them unique gifts and talents that need to be developed to their fullest, to bring glory to God and to point others to Him. Often, as parents, we focus our attention on the printed evaluations that are sent home every few months. We wait intently for the envelope to come to let us know if our child will be the next Albert Einstein or Florence Nightingale, based on the numbers listed beside each course. God exhorts us as parents and caregivers of children to "guide " them into wisdom and understanding – not to demand, force, threaten, slap or frustrate them to the point of despair or anger. It says in **Ephesians 6:4, "Fathers (Mothers), don't exasperate your children by coming down hard on them. Take them by the hand and lead them in the way of the Master."**

Discipline is important in the lives of our children, as parents and teachers, but it is

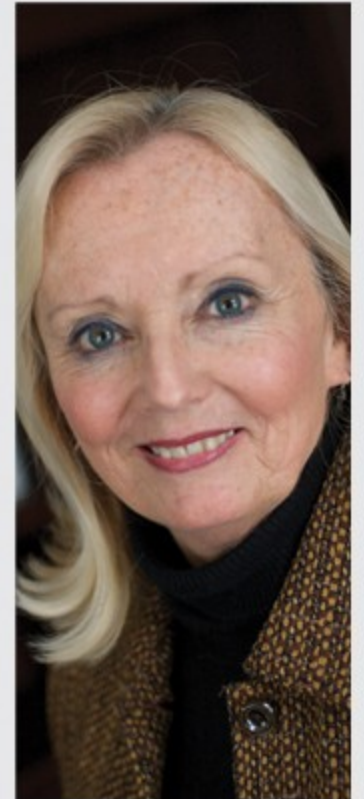
to be gentle, directed, and loving, with the purpose to guide and direct. PCA considers it, not only a privilege to partner with you on this journey with your children, but also a very serious responsibility.

In less than 3 months it will be mid-term assessment time. The **January Exam Schedule** is ready and will sent home with the November Report Cards. We have the added challenge of working around the schedule of the church for exam week. Parents of grade 7 and 8 students should check the timetable for exam times carefully, and make arrangements for your child (ren) on the days they are not writing. We are looking forward to being in our own building next year so that this type of accommodation will no longer be necessary. We thank you in advance for your understanding and flexibility.

Please also note the website calendar for the dates of the **Parent/Teacher Interviews**. They will take place during the day on **Friday, November 27**. If this is not a convenient time for you to meet with teachers, please feel free to contact any teacher you wish to meet with and make an appointment at a time that is more convenient for you. Again, we extend our apologies for the limited time for these interviews, due to scheduling conflicts with church activities in the evening.

I trust that your children have had a positive experience at PCA thus far and will continue to experience success and encouragement in all aspects of school life.

S. Cracknell



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## H1N1 Flu Virus Information

The new school year is underway and action is needed to prepare for H1N1 – the new strain of flu that has received so much attention recently.

This fall and winter, there will be two types of flu viruses circulating – the usual seasonal flu and the new H1N1 virus. In Ontario, the majority of cases of this new flu strain have been in healthy young adults and most cases have been mild. Younger children are at risk of infection, possibly because they don't wash their hands consistently or use proper etiquette when sneezing/coughing.

Symptoms of H1N1 are similar to seasonal flu, including headache, chills and cough followed by fever, loss of appetite, muscle aches and fatigue, runny nose, sneezing, watery eyes and throat irritation. Nausea, vomiting and diarrhea may occur in adults as well as in children. In more severe cases, or in people with chronic conditions, complications such as pneumonia may develop.

Steps are being taken to prevent the spread of H1N1 at PCA.

These steps include:

1. Watching students for symptoms of H1N1
2. Consulting with the local public health unit on infection prevention and control
3. Ensuring soap and water is available for hand washing, as well as placing alcohol-based hand sanitizer (used under adult supervision) in areas where hand washing is not available; and, frequently cleaning commonly touched surfaces/items.

Updates will be posted as new information becomes available. The Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care advises everyone to take an active role in protecting themselves from H1N1.

Here are a few things you can do:

1. **Teach your children to wash their hands with soap and water** thoroughly and often.
2. **Keep alcohol-based sanitizer (gel or wipes) handy** at work and in your car. Note that alcohol-based sanitizer should contain at least 60% alcohol to be effective.
3. **Teach your children not to share personal items** like pens, pencils, drinks, or food.
4. **Teach your children to cough or sneeze into their sleeve or a tissue, not their hand.** This includes teaching them to dispose of tissues in the garbage immediately, and to follow-up by washing their hands or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

**Keep sick children at home** until they are feeling well and are able to fully participate in all normal day-to-day activities.

## DEAD SEA SCROLLS

In order to demonstrate the reliability of the Bible, the high school is taking advantage of the rare opportunity to see the Dead Sea Scrolls, while they are on display at the Royal Ontario Museum.

As a school, we affirm that the Bible is the Word of God. This is a position that is increasingly uncommon, even among those whose religious label reads "Christian." One of the reasons that it is so uncommon is because of the dismissive attitude that has been leveled against this claim. For instance, the best-selling novel, *The Da Vinci Code*, makes the assertion that "the Bible did not arrive by fax from heaven...The Bible is the product of man... not of God. The Bible did not fall magically from the clouds. Man created it as a historical record of tumultuous times, and it has evolved through countless translations, additions, and revisions. History has never had a definitive version of the book."

While it is true that the Bible does contain historical records, it is simply wrong to claim that it has evolved through countless translations. The Dead Sea Scrolls, which our students are having the opportunity to see first hand, demonstrates the simple truth that the Bible that we have today is an accurate record of what the original authors

wrote, under the inspiration of God. It has not evolved through additions and revisions as Dan Brown wrongly suggests. Comparing our Bibles with the Dead Sea Scrolls demonstrates this reality.

Until the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947, the oldest manuscript, of the Old Testament, that we had access to was known as the Masoretic Text. It dated to 900 years after the time of Jesus. When the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, all that changed. Now, we had access to a copy of the Old Testament that predated Jesus by at least 100 years.

One reason this is so significant is because it affirms that the prophecies of the coming Messiah (or Saviour) which are contained in the Old Testament and which were fulfilled by Jesus in his life, death and resurrection, were not added to the Bible "after the fact." Until they were discovered in 1947 it was hard to affirm that a book of the Bible, such as Isaiah, with its rich collection of prophecies, was written long before the time of Jesus. Now, we can know this for certain. In fact, students who visit the ROM to see the Dead Sea Scrolls will see a copy of Isaiah 11 which contains one of the many prophecies of the coming Messiah which Jesus fulfilled.

Seeing the Dead Sea Scrolls in person is a rare opportunity. It is my hope that each student who avails him or herself of this opportunity will leave with a greater confidence in the truth of the Bible. More than this, I hope that our school would be populated by students who are hungry for the Bible and are eager to read it, understand it and apply it. May God use this field trip to accomplish an unusual miracle in our students: May God grant us a Biblically literate and Biblically confident generation of students in the midst of a Biblically illiterate and cynical culture.

Mr. A. Philip, Chaplain



## CLUB NEWS - GRADES 7 & 8

At PCA we are always striving to strengthen the sense of community. To that end, we have created three new clubs this year for the Grade 7's and 8's: Men's Club, Girls' Club and Girl Talk.

**Men's Club** is an opportunity for Grade 7 and 8 boys to meet, play, laugh and grow together in a Godly, brotherly love. It meets every Monday from 3:45 to 4:45 pm, except the last Monday of each month. We have had one meeting already where we brainstormed ideas, and it looks like it will be a fun filled year. The Men's Club is supervised by Mr. Lee.



The **Girls' Club** is the parallel club offered to the Grade 7 and 8 girls. It will meet in Mrs. Nanos' home on Saturdays approximately once a month, starting October 31st. Mrs. Nanos has graciously opened up her home to provide a safe, comfortable atmosphere, where girls can meet and talk. She is also offering supervised use of her kitchen, so the girls can cook and bake if they wish.

**Girl Talk** is run by two senior students, Jerri Lyons and Laura Zizek, and is supervised by Mrs. Lindstrom. They meet with Grade 8 girls at lunch, on the first and third Friday of each month to just talk. They can talk about school, about life, about families, about friends, about their spiritual lives ... about anything. The discussions are

open ended in that the Grade 8 girls can bring up the topics that are on their hearts. This opportunity is designed to help girls grow and understand the different aspects of their lives.

Please pray for these initiatives. Pray that they will be great opportunities for our students to have lots of fun, and to grow in many different ways. We are really encouraged that our senior students and teachers are committed to the personal growth of our junior high students. If you have any questions, please contact the appropriate supervising teacher. Thank you so much for your support.

Mrs. Nanos  
Mrs. Lindstrom  
Mr. Lee

**Men's Club**  
Monday from 3:45 to 4:45 pm

**Girls' Club**  
Saturday—once a month

**Girl Talk**  
1st and 3rd Friday of each month

## Open Office to Open Email

It seems that Open OFFICE is not very popular in this busy world. I didn't realize I was so old fashioned and low tech! In an effort to accommodate parents in their hectic schedules and busy lives, I would like to announce a change of venue for this communication. We shall move from the

OFFICE to the COMPUTER!!

It is my desire to be available to talk with parents and students at all times. Students drop into the office quite often – but they live here! However, since lives are more complicated, please feel free to contact me at my email address

[scracknell@pca.ca](mailto:scracknell@pca.ca) anytime, to discuss your concerns or express your appreciation!



## PCA MASQUERADE'S 5TH ANNUAL DINNER THEATRE

PCA Masquerade presents its 5<sup>th</sup> dinner theatre on Dec 7<sup>th</sup> .....



### or "The villain was a laughing stalk!"

This play is a side-splitting western melodrama with an evil villain, an innocent maiden, a dashing hero, and lots of corny jokes.

The actors and designers are hard at work preparing this event for you. Join us for a wonderful evening of good food and great theatre.

Tickets are only \$20.00 and include a three course meal served by the actors in costume and a full-length play.

Tickets on sale November 9—30 from drama club members or call the high school office.

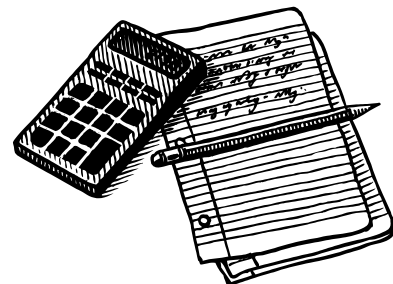
Don't miss it!

## HOMework ROOM

There was not enough response to pay a supervisor for the homework room. The few parents who did respond will have their money returned. They may sign a waiver form so that

their child may remain in a classroom unsupervised until being picked up.

Please call the office if you have any questions or concerns.



# November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Gr. 7&8 ROM	4 Take Our Kids to Work	5 P.D. Day	6 P.D. Day	7
8	9	10 Gr. 11&12 ROM	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 7pm Markham Town Hall Meeting	18	19	20 Report Cards	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 Parent/Teacher Interview	28
29	30					

**Upcoming Events**

Christmas Break—  
December 21—January 3

Exams—January 18—22/10

HIGH SCHOOL OFFICE STAFF	
<b>Mrs. Cracknell</b> , Principal 416-222-3341 Ext. 145 scracknell@pca.ca	
<b>Mr. Philip</b> , Chaplain 416-222-3341 Ext. 180 aphilip@pca.ca	
<b>Mrs. Rowland</b> , Head Secretary 416-222-3341 Ext.105 mrowland@pca.ca	
<b>Mrs. Hing</b> , Registration/Attendance 416-222-3341 Ext. 146 dhing@pca.ca	