



# ECHOES

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6488 SMITHVILLE RD.  
P.O. BOX 40,  
SMITHVILLE, ON  
L0R 2A0  
PH. 905.957.3255  
FAX 905.957.3431  
smithvillechristian.ca

CONTACT:  
MARLENE BERGSMAN  
mbergsm@  
smithvillechristian.ca

## Here we grow again: the blessings and challenges of growth

BY TED HARRIS, ADMINISTRATOR

It is our constant prayer as a school community that the Lord would allow our school to grow. When we see lives being blessed, when we see research that tells us that Christian schools benefit our

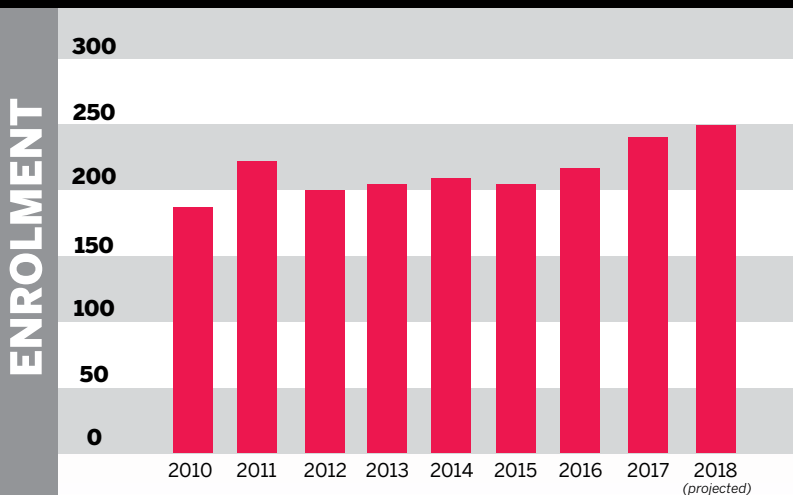
society, when we see young people committing to lives of service in the kingdom of God, we want to make the blessing available to young people from as many families as possible.

For most of the years over the last decade we have been able to say that we are bigger than we thought we would be; we are now able to say that we are just getting bigger. The student population of Smithville Christian High School in the spring of 2018 is 237. The expectation for September 2018 is that we will be above 250.

Let me share a few statistics. Though our school did top out around the turn of the century at 295 students, the demographics of the last 15 years have had us considerably smaller than that, a trend echoed in secondary schools throughout most regions of Canada and the result of low birth rates through the 1990s. The chart, left, shows how student numbers have tracked since our low point in 2010.

*Continued on page 2 ...*

**Smithville Christian High School Enrolment 2010 - 2018**



*Continued from page 1...*

Though birth rate is one factor in increased student numbers, there are a few other reasons:

- We see students coming from an increased diversity of elementary situations. The number of students coming to us from publicly funded elementary schools has increased sharply.
- The growth of our partner Christian elementary schools is starting to impact high school enrolment numbers.
- The percentage of students coming from these partner elementary schools has also increased over the last several years.
- The commitment our supporters make every year to building a strong bursary fund has given many families a chance to send their children to our school.

We are thrilled that God has answered our prayer for growth, and seeing more families choose our school makes us want to honour their investment with the very best we can offer. This is reflected in our strategic planning conversations. Here is a

glimpse into some of those conversations:

- Building adjustments: We are blessed with good facilities, and we constantly seek ways to ensure that the learning spaces in our school connect with our desire to engage students in deeper learning. Maker spaces and collaborative spaces will be in high demand for our learners in the years ahead, while more classroom space is also necessary. The dance studio which has been rented out for several years will be converted into a classroom for next year, and our upstairs computer lab (no longer necessary) will transition into a classroom this summer.
- Plan 300: We have begun to discuss what our school should look like when our enrolment hits 300 students. It is likely that the school's next capital campaign will be for the purpose of building additional learning spaces due to increased student numbers.
- Teacher hiring: We have hired two additional teachers for next year due to increased enrolment. Hiring new teachers is always an opportunity, and as we face

the prospect of additional hiring in the years ahead, we want to be intentional about how adjustments in personnel can contribute to the diverse character of our school.

- Increases in non-teaching time: The needs of an increasing student population also bring increased time allotment in administration and student services. Changes in governance, a vibrant international program, and increased need for emotional and learning support for a diversity of students, all warrant such increases.

When you pray for our school, please pray that God would allow for continued growth. At the same time, pray that we would respond to this growth in a way that allows a new generation to Belong in a supportive and caring atmosphere, to Believe in a God who is central to their whole lives, and to Succeed in a world they are called to serve with their gifts and their creativity.



# Building an ongoing community of support for Smithville Christian High School

BY TED HARRIS, ADMINISTRATOR

The risk I take in writing about getting a wider group of support for our Annual Bursary Campaign is that you may have heard plenty about it and have perhaps already contributed sacrificially. I will step forth boldly and take the risk anyways.

Over the last couple of years, one of our main objectives as a school is to connect with our supporters to the point that everyone realizes the scale of what we are doing every year for the families of three out of every 10 of our students. These are the families that receive bursary assistance which allows them to send their children to our school. It is our hope and prayer that we will soon have enough donors giving automatically every month or year that the fund is completely looked after. Of course, we will always be inviting others to participate, but to be honest, we are still ramping up to the amount of support we need.

If you are already giving to this campaign, we humbly thank you and want you to know that you are blessing families in beautiful ways. You might also want to look at the adjacent giving chart to determine if you are at a point where you can move up the chart to a higher amount each year.

If you are not giving, I invite and even urge you to find a place on the chart that would make sense for you. Please consider making our school one of the causes to which you routinely contribute.

This brings to mind the way my wife and I give monthly to World Vision. It began many years ago when we first decided to “adopt” a child. We have since had several children from several countries. We keep giving, and World Vision rotates us from one child to the next as years go by. My wife and I also give to Smithville Christian’s bursary fund. It is also monthly, and every year we understand that we are giving to different families. It is our prayer that the Lord

will use our gifts to all causes we support to enable the work of his kingdom to advance. I hope that you see the families needing support at our school as one of the causes worthy of your ongoing support.

There is something else we ask you to consider. As we strive to involve different generations in ongoing support for our bursary program, we are blessed with the work of the Christian School Foundation. By working with our Foundation, there are ways to leave a lasting legacy to bless our school in particular or Christian education in general. Planned giving is an opportunity to continue the blessing even after you are gone.

You will probably hear still more about our bursary campaign. Someone may call you, or you might get a letter. We will keep vigorously pursuing this community of support. It is our prayer that many of those who read our Echoes will become part of it. Call us if you need more information about how to be involved.

## Giving Chart

ANNUAL GIFT	NUMBER NEEDED	TOTAL DONATION	MONTHLY AMOUNT
\$10,000	2	\$20,000.00	\$833.33
\$7,000	2	\$14,000.00	\$583.33
\$5,000	5	\$25,000.00	\$416.67
\$3,000	10	\$30,000.00	\$250.00
\$2,000	20	\$40,000.00	\$166.67
\$1,000	30	\$30,000.00	\$83.33
\$500	40	\$20,000.00	\$41.67
\$250	60	\$15,000.00	\$20.83
\$100	60	\$6,000.00	\$8.33
	229	\$200,00	





# GRANDPARENTS

We are blessed by the community that loves, prays for, supports and visits our school.





# 2018 & FRIENDS DAY

Come to chapel most Wednesday mornings at 9:00 am to be led in worship by student praise teams.





*What does it mean to BELONG?*

**IF YOU'RE  
PASSIONATE ABOUT  
BELONGING... JOIN US  
MONDAYS DURING  
LUNCH IN ROOM 204!**

## Belongers

BY LINDA BOOY-KORVEMAKER, STUDENT SERVICES

A new group has started at Smithville Christian High School. This small group of students meets every Monday at lunch in a classroom upstairs. Our school's motto is Belong. Believe. Succeed.

Some students do not feel like they belong; others are passionate about ensuring that students do belong. This is how the group started. A couple of conversations, a few senior students, and a vision to put our words into action.

Bréné Brown is a well-known psychologist for her work on belonging. She states:

"A deep sense of love and belonging is an irreducible need of all people. We are biologically, cognitively, physically, and spiritually wired to love, to be loved, and to belong. When those needs are not met, we don't function as we were meant to. We break. We fall apart. We numb. We ache. We hurt others. We get sick." Belonging matters because God created us that way.

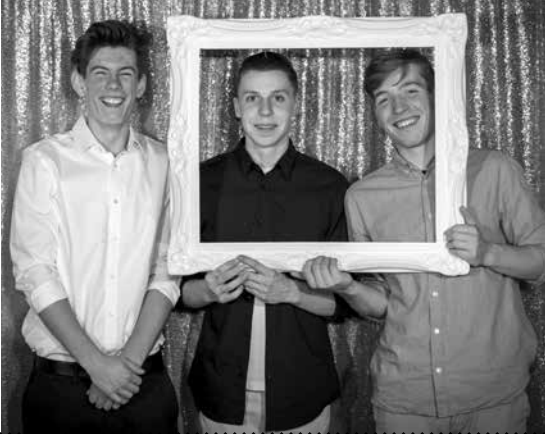
The "Belongers" recognize that we need to put our words into action. Our group is a variety of students from Grades 9-12. We meet weekly and we talk about what it means to belong – we watch Ted Talks, we invite guests, we share ideas, we play games, and for 40 minutes every Monday we make the word Belong come alive.

*A screenshot captured from a student-made video about Belongers*

This is a new group at Smithville Christian – we are still finding our mandate. This is an open group – anyone is welcome to join us. This is an important group – we all benefit from belonging. Please pray for "belonging" at Smithville Christian. We have a dream: a dream that recognizes that belonging is important for all students and that it requires work from everyone. It is so awesome to be part of a school where students lead and take action – revolutionaries of God's word. "But someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works.' Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works" (James 2:18).







# A Touch of Class

## SPRING BANQUET 2018

*Many thanks to members of Smithville Christian High School student council for organizing so many events, activities and cash-for-change days for our school.*

*Spring banquet photos on pages 6 and 7 courtesy of Teresa Sinke and Giddy-Up Go Photography.*



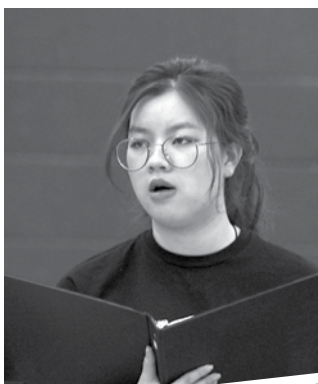




*What a joy it is to hear young voices lifted in praise and worship. Come to our season finale concert in June.*









# BADMINTON

Congratulations to members of the Smithville Christian High School badminton team, winners of the Ontario Christian Secondary School Athletic Association overall team championship for the 9th year in a row. Team members practice two times a week starting in March, under the coaching of John van den Boogaard and Jim Vanderlinde. The team also competes in zone and SOSSA tournaments, with seven athletes qualifying for OFSAA this year. This is the third year in a row Smithville Christian badminton athletes have advanced to the provincial championships, after competing against 56 other schools at SOSSA. **#GoSTORM!**





# #GO STORM!







# Harvey

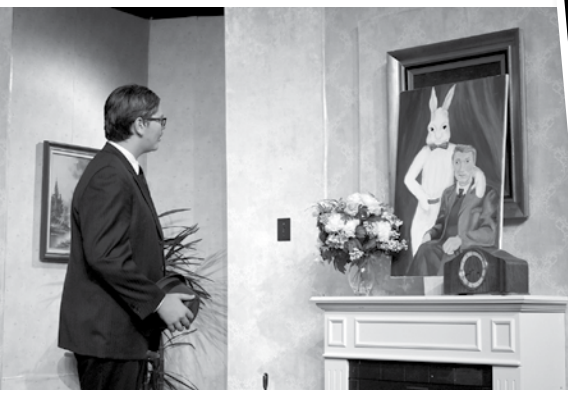
**WRITTEN BY MARY CHASE**

**DIRECTED BY GORDON B. PARK**

**MAY 2018**









# Christian schools are founded on God's providence and robust partnerships

BY TONY KAMPHUIS, CHRISTIAN SCHOOL FOUNDATION

## Smithville Christian High School thrives when the web of relationships around our school is strong.

That's why the recently introduced Partnership Bursary by the Christian School Foundation seems to have an ideal name.

Being motivated by the love of God to go out and love our neighbours and love God's beautiful creation means that every justice-seeking, mercy-showing, humbly-following student currently at Smithville Christian and every graduate of our school is busy expanding the influence of Christ in our culture.

The Christian School Foundation draws Christian schools and donors together to expand the influence of Christ in our culture. Strong Christian schools, both directly, and through the thousands of graduates they send into the world each year, are a key way that God enables us to expand that influence.

When some donors came forward and said they wanted to make a difference for the families who are challenged to afford tuition, and that their hope was that schools like ours would then be able to stretch their own resources further and bless more people, our Foundation was delighted to help!



This new Partnership Bursary, in addition to the Recruitment Bursary, means that as the Foundation finds more funding partners, they plan to distribute an average of \$800,000 each year for the next three years, all for tuition assistance! And this is money that would simply not be accessible to individual schools on our own. Partnership is what makes this possible.

These donors wanted to partner with the Foundation, so that the Foundation could partner with our member schools, to help these donors easily achieve the kind of impact they desired with the resources God has given them.

Do you want to have that kind of impact too? The size of the gift doesn't matter. God takes our mustard seed-sized gifts and infuses them with transformative power. That's how He works through the power of partnerships.

[tkamphuis@christianschoolfoundation.ca](mailto:tkamphuis@christianschoolfoundation.ca)



## INVITE SOMEONE TO APPLY FOR A BURSARY TODAY



If you know someone who would be blessed by a Christian high school education but who either needs an introductory incentive to give it a try or who needs assistance closing the financial gap, tell them about our bursaries! Working with the Christian School Foundation, Smithville Christian High School has access to financial aid to help recruit students who are new to Christian education. Smithville Christian High School is also blessed with donors whose support of the Annual Bursary Campaign make it possible for us to say "yes" to families who desire Christian education for their teens. Recruitment and financial-need bursary application forms are available on our website, or by contacting Marlene Bergsma at [mbergsma@smithvillechristian.ca](mailto:mbergsma@smithvillechristian.ca).

To make a contribution, large or small, to our annual bursary campaign, contact Principal Ted Harris at [tharris@smithvillechristian.ca](mailto:tharris@smithvillechristian.ca) or make an online donation through the donate button on our website, [www.smithvillechristian.ca](http://www.smithvillechristian.ca).



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