



The Cedars Shake

Parables of Education

Over the past couple weeks, several parables of Jesus have been shared with me in the context of education. Upon reflection, I am convinced that the Kingdom work we do here at Cedars Christian School is, by nature, inefficient and illogical – and I'm OK with that.

In Luke 13, two parables are given by Jesus in response to the rhetorical question: "What is the Kingdom of God like?" In the first, the Kingdom is described as being like a mustard seed, which planted, grows to become a tree. In the second, the Kingdom is described as yeast, which when mixed into large amounts of flour, works its way throughout the dough. One of the common aspects of the Kingdom in these parables is a time of waiting. A seed is planted, yeast is added – but long periods of waiting are necessary to see the "end".

In a recent interview with Catalyst magazine, Shane Hipps writes, *"A technological society like ours is mainly concerned with being efficient. Our entire system of economics demands that we become more efficient in order to save more time so we can make more money...But the Kingdom of God is like yeast in dough—growing in slow and subtle ways. Our objective of efficiency ... goes against the working of God in our lives. He works in slow and strange ways—God has an annoying tendency to be very inefficient."* When I think of the work our teachers and support staff do to "develop the unique potential of every student" – chaperoning experiential trips like SALTS and YWAM, tutoring students in Math, facilitating discussions around complex interpersonal and world issues, and shaping community on our various sports and music "teams" – I am struck by its inefficiency, but fully convinced of its Kingdom power in the lives of our students.

The other parable was couched in a story I heard second-hand, but one that has stuck with me. In Matthew 13, Jesus says, *"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it."* The story, as best I can recall, was that a man read this parable to a group of Haitian people whose historical identity is one of slavery and low self-worth. After reading the parable, the man asked, "Who is the pearl in this parable?" After a long silence, one in the group tentatively raised his hand and responded, "We are?" As this thought – that God, the merchant, gave everything to purchase them, the pearls – permeated the group, God's Spirit visited them in a powerful way, such that all of them fell to the ground and wept.

In a way, this parable is illogical: Why would someone sell everything he has for a single pearl? Having spent all your money how would you now buy bread? Where would you live? But if, as this group did, we begin to see ourselves and those around us as illogically valued by God, once again we taste the Kingdom power of God. When I speak with our teachers, administrators, parents, and students in the course of my work here at Cedars, I am routinely struck with the honour we bestow on one another – not based on one's deeds, words, or attitudes, but on the illogical value that God has placed on each one of us. Remember today and always: We are His pearls!

Blessed to be part of the inefficient, illogical... powerful Kingdom work here at Cedars,

Shane Nelson, High School
Vice Principal



WORK BEE TOMORROW!

Volunteer Hours!

Come out and help make our school sparkle! The fall Work Bee is set for Saturday, October 15, (yes, that's tomorrow!) from 9:00am to 12:00pm. We'll need to assemble the skating rink for the winter, wash the windows inside and out, and do all those other general clean-up jobs.

School Picture Re-takes

If you missed pictures the first time around or if you need to get re-takes, be sure to be at school on **Tuesday, Nov. 1!** Bring a smile and don't wear all green or white.

**See Page 2 for
important details!**

Hockey Night In Cedars!



Gery Schubert returns to Cedars this year for our 2nd Annual Fundraising Banquet as Don Cherry! The banquet will be held at Westwood MB Church on October 22, 2011. The Pre-Game Show starts at 6:00pm, and the Game is On at 6:30pm!

Everything you'd want in a great evening will be included: an amazing dinner provided by Tina Schlamp; goofy games to play; a silent auction with lots of items to bid on; and to top it off, entertainment by one of the funniest emcees we know!

Tickets are now ready and are being sold at the main office. For only \$20 a piece, there's no reason to miss out on this evening of fun and fundraising.

To preview the event, take a look at Gery's website at www.geryschubert.com Please let us know at the school office if you are willing to help plan, organize, or gather silent auction items for this event.

And speaking of the silent auction...

We are looking for some lovely "fancy" desserts to auction off during the silent auction portion of this evening.

If you are able to make a dessert, please reply to this note so that we have an idea of how many desserts we can expect to be auctioning. At this point, we'll ask that the desserts be brought to the school office on the day/afternoon of the banquet.

If you have any *other* items that can be donated to our silent auction, please let us know by replying to this note as well. A few suggestions would be new items you may be wishing to "re-gift", used items in *very* good (like-new) condition, or gift baskets or certificates from your own businesses, if applicable.

This is an important fundraiser for Cedars. **Funds raised will be used to excavate the building site, removing sawdust and replacing it with fill on which we can build.** We thank you all for your help and participation in making this an evening to remember!

Remember!



**Cedars is a
peanut and nut
free school!**



(Although with Gery Schubert coming, we're not sure "nut-free" is a plausible claim anymore...)

New Parent Orientation Session

All parents new to Cedars are asked to plan to attend a mandatory New Parent Orientation Session on Tuesday, October 18, from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. We will give you **dessert** and share with you some of the vision, history and mission of the school and invite you to become fully involved! Please RSVP to the office at (250) 564-0707 or office@cedars.bc.ca

Morning Drop-Offs

We've noticed some long good-byes and chats at the last minute when dropping students off in the morning. Please try to make quick drop-offs during the rush time so as not to hold others up.

Thank you so much for your help in getting everyone to school *and* work on time!

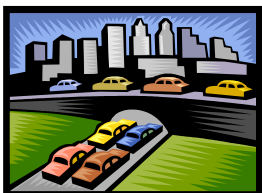


Photo Retake and Ordering Information



To ensure delivery of all portraits before Christmas, Portrait packages will only be made for students who submit a Photo Order Envelope to the photographer on the second photo day of Tuesday, November 1, 2011.

There is no risk, as all photos are fully guaranteed.

If your child was absent for the original photos, or you need re-takes, please have your child ob-

tain a Photo Order Envelope from the school office. The student will give the Photographer your payment enclosed in the Order Envelope on Photo Day.

Note: Orders handed in after the second photo day require special processing and are therefore subject to a \$10 handling fee. These orders will be processed separately from the school orders and mailed directly to the customer's home address.

Kindergarten Contributions

Many thanks to all who have donated to the kindergarten classroom! We are still looking for:

- Lego (bricks, figures, and wheels)
- costumes (well-constructed and easy to wash)
- non-breakable wall mirror
- car mat (to drive little cars around)

Thanks so much for your help and support.

PAC News and Dates

Fall Fair - Friday November 4, 5:00-8:00pm

A great community event! Carnival Games, Cake Walk, Bake Sale, Preserves, Jams, and Jellies for Sale. Family Dinner at Grandma's Kitchen - Throw a pie at a Teacher! And an Auction!

A community even requires community involvement. To make this event successful, we are asking each Cedars family to contribute:

- 1-2 hours volunteer time (parents, grandparents, or students Grade 6 and older)
Please email pac@cedars.bc.ca as to how you want to help, or a binder will be available at the school office to register

- 3 items to sell (bake sale items, preserves, jams, or cake for cake walk)

Items to be brought to the school gym on the morning of Friday, November 4

- Small McDonald's type toys collected from the bottom of your toy boxes to use as prizes.

Toys can be dropped off in the school office starting any time

Thank you!

For more information you can email pac@cedars.bc.ca

Purdys and Tupperware

Watch for the campaign in November with product arriving at the beginning of December.

Teachers on Call

Cedars Christian School welcomes applications for teacher-on-call positions. Applicants must be Christian who have a valid teaching certificate or who have significant experience working with children. Applicants would be interviewed and have to undergo a criminal record check. If this work interests you, please contact the Cedars office at (250) 564-0707 or office@cedars.bc.ca

SALTS/YWAM Presentation

The grade 11 and 12 students will be presenting some of their reflections, stories, and impressions from this year's SALTS and YWAM experiences on Wednesday, October 19th from 8:15-9:30am. Our worship arts class will also be leading us in worship on this morning. Parents who are available are encouraged to come take part in this community time with our high school students.



Are Your Kids Away Today?

The school is responsible for your children's safety and whereabouts during each day. Therefore, please be sure to contact the office on days when your child stays home so that we know where they are and that they are safe. Please remember to give us a quick call at **(250) 564-0707** or pop us brief email at **office@cedars.bc.ca** when a child is home or will be away on vacation.



Volunteer Hours: A Note from the Business Office

All families are required to do 25 Volunteer hours of maintenance work at the school each year. There are many ways in which you can get your hours including at least 2 school Work Bees that are organized by our Maintenance Committee during the year. Please contact the school office to find out what opportunities are available for your family.

Currently, the Employee Relations Committee has a special BAKING project that we are looking for volunteers to do. Please contact Patti Smith in the Business Office or at **pattis@cedars.bc.ca** for more information about how you can do some

baking for your hours.

As you complete your required hours, you **must** enter them in the binder located at the main office. At the end of June each year, those hours are totaled and any family that does not complete the required hours is charged \$250. This amount is added to your tuition account. Several families have been charged \$250 for incomplete hours from the 2010-11 school year.

We appreciate your effort in fulfilling your volunteer hours!

Cross-Country Meet Results

Thursday, Sept. 22 was a very important day in the life of Cedars, and in the lives of 31 of our students from grades 3-6. This was the day of our elementary cross-country meet which was held at College Heights Elementary School.

The boys and girls who attended from Cedars represented our school and our Lord very well. It's particularly worthy of note that several Cedars athletes placed in the top 3 in their race: Noelle Aitken and Maillee Taylor (Gr. 3), and Kerriane Brown (Gr. 5).

Many, many thanks must go to Mrs. Sherry Toninato and Mrs. Susan MacDonald for the time they put into preparing the students for this cross-country event. Thanks also to the many Cedars volunteers who helped out this year. This was a perfect example of how much we at Cedars rely on parent volunteers to make things work!!

Jack Beeksmas, Elementary Athletics Coordinator

Challenge Cup 2011

Once again, grades 7-10 students engaged in friendly competition. This year's Cup was an amazing-race-style event where students battled against the clock to complete 12 challenges at stations around the Cedars' campus. Challenges ranged from picking up Rice Krispies with chopsticks to carrying two students on a couch

through an obstacle course on the grass field. Mixed grade teams saw leaders arise from their midst as they created team cheers, built straw towers, used their bodies to spell out this year's theme: GRACE. Lots of sweat, smiles, and laughter!



Grade 6/7

Volleyball

Our schedule is now up-to-date and is posted on the school calendar online.

www.cedars.bc.ca/calendar.html



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Vision Statement

Parents under the Lordship and by the authority of God have established Cedars Christian School to provide a Christ-centered, child-oriented environment, which will nurture a child academically, spiritually, socially, emotionally, aesthetically, and physically.

Both staff and parents unite to help the child to:

- develop their unique potential
- internalize spiritual values
- live a life of service, fellowship, stewardship, discipleship, and obedience to God

We're on the Web! www.cedars.bc.ca

Quick Quote

To give children a good education in manners, arts and science, is important; to give them a religious education is indispensable; and an immense responsibility rests on parents and guardians who neglect these duties.

~~ Noah Webster, in his 1828 Dictionary



School Calendar

View a fully-detailed calendar online at <http://www.cedars.bc.ca/calendar.html>

Oct. 15	Fall Work Bee	Dec. 16-Jan 2	Christmas Holidays
Oct. 18	Hot Lunch Day	Jan. 3	First day back after Christmas
Oct. 18	New Parent Orientation Evening	Jan. 23-27	Provincial Exams
Oct. 19	Cupcake Wednesday	Feb. 3	Elementary Interim reports
	SALTS/YWAM Presentation, a.m.	Feb. 27	Elem. Report Card Writing Day
Oct. 21	Elementary Interim Reports	March 7-10	Boys Basketball provincials
Oct. 22	Hockey Night in Cedars!	March 7-10	Girls Basketball provincials at Cedars
Nov. 1	Photo Retakes	March 9	Elem. Report 2 (sent home)
Nov. 3	Grades 6 and 9 Immunizations	March 12-23	Spring Break
Nov. 4	Fall Fair	March 26	First day back from Spring Break
	HS Term 1 ends	April 6	Good Friday - No School K-12
Nov. 11	Remembrance Day - No school K-12	April 9	Easter Monday - No School K-12
Nov. 14	Elem. report card writing day - No school K-6	April 20	Pro D Day, Smithers - No School K-12
Nov. 16	Cupcake Wednesday	May 17	Grandparents Day
Nov. 22	Authors Assembly (Elementary)	May 21	Victoria Day - No School K-12
Nov. 24	School Society Meeting (AGM)	May 25	Grad
Nov. 25	Report 1 Elementary (sent home)	June 11	Report Card Writing Day (Elem)
Dec. 1	Elementary Parent/Teacher Interviews	June 15	Last day of classes for High-school
Dec. 9	Elementary Christmas Concerts at Westwood Church	June 18-28	Provincial Exams
Dec. 14	Cupcake Wednesday	June 22	Last day of Elementary, ½ day dismissal at noon
Dec. 16	Last Day of School	June 29	Last day for staff