



Bits and Bites!

June 13, 2023

From the Principal

Mr. Bob Morris

Many people, who know me well, know that I have been a long time New York Mets baseball fan. Last summer I was able to take in a game at Citi Field and see their minor league AA team play as well. We were supposed to see the AAA Syracuse Mets and A Brooklyn Cyclones play but West Jet messed with our summer plans. I ordered tickets to see them play this summer against the Red Sox. I do have to admit, right now at the time of writing my devotional, the team isn't playing very well, in fact, and they stink.

Mets fans are always thinking about tomorrow and what might be. I remember back in 1984 and 1985 when the Mets had a few prospects that were coming up to the big leagues. The team added some great talent to the rookies, and they won the World Series in 1986. Last year I was able to see the Mets AA team called Binghamton Rumble Ponies. Brett Baty and Francisco Alvarez were having a fantastic season at the AA level. Both hit homeruns at the game I attended and Alvarez' home run was one of the farthest I have ever seen at Dunkin Donuts Park.

Potential is a word that every sports fan thinks about. I remember how excited Edmonton Oilers fans were when they got the number one pick and selected Connor McDavid. Some felt that maybe the Oilers were guaranteed greatness like the Gretzky dynasty. Back in the late 1980's there was a player for the Mets that was the next great player. His name was Gregg Jeffries. He made it to the big leagues, but never became the superstar that he was projected to be.

Sometimes potential comes from the most unlikely places. I once had a student in my class in Brandon who was born in Nigeria. His dad went to Bible school and felt called to become a missionary to Canada (we could use more missionaries now). Israel Idonije's dream was to play basketball for the Brandon University Men's basketball program. He was talked into playing high school football and had success. His mom forced him to go to a football camp in Winnipeg and a University of Manitoba football coach saw his talent and offered a scholarship. Israel had a very successful university experience, was drafted by a CFL team, and tried out for an NFL team. Israel ended up playing for the Chicago Bears and played in a Super Bowl.

Another football player that came out of nowhere was Kurt Warner. He played football for a small college in Iowa, was on the practice squad for the Packers, played arena football in Iowa and played for the Amsterdam Admirals. He finally made his dream of playing in the NFL, playing for St. Louis, New York, and winning a Super Bowl for Arizona.

Ok, many of you might be wondering how this sports talk relates to any Biblical theme.

John 1:35-1:51 states:

John's Disciples Follow Jesus

³⁵ The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"

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³⁹ “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.

”So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹ The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which, when translated, is Peter^[a]).

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.”

⁴⁴ Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

⁴⁶ “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked.

“Come and see,” said Philip.

⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”

⁴⁸ “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.”

⁴⁹ Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.”

⁵⁰ Jesus said, “You believe^[b] because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” ⁵¹ He then added, “Very truly I tell you,^[c] you^[d] will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’^[e] the Son of Man.”

There is a profound theme found in this passage. It is easy to miss if you are in a hurry or skim over the chapter. Jesus doesn’t have any disciples at the start of the passage. From a human perspective, it would seem natural for Jesus to be calling the best and brightest on earth to be his disciples. We don’t see Jesus recruiting royalty, or those serving as priests. One would think that Jesus would be interviewing candidates who knew God’s word inside and out. The men Jesus picked seemed like the least likely candidates – fishermen and labourers. Jesus went on to call Matthew, a hated and despised tax collector. Simon the Zealot was a trained assassin who wanted to overthrow the Roman Government. It was common for religious leaders to hand pick the best disciple candidates to hand down their teachings. Teachers normally chose the best and brightest promising young students. Jesus’ choice if disciples were the least likely candidates.

John the Baptist’s announcement that Jesus was the Son of God (John 1:34) had a profound impact on Andrew who was a follower of John. Andrew immediately left John, found his brother (Simon Peter) and

they immediately followed Christ. Nathanael didn't think anything good could come from Nazareth. Jesus reminded Nathanael that he was with him under the fig tree. Nathanael immediately knew that he had to be a follower of Jesus and made a public declaration, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."

We are reminded that God's ways are much higher than our ways. Jesus was not looking at the attributes to what the world sees as a strength. He picked men whose hearts he could shape who would follow him with humility and a desire to serve. Jesus saw in them what he sees in each of us – POTENTIAL. What others don't see; God sees. When God worked through them, despite their weakness, God was glorified. It can be the same today. Often it isn't the mighty or noble that is called. Jesus knew exactly how to speak to each man that was called. Each of the disciples saw something different in Jesus and they dropped everything including their careers to be devout followers of Christ. Jesus chose the weak and uneducated so that one day they would be considered great in the kingdom of God. No one could question God's power working through these men. God chose lowly shepherds to announce Jesus' birth. Jesus chose unlikely candidates to disciple. God still uses common, everyday people to do great things for Him. Sometimes we can fall into a trap and think that to follow God we must attend seminary and become a minister. God indeed calls people to seminary and Bible College. He also calls you and me to do His work here on earth too and we need to make ourselves available for His calling and follow His lead.

In conclusion, the concept of "potential" plays a vital role in the context of education just as it did during Jesus' time on earth. As believers, we understand that each person is fearfully and wonderfully made by God and created in His image. We have unique, gifts, talents, and purposes that can and should be used for His glory. It is our role along with home and church to help nurture and develop these talents. In the "Parable of the Talents", Jesus emphasized the importance of using talents and multiplying the gifts that are entrusted to us. As a Christian school, we have a responsibility to create an environment that not only nurtures academic growth but also encourages students to discover and fulfill their God given potential. By integrating a Biblical perspective into all courses, we can and should help students understand their identity in Christ and equip them to serve for His glory.

Grade Nine Graduates:

Rick Both

Olivia de Gier

Jaelyn De Vries

Jordyn Faber

Megan Greyling

Erin Jenks

Tyler Hoeksema

Jayden Hovius

Elly Ingwersen

Jaelyn Lubach

Aidan Lundrigan

Troy Morskate

Leah Overeem

We wish you God's blessing as you move into this next step in life.

Bible Cover to Cover: Jaelyn De Vries

Honour Role: These Grade Six to Nine students received an academic average of 90% or higher. Congratulations to each of these students:

Grade 9:

Elly Ingwersen
Erin Jenks
Jaelyn De Vries
Jaelyn Lubach
Leah Overeem
Megan Greyling

Grade 8:

Conor Haan

Grade 7:

Jace Faber
Janelle Lubach
Zack Morskate
Rebecca Overeem
Ariana Saddleback-Lundrigan

Grade 6:

Shawn Hoeksema
Carson Ingwersen
Kolten Rispens
Amber Stolk
Kadence Taekema
Brodey Thalen

From the Board

Mrs. Jessica Stolk

It's the end of the year already! It seems that when we come back from Christmas break each year, the remainder of the school year just flies by and here we are at summer break. As we reflect on this past year, we, as a Board, would like to thank all our staff, students, parents, Society members and supporters. Without your support, this past year could not have been the success that it was; we are thankful to God that He has blessed our school with such a supportive and generous community. We also give thanks to God for His guiding and protective hand over this past school year.

We would also like to thank all those who attended our Spring Society Meeting on May 25th. At this meeting we welcomed a few new Society Members: Mark & Shania Goelema, Brian & Roeline Wassink, and Joshua & Darla Butcher. We give thanks for these new members and their desire to walk alongside us in our mission of "Educating our children together with home and church to know the Lordship of Christ." We pray that they may be a blessing to our school community as well as us to them.

At the Society Meeting, we also elected a new Board member to serve a 3-year term. We would like to welcome Aaron Horne to the Board and pray that he may be granted all that he needs to fulfill this task to God's glory and be a blessing to our school. We also thank those who allowed their name to stand...it is such a blessing to have many Society members willing to serve in this way! With Aaron coming in, we now also would like to thank Mark Makkinga for the 3 years he spent on the Board. Thank-you for your dedication to our school and for serving faithfully these last few years. We pray you and your family may be blessed as you now enjoy a time of refreshment.

As we close this school year, we also must say farewell to a couple of our staff members. Julie de Gier (Kindergarten) and Kayla Ingwersen (Gr 6/7 EA) are both moving on after this school year. We are incredibly grateful for all they have done at PCS. Although they will both be missed, we pray that they are each blessed in their future endeavors either with family or with work.

We also say farewell to each of our Grade 9 students. Huge congratulations to each one of you on graduating from PCS! We pray that as you move on to high school, the Lord would be with each of you, that you may continue to grow in your faith and knowledge of our Saviour, be witnesses of Him in this world, and bring Him glory in all that you do.

Our final Board meeting of this school year was held on June 7th. Board positions remained mostly the same and are as follows: Chair – Jordan Vreugdenhil, Secretary – Jessica Stolk, Finance – Greg Thalen, Education – Michelle Stolk, Facilities and Vice-All – Aaron Horne, Transportation -Irwin VEP, and Development – Jenneke Feitsma. Our next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday September 6, 2023.

We pray that you all have a blessed summer break, enjoying time with family and friends; and as always if you have any questions or concerns, please contact a member of the Board!

“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen” Ephesians 3:20

Sports

Mr. Josh VanDoesburg

I would like to extend a big thank you to all parents, teachers, and volunteers who helped make this year's athletic program possible. We were blessed to be able to run four volleyball teams, three basketball teams, badminton, cross country, and a track team. Many athletes were able to showcase their gifts and abilities and do it while honouring our Lord.

This year we were able to purchase new basketball jerseys, new sport equipment bins, and new score tables. I am continually thankful for the support of the PCS Society and the effort put into all aspects of the school.

A note for volleyball camp in August:

Volleyball Camp at Ponoka Christian School

Cost: Free

When: August 28-30

Times: Grade 5-7 from 5:00 - 6:30

Grade 8/9 from 6:30 - 8:00

Next year, all students who participate in any sport, we would like to have you purchase a PCS t-shirt at the beginning of the year for \$20.

I hope you all have an excellent summer.

Please Note:

2023-2024 School Year starts on **September 5,**

Open House:

August 31, 2023 from 10:00 – 12:00

School Times:

8:40 classes begin

3:15 end of school day