



Back to School Edition, 2008

What's Up at Calvary?

Welcome Back, Crusaders!

Although it may be hard to believe, summer, (at least as far as the “no school part”), has just about come to an end. (Did I hear cheers? Was it from the parents?) The Calvary administration, faculty and staff hope you and your family have had a wonderful time making memories with those you love.



While our Crusaders have been enjoying the time away from school, many of us have been planning for the new school year: working on the budget, ordering supplies, touring new students, planning for our upcoming accreditation visit, and coordinating our curriculum, just to name a few of the things that have filled our summer hours.

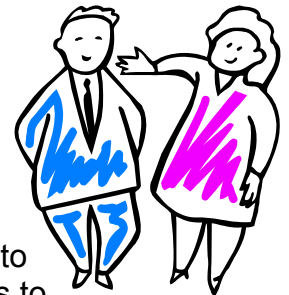
For those of you new to Calvary, (there are about forty new families), the “What’s Up at Calvary?” is an electronic school newsletter that comes out every other week during the school year. This newsletter is sent (via email) to our current families as well as alumni, grandparents, and other friends of Calvary. Past issues are posted on our school web site. Anyone who would like to be added to our newsletter email list should contact the school office.

The goal of the newsletter is to keep families informed of interesting and important school news and activities. This issue is, of course, focused on summer

happenings and “Back to School.” We wish you the best during the remaining few days before school starts, and look forward to seeing you all soon!

Calvary Welcomes New Faculty and Staff

There are very few personnel changes for the 2008-2009 school year. Although we are always sad to lose faculty and staff members, it is exciting to welcome new members to our family.



Ms. Suzanne Rector will be joining us after having taught middle school math most recently in Summerville, SC. She also taught in Redlands, CA and Needville Jr./Sr. High. Because of business transfers with her husband’s company, **Ms. Rector** has had most of her middle school experiences out of state. She and her family (husband and three children) have moved back into the area, and even back into their home in Pecan Grove. **Ms. Rector**, who has her BS from LSU, is very excited to be at Calvary and back in the Fort Bend County area where she is reconnecting with old friends.

Ms. Rachelle Kanak comes to us after having taught computer classes at Faith Lutheran in Sugar Land. She will be teaching Journalism/Yearbook, middle school computer classes, and will be managing our network. **Ms. Kanak** has also tutored, been a juvenile probation officer, a newspaper columnist and reporter and most recently, a realtor.

The role she likes best is aunt to Calvary students **Logan** and **Luke Sullivan**, and former student **Tyler Sullivan**. She holds a BS from University of Texas at San Antonio.

Mr. Eric Rasberry will be teaching middle school drama and Bible classes to lower and middle school students. **Mr. Rasberry** earned a BS in Bible Studies with a specialization in Youth Ministry from Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA. Although this will be **Mr. Rasberry's** first teaching position, he has been very involved in leading church youth groups. He has other ties to education, as well, as his fiancé is a teacher and both of his parents teach at Liberty University.

Ms. Johanna Stafford, who served as lunchroom monitor and nurse substitute last year, will be taking a full time position as the school nurse. **Ms. Stafford** earned her BS in education and holds a teaching certificate from LSU. She received her RN training and nursing certification from Loyola University. Before coming to Calvary, **Ms. Stafford** worked in Lamar CISD for nine years as a nurse sub. **Ms. Stafford** lives in Greatwood with her husband and two children, **Paige** and **Parker**.

We know that you will want to offer a special welcome to these new Calvary faculty and staff members as they join us for the new school year.



New Parent Reception

It is always a pleasure to welcome new families to Calvary! Each year a reception is held for the parents of new students. The purpose of the reception is to provide a special evening that recognizes and greets these new families. There will be refreshments and an orientation that will seek to answer many of the questions that we have found new parents often ask. We would request

that any new parent who has not already done so, please RSVP by calling the school or emailing bvalet@ces-richmond.com. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, August 7, at 6pm in the gym.

Meet the Teacher Night

Meet the Teacher Night will be held this year on Monday, August 18 at 7pm. Parents and students are invited to visit grade level and outclass classrooms. Teachers will provide information about the upcoming school year, curriculum and classroom procedures and activities.



New Homeroom Rosters will be posted on our web page and the school doors on Friday, August 15.

Athletics at Calvary

Fall athletics will soon be underway for middle school students. The first football practice begins Monday, August 4, 4pm-5:30pm at Pitts Park in Pecan Grove. **Coach Wiser** will again be serving as head coach of the football team. Any parent with a football question can contact him at dwiser@severntrentdenora.com

Volleyball Camp begins the week of August 11. Once again this camp, which will be held in our school gym, is under the direction of Spikes Sports. **Coach Morris** will supervise the activities and invites girls in grades 6-8 to join this camp designed to sharpen volleyball skills before practices begin for the new season.

Athletes must bring their athletic physicals in order to practice or attend camp.

Camp Crusader for New CECP

Students

Calvary Episcopal College Prep will host its 2nd Annual Camp Crusader on August 15th from 9-2pm.

Camp Crusader is an orientation hosted by CECP students for

incoming students new to the program.

The orientation consists of: expectations of the first couple weeks, survival tips for freshman, introduction to extra-curricular activities and team building activities. Last year proved to be a terrific success, and the students stated they had an invaluable experience in preparation for a great year. Camp leaders will include Student Council officers: President- **Elizabeth Svabic**; Vice-President- **Alysse Ligon**; Secretary- **Raychel Lockwood**; Treasurer- **Amanda Fleming**; Parliamentarian- **Caroline Miller**; and **Danielle Frias**-Executive District Officer.



Uniform Changes and Used Uniform Sale

As school begins, students and parents begin checking out the closet for the status of the uniform wardrobe. It is advisable to try a few from last year on, as growth spurts do happen over the summer. Parents are urged to check the student handbook for uniform guidelines.

This year there have been a few uniform changes. New uniforms can be purchased at Parker Uniforms or one of our providers located on our website. There will be an emphasis this year on students wearing the proper components of each uniform. For example, dress shoes should be worn with dress uniforms. (Parker sells a dress shoe that may be purchased, but is not required if students have shoes that are appropriate for dress uniforms.)

This year will be a transition year, which means that uniforms from last year will also be allowed. For example, the old polo

shirts have the school name embroidered on the front, while the new polo shirts have the school shield and name. Both may be worn during the 2008-2009 school year.

Thanks to our super used uniform coordinator, **Ms. Claire Chipman**, the Annual Used Uniform sale is scheduled for Wednesday, August 6, 11 am to 7pm in the gym. Plan on dropping by to pick up special bargains on uniforms and spirit wear.

Lunch Changes for the Fall

The school is

happy to



announce that our food services will be provided again this year by **Ms. Donna Bradshaw** and her

crew, who have been cooking and serving delicious and nutritious meals to our students for the past four years. Due to the increased cost of food, lunch prices will have a slight increase for the new school year. Hot lunches will increase from \$3.00 to \$3.25. Parents who pay for a semester plan, however, will continue to pay the \$3.00 per meal price. The new August and September menus are posted to our website along with the new order forms. These will also be emailed to everyone. As a reminder, the Working for Washington (8th grade) students and parents will continue to offer pizza on Wednesdays beginning Sept. 10.

Accreditation Visit Set for Fall

Calvary will be visited this fall by an accreditation team from the Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools (SAES). This visit, which is required every ten years for schools that seek to continue their accreditation, is recognized by the Texas Education Agency through The Texas Private School Accreditation Commission (TEPSAC).

Many parents and school board members have served on committees that began meeting before last Christmas in preparation for this visit. The team will be looking at all aspects of the school, its personnel policies, curriculum, Episcopal character and physical facilities, just to name a few. The four day visit will take place October 19-22. Parents and students will receive more information about the team and accreditation process before the visit.

School Survey Results Unveiled at Dinner With the Headmaster Nights

The faculty, staff and administration thank everyone who participated in our annual survey.

There was a very large response, with over 135 surveys being returned.

The survey allowed for parents to expand their answers with comments, which resulted in over 100 pages of responses.



The surveys continue to be thoroughly reviewed by faculty, staff, administration, the clergy, the accreditation team and the school board. Based on these responses, there will be a series of actions and procedures that will be unveiled for the upcoming school year at the “Dinner With the Headmaster” nights on October 9 and 10. You will want to mark your calendar and plan on attending one of these evenings as we kick off the school year with our new theme, “Reaching for the Stars!”

Computer Lab, Library Upgrades

During the summer some of our facilities have undergone renovations. When students return they will be pleased to note new paint and carpet in the computer lab, as well as a rearrangement of lab tables for better use of space.

And, what’s happening in the library? Well, **Ms. Krig** and **Ms. Digoy** are keeping that “under wraps” as they plan their new “time

machine” journey for students the first few weeks of school.

CPTO Meeting and Volunteer Orientation

The Calvary PTO (CPTO) has been hard at work planning for the new school year.

This dedicated group of volunteers,



led by **President Kim Buzard**, will hold their first meeting of the year on Tuesday, September 2 at 6pm. This meeting will combine CPTO business with our annual Volunteer Orientation. All parents and faculty are encouraged to plan to attend this important and informative meeting. Babysitting will be provided.

Safeguarding God’s Children Training

In an effort to protect our children, the Episcopal Diocese of Texas requires that employees and volunteers take a three hour training entitled, “Safeguarding God’s Children.” This training has to be completed for anyone who has regular contact with our students, and must be updated every five years.

Training sessions are being held at Calvary on the following dates in the parish hall: Aug. 2, 9am to noon; Aug. 13, 1pm to 4pm. Those wishing to participate may call the office to register.

Volunteers may also seek training at other Episcopal schools or churches but suggest that participants call the facility that is offering training directly; sign up and inform them that their background check will be handled through Calvary. We have found that those who sign up through the Diocese pay as much as \$59 for background checks. Calvary has been doing our background checks in-house at a cost of about \$2 and will continue to absorb that cost. We will not cover the cost of any done outside, however.



Moms in Touch

Mom's In Touch is coming to Calvary Episcopal School this fall! Moms In Touch International (MITI) is a world wide, interdenominational organization that provides

a forum for groups of mothers to meet each week to pray for their children and their school. We know our children face many pressures at school and to "stand in the gap" through prayer is the best gift we can give to them.

No experience is necessary to join this group! Come as you are. An informational coffee will be held at the school in late August but please feel free to contact Leigh Ann Cloutier anytime at 281-343-0974 or leighcloutier@comcast.net

Please prayerfully consider joining MITI at Calvary. Our children need our prayers. For more information or to read amazing testimonies/devotions you may also go to momsintouch.org

Grandparents Day Scheduled

Each year our faculty and volunteers greet Grandparents and Other Special People and invite them to come to school and share the Calvary experience. This date, which coincides with Grandparents Day weekend, will be held at Calvary on Friday, Sep. 5. Please mark your calendar and invite grandparents and special friends to join us. Details and event schedule will be sent home soon.

Summer Student Happenings

Summer is a time for relaxation, fun times and veering from the routine. However, we know that many of our students (and parents for that matter) spend at least part of their summer time pursuing new ventures that lead to tremendous personal accomplishments and/or service to others. As an example, we have heard from some

of our students, and want to share their experiences with you. If you or your child had experiences this summer that resulted in personal or spiritual growth for you or others, please share it with us, as we would like to share these stories in our next "What's Up at Calvary" newsletter.



Our first and only CECP graduate, **Joanna Moon**, was excited to share her summer news.

Joanna applied for and received admittance into the Honors College at University of Texas at San Antonio. As a result, she will be receiving individual advising on course selection, be included in their Honors College Learning Community (group study/support/activities) and be housed in the Honors College housing building in UTSA's new \$35 million Laurel Village dorm. We wish her well and look forward to hearing more about her experiences as she begins her studies in this rigorous program.

Eighth graders **Taylor Burke** and **Kate Mann**, who were recognized as two of our Duke University Scholars in seventh grade, received their SAT scores this summer and a medal and letter of congratulations as a State Finalists from Duke. We are proud of you, **Taylor** and **Kate!**



Another Duke Scholar, eighth grader, **Shelby Racca**, spent part of his summer at the Summer Scholars Residential Program at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. This is a one week program for gifted 7th & 8th graders designed to nurture creativity and foster the development of leadership skills. The students live in a campus dorm and walk to a nearby private school for classes. During the program **Shelby** took the following courses: Electronics; Wood Games; Mathematical Games and Puzzles; and Leadership. **Shelby** reported that he had a great time, and

would recommend the camp to other qualified Crusaders.

This summer, one of our super parent volunteers conducted basketball “Skills and Drills” over a series of weeks. **Mr.**



Jaylon Debbs offered his talents and love of basketball to students who had an interest in improving their skills in ball handling, shooting and defense/offense movements. Calvary student participants included: **Eric Hutchinson, Erik Stockwell, Dominique Luten, Alexandria Standifird, Bradley Standifird, Jasmyn Treadwell, Rachel Snow, Justin Treadwell, Chris Breuer, Doug Webb, Wil Carey and Bryce Debbs**

Each week participants were put in small groups and competed for prizes and recognitions. The last week they were put in teams to compete in a “tournament”:
Houston - Team Captain: **Bryce Debbs**;
Rockets - Team Captain: **Eric Hutchinson**; Air Jordan - Team Captain: **Jasmyn Treadwell**; Celtics- Team Captain: **Dylan Neal**; Longhorns- Team Captains: **Erik Stockwell & Wil Carey**.
The “Houston” team won the tournament, with everyone having a great time.

Mr. Debbs reports that all participants improved their skills, with two receiving the “Most Improved” honors: Boys: **Eric Hutchinson**; Girls: **Jasmyn Treadwell**. Our sincere thanks go out to **Mr. Debbs** for donating his time and talents to our students.



Calvary cheerleading sponsor **Ms. Lisa Childress** reported that girls “shined” at Cheer Camp at Texas A&M. The first day the camp changed the plan from performing a home cheer to a home dance. Since our girls were not prepared for this change, they had one hour to learn the dance to be evaluated. Our cheer team received the top ribbon (blue) for their performance.

Each day the girls learned and were evaluated on one dance and four cheers. Throughout the week our team received two red ribbons and two blue ribbons. On the last day CES cheerleaders performed our camp dance and cheer. The girls were so good they earned two GOLD ribbons. The judges let the girls know that very few squads exceed previous blue rating with a final gold.

More importantly, camp supervisors commented a number of times to **Ms. Childress** how well behaved and polite our girls were. Ms. Childress reported that “All of you would have been so proud to see the way they represented Calvary. No matter what injuries, how tired or the hurt feeling they had, they forged on to victories.” A big round of applause to our 2008-2209 Calvary Cheerleaders: Captains **Courtney Adair** and **Kathryn Hodge**, 7th graders **Chloe Deshazo, Emma Gaas Shelby Kasberger, Jurnee Carter-Jones, Lauren Nowlin, Courtney Ward**; 8th graders **Madison Clark, Angie Gonzales, Emily Kelly**. Special thanks also go to the cheerleader sponsors, who went above and beyond to help the girls: **Carol Gaas** and **Diana Ward**.

COMING UP AT CALVARY

(Our Official School Calendar can be found on our website at www.ces-richmond.org)

August 2, 9am-noon, Safeguarding God's Children Training, Parish Hall

August 4, 4pm-5:30pm, First Football Practice, Pitts Road Park; Calvary; Episcopal Church
Vacation Bible School, all week.

August 6, 11am-7pm, Used Uniform Sale, gym

August 7, 6:30pm-8pm, New Parent Reception, gym

August 11-15, Volleyball Camp, gym;

August 15, Class Rosters will be posted on web site.

August 18, 7pm, "Meet the Teacher" Night

August 20, First day of school

August 21, 8:05am, First Chapel

August 26, 6pm, Calvary School Board Meeting

September 1, Labor Day Holiday

September 5, Grandparents and Other Special People Day

September 17-19, 6th Grade Retreat at Camp Allen (details will be sent home)