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# CALVARY EAGLES

## Calvary Christian Schools joins in highway and beach clean-up

By Rick Maine

The ninth and tenth grade students from Fruitport Calvary Christian Schools will put on gloves and tennis shoes and will join with many other schools and organizations to help keep Michigan beautiful. The students will clean a 1 ½ mile stretch along Interstate 96. The school has been part of the highway clean up for many years.

The 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students from Calvary will join together with many other organizations, and will be cleaning a one-half mile stretch along the Maranatha Bible Conference Grounds beach. The school has also been involved in cleaning the Michigan beaches for many years.

Fruitport Calvary Christian Schools sees these opportunities as a great way to serve in our community. We also believe that God has blessed us with the beauty of His creation, and that we are responsible to be good stewards of all that God has given to us. By taking time to clean our highways and beaches we can be a small part of helping to take care of what God has given to us. •

## Pink out

By Megan Mitchell, freshman

The JV and varsity volleyball teams were looking forward to the volleyball games against the Potters House Pumas on Tuesday, September 11. These would be our first home games of the year. Of course, like any other sports team, we were hoping both teams would come out with wins. But there would be something else that would make these games extra special.

Our school is still mourning the death of our beloved teacher and friend, Mrs. Meyer. For this reason, we decided to dedicate the games in her memory. Everyone was heartbroken when she was diagnosed with breast cancer two years ago.

Mrs. Meyer had a wonderful impact on CCS. The way she lived out her everyday life proved her love for Jesus. She felt that prayer and prayer requests were very important, and would take half a class period sharing them if we needed to. Mrs. Meyer was never too busy to talk to us, especially if we were struggling with something in our daily lives. She was always spiritually strong, even when she was physically weak.

I remember days when she would have chemotherapy in the morning and come in later that day to teach us. Nothing could drag Mrs. Meyer down, and she could always make you smile and laugh. Her favorite nickname for people was “Sweetie Poo Pie.” I’m not sure why, but it’s something special we’ll remember about Mrs. Meyer. Her amazing legacy is what caused us to dedicate these games to her.

Our teams got pink jerseys and the whole school got wristbands that said “Mrs. Meyer,” followed by the breast cancer symbol and “Sweetie Poo Pie.” We also had a pink-out for the games where many of the spectators wore pink. The JV game was a close one, although we won. The second game was also a battle, but the Pumas won. The third game (scoring 15 rather than 25) would decide the winner. Thankfully, we pulled ahead and won it. Then it was the varsity’s turn to play. The Pumas were no match for our Eagles. They won the first three games, which won the match. It was awesome to win these games, especially since it was for Mrs. Meyer. •

## The first day of school

By Alex Anhalt, freshman

It’s dark and quiet in the halls. Lockers are shining, cleared by previous students. The lights are blinking, and as they come on, they reveal pristine walls and floors, swept of the midyear clutter. A few teachers and staff are unlocking doors to classrooms and adding a few finishing touches. Some take deep breaths, preparing for another rushing year, and so glad that year will be spent here. Others get ready to meet many new faces with this year’s new teachers. Although it’s still an early morning, all are conscious that this day is special. It’s the first day of school.

Students are bustling in, and the doors seem to bulge at their seams as more enter at a breakneck pace. There are the school veterans -- the seniors -- entering for their final year at Calvary, and shy young children clinging to their mothers’ legs. Other kids clutch new backpacks and lunchboxes, not quite sure what to do until Mrs. Vantine and Mrs. Kapanka usher them into their new classrooms. These are the preschoolers or kindergartners, small children ready to begin years of learning. They will grow to love the rooms’ toys, colors and their beloved teachers in this coming year.

On the other end of the school, the middle schoolers get their schedules and head to their lockers. For some, this is their first time not having one specific class. As they meet their homeroom teachers, some begin to lose their nervousness. Throughout the day, they become increasingly bold until they feel like they belong.

Spread across the school, another group opens newly assigned lockers. They are the high schoolers, preparing for what is for some, their final year at Calvary. For some, this is their first senior high year. Freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors alike all know that tomorrow will be the start of their high school retreat at Spring Hill Camps. For now, it’s a mixture of syllabi, old and new faces, and even a little homework for a few.

One more group smiles and greets new faces. The staff of Calvary Christian Schools gets ready for the jobs they love. We thank them for all their work and supports. As Mrs. Vantine smiles down at little kindergartners, Mrs. Anderson shows third graders to their desks, Mrs. Stenberg greets middle schoolers, and Mr. Langdon meets the new and old high schoolers, there stands a conspicuous pair of shoes on a bookshelf.

The shoes stand out. They’re tall high heels, a shining blue. They’re not your average shoes ... just like the person who once wore them. They are a memorial of sorts to Mrs. Meyer. Just days before school began, she passed away. The shoes stand to remind everyone of her: Her joy, her humor, the life she provided to everyone around her. It may seem impossible to fill those shoes, but we have another chapter ahead of us. Yet stronger than any shoes are the memories she left behind. As students pass her classroom, or sit in classes that were once hers, they will remember. And as a whole, the students and staff of Calvary Christian Schools say, “Thank You, Mrs. Meyer.” •

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## Talking about big trucks

*(Submitted by Fruitport Calvary Christian Schools)*

Mrs. Becky Smith’s first grade class had their annual visit from Jared Smith, who drives for Baxter’s Towing. Baxters is located just a mile from Calvary Christian Schools, and Jared is a 2002 CCS graduate. He also just happens to be Mrs. Smith’s son.

Boys and girls love big trucks and Jared enjoys telling about the vehicle and showing them how it works. During the September 19 visit, the children got to climb into the cab and experience what it’s like to sit in the driver’s seat.

Thank you, Baxter’s Towing and Storage for being such great Fruitport Community leaders. •