



# Parent Newsletter

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## CCS Named 2003 Blue Ribbon School

Chinese Christian Schools was named last week a 2003 No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon School, the highest honor given by the United States Department of Education. Only 214 schools were recognized nationally, and only 47 private schools and 37 California schools received this award.

In announcing this year's awards, U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige stated, "We reward schools based on student achievement results, not process. Schools chosen for the Blue Ribbon will be ones that are meeting our mission to ensure that every child learns, and no child is left behind. Recipients will be national models of excellence that others can learn from."



Chinese Christian Schools qualified for consideration by scoring in the academic top 10% based on standardized tests over the past three years. An application was submitted through the Council on American Private Education showing how the school helps all students achieve and can serve as a leader and example for other schools.

Superintendent Robin Hom explained, "Although we accept students with diverse academic backgrounds and experiences, by Spring our test scores indicate that 94% of our students will score above average. We truly strive to insure that no child is left behind."

The school will receive its award at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. at the end of October. Superintendent Hom will attend representing school administration and Dr. Alan Chew, the only staff member who has taught for all 25 years of the schools' existence, will represent the faculty.

## Alameda Campus Opens on Time

The CCS Alameda campus opened on time, much to the delight and relief of teachers, students, and parents. Even as the Ribbon Cutting ceremony was taking place on Wednesday, September 3, workers were laboring in the background at a feverish pace to complete the building on time. A temporary certificate of occupancy was finally granted at 2:30PM on Monday, September, 8, and school opened less than 17 hours later.

Students and parents were not disappointed as they walked past the newly installed grass field, through

the brightly lit hallways, and into their large and newly furnished classrooms. One parent remarked his children were so excited to attend the new school they couldn't eat breakfast.

Although there is still painting and a lot of final finishing touches that need to be done, no one seemed to mind. "It's a beautiful school," said kindergarten teacher Mrs. Doreen Lowe, "and everyone is just thankful to be here to start the school year."

CCS extends its heartfelt thanks to all those who worked, prayed, and gave so the school could open on time.

## National Merit Honors



Senior **Anna Liu** has been named a semi-finalist in the 2004 National Merit Scholarship Program. Anna earned this distinction by scoring in the top 1% of those taking the PSAT last Fall. She hopes to major in engineering at MIT next year.

## Calendar of Events

### Wednesday, September 24

- San Leandro School Pictures

### September 26-27

- 8-12 Girls of Grace Conference

### Monday, September 29

- Visual screening tests

### Saturday, October 4

- Alameda Campus Open House

### October 6-10

- Spiritual Emphasis Week

### Saturday, October 11

- Alumni Volleyball Game

### October 13-14

- NO SCHOOL-ACSI Convention

### Wednesday, October 15

- Alameda School Picture Day

### Tuesday, October 21

- PSAT administered (11-12)

### Saturday, November 8

- CCS Annual Dinner



The students and teachers at the CCS - Alameda Campus took this picture at the conclusion of their first day at the new school.

# Better Communication Through Computers

One of the top desires of both parents and teachers is to increase communication between home and school. Study after study shows that when parents and teachers communicate and cooperate, students achieve better. Thus, when CCS was looking to upgrade its administrative software, it chose PowerSchool because of its distinct and unique ability to increase parent communication.

The main advantage of PowerSchool is that it is web-based, meaning it can be accessed wherever one can access the internet. With PowerSchool, parents of foreign students or those travelling overseas can keep track of their child's progress just as easily as the student family living across the street. With just a few clicks, parents can see their child's attendance, tests and assignments, scores and grades, schedule, and ac-

count balance. Through PowerSchool, parents can also find out their child's current grades, get additional information about each class/subject and assignment, e-mail their child's teacher, and receive an automatic e-mail update daily or weekly.

CCS teachers are already using PowerSchool and working out problems and issues. In a few weeks, each parent and child will be given individual passwords to access the system. PowerSchool training sessions will also be scheduled for parents and students who want formal lessons on how to use the system. "Computer savvy" individuals will be able to figure out the program on their own.

Also in the works is an upgrade of the Accelerated Reader (AR) program and the companion STAR reading assessment program. The newer AR program is more versatile and sup-

ports a greater variety of reading selections.

The library at both campuses will also have a computer management system for inventory and check-out. Soon, families will also be able to access this program through the internet as well as to search for and reserve books at either campus library.

In order to support these initiatives, the school is upgrading its network and computers to handle the greater volume of users and the more sophisticated programs in use. As in any transition, it will take a lot of time and patience, but we are confident the results will be well worth the effort.

## Annual Dinner

The CCS Annual Benefit Dinner will be held at Centennial Hall in Hayward on Saturday, November 8, beginning with a silent auction at 5:00PM. This year's dinner will have a Hawaiian theme and focus on God's blessings on CCS for 25 years and look forward to the years ahead.

If you are interested in attending or sponsoring the Annual Dinner, please contact Mrs. Debbie Leong.

## Transition Year for Sports Program

Chinese Christian Schools recently left the Bay Area Christian Athletic League in order to join the California Interscholastic Federation. The move will allow students to participate in a wider range of athletic competitions, but during this transition year only Cross Country and Boys Volleyball will enjoy league play. Nevertheless, both the Girls Volleyball team and Boys Soccer team have enjoyed the higher level of competition.

The Girls Volleyball team enjoyed victories over Contra Costa Christian, Bentley, Balboa (SF), and North Hills Christian, but lost to College Preparatory, Crystal Springs Uplands, and Holy Names. The Boys Soccer team celebrated their first win yesterday against Jewish Community High after losing to Pinewood, Contra Costa Christian, and College Preparatory.

The Cross Country team looks forward to its first year of competition. The team has participated in invitationals with 43 high school stu-

dents committed to running this year.

If you are interested in obtaining a schedule for any of the sports teams, contact the school office. They would appreciate your show of support.



A group of high school girls enjoy lunch together during their All-Dayer.

### Parent Reminder

If you purchase school supplies from **Office Depot** and give the cashier **CCS ID #70014532**, the school will receive 5% as part of the "5% Back to Schools" program.