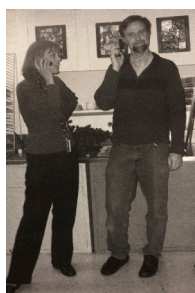




Ginnie Lodge—In Focus

From kindergarten to graduation, all CCS students, families, and staff have been touched by the ever thoughtful and versatile Ginnie Lodge. For more than 30 years, Mrs. Lodge has faithfully served Conestoga Christian School in a variety of teaching and administrative positions. Her dedication to excellence is clearly evident wherever she is called. Mrs. Lodge's most recent post at CCS is as Director of Technology

and Media. Faithfully delivering our weekly *Cougar Update*, keeping our website and social media up to date, and attending to every and any



Mrs. Lodge on the Technology Committee with Steve Hutchinson in 2006

digital dilemma on campus, Mrs. Lodge brings innovative ideas, cutting-edge technology solutions, and a whole lot of grace to every situation.

Mrs. Lodge adds her personal and creative touch to all she does. You will find her photography of our students, campus, or surrounding community on our newsletters and digital communications. Blending her personal passion of photography with her role as Director of Technology and Media, Mrs. Lodge has been teaching photography classes at the high school level. Students are treated to expert craftsmanship as Mrs. Lodge guides them

through learning the art of photography and digital design. In addition to her professional excellence, Mrs. Lodge's faith is clearly reflected through her giftedness as a photographer and as an educator. In all she does, she points her students and the viewers of her photography to the glory of God. She encourages us all to turn our eyes upon Jesus and to marvel in His creation.



Front cover of the January/February 2021 issue featuring Mrs. Lodge's photograph

Inspired by her father's interest in photography, Mrs. Lodge took a class in photography when attending Messiah College, under the direction of Professor Robert Barrett. That first foray into 35mm black-and-white photography solidified her enjoyment of the craft. Her daughters, Shanna Lodge and Brittany Mountz, both CCS graduates, recollect that their mother enjoyed taking photos of them growing up, but it is only within the last decade that Mrs. Lodge has pursued nature pho-

tography more seriously. An active member of the Berks Photographic Society, Mrs. Lodge has had photos in a number of juried shows with the Pennsylvania Center for Photography and the Schuylkill River Heritage Center. While Ginnie definitely enjoys capturing photos of her adorable grandchildren, her artistic endeavors feature images of God's creation in nature. Her nature photography captures the variety and variation of birds, the intricacies of a snowflake, the beauty of a sunrise or a full moon, and more. Each image reflects the glory of our Creator and directs the viewer to the magnificence of His creation.

Her nature photography has appeared in *Pennsylvania Magazine*, a publication that covers the "people and places, events and history of the state." Most recently, Mrs. Lodge was

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Photographer at work—Photo by budding photographer Henry Mountz, Mrs. Lodge's grandson.

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Mission

- Educating the whole student—body, mind and spirit—for God.

Vision

- Conestoga Christian School, in harmony with the home and church, provides a quality educational program for preschool to 12th grade students in an environment which develops critical thinking, nurtures Christ-like character, and equips students for a life of discipleship and service.

Operating in a Pandemic

Upon the conclusion of the 2019/20 school year, the Administrative Team at Conestoga Christian School (CCS) asked the question, now what? We wondered, where do we go from here? The Board of Trustees, administration, and teachers all desired that instruction for the 2020/21 school year would be in person, but would the governor allow that to happen and, if he did, how could we make sure our classrooms would be safe? All stakeholders, including our parents, began praying for wisdom because there was one thing that was clear—in order for CCS to open on campus and in person, we needed God's mercy and protection. Thus, the planning began.

In addition to the leadership team at CCS desiring to open in person for the 2020/21 school year, the leadership teams of many area Christian schools felt the same way. Four schools in particular—Berks Christian School, High Point Baptist Academy, The King's Academy, and West-Mont Christian Academy—began collaborating with CCS on “guiding principles” for our schools to open safely and in person. Our schools felt there was strength in numbers and wanted to stand united as Christian schools in our area. I had the pleasure of working with the Heads of Schools virtually throughout the months of June and July. Our five schools adopted the following opening guideline and shared it with each of our communities:



Elementary students excited to learn

For years, Christian Schools across the country have recognized the need to have a focus on student wellness, which encompasses physical, mental, and spiritual health, as an essential part of the schools' overall program. In recent years, this emphasis on wellness has expanded in many schools to include the entire school community. Through this focus, we have seen so many schools grow in student achievement, effectiveness of discipleship program, and improvements in school culture.

The outbreak of COVID-19 caused many states to take the unprecedented step of closing public and private schools across the country. While this measure was intended to protect the physical health of our school community, it did not address the mental health and spiritual health needs of our community. As we look to September and the reopening of our schools, we believe our focus must return to overall community wellness, not just physical health.

The months of June, July, and August were spent praying and planning. The Truth from God's Word became even more real to us:

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7, NKJV)

“Without counsel, plans go awry, but in the multitude of counselors they are established.” (Proverbs 15:22, NKJV)

Well, we opened on Monday, August 31, and have been in person ever since. CCS is almost at the 100 day mark (57% of the school year) on our calendar. The 100-day mark is a significant benchmark for all schools, and by God's grace we are having in-person

classes. Have we had some Covid cases on campus? Yes, we have had some cases; some students and their families contracted Covid as have a few of our teachers, but everyone recovered well and is healthy—praise God! Have there been adjustments to classroom schedules and classroom configurations? Yes, we have adjusted operations on campus; one example of change is that some students eat lunch in their rooms while others continue to eat in the gym, but our students appreciate receiving instruction in person from teachers who loves



CCS was blessed with a beautiful day for the 47th auction - outside under the tent.

them—praise God!! Have we had to cancel some events? Yes, we have had to cancel some events, but we held our BBQ and Auction LIVE and in person and successfully navigated the fall athletic season, with spectators at many of the events—praise God!! You see this has not been a ‘normal’ school year, but it has been a time to see God's Hand and feel His blessings.

How do you navigate during a pandemic? Praise God and allow God to direct your path. I leave you with Proverbs 3: 5-6, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” (NKJV)

By Ken Parris

Lodge—Continued

awarded the cover and feature article of the January/February 2021 issue, titled “Inside Martin Guitar.” In the months directly preceding the pandemic, Mrs. Lodge toured the Martin Guitar factory. Her interview and accompanying photographs document the impressive history and craftsmanship of Martin Guitars. More of Mrs. Lodge's work will be featured again in the next issue of

Pennsylvania Magazine on the egrets of Kiwanis Lake Rookery of York County.

We celebrate the skill, service, and accomplishments of our friend, mentor, and teacher, Ginnie Lodge. The Conestoga Christian School community is blessed by God's gifting and the overlap of Mrs. Lodge's profession and passion. We look

forward to what facet of God's glorious creation her photos will turn our eyes to next.

By Melissa Palladino

If interested, *Pennsylvania Magazine* has invited you to request a free copy of the issue by visiting <https://pa-mag.com/free-sample-issue/>. No subscription is required.

Loved Traditions and New Beginnings



Snow play—kindergarten class of 2002

Loved Traditions—Snow Play

Sledding down the back hill and playing in the snow during winter days have been activities that elementary students have enjoyed for as long as anyone can remember. That tradition was enjoyed this year as well! Right before the Christmas break, many



Fourth grader sledding in 2002

elementary students had the joy of a very merry snowy recess. Sleds and disks slid down our wonderful back hill. Students and teachers had a bundle of fun in a sunny and snowy celebration. Mrs. Colón, our first grade teacher, shared this fun photo:



Current first grade class sledding at recess

New Beginnings—Archery at CCS

CCS has started some new traditions as well! Mr. Yoder began an archery unit with his high school PE classes this trimester. Last summer Mr. Yoder attended a training/certification course to teach NASP (National Archery in Schools Program) at CCS. Thanks to grants from NASP and Easton Foundations, CCS received \$2000 to help with purchasing our equipment.



The high school archery class takes aim.

Alumni Spotlight Summer Houck—Student to Staff, Competitor to Coach

Four years at CCS. Five years out and one pandemic later, here I am back at CCS! It is so wonderful to reflect and think about how some things are very different from when I was a student at CCS and yet how so many things are still the same.

For those who do not know me, my name is Summer Houck (Stoltzfus). I began attending CCS in 2011 as I was entering my freshman year of high school, and I graduated in 2015. What I did not know back in 2011 was that over the next four years the Lord had some great things planned for me while at CCS. By the time I graduated, I had grown in so many ways as a young Christian girl. My time as a student at CCS was one that was filled with memories, friendships, and lessons—all of which I still



cherish to this day. One of those friendships led to being able to stand with each other on our wedding days. Some of the memories and lessons are what helped me to discover my love of teaching. My time as a high school student at CCS truly helped to mold me into the person I am today. However, it was not until I left CCS and came back that I realized how much this school had impacted me.

As my time in college was coming to an end, I knew the urgency of searching for a job was coming closer. Little did I know that the Lord was already making moves for me to have the opportunity to return to CCS, but this time as a teacher.

It has been an incredible blessing to be back at the school where I grew up. Being able to teach alongside the teachers I looked up to as a student is unreal (some will say it makes them feel old, so I try not to bring it up too often). One thing that has not changed about CCS is the sense of belonging I feel when I



Summer playing volleyball her junior year. This year she coached the JV volleyball team and was assistant coach for the varsity team.

am here. In a way, I get the feeling that I have “come back home” in returning to CCS.

I am so grateful for the time I had here as a student. What I look forward to now as a teacher is being able to impact and influence the lives of my students just as my teachers did for me. It is truly a blessing to teach at a Christian school where I have the freedom to speak the Truth that is Jesus Christ. I am so grateful to be back at CCS and teach at a place that feels so much like home.

By Summer Houck

Fall Sports Report—Game On!

It is amazing how much a pandemic can change one's perspective. I am always thankful for the opportunities our athletes have to compete. This pandemic has brought a new appreciation to that. The sense of expectation has now shifted to appreciation. Hoping, but not knowing on a game-to-game basis if the season will be completed, always looms in the back of my mind. Looking back at the fall season, I am grateful for so much. Knowing the athletes were able to complete the season is near the top of my gratitude list.

The start of fall sports was scheduled to begin in mid-August. As that date approached,



Varsity volleyball

many had mixed opinions on how this should or could happen. After a PIAA-mandated delayed

start, CCS athletes were off and running. Each team's schedule was altered slightly throughout the fall as some schools chose not to have sports in the fall, and other changes resulted from Covid protocols on opposing teams.

The middle school soccer and volleyball teams both finished in second place in the CCAC East this fall. The boys soccer team, coached by Amanda Thompson, finished with a record of 7-2. The girls volleyball team was led by Sandy Bruton and finished with a record of 5-5.

The varsity and JV volleyball teams were coached by Emily Timberlake and Summer Houck. The varsity team finished with a 6-10 record, and the JV finished at 6-4. Congratulations to Laura Lambert as she was named to the All-Conference CCAC East Second Team. Due to state Covid guidelines, the volleyball teams played 90% of their games with no spectators in the gym.



Varsity soccer - Senior Night under the lights

Our newly installed cameras provided access for many to view CCS home games on the NFHS network.

I again had the privilege of coaching our varsity boys soccer team. This year's team included 10 seniors. After finishing the regular season in 5th place, the boys won their CCAC quarterfinal game at High Point 3-1 and concluded their season with a 0-1 semifinals loss to Mt. Calvary. Conrad Yoder and Aaron Wright were named to the CCAC All-Conference First Team, and Collin Weaver was named to the Second Team.

By Phil Yoder

Photos by Sarah Crans

Picture Yourself—Admissions Open Houses Planned

I have been part of the CCS family for about 10 years and have worked as the admissions director for about 6 years. It is always a joy to assist families through the admissions process. I enjoy introducing them to the school, our administration, and teachers; scheduling tours or shadow days for their students; and walking them through the application and enrollment procedures. One thing I have noticed over the past few years is how our alumni are returning to enroll their own children. Many of them have said they appreciated their Christian education and would now like to have their children benefit from attending CCS, too. If you are grateful for the Bible classes, the godly influence of the teachers and staff, and the friendships you built, we would love to have you consider returning to CCS with your children. Our mission is still the same "Educating the whole student—body, mind, and spirit—for God." As a staff we are making every effort to point

our students to God and the truth in His Word. If you would like to pursue CCS for your child(ren), please contact me in the admissions office. We have two more open houses scheduled, one in February and one in May. If you know someone who may be interested in CCS or if you would like to attend, you can RSVP on the CCS website.

By Michelle Parris, Admissions Director

OPEN HOUSES

February 25, 8:15 - 9:15 am

Elementary School and Kindergarten Open House

May 6, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

All-School Open House



PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

February 25 and May 6, 9:45 - 10:30 am

We're on the Web!

ALUMNI FACEBOOK
CCS Alumni



ALUMNI INSTAGRAM



Check out the Alumni section of the
school website

www.conestogachristian.net/alumni

Upcoming Events

Watch the website for more info on the following events

- **Preschool Story Time** — February 25 and May 6 (9:45 - 10:30 am)
- **Golf Outing** — April 26
- **Founders Event** — May 1
- **Evening Open House** — May 6
- **Race for Education AND Grandparents Day!** — May 7
- **Spring Musical** — May 13 & 14
- **MS/HS Evening of Arts and Science** — May 21
- **Graduation** — Saturday, June 5, outside on the soccer field
- **Winter and Spring Athletics** — The schedule and information can be found at www.conestogachristian.net/athletics. Events can be viewed live streamed or on demand at www.nfhsnetwork.com for a small monthly fee.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE
WEBSITE AT

WWW.CONESTOGACHRISTIAN.NET

SCHOOL FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/conestogachristianschool/

SCHOOL INSTAGRAM

www.instagram.com/conestogachristianschool/

ATHLETICS INSTAGRAM

www.instagram.com/conestogachristianathletics

Alumni News

CLASS OF 2015 5 YEAR REUNION

On January 17 the class of 2015 got together for a reunion for the first time in 6 years. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, not all of the members of the class were able to make it to the event hosted by class member Becca Beiler.

Those in attendance had a great time catching up on what they are up to now. Many are starting families of their own, and others are making headway in their careers. We also spent a good amount of time reminiscing about the memories we made together while at CCS. Many of us spent several years at the school so there were a

lot of good memories to look back on.

All in all it was fun night of getting together with old friends, eating food, and watching football. Thanks to CCS for being the place that brought us all together, and thank you to Becca Beiler for being the host for our class reunion.

Members in attendance were Brock Stoltzfus, Sarah Stoltzfus (Hahn), Celia Shafer (Stratton), Krysta Yoder, and Tyler Greenly.

Previous Newsletters can be found on the CCS Alumni Webpage
www.conestogachristian.net/alumni.

CCS Is Starting an Alumni Committee

If you are interested in meeting one or two times a year to help brainstorm and help alumni connect with each other, please contact Jack Greenly at jack.greenly@conestogachristian.com or Heather Schreier at heather.schreier@conestogachristian.net for more information.

Interested in holding a class reunion but would like support? We are happy to help. Contact Jack or Heather (emails above).

DO YOU HAVE NEWS? NEED TO UPDATE YOUR EMAIL OR MAILING ADDRESS?

CONTACT JACK GREENLY AT JACK.GREENLY@CONESTOGACHRISTIAN.NET

OR AT WWW.CONESTOGACHRISTIAN.NET/ALUMNI

Save the Date

Monday, April 26, 2021

Event Check-in 7am

Golf Begins at 8am

Golf, Golf Cart, Lunch and an Advantage Bag for each Team included.

Watch the website for more information or contact ken.parris@conestogachristian.net



HONEYBROOK
GOLF CLUB

Honey Brook Golf Club
1422 Cambridge Road
Honey Brook, PA 19344

CCS Performing Arts Presents ...

A MUSICAL REVUE

MAY 13-14

COME SEE MUSIC PERFORMED
FROM THE MUSICALS WE ALL
KNOW AND LOVE!

