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Dear parents,

In my last email I mentioned that we are already preparing for next year. This time I want to focus more on what is happening in the now and immediate future. Even though we are looking ahead to next year things are still happening in the present.

February is a busy time for reporting to parents about student achievement and progress at school. Secondary students received their report cards last week. We would like to offer our congratulations to the SC students who made the Principal's List or Honor Roll.

Our Grade five class had an excellent trip to the parliament buildings in Victoria and Missions Fest in Vancouver at the end of January. It was a real joy for me to attend the most recent EC chapel and listen to the students share how Missions Fest had impacted them. It was clear to me that God is working in their young hearts. We are blessed to be able to give our students opportunities like that. At the SC campus our grade 9 students and a small group of grade 12 students are working hard to complete preparations for their respective mission trips to Mexico and Belize. If you are able they would appreciate your support for their up coming fundraising events. Watch for them on our website. Above all we earnestly ask that you would continue to pray for the students, parents, and teachers who will be participating in these life-changing trips.

The above activities show that VCS has a strong commitment to service whether it is in our school, in our community, or in our world. I firmly believe that by following through on this commitment we are helping our students learn to acknowledge that every person on earth is made in the image and likeness of God and that they must love and respect everyone for that reason; not just those who think, look or act as we do. Even those who do not acknowledge God, as the author and master of their lives, are still deeply loved by him. I recently saw a church marquee that expressed this very succinctly "God loves you, whether you like it or not". I believe we have to give our students opportunities to show that same kind of love. That is why service to our fellow humans is such an important component of the education program at Vernon Christian School.

Scripture is very clear that service to others, in God's name, is not simply a "nice idea", it is a requirement.

*And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8*

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. James 1:27

Before I sign off I want to leave you with a few more reminders.

In my last letter I mentioned that I would appreciate any feed back from you about anything related to the school. I appreciated that one parent took the time to tell me why VCS was important to her and her children. I would enjoy hearing from more of you on this topic. Drop me a line or two, a paragraph or even that essay you have been working on for the last few months. I would be grateful for your thoughts.

I want to remind every one that we are accepting new Kindergarten enrollments for next year. This includes applications from both existing parents and those new to Vernon Christian School. If you have friends, family or neighbours who have expressed interest in registering their children in Kindergarten or any other grade at VCS please encourage them to give me a call.

You will remember that in early January we told you that Kathy Herbert had been hired as our new Development Administrator. Well, Kathy has been on the job now for more than a month and is getting to know our school better each day. She is looking forward to meeting more of you in the near future. Kathy is usually at school a couple of days each week. If you want to call and say hi, you are more than welcome to do so, Kathy would love to hear from you.

Larry