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Dear parents,

We are just a little over one week away from spring break. I have to be honest here and tell you that it feels to me, at times, as though we just got back from our Christmas break. Time flies when you are having fun I guess. There are still a few events to remind you of before the break next week though. This evening, for example, promises to be a busy one at the SC campus. At 6:00 p.m. our grade 9 students begin their journey to Mexico for our annual mission trip and at 7:00 p.m. we are hosting a high potential learners workshop that is open to parents from either campus. If you are interested in attending the workshop, please let the EC or SC office know.

There is a parent lounge scheduled for 8:45 on Wednesday, March 11 in the EC staff room to which you are all invited. It is a time to have a coffee and share with administration any of your joys, concerns and visions for the future. It would be great to see a number of you in attendance. Next week our high school mission team leaves for Belize. Mrs. Amanda Krebs is taking 3 grade 12 students, 2 girls and 1 boy to the city of Corozal located close to the Mexican border. They will be teaming up with a larger group, made up of University students, doctors and nurses. They will among other things, be involved in teaching VBS and doing minor renovations to homes in Corozal. Our team leaves for Belize on March 13th and returns on the 23rd, giving up 10 days of their spring break for the trip. EC report cards are being issued on Friday, March 13th, just in time for spring break. And lastly, please remember that re-enrollment forms are due this Friday, March 6th. If you have any questions call the school.

In my last letter to you I spoke of how I had been blessed while attending the EC chapel where the grade 5 students shared about their trip to Mission Fest in Vancouver. Yesterday morning I was privileged to be at the SC chapel where the grade 7 – 12 students, staff and parents commissioned the grade nine classes for their Mexico mission trip. It was wonderful to see how excited our entire student body was to be a part of the time of celebration and prayer. The grade ten students, who went to Mexico last year, were excited to be in charge of the chapel and they did a great job of encouraging this year's team and preparing them for the adventure that awaits them. At the same time you could sense that they would love to be going again. You could also feel from the students a sense of pride and joy in the fact that students from our school have the opportunity to serve in this way. What touched my heart the most was listening to the grade 10 students tell the mission team that they were not simply doing this for themselves but that they were doing it for Jesus. I immediately thought of Colossians 3:23 where Paul reminds us that "in whatever we do we should work at it with all of our hearts as though we were doing it for the Lord and not for men". The grade ten students also pointed out that the trip wasn't happening because of all the work that the grade nine students had done, and

they have done a lot. The trip was happening, first and foremost, because it is God who wants to and will make it happen.

I want to leave you with the scripture verse the grade nine class chose for their mission trip to Mexico, it comes from 1Chron 16:24 “ Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.” That’s why we go to Mexico and that is why Vernon Christian School exists in the first place.

Larry Simpson