

Parent Update

HELLO PARENTS

This is the last Parent Update of the season, and with it we will be giving a review of the past year, a look ahead at the future of our ministries, and give you some questions for thought & feedback.

We hope you have enjoyed the regular communication through this newsletter, and look forward to continuing it next year.

Susan Enns, Kevin Wiens,
Jr. High Pastor Sr. High Pastor



May/June Stats

Grove Youth Stats

2: youth leader couples getting married this summer (1 from Jr. High, 1 from Sr. High)

3: youth baptized on June 21

10: acts performed in the Jr. High talent night

11: grads on I-40 Graduation Retreat (out of 21 total Grads)

Highlights from this year's Sr. High Ministry:

Healthy Transformation

Our church is all about "transformation in Jesus Christ." This year I saw an amazing transformation in many youth, however, one girl stuck out. At the start of the year this girl was not doing very well. She always seemed sad, scared, and discouraged. I don't think she had many good friends. At the Fall Retreat, during the "solo-time," I talked to her and saw that this girl had some deep questions of faith and life. I'm still not sure where this girl is at in her relationship with Christ, but she looks and sounds like something has changed. Her small group leader told me that she has taken a leadership role by challenging the group to talk seriously about God and their faith. She isn't alone anymore, she sees her small group as a supportive caring group of friends that she didn't have in the beginning of the year.

Good Transitions

This past year we had an amazing Grade 9 group. In previous years we have seen our Grade 9's slowly decline in numbers as they get more involved in High School. However, this year we retained almost all of our Grade 9's and we even saw many of them bring their friends. The small group leaders did an awesome job of compassionately caring for the Grade 9's.

Promoting Evangelism

The Billy Graham Association's Epicentre was a great initiative to encourage youth to learn about and live out evangelism. Approximately 475 people responded to Will Grahams message at the Ignition event on May 9.

A big thank-you to all our leaders for their serving hearts this year.

JR HIGH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Katarina Braybrook
 Tyrel Braun
 Stephanie Chernoff
 Chris Enns
 Maja Froese
 Chrissy Foth
 Logan Foth
 Jon Friesen
 Jocelyn Golding
 Carson Heagy
 Caitlin Jantzen
 Craig Siemens
 Curtis Strauss
 Alexis Tindall

SR. HIGH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Levi Adams
 James Cardinal
 Lisa Cardinal
 Heather Ens
 Derek Funk
 Silas Godard
 Krista Goetz
 Chelsea Morson
 Mike Morson
 Dori Neufeld
 Rob Neufeld
 Kendra Spiers
 Chandra Styles
 Kirk Styles
 Luanne Wiens
 Kiley Zdunich

Highlights from this year's Jr. High Ministry:

Greater Connections

The introduction of regular small groups (called Dive Groups) this year, created many opportunities for leaders and Jr. Highs to connect on a deeper level. Where previous years Jr. Highs were easily lost in the crowd, this year's small group focus helped many youth to feel part of the group and gave many leaders a natural connecting point from which to build.

Outward Focus

There was also a new initiative to bring an outward focus to several of our events this year (called Dive Out). I was so proud of our Jr. High's response to several of these outward looking opportunities. Throughout October - December, each Dive group raised money for a gift for a needy family, from World Vision's Gift Catalogue. An overwhelming \$1030 was raised by our Jr. Highs, providing gifts of hens, roosters, goats, bunnies, seeds, medical supplies, and more!

Another hands on opportunity came over the February break, with an afternoon of Random Acts of Senseless Kindness. The group I served with went downtown to buy coffee and food for several homeless people on the street. The impact from this experience gave our whole group new eyes for the poor and downtrodden of our society. There was excitement for doing more to show the love of Christ to others.

Prayers Answered

As I planned for this year, I began praying for the 15 leaders needed to make the change to regular small groups possible. In September, I had 8 leaders, and started the year a bit disappointed that God had not provided. But as the year went by, more and more leaders began to join our team. One Friday Night in January, I suddenly felt overwhelmed as I looked around the room at 15 leaders, realizing that God had answered my prayer in his timing, providing me with an amazing leadership team that was willing to serve!



PARENT RESOURCES

Tips for setting computer limits:

<http://tinyurl.com/mqehsv>

Involved Dad's Lower Their Kid's Sex Risks:

<http://tinyurl.com/lobhje>

PARENT ADVISORY TEAM

This group of parents meet with Susan & Kevin to give regular feedback and advice from a parent's perspective. They are willing to listen to any concerns you might have and bring them to Susan or Kevin's attention.

The group consists of:

Brian and Marlynn Heagy - bmheagy@shaw.ca

Steve & Cindy Braun - scbraun@sasktel.net

Murray & Val Martens - valmart2@shaw.ca

Larry and Shiela Neudorf - sneudorf@yourlink.ca

Bill and Linda Iwabuchi - biwabuchi@sasktel.net

SUMMER & FALL DATES TO REMEMBER

Check www.groveyouth.com for details

Sr. High

June 16 – Frisbee Golf and Study (FGCC)

June 30 – Wet and Wild (FGCC)

July 14 – BBQ by the River (Bandshell)

July 28 – Kevin's backyard party (611 Kellough Rd.)

August 11 – Forestry Farm

Aug ?? – Pool Party (Location & Date TBA)

Sept 15 – Sr. High Kickoff

Sept 25-27 – Fall Retreat at Redberry

Jr. High

June 16 – Frisbee Golf

June 30 – Wet and Wild

July 21 - Sue's Backyard Party (1502 Ave. C N)

August 11 – Forestry Farm (meet at FGCC)

Aug ?? – Pool Party (Location & Date TBA)

Sept 18? – Jr. High Kickoff

LOOKING AHEAD

SR. HIGH

Leadership Involvements

I am very excited to be mentoring Levi Adams as he serves the youth through his internship this next year. Levi is in his 4th year at Bethany College. He will be a great addition to the FGCC staff.

I am also looking forward to serving on the leadership executive for SEYWA (Saskatoon Evangelical Youth Workers Association) this next year. SEYWA is the Youth Pastors ministerial in Saskatoon. It is a great group that builds unity among the churches.

Wired In (Tuesday Night)

Wired In will remain our main weekly program for youth. Our focus will continue to be "leading Sr. High youth to make godly choices." Our primary way to achieve this will be by providing a community for youth to explore and deepen their faith in God. Small Group nights will continue to be a key component of our weekly program.

Outlet (Sunday Morning)

I was very thankful to have a group of parents involved this past year. They provided amazing light breakfasts for the students which helped maintain a consistent weekly group. We discussed Evangelism (Pray, Live, Share) for most of the year. The last 6 weeks we hosted an intergenerational study about "spiritual disciplines". We are still discussing what our focus will be for next year.

Questions for your Feedback

1. I would love to see our church intentionally disciple each other better across generations. This past year I tried a couple times to have youth come to the church on Thursday afternoons (from 2-4) to play games with the seniors after their lunch. Should I keep trying this or pursue other options to connect the generations?
2. I am finding that more and more kids identify with their small groups than in the large group. I continually want to develop and release small group leaders to be "small 'p' pastors" to their small groups. I want to multiply the influence our leaders have in the lives of our youth by releasing them to make more decisions regarding their small group. How much involvement do you expect me to have directly with your youth? How much supervision do you expect me to have of your youth's small group? How much do you trust your youth's Small Group leader with their spiritual formation?

Send your answers to kevin@forestgrovecc.com

JR. HIGH

New Leadership

As most of you have heard, I will be stepping down as the Jr. High Pastor this summer. This was a difficult decision to make, as I have thoroughly enjoyed serving in this ministry for the past 8 years.

Family Ministries Pastor, Abe Klassen, will be leading our church in a search for a new Jr. High Pastor. The current plan is to place an interim pastor in the position until January, to give time to evaluate and review all options before a suitable candidate will be given the position.

Fusion (Friday Nights)

It will be my recommendation to the new pastor to continue this monthly activity-driven program on a regular basis for the Jr. Highs. Friday evenings is a good night for this type of event, and I feel the social benefits of it are well worth it.

Dive (currently Friday Nights)

Dive is our almost weekly discipleship-focused program, which includes our Jr. High small groups. I am torn between the social benefits of holding this on Friday Nights and the consistency benefits of holding it mid-week. Throughout this year I have engaged in several discussions with other youth pastors throughout the city that are changing their Friday Night programs to mid-week. The common issue is the lack of consistency that comes from regular interruptions such as long-weekends, city-wide youth events, and individual holidays, tournaments, birthday parties, etc. With consistency being so important for small group ministry, I will be informing the new Jr. High pastor about the pros and cons of holding this ministry on a Friday Night.

Questions for your Feedback

1. How has the addition of regular small groups on Friday Nights affected your child?
2. Would moving Dive to a mid-week program affect the consistency with which your child could attend? (Would your child be willing to sacrifice other activities in order to attend Dive regularly?)
3. This year I opted out of most Friday Night city-wide youth events, in favor of continuing our regular program at FGCC. What are your thoughts on this decision? Would you like to see more city-wide events promoted with our Jr. Highs?

Send your answers to susan@forestgrovecc.com