

## CELEBRATION!

### The Celebration Has Begun...

**CCS** has officially begun its yearlong celebration of 30 years in ministry. Thanks to the creative work of the 30th Year Decoration Committee, students, parents, and employees were greeted at Open House and on the first day of school with "Welcome Back" posters, "Happy 30th Birthday, CCS" signs, colorful balloons, and a huge wooden "30"! It was truly a fun atmosphere to start the new year!

Just a few days later, school families, friends, board members, faculty, and staff gathered together to kick off the new year at the traditional Blue & White Night Back-to-School Event. Over 450 people gathered in the gym to fellowship, pray, learn valuable '07-'08 school year information, and partake of the 30-foot long cookie cake baked and decorated by CCS volunteers. (Great job, volunteers! The cookie cake was both delicious and festive!)

To help us begin the celebration, two special people served as our "official" cookie cutters—Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Van Beek (below). Jerry was on the original planning committee that started our school. In 1974, he and several other members of Cypress Bible Church formed a group to discuss the possibility of starting a Christian school in this area. After several years of



### Happy 30th Anniversary, Cypress Christian!

Looking at the history of CCS, it is evident the founders of our school were motivated by a high calling. From reading board minutes, the constitution, by-laws, and policies, it is obvious that the men and women who founded CCS were operating out of conviction, not convenience, and viewed private Christian education as a commitment, not a commodity. They knew it would take a great investment of time and resources for the school to thrive. These founders loved children and understood the biblical mandate of giving Christian parents sole responsibility for their children's education. They also understood that the investment of these parents would be returned many times over in the lives of their children, who would benefit from a distinctly biblical worldview unavailable in the public schools.

It is not an easy road to travel when entering into a long term relationship with private Christian education. It takes courage, perseverance, and faith. With the world measuring success according to the accumulation of power, prestige, and property, as Christians we are called to measure success according to God's standards of humility and service. It is difficult at times to hold fast to the promise of Matthew 6:33, which states "seek first His kingdom and righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Yet, for the last thirty years, Christian parents at CCS have sacrificed financially to have their children in a Christian learning environment.

Now, as the school is poised to enter its next thirty years, it will continue to develop students from Christian families to be "academically prepared with a Biblical worldview to take their place in the world as servants of Jesus Christ." Like our predecessors, it will take focused perseverance, along with sacrifice, for families, faculty, administration, school board, and students to complete this task. God has accomplished great things at CCS in the last thirty years, in spite of our human stumbling and bumbling. I anticipate He will continue during the next thirty years to accomplish even greater things despite similar failings on our part. Our calling is to live out Matthew 6:33 with pure hearts and motives, as we trust and obey, repent and seek forgiveness when needed. He then will give us the desires of our hearts.

God bless the men and women who had the vision to start CCS. God bless those who fought the many battles over the years. God bless those who continue to carry the flame of hope for a truly distinctly Christian school at CCS. I believe that Cypress Christian is uniquely positioned to become a great Christian school—one that will impact the culture and God's Kingdom. Without question, the best is yet to come! And to God be the glory!



research and planning, Cypress Community Christian School (now called Cypress Christian School) became a reality. We want to say thank you to Mr. Van Beek and the other members of the planning committee for their commitment to Christian education and their efforts to make our school a reality.

The Van Beeks have two grandchildren that have attended Cypress Christian School over the last 14 years—Jessica Van Rieg, who attended CCS from Kindergarten through 12th grade and graduated in 2006, and Michelle Van Rieg, who is a senior this year.

We greatly appreciate their support of Christian education throughout the years and are pleased they could join us at Blue & White Night. We hope that other founding members will be able to join us at future 30th Year Anniversary Events!

Also, we extend special thanks to Dr. Fleming, Senior Pastor of Champion Forest Baptist Church, for leading Blue & White Night guests in a special prayer of dedication for the 2007-2008 school year! We are thankful to partner with area churches in "Kingdom Education."