

THE COMMUNICATOR

SIGNS OF Christmas

BY JILL VANDERWIER
BOARD MEMBER

this year is snow. This verse in particular:

*Purify me from my sins,
and I will be clean;
wash me and I will be
whiter than snow.*

PSALM 51:7

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

I love everything Christmas, but especially Christmas carols. We had that early snowfall in November and I couldn't help but listen to Christmas music that day because the snow just made me feel festive. I love how the carols are part of so many memories and traditions because they have been sung for so many years. So many remind me of Christmases as a child because every time my dad came in from the barn, he would be singing a line from another Christmas carol.

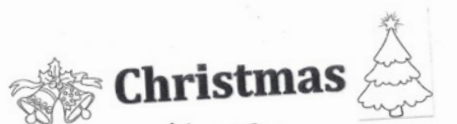
I'm dreaming of a white Christmas!

Since that early snowfall, we have been enjoying a bout of mild weather and have not seen too much of the white stuff. Festivities are beginning, with Christmas parades and parties happening every weekend. At this point I would welcome a little snow, to boost my festive Christmas spirit!

Even though while writing this we have none, my reminder of Jesus' birth and why He came to earth

The reason we have Christmas is because Jesus chose to come to earth as a baby. He wanted us to have a way to God and a way to the forgiveness and grace that gets us to heaven. He came to save us and to cleanse us from our sin. In the words of the song "What a Beautiful Name It Is" by Hillsong: "You didn't want heaven without us, so Jesus you brought heaven down. My sin was great, your love was greater."

When we see the snowflakes fall and cover everything in a blanket of white, we can remember that Jesus has covered us with forgiveness because of his sacrifice. Maybe during a snowstorm, we can think of it as a blizzard of grace Jesus has sent from heaven! May we all see snow as a blessing from Jesus this Christmas!



Christmas

By: Alyssa

Looks like Cold Days

Feels like Cold

Smells like Food

Tastes like Candy Canes

Sounds like bells




Listowel
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Jesus is the *light* of our Christmas, the *joy* of our hearts, the *hope* of our world.

The Christmas poetry featured in this issue has been submitted by the Grade 1 students.



Christmas

By: Lydia

Looks like red

Feels like happy

Smells like Candy cane

Tastes like ginger breadman

Sounds like bells

IT'S A TWO-WAY STREET

As we begin to focus on Christmas, we reflect on the impact that a little baby named Jesus has on our lives. A little baby, God among us, growing up and interacting with people wherever he went. A little baby, a young child, changing this world. When I think about Mary and Joseph, and probably some of Jesus' friends, I am sure that they also had an impact on him. Can you imagine? Being around Jesus and making a difference in his life? Could it have been a two-way street?

Every morning when I wake up, on my drive to school, and as I prepare for my classes, I am confronted with the opportunity I have to make an impact in the lives of children. Whether it be an interaction on the playground or in the hallway or through my teaching, I will interact with many students throughout a school day. Like it or not, my interactions will have an impact – positively or negatively. So, every morning I pray for God's guidance and for

his grace. I pray that God will use me to serve Him and His children.

I also recognize the blessing that every child impacts my life. Since my early days of teaching I have been blessed by many students. I recall intense conversations with teenage students on life experiences that impacted my life and my role as a parent. I recall conversations with students about faith and sports, about chores and responsibilities and each time I try to become a better person because of what I learn from students. It is a two-way street.

Kevin Katerberg was one of those students who had a significant impact on my life. Unfortunately, on July 1, 2015, Kevin passed away just two weeks after he graduated from LCS. Kevin was a hard worker, a passionate person, a leader, and a sports enthusiast. I have a picture of Kevin in my dining room at home, in my office, and now I can see a trophy case and this beautiful memory of Kevin from where I sit. I think a lot about Kevin and I am hopeful that I may have had as much an impact on his life as he had on my life. I pray that it was a two-way street.

God sent his son Jesus to this earth to change the course of history. God desired a renewed relationship with us, a two-way street. Now, as we go out into our world with a Christmas spirit, let's develop two-way relationships, impacting each other in positive ways and allowing them to influence us.

Note: Kevin impacted a lot of people. The trophy cabinet in the lobby is dedicated in his name. The plaque pictured here is a new addition to the cabinet.



Christmas

By: Emilie

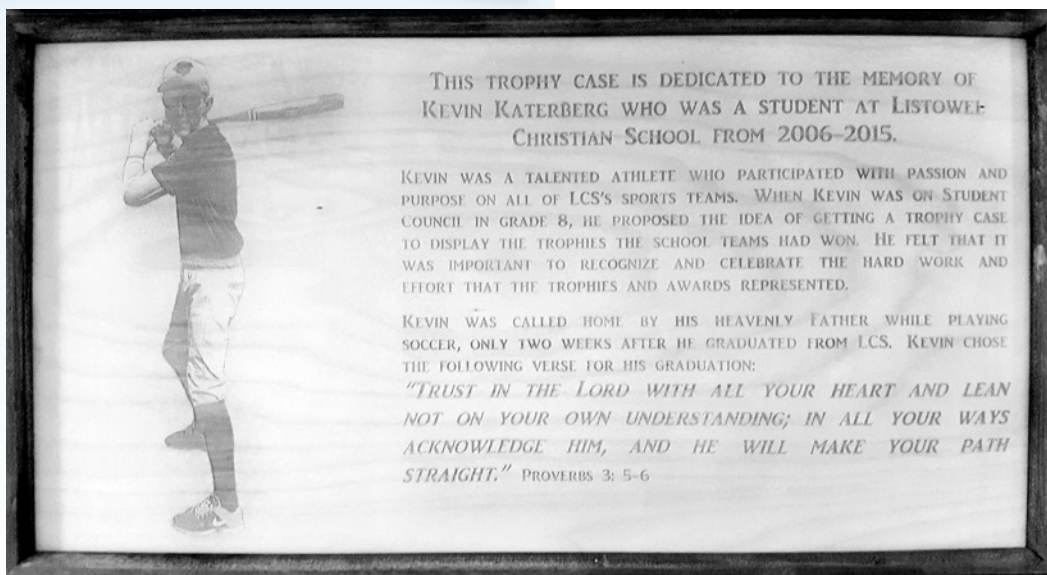
Looks like snow

Feels like cold

Smells like sugar

Tastes like candy

Sounds like bells





INTRODUCING THE *Norris Family*

Nate, Dianne, Nadine & Derek Norris come to LCS from Fordwich! They are so happy to be a part of LCS. Christian education has always been a part of their lives and they are very thankful their kids are able to be part of the Christian education system. They have never questioned their choice of LCS as a place for their children – they love the community at LCS.

Nate grew up outside of Harriston and met Dianne through Andy & Edith Thalen, his employers! Nate enjoys his work at Thalen Enterprises, being a cadet counselor, working on cars, and being with his family. Dianne also loves family time, reading, baking, cross

stitching, and her work as a nurse at Listowel Memorial Hospital.

Nate and Dianne have two wonderful children: Nadine & Derek. Nadine loves Mrs. Heida and really enjoys the JK class. Nadine is a social butterfly! She loves to talk, play house with her brother, ride her bike, and use her imagination! Her younger brother Derek is 2.5 years old. He loves tractors, animals, books, and playing outside.

We welcome Nate, Dianne, Nadine and Derek into the LCS community. We pray that LCS will continue to be a blessing to your family and that you will also be a blessing to us.



Christmas

By: James

Looks like Red

Feels like Happy

Smells like candy (the)

Tastes like ginger bread

Sounds like bells



Christmas

By: Jacob

Looks like Red and Green

Feels like Cold

Smells like Christmas cookies

Tastes like Candy

Sounds like bells



Christmas

By: Sophie

Looks like lights.

Feels like good.

Smells like cookies.

Tastes like ginger.

Sounds like songs.



Christmas

By: Megan

Looks like Snowy

Feels like fun

Smells like chocolate

Tastes like hot chocolate

Sounds like jingle bells



Christmas

By: Zander

Looks like bright colours

Feels like Happy

Smells like Sugar

Tastes like Candy Cakes

Sounds like joy



Christmas

By: Reid

Looks like green

Feels like happy

Smells like cookies

Tastes like gingerbreadman

Sounds like music

BOARD REPORT



The last six months have been a whirlwind for the Board. With the purchase of the new building, initiating the Forward in Faith campaign and rewriting our constitution, we have had many meetings with lots of email conversations between them. We are extremely thankful for the work of the Board members in accomplishing the tasks over the last eight months.

Last month we had our Fall membership meeting. With a good turnout, we celebrated the work of the school community and the dedication by our members with their time, talents and treasures. There were presentations by staff highlighting their teaching practices, by Joel Dykstra reviewing the financial statements, by Mike Koetsier updating the building project, by Ed Boelens updating us on the capital campaign, and by Andrea Bootsma to approve the new constitution. There has been a lot of work accomplished by a lot of

people and we recognize that we are blessed by each person's work!

The Board has returned to a more normal meeting schedule and agenda. The Building Committee is ably managing the renovation project of the new school building and reporting to the Board frequently. The next item on our agenda is to address a recommendation for potential changes to our Kindergarten program. We will continue to oversee the Strategic Plan, the building renovations, and the daily operations of the school.

We ask for your continual prayers for the Board as we continue to seek God's direction for the school and follow Him.

ON BEHALF OF
THE LCS BOARD,
CHRISTINA BENJAMINS.
BOARD SECRETARY



Listowel Christian School becomes the official owner of 305 Binning St. W. Mayor Julie Behrns passes the key to Andrea Bootsma. The Grade 7 class joins the celebration.

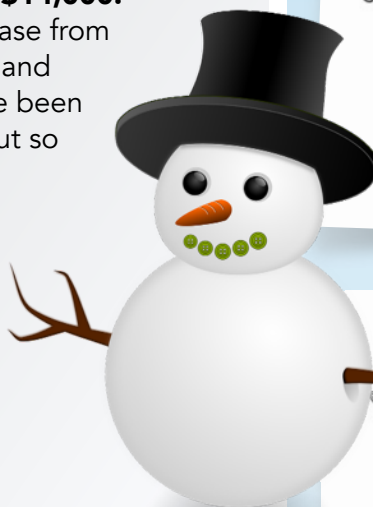


a day at the BAZAAR

Thank you once again to everyone who helped and attend the Bazaar. We are thankful to report a profit of approximately **\$14,000**. This is an increase from previous years and would not have been possible without so many of you.

*Thank
You!*

THE BAZAAR
COMMITTEE



Christmas

By: Michqela.

Looks like Snow

Feels like Excited

Smells like Christmas tree

Tastes like Cookies

Sounds like Christmas music



Christmas

By: Jerry

Looks like crismis lits

Feels like happiness

Smells like crismistrees

Tastes like cookies

Sounds like belLS



Christmas

By: Bentley

Looks like LollipopS

Feels like happy

Smells like crunchy

Tastes like candy Canes

Sounds like santa



INTRODUCING THE *Burgsma Family*

Robin and Michelle live 15 minutes west of Listowel. They have a broiler chicken farm and a big old farm house which they are enjoying immensely. Robin grew up in Goderich, where he learned many carpentry skills from his contractor father. Michelle grew up near Palmerston on a dairy farm and later a broiler farm. After marriage, they lived in Kitchener for 5 years before making the move to country life here. They have 2 children; Jadon is 4 and is in JK and Colin is 2. Jadon absolutely loves everything related to school. In fact, he gets quite upset when he gets picked up at school because he loves the bus rides so much! Jadon enjoys colouring and crafts and is always up for any activity where there are other kids around. Colin mostly just follows Jadon's lead but really seems to enjoy himself when Jadon is at school as well.

Michelle is a registered nurse and works part time as a discharge

planner in Huron and Perth hospitals setting up home care services for people. She also works occasionally as a nurse at Wingham and District Hospital. Robin works full time at CSN Listowel Collision as an autobody repair man. Robin and Michelle attend Bethel CRC in Listowel. There, Robin serves as a cadet counsellor where he passes on his "jack of all trades" skills to the boys. Michelle serves as a Sunday school teacher and is on another committee there as well.

Michelle enjoys dabbling in some crafting projects on her days off. Robin likes to spend his spare time dreaming about buying an old car to fix up. He often becomes busy at home with the ever lengthening to do list that a farm and an old house brings. Despite the to do lists, there is always time made to have fun at home with the kids.

We always knew that we wanted to send our children to a Christian

school. We both attended Christian schools ourselves (Robin in Clinton and Michelle at LCS) and we both had very positive experiences with Christian Education. We value having our children learn about life and the world from a Christian perspective. We can see that Jadon is a sponge when it comes to information and he is learning so much everyday. Due to this, we know how lucky we are that everything he learns has aspects of God's word and faith woven into it. We are very happy with our experience with LCS so far. We had high expectations and the school has met them and exceeded them. We have been made to feel very welcome and at home by the staff and other parents and are fully expecting our involvement with the school to naturally increase. We cannot help but be happy with LCS when we see how much Jadon enjoys it so far!



LCS in ACTION

Our girls' volleyball team was coached by Mr. Meinen and Mrs. Claus. After weeks of practice, a skills clinic at Woodland, and several injuries the girls traveled to Dundas to compete in their tournament. With great spirit, determination, and encouragement... the girls had fun!

Our boys' team was coached by Mr. Katerberg. Despite the commitment to practices, only six students traveled to Burlington and were able to play. They played hard, won a few games and... had plenty of fun.



By: Cohen

Looks like Snow

Feels like Happy

Smells like Gingerbread

Tastes like chocolit

Sounds like christmas music



By: Jordan

Looks like snow.

Feels like excited

Smells like gingerbred

Tastes like chocolit

Sounds like music



Every year we have guests in our Grade 1 and 2-3 classrooms. Candy and Snowy show up as our resident students. They behave nicely during the day but during the night they are mischievous pals. Here they are resting in a marshmallow bath at the end of a day. One day the students entered school to see a "shoe-shoe train" created by Candy and Snowy. Every day is a new surprise!

CANDY & SNOWY



By: Alexa

Looks like Snow.

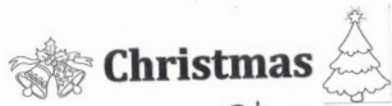
Feels like fun.

Smells like Pine Trees.

Tastes like cookies.

Sounds like Bells.





Christmas

By: A N Drew

Looks like PRESENTS

Feels like cold

Smells like CANDY CANES

Tastes like GINGER BREADMAN

Sounds like MUSIC

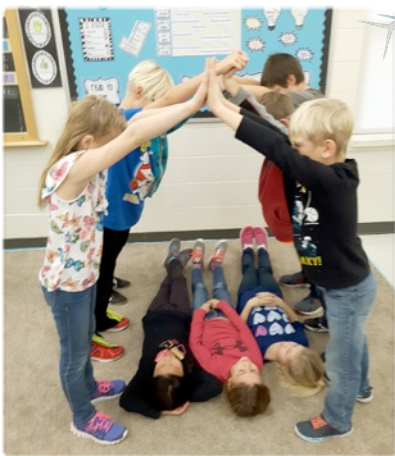
MISSION + VISION

LCS is a growing elementary school through excellence in Christian education in a nurturing environment supported by a diverse Christian community.

Our vision is that the vibrant community of Listowel Christian School will expand its relationships with the broader community through engaging our students in educational endeavours which puts their faith into action.

LIFE MAPS

The Grade 7-8 class created life maps, highlighting key events in their lives, to recognize how God has taken care of them. Some were drawn on paper, some were made with cake, some used toys – their creativity had no limits.



HUMAN SHAPES

As part of our implementation of responsive classroom, morning greetings are a way to welcome students to school and ensure that every student is greeted and engaged in the activities. There are many different greetings but here is one called Human shapes: triangular prisms and square pyramids.



Listowel
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec. 19** Christmas Program, 1 & 7pm
- Dec. 22** Skating at Steve Kerr Memorial Complex
- Dec. 25 - Jan. 5** Christmas Break
- Jan. 8, 2018** First day back in the new year
- Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31** Skating at Steve Kerr Memorial Complex
- Jan. 25** Hockey tournament
- Jan. 26** PD Day – No school
- Feb. 5-8** Grade 7-8 Ottawa trip
- Feb. 16** PD Day – No school
- Feb. 19** Family Day – No school
- Mar. 12-16** March Break
- Mar. 23** LCS Spring Auction