

THE COMMUNICATOR

Sharing THE STORY

BY ARNOLD BOSMAN
BOARD MEMBER

The criteria given me for this article was to cover love and family. Considering that it's February and that Valentine's day is right around the corner, on the surface that may seem like an obvious choice.

But let's go a little deeper than the superficial and explore what Christian love is really about.

"Love each other as I have loved you."

The theme at LCS for this year is John 15:12 where it says, "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." That seems clear enough; we are to love each other as Jesus loves us. But in the next verse Jesus says that Christians are to exemplify the sacrifice He gave for us that we are willing to lay down our lives for each other. That's a little tougher isn't it? In verse 14 Jesus calls us His friends. He was willing to lay down His life for us, His friends.

That's the most incredible love ever given and it's a story that

we need to share. We need share the love of Jesus with everyone we meet. That's not so easy either. It's easy to love those who love us, but what about those people who are hard to love? Again, we look to the example that Jesus gave us. He didn't love us because we were so good. Rather He loved us when we didn't love Him.

This "story" is part of what LCS is all about. It's a part of sharing the story of God's love to the next generation and to teach to our children that it's part of everything we do and that it affects all our decisions in life. This love is shown by and between grandparents, parents, teachers and students of LCS as well as so many others who support LCS in many ways.

Together we are the family of God. He has loved us so much and has given everything. Because He loves us we can love, not only those who love us back but those who are tough to love.



Let all that you do be done in love. 1 CORINTHIANS 16:14



EXTENDED FAMILY

I find family relationships very interesting. I observed my own family relationships change over time: from my relationship as a son to my parents, to my relationship as a husband and eventually a father to our own young children, to my relationships with our now adult children. My own role has changed within each of those relationships as have the roles of those I am in relationship with. We have all grown and developed with the help and support of each other. What remains the same is that we are family: we love and care for each other and we belong to one another. Living within a family is a beautiful thing.

also been called a close family. I have observed these ties when there are opportunities to either celebrate with each other or carry burdens for one another. The struggles of health and death enable relationships to grow and develop through support and care. Times of celebration are also opportunities for ties to be strengthened. Just recently we had a volunteer work day at our new school building. It was wonderful to see our family get together to work on a shared project. From the young to the "not so young", the family was well represented. It was a beautiful thing.



God created us as social beings to live in community. These relationships take hard work. They take commitment, communication, shared ideas, compromise, forgiveness and creativity but the reward is beautiful. I envision the LCS family working toward this extended family as described in Acts 2 as the fellowship of believers. Here are some excerpts of that passage: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved".

On Friday February 16 our staff will be going to Hamilton for our professional development day with other regional Christian schools. Part of our topic will be to help create places in our schools and in our classrooms where students feel at home, where they feel loved and cared for and where they feel they belong. Creating that sense of belonging is to engage students into the relationship of education and learning. We will be looking at ways that students can be active members of the classroom family.

Family, extended family, school family, Christian family: the communion of the saints. What a beautiful thing!



Of course, our family extends to our Christian brothers and sisters. The LCS community has

BOARD REPORT

CHRISTINA BENJAMINS
BOARD SECRETARY



It's 2018! This promises to be a memorable year for Listowel Christian School and its Board. We have several exciting changes happening. This year we plan, Lord willing, to move to our new facility at the former Central Public School on Binning Street in Listowel. Plans continue to be fine tuned and a few volunteer work days have already happened. We have hired a Project Manager. We hosted a Dedication Service at the Binning Street location which was a wonderful time of prayer and worship, reminding us that God has always been our fortress and He continues to lead us forward in faith, step by step.

We continue to strive towards excellence in Christian education and one of our tools is our Strategic Plan process. It identified our JK/SK program as an area of focus. After much research by the Education Committee, including a community survey, we as Board adopted their

recommendations. Starting in 2018, our JK students will have an optional third day, and our SK students will go from 3 to 4 school days with an option for a fifth day. This gives us flexibility to meet different families' needs. Our new facility has space for separate JK and SK rooms so we will be able to accommodate this new program.

Additionally in 2018 we plan to introduce the "Welcome to Christian Education Fund". This was part of our capital campaign giving. The fund focuses on incentives for new families, to encourage families to try Christian education. Watch for details in a future issue of the Communicator or call the office for more information.

It's the season for new Board members as well, and we

welcome your nominations. We have two Board members finishing their terms this spring, and will be voting on the nominations at our Spring Membership Meeting.

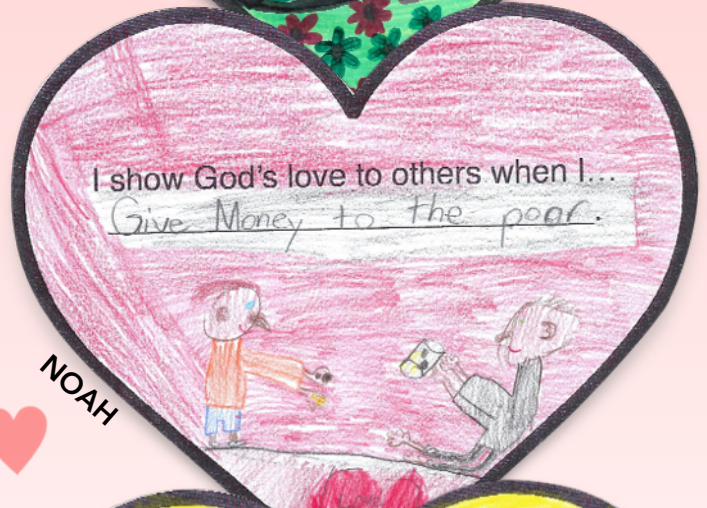
We covet your prayers as we make progress on these changes. The support of our members and community is a great blessing to the Board. We extend our deep condolences to the Versteeg family with the loss of Art, who was a dedicated long term member and supporter of Listowel Christian School. Please pray for comfort for his wife, Louise, and their children.



GRADE ONE

Miss. Kikkert served her Coop placement in the Grade 1 classroom at LCS. The students appreciated her and miss her already.





I show God's love to others when I...
Respect my teacher even when no one else does

CHARIS

I show God's love to others when I...
Am being a good friend

TYLER

I show God's love to others when I...
Help them learn how to skate

LEXIE

I show God's love to others when I...
Help my friends when they are hurt

HENK

I show God's love to others when I...
Am kind And respect others

CELINE

I show God's love to others when I...
Don't exclude

CLAIRE

I show God's love to others when I...
Am a good friend

KALEB

I show God's love to others when I...
Help Others

COLE

funDRAISING @ LCS



Spring AUCTION

FRIDAY MARCH 23, 2018

6:00 pm - Dinner & Silent Auction Begins

7:30 pm - Live Auction Begins

Come on out, savour the **Food**,
enjoy the **Fellowship** and join in the **Bidding!**

We look forward to seeing you
at the Spring Auction!

ANNUAL *golf tournament*



SATURDAY JUNE 9, 2018

at **Pike Lake Golf Centre**

More info coming soon!!

FundScrip *gift card* ORDER

Register at www.fundscrip.com

We've got so many participating retailers
that you will easily find one or several
you can use for daily expenses and for
those special occasions.

If you would like a paper order form or
would like to know more, please email
giftcardprogramlcs@gmail.com
or call Janel Hiemstra at **519-749-5263**.

Spread the word!





We left for Ottawa at 8:00 a.m. on Monday Feb. 5 and returned on Thursday Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m. While there, we participated in activities that were educational, entertaining and social. We visited four museums, parliament and the Governor General's house, skated on the canal twice, played laser tag, swam in the pool, ate at many food courts, walked a lot, and spent hours on a bus. A good time was had by all.

TRIP to OTTAWA



Student responses to:

"My Most Memorable Ottawa Moment was...."

- when I went skating on the canal for the first time with my friends and seeing what it really looked like. I also enjoyed eating a beaver tail for the first time. There was a lot of great firsts on the Ottawa trip.
- the Canadian Museum of History because everything I saw there really interesting. I saw the animation center where I saw how movies are made.
- laser questing. It was very enjoyable and fun and was a great way to interact and have fun with my friends.
- when we watched question period with Justin Trudeau and John Nater.
- when we got to go to Parliament and watch question period in The House of Commons because it was a very exciting debate. My favourite part was when someone yelled "Did you run out of colour books Justin?"
- having chicken fights in the pool, laser quest, and the bus ride
- the war museum because we could see all the things that were used in the war
- going to the war museum and seeing the tanks and weapons and stuff.
- the question period or debate at parliament hill. This was my best moment because it is fun to watch people argue. It was also cool because we were sitting in the house of commons. The one thing I didn't like was that there debate was very kid like. I say that because they were booing and banging on the tables. Also when a different party tried to bring up a different topic it just got shut down. All they were doing was making Justin Trudeau mad.
- the question period because it was fun watching Justin Trudeau get roasted multiple times.
- playing chicken in the pool and not getting into trouble





LCS in ACTION



The LCS hockey team worked hard and competed well in this year's hockey tournament. They achieved an LCS record – fifth place and a hockey plaque!

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.

OUR *family* DREAMS LAUGHS WORKS PLAYS & LOVES *together*



Listowel CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar. 2** Basketball Tournament at RIM Park in Waterloo
- Mar. 3** LCS Information Morning (9am - Noon)
- Mar. 12 - 16** March Break
- Mar. 23** LCS Spring Auction
- Apr. 17** Kindergarten Registration (9:30 - 11:30am)
- Apr. 23** Spring Membership Meeting
- Apr. 30 - May 4** Christian Education Week
- May 3** Grandparents & Seniors Day