

THE COMMUNICATOR

Spring RECYCLING

BY WILLENE VANDERSLIKKE

I love the idea of recycling. There's something about taking an object that was no longer useable, changing it and giving it a function again. Last year, we tore down a beautiful, old, wooden bank barn on our farm. The floor was disintegrating under any weight, the foundation was crumbling and everything we stored in there had an inch of bird droppings on it. I was sad to see it go, but the silver lining (other than a happy husband) was that the barn boards and beams could be salvaged. Wood that was chopped down over a century ago to construct a barn is now repurposed and recycled to be in homes.

"We can strive to be good stewards of the earth God gave us to care for."

As spring approaches, we are all thrilled to see that the earth is once again regenerating. God's love and faithfulness is amazingly evident as He recycles our beautiful country to make it bright and beautiful

again. God seems to use spring to call us, urging us to get moving and use our energy for spring cleanups, renovations, planting fields and gardens and tidying up. We can strive to be good stewards of the earth God gave us to care for.

Even school buildings can be recycled. Our whole community is eagerly watching the renovation progress of our 'new to us' school. So many people have been involved in getting this huge project started and so many more are ready to jump in to complete and ready it for the students this coming fall. It's amazing to think that, while God is blessing our community with the opportunity to develop the old public school as the new Listowel Christian School, our current building will also continue on as a Christ-based school. Recycling on a grand scale, God is good!



If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.
2 CORINTHIANS 5:17



This issue of the Communicator always focusses on Easter, hope, Spring, the change of seasons and the renewal of life. However, this year it feels different. First of all, Easter was in late March so it's been a few weeks. Secondly, the weather confuses us with its temptation of warmer weather and then its throw-back to winter. It's difficult to feel hope, warmth and renewal in this unusual year. However, we know God is faithful and he will eventually bring about Spring so we can celebrate new life in creation and hope for warmer weather. There is something about relying on the same-old-same-old.

When I think about the phrase "same-old, same-old", I think about something boring. But it really means that you do what you have been doing before. At LCS there have been a lot of changes over the last several years, but the attraction to the school remains the "same-old, same-old". You can change the packaging, but the gift of Christian education remains consistent.

When I worked in consulting to help schools run capital campaigns to build new schools, there were lots of dreams. They would say, "Build it big because people will come to our school if we have a new building" or "Let's make sure we can accommodate growth" hoping on the cliché "If you build it they will come". We were always cautious about that perspective for a very simple reason: their hope was in the wrong place! They hoped people would be attracted by the bricks and mortar but that isn't true. People are attracted by the Christian perspective of how and what we teach. They were attracted by what happened in the classrooms, not the classrooms themselves. They were attracted by what would remain the same regardless of what the building would look like. They were attracted by the "same-old, same-old" hope that a quality Christian education provides.

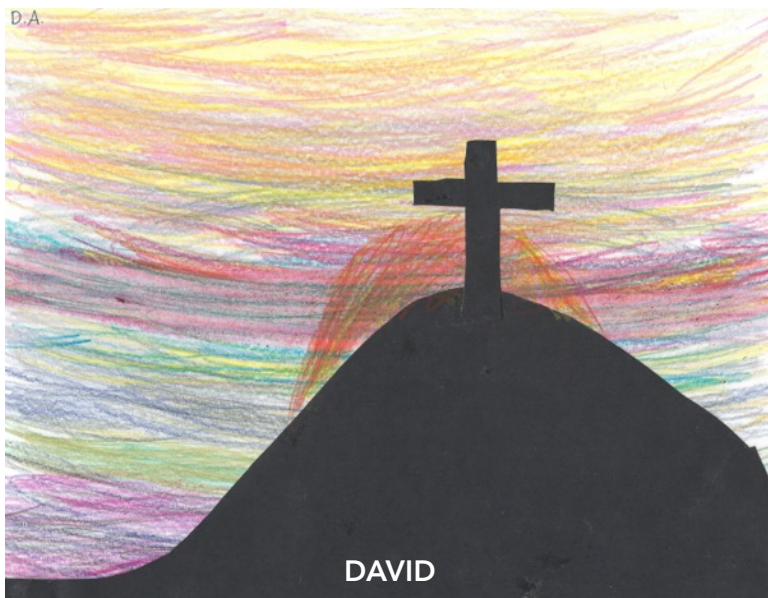
That has been my experience this year as well. We have an increased number of new families coming to LCS next year. It has been a good

promotional Spring. The reason I am hopeful is that the families are not coming because we are building a new school and not coming because we are moving into town. They are coming because they want an education that focusses on Christ, an education that provides them hope. As I tour them around the school, I remind them that the physical building will change next year but the quality of teaching, the excellent staff, and the Christian perspective will come along with us.

In our early discussions as a school community about relocating LCS, we assured the membership that although our address will change, our perspective on education won't. Our education will be "the same-old, same-old". Not a boring, habitual same-old, same-old, but an exciting, new life and hopeful same-old, same-old. God has blessed LCS for over forty years in our current location and we trust that, as we stay faithful to our vision to serve him, he will continue to bless us in our new location. You can put your hope in that same-old, same-old!



Grade 5-6 students playing board games they created themselves.





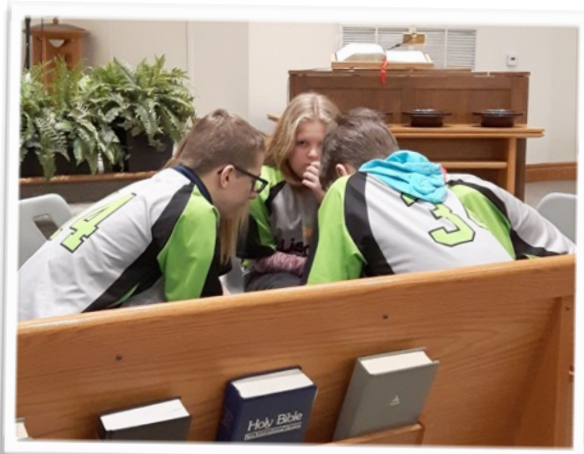
The girl's team heads up court as the boy's team cheers them on.

LCS *in* ACTION



The pressure of a foul shot – did it go in?

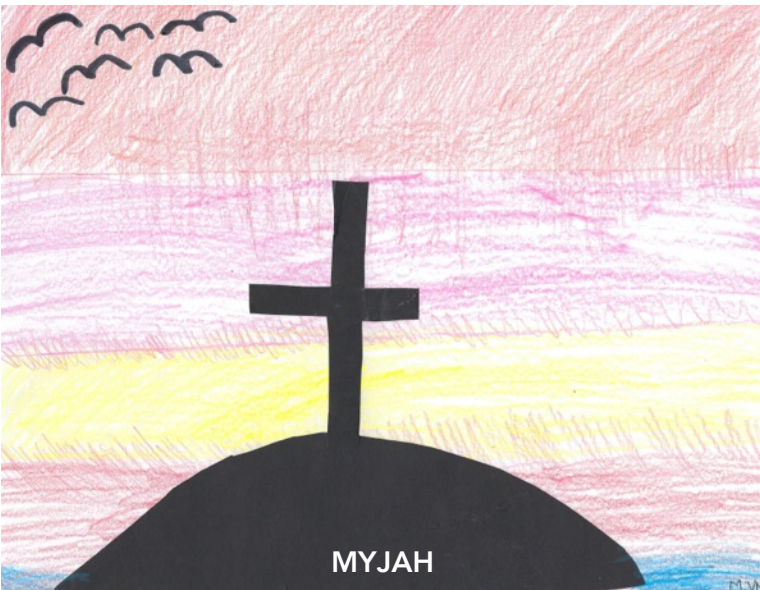
Students at The Battle of the Books tournament discussing possible answers regarding details of their readings.



MIGHTY MINDS



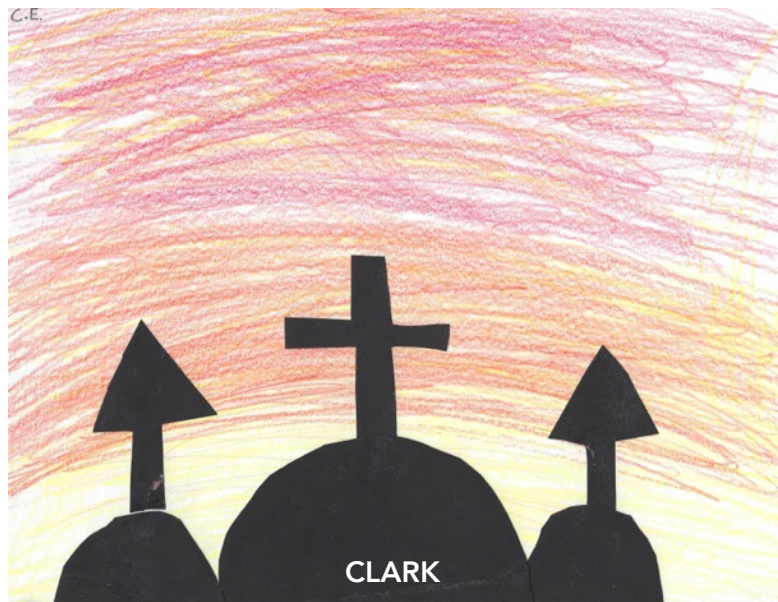
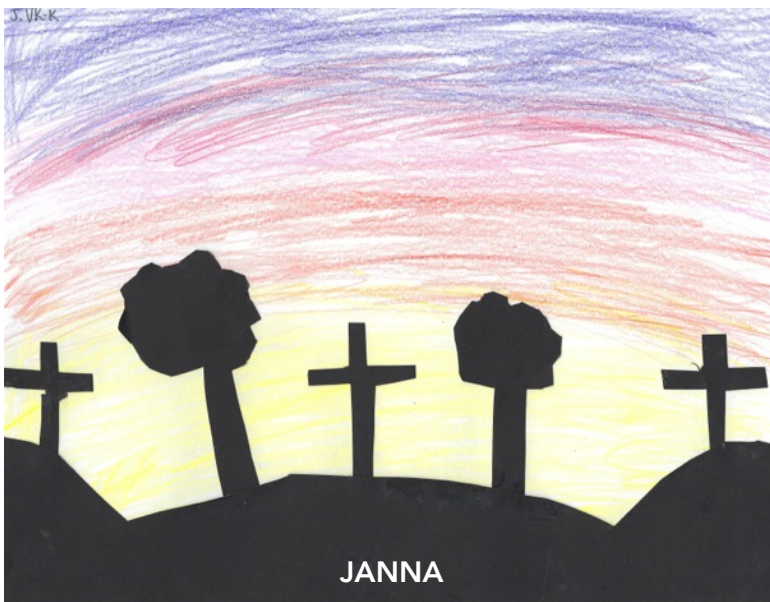
Students participated in Model United Nations debate. They represented different countries while they debated current issues.



MYJAH



JAXON



a poem for spring

BY TESS VANDERWIER

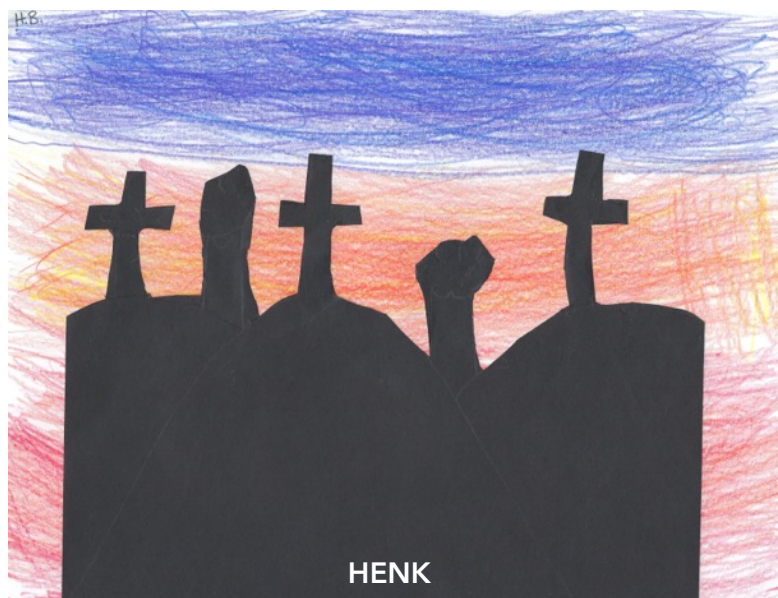
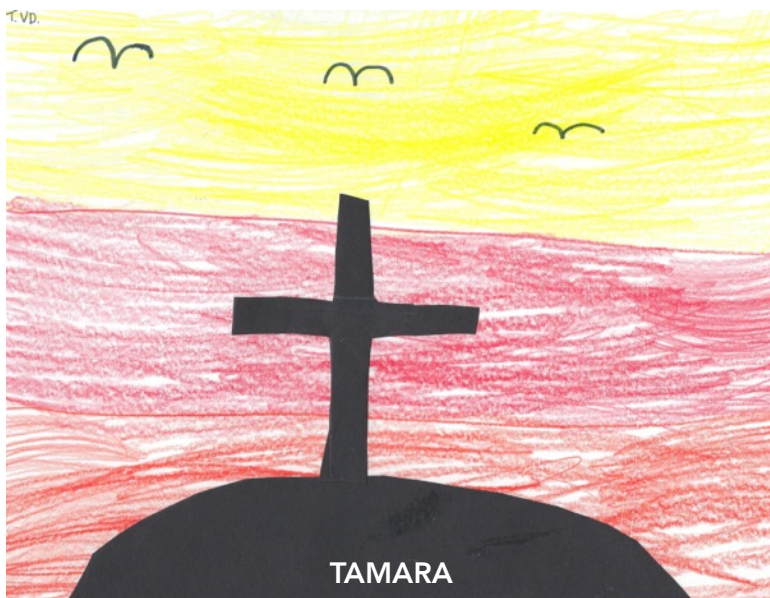
Spring showers,
Bring flowers.
I see the dove,
It reminds me of love.
The sun makes me happy,
The trees get all sappy.
The rain makes new nature,
The seed gain a future.
Flowers sing,
Showers fling.

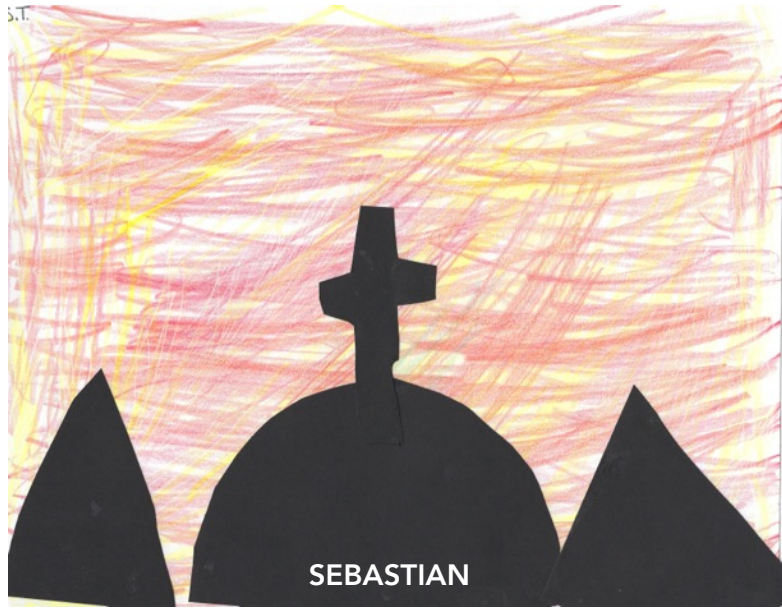
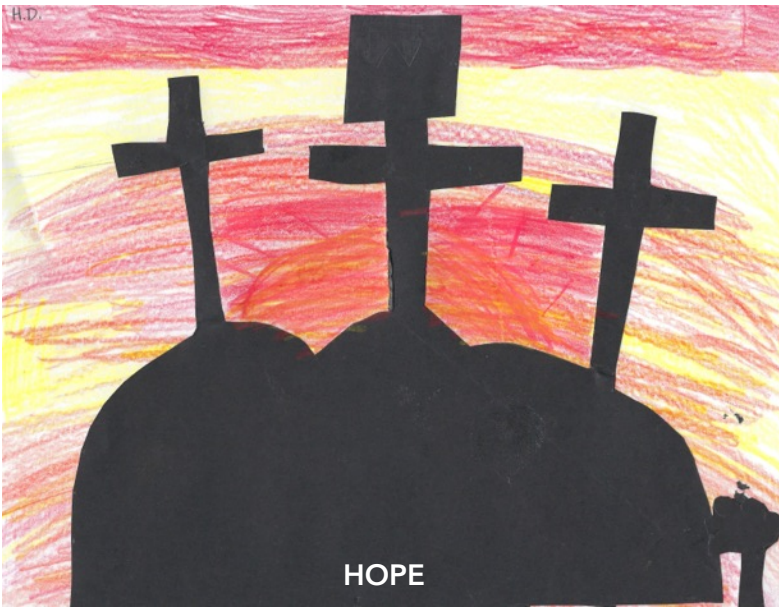
BY LOGAN WEBER

Spring, spring,
Bring something
Like April showers
And May flowers.
Gain rain to scare
Away to the snow
And make sappy happy.
Let doves make love,
Make vacations into nations.

BY OLIVIA VANDERKLIPPE

Spring, spring,
What wonders you bring.
Go on vacation,
To the nation.
You grow flowers with showers.
With rain you grow grain.
We sing while we fling.
I go to school,
When I get called a fool!
I love your nature,
With your future.





BY NOAH HIEMSTRA

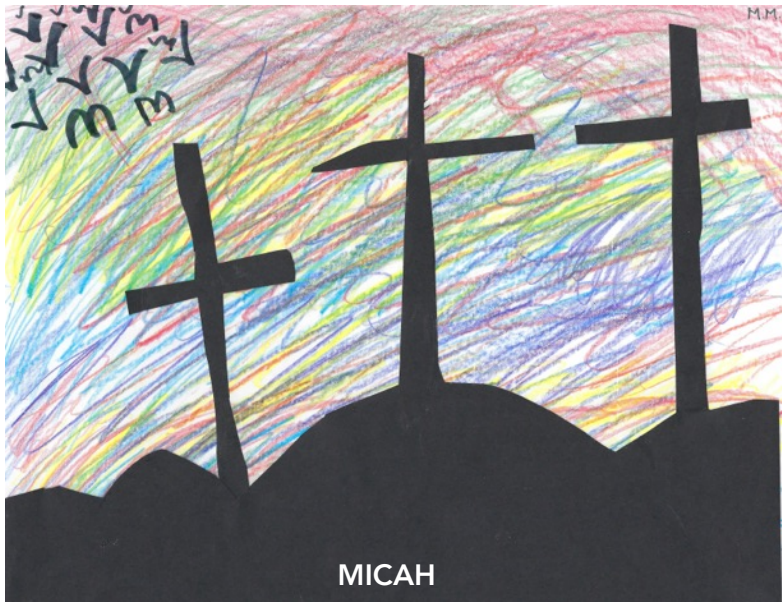
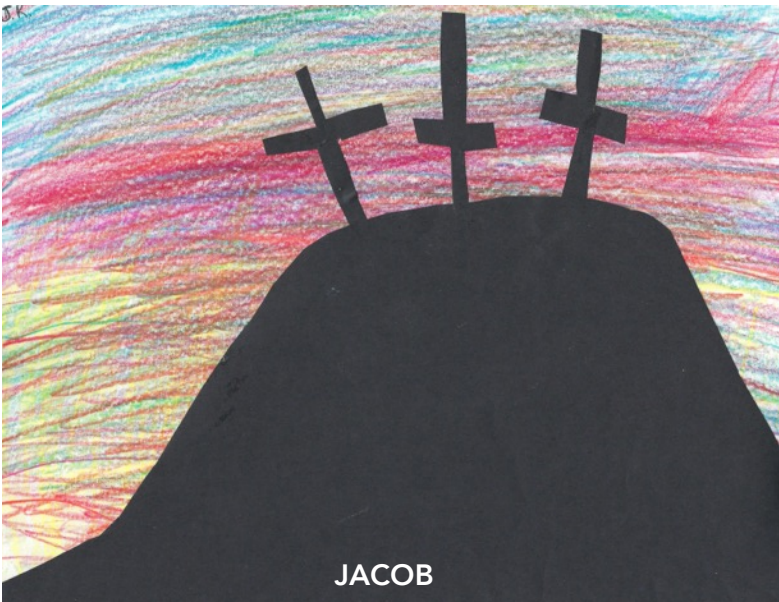
Spring, spring,
What will it bring?
Maybe I will sing?
Maybe I will fling?
Playing games outside
makes me happy,
It also makes me sappy.
In the spring I plant flowers.
On rainy days they get showers.
The bright sunshine I love.
In the spring my favourite bird
is a dove.

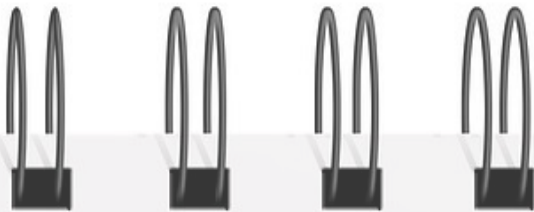
BY BAYLEN VIDIC

Spring, spring is so fun,
Because I get to play in the sun.
Spring, spring
brings rain showers,
It also brings beautiful flowers.
Spring, spring nature sings,
About the birds and their wings.
Spring, spring
the snow stopped falling,
Look outside the sun is calling.
Spring, spring brings more sun,
And it brings much more fun.

BY KASE KICKERT

In the spring,
It's time to bring,
The pretty flowers,
From the rain showers.
My mom will be happy,
She will get sappy.
I hear the birds sing,
I see their colourful wings.
I like to go to school,
Because it's really cool.





BOARD REPORT

CHRISTINA BENJAMINS
BOARD SECRETARY

Last spring, we reported that we had an opportunity to purchase a local public school. So much has happened in a year! This spring, demolition is well on its way at our new location and soon our renovations and new addition will begin. If you drive by the Binning Street property, you will see blue construction fence and heavy equipment, as well as signs announcing that Listowel Christian School is opening there in September 2018. Photo updates are posted on the school's Facebook page. Despite best laid plans, renovations always include some surprises and we covet your prayers as we continue to make decisions and direct our Building Committee. In February we received and accepted an offer of purchase for our current location. We are so thankful for God's faithfulness and provision for our needs.

Our new location gives us room to grow! We continue to work to attract new families to Christian Education in Listowel and have developed some strategies to encourage new families. Enrolment for next year looks strong already and we are eager to add more students to our classrooms.

We have 4 nominees (for 2 positions) for the LCS Board and we are thankful for the nominees' willingness to serve. Voting occurs at the Spring Membership Meeting on April 23.

The Board is grateful for your support, encouragement and prayers.



A first look at the lobby space with interior walls removed.



The new Resource room is taking shape.



The JK classroom with a double door to the SK room.



A large grade 7-8 classroom.



BUILDING UPDATE

After months, some would say years, of planning, the construction work on our new school building finally began. Time spent making decisions of layout, structure, and permits are behind us and the implementation of those decisions are finally happening. Within the demolition area, the interior was stripped of plumbing pipes, electrical wires, and heating ducts. The walls and ceiling were cut. The big backhoe and the smaller bobcats are busy ripping down walls and cleaning up concrete. It looks like a construction zone. Last week they began removing the ceiling of the front lobby. As you can see from the pictures, the sun was shining into the lobby and blessing it with light – a sign of times to come!

I can begin to envision the plans that were dreamed about and I have seen on paper: they are starting to take shape in reality. With the interior walls out of the office, I can see our new spaces. With the wall down in the new Grade 7-8 room, I can imagine a larger classroom with unique décor. With the holes cut into the Kindergarten classrooms, I can see the blessings of a washroom directly in the kindergarten classroom and can foresee the interaction of kindergarten students through the double doors.

Excitement is building! Listen for times and opportunities for you to join in the renovation, volunteer your time and talents and build a renewed facility for our children.



The open concept begins as they raise the roof.
The incoming light is a sign of things to come.

5th annual

BEST BALL GOLF TOURNAMENT



Saturday
JUNE 9, 2018

at **Pike Lake Golf Club**

Registration **1:30 pm**
Shot gun start **2:00 pm**
Dinner begins **5:00 pm**

Registration includes 9 holes of golf and a golf cart rental.

Contact: Michelle Hibbs 519.291.7292
lcschoolfundraising@gmail.com

FUNDRAISING @ LCS

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christian Education Week

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Mon. Apr. 30 | Assembly with guest presenters, Andrew & Christina Kim

Student Carnival (fundraiser for EduDeo) |
| Tues. May 1 | Celebration of Learning (7:00 - 8:30 p.m.) |
| Thurs. May 3 | Grandparents & Seniors Day |
| Fri. May 18 | LCS Track & Field Day |
| Sat. June 9 | LCS Golf Tournament |
| Mon. June 18 | Senior Kindergarten Graduation, 2 p.m. |
| Wed. June 20 | Gr. 8 Graduation, 8 p.m. |

Spring AUCTION

UPDATE

The Fundraising Committee would like to thank everybody who took the time to attend the LCS Spring Auction in March. It was great to witness the intergenerational, community support for LCS.

With your help, we raised approximately **\$29,300**. Thank you to everyone who contributed donations and/or services and also to those who bid on them. Once again, the auction was a rewarding experience.



Listowel
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL