

THE COMMUNICATOR

IT'S Christmas!

BY SOPHIE LISE

It's Christmas! I cannot believe another year has zipped on by. As I think about what to write I think of the verse Isaiah 9:6;

*For unto us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be
on His shoulders.
And He will be called
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.*

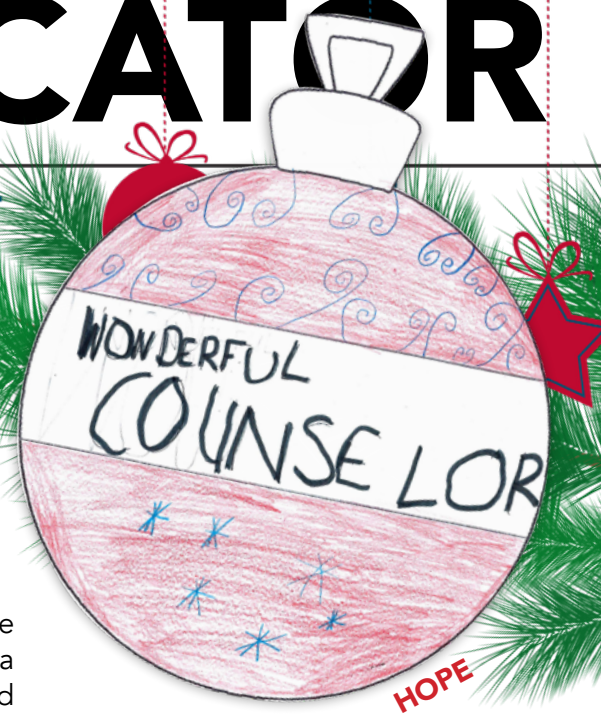
I love this verse for many reasons, but my biggest memories come from helping our children memorize this for school and particularly listening to them perform and recite this verse in the Kindergarten portion of the Listowel Christian School Christmas program. The enthusiasm, loud voices and even arm waving as they performed will always be a warm memory in my mind. (It seems like yesterday)

God has done so much for us. He sent His Son, so we can live with Him. What a glorious thought and promise! What a gift!

Listowel Christian School is also a gift to each of us, all in different ways. As a community we also received a big gift in 2018; a gift of a new school facility! God has given us so much with space and beauty everywhere we look. A gift that we can all be part of - a blessing so we can in turn bless everyone who walks through the doors of Listowel Christian School.

***"May we focus
on God's ultimate
gift to us!"***

When I am in the school I am in awe of how everything has come together and how we worked as a community to make our new location ours. I love hearing how staff are embracing their new work spaces and I keep hearing how they are loving all the space. This is a testament that enforces our "Forward in Faith" campaign and



our trust in God in all the steps that brought us to where we are today. A beautiful gift in the ongoing history of Listowel Christian School.

As we celebrate Christmas may we focus on God's ultimate gift to us! His Son! In whatever your personal circumstances are this Christmas season let us turn to our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace and worship Him fully this Christmas season.

Merry Christmas!


Listowel
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

The ornament artwork featured in this issue has been submitted by the Grade 3 - 4 students.



With many shelves full of books and lots of floor space to read them, students are enjoying their new library.



A GIFT FOR ADVENT

One of our friends, a gifted designer, designed four art pieces that we hang up every advent season. They are titled Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. I catch myself reflecting on those four posters regularly during advent. As much as they are personal and seasonal, I think they also reflect what we are doing on a daily basis at LCS.

Hope: When we deliver our daily curriculum, it is our hope that the material provides a basis for each student's learning and skills to develop as an influential citizen. It is also our hope that we provide a Christian perspective to this world, at age appropriate levels, that enables our students to nurture an eternal hope in their own lives and the lives of the people they meet. During Christmas, we are reminded of God's faithfulness to us and we have renewed hope in his promises.

Peace: The world can appear as a busy and out-of-control place at times. As teachers we teach that God has the whole world in his hands and he is ultimately in control of it all. We trust that this message brings about peace. During the Christmas season, we acknowledge that the birth of Christ is an important event in bringing peace to this world.

Joy: The Christian life should be a life filled with joy. Although we experience a variety of emotions, we also know that our faith in God provides overarching joy, which we teach

and model in our daily lessons. And now, in the Christmas season, we sing Joy to the World and we celebrate the gift of Jesus Christ, God among us. Celebrating this birthday gives us joy.

Love: Regardless of the season, the greatest of all these is love. We show love to our students and encourage them to reflect that love to their classmates. We encourage the love we experience to radiate from us to our neighbours and to our community. We hope that LCS will be a place where love is felt and where love is shared. And at Christmas, we cherish the love God showed to us, love so amazing that he came to earth as a human in the form of a young child. Love so amazing that he was born in the simplest of places to the simplest people. Love so amazing and he invites us all into that love. Love so amazing that it should be difficult to contain, flowing out of us to others.

I am grateful for our friend who designed those posters and blessed us with this gift. I am grateful that hope, peace, joy and love are a part of our daily lives and we have the opportunity to specifically celebrate them during this Christmas season. It is my prayer that as we busy ourselves with celebrations and family gatherings, that we will all experience, and share, these gifts as well.



The Grade 7-8 students were studying Roman civilization. As their assignment, they worked collaboratively to recreate Roman cities.

BACK IN TIME

NEW PURPOSE STATEMENT for Listowel Christian School

Educating Children
While Nurturing Faith in Christ
To Interpret and Impact God's World



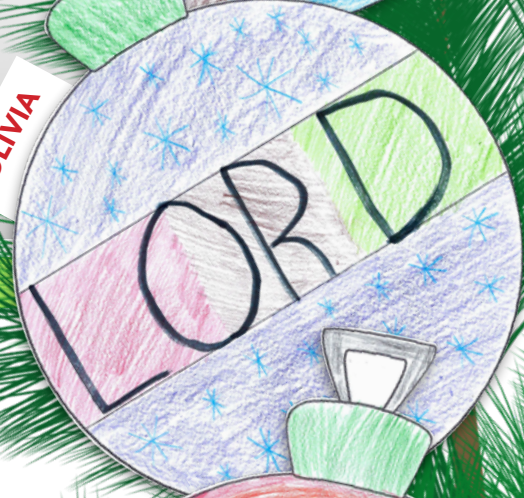
CLARK



NOAH



OLIVIA



ADAM





INTRODUCING THE

Hiemstra Family

Tim & Lindsey Hiemstra here! We are looking forward to being part of the L.C.S. community where Tim is an alumnus from... *a few* years ago. We have two boys; Peter is 4 and started JK in September, and Jesse is 2, and is still asking if every bus and school we pass is his. Pete thinks his school is in heaven and that the rest of us go to school in Ninevah. We're going to let Mrs. Baarda sort that one out.

We are the third and fourth generation of Hiemstra's to milk cows on our farm east of Listowel, but Lindsey originally hails from Shallow Lake, the land of sleigh-ride trails and giant stones. Tim spent a few years off-the farm getting equipment installation and barn-building experience, which he is currently putting to use in the design and build of a new barn project on the farm. Lindsey was a Guelph "Aggie" and then thought school was so fun she did a few more years at Michigan State and came back to Ontario with a M.Sc. in dairy science. Then she worked in the dairy nutrition world where she did not meet Tim... because they were set up on a blind date. Here we are, 7 years later.

Peter and Jesse spend most of their days hauling heavy loads of dirt, plowing and spreading imaginary manure with tiny tractors and implements. They love skid steer and tractor rides, and already have a lot of opinions about how work on the farm should be done.

Pete loves books and stories. At the school library he has two favourite books, one about John Deere tractors, and one about Big Machines, but at home his favourite authors are Roger Hargreaves (the "Mr. books"), Sandra Boynton, and Robert Munsch.

Our family attends Bethel Christian Reformed Church. Tim recently finished terms as a deacon and on the FoodGrains Committee and Lindsey is involved with leading Coffee Break, teaching Sunday School and the RightNow Media program at Bethel. We're thankful to have a church family that will help shape the faith of our boys through the programs for young children through to young adults.

Every day we see our boys growing, changing and asking questions about the world around them. It is incredible how many things are already influencing their minds. We often find ourselves saying things like, "I didn't teach them that" and "where did he learn that from?", and to us that underscores the importance of immersing them in a loving, Christ-centered environment at this young age. We want our boys to be influenced by God's Word and we pray that as they grow they'll develop the wisdom to use the knowledge they are gaining now to love and serve Jesus with all their hearts. This is our main "why we send to L.C.S."



BOARD REPORT



CHERYL MULDER
BOARD SECRETARY

I find this can an awkward time of year as a board member, even more so when I had elementary school-aged children ☺. The school year still seems quite fresh and new, the 'board member' year is half over, and the calendar year is drawing to a close! Hitting full stride in the kid's schedules, moving along comfortably as a board member and wrapping up another year with the family all at the same time!

As a board we might say we are in the 'moving along' portion of the year. A planned review of the *Mission & Vision Statements* has led to a new direction with the drafting of a *Purpose Statement* as well as updated *Core Value Statements*. These statements were approved by the board and presented to the membership at the November 19 meeting. As well, the board is focusing on finding a new Strategic Plan Coordinator to take on the role Sophie Lise has filled so well over the last four years.

Part of the role of the board is to keep in good communication with, and provide support to, our COO. To this end some board members recently met over breakfast with our COO.

The building/renovation project is in its 'wrapping up' stage and details have crossed the board table in regards to final decisions about sound systems, fire & safety inspections, and final construction costs.

As we near the end of the 2018 portion of the school year I would like to wish every one of our LCS families a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.



WALL ART

Student one-point perspective, masking tape art displayed in the hallways.



INTRODUCING THE *Brubacher Family*



We are Ray and Naomi Brubacher. We have 3 children: Jaymin age 7, Jaxton age 5, and Jazlyn age 1. Ray has his own business, The Rayn Catcher (Eavestrough). I, Naomi, am a stay at home mom. We currently attend Crossroads Life Church in Harriston. We both were raised in Christian homes and attended Christian schools.

Ray grew up 10 minutes from Listowel. I was born and raised in the states. We met in Vietnam on a mission trip, got married in Tennessee, and lived there for the first 5 years of our marriage. We felt God directing us to move back to Canada and made the move December 31, 2014.

We both have a heart for missions and have been on the mission field different times and involved in prison ministry, homeless shelters and other things too but, with children in this age, it has been difficult being involved in community as much as we were. Ray currently goes into prisons every week and teaches the anger resolution course and is involved in a men's get away/conference weekend.

We, as a family, love outdoor activities such as fishing, camping, four wheeling, snowmobiling, etc. And we love to travel.

Jaymin, our oldest, has his birthday in February and he just can't wait until his next birthday. Right now he loves anything scientific, mechanical and art. He is fascinated with how everything works. He is our social, never meets a stranger, energetic child and yet has a tender heart.

Jaxton, our second child, is our fire cracker. He was born 8 weeks early weighing in at 3 lbs even. My prayer was, "God please let's his lungs be strong". I even said, "I don't care if he screams the rest of his life please make his lungs strong!" Well God did answer that prayer! To the doctors' amazement, he never needed any oxygen at all! But as the results all of Kurtzville now finds out when his brother has taken his toy or blanket or anything. It always sounds like he is getting tortured, when in fact he only can't get his boots on or zip up his coat! He is a very generous, loving passionate child, and he loves to help.

Jazlyn is our youngest child. We don't know much about her yet, but it is very obvious she is a Daddy's girl. The first thing in the morning she wakes up she says "Daddy?" and proceeds to go through the house until she finds him. We were having problems with her sleeping all night waking up sometimes 4-5 times a night and some one suggested Ray put her to sleep. So, he did and she slept all night until 7 am. She loves her brothers and watching for the bus every day!

We were homeschooling but decided homeschooling wasn't for us. So we started searching for a Christian school and found Listowel Christian School. We went to check it out and Mr. Boelens answered all of our questions very well and was so helpful! Our boys love school and their teachers (Mrs. Claus and Mrs. Heida) and we love the fact that they get to go to a Christian school and learn with other children.



Kraayenbrink Family

We are the Kraayenbrink Family! Our names are Pete & Delicia and we have 5 children: Josiah (Gr.11), Abigail (Gr. 10), Micah (Gr.8), Timothy (Gr.5) and Esther (Gr.1). We attend the Listowel Bible Chapel. We both teach Sunday School and our children enjoy their friends and youth group there.

Pete works in the communities of Perth and Huron for HPHA. Delicia works from home raising and training puppies. We have a busy, active family and are involved in different sports in our community such as hockey, soccer, basketball, volleyball, track & field and cross country.

In November of 2017 our family moved to the Wingham area to a country property. Our children used to attend Donegal Christian School but because of the move we needed a new school for our children. We came out to the LCS open house Spring 2018 and were warmly welcomed. Our youngest two children started school there the next week! This was an answer to prayer as we sought what to do for our children's education.

We have been so thankful for the friendly staff and students. Our children felt at home right away! We look forward to growing and learning here at the Listowel Christian School!!



BAZAAR *update*

The Bazaar Committee would like to thank you all for your help and support at our Bazaar a few weeks ago. It was another year of firsts, setting up in our new space and eagerly awaiting confirmation that we had full use of all the rooms and equipment we needed. There was fantastic spirit in the air and many people from the Listowel community came out to see our new school and enjoy all we had to offer. We cleared a profit of approximately **\$18,000**. We could not have had such a wonderful day without all the volunteers, donations (of all kinds) and shoppers.

Thanks again!





SIGNS OF CHRISTMAS

The Grade 3-4 class created window posters to share the good news to the many visitors who will enjoy our playground over Christmas.



INTRODUCING THE

Stege Family



Hi! We are the Steges: Chris, Melissa, Gerrit (4) is in JK, Liam (2.5) and Isaac (18 mth). We live in Listowel and attend Bethel CRC. We are so excited that our son Gerrit is attending LCS. He loves going and meeting up with all of his friends and seeing Mrs. Baarda.

Chris grew up just outside of Palmerston on a dairy farm. He started working for Conestogo Agri Systems in 2012 in Farmstead Equipment Sales.

I, Melissa, also grew up on a dairy farm and attended LCS. I worked in retail for many years and after Isaac was born in 2017, decided to stay home full time with my Pampered Chef business on the side.

Gerrit loves being the biggest brother! He loves playing with tractors, skidsteers, and has a great imagination!! When Gerrit is at school, Liam enjoys playing with his tractors, cars, and stuffed animals. He can't wait for Gerrit to get off the bus. Both older

boys love their brother Isaac, who is a chill little man. Isaac just goes and does his own thing and can not wait till he is as big as his brothers.

In our spare time as a family we try to take the two or three boys skating on Sunday afternoons in the winter and going to the park in the summer. We like to go to the farm outside of Palmerston where Chris grew up. There we have beef cattle and sheep and we do the daily chores. The boys love getting their shovels and playing in the barn. They enjoy 4 wheeler rides and being in the tractor or combine doing field work.

We have always talked about sending our kids to a Christian School and are thrilled we are able to. I know that I had a great experience attending LCS, and now Gerrit is also. We love the atmosphere there and the great Christian education that the teachers give. Gerrit loves to tell everyone he meets, that he goes to a Christian school. We are very blessed.



UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENT:

Paint Night Social!

Stay tuned for details.



Pet Value brought some of their critters to LCS. The Grade 2-3 students enjoyed a hands on approach to learning..... and so did Mrs. Claus!




Listowel
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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

- Dec. 24 - Jan. 4** Christmas Break
- Mon. Jan. 7** First day back in the new year
- Jan. 11, 18, 24, 31** Skating at Steve Kerr Memorial Complex
- Fri. Jan. 25** PD Day - no school
- Thurs. Jan. 31** Hockey tournament at Centre Wellington Community Sportsplex in Fergus
- Fri. Feb. 15** PD Day - no school
- Mon. Feb. 18** Family Day - no school
- Fri. March 29** LCS Spring Auction

