

THE COMMUNICATOR

ROOTED IN CHRIST

BY WILLENE
VANDERSLIKKE

"Blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they go right on producing delicious fruit."

Jeremiah 17:7-8

As I write this, I'm in a hotel overlooking Niagara Falls. The kids are trying to fall asleep in a strange bed after a fun evening of water slides and a late supper. Sounds wonderful, right? But I'm sure you

could relate to the three hour drive to get here, where there was more bickering than nice conversation. Nevertheless, we are now settled, content and looking forward to a full weekend of family time. My heart feels full.

Family. Marriage. Community. Love. To me, each of these words draw an immediate picture of warmth, security and God's blessing. I want this picture – to be loved, to feel safe in my home and community. I doubt that I'm alone in

this dream. In reality though, life is messy. It's challenging to keep a family together, and it's hard work to maintain healthy relationships. Difficulties in life can be overwhelming, marriages crumble, churches are torn, and communities fail each other. It's easy to be miserable and lonely when we've been hurt. We seem to like 'easy', but the result is evident in the brokenness in the world and in our homes.

The 'Jesus' way takes work, but God's blessing and peace

are worth the effort. We try to establish the roots of our family and community in the Lord. Deep and strong roots show when times of struggle and difficulties come and we witness amazing strength in people, marriages and families.

They are held together in God regardless of hardship. The Christian community that loves and supports is one of God's greatest gifts. The good years are the time to establish roots in Christ's hope and promise and to care for those God has

placed in our lives. When the trials of life come, He will not let us go. Pray for our students, teachers, our friends and family that even in the dark days, His light is shined to a broken world that longs for peace and love.

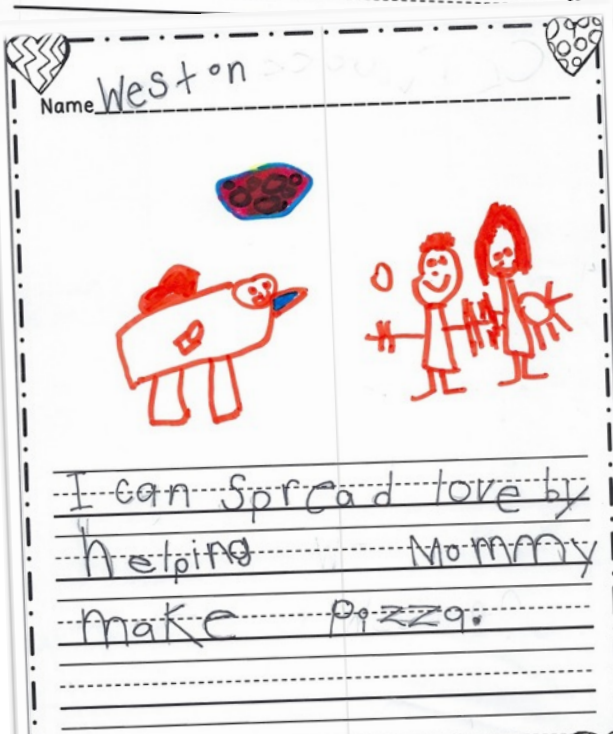
"I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts as you trust in him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love really is." Eph. 3:17-18

"The 'Jesus' way takes work, but God's blessing and peace are worth the effort."


Listowel
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



The artwork featured in this issue has been submitted by the Gr. 1 students.



THE PRINCIPAL'S

BY ED BOELEN

post



TO BE KNOWN, TO BE LOVED

It will soon be time for teachers to fill out report cards again. From my perspective, most of the report is relatively easy to fill out. The subject area boxes are completed from information teachers have collected over the term, organized and structured in a way to determine a good evaluation for each child. When that is all done, there is a larger box that looms with great anticipation. No direction, no limit, free reign to write in the comment section.

As parents, we all look forward to reading what has been written in this box. My direction to staff for this area is to articulate that each child is known, they belong, and they are loved. Isn't that the basic desire for ourselves and for our children? We were created as unique individuals to live in community, and to love one another.

Students want to be known and parents want teachers to know their child. The fun part is that there are no doubles but that each child has been created uniquely. The question is whether we have recognized their uniqueness and encouraged that child to develop those gifts. God does the same for us. Several times in

the Bible (Matthew 10:30 and Luke 12:7), God assures us that he knows us and cares for us so intimately that every hair on our head is numbered. That is knowing us and it feels good. I can't say that I know my students that well. It is good to be known.

Every child also wants to be loved. A child needs to know that they have a place in our classroom, in our school, where they are not only safe, but that they are loved and cared for. I often hear our teachers talk about their students as if they were their own children. When they refer to "their kids", I have to listen closely to hear if they are talking about their own biological child(ren) or their students, because they speak of them with the same love. That is special. It is also an important characteristic for each student to feel free to learn. We hope each student feels the love of their teachers every day.

Every student wants to, and deserves to, be known and loved. It is our prayer that as we teach, we are being used by God to show our students (our children) that they are loved by us and that they are loved by God. What a wonderful feeling.





ON THE MOVE

ABOVE: The Grade 7-8 class are playing age appropriately, safe, gladiator fights as part of their Roman unit.

RIGHT: Skating is always fun no matter what age or ability level.

LEFT: The Grade 7-8 class had a gift exchange. Many presents were creatively wrapped and fun to open.

BOTTOM LEFT: The Grade 1 music class was introduced to different instruments. Here Mrs. Van Den Boogaard plays the flute for them.

BOTTOM-RIGHT: Kindergarten students are creative during indoor recess times.



AROUND THE SCHOOL





Menkveld Family

Hey all! We are Jerry and Anna Menkveld. We have been married for just over 7 years now and we have three children. Our oldest, Ria, is 4 and is overjoyed about junior kindergarten and loves being a big sister to Octavia, our middle child (2.5 years old). Both sisters love their baby brother Roman (9 months). These little people keep us busy!

Jerry and I were both raised in Christian homes and we were also both homeschooled from kindergarten all the way to grade 12. This makes the school system a new adventure for us and the kids and we are extremely grateful to have the option of Christian school for our growing family. We currently attend Gorrie Bible Fellowship. Jerry has attended this church his whole life and I grew up attending Wingham Bible Chapel. My church did not have a youth group program so I attended youth at Gorrie and that is where Jerry and I met. Jerry grew up on a farm outside of Mt. Forest and I grew up helping on my family farm just outside of Wingham, which is four farms down the road from where we are now living.

Jerry has been a licensed carpenter in the construction business for over ten years. He started his career with Whitechurch Construction. In 2015, we made the leap of starting our own business ATD Construction, focusing primarily on interior renovations.

I went to Stratford Festival School of Hairstyling straight from high school and have a red seal as a licensed hairstylist. I worked in the trade until we started our family. I am so blessed to be able to be at home full time with the kids but also do a little bit of what I love here and there as well.

We have had a wonderful time getting to know the families and staff from L.C.S and learning how things work at the school. We are continually encouraged to see the change and growth in Ria as she is challenged, not only academically but also in her love of the Lord. We especially love how the different age groups interact and work together. It really feels like a big family!





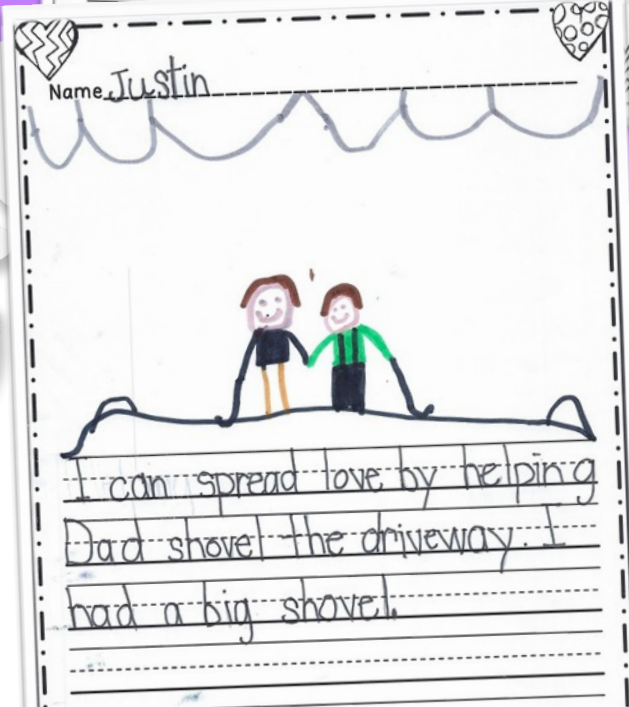
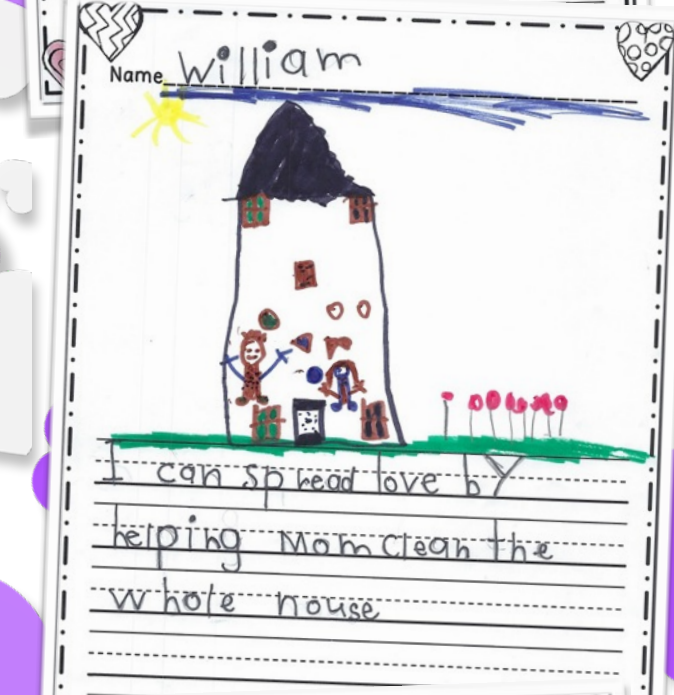
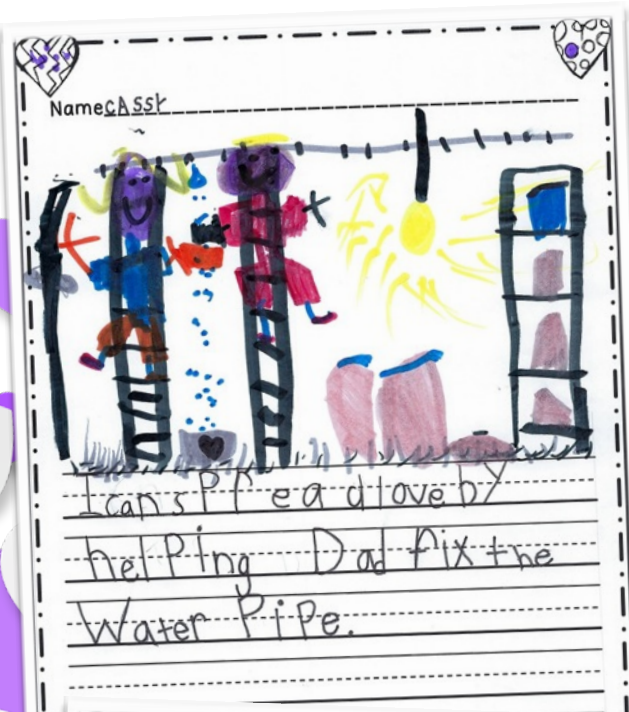
The hockey team after a long day of games. A few goals for and a few more against but a good time for everyone.

BOARD REPORT

CHERYL MULDER
BOARD SECRETARY

The Board has met only one time since the last report was printed in the Christmas edition of *The Communicator*. There is much more on the list of 'Going to Happen, D.V.' than 'Has Happened'. The Finance Committee is reviewing our hydro usage at the new building and is in contact with Ontario Hydro to receive the most favourable billing rates possible. The search continues for a new Strategic Plan Coordinator; pray this position is filled by a candidate with a passion for Christian education in the Listowel area. Plans are under way for an informal evening social for board members and staff; a great way to get to know one another better to support one another in our roles. The school website and promotional materials are being updated with our new *Purpose Statement* that was presented to the membership at the Fall Membership meeting.

It may not seem like much has happened, but preparations have been made to tackle the 'Going to Happen' list...contract review...staff positions for next school year...enrolment numbers for next year... Strategic Plan actions for next year...and the search for a coordinator...board nominations...early budget numbers...Open House plans to introduce the new LCS to our community. So much to look forward to!



funDRAISING @ LCS

Spring AUCTION

FRIDAY MARCH 29, 2019

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 8, 2019

at **Pike Lake Golf Centre**

More info coming soon!!



*Save
THE
Date!*

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!





INTRODUCING THE *Wagler Family*

Hi! We are the Wagler family,
Stan, Ethel, Marissa, Rachelle
and Cameron.

Cameron (7 years old) started attending LCS this past September. He attended Elma Township Public School for 3 years and was blessed with great teachers and friends there. He loves to ride his bike, swim, and go camping. He also plays soccer in the summer.

September brought more changes in our family as our oldest daughter Marissa (14 years old), started her first year in high school. She loves to draw and is hoping to have a career that involves some form of art — cartoon animation would be her first choice. She helps us teach the 3 year old class at church. She also works on a chicken farm on the weekends.

Rachelle (13 years old), is in Grade 7 at Elma TPS. She loves soccer and competing in track and field. She enjoys helping in the nursery and with the toddlers at church, as well as being a part of the children's worship team.

Stan is a truck driver for Gray Ridge Farms. His weekly run takes him up north (Sudbury/Ste Sault Marie or Timmins) for 3 days, then he has one day where he drives locally. Before we had children, Stan and I drove team for ERB Transport for 7 years. When the girls were little, we did some long trips with Stan but not so much after Cameron was born. When Marissa was born, I was a stay-at-home mom until Cameron started school. I now work as a waitress/cook at the Atwood Café.

We attend Listowel Evangelical Missionary Church and enjoy helping out with different events, like the Coffee House, as well as teaching the 3 year olds.

We are thankful for the opportunity to have Cameron attend LCS. I admit it wasn't an easy decision. Like I mentioned before he was blessed with great teachers and friends at his previous school, but there was also a pull in our hearts to send him to LCS. After talking to Mr. Boelens, and other parents who are sending or have sent their children to LCS, we decided now was the time! It also helped that Cameron was excited about it.

We appreciate how everyone has welcomed us. We know a few families and are looking forward to meeting and getting to know more of you!





Students are enjoying the use of our specialty rooms, the music and art rooms. Lots of space to be creative and enjoy the arts.



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

- Fri. Mar. 1** Basketball Tournament
- Sat. Mar. 2** LCS Information Morning
- Mar. 11 - 15** March Break
- Fri. Mar. 29** LCS Spring Auction
- Tues. Apr. 16** Kindergarten Registration (9:30 - 11:30a.m.)
- Fri. Apr. 19** Good Friday - no school
- Mon. Apr. 22** Easter Monday - no school
- Thurs. May 2** Grandparents & GrandFriends Day
- Fri. May 17** LCS Track & Field