

# THE COMMUNICATOR

## Transformed SPACES

BY JON VANDONKERSGOED

At the time of writing this we are currently planning the open house to show off our new facilities to the broader community. This is an exciting time for LCS, we have a rare opportunity to bring people into the school that maybe would not have gone out of the way to discover who we are.

I remember walking the halls before this building was purchased thinking about how much potential we would have with the available space. Some areas just needed to be refreshed while other areas needed a total transformation. I am amazed at our school community and how quick people were to make sacrifices to make this project possible, whether it be financial or dedication of time. Now, walking through the main entrance, you can't help but smile at the complete

transformation it has undergone. It is hard to imagine how dismal this space used to be.

This isn't so different from our personal lives. Just think how dark our lives would be if Jesus had not made the ultimate sacrifice for us! I don't have to look very far around my own personal life to discover that we live in a broken world, and for many who do not know the love of Jesus there isn't much hope. As Christians, we have a unique perspective knowing that this life is not all that is destined for us. God knows our potential and sent his Son Jesus so our brokenness could be washed away and we can have

eternal life. In answer to that we must transform our lives to be more like him. Ephesians 4: 22-24 *"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."*

*"...see how the love of God can bring hope into dismal spaces."*

It is my prayer that through this new building we can help students experience this transformation in their lives. In turn, may they be an "open house" for others to see how the love of God can bring hope into dismal spaces.





# THE PRINCIPAL'S

BY ED BOELENS

# post



## SPRING TRANSITIONS

The season transition from winter to spring is the most anticipated season change. Almost without notice, spring slides into summer, summer into fall and fall into winter, but we all eagerly await winter's turning into spring. We anticipate the disappearance of snow, the warmer temperatures, and the opportunity to be outside more – or at least enjoy being outside more. We appreciate the grass coming to new life, the trees showing their buds, the garden bulbs sprouting to flowers, and the sounds of birds. We all look forward to this transition of new life with hope and excitement.

Administratively, spring brings about a lot of other transitions. As I look over my class, I begin to realize that soon the grade 8 students will transition out of LCS and into high school. We will soon begin to discuss graduation, although this class doesn't want to talk about it. Maybe they are not looking forward to the transition? Regardless, spring is a sign that grade 8 graduation is coming.

I also consider the transition of families. The Koetsier, Los, Meijering, Vandonkersgoed (E&C), and Skipper families will transition from LCS parents to LCS supporters as their youngest child graduates. I am sure they eagerly await the days of no LCS tuition! At the same time, we will miss them as active parents, volunteers, and members of our parent community. We hope they will miss that too. Spring also is our

recruitment season and we anticipate several new families joining our LCS family.

Staff members transition as well. As a staff, we work closely together and when those bonds change, it is always difficult. This year Mrs. S. Van Kampen joined our staff to teach Grade 5-6 and 7-8 French covering part of a maternity leave. She was an excellent addition to our staff and we enjoyed and appreciated her being a part of our team. As well, Ms. Kikkert joined as an EA in Senior Kindergarten to help Mrs. Heida with the large class. Ms. Kikkert was also an amazing contributor to the lives of our staff and students. Unfortunately, it looks like we are not able to employ them next year. In addition, Mrs. O'Boyle will be taking a maternity leave and will be at home blessing her children and being blessed by them. Returning, Mrs. Vogel will teach in the grade 7-8 classroom again. We are also currently interviewing for the grade 1 teaching position. These staff transitions are another a sign that spring is here.

Yet the overarching transition is Easter. In spring, we experience Easter, a new life offered with the death and resurrection of Jesus. We shed the old self and are renewed in a new creation. Whatever earthly changes we go through, whether we are leaving LCS or joining, Easter offers us new hope in new life and a place to belong in Christian community.





(Lisa, Gabriëlle, Ashley, Erik, Esmæ, Suzanne, Owen, Alex, Jennifer, Justina, Courtney, Jen's mom and dad)

## INTRODUCING THE *Zieleman Family*

Hi LCS Community - we are the Zieleman family! Our son, Owen, is attending his first year at LCS in Junior kindergarten. Alex and I, both previously widowed, blended our two families officially on June 23, 2018. Together we have 7 children, I have 2 daughters, Justina (23) and Courtney (21). Both girls are currently finishing their third year in degree programs at Sheridan College and the University of Waterloo. They do not reside with us in Listowel. Alex's 5 children are Erik (married to Ashley), Gabriëlle (soon to be married to Tom), Lisa (22), Suzanne (19) and Owen (4). Ashley and Erik have two beautiful daughters, Esmæ and Mirah, which makes us grandparents and Owen an uncle! Family gatherings at our house are huge, loud and lots of fun!

Alex and Margriet, along with their 4 older children, moved to Canada from the Netherlands in January 2005. They settled on a Dairy farm in Belwood for the first 9 years of their Canadian journey. In May 2014 they moved to the farm in Listowel. In December of that same year their 5th child Owen was born. He had lots of loving siblings to welcome him into the family. In September 2015, Alex and his children lost Alex's wife Margriet very suddenly. Alex's family took comfort in the Lord as they traveled, and continue to travel, this grief road together.

Myself (Jennifer) and Vince, along with our 2 daughters, resided in Kitchener for 13 years until Vince's passing in August 2007. The girls and I continued living in our family home for the next 11 years. I was employed as an Educational Assistant at Blair Road Public School in Cambridge for 15 years. I worked in a congregated

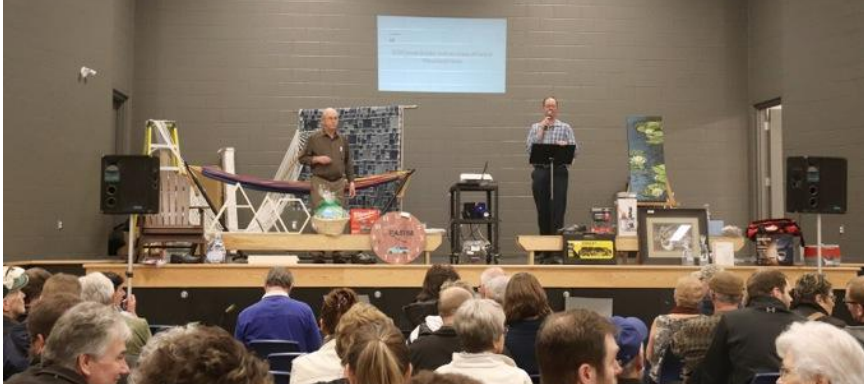
classroom with students identified with a Learning Disability. It was a very rewarding career. For many years Justina, Courtney and I were active members of Breslau Evangelical Missionary church. Most recently, we attended Creekside in Waterloo.

In September 2016 Alex and I met. It did not take long for us to realize that God had a plan for us, not just as a couple but as a family. In June 2018, we were married at Bethel CRC. I packed up and sold my house and moved to the farm with Alex and his family. I can honestly say that the last 9 months of my life has been a whirlwind of change. I am glad I was open to God's gentle nudge towards this new life I have embraced. We are all growing each day as a family and it feels really good!

Owen is a sweet, loving, and very energetic little boy. He loves everything farm; tractors, trucks, combines, cows, pigs, horses, chickens and yes even flies! He is a big helper in the barn, feeding calves is his specialty! He loves to play with his niece Esmæ and delights in the idea that maybe one day they will go to school together. Owen is a resilient, fun loving, little boy who is adjusting well to the changes in his young life. He is loving school! Everyday he asks if it is a school day, 2 days a week is not enough for Owen. We hope and pray that his excitement for school continues for years to come. We are excited to raise Owen together in the Christian faith and are thankful for the teaching he receives at LCS now and will receive in the future.

Thank you for reading a little bit about us, the Zielemans. We look forward to meeting you!





# Spring AUCTION



The Fundraising Committee would like to thank everyone who attended the LCS Spring Auction in March. We had an amazing turn out this year! Thank you to everyone who contributed donations and/or services and also to those who bid on them. The profit will be announced within the next few weeks. We never would have been able to pull it off without everyone's help.

*Thank you!!*







# BOARD REPORT

CHERYL MULDER  
BOARD SECRETARY

Board members recently invited staff members and spouses to enjoy a fun evening of curling at the Palmerston Curling Club. A sport new to most of us, after a brief instruction from Jamie Wright, we bravely took to the ice and tried our hand at throwing rocks, encouraging team mates and opponents, and dusted ourselves off after falls and slips! With time for refreshments, fellowship and a breakout game of euchre we can call this year's Board-Staff Social a resounding success. ☺

Several board members also had the opportunity to conduct an exit interview with CRD Contracting now that the building process has pretty much reached completion. It was good to hear their perspective on the project and they expressed how much they enjoyed the unique challenges this new build/renovation brought to their crews. They also were impressed by the spirit of volunteerism they saw in the work completed on the North wing.

Back around the board table it is business as usual with spring contract review and contract renewal work underway for all staff members. A list of potential board nominees has been drawn up and board members are in the process of contacting these members to create a slate of nominees for the Spring Membership meeting to be held on Monday, May 27, 2019.

A task group has been assigned with the planning of an LCS Open House to be held Saturday, April 27. Watch for more details in the weeks to come and be sure to let friends and neighbours in the community know about this exciting event showcasing the work done and changes made to this former public school building.

Lauren Koersen has agreed to step in as the next Strategic Plan Coordinator for Listowel Christian School. The board looks forward to working with Lauren in the coming years as she takes on the responsibility of this role. The board also regretfully accepted the resignation of Amanda VanderMeer as Bookkeeper, the process of finding her replacement has begun with an updated job description of this vital role.

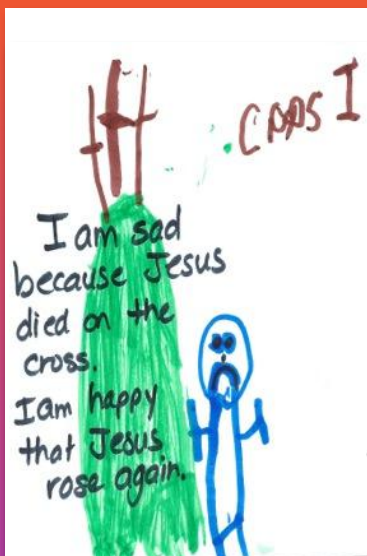
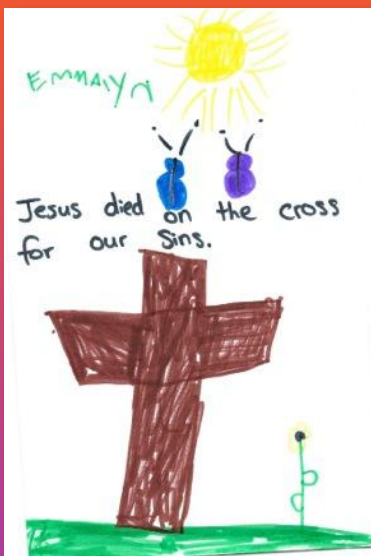
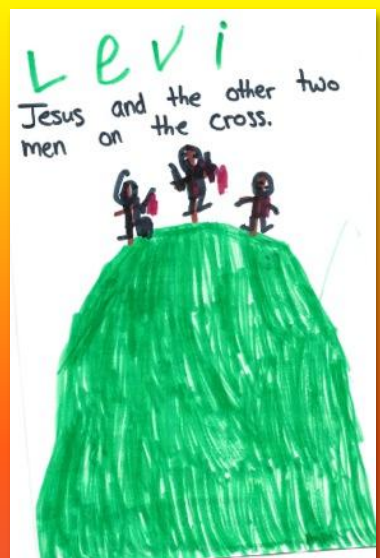
Community groups are beginning to reach out to LCS in regard to rental possibilities for our new and expanded facility. The board will carefully consider the impact these activities might have on LCS, as well as the impact LCS can have on our community by opening our doors to new partnerships.





When you are young, a lot of learning happens in low spaces. Whether alone, with a partner, or with a small group of peers, they love to be on the floor.

# PLAYING & GROWING

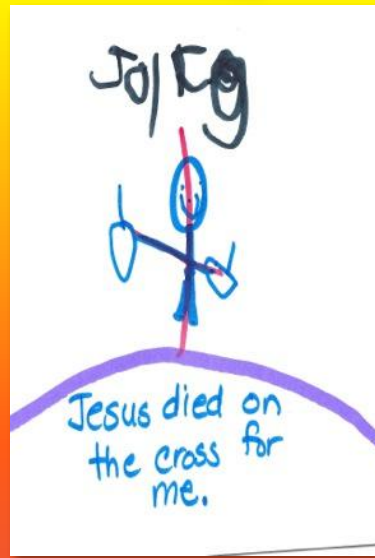
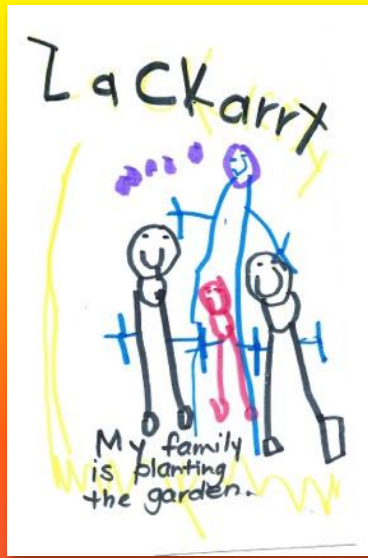






LEFT: The Grade 7-8 students learned about speed and agility on the ski slopes. MIDDLE: The students enjoyed a cooperative, and sometimes competitive, game of Gaga-ball. RIGHT: Sometimes a quiet time for reading is just what we need.

## HERE & THERE



# OPEN HOUSE

Sat. April 27, 10am - 2pm

Welcoming the community to see the new Listowel Christian School facilities.

Coffee, refreshments, & pulled pork on a bun (while supplies last).

6th annual

## BEST BALL GOLF TOURNAMENT



*Saturday*

**JUNE 8, 2019**

at **Pike Lake Golf Club**

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

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

Contact: **Michelle Hibbs 519.291.7292**  
[lcschoolfundraising@gmail.com](mailto:lcschoolfundraising@gmail.com)



**Listowel**  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

## PURPOSE STATEMENT

EDUCATING  
CHILDREN

*while nurturing  
faith in Christ*

TO INTERPRET AND  
IMPACT GOD'S WORLD

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Tues. Apr. 16 | Kindergarten Registration (9:30 - 11:30a.m.)        |
| Fri. Apr. 19  | Good Friday - no school                             |
| Mon. Apr. 22  | Easter Monday - no school                           |
| Sat. Apr. 27  | LCS Open House (10a.m. - 2p.m.)                     |
| Tues. Apr. 30 | Celebration of Learning (7 - 8:30 p.m.)             |
| Thurs. May 2  | GrandParents & GrandFriends Day (9a.m. - 12:30p.m.) |
| Fri. May 17   | LCS Track & Field                                   |
| Mon. May 20   | Victoria Day - no school                            |
| Mon. May 27   | Spring Membership Meeting                           |
| Fri. June 7   | District Track & Field Day in Brantford             |
| Sat. June 8   | Annual LCS Golf Tournament                          |
| Tues. June 11 | Baseball Tournament in Kitchener                    |
| Mon. Jun 17   | Sr. Kindergarten Graduation                         |
| Wed. June 19  | Gr. 8 Graduation                                    |