

THE COMMUNICATOR

waiting IN ANTICIPATION

BY LAUREN KOERSEN

Hello November! You're a bit cold, damp, and dreary, and I don't think I'm the only one feeling this way. In September we were gifted with extended summer weather, the beginning of Pumpkin Spice everything, and the return to routine. October brought us flame coloured trees, instagram worthy visits to the pumpkin patch, thanksgiving celebrations, and long awaited sweater weather. With shorter days, grey skies, and cold temperatures, November is looking a touch dismal. However, if there is anything I have learned from being part of various Christian communities, it is that there is always something exciting to anticipate.

One of the best parts about November, (besides discounted Hallowe'en candy), is the school Bazaar. As a child I always looked forward to blowing my hard earned

allowance in a matter of hours at my school's bazaar. Now, as a parent, I am able to witness my children's excitement at the LCS Bazaar. They love seeing their friends, playing games, eating food, and cashing in their tickets for prizes. I also marvel at the hard work of volunteers and enjoy browsing the crafts and lingering a bit too long at the baking table. It's a good day that takes away the blah of November and reignites my love for community.

After enjoying a morning at the bazaar, I'm known to start thinking about something else the bleakness of November encourages me to anticipate... Christmas! While the appropriate date for setting up the Christmas tree is going through negotiations at our house, I have been known to start decorating for Christmas following the bazaar. Of course, Christmas is not about well lit trees, adorable ornaments, and the perfect centerpiece. Call me crazy, but the process of hauling the boxes from the basement and taking out the decorations excites me. It stirs up memories from the past and has me looking forward to the new memories we will create. On a deeper level, it reminds me of the promise given by the first Christmas and the promise yet to come.

I will most likely set up my 'treasured' Nativity next to my kids' nativity scene, and I'll wonder about the baby. I will think of a nation desperately waiting for a Saviour thousands of years ago, and I may think of a world so desperately needing a Saviour today. Maybe I'll pick up Mary and think about what it was like to look at her perfect baby knowing that one day he would be wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities. How fair does it seem that a tiny baby would one day be the chastisement for all of our peace and that by His stripes, we would be healed (Isaiah 53:5)?

I know Christmas won't be the same for everyone. Circumstances make it easier for some than others to look forward to holidays and celebrations. If I am to be reminded of anything by dreary November, it is this: as Christians we always have something to anticipate. In the dreary, grey, cold seasons we have hope as we wait in anticipation for our salvation that once a baby, then a man, brought all those years ago.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade." 1 Peter 1:3-4



Listowel
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL





Students contributed food to support the Farm Credit Canada food drive and the local Salvation Army food bank. Another way to be a part of our community and show Christ's love for our neighbours.



THE PRINCIPAL'S

BY ED BOELENS

post



SIGNS THE SCHOOL YEAR IS UNDER WAY

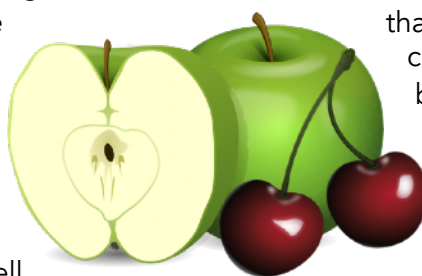
The warm and sunny days of September seem like a distant memory. The cooler fall days of October have also come and gone. Now the snow, cold days of November remind me that the school year is well under way.

I am also reminded of that when I see the Junior Kindergarten students. In September, they cautiously transitioned from mom or dad to remain alone in the unfamiliar classroom. They had to figure out the meaning of the bells and the flow of the school day. Now, besides the complication of snow-pants, winter boots, and mittens, they have school life pretty well figured out. They move from the outdoors to settle in the classroom, take their place, and prepare for a day of learning. Watching them manage their own transitions reminds me that the school year is well under way.

Last summer, many of our staff spent their professional development time in Responsive Classroom workshops. As a school, we continue to grow in this area. More classes are participating in morning meeting and closing circles. Responsive classroom, among other things, encourages each of us to treat one another with respect, to greet them in the morning by using their name, and to look them in their eyes when talking to them. It also creates opportunities for each child to have an opportunity to speak in an unthreatened and possibly scripted manner. As I reviewed each class schedule, I am happy to see that

we are committing time and effort into getting to know and respecting each individual.

This year our school theme is the Fruit of the Spirit. From Galatians 5:22, 23a, we focus on a different characteristic each month. October was patience and November is faithfulness. Concepts such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control can certainly help us in developing better relationships. Our goal is



that, as we discuss each characteristic, we will be more like Christ and honour each other as He would have us do. One can only predict that when we

interact with so many people daily, there will be conflict. Regardless whether we focus on understanding and resolving conflict through Responsive Classroom or the Fruit of the Spirit, there is always room for improvement as we navigate so many personal interactions within a school day. In a framework of Christian family, conflict, and the resolution of it, becomes an opportunity to grow. The reality of conflict is another indication that the school year is well under way.

The weather and the routine of school tell us the school year is on a roll. The end of term one, the timing of report cards, the singing of Christmas songs from the music room, and the preparation of a Christmas program are also signs the school year is well under way. God has blessed us with a good start and we pray for His continued blessing as the year progresses.



ALEXA



BIANCA



CALEB



ESTHER

BOARD REPORT

CHERYL MULDER
BOARD SECRETARY

After the spring election of new board members, the board received and approved names for consideration on several committees needing new members. Committees, and the board, carefully consider these names before approval. If you are contacted about joining a committee, please know that we feel you have the qualifications to serve!

Board members met with all staff members in June and, over subsequent board meetings, reviewed comments of staff members about joys, challenges and highlights of the past school year. A continuing, common comment is the appreciation of expanded space in our new facility! What a blessing it has been for staff and students to be able to 'spread their wings' and fill new spaces.

The Strategic Plan committee met with facilitator Ray Hendriks in June and Year 14 of the *Listowel Christian School Strategic Plan* was created. This plan has been approved at board level and will be presented to the membership at the Fall Membership meeting.

A unique opportunity was presented to the board over the summer months. Two local groups approached LCS to inquire about the possibility of renting excess classroom space for use as a

daycare or nursery school. A special board meeting was held to discuss the many implications of such an arrangement, and it was finally decided that a flexible lease agreement with the Town of North Perth was a positive option for Listowel Christian School. The partnership has proceeded quite smoothly so far, and we are pleased to be able to work cooperatively with a community group who provides a needed service within the Listowel area.

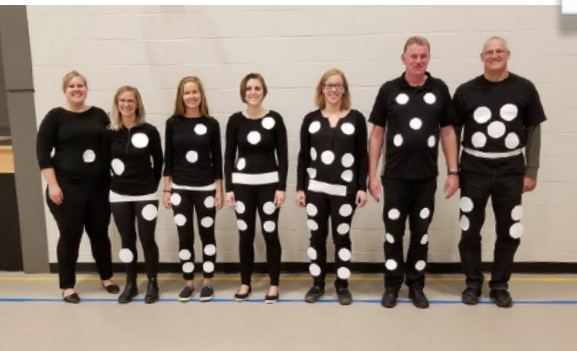
The Kick Off BBQ was hosted by the Promotion & Hospitality committee with donations directed towards the purchase of ukuleles to expand the Music Program. Students in the senior grades are already enjoying this new musical opportunity.

Applications for enrolment of many new students were accepted. We welcome these students and their families into the community of Listowel Christian School.

Several new policies were presented and approved at the board level. An updated *Lockdown Policy* and *Fire Safety Policy* are now in place.

The board is grateful for the years of service by Amanda VanderMeer in her role as bookkeeper for Listowel Christian School. Her knowledge and expertise in this area has been greatly appreciated. We welcome Sandy McDonnell as she takes over this task and transitions into the job.

Ward & Uptigrove is conducting their review of the 2018-2019 financial year and will have a *Review Engagement Report* prepared for the Fall Membership meeting.



Student Leadership is all about dedicated student leaders who take on the responsibility of spreading knowledge through inspiration, encouragement, teaching and being a positive role models just like Jesus to those around them. A student leader strives to change the world by starting with their own community. This year at LCS the Student Leadership group, made up of a dozen dedicated grade 7 & 8 students, have been meeting, planning, and hosting a wide variety of Spirit Days and Team Events.

In September, we raised awareness about Childhood Cancer and other Cancer by leading an assembly where we read the book "The Lemonade Club". Our Spirit Day for September encouraged everyone to wear yellow, gold and bling on September 24th to show our support for Childhood Cancer Awareness. We were amazed by the support of our school population with nearly 100% participation! #beboldgogold. Our school also participated in our annual Terry Fox activities day where we ran, drank lemonade, played 4 square, took basketball shots and scored soccer goals on

a beautiful fall day. In October, we were seeing double, sometimes even triple or quadruple! On October 17th we had Multiples Day! It was so neat to see everyone's creativity and the spirit of inclusion. From dominoes to plaid, we had a great time being multiples! We also hosted the Harvest Hoedown! We bowled at squash with pumpkins, tossed gourds, balanced pumpkins, fed the "turkey" and cleaned up with the broom and apple obstacle course. The students were kept busy and thoroughly enjoyed the Harvest Hoedown.

As we teach and lead these students to become disciples of Christ, we pray that our leadership reflects Jesus who we are all to be imitating. By building foundations of encouragement, leadership and inspiration, we send these students off into the world with confidence. Discipleship is "imitate me as I imitate Christ." Who is imitating you?

STUDENT LEADERSHIP



The Student Leadership Team shows their own crazy side as they lead our school in positive ways, crazy days, and creative plays.



INTRODUCING THE *Coleman Family*

Matthew and I met at church, in Kitchener and lived there after getting married for just over 10 years. Two years ago, after selling our house, we made the grand decision to move to Listowel (that's too long of a story to share here but feel free to ask us anytime).

Matthew is a techy and works as a Network Analyst for the Region of Waterloo, so he does commute daily. Although my primary role is a homemaker, I have been blessed to work as an independent travel consultant for Expedia Cruise Ship Centers and work from home most days, while going to my head office in Kitchener once or twice a week.

We have two boys, Trenton (grade 7) and Grady (grade 5). Our family attends and serves at Gorrie Bible Fellowship, where Matthew heads up the tech team and I am the director of their AWANA program. Our family also serves in greeting, hospitality and the refugee committee but as a country church, sometimes we just serve where needed.

Moving to Listowel was very tough on all of us but especially hard on our boys. Education was a challenge but we made it through two more years of homeschooling and public school. We made the decision to enroll the boys at LCS this year as both Matthew and I felt a clear call that this is where we all could be part of a family.



As Matthew coaches Friday night hockey for the boys and they also play baseball, we already knew some families who attended LCS. We had visited the school on a few different occasions for different events and fell in love with the people and yes, the building. Although it has only been a couple of short months, we are so pleased with our decision and have been welcomed with open arms. I love serving where I can and have joined the fundraising committee where I have already had amazing opportunities to meet wonderful women (and a couple of men) at Pie Making Day.

Matthew and I feel so blessed to be able to send our children to LCS and are so thankful that everyone has welcomed us with open arms. We look forward to what God has in store for us and LCS!





CAMERON



CASSY



CARSON



REID



CARALIE



CELINA



WESTON



MEGAN



JUSTIN



KENZIE



LOGAN



LUX



ALYSSA



ANDREW



ANNA



BAYLEN



BENTLEY



INTRODUCING THE *Koersen Family*

Marcel, Kelly, Marcus and Jolene reside in Listowel. Marcel and Kelly are both LCS alumni. (In fact it's where we first met!) We both had a great experience at LCS and knew it was the right fit for our children. We have been married for 5 years.

Marcel works at Bostech Mechanical in HVAC. He has a passion for woodworking, biking, camping and spending time with his family. He is also a cadet counselor at Bethel CRC.

Kelly is currently home full-time with the kids and baby #3 is due in January! She enjoys biking around town with her kids, Cookie Dough ice cream, and fall.

Marcus is enrolled in Junior Kindergarten - and loving it! When he's not at school he is usually bugging his sister, riding his toy motorcycle, or making a "treefort" in the backyard.

Jolene is 18 months young and follows her big brother around and makes us laugh with her sassy attitude. She loves books about animals, shoes, and the backyard swing.

So far we have been impressed with the teacher to parent communication that we have been receiving ie. The parent communicator. We love that LCS teaches students about God in all aspects of life and what we model at home is reciprocated at school. We've enjoyed becoming members of the LCS community and look forward to making more connections with other families.



INTRODUCING THE *Follings Family*

Mike and I have both grown up in the Wellington County area and reside in Teviotdale. We have 2 girls, Skylar who just started in JK and Danika, who is 2. Mike works for Meridian Manufacturing out of Cambridge as a truck driver delivering grain bins all over Ontario, Quebec and down into the States. He also works on the side for a farmer and his dad in his spare time. We have also recently started our own little sheep farm. We have about 70 ewes which we are breeding for meat. I am a stay at home mom.

I attended a Christian elementary school growing up and find that I had many great memories. So when it came time to find a school for our kids we had been looking to see what our options were outside of the public system. I had passed the school many times and was always curious. Then a family friend had told us about the open house, which we checked out. We both like the community atmosphere and the great morals and values which we want to instill in our kids. Skylar is just loving, going to school and learning all kinds of new things. She has made several new friends, which I often hear her pretending to play with at home.

We are attending Crossroads Life Church in Harriston and are a part of the men's and women's connect groups.

Mike, Mary Lee, Skylar and Danika Follings



CLARK



COHEN



EMILIE



HENK



HOPE



JACOB



LUKAS



JAYMIN



MICHAELA



JAYNA



MICAH



JERRY



NOAH



JORDIE



OLIVIA



SEBASTIAN



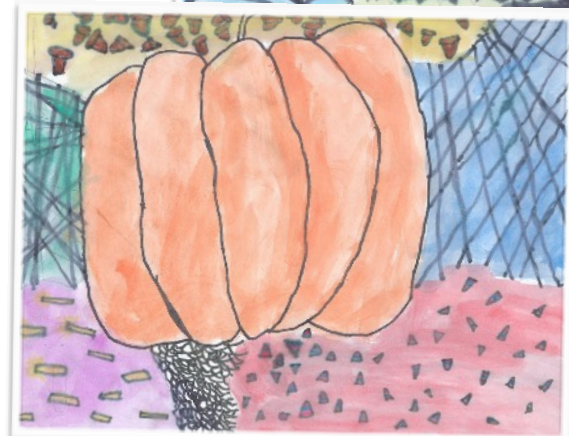
SOPHIE



TAMARA



ZANDER



ADAM



INTRODUCING THE *Taylor Family*

(Wayne, Isela, Sebastian & Fabian)

We have 2 boys (Sebastian is in grade 4 and Fabian is in SK). We moved to Harriston from Barrie in the summer of 2017. It took some time for us to adjust to living in a small town as we were accustomed to large cities. Isela is from Peru and has now been in Canada for the past 16 years. Isela has a bachelor degree in Education and she has worked in schools in Peru and in Canada. In 2013 we spent a year in Lima, Peru and Wayne worked in a Christian school as a grade 4 teacher teaching English subjects.

Wayne works at Listowel S.S. as BES Chief/Head Custodian and Isela works hard at home and in her small children accessories business. We attend Crossroads Life Church in Harriston where we live. LCS is such an amazing school in all aspects, it teaches academics in a Christ centered perspective, the students work well together regardless of the grade, the teachers dedication is evident in how they care for each student and the community involvement of parents, grandparents and former parents still support the ministry of this great christian education.

We are super happy at LCS and delighted to see how this ministry grows and equips our future generations.

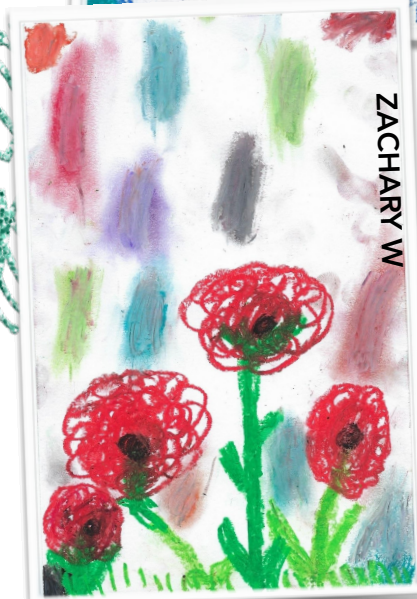
Thank You!

The Fundraising Committee would like to extend a huge Thank You to everyone who helped and supported us with our annual pie day. We wouldn't be able to pull this event off without everyone's help. This year we are pleased to say that Pie Day raised just over **\$6000!** Way to go LCS families and supporters. Any comments or feedback can be emailed to lcschoolfundraising@gmail.com or by talking to any of our committee members.

COMMUNICATOR UPDATE

In a recent Board meeting, it was decided to revise the Communicator schedule. Many activities and events that used to be advertised in the Communicator are now being shared on a regular basis through social media. The Communicator will now come out four times a year (instead of five): November, February, April, and one in June/July with a focus on our graduates.

We trust this change in communication outlets will not lessen our communication to our supporters.



PURPOSE STATEMENT

EDUCATING CHILDREN

while nurturing faith in Christ

TO INTERPRET AND IMPACT GOD'S WORLD

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thurs. Nov. 28	Parent-Teacher Conferences (evening)
Fri. Nov. 29	Parent-Teacher Conferences (no school)
Tues. Dec. 17	Christmas Concert
Fri. Dec. 20	Skating at Steve Kerr Memorial Complex
Dec. 23 - Jan. 3	Christmas Break
Mon. Jan. 6	First day back in the New Year
Fri. Jan. 24	PA Day (no school)
Thurs. Jan. 30	Hockey Tournament at CW Sportsplex in Fergus
Fri. Feb. 14	PA Day (no school)
Mon. Feb. 16	Family Day (no school)




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