

THE COMMUNICATOR

A SEASON OF

singing?

BY ALANA SIEBRING

Knowing trees, I understand the meaning of patience. Knowing grass, I can appreciate persistence.

No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn. Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us. April is a promise that May is bound to keep.
— Hal Borland

Spring is a time of renewal, new hope, a fresh start. It brings cleansing rains, blue skies and warmer days! New life buds and blossoms around us, the birds are chirping, and babies being born. For many of us, it represents a new chapter and the beginning of a bright new year ahead. "Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come" Song of Solomon 2:12 While this is true for the world outside our doors, in our hearts may be different. Do you feel like singing right now, is your heart heavy? It would be remiss of me to not address our current state - this is

an uncertain, confusing and hard time we are living in. The weight of Covid-19 is resting on many of our shoulders. Anxiety twists its way into our minds and hearts, doubt and fear following close behind. Many questions circling our minds about our child's education, the future, our economy, our safety, and financial security.

Our children miss their friends and teachers, the routine of a school day and the joy when they run around in the playground. It saddens me to think of our new school, sitting empty and waiting for it's halls to be filled with cheer and pounding feet again! Our annual Spring Auction was postponed, a great disappointment for many. We are missing out on many things as a school community, but all hope is not lost! Our teachers and leaders are learning, changing and still forging ahead with shaping the minds of the children. It may look different for a while, with more help and involvement from us parents, but we can trust that they will do what needs to be done! This won't last forever. I am reminded of a bible verse that says; "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1".

People all around the world have slowed down, and during this time God's creation has begun to sing. The earth is healing, rivers are

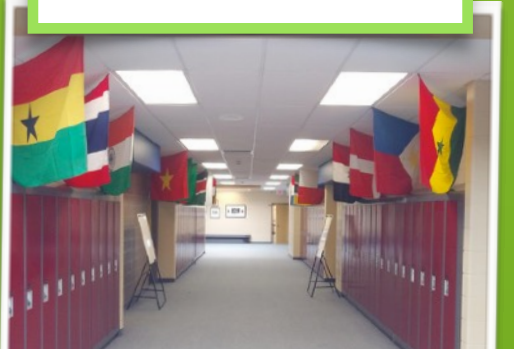
cleaning, air is cleaner due to less pollution, animals are prospering. At home we are connecting deeper with our families, and with many loved ones over the phone or internet. We are pausing and taking time to look inside our hearts and towards our Heavenly Father. Yes friends, our days may be busier and filled with mess and loud children. Dishes piling up, working from home, home school, and distractions all around. But don't let these things cloud your view of what really matters – we are safe, God is in control, he will make everything perfect in His time! He will use all this bad for good... can you see it? Can you feel the good in all of this? I encourage you to keep your feet firmly planted in this truth. Our God is the same God who was with the Israelites in the desert, during slavery in Egypt, and with Moses on Mount Sanai. Our God is the same God who sent His only son to die on the cross for our sins. He loves us so much, he will never leave us or forget His covenant to care for us! As Christians we have the promise of heaven in store for us, we do not need to be afraid of what happens here on earth. (1 Corinthians 2:9)

My prayer for you and our school community right now is for renewal of faith, peace of mind, joy, and for the Lord to direct our ways going forward in this strange time. Blessings to you and your family!


Listowel
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



MODEL UN



COVID-19 THROUGH MY TEACHER LENS

Typically, educational change happens slowly. An idea becomes a proposal which then takes lots of research, brainstorming, draft proposals, documentation, testing, recommendations, approval, professional development training, and eventually implementation. Teachers are usually skeptical about real change.

March 13 turned our world upside down. We thought we were headed into a relaxing March break. Instead, we were challenged with preparing our students to work from home. We bypassed most of the above steps and implemented a significant change in direction of how education happens. A challenge, an adrenaline rush, and, as teachers and parents together, we had to figure it out on the fly. By March 23, we had most of our students ready and equipped to learn for the next two weeks. Some of it worked well and some of it is still a work in progress, but overall, we had adopted a major educational shift, it was working out, and there was a sense of accomplishment.

Thankfully, we work within a supportive community.

There was little time to rest. The announcement of an extended school closure turned two weeks into six. Now it wasn't about just getting by for a while, it was truly adopting the change. We had to move from "this is short term" to consider and provide lasting quality educational learning opportunities. We had to try understand what was mandatory and what was optional, what was worth doing and what wasn't, what could be done at home and what couldn't, what was enough and what was not. Another challenge. The panic snuck in again.

By the time you read this we will be four weeks, 20 teaching days, into this remote teaching and learning model. I can already tell by our weekly online staff meetings, that teachers are more relaxed about the adjustment. Some routine is setting in and it is good, although I do not wish that remote learning becomes our new model. There are still lots of details to figure out, however, before we panic again, we will enjoy a little routine.

We are not sure what lasting impact this change will have on our traditional model of education. I am sure there will be some. Unanimously, what teachers miss most is the relationships with our students. Google Meet or Zoom Meetings just aren't the same. People were created to be in community. Christian schools were meant to be one of our communities where we grow together, learn from one another, and encourage one another. We pray for the day we can do that in person again.





CAPITAL MEMORIES

After two years of fundraising, the Grade 7-8 class, along with some chaperones, boarded a Cherrey coach bus and headed for Ottawa. We left on Monday February 3 and returned on Thursday February 6. For those four days, we spent all our waking hours together.

Our trip included a variety of educational and social activities. We visited museums, played laser tag, skated on the canal, swam in a wave pool, slept in a hotel, ate more fast food in four days than any person ever should, and... rode the escalator! Thanks to Mr. Coleman, Mrs. Rylaarsdam, and Mr. VanderKlippe for joining us on our trip. We created memories!





DARREN



SAVANNAH



EMMALYN



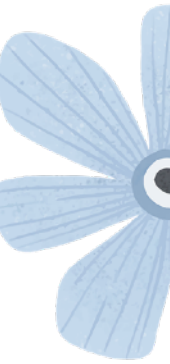
TREY



ISAAC



WES



JADON



ZACKARY





BOARD REPORT

CHERYL MULDER
BOARD SECRETARY

The board continues to review monthly operating statements to track income and expenses for the current year. Business as usual also includes spring contract review and contract renewal work which is underway for all staff members.

We were pleased to approve the recent enrolment for children from the DesJardine and Merwin families.

Since the move to the Binning Street address the Town of North Perth has requested we consider a *Reciprocal Use Agreement*. A reciprocal use agreement would see a barter of services of equal/similar value on both sides. As an example this may include LCS use of the arena for student skating in exchange for North Perth use of the gymnasium for a week of Summer Art or Drama Camp. LCS would maintain the right to approve and limit all activities taking place in our facility and could still arrange rental of the facility over and above any reciprocal events.

The move to town has also included the addition of video surveillance to the school property. A video surveillance policy was drafted and approved, and the appropriate signage is posted to inform the public they may be 'on camera'.

Every year board members have taken the opportunity to visit with staff at the end of June to hear joys, challenges and highlights of the previous school year. This has always been a very busy time for staff as they are wrapping up the school year. As well, when it is time to share these reports at a later board meeting, the summer transition of old & new board members meant that some board members who conducted the staff visits are no longer on the board. To address these issues the board has decided to move the timing of the visits to April. Board members will team up and visit staff, bringing feedback to the May meeting.

Board members Jill VanderWier, Arnold Bosman and Larry Robson will be completing their terms this spring. The board carefully considered nominations for the upcoming term and will present the names of those who have accepted a nomination at the Spring Membership meeting. We also look forward to the planned *Gallery Walk* at the Spring Membership meeting that will provide direction to the Strategic Plan committee in the coming years.

AND then the world came to a screeching halt!!! The arrival of COVID-19 on the world stage led to the interruption, and then suspension, of almost every familiar activity. March Break came and went, but the students did not return. We followed the public schools in the closing of our doors. Teachers became the learners as they found new and innovative ways to provide lessons to students who had to stay at home. Our staff rose to the challenge and has done

an exemplary job of reaching out to students, encouraging them, teaching them and maintaining the learning environment and community that is Listowel Christian School!

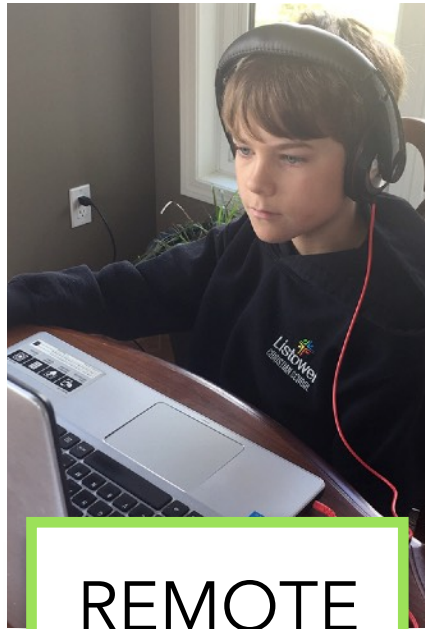
As an executive and board we now hold meetings via Google Hangouts; extra meetings to discuss the rapid-fire changes that are affecting LCS. Discussions about how to support our COO and Principal, Ed Boelens. How do we encourage and support our staff? How do we manage finances? How do we prepare a 2020-2021 budget when there are so many unknowns right now? How can we encourage, support and reassure our LCS family as they also struggle with study-at-home situations and other pressures brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic?

We pray. We share. We keep in contact with one another.

*God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though
the earth give way and the
mountains fall into the heart of the
sea, though its waters roar and
foam and the mountains quake
with their surging.*

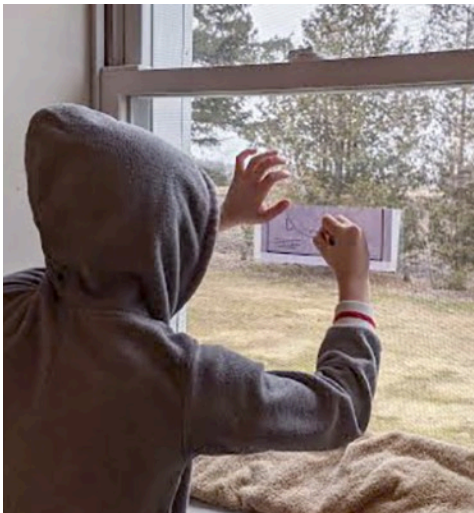
*The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
Psalm 46:1-3,11*

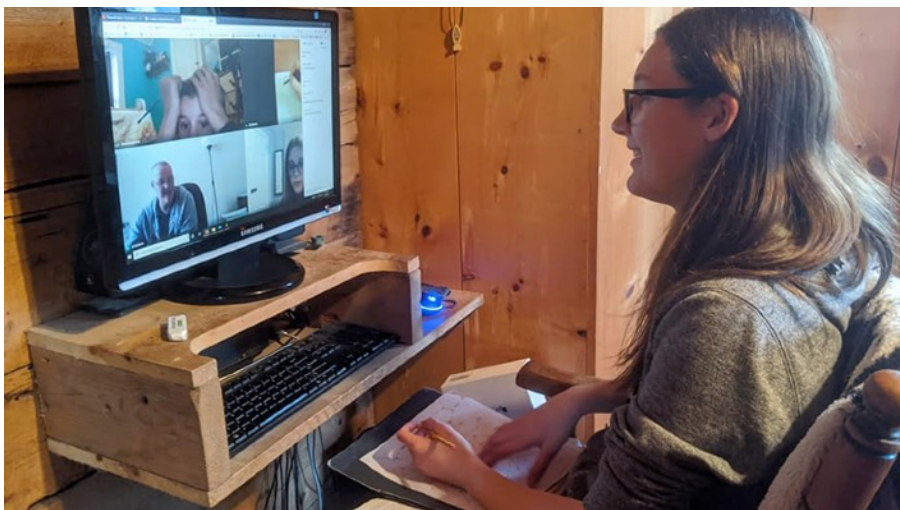
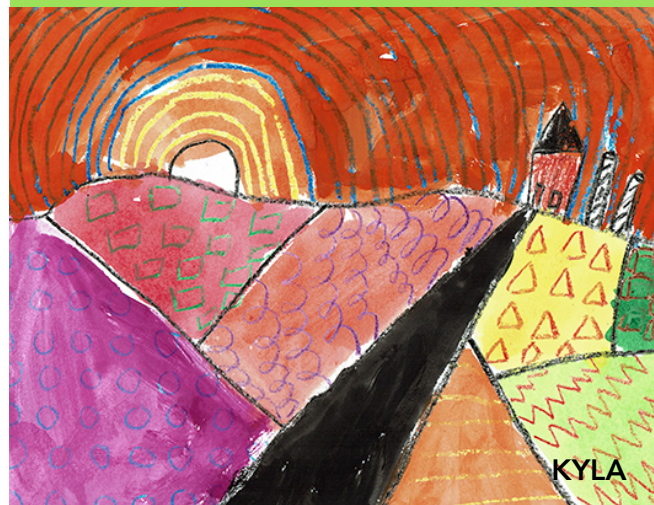
The board asks for your prayers as they wrestle with many decisions. And know that each of us upholds our members...students, parents, staff...in our prayers as well. The Lord Almighty IS with us! And He's got the whole world in His hands!



REMOTE LEARNING

Thanks parents for
creating great learning
spaces at home.





PURPOSE STATEMENT

EDUCATING
CHILDREN

*while nurturing
faith in Christ*

TO INTERPRET AND
IMPACT GOD'S WORLD

The Fundraising Committee
is working hard at getting our
NEW COOKBOOK
updated and published.

If you have a recipe you would like
added please contact us at
lcschoolfundraising@gmail.com
or by visiting the website at:
www.cookbookprinter.com/

(To login, the username is LCS, password is LCS)

UPCOMING EVENTS

CANCELLED

May 4 - 8 Christian Education Week

Thurs. May 7 Grandparents &
Grandfriends Day

PENDING

Fri. May 15 LCS Track & Field Day

Mon. May 18 Victoria Day (no school)

Fri. June 5 Track & Field in Brantford

Tues. June 9 Baseball Tournament
in Kitchener

Sat. June 13 Annual Golf Fundraiser

Mon. June 15 SK Graduation

Wed. June 17 Grade 8 Graduation

Fri. June 19 Last Day of School

PYJAMA DAY



Pyjamas help to create
a relaxing day before
March break.



Listowel
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL