

# THE COMMUNICATOR

## *Changing Seasons* WITH AN UNCHANGED GOD

BY ALISON BROWN

As we watch the leaves display their beauty and make their free fall to the ground, we feel the fade of summer's warmth replaced with a chill and more layers to keep us warm. With the changing seasons in a changed world, it's good to remember one very important truth; Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

In a strange, sometimes scary and definitely unpredictable world, we have the promise that while so much around us will shift, He never will. We can choose to rest in that. The same God that was with Moses and Daniel and Mary, is also with us.

We like the comfort of predictable but God is the God of the unpredictable. We prefer the familiarity of routine and yet, God has built change right into our seasons and they often disrupt our routine. Change is something our Father has actually designed and though it is difficult at times, it also comes bearing gifts. All it takes to find them is for us to pause long enough to look for them.



**Listowel**  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

School has changed. A lot. The world has too. But the Bible says, "He has made everything beautiful in its time" (Ecclesiastes 3:11). Could there be beauty in wet, cold, dreary days? Could there be beauty in school looking a lot different this year? Could there be beauty in this pandemic? He says, in time, there will be. That is God's promise.

Without cold, grey days we wouldn't appreciate the warm, sunny ones. We would take for granted warm coffee with a friend, or a good book by a warm fire. Without a challenging year, we wouldn't appreciate the ease of a joyous one.

Is it possible we took going to church for granted? Were we unintentionally forgetting all the work our teachers put into our children's education? Did we take pizza day for granted? Could we have gotten complacent with our freedom to sing and worship our Lord in public places? Maybe. Maybe He wants us to look at all the events of this year a little differently than we have been. Maybe there is a gift for each of us to unwrap here.

We can all agree that Covid 19, and all the challenges it has brought with it, have felt a little (or a lot!) like a never-ending, cold, wet, grey day. When spring approaches, we will appreciate the warm sun all the more. When we can sing aloud without masks, we will sing our hearts out and be so thankful that

we can. When we can see each other's smile, I bet we'll all smile bigger. When we become complacent with the warmth of the summer sun, we will now have a new reminder to appreciate it instead.

Sometimes it feels like winter drags on forever and even though it feels that way, winter does end. Eventually the mittens and hats come off. The chill will melt away. Knowing this can give us hope that this too shall pass. Rather than use our energy to get out of it, we can choose to use our energy to focus on what HE wants us to get out of it.

Together, we can learn from this change that has disrupted our routines and made us all uncomfortable. We can take with us a new appreciation for everything we may have once taken for granted. We will all look back and appreciate the beauty He has made with all of this. Why? Because He said He would make all things beautiful in his time and He keeps his promises.

When things feel uncertain and uneasy, He remains our unchanging, unwavering hope; today, yesterday and forever. With him, we can rest knowing that seasons will come and go, the world will look different to us, but our God will always be the incredible, loving God who sees us through every storm and every season no matter how never-ending, cold, wet, or grey it feels.



**STUDENT LEADERSHIP INITIATIVES:**

The food drive to care for our neighbours and mask decorating to generate school community and fun.



# THE PRINCIPAL'S *post*

BY ED BOELENS



## SCHOOL THROUGH A PANDEMIC

You've heard it said, "you don't value something until you no longer have it". I think a lot of us have experienced this over the last half year. Many of the things we had or did before, we may have taken for granted but when we were no longer able to do them, we realized either how important they were or how much we enjoyed them. I have certainly experienced that with school: it was day-to-day stuff for years but when it was taken away last March, I really missed it.

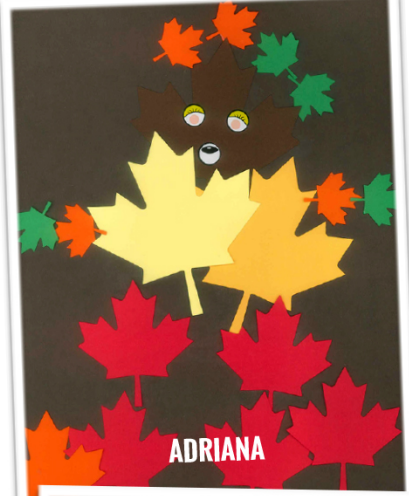
Now that we are back at school, I thank God every day for the opportunity to walk through the front doors and prepare for students to arrive. The simple things like meeting as staff for devotions has been renewed as a cherished practice. We no longer sit around a table in close quarters but we stand in a large, socially distanced circle in the lobby. I appreciate being in the classroom despite having to wear a mask and needing to project my voice to the back corner of the classroom because students are socially distanced. I appreciate yard duty (at least until it snows) and watching the students run, play, and have fun even though I miss the other half of the students who

aren't out at the same time. We make the small things work so that we can accomplish and enjoy the important things.

There are aspects of our schooling that we are missing. We miss the times when parents would visit and it was normal to see them in the lobby. We miss our assemblies, not only being all together but worshipping together. We miss singing in assemblies but also in our classrooms. We miss being out for recess all at once. Due to the alternating recess times, our staff misses the daily connections with each other. We miss working elbow to elbow in the classroom and we miss designing our classroom settings around group work. Schooling does look different.

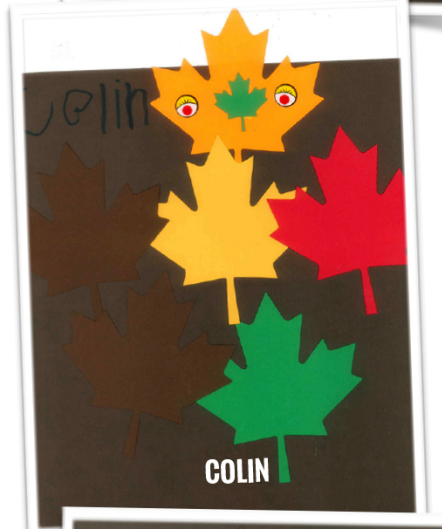
Overall, we count our blessings. We are healthy, we are happy, we are together, we are learning, we are in community. We continue to pray that God holds our schooling community in his hands so we can be together to learn. We are thankful for our parent community who supports us and works quietly in the background to ensure the school remains operational, whether that is the Board or any other of our committees.

We know God has carried His people through difficult times before, during Bible times with the flood, through Egyptian slavery, the exodus and captivity, through times of evil kings just to name a few, and through more modern history such as world wars, previous epidemics, and religious discrimination. It is with focus and confidence in God that we move forward in faith and continue schooling through this pandemic.



# out & ABOUT

**CREATIVE LEARNING SPACES:**  
on the floor, in a bookshelf,  
and out in nature.





# BOARD REPORT

CHERYL MULDER  
BOARD SECRETARY

Since the Spring Membership Meeting, the Board of LCS has returned to in-person, physically distanced meetings in a classroom-sized meeting room. ZOOM had its good points and allowed us to meet as needed through the Spring season, but it feels good, and more productive, to speak face-to-face with fellow board members.

We welcomed new members around the board table and voted as a board for this year's executive members. Family circumstances, however, led to the resignation of board member, and chair, Jon VanDonkersgoed. Following procedure set out within our bylaws, the board appointed Andrea Bootsma to fill the vacancy and complete Jon's term on board (Spring 2021). The LCS membership will have the opportunity to approve this, and other board actions, at the Fall Membership Meeting.

Traditionally, board members meet with all staff in June to gain their feedback on the joys, challenges, and highlights of the past school year. This year board members attempted to meet with staff in driveways, back yard patios or through phone calls to keep this important connection

and input from our teachers and other staff members.

The summer months offered a bit of reprieve for board and staff from the stress of online meeting and learning/teaching; but there was still much uncertainty as to what September might look like. A task force was appointed with representation from a variety of experiences and careers. The *School Re-Opening Task Force* was instrumental in sifting through governmental and health unit information and recommendations, and drafted a re-opening strategy specific to LCS.

Due to the recent resignations of our administrative assistant as well as custodian, the *Hiring Task Force* was appointed to oversee the hiring of new personnel for these roles. We wish Rita Ann Feenstra and Erin Hollinger well in their new endeavours; and welcome Jessica Playford and Theo VanderGaast to Listowel Christian School.

A third task force, *Capital, Bursary, Drive Task Force*, was appointed to examine the wrap-up of the Capital Campaign, oversee bursary funds received through the capital campaign, and what the resumption of the annual Fall Budget Drive might look like now that the capital campaign pledge collection is nearing completion.

Due to limits on social interactions many regular activities had to be suspended. The annual Kick Off BBQ, the first big LCS community event was canceled. We missed this

opportunity to meet new families and reacquaint with friends not seen for many months. Committees had to make the tough decision to scale back or cancel activities such as the annual Pie Day and gym rentals that brought in additional income. It is our prayer that we will find different, yet meaningful ways, to connect as a community.

LCS was blessed to receive applications for enrolment of many new students for the new school year in September. We welcome these students and their families into the community of Listowel Christian School. The memberships of the following families were accepted and approved at the board level:

G & S Allin, J & A Dekker,  
D & T Keating, C & E Schinkel,  
H & H Siebring, M & K Smith  
and P & K Wilting.

Ward & Uptigrove is conducting their review of the 2019-2020 fiscal year and will have a *Review Engagement Report* prepared for the Fall Membership Meeting.





## INTRODUCING THE *Keating Family*

Hi, we are David and Theresa Keating and we are so excited to be part of the LCS community! We have 3 wonderful children named Samuel, Genevieve and Henri.

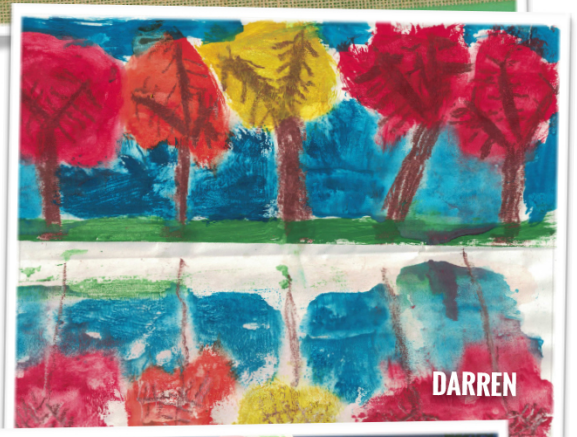
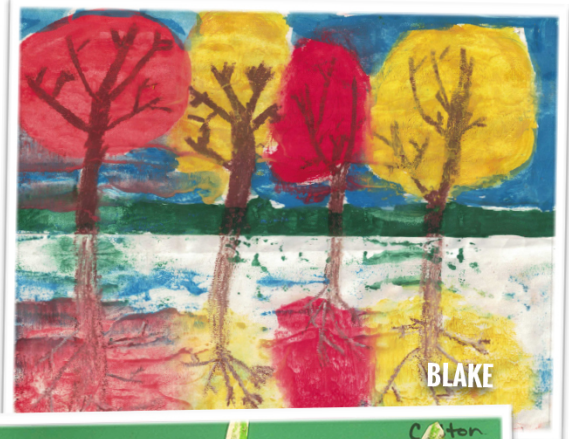
Samuel is 8 years old and in grade 3. He is a kind and compassionate young man who loves to build and see how things work. He loves to read, and talks a mile a minute (although he comes by that honestly, thanks to his mum).

Genevieve is 5 years old and in SK. She is a ball of energy that loves all things pink and kitties, and can sit and read a book with you for hours. She wants to be a unicorn when she grows up, naturally.

Henri is 2 years old and the baby of our family. He loves to be social, yet gets very bashful when he sees someone for the first time. He loves trying to do everything and anything that his older siblings do.

As a family we attend Crossroads Life Church in Harriston where David has the position of Executive Pastor. We also together run the Young Adults ministry. As a day job Theresa works part-time at Telus in Listowel.

We are absolutely loving LCS. We were drawn to LCS after talking to many families that we know that attend and constantly rave about how great of a school it is. We are so glad we made the jump into Christian education. Knowing our kids are going to grow up in a school environment that affirms our Christian worldview is priceless to us. Thank you for being such a great school community to be part of!





## INTRODUCING THE *Schinkel Family*

Hi, we are Cody and Emily Schinkel and we have 2 children. Eli who is just starting junior kindergarten and Rosalie who is only a few months old.

Eli is an energetic boy who loves to laugh and tell stories to whoever will listen. He really enjoys being around people and playing with Lego or tractors with his dad.

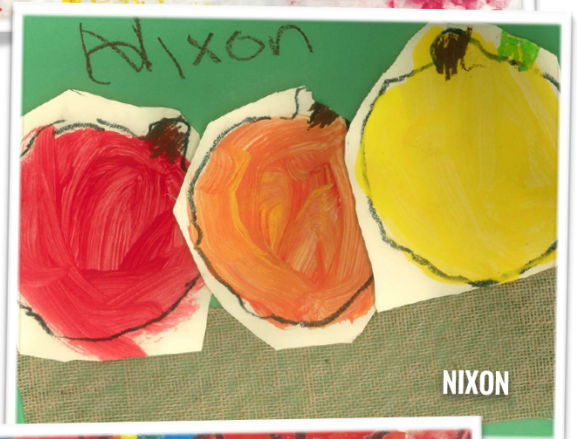
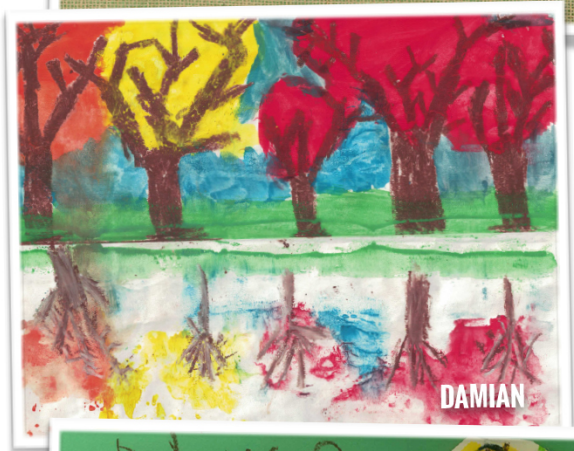
Rosalie is a bright blue eyed girl who loves to smile and light up the room.

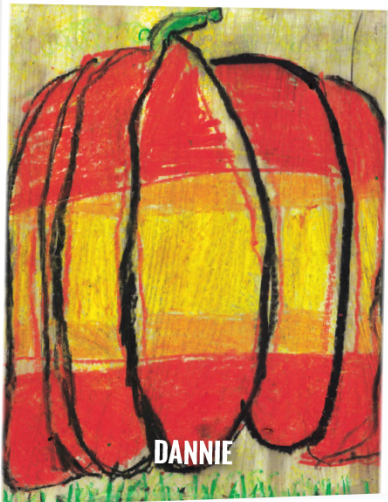
Cody works for EastGen as the AI24 Specialist. He loves to be outside gardening and doing woodworking projects.

Emily is a stay at home mom who loves to read and sing at any point in the day.

We go to Crossroads Life Church in Harriston and are both involved in the worship team, as well as children's ministry and men's ministry.

We've heard a lot of great things about LCS and really wanted our children to grow up with Christian education to be a part of their every day school learning. We are excited to get to know LCS better and become more involved.





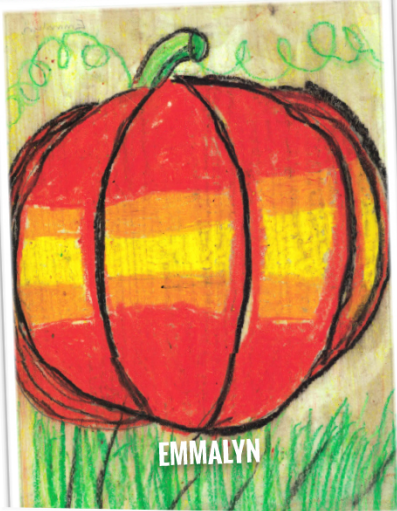
DANNIE



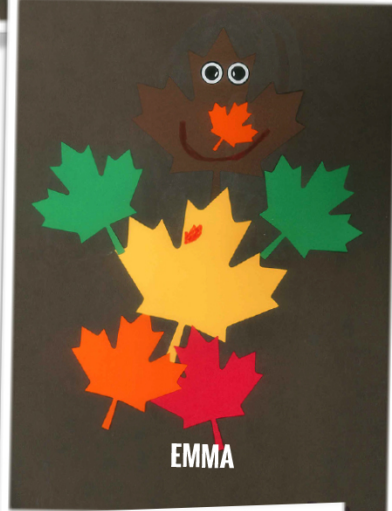
DREW



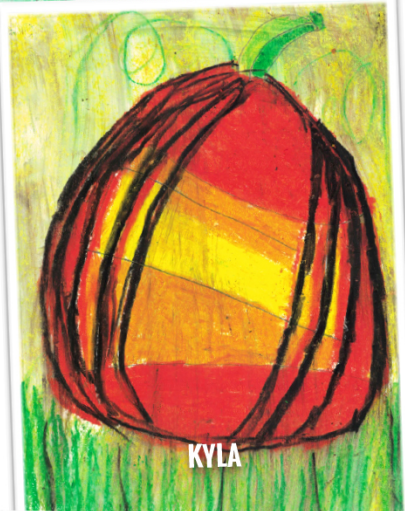
JAKE



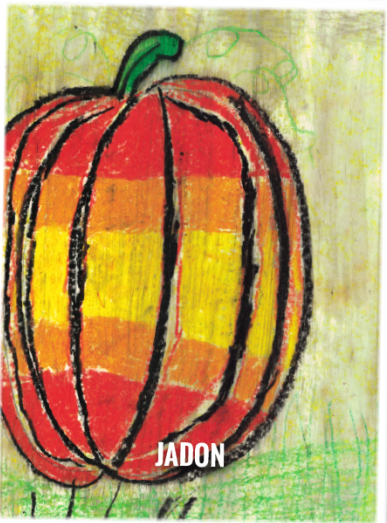
EMMALYN



EMMA



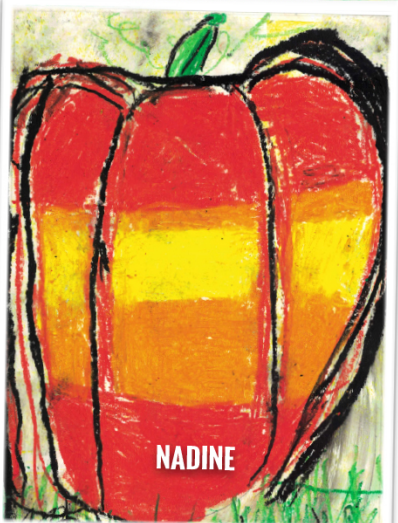
KYLA



JADON



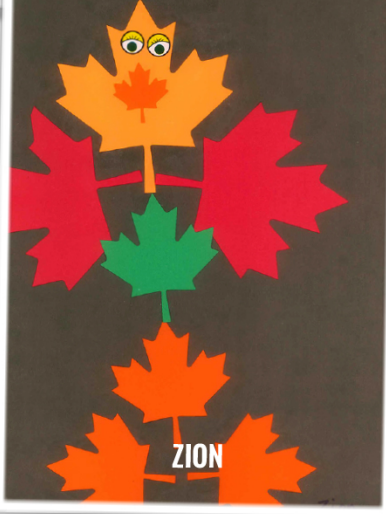
HARRISON



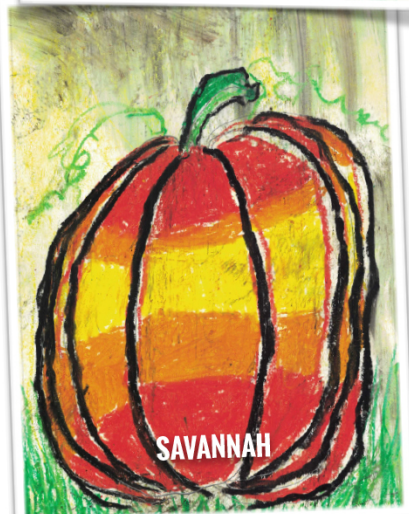
NADINE



JAELYN



ZION



SAVANNAH

# FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

## *Announcements*

There is a lot on the go right now for fundraising and ordering Christmas Goodies. We wanted to break it down for you so everyone knows where to look, find your contact person to place your order and the dates to have these orders in by. All forms can be handed in to the office or contact the individual in charge.

### FUNDSCRIP GIFT CARDS:

Due Monday **Dec. 7** at midnight -  
**Janel Hiemstra**

*This is ongoing throughout the year and always due the first Monday of the month.*

### FROM YOUR FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE:

Oranje Grove Gift card order due Monday **Dec. 7** - **Tanya Slotegraaf** and **Robin Dykstra**

*Oranje Grove gift cards are ongoing and due the same day as Fundscrip.*

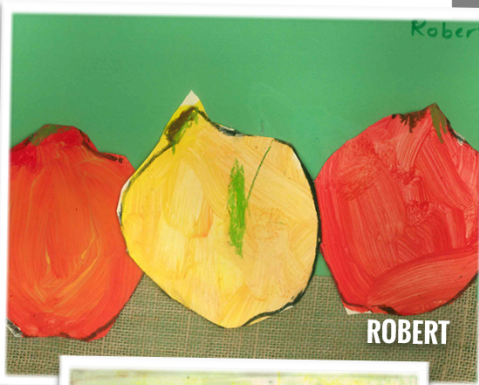
### FROM YOUR BAZAAR COMMITTEE:

**Pick up day** for croquettes, planters and lasagna dinners is **Nov. 28**  
10am - 2pm

### FROM YOUR GRADE 7/8 OTTAWA FUNDRAISING:

Meat  
Poinsettias  
Almond rings/stollen

Find a grade 6 or 7 student to place your order  
**Due Nov. 19**  
**Pick up Day Dec. 8**



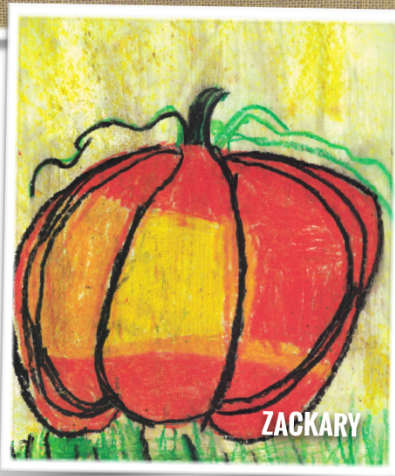
ROBERT



TREY



SKYLAR



ZACKARY

# PURPOSE STATEMENT

EDUCATING CHILDREN

*while nurturing faith in Christ*

TO INTERPRET AND IMPACT GOD'S WORLD

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Thurs. Nov. 19</b>                  | Grade 7/8 Ottawa Trip Fundraising Due                                      |
| <b>Fri. Nov. 20</b>                    | PA Day (no school)   |
| <b>Sat. Nov. 28</b>                    | Croquette / Lasagna Take Out Meal / Christmas Planter Pick Up (10am - 2pm) |
| <b>Mon. Nov. 30</b>                    | First Term Report Cards go home  |
| <b>Thurs. Dec. 3 &amp; Fri. Dec. 4</b> | Parent-Teacher Conferences (no school on the 4th)                          |
| <b>Mon. Dec. 7</b>                     | Fall Membership Meeting  |
| <b>Tues. Dec. 8</b>                    | Meat / Poinsettias / Almond Rings or Stollen Pick up                       |
| <b>Fri. Dec. 18</b>                    | Last day of school before Christmas holidays                               |
| <b>Mon. Jan. 4</b>                     | First day of school in the New Year  |



**Listowel**  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL