

# THE COMMUNICATOR

## joy FILLED

BY KIM BURGSMAN

Living a life of joy blesses us, those around us, and honours God. "The joy of the Lord is my strength." Nehemiah 8:10. So how do we experience the joy that gives us such strength?

### We catch it from our children.

Kids are a window to seeing joy. Looking through their window helps us see so many joyful moments we would otherwise miss. An ant carrying a leaf across the path. The stone that looks so special. Hearing the gentle babble of a brook before we reach it. Receiving scribbled art from sticky hands eager to show off their latest creation as we decipher if it is a cat or a person. To them a Van Gogh. To us a Picasso. Either way an absolute masterpiece! Anything our children, or for me, grandchildren, offer is bliss. And thus enthusiastic joy is transferred!

### We look for it in moments of our day.

Joy is not dependent on outward circumstances, but instead the knowledge that God has a plan for each of us. "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future" Jeremiah 29:11. Life has a habit of frequently throwing us curveballs. While we need to deal with curveballs, people around us are watching the 'how' of our attitude and the 'way' of dealing with them. Our children are not just watching, but experiencing our attitudes as they live with us. Here, too, our joy, or lack thereof, will rub off on the joy in their lives. Some days we need to seek joy when it seems most distant. Let us find joy in the small, the less noteworthy. The cookie crumbs under tables. We have little hands leaving crumbs. The sun shining, exposing dirty windows. We have a home and sun. The dishes left unwashed as kids are corralled to hockey. Our children have opportunities. Zoom lessons to be overseen while too busy already. Christian education enriches our children even at home.

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PETER

## MAKING LEMONADE

I am sure you heard the saying, "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade". The premise of the saying is that we should make the most of our situations. I have thought a lot about that over the last few months, even a year.

Through the last year of schooling, our situations have changed regularly. In March, we went to remote learning, a totally new experience. Then in September we were back in school, but it looked different. In January, back to remote learning. Now, we find ourselves back in the building with more restrictions. Whatever the circumstances, we are challenged to make the most of it – make lemonade.

When I read the Bible, this past year is not unlike the Biblical story. Throughout Biblical history, Christians have faced unprecedented circumstances. Think of the Israelites in captivity in Egypt, Noah building an ark amongst critics, David's courage facing Goliath, and jumping way ahead to many of Paul's trials in his journeys. Consistently Christians are challenged to adapt and react to changing situations. There is a lot we can learn from these unprecedented times. How did God's people react? What/who carried them through? How did it impact their future? All of life's experiences help us to create the next chapters of the story as we rely on God's care for us.

Life granted us remote teaching. We could have grieved the loss of in-person teaching (and for a while we did) or we could have grasped the lemons and made lemonade. In a staff meeting, I asked the staff to reflect on their recent remote

teaching experiences and consider what worked well and could possibly translate to in-person teaching. Here are some staff reflections:

- ▶ Some students worked well while at home with the opportunity to have a parent or older sibling working with them and supporting their learning. That one-on-one support is effective.
- ▶ We know students are successful when they are being taught and challenged at their own level. We call that differentiated teaching. Remote teaching allowed teachers to work with small groups of students on Zoom, uninterrupted by the distractions of the busy classroom, to focus on learning at their level.
- ▶ Remote learning allowed teachers to work effectively with split classes where the curriculum required separate teaching. Specifically for math, we could work with one class level at a time.
- ▶ I enjoyed the opportunity to invite Katherine VanDonkersgoed into my math class for part of the time. Katherine has been home all year and remote learning equaled the playing field between her and her peers for a while. That was very good!

Although remote learning is not our preference, we can still learn from the experience and become even better teachers. If we are trying to teach our students to interpret and impact God's world, we should be invested in the same process ourselves. We are trying to interpret the experiences of remote learning. We are trying to make lemonade!



JASMINE



BLAIR

## GRADE 1 artwork



HENRIK

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**We steer away from that which would rob us of joy.**

We seek joy yet are surrounded by joy robbers. And we willingly lead ourselves right to them. As do our children. Social media is where others have nicer things, more friends, go cooler places, wear designer clothes, have and do things we do not. Even if we have and do these things, all types of media give us the illusion that we can have something better yet. Media creates a covetousness that can rob us of joy. It does not sneak in because we are consciously looking for the more or the better, rather it is repeatedly invited in by click of remote and scroll of finger. The world swirls around us and we forget that joy does not come from purchased things or experiences but from the very God who made us. Our joy and contentment are in Him alone. "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." John 15:11

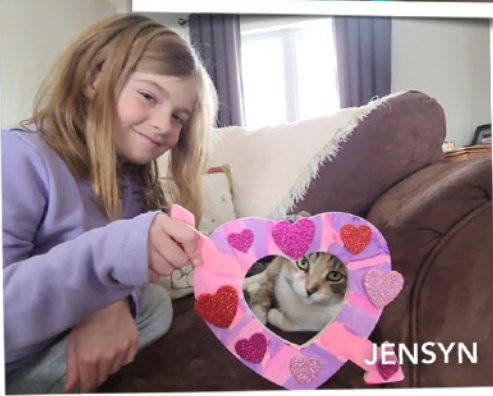
**We practice it.**

I wonder how many more people would come to the Lord if all Christians were visibly joy filled. How much richer would our families be? People are naturally attracted to happy people. It rubs off. It rubs back! It also rubs forward. Doing an unexpected kindness for another doubles back to us when we see that we have brought joy to someone's day. A few muffins for a neighbour, a laneway shovelled, a kind word said. It moves forward as that neighbour moves through their day with a little more joy. And the best time to give joy is when we are joy depleted ourselves. Because it does indeed rub back. And because God has called us to joy. Always. "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" Philippians 4:4.

Let us harness this strength of joy freely promised by our Lord. May it overflow to all we meet. May those who don't know the Lord envy it. And then seek it from the only One who can assure such a promise. I pray it will result in churches overflowing and Christian schools bursting at the seams.



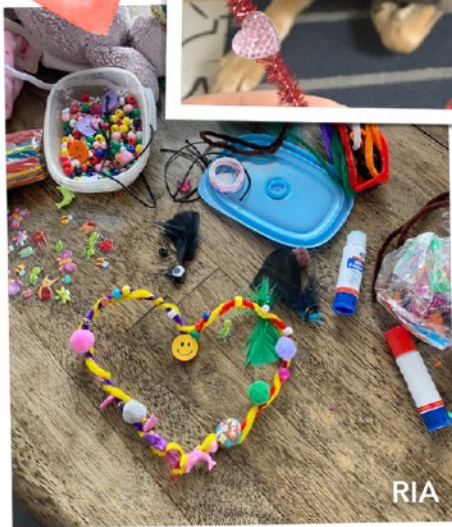
ANA



JENSYN



DAYNA



RIA



GERRIT





# BOARD REPORT

CHERYL MULDER  
BOARD SECRETARY

There have already been a few staff changes since September due to a maternity leave and an extension of a current maternity leave. The Education/HR committee conducted interviews and recommended applicants to the board to fill the positions of Music teacher and a Grades 7/8 teaching position. Julia Duiella Boekestyn will extend her term contract through June 2021 as the Music teacher and we welcome Sharon VanKampen as the grades 7/8 teacher. As well, Amanda VanderMeer has made the formal transition from interim bookkeeper to contracted bookkeeper.

The Fall Membership meeting was well attended in its virtual format. The main focus of the fall meeting is the presentation of the

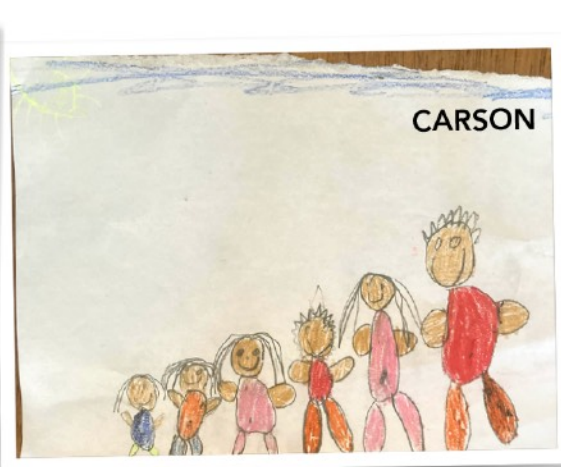
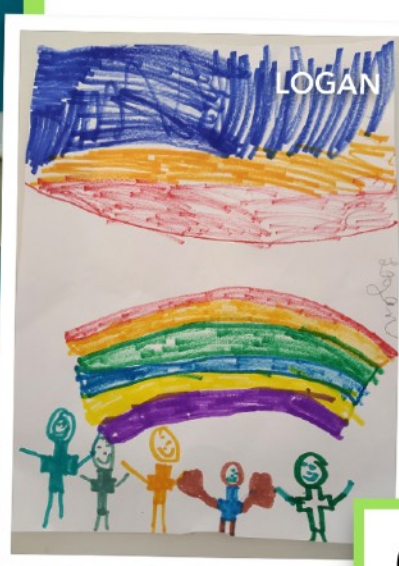
*Independent Practitioner's Review Engagement Report*, more commonly recognized as the year-end financial statements for the 2019-2020 school year. As a federally recognized charitable organization the board of LCS has a legal responsibility to present these documents, and invite our membership's response, at an annual meeting. We appreciate those members who watched the recorded meeting and voted to approve the appointment of Andrea Bootsma as board member to fill a vacancy, as well as to approve board actions since the Spring Membership Meeting.

The LCS Strategic Plan Committee was required to change their usual process and wrote a working bridge year plan. They will focus on three board directed areas: a review of the membership process, a review of the finance structure, and completion of the Capital Campaign and review of the Drive. The committee will be looking for community input for a new Strategic Plan when larger gatherings are once again a possibility.

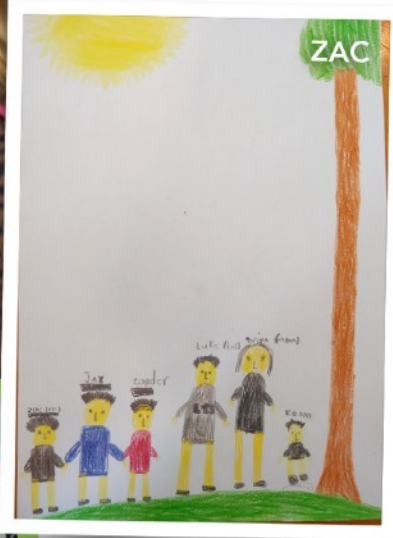
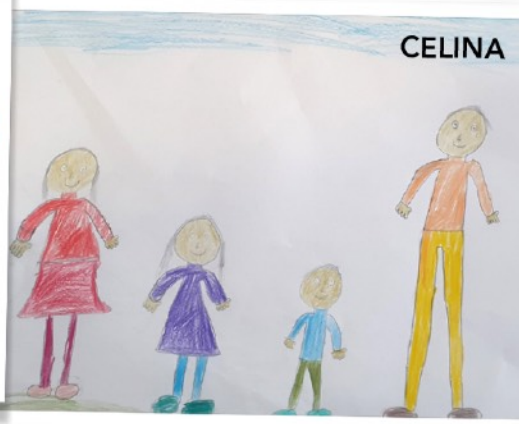
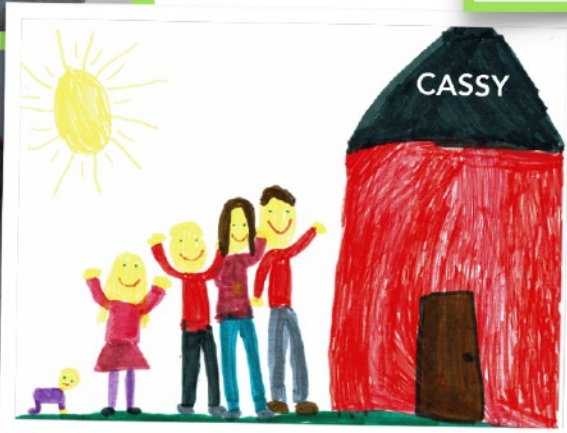
Regular board meetings include a review of the latest month's operating statement to keep the board apprised of the financial situation of the school. Recent board meetings have held an educational component for board members beginning with an in-depth look at the Listowel Christian School Constitution.

The Properties Committee is in the process of obtaining quotes for roof maintenance on portions of the building. This maintenance schedule is aided in part by a comprehensive report submitted by CRD Construction Ltd on all portions of the roof when they completed construction of the facility.

The Executive and Board are once again meeting via Zoom and are thankful this format is available so that we can continue our work for the school. We are also thankful for all the staff and parents and students who are committed to working together through this period of distanced learning. We look forward to the day, hopefully soon, when we can do all these activities, learning and leading, face to face!



**GRADE 3** *family portraits*





## INTRODUCING THE *Allin Family*

Hello everyone, we are Gerald and Simone Allin. We have 2 girls, Carina and Marlie.

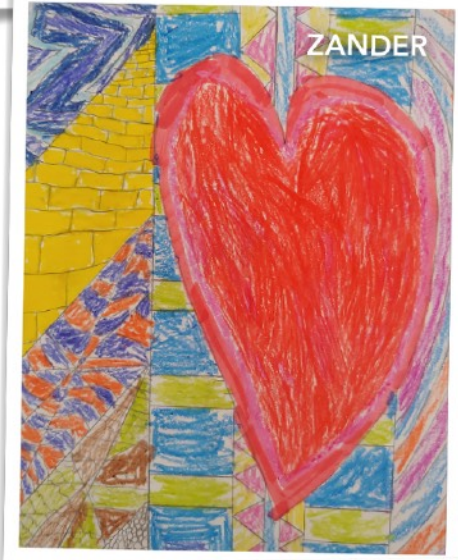
Our oldest daughter Carina started this year in junior Kindergarten. She is enjoying school very much so far! She loves reading, so we read lots of books at home. Playing outside and helping dad are also some of her favourite activities. Marlie, our one year old, is a happy, inquisitive toddler, who loves to climb on everything. We try our best to keep the Dutch language alive at home since we both have Dutch roots. We have been living in the Monkton area for over 4 years now and attend the Listowel URC. Gerald has been working as an aircraft maintenance engineer for over 10 years on Boeing and Airbus. Lately due to COVID work has been very scarce, but he keeps busy working other jobs in the meantime. Simone works part-time as a large animal veterinarian in Newry.

We are excited to be a part of the LCS community and enjoy hearing Carina's stories about school!!



*back* IN SCHOOL







# PURPOSE STATEMENT

EDUCATING CHILDREN

*while nurturing faith in Christ*

TO INTERPRET AND IMPACT GOD'S WORLD

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mon. Feb. 15 Family Day (no school)
- Sat. Mar. 6 LCS Info Morning
- Mar. 15 - 19 March Break
- Mar. 26 - 29 Online Spring Auction
- Fri. Apr. 2 Good Friday (no school)
- Mon. Apr. 5 Easter Monday (no school)
- Tues. Apr. 6 Term 2 Report Cards go home
- Tues. Apr. 20 Kindergarten Registration, 9:30 - 11:30
- Mon. Apr. 26 Spring Membership Meeting

