

# THE COMMUNICATOR

2021-2022 ISSUE #1

## SO MANY QUESTIONS... *One answer.*

BY MIKE KOETSIER

It was only a couple months ago that we, as a board and as parents, were talking about what this school year might look like. There were lots of questions being asked and anxieties expressed. Would classes be online or in person? Will we finally be able to host assemblies? Will students be able to participate in sporting tournaments? Would there be the cherished team events? What regulations would be passed down to us by governing authorities? How do we implement those? Given all those questions and looking back in hindsight, I am thankful for how these first 2 months have gone. There seems to be a level of "normal school activities".

I put "normal school activities" in quotations because it hard to define normal. A lot has happened locally and globally in these past few months. There have been frustrations with our political leaders over regulations. However, when I read headlines from Afghanistan these frustrations seem trivial. For some of us, the weather has been challenging this fall but, when I see the videos of the flooding in BC, the weather challenges here seem manageable. Some of our neighbouring Christian Schools have had to transition to online learning because of COVID cases within their student bodies and, so far, God has protected our local school community enabling in-person learning to carry on.

We have much to be thankful for as a school community. We have been blessed with staff that has done an incredible job adjusting and adapting to whatever their teaching situation has been. We have many dedicated volunteers who are committed to doing what is needed to keep the

school running smoothly. We have an engaged parent community who cares deeply about our school. And we have a broader community surrounding us who support us with their prayers, their wisdom, their time and their finances. Above all of these we have a God who is protecting us and leading us.

There are so many questions and God equips us with discernment to see our way through each challenge. We've had a few interesting board meetings as we brainstorm and wrestle with many of these questions. Like the footprints in the sand, it is often hindsight when we recognize that God has us in His hands and carries us through. In these times of uncertainty, anxiety, and even disagreement, we rest in the assurance from God when he says, **"Be still and know that I am God, I will be exalted among the nations"**. God is the one, God is the answer.



The artwork featured in this issue has been submitted by the Senior Kindergarden and Grade 1/2 Classes

# THE *principal's* POST



ABOVE: Zach B discovering pieces from the SK nature walk.

BELOW: Grade 3/4 Girls Cross Country runners before their big race!

BOTTOM: We had some fun games on our Early Settlers Day!



## LIVING A LIFE THAT MATTERS

In September, I led staff devotions. At one point in the month, to no surprise of the staff, I mentioned a line I have always mentioned: "Teaching, maybe unlike any other profession, provides us the opportunity every day to impact the lives of many. We shouldn't underestimate that possibility and we should strive to ensure the impact is positive". I've mentioned that several times over the last few years and that concept is what challenges me to be a good teacher, positively impacting the lives of my students.

At the end of the month I read from a book called Letters to My Children. Here Daniel Taylor's son asks if he is afraid of anything. After some reflection, he writes that he is afraid of living a life of insignificance. He is afraid that at the end of his life, he didn't really matter. Taylor too, realized that our lives were meant to matter, and we should live a life that directs people to the eternal rewards offered by Christian faith.

More recently, I listened to a leadership podcast and the speaker said, "Our greatest fear is not that we are inadequate but that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light and not our darkness that frighten us". That is another way of looking at it. Timothy mentions the power of spoken words (teachers and parents speak a lot) and says that "not many of you should become

teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly". As teachers, parents, adults and leaders, we are placed in positions of influence, and often those positions are extremely powerful and character shaping. To be handed that opportunity and responsibility is sometimes frightening. However, with the encouragement of Christ, we are equipped. We should be excited to share the light and not be afraid of the negative influence of the darkness.

As we enter the Christmas season, we celebrate the birth of Christ. Jesus Christ came to live among us, to walk beside us, and to experience life with us. He came to impact lives. He came to live a life that had significance for all those who believe in him. Jesus came to live a life that mattered. He came to shine the light into lives that seem dark. Every day the life of Christ, from his birth, through his death, and then his ascension, has the opportunity to positively affect the lives of any person who will believe in him.

I hope you are encouraged by the gift of Christ's birth and by the model of his life to live a life of influence yourself. Shine your light, the light of Christ, into the lives of your neighbours, your friends, and your family. May this Christmas encourage you to live a life that matters.

# Crumbling Hearts

BY CHARIS VANDER KLIPPE

What cry, I ask, is louder than  
The sound of crumbling hearts.  
Of broken boys and broken men,  
When souls from comrades' bodies part.

A dizzy haze of bloody affliction,  
Fellow soldiers fall below  
The enemy, without conviction,  
Still shoots on through sleet and snow.

The cries of war in every place  
Where bullets fall like rain,  
Disappearances; no trace,  
Of bodies harshly slain.

Still hearts will crumble, even when  
The battle's peak is at an end.

Our tired elders with watery eyes,  
Close them in reverence for  
Old friends, long gone since life's cut ties -  
The after effects of war.

By valiant effort, victory was won!  
Despite all of the odds,  
Canadian troops with loaded guns,  
Across the fields they trod.

Defeat of wicked, terrible foe:  
Relief, at last, for our great land,  
Freedom. The process first was slow,  
But the future of today was at hand.

Remember, children, when wreaths are laid,  
To wear your poppies strong and proud,  
When, for veterans, Last Post plays,  
For soldiers' hearts: crumbled - not cowed.

# The Cost of Freedom

BY BETHANY BAARDA

If you ask anyone who's been through a war,  
They could tell you all about the bloodshed and gore.  
The stuff we don't really want to think about,  
But we can't know the whole story without.  
We'll probably never really know,  
Just how hurt our people were by the foe.  
All were affected; some physically, some mentally,  
All wishing they could just go back to their family.  
And when the leaders of war made peace,  
People all thought the hardships would cease.  
But the effects of war still carried on,  
And it would be a long time until they were gone.  
Winning a war comes at a great cost,  
Think of all of the lives that were lost.  
So please, be thankful, today of all days,  
Because the freedom that was fought for, to this day stays.



# BOARD *report*

The 2021/2022 school year is well underway, and things are beginning to feel somewhat normal. Yay! We have so enjoyed seeing the kids getting back into school sports and other fun activities. The board members, along with parents and staff were disappointed that the annual kick off BBQ could not happen this year, but we are praying for this and other missed events to be possible next year.

Since the start of the new school year, the board has been meeting in person at LCS on a monthly basis. We are grateful to have welcomed Mike Koetsier as our Board Chair as of June 2021. We also welcomed Dianne Norris to the board table and are so happy to have her as well. At the end of the school year in June, board members met with all the staff to gain their input and maintain the important connection between board members and staff. Admittedly, this relationship has been challenging to cultivate when in person chats were not possible. We are thrilled to be able to meet with staff and community members face to face a little more these days.

We said goodbye to two staff members. Julia Duiella Boekestyn was part of our staff for 1 and a half years. She is moving on to pursue other interests. Pieter Katerberg was one of our long time LCS staff members, and we are so blessed to have had him be an integral part of the LCS teaching staff for 17 years. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors. The Education/HR committee conducted interviews and recommended applicants to the board to fill the grade 5-6 teaching position. We welcome Rueben Siebenga to LCS!

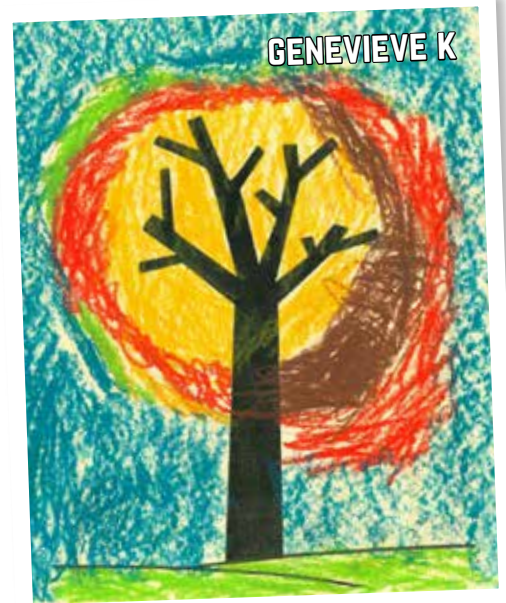
LCS is currently without a Strategic Plan Coordinator due to the resignation of Lauren Koersen. We thank Lauren for her work on the interim Strategic Plan over the previous school year. We are excited that Ray Hendriks has agreed to provide some consultation for us in our planning of the upcoming Strategic Plan in the way of a gallery walk in the new year. Once we have developed this plan, we will begin an active search for a new coordinator.

LCS was blessed to receive applications for enrolment of some new students for the start of the 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: Mathew and Ashley Gurnick, Corne and Angie Koersen, Mark and Brittany O'Boyle, Alistair and Jenny Whytock and Erik and Ashley Zieleman.

Ward & Uptigrove is conducting their review of the 2020-2021 fiscal year and will have a Review Engagement Report prepared for the Fall Membership Meeting.

Blessings to you all as we near the end of fall and harvest time and head into the Christmas Season. We ask that you continue to pray for the board of LCS and the entire LCS community as we all continue to navigate decisions through this pandemic.

MICHELLE BURGSMAN  
LCS BOARD SECRETARY



## GRADE 1/2 ART:

"ALL THE TREES OF THE  
FIELD WILL CLAP THEIR  
HANDS."  
ISAIAH 55:12

Inspired by the works of artist  
Wassily Kandinsky





ADRIANA V



EMMA S

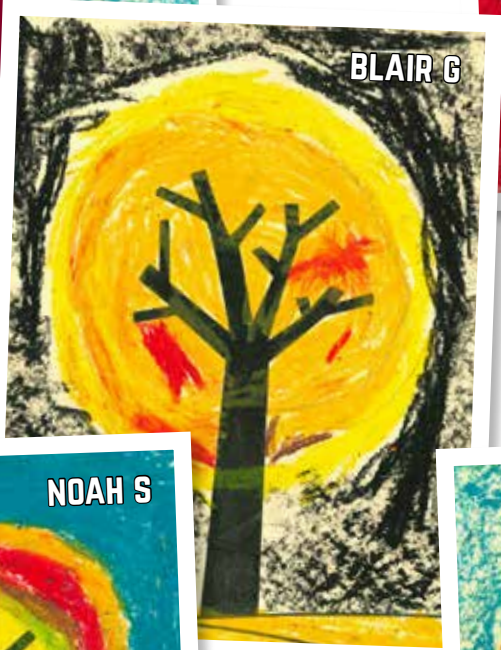
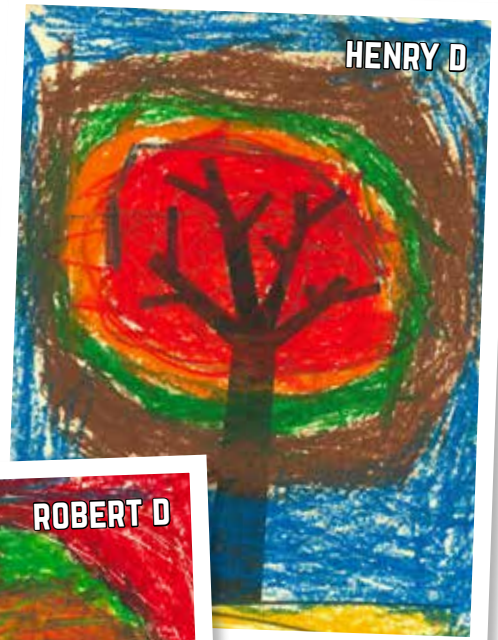


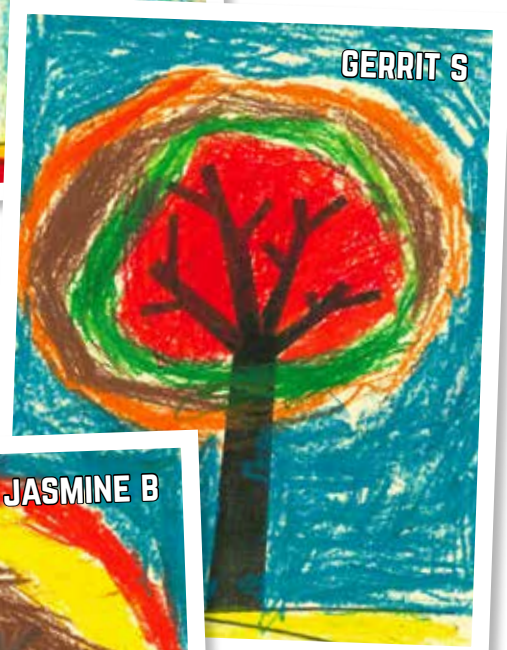
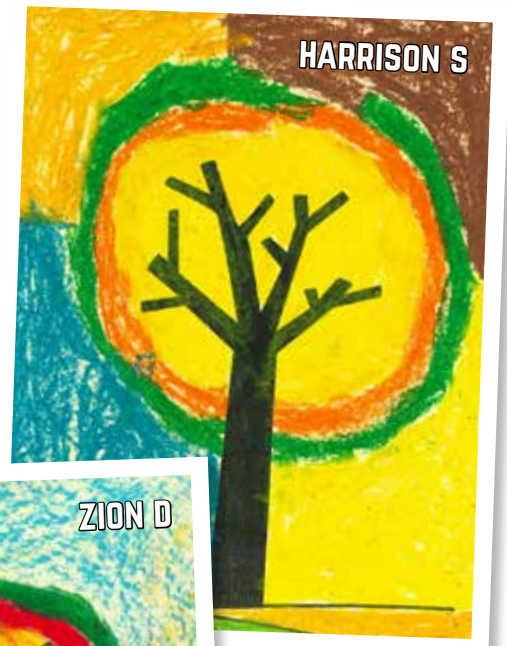
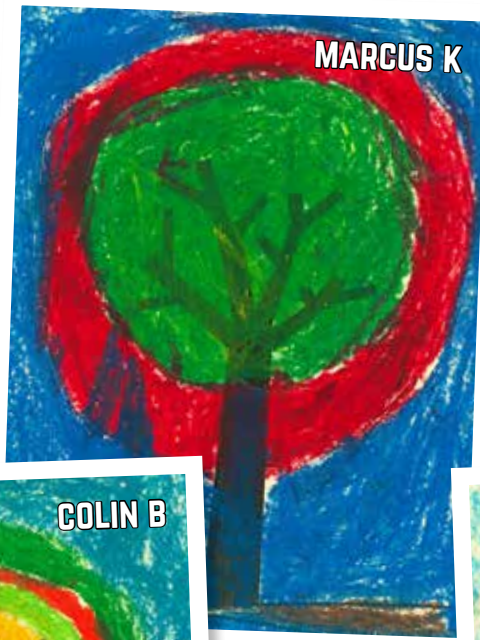
MONIQUE K



## INTRODUCING THE *Gurnick family*

Hailey is our only child so far, she is 3 going on 4 in November. She is in JK! Matt works at Wightman Telecom, he is tech support and I (Ashley) work at the Oranje Grove Dutch Shoppe in Hanover. We are currently members at Palmerston Christian Reformed Church where we have been members for about 5 years. Matt and I both love sports, especially basketball and hockey. We are always open to trying new things. We love that LCS gives a personal touch to teaching; the teachers are amazing! Of course we also love that we are able to put Hailey into a strong, faith loving environment. Matt attended Catholic school and I was always in the public system. We're so excited for Hailey to learn more about God and take in everything LCS has to offer. We were drawn to LCS by family; the VanderMeers have been long-time attendees and they have nothing but positive things to say about LCS. It was a no brainer after listening to how much they love it. Hailey, Matt and I are so excited to be a part of such a wonderful community.







**ABOVE:** Our student leadership team ran an amazing Early Settlers Day Hoedown filled with lots of fun games for all students!

**BELOW:** Our SK Class has been very busy discovering new things outside and inside of the classroom. They especially loved the Button Slime.





We are so thrilled that sports are back up and running this year! We have participated in soccer, cross country, and volleyball thus far. Way to go LCS!





ZACHARY B



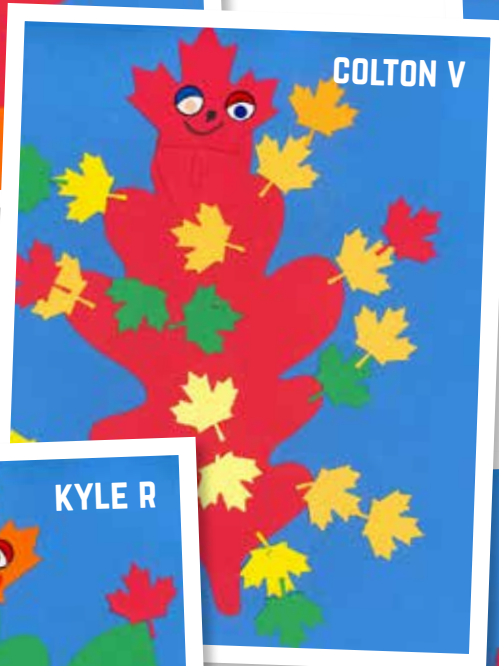
CARINA A



RONELLA W



ELI S



COLTON V



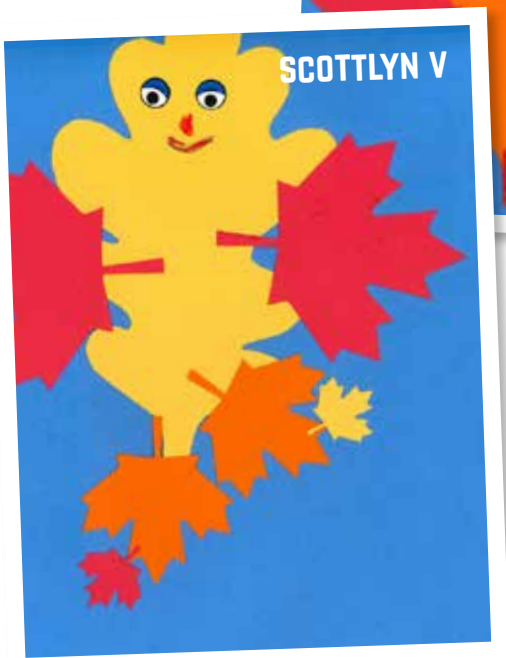
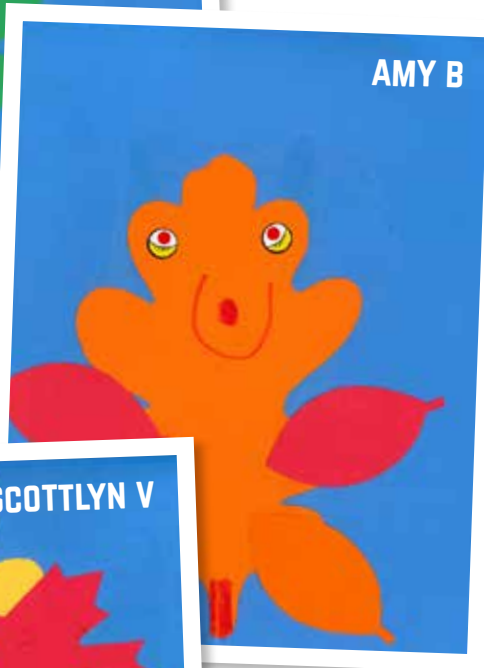
HAVEN S



KYLE R



MALCOLM W



## INTRODUCING THE *Vogel family*

We are the Vogel family. Nathan and I (Janelle) have 3 kids, Colton is in SK, Kaylee is looking forward to going to JK next fall, and Austin is 9 months old. Nathan owns and runs Steve's Landscape and Construction with his dad out of Gorrie, I am finishing up my maternity leave with Austin and looking forward to returning to teach grade 7/8 in January at LCS. Colton is loving school and loves to craft and be a ninja. Kaylee loves dress-up and reading books, and Austin is a busy little boy trying desperately to walk and chase his older siblings. We attend Bethel Christian Reformed Church in Listowel where Nathan is a youth group leader and I occasionally help out with leading worship. Nathan attended LCS when his family moved to the area for the last few years of his grade school career and I attended Immanuel Christian School in Aylmer and London District Christian Secondary School (now LCH). We are excited to send our kids to LCS not only because I teach there, but also because the quality of education, the Christian perspective infused into the learning, and the relationships the teachers seek to have with the students is so very important to the development of our children. We are looking forward to this new stage of our life and becoming more involved in the school community as a family.

## PURPOSE STATEMENT:

EDUCATING CHILDREN  
WHILE NURTURING FAITH IN  
CHRIST TO INTERPRET  
AND IMPACT GOD'S WORLD

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- DEC 2** - Gr.8 Day at Woodland  
Christian High School
- DEC 2 & 3** - Parent-Teacher  
Conferences
- DEC 3** - No School
- DEC 6** - Fall Membership Meeting
- DEC 17** - Last day of school before  
Christmas Holidays
- 
- JAN 3** - First day back!
- JAN 21** - LCS PD Day -  
No school
- JAN 27** - Hockey  
Tournament
- 
- FEB 18** - PD Day -  
No School
- FEB 21** - Family Day -  
No School



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CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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# fundraising ANNOUNCEMENTS

## UPCOMING DATES:

Oranje Grove Gift Cards - **Dec 6**  
FundScrip Gift Cards - **Dec 6**  
Stroopwafel Orders Due - **Dec 8**  
(pick up **Dec 17**)

Oranje Grove Gift Cards - **Jan 3**  
FundScrip Gift Cards - **Jan 3**

Oranje Grove Gift Cards - **Jan 31**  
FundScrip Gift Cards - **Jan 31**  
Canvassing for Spring Auction  
begins in January

## NOTE ABOUT THE AUCTION:

Our annual Spring Auction will be held in Spring 2022! Last year's auction was such a success and we are so thankful for all of your help and support. Just a reminder that we will begin canvassing in January. This is a way for our school families to connect with local businesses and ask for donations and support. All LCS families will be asked to contact 3-4 businesses. If you know of any new businesses that would be interested in donating to the upcoming Spring Auction, please feel free to contact them. Also don't forget to donate your own handmade creations and crafts! We are excited to see what God has in store for LCS this Spring!

