

# THE COMMUNICATOR

## GROWTH in Changes & Challenges

BY RON & SARAH HAANSTRA

It feels like we are at the edge of something. The days are getting warmer and spring is in sight. As a farm family, we are excited to see green again. More hours of sunlight and the browns of winter change over to the vibrant ways of new growth, a season of new beginnings.

We want to believe we are positioned at the edge of a new beginning and a return to restriction free living but how do we approach what lies ahead? Political rhetoric has been nothing but divisive. Igniting passions on either side. We are seeing our Christian communities fracture as they struggle to balance different views and the law. Frustrations are boiling over. How do we as Christians bring things back and find common ground? How do we find truth? One thing is apparent, the world does not provide many truths.

The last few years for most have likely been difficult years to navigate, a season of challenge. As families and communities, it feels like we have been exposed to multiple pin pricks of annoyances with restrictions and directives to navigate, it has been a tiresome disposition. Each family has experienced the last couple of years in very different ways.

As Christians, we find our direction through our faith in Christ and the truth that we find in the word of God. As a family, we have found our strength in reading the Bible together daily at our kitchen table. The words of scripture are the truth and where we develop our roots, where we feed our spiritual growth as individuals and as families.

As we look ahead to this season and year of new beginnings, we need to keep our roots in the word of God. As we look ahead, hoping for changes to come, and as we navigate relationships that have been strengthened or challenged in our families and communities, we need to look to God and his word. God's word calls us to **"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."** Ephesians 4:2-6

As we look to restore the vibrance we all miss, we can only turn our eyes to the Saviour, our Redeemer. Allow him to lead and guide us, no matter what comes our way. We need to pray for him to restore our hearts and renew our faith in the knowledge and belief that God is completely in control, and he will ensure that we get what we need to grow and move forward. He goes with us and calls us to lean on him, no matter our circumstances, and he will help us grow through the challenges and difficulties.

Spring is around the corner, we celebrate the new life and new growth in nature, and at the same time, we celebrate the blessing of Christ's gift of eternal life and the hope that gives through the challenges we have experienced.

2021-2022 ISSUE #2



**Listowel**  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

*The artwork featured  
in this issue has been  
submitted by the  
Grade 4-5 and 5-6  
Classes*



# THE principal's POST



## FAMILY BONDS

I will admit that I have a very idealistic image of family. I grew up in a family that was pretty cohesive. Sure, we had our sibling arguments but, overall, it was wonderful. I remember dinner times that lasted an hour every night. After eating, we had devotions, and then we just sat around talking, teasing, and sharing thoughts. It usually ended with my brother and I wrestling on the kitchen floor until my dad got out the wooden spoon and broke up the tussle, if it didn't happen already because one of us got hurt. We all had our after dinner chores: clearing the table, washing and drying the dishes, and then putting them away. Everyone participated in some way, which usually resulted in a few friendly arguments. Even as I write this, I appreciate the bonding that happened through it all. Those are the fond memories. However, it hasn't always been easy. There have been tragedies, disappointments, and worries. No doubt, there have been some hard times. Our investment in strong relationships in good times carry us through the more challenging times.

I consider LCS as my family too – a family I am a part of and, similarly, I have an idealistic image of the LCS family. I've heard and experienced some of the heart warming stories, like the early years and how miraculously the school started, the building of the gym in the previous building, the recent capital campaign and building project of our current building just to name a few. We can tell great stories of field

trips, sporting events, community building events, and some stories of how Christian education has had an impact on our children. There have also been disappointments, such as deaths within our school that happen too often and too young and the departure of families over different issues. And yet, the bonds within LCS carry us through.

Unfortunately, the pandemic has created another low time in our LCS family history. We are confused, separated, we feel alone, we miss each other, we long for unity. I am reminded of the story of Jacob returning to meet Esau after a break in their relationship. Despite the anxiety of the reunion, the family bonds overpowered Jacob's fear. Esau's response: "But Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. And they wept." (Gen 33:4). And after a quick verbal exchange, Esau says, "Let us be on our way; I'll accompany you." (Gen 33:12). I have this idealistic image of two brothers walking side by side in love and unity. What a high point in that family relationship.

I hold on to my idealistic image of family; my personal family, my LCS family, and my spiritual family. I pray that the bonds we've created and the unity we have in serving one God will enable us to embrace each other and walk side by side. There may even be a few tears shed!

Counting to 100 is one thing, dressing to look 100 is another. Look how our students aged.

The Kindergarten class is also counting and measuring: how many links can you connect and how long is the chain? Too big for the classroom!







And now these  
three remain:  
*faith, hope & love.*  
But the greatest  
of these is love.  
1 Corinthians 13:13



## INTRODUCING THE *Bosman family*

We're the Bosmans! Our son Zach started Senior Kindergarten this past fall, and is loving every day! He loves Mrs. Hieda and his classmates, and is enjoying the learning and activities. We so appreciate the Christian atmosphere, the teachers, and the community, and we are impressed with the education that Zach is getting. Arnold works for Bostech Mechanical in the office, I (Angela) work as an EA at LCS (best job ever!!), our oldest 2 kids Chris and Erika go to Redeemer University, our son Brandon goes to McMaster University, and our youngest daughter Sandra is in grade 12. We both have been raised in Christian Education, and it has been very important to us to have our kids taught in a Christian environment: we're so thankful to have LCS right in our community!

# BOARD *report*

Since the fall, the Board has faithfully been meeting monthly. We are grateful to have only had to meet via zoom in the month of January. In February we have seen some staff changes with a maternity leave and a family move. Interviews were conducted and applicants were recommended to the board to fill the position of Administrative Assistant and an Educational Assistant. We welcome Michelle Weishar and Angela Bosman to Listowel Christian School.

The Fall Membership meeting was attended in person at LCS. The main focus of the fall meeting was the presentation of the Independent Practitioner's Review Engagement Report, more commonly recognized as the year-end financial statements for the 2020-2021 school year. We also had a presentation by Tony Kamphuis from Christian School Foundation. We appreciate those members who attended and voted to approve board actions since the Spring Membership Meeting in 2021.

The Board was busy conducting

the Annual Budget Drive in January. There was some extra time spent getting organized this time around since we had stepped away from the drive for several years during the time of our capital campaign. We are so grateful to have supporters that we can count on year after year and we praise God for his provisions.

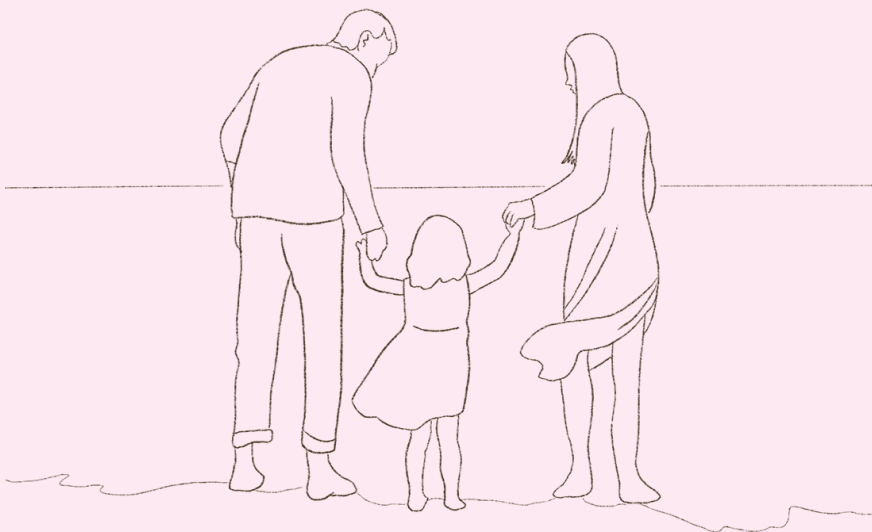
At our monthly meetings we regularly discuss ways to keep LCS moving in the right direction. This includes reviewing the monthly financials and discussing goals surrounding an upcoming strategic plan. We also discuss how best to support our COO and LCS staff regularly. We are hopeful to be able to gather board and staff members together for an informal social night before the end of the year. We have much to look forward to in the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year. We are grateful for your support and request that you continually keep the Board in your prayers.

In Christ,  
MICHELLE BURGSMAN  
LCS BOARD SECRETARY



## *The Miracle of Family*

There's a  
"miracle"  
called family,  
That dwells  
within the heart  
And you don't  
know how it  
happens  
Or when it  
gets its start  
But the  
happiness it  
brings you  
Always gives a  
special lift,  
And you realize  
that family...  
Is God's very  
precious gift!







**Spirit day during the Olympics. Support your favourite team. Can you spot the Canuck fans?**



## INTRODUCING THE *Koersen family*

We are Corné, Angie, Emily & Zachary Koersen. Though we are new to LCS as parents, we have previously attended or been involved over the years. Corné began LCS in Gr. 6 after his family immigrated from Holland. Angie attended local public schools, however she's been getting to know the school through her work designing the Communicator the past few years.

Corné spends his days taking care of dairy cows while Angie is primarily home with the kids with some design and accounting work on the side. We're both involved at our church, Bethel CRC, Corné as an elder, and Angie as a pianist and with the social media committee.

Our daughter Emily is in JK. She's apparently shy and has yet to speak to Mrs. Baarda – hopefully that changes before the end of the year... she is always eager for school days and we have enjoyed seeing her learn and grow as the year has progressed. She has many interests and loves getting together with her cousins and friends.

Our son Zachary (1.5) loves all things motor and animal-related. He's at a busy stage and keeps us on our toes. Zach will soon be a big brother when "Baby K" arrives in June!

We look forward to becoming more involved in the LCS community and seeing our children grow up within this God-centered environment.





**HENK**



**BELLA**



**BAYLEN**

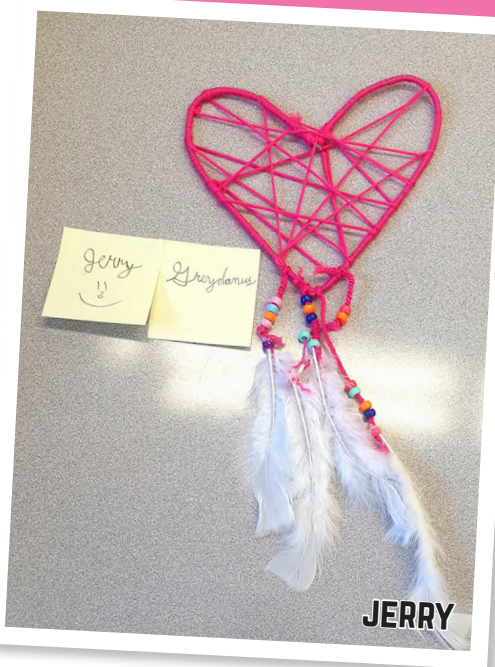
Relating to some of our province's original people, these indigenous inspired heart dreamcatchers link the past with the now, and beyond. The feathers and beads on the bottom connect with St. Valentine's Day, and the different words that the ancient Greeks had for Love. One for each. The Eros - passionate / partner love, Storge - familial love, Philia - the love felt between friends and equals, and Agape - the Love we feel and reciprocate from our Heavenly Father. From our class to your homes, we pray you feel all these types throughout this season of Love.



**CAMERON W**



**CARSON W**



**JERRY**



**JAYNA**



**JAYMIN**



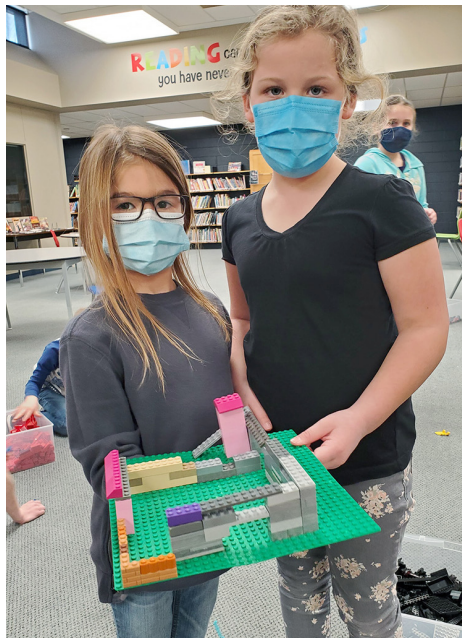






**LEFT PAGE:** How do you get through the cold February recesses? You join LEGO club! Amazing what they can build with their imagination, creativity, and teamwork.

**RIGHT PAGE:** An outdoor team event: snow pile building. This was an event that included teamwork and also structure design. How do you get the tallest structure to remain standing? Always a challenge but lots of fun.







## INTRODUCING THE *Zieleman family*

Hello LCS family! We are the Zieleman family! Our daughter, Esmae, is 4 years old and is in JK. Esmae loves going to school. We love watching her knowledge grow and listening to the stories she shares from her days at school. Esmae loves to be social, including visits with family and playdates with friends. She enjoys the outdoors, crafts, books, music, singing and dancing.

Our second daughter, Mirah, just turned 3 years old. She cannot wait to ride the big yellow bus with Esmae one day, however, she will have to wait for another year and a half. Our son Mathys, the youngest of the bunch, is 8 months old.

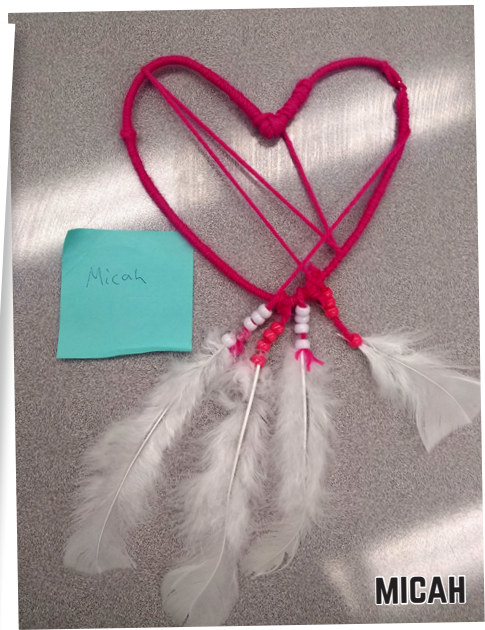
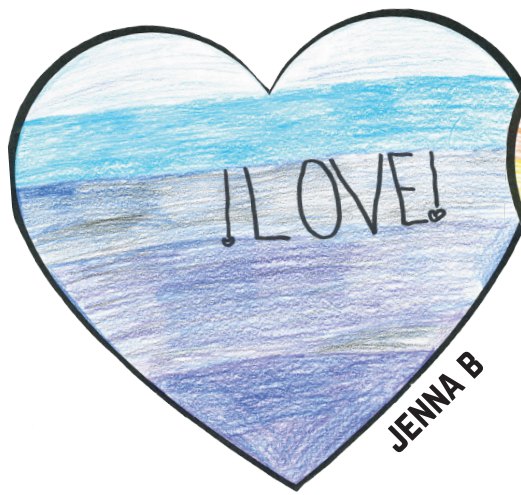
Erik has been working on the road as a Dairy Specialist at Grand Valley Fortifiers since 2012. We own a feed mill and raise broiler chickens. Erik's hobbies include kickboxing, when time allows, and travelling to different areas of the world, especially Holland (Erik's family immigrated in 2005).

I am currently on maternity leave as a Casual Care Coordinator with a background as a RN. I help with the book keeping aspect of our farming business as well. I enjoy being a mom, cooking, reading, horseback riding, travelling and the outdoors.

We are members of Bethel Christian Reformed Church in Listowel. We started attending after our wedding in 2014 when we moved to the Listowel area.

Erik and I are so grateful for the privilege and opportunity to send our children to Christian School. We heard of LCS through friends who send their children. Their commitment and love for LCS was evident in conversations with them. Erik and I really enjoyed volunteering at the Christmas Bazaar last year. We look forward to participating in the LCS community in the future and meeting more members of the LCS community!

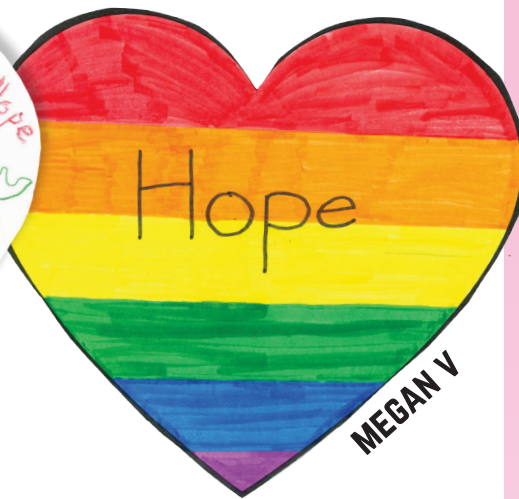








LOGAN S



MEGAN V



OLIVIA



TAMARA



WILLIAM L



ZACHARY S

## PURPOSE STATEMENT:

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**MAR 5** - LCS Open House  
9am - 12pm

**MAR 14-18** March Break

**MAR 21** - Second Term  
Report Cards go home

**MAR 22-25** - LCS Auction

**MAR 23** - Hockey Tournament

**APRIL 15** - Good Friday - No School

**APRIL 18** - Easter Monday - No School

**APRIL 25** - Spring  
Membership Meeting

**APRIL 26** - Kindergarten Registration  
9:30am-11:30am

**MAY 2-5** - Christian Education Week



**Listowel**  
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CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

# Spring AUCTION



*March 22-25, 2022*

Support LCS by bidding in  
our Spring Auction online at:

[CHARITYAUCTION.BID/LISTOWELCHRISTIANSCHOOL](https://CHARITYAUCTION.BID/LISTOWELCHRISTIANSCHOOL)

**ITEM PICKUP ON SATURDAY MARCH 26  
BETWEEN 10AM-2PM AND 7PM-9PM**

