

# THE COMMUNICATOR

2022-2023 ISSUE #1

## You prepare **A TABLE**

BY STACY VIDIC

We are in a season now when, as a society whether Christian or not, families and friends come together to feast, break bread, or share a meal together. Thanksgiving of course just passed in October and now we look forward to Christmas. So, as I was thinking about what I might want to share with you through this piece, this theme kept coming to me; Feast.

In my time of research and writing to prepare, I learned a few things. God values feasts. In Exodus 5:1 it says *Afterward Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel: Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness."* This is the first thing that God had Moses say to Pharaoh, so it must hold high value to God. As I researched further, I learned that there are 7 feasts that God had given to the Israelites as a way for them to honour and worship Him. These are still observed in the Jewish communities today. A few of you may recognize, Rosh HaShanah, meaning "head of the year". This is the Day of Repentance when the Israelites take a look at their spiritual condition and repent to ensure that the upcoming year is pleasing to God. Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, is a day where Israelites offer a blood sacrifice to cover their sins. Now the Jewish people offer a day of fasting and prayer asking God for forgiveness. The Passover feast, of course, is observed as a reminder of the night when the Israelites sacrificed the lamb and applied the blood onto their doorposts for the angel of death to pass over. This is also the feast that Jesus and his disciples were honouring, at the Last Supper, which again shows us that God values feasts, since Jesus himself honoured this feast.

One feast in particular kept coming to mind. It's not one that can be found on the calendar, or that we can find a picture of from when we sat at this particular table, but it is one that we all know about or at least have heard of.

Psalms 23 (NLT)

*The Lord is my shepherd;  
I have all that I need.*

*He lets me rest in green meadows;  
He leads me beside peaceful streams.  
He renews my strength.*

*He guides me along right paths,  
Bringing honour to his name.*

*Even when I walk through the darkest valley,  
I will not be afraid,*

*For you are close beside me.*

*Your rod and your staff protect  
and comfort me.*

*You prepare a feast for me  
in the presence of my enemies.*

*You honour me by anointing  
my head with oil.*

*My cup overflows with blessings.*

*Surely your goodness and unfailing love  
will pursue me*

*All the days of my life,*

*And I will live in the house  
of the LORD forever.*

I love this Psalm, this promise from God. He gives me all that I need, He lets me rest in green pastures and beside peaceful streams, He protects me and renews my strength and surely His goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life. This is amazing! But look at that right in the middle. "You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies." Why? Sometimes, we will have to tolerate certain family members or certain people at our feasts, but I wouldn't call them enemies. God, you just took me to green meadows and peaceful streams, why not feast there? Why in the presence of my enemies? Seems odd to me. If anyone reading this has answers to these questions I would love to have that conversation with you. In the mean time, I have found some thoughts that I would like to share. I'm not going to claim these thoughts as my own; I heard them from Pastor Bill Johnson from Bethel

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**The artwork featured  
in this issue has been  
submitted by the  
Senior Kindergarten  
& Grade 5/6 Classes**

# THE *principal's* POST



TOP: Pumpkin Carving in Mrs. Delleman's Class - Zackary, Savannah, Kenzie and Nadine

MIDDLE: Grade 1's make Stone Soup.

BOTTOM: Everyone pitched in to help clean the school when the custodian was unwell.



## INTO THE GROOVE

I remember someone asking me at the end of September, "Are you in the groove of school now?". Then I remember thinking it would be nice, but we were not there yet. Now, with just over two months of school in our rear-view mirror, I think we are starting to establish a groove. I wondered why it took so long.

We began our school year with a lot of "newness". Twenty to twenty-five percent of our school community was new this year. First of all, acknowledge that some of our students and families graduated and some staff left for other schools, but this year we recovered our school size and added students, families, and staff. Thirty-six of the students in our hallways and classes are new to LCS this year. Fifteen of our families are new, and four of our staff are new. Overall, that is roughly twenty-three percent of our school community that is new. What a blessing to bring in new people who desire a Christian education, but it also takes longer for us to "get in the groove".

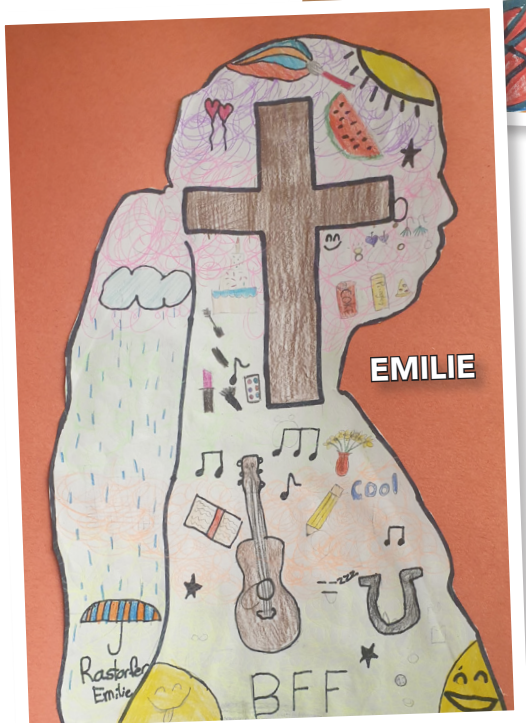
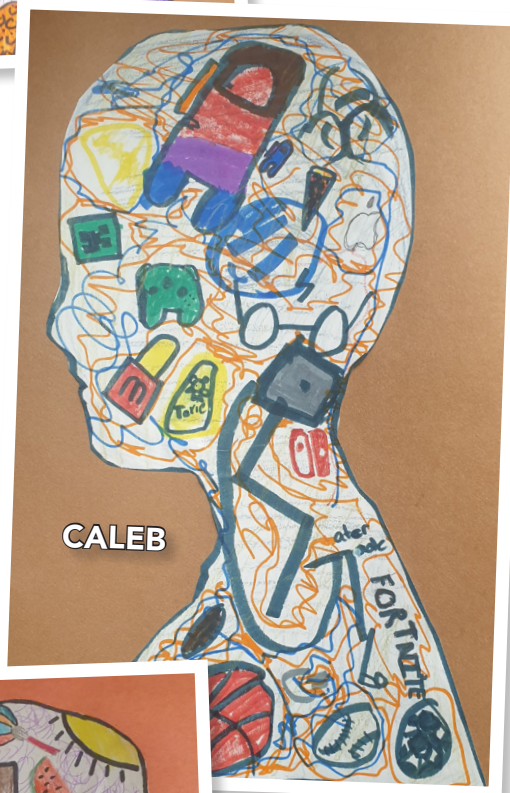
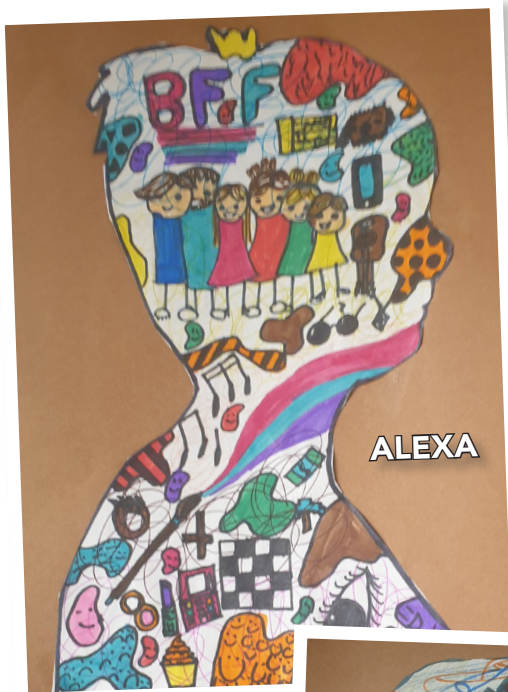
Our staff has grown, and we now have nineteen people holding a combination of part time and full time paid positions. As the staff increases so does the administrative aspect and we adjusted this year to create an administrative team approach. Mrs. Bierling is our student Support Services teacher, and she works with our staff to ensure that, as much as possible,

the academic needs of each student are being met. She creates a schedule for herself and our EAs and she oversees their work. Mrs. Delleman is our curriculum coordinator, and she works with our staff to ensure they have curriculum as well as investigates and proposes new materials to ensure we remain current in our resources. Mrs. Weishar is our Administrative Assistant and she works in the office and interacts with students, teachers and parents in many ways, mostly making sure everyone is going to the right places and communication is clear. Each of them bring their experience and passion to make LCS a great school, and I enjoy working with them.

Our annual Edvance conference this year focussed on what it means to be a part of a flourishing school. Not only do you have to have excellent staff, but you also have to support them. The same is true for students: if you want them to flourish, you have to support them. I have great confidence in the people we have in place to enable LCS to flourish. Together we are providing quality Christian education where we are "educating children, while nurturing faith in Christ, to interpret and impact God's world. We are getting into the groove.







## INTRODUCING THE *DeVisser family*

Hello! We are the DeVisser family; Adam, Alicia, Savannah (Gr. 5), Reuben (Gr.2), and Melanie (SK).

We are from Chesley Ontario where, for the last 11 years, we have been farming with Adam's family on their Turkey and crop farm. Life will be quite different for us in the next year as we are taking time away from the family farm to focus on family and growing our faith, trusting God to provide in this new and unfamiliar territory. We are renting a house near Listowel and are looking forward to moving in some time in late November/ early December as harvest wraps up on the farm. Adam will be taking Bible courses at Heritage College and Seminary. It is a blessing for our children to have the opportunity to attend a Christian school, and we are looking forward to not making the hour-long commute each day and becoming a part of the Listowel community for a while.

We feel grateful to have been so welcomed into this community already and look forward to seeing what God has in store for us in the coming year.



# BOARD *report*

The school year is moving along quickly, and the board has enjoyed a somewhat "normal" start to the year. Board members planned and hosted this year's kick off barbeque. So many supporters of our community were in attendance, and it was especially wonderful to see some of our new families there. Donations were accepted and earmarked to progress technology at LCS. So far, new chromebooks have been purchased as well as new cart for the chromebooks.

At the start of the year, the board had been involved in the hiring a several new staff. We welcome Vena Grundlingh, Lauren Koersen, and Margherita Bierling to the teaching staff at LCS and also Anita VanGeest as our new bookkeeper. We wish all the best to Liz ten Brink (outgoing Resource teacher) and Amanda VanderMeer (outgoing bookkeeper). We have also welcomed Dave Keating, Janice Kikkert, and Rieneke Greidanus to the board table. We said goodbye to Gerry Siebring, Pete Kraayenbrink, and Ron Haanstra. We are grateful for the years of service of our outgoing members and staff.

The strategic plan has been formed and a summary of the plan will be presented at the membership meeting. The strategic plan committee is being chaired by one of our board members, Janice Kikkert. Much time has been spent by this committee to generate the key issues of the plan based largely on the results of the gallery walk that was held last Spring.

One of the board's main functions is to ensure the school is moving forward in relation to the strategic plan. In relation to the plan, there will be tasks

and goals that the board will be involved in following through on.

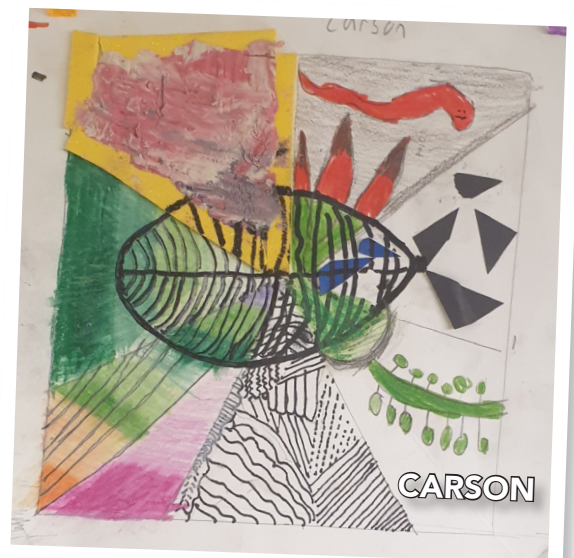
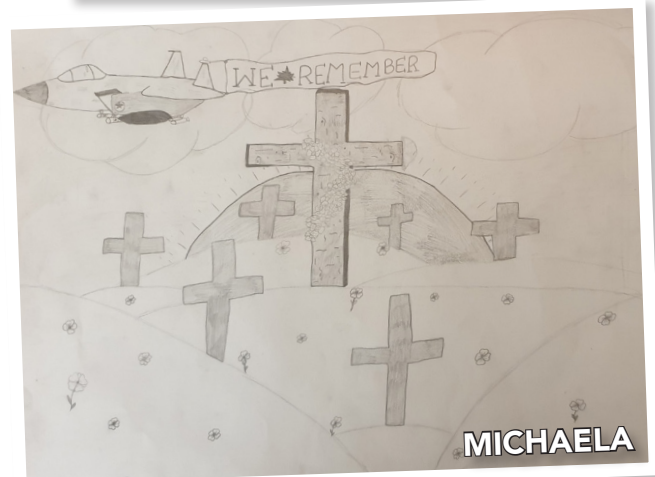
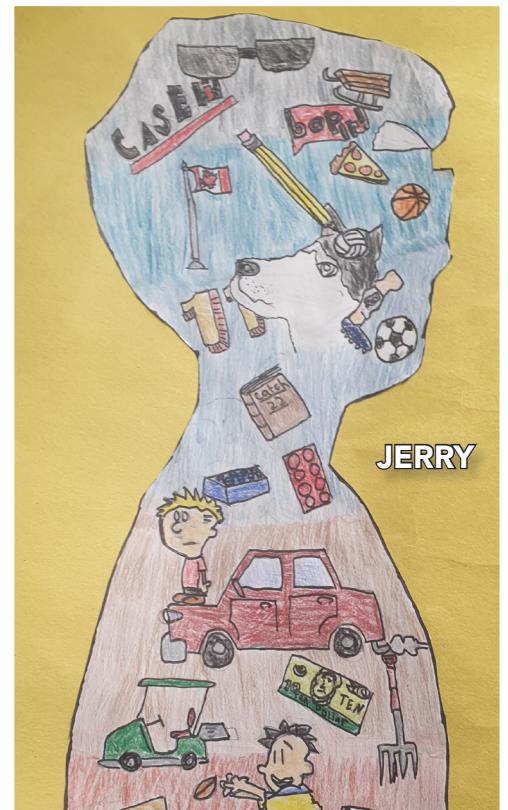
Another one of the board's duties is to maintain and update our board and school policies. We have been reviewing and updating documents and policies at each meeting to ensure things are up to date and relevant.

There is a financial audit on going at the present time which is mandated from the CRA. This has been going well so far but does mean more of a time commitment for our treasurer and finance team. As well, planning is beginning for the Board Financial Drive which will occur prior to the end of this year. Financial reports will be prepared in time for the membership meeting.

At the time of writing this report there are things that the board looks forward to in the coming months. There is a board member education session planned for mid November. We are also excited to begin planning a board/staff social event where staff and board members can gather for a time of fun and mingling.

We would like to thank the LCS community for the support we receive as your Board of Directors. It is such a blessing to serve our community and witness firsthand the growth and progress of our amazing school. We pray that this year the sense of school community can continue to grow and flourish.

MICHELLE BURGSMAN  
LCS BOARD SECRETARY

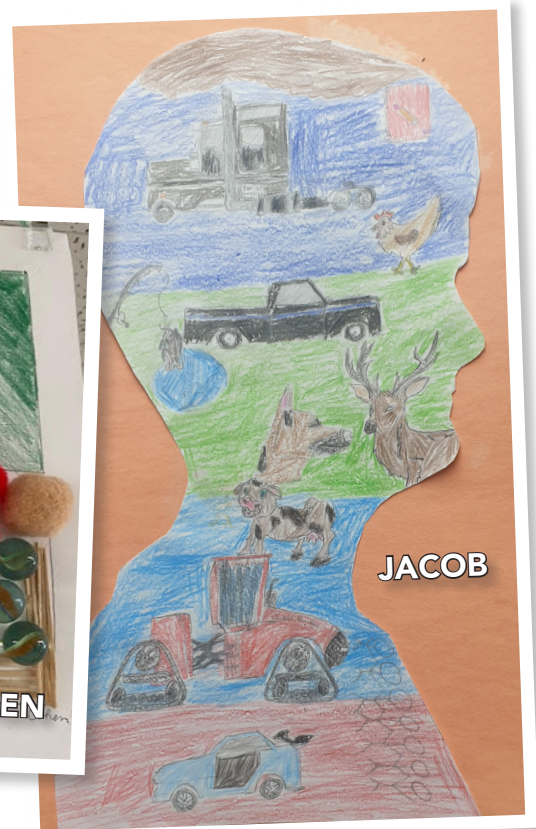
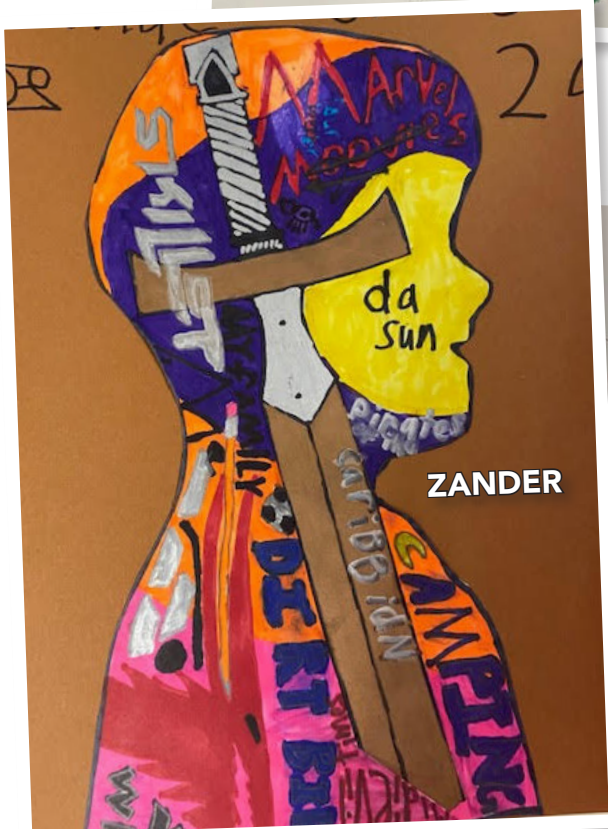
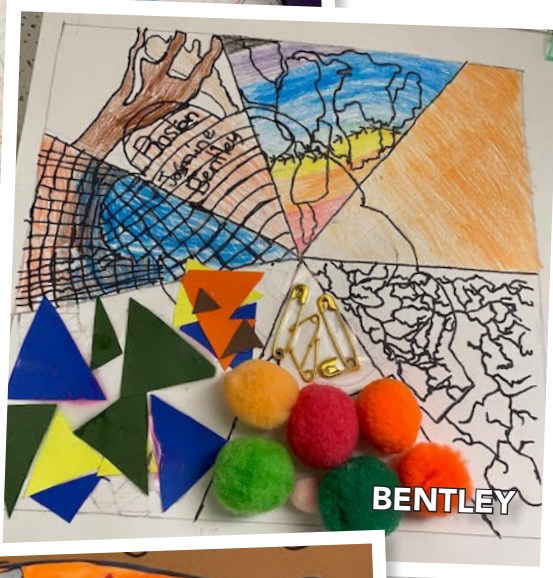
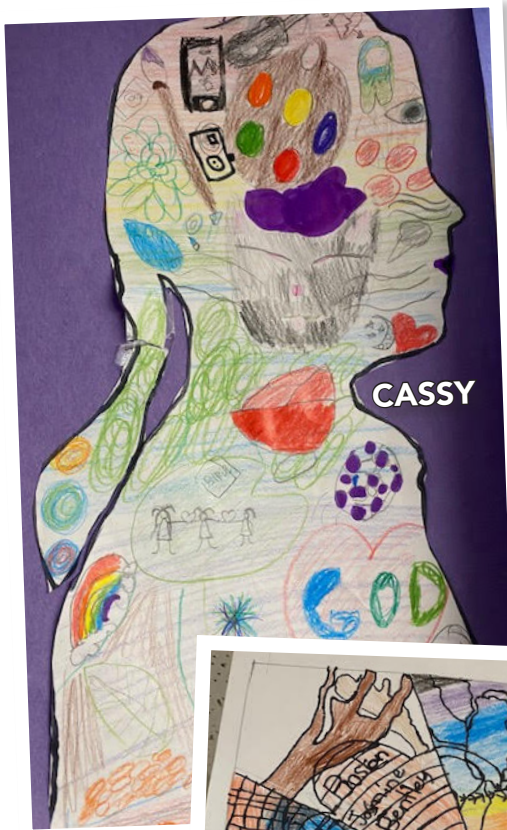




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which means that God chose the location, and God doesn't make any mistakes, so there is purpose in this. God chose to have a celebration with me, with my enemies there. One thought that Bill shared in this teaching that really made me look at myself is that so many believers can only see the enemies. They define their circumstances by the enemies they see instead of their position at the table in that the Lord has prepared for them. Yup, that's me. I've definitely been the one when in a difficult season who looks away from the One who is sitting right there with me, my Father, my Shepherd whose rod and staff protect me, and instead focus on my enemies or the bad situation that I am in at the time. Maybe you can't relate? I hope you can't, but for those who can relate, you are not alone. We are at the table with our Father, looking around at all of our enemies, feeling all kinds of emotions, fear, anger, doubt, anxiety.... but then we look across the table and lock eyes with Him. It's in that time of intimate fellowship with the Lord that cause the difficulties to disappear. Not that they're gone, but that they don't matter. Only He can do that. This final thought really got me excited. He places the table amongst my enemies not so that they have opportunity to kill, steal, and destroy, but so that there is ongoing testimony of God's goodness and redemption to remind the enemy of his defeat and of our Victory! He sets the table with me to celebrate our victory and He makes the enemy watch!!! God is so incredible!!

So, maybe while we all are getting ready to share in Christmas celebration feasts with our friends and families we might be reminded of how God really values these times, and maybe you might see it as a form of worship like the Israelites. For some of you, you may be feeling alone and surrounded by hard times, but I encourage you to spend time with your Father, and to lock eyes with Jesus. Your enemies will still be there, but maybe you won't notice them as much.







CALEB



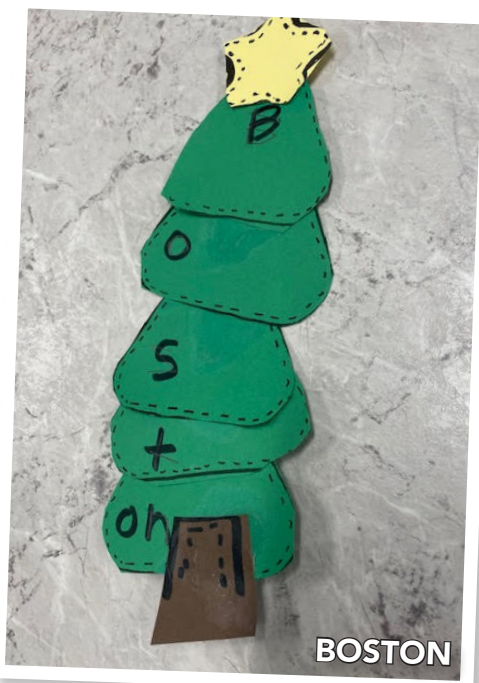
SETH



JAZLYN



DANIKA



BOSTON



BRYER



ISAAC





## INTRODUCING THE *Greidanus family*

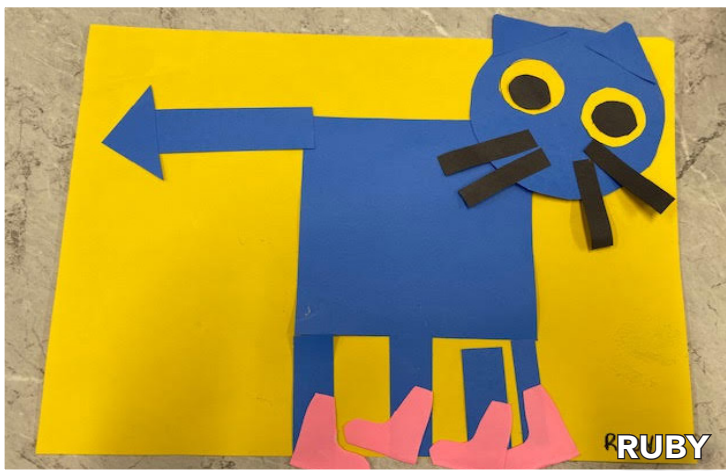
Hello LCS community, we are Ryan and Alana Greidanus. Our oldest daughter Adalie just joined the school in JK and is absolutely loving it. We also have two more daughters; Clara who is two years old and Lydia who is one month old.

Ryan is a chicken farmer and I am a stay at home mom. Both Ryan and I went to Christian schools and we value the experience and Christian environment so, when we were deciding where we wanted our children to go, LCS was the natural choice.

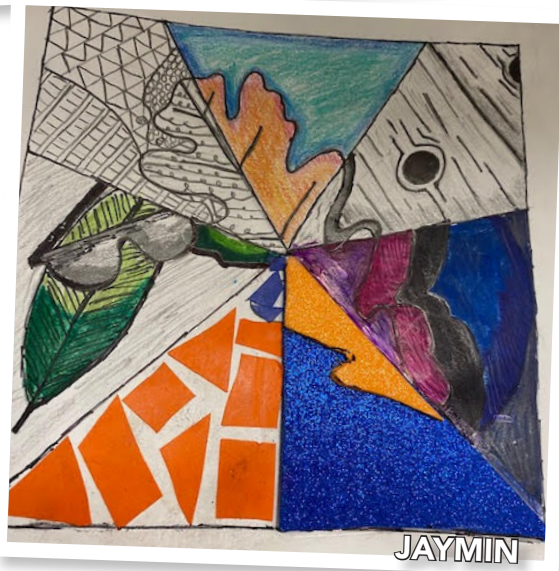
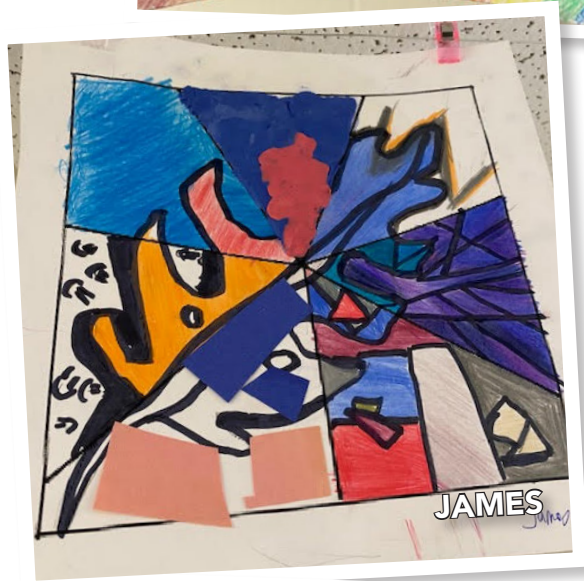
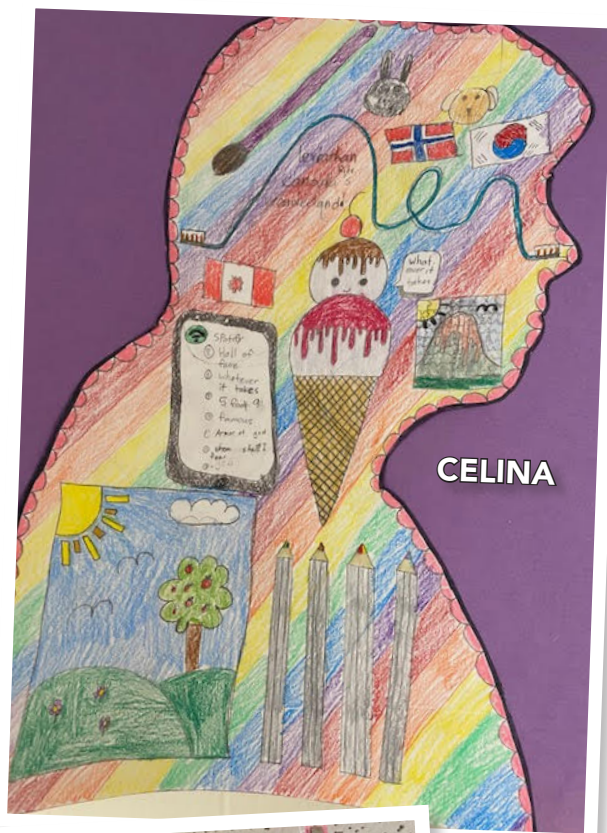
We are excited to watch our girls grow in their academic life and journey of faith.











## INTRODUCING THE *Miller family*

Hello, we are the Miller Family! Jeff is a carpenter working with Candue homes in Durham, Delicia works as the children's pastor at Crossroads Life Church in Harriston, Wesley is our busy superhero loving 3 year old and Abigail is our determined little 2 year old cuddle bug. Our family enjoys the outdoors, swimming, touring different places, and visiting our local library. We are very active at our church in Harriston and will be found there everytime the doors are open.

We are so excited to begin this journey with LCS! Jeff and I grew up going to public school, but we knew we wanted something different for our children. When we recently moved to Durham, we thought we would now have to settle for a public school. After touring the many different school options, we knew that we had to do everything possible to get him into LCS.





LEFT: Students participate in various sporting events this fall, such as soccer and cross country.

TOP RIGHT: LCS Food donation to "It Takes a Village" Listowel. Lexie, Stephanie, Tess, Mr. Boelens and Scott

BOTTOM: Grade 7/8's put on the Armour of God







## BAZAAR UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who came out to the Christmas Bazaar – this year we raised just over \$17,000!

It was good to see so many people and a lot of new faces. We are thankful to be able to host it inside the school once again.

Also THANK YOU to those who signed up for a shift (or multiple shifts!) donated baking, grocery items, crafts, toys, etc. and helped at the Bazaar in some way. We appreciate it very much!

-The Bazaar Committee



## INTRODUCING THE *Streicher family*

We are the Streichers: Kyle, Jennessa, Ruby and Wallace. Ruby is starting Junior Kindergarten this year and is excited to be attending "big kid school". Kyle and I both attended public school growing up but felt God leading us to pursue a different path for educating our children. We are thrilled to be sending our children to a school that has a Christ centered approach to education, and we look forward to building relationships with LCS educators and families.

Kyle is a Master Electrician and works for Horst Systems as their Electrical Project Manager. I (Jennessa) work part-time as a Process Excellence Specialist for Libro Credit Union. We attend church at Gorrie Bible Fellowship and have had the opportunity to serve on the Sunday School committee there for the past couple years. Our family enjoys spending time together, playing outside, going for family walks, riding our bikes, and just working around our home together. We are excited to start our school journey at LCS and hope meet many of you in the months and years to come.





## PURPOSE STATEMENT:

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**DEC 20** - Christmas Concert  
1pm & 7pm

**DEC 22** - Last Day of School  
before Christmas Break

**DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 9**  
- Christmas Break

MAY YOUR CHRISTMAS  
BE FILLED WITH  
JOY AND GRATITUDE  
BECAUSE OF ALL  
THAT CHRIST HAS  
GIVEN YOU.

*Merry  
Christmas!*



**Listowel**  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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## JOIN US FOR A FUN AFTERNOON AT THE CINEMA SHOWING: "THE STAR"

On Thursday,  
**JANUARY 5 at 2pm,**  
LCS Fundraising is hosting  
a fun afternoon at the  
Norgan Theatre.

**\$15/ticket** includes  
popcorn and pop.  
Limited seating  
available.

**RSVP to:**  
teresarastorfer@gmail.com  
or 519.272.4837