

THE COMMUNICATOR

2022-2023 ISSUE #2

GOD'S GREAT love

BY RIENEKE GREIDANUS

Don't you just love love? I couldn't help but go cliché on this February issue of the communicator. We are surrounded by all things love in this season- hearts, chocolates, roses, and cards professing our feelings. As people Google "what should I get my dog for Valentine's Day?" I can't help but wonder; how much have we watered down love?

Today's society loves so many things. People profess their love for a favourite sports team, a family pet, certain foods, hobbies, the list goes on. While these are all valid in their own regard, it does feel strange to use the word love for them all.

When we apply the word to human relationships, it begins to hold more weight. Parents feel love when soaking in every inch of their newborn baby. Couples feel love gazing into one another's eyes on their wedding day. We feel love for dear friends who walk beside us in times of joy and times of sorrow. These are the intense deep feelings I think of when I hear the word love; it can be indescribable. You could substitute the word 'like' in when discussing sports teams, food, hobbies, maybe even a family pet, but you would never say "I like my newborn baby" or "I like you" after pouring out your wedding vows. It wouldn't suffice.

Love is a precious gift from our Heavenly Father. In 1 John 4:16 it states "[...God is love]" and verse 7 says "[...for love comes from God]". It is beyond comprehension to me that God freely gives His perfect love to us; imperfect fallen humans—and without restriction! As deep as our feelings can go for one another, whether it is parent-child, spouses or friends, we love imperfectly and often with caveats. We would be wise to remember that love is more than a feeling we have. It is a choice and an action. God's love for us was sacrificial and we too need to give of ourselves in choice and action. Ephesians 3: 17-19 says "...and I pray

that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." We cannot comprehend the width, length, depth and height of God's love for us—it surpasses our understanding. What a comfort! We cannot push His love away and we cannot become undeserving of it.

My hope as you read this is that God's love does not become cliché nor watered down for you. I hope you are able to pause and reflect on how vast it truly is. Consider your human relationships and be in awe of the fact that God's perfect love for you and those you love is far greater than even those feelings; it is sacrificial, full and complete.



The artwork featured in this issue has been submitted by the Grade 1, Grade 3 & Grade 4/5 Classes



THE *principal's* POST



ABOVE: Grade 4/5 is learning to use the recorders.

BELOW: JK create a love message.

BOTTOM: Lego Club is a big success.



PAGE 37 – DID YOU READ IT?

The staff will know that I often refer to “page 37 of the contract – did you read it?”. There is no page 37. It is a reference to all the things that become part of our jobs as teachers that were never a part of our teacher training.

January and February have often been months when I say, “it is a good time to dig into teaching because these are long months without disruption”. Before the family day holiday was instituted, there were no holidays between Christmas break and March break. Consecutive five days weeks, no distractions, teach, teach, teach. Not exactly.

When I look around the building at all the activities offered students during the months of January and February, they are busy. There were Fridays in January filled with fun activities like hockey and skating. The transitions, the multi-grade connections, the parental involvement, and the art of skating were valuable out-of-class experiences. Some Grade 8 students ran a ministick tournament where the students developed leadership characteristics as they organized and faced decisions to resolve penalties and tie games, not to mention the competitive and cooperative skills learned by the players. As well, some teachers offered LEGO club for students to create and build with LEGO. The students imagined, designed, and then implemented their ideas into their creation. Some just built and designed as they went. Both are strategies they worked through and were proud

of their final products. Our student leadership team continues to be active. Beginning with leadership meetings to plan, then taking steps to prepare for activities, and finally implementing the plan. We also had a few assemblies where students have opportunities to sing, act, read, and lead actions. We enjoy providing opportunities for active worship with, for, and by the students. I know that students enjoy the variety of opportunities available to them. Ahh, page 37!

I guess January and February are not just about teaching and learning in the classroom. God created every one of us uniquely and therefore we are attracted to different activities. Creating times and spaces for every student to feel they have an opportunity to shine at LCS is an important part of our roles as teachers, whether that be in the classroom or beyond the classroom. Creating that variety also honours each student so they feel they belong at LCS. As much as we love teaching in the classroom, spending time with students in these co-curricular activities is also very rewarding. Our staff is very dedicated to the variety, and they enjoy them too.

I wonder what it would be like to “just teach”. I wonder what it would be like if “page 37” didn’t exist. I think that eliminating the extras and the variety would take the spice out of school life for students and teachers alike. Sometimes “page 37” drives us crazy, but I would not be in the profession if it wasn’t there. Thank God for variety (and most of page 37).



BLAKE H



DANNIE C



DAMIEN R



DARREN R



EMMALYN G



GRAYSON B



ESTHER K



JAELYN S



INTRODUCING THE *Eisen family*

As a family of 4, we are so excited to be sending our daughter to LCS. We have seen from afar how much the school values faith and a strong knowledge of God and his church. We also appreciate how the teachers and staff make an effort to see the Gospel intertwined into every subject. We have felt so welcomed already and we are really excited to be part of this community.

A little about us: Bart has been serving as the pastor at Maitland River Community Church since March and, before that, he served as the youth pastor at Bethel Christian Reformed Church in Listowel. He enjoys spending time with family/friends, especially when there is steak or wings involved. Tina is a stay-at-home mom and, when she has a quiet moment, you'll find her with a good book in one hand and a coffee in the other. Addison is thrilled to start JK this year! She likes meeting new people and going camping. She is excited to make crafts and play. Our second daughter Rylee turned 1 in July. She loves chasing her sister and getting into dangerous situations.

We look forward to having Rylee join the school in a few years and we are sure she will love it as much as Addi does.

BOARD *report*

The board has continued to meet monthly to discuss the ongoing operations of LCS. We focus on 4 main pillars; financial stewardship, policy/procedures, COO oversight and strategic planning. In November, we met with Ian Timmerman from Edvance to learn about and discuss what it means to be an effective board. The analogy of a ship, was presented for discussion. He put forth this question: "If the school were like a ship where ought the school board spend most of its time? Should we be loading cargo? On the bridge at the helm? Patching the leaks? Training the crew? In the crow's nest scanning the horizon"? We will continue to strive to spend most of the time on the bridge of the ship overseeing the operations of the school and in the crow's nest planning for the future. We are blessed to be able to lead this way because we have a great group of staff here at LCS and a supportive wider community willing to volunteer time and resources.

The board was busy at the end of November conducting the annual budget drive. The goal of the drive was \$105,000 to be directed towards the operational budget. The final tally was actually \$115,000. We are amazed and so grateful for God's faithfulness in this way and for the support we receive from our school community members. We will plan for the Drive to occur in November in future years as well.

In February, staff and board members and their spouses will gather for a fun evening of curling. It's always good to get to mingle with each other in such an informal environment.

We are midway through the first year of our new Strategic Plan with 15 Key Result Areas under review. The Board has been tasked with creating Ad Hoc Committees for several items such as Communications Review, Marketing Plan, and a Review of the Guiding Principles. LCS Committees have begun discussions on their Key Results Areas, including tuition supports and teacher prep times. These discussions have been fruitful, with some improvements in technology and administrative roles already being realized, and some have also taken more time to get started and will continue into the 2023-2024 school year. An update will be provided at the Spring Membership meeting.

With three board members about to finish off their terms the board is starting the process of nominations to replace them. We will prayerfully consider members who possess the needed skills and passion for LCS to make the board as effective as possible.

We have much to look forward to in the remainder of the 2022-2023 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





cool kids

Students enjoyed some extra winter activities like the Grade One's Outdoor Phys-Ed Class, and the Friday Skating afternoons throughout January.





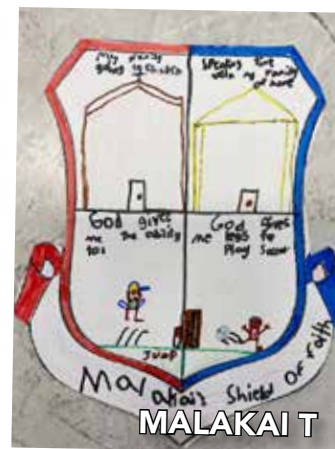
SAVANNAH D



WESTON V



JAXSON T



MALAKAI T



SAVANNAH W



WILLIAM L



JAXTON B



NADINE N



TREY V



ZACHARY S



KENZIE T



NATALIE K



WESLEY D



ZACKARY J



LOGAN S



SAMUEL K



INTRODUCING THE *Holstege family*

We are the Holstege family - Daniel and Leah, Gabriel, Kirsten, Kiley, Charity, and Violet. Our family life began in November of 2010 in Holland, Michigan, as the minister and family of the First Protestant Reformed Church of Holland. We were blessed with 4 children while there. Then in January of 2017, we moved to the Philippines to serve as missionaries of the Protestant Reformed Churches. During our time there, our 5th child was born. In October of 2021, Dan received a call from the Wingham Protestant Reformed Church to serve as their pastor and he said yes! So we moved to Wingham late December of 2021. We are enjoying having 4 seasons again and one favorite so far has been learning how to skate!

Our children have always attended a Christian school and that is very important to us, so we were happy to find LCS. It can be difficult to join a new place and make new relationships, but we feel very blessed both in our new church family and with the warm welcome especially our children have received at LCS.

A little bit about each of our kids... **Gabriel (Gabe)** is in grade 5. He enjoys sports, especially American football. One of his favourite subjects is math, and he is enjoying being the banker in Mr Siebenga's classroom economy. He hopes to follow in his dad's footsteps and pursue the ministry someday. **Kirsten** and **Kiley** are fraternal twins and in grade 3. They both love art. Kirsten is an avid reader and has a lot of interest in music. Kiley likes playing outside and is interested in flowers/gardening. **Charity** is in SK. She also loves arts and crafts, and pretty much anything that sparkles. She's pretty shy but has been loving school and starting to make some friends. **Violet** turned 3 in December. She's full of personality and gets plenty of attention from her siblings, but she's enjoying getting all the toys to herself while they're away at school!

We give thanks to God for His unfailing mercy and grace as our family has moved from place to place. And we look forward to settling in here for a time and serving Him in this beautiful land.

building blocks

Starting in February, Grades 1-4 get to participate in Lego Club on Mondays and Thursdays during recess.





ALEX G



HAVEN S



JESSE H



AMY B



CARINA A



JORDYN L



COLTON V



JUDAH T

Our Grade One class recently had the privilege of helping to lead a chapel on our yearly theme. We shared about the shield of faith. We are trying to grow our understanding about God's love and faithfulness to all generations. We don't deserve God's love or His faithfulness. We pointed back to God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12, that He would bless all peoples through Him. Jesus fulfilled that and is the One who blessed all peoples by dying on the cross in our place. Even though the Old Testament people didn't keep their side of the covenant, God still remained faithful. We are learning the memory words from Psalm 100. For our art and chapel, we focused on verse 5: For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.

Just for fun, we also read the books "Snowmen at Night" and "Snowmen at Christmas" (thanks LCS library for having these books). Artists learned how to create a snowman shadow with oil pastel. Students loved the book for many reasons; many students wrote they loved how the snowmen sang songs to Jesus around a Christmas tree! For our Communicator art, we are sharing a mix of our shields of faith and our snowmen at night for you to enjoy.

Please pray for our class that we may hold up our shield of faith, believing that God is faithful to us and all generations.

Love, the Grade Ones





JOSHUA J



LOGAN W



KYLE R



SCOTTI V



ZACHARY B



MALCOLM W



LIAM S



OCTAVIA M

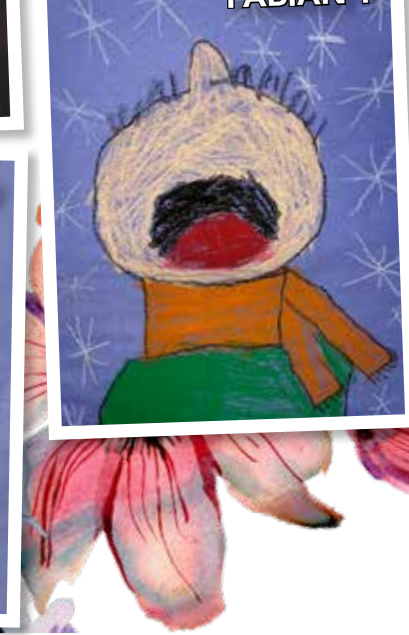
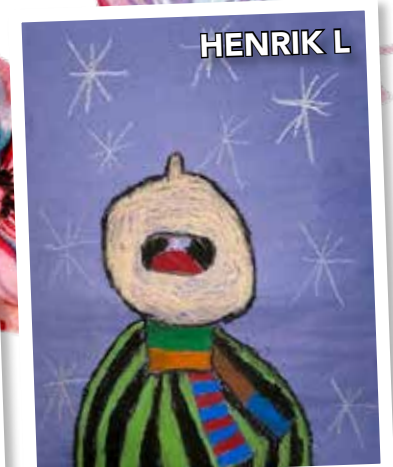
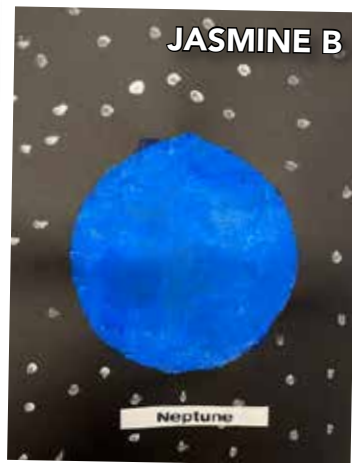
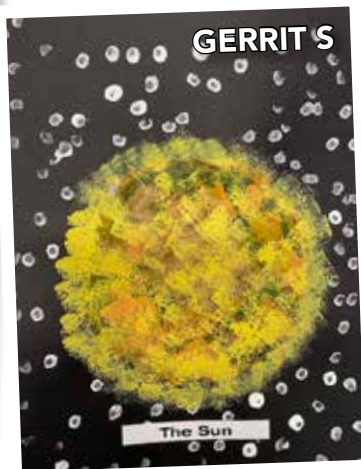


INTRODUCING THE *Mulder family*

Hi, we are Zachary and Hannah Mulder and this is our first year sending to LCS. We are parents to Timothy, who turned 4 in December.

We are working at home on our dairy farm in Wroxeter and Hannah works part time at Heartland Vets on reception. We attend Bethel CRC in Listowel where Hannah is involved in youth group. We both attended Christian school growing up, Zachary at LCS and Hannah at CCS Hamilton and HDCH. We met at Ridgetown College where we both studied agriculture.

Christian education is a priority for us because we value a curriculum that incorporates biblical teaching, and we also really value the community that is cultivated at LCS. To us it's more than a school, and we are so excited to be here!





work & play

The Senior Kindergarten students keep busy every day, trying out the new scooters and working together to exercise their imaginations.



INTRODUCING THE *Thomas family*

We are the Thomas Family! Our names are Jalin and Brooklyn Thomas. Our kids are Malakai who's in grade 4, Gracia who's in grade 2, Faith who's in senior kindergarten, and Isaiah who's in junior kindergarten. We own a concrete cutting company called Lions Concrete Cutting and Coring Inc. It's based out of Waterloo. We moved to Palmerston 4 years ago. We really like it here. We attend Crossroads Life Church in Harriston and love hearing from Pastor John.

We have wanted to send our kids to LCS for a while, so we are so glad that it was in Gods plan to send them this year. They couldn't be happier to be there so it makes us so happy that they are so excited for school! We are looking forward to the community of supportive parents and families for our children and can't wait to see what God has in store for them in the coming years.

PURPOSE STATEMENT:

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SAT. MARCH 4 - LCS Info Morning 9am - 12pm

MARCH 13-17 - March Break - No school

THURS. MARCH 23 - Basketball Tournament

FRI. APRIL 7 - Good Friday - No school

MON. APRIL 10 - Easter Monday - No school

MON. APRIL 24 - Spring Membership Meeting

FRI. APRIL 28 - Kindergarten Registration,
9:30am - 11:30am



Listowel
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

305 Binning St. W

519.291.3086

office@listowelchristianschool.ca

www.listowelchristianschool.ca

fundraising ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gala Dinner & Live Auction!

CATERED DINNER ON FRIDAY MARCH 24

- Doors open at 5:30pm, dinner served at 6pm.
- Tickets are \$50 each.
- 8-10 *surprise* live auction items
- Only 160 tickets available!

Please fill out the form for tickets:

<https://forms.gle/5n9UMWQqbmtbQ2Bd8>

For more info, contact Teresa at:
teresa.rastorfer@gmail.com

Spring Auction

SPRING ONLINE AUCTION MARCH 23 - 25

Follow us at **Listowel Christian School**
on Facebook and Instagram
for the latest auction news!

