

# THE COMMUNICATOR

2024-2025 ISSUE #1

## CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSE GIFTS:

## *Building Community at LCS*

JANICE KICKERT

As we began a new school year at LCS, it was fitting that the first family devotional was on Community Building. The apostle Paul, in 1 Corinthians 12, provides a beautiful framework for understanding how God uses our diverse gifts to create a thriving community. He reminds us that the Holy Spirit distributes gifts upon each believer, and these gifts, though different, are all valuable and essential for the functioning of the body of Christ.

This passage encourages us to recognize and appreciate the unique gifts we've been given, and to honor the gifts we see in others. It's easy to fall into the trap of comparison, but we are urged to avoid this. Instead, we should celebrate all the gifts we've been given and the way each person contributes to the whole. Just as a body needs both hands and feet to function properly, our community thrives on the diverse talents and abilities of its members.

This diversity is beautifully illustrated within the LCS community. We have members with backgrounds in education, farmers, skilled tradespeople, business leaders, and so much more. Each person brings a unique perspective and skill set, enriching our school in countless ways. We need people to volunteer on committees, lend a hand with maintenance, serve at the bazaar and so much more - every contribution strengthens our community.

One of the blessings of LCS is its strong sense of community. This is something that resonates with new families and was a key strength that emerged during the gallery walk that kicked off our current Strategic Plan. It's a testament to the way we embrace and value each other's contributions.

A thriving community doesn't simply happen; it requires active participation. Paul calls us to use our gifts to serve the Lord, we are invited to contribute our time, talents, and resources to LCS. Whether it's through

volunteering for class trips, supporting fundraising initiatives, or library assistance, every act of service makes a difference.

As we look ahead, let us be inspired by the message of 1 Corinthians 12. Let us continue to cultivate a community where every gift is encouraged, recognized and celebrated. By embracing our diversity and working together, we can create an environment where students, staff, and families alike feel valued and empowered to use their gifts to serve God and build His kingdom. God has placed you in this body, just where He wanted each of us to be.

*The artwork featured in this issue has been submitted by the Grade 1 & 2 Classes*



**Listowel**  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

# THE principal's POST



TOP: School-wide altar, where students brought their personal worship to God.

MIDDLE: Examining the band instrument options.

BOTTOM: Grade One works on their puzzle skills.



Dear Listowel Christian School Community,

This year marked an exciting milestone in the school's journey, we celebrate 50 years of dedicated service to our students, families, and the broader community. Over the past five decades, Listowel Christian School has remained committed to nurturing not only the minds but also the hearts of children, fostering a holistic approach to education that transforms lives.

I am grateful to be able to join the school community this year as an interim principal, while the school seeks for the next leader God has chosen. The theme for our school year is "Mission Possible: Being God's Agents of Change in the World." This concept is at the core of our mission-Educating children while nurturing faith in Christ to interpret and impact God's world. It reminds us that education is not merely about imparting knowledge but about inspiring our students to grow into compassionate, thoughtful, and active members of society.

We are integrating the "throughlines" from Teaching for Transformation framework. Throughlines are discipleship habits and practices that both form the learners and transform God's world around them. Throughlines help students, teachers, and parents imagine what it means to be a disciple within God's story. These throughlines (community building, God worshipping, justice seeking, servant working, creation enjoying, beauty creating, order discovering, idolatry discerning, earth keeping and image reflecting) highlight essential qualities we aim

to cultivate within our learners. These throughlines guide our discussions, lessons, and activities, ensuring that we remain rooted in our Christian values while also preparing our students for a rapidly changing world.

In our chapels, we will explore how these throughlines can be applied in our daily lives. We want our students to see themselves not just as learners but as leaders, innovators, and stewards of their communities. Students have already taken on "missions" to be community builders and God worshippers. The grade 6/7 class hosted hot dog lunches with the proceeds going towards ChildCan. The entire school built an altar like Jacob to bring their personal worship to God. The JK class wrote notes of encouragement to adults in their lives. The grade four class worked on saying "hello" and "thank you" to their bus drivers every day. And the list goes on.

As I step into this role, I am filled with anticipation for the growth and development that lies ahead for our school. The commitment of our dedicated staff, the support of our parents and grandparents, and the enthusiasm of our students create a vibrant community where learning flourishes. Together, we will build on our rich legacy and continue to shape future generations of thinkers and doers.

Thank you for being a vital part of this incredible journey as we celebrate our past and embrace our future.

IN HIS SERVICE,  
DONNA VEENSTRA





## CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS:

CAMBRIDGE - Novice Girls 3rd,  
Novice Boys 2nd, Jr Boys 2nd,  
Sr Boys 1st

DRAYTON - Novice Girls 1st,  
Novice Boys 2nd, Jr Girls 3rd,  
Jr Boys 1st, Sr Boys 1st

**CAREER DAY** was a big hit with  
all of the classes – it was fun to  
see all of the kids dress up in  
their future career choices!

**SECRET MISSION:** Grade One  
delivered letters around the  
neighbourhood as part of their  
secret mission – good job  
Grade One!







BOSTON



FAITH



RUBY



DELANEY



ADALYN



CHARITY



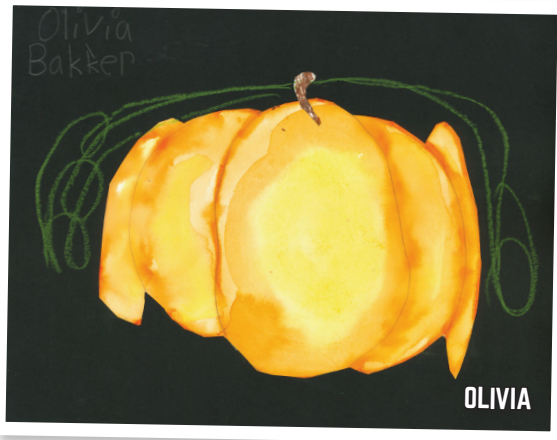
ESMAE



EMILY



BRYER



OLIVIA



ADALIE



WESLEY



# INTRODUCING

## Mattea Casadio

# JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN

Hello LCS families! My name is Mattea Casadio, and I'm thrilled to be on staff this year at LCS. This is my first year teaching kindergarten but I've worked as an RECE for over five years in many different settings.

I was raised in a Christian family and born in Hanover. In 2019, I moved to Perth, Western Australia to work as a Au Pair (Nanny) for a family of five. I did this for over a year and then made a big switch and started working on a sheep and cropping farm for 90 days (Australia requires overseas workers to do farm work every year to renew their visas). After my farm work, I went back to being an Au Pair and also found my home church in Australia, called "Oceans". It was here that I did a year of bible college/internship and where I met my now husband, Daniel.

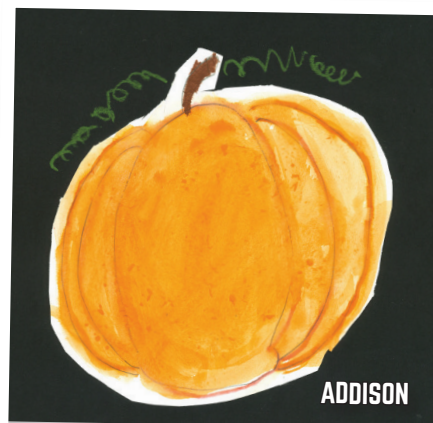
Daniel and I moved quickly and married about one year after meeting (When you know, you know). My family wasn't able to make it to our wedding due to border restrictions, so when we fell pregnant with our daughter just three months into our marriage, we decided to head back to Canada, so Dan could finally meet my family. In November 2022, we had our beautiful baby girl, Eliyanah.

Earlier this year, Dan was asked to join the staff at our home church in Harriston, "Crossroads Life Church", as the student ministry's pastor. Once Dan got this new position, we decided that it was time that I went back to work. I knew about LCS from many of the families in our church and when I saw the posting for a kindergarten teacher I applied right away. I love everything LCS stands for and the community that you have all built.



We are currently living in Harriston, and we are always out on family adventures, whether its hiking, swimming or finding new activities to do. We love to stay active. I love cooking and baking healthy, nourishing meals and researching/studying nutrition in my spare time. We are also expecting our second baby come March 2025!

I've been loving being on staff here and getting to know you all, and I'm excited to see what God has in store for LCS.







# BOARD *report* FALL 2024

The halls of LCS are once again filled with fun and learning for another school year – the 51st of its kind! LCS families and supporters were able to gather this September to recognize this 50 year milestone and look back on God's faithfulness over the years. The Board would like to thank the planning committee and all those who volunteered their time for that evening of celebration.

This year's back to school "BBQ" was revamped into an open house/ice cream social night and was very well attended by LCS's families. Plenty of ice cream was consumed by adults and children alike!

The Board has continued to meet monthly, taking a break in July. On the forefront of current Board tasks is the search for our next Principal/COO. The ad hoc committee in charge of this task is working diligently and following any leads. In the interim, LCS has been blessed with Donna Veenstra's leadership. Working along-side Donna is Janelle Vogel as LCS's

vice-principal. The school and its students are in great hands with them as leaders, as well as the amazing staff that works in tandem with them.

The school continues to work away at its Strategic Plan. The 2024-2025 school year is year three of the current plan. Many items have been checked off the "to-do" list with many more heading toward completion.

Board Self-Evaluation occurs at each Board meeting. These evaluations are briefly discussed and acted upon when needed. The Board also looks forward to a training day led by Edvance in November to remind us of what our role as a Board is and where our focus needs to lie.

Questions to the Board are always welcome as we seek to have open communication and transparency within our school. Please email any questions to [lcsboardmember@gmail.com](mailto:lcsboardmember@gmail.com).

RIENEKE GREIDANUS  
BOARD SECRETARY







## INTRODUCING THE *Streicher Family*

Hello LCS Community, we are Ryan, Andrea and Raquel Streicher. We live on a small hobby farm outside of Harriston. We have been married for ten years and Raquel is our only child.

Raquel loves to read books, sing, do ballet and go horseback riding. She also loves to help with morning chores which consist of picking eggs, snuggling her cats and giving the animals unique names like Broccoli (a cat) and Spider (a goat).

Ryan owns OnGrade Inc., an excavating company that specializes in septic system design and installations and provides general excavating services. In his spare time, he enjoys working around the farm, fishing and turkey hunting.

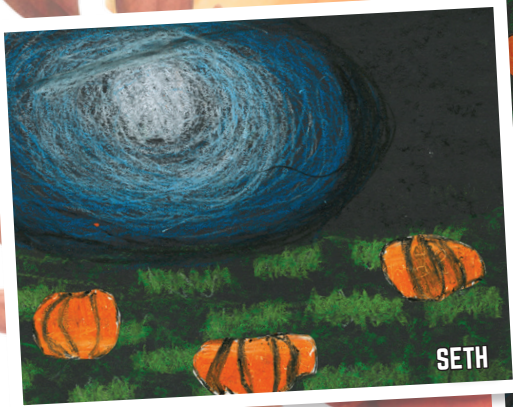
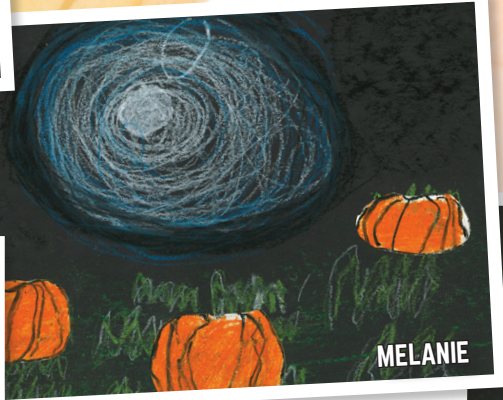
Andrea helps with the bookkeeping and other office work for OnGrade. She loves making meals from scratch and taking care of the farm animals. Daily Andrea takes care of the chores for the farm animals accompanied by her dogs. For the past nine years we've grown our own produce and raised most of our own meat. Andrea enjoys horseback riding, painting, spending time in nature and turkey hunting.

We attend Gorrie Bible Fellowship and have served in various ways in the past 11 years such as property maintenance, serving communion, helping in the children's nursery and signing up to provide meals for families when needed.

We both grew up in Christian homes. Though we both went to public school, we wanted our daughter to experience a Christ based education and to grow in a Christian environment with other believers.

We are so thankful that we're able to send our daughter to LCS and look forward to becoming part of the LCS Community.





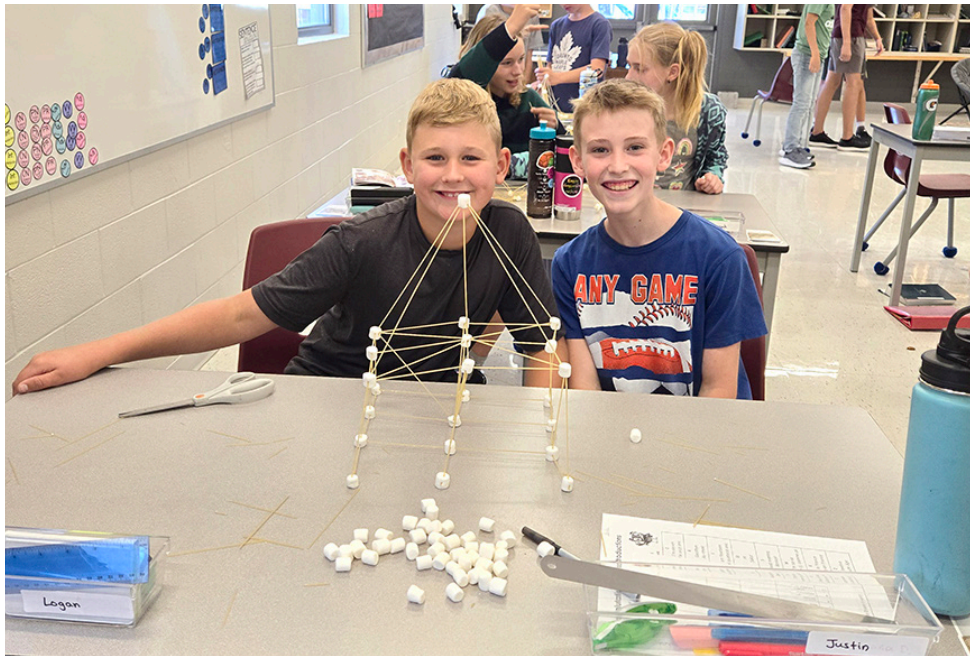




## INTRODUCING *Lorissa & David* *Tenorio*

This is Lorissa and David's first year teaching at LCS. Lorissa grew up in Brampton, Ontario and David grew up in Puebla, Mexico. They met two years ago as they were both missionary teachers at a small bilingual Christian school in Puerto Escondido, Mexico. Lorissa served as a missionary teacher for three years in the Manantial school; teaching Music, Kindergarten, Bible and English classes to elementary students. David served as a missionary for two years teaching math for Grades 5-10. They were recently married in March 2023 and moved to Canada together in February 2024. They are very grateful and excited to be a part of the LCS community and continue to share the gospel with students in the classroom daily. David's hobbies include playing and watching soccer and cooking Mexican food. Lorissa loves to sing, as she studied Voice Performance at Wilfrid Laurier University (Class of 2021). They are currently attending Trinity Bible Chapel in St. Jacobs.







## SEEN AT SCHOOL

This fall students could be found experimenting and building with food, playing soccer and musical chairs, serving hot dogs in support of ChildCan, and participating in a Thanksgiving assembly.





## PURPOSE STATEMENT:

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**NOV 11** - Remembrance Day Assembly  
**NOV 13** - Board Meeting  
**NOV 14** - Parent Teacher Conferences (Evening)  
**NOV 15** - Parent Teacher Conferences -  
NO SCHOOL  
**NOV 20** - Pizza Day - Domino's  
**NOV 20** - Volleyball Tournament -  
Girls at Providence; Boys at Trinity;  
**NOV 23** - LCS Christmas Bazaar

**DEC 2** - Board Executive Meeting  
**DEC 4** - Pizza Day - New Orleans  
**DEC 5** - Grade 8 Day at Woodland  
**DEC 6** - Chapel: Servant Working, 9:30am  
**DEC 9** - Fall Membership Meeting - 7:30pm  
**DEC 11** - Board Meeting  
**DEC 17** - LCS Christmas Program 1pm & 7pm  
**DEC 20** - School Skating - afternoon  
**DEC 20 - JAN 6** - CHRISTMAS BREAK



**Listowel**  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

305 Binning St. W  
519.291.3086

office@listowelchristianschool.ca  
www.listowelchristianschool.ca

**Listowel**  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

**LISTOWEL**  
**CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

presents a

*Christmas*

**BAZAAR**

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23, 2024**  
**10AM - 2PM | 305 BINNING ST. LISTOWEL, ON**

CRAFT ITEMS  
KIDS FUN ZONE  
HOMEMADE BAKING  
DUTCH SPECIALTIES  
FROM ORANJE GROVE  
CHRISTMAS DECOR  
HOT LUNCH AVAILABLE