

THE LINK

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CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Another 40 Years?

By Hugo Marcus, Principal

AS PART OF OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY celebrations, I recently had the opportunity to address many of our founding members and supporters. We had a great luncheon together as we reflected on the lasting quality of the original vision of the Kitchener-Waterloo Christian School Society (KWCSS). I came away from that gathering with my faith renewed in the original vision, confident that it still holds true today. I was inspired by the past, filled with bright hope for the future and affirmed in the knowledge that the KWCSS and LHCS are rooted for growth.

The original vision still resonates today because even now we believe in engaging the world rather than retreating from it. When we, in the spirit of obedience, focus on conserving and expanding intellectual truth, and when we, with our eyes focused on the Kingdom of God, seek to transmit our faith and continue to cultivate fields of academic effort, we remain in the same visionary tradition as those who founded the school. When we build for the future instead of resting on the past, we are true to the vision.

Being true to a vision doesn't mean that we simply try to recast and rearticulate the old vision for a new audience. If that is all we do from generation to generation, we run the risk of becoming stagnant and mediocre. Each generation needs to constantly challenge and rethink the school's vision, mission and purpose using new insights, new methods and new patterns that will make Christian

schooling more effective. For example, who would have thought 15 years ago that we would bring in a strategic planner and actually pay that person to help the society move to the next level? Yet that's what has happened and it has moved us forward. Every generation doesn't build buildings, add programs, expand diversity or experience school growth. But each



The first five presidents of the KWCSS

generation reflects in its own way and responds to the challenges it faces as it answers the question put to Queen Esther, "And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this." (Esther 4:14)

That's why I'm encouraged about the next forty years. I know current and future generations will be busy advancing the school and society beyond anything we can imagine. I know that they will do that with their eyes focused on what God wants them to do and on the vision that brought them where they are today.

At this point in our history it is good to bear in mind three things. First, we need to preserve and pass on the story of our tradition (our purpose, roots, culture, wisdom, and world-and life-view). Second, we need to maintain a love of learning and of thinking critically and fruitfully about the world and human experience; we are, after all, a school. Finally, we need to constantly discern and foster discipleship that is God-worshiping, creation-enjoying, earth-keeping, beauty-creating and justice-seeking.

40 more years? DV—*Deo Volente*, Lord Willing—no doubt about it!!

STAR CLASSES

JK, Grade 2 and Grade 5



ON OCTOBER 19 MRS. BOOTSMA'S JK Class had a GREAT time at the Pumpkin Patch. This is what they saw and did on their trip.

At the Pumpkin Patch...

...we saw pumpkins in a field.
~Victoria & Eden

...we saw a big pumpkin with balloons in it. We chased the balloons and had fun. ~Jonathan, Noah & Avery

...we played on slides, dug with a digger and climbed on a train.
~Devin, Caleb & Amy

...we jumped off hay bales. ~Owen

...we went in the corn maze. It was muddy. ~Juan Daniel & Caleb

...we saw and heard a bell. ~William

...we had apple cider and a cookie.
~Abby

...we went for a ride on a wagon. ~Eli

...we played with the tractors in the corn and in the rye. ~Anna, Jared & Caden

...we picked our own pumpkin and brought it home. ~Ananias & Melanie



IN MRS. JONKER'S GRADE 2 CREATION Studies class, students experience the wonder and awe of our world and its Creator. Here are some things the children learned about God in the *Solids, Liquids and Gases* unit:

God is big because he made the big ocean. ~Marc

God is an artist because he made frost. ~Matthew

God is in control because there will always be enough air. ~David

God is an artist because he made the northern lights. ~Owen

God is gentle because he can make the waves strong and gentle. ~Tonia

MRS. SCHUURMAN'S GRADE 2 class considered how the lilies grow, and wondered at the fact that they do not labour or spin, like we do! Enjoy some of the students' thoughts on the flowers of God's creation.

When I am in God's garden, it makes me think that God is...

...powerful and good. He loves us and cares for us. ~Juan Miguel

...pretty. And he is everywhere. God can make stuff out of nothing!
~Paige

...very wonderful and powerful. And he told us to take care of His world.
~Peter

...very good. And that he is pretty.
~Caleb

...everywhere, because flowers are everywhere. That God is powerful, and that He is the only God. ~Gillian

...number one. He is beautiful and He will take care of me. ~David

...the best in the world, and that I am thankful for God, and He is most highest and beautiful-est in the world. I love Him. ~David

Grade 5: Shining Like Stars

We can shine like stars at LHCS in many ways.

We can draw pictures for our reading buddies.

We can pick up pointy objects so no one will get hurt.

We can be good examples and help little kids.

We can help someone if they're bullied.

We can shine like stars by worshipping God.

We can help people who are having a hard time.

We can be friendly to those who need a friend.

God likes when we shine like stars!
~Rachel, Rachel, Emily, Maggie, Alex and Derrick

We can shine like stars by telling people about God.

We can be nice to kids.

We can hand in our work on time.

If someone gets hurt on the playground, we can get a teacher.

If someone needs a friend at recess, we can play with them.

We can be helpful and responsible to God and others.

We can shine like stars.

~Melissa, Taylor, Ashley, Joel and Nathan

A Grade 5 Class Trip Essay

WE WENT TO VICTORIA PARK ON October 18. We first got to take a tour of the park. It took a long time to walk around the park and look at all the statues.

Then we went to the gallery. Mr. Russell talked to us about the history of Kitchener. We saw lots of pictures of what the park looked like before it had a playground. There used to be a pool and canoe races. We saw a picture of Queen Victoria.

Then we had lunch outside and we all played at the park. We learned a lot that day. ~Ashley and Derrick

BOARD MEMO

Celebrating our Past, Planning for our Future

By Mike Fisher, President of the K-W Christian School Society

IN 2007, LAURENTIAN HILLS Christian School will celebrate 40 years of the Lord's faithfulness.

Through the years, our society has embraced both our blessings and our challenges in order to ensure that LHCS will continue to educate our children for the next 40 years. Allow me to share with you some of the matters the Board is working through in its strategic planning:

Accessibility

Our school was founded on the desire to provide Christian education to as many Christian children as possible. Recently, we have expanded services to special needs children through Ministry of Health funding, introduced an English as a Second Language program, and created a Junior Kindergarten program. In order to keep Christian Education available to as many families as possible, the K-W Christian School Society is reviewing tuition affordability options.

Sustainability

The Board and its committees are continually evaluating how we fund Christian education in order to keep our school strong and effective. Our sustainability requires the right balance between parental financial re-

sponsibility and giving our communities the opportunity to invest in the school.

Growth

Each year the student body continues to grow. In order to address our current growth and to prepare for the future, the Board is considering a building expansion plan.

Accreditation

LHCS is looking to receive full Canadian Hallmarks Institute (CHI) accreditation by the end of this school year. Accreditation will provide our community with the assurance that our Staff, Administration, Boards, and Committees are functioning according to CHI standards.

Access to Qualified Administrators

Over the next three years, one-third of the administrators (principals) in OACS schools will retire; LHCS will be affected by this. The Board is committed to ensuring that LHCS (and, by extension, the OACS) will continue to have qualified administrators by creating an additional Vice Principal position. This VP will be mentored by our current Administrator.

Through God's grace, strong communities, and good stewardship, LHCS will continue to educate the next generation of Christian children.

NOTEWORTHY...

The September LINK informed you about the Community Care Access Centre's decision to reduce funding for our special needs students.

Praise God that we were successful in our appeal! We are still appealing one case and hope to have an answer in the New Year. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.



Remembrance Day
Assembly, 2006

Lest
We
Forget

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 2006 - March 2007

- December 20, 21
Papa Panov Christmas Musical Performances, 7:30 p.m. at Community Christian Reformed Church
- December 22
Assembly 9:00 a.m. (Led by K - Grade 4)
- December 22
Last Instructional Day of 2006
- December 23 to January 7
Christmas Holidays
- January 24
Bake Sale - Grade 5A and 5B
- January 25
Hockey Tournament (Kitchener)
- January 30
Assembly 9:00 a.m. (Led by Grade 3)
- February 26
PA Day - no school
- February 20th
Bake Sale - Grades 1 and 1/2
- February 28
Assembly 9:00 a.m.
- March 2
Basketball Tournament (Dundas and Burlington)
- March 6
OACS Program Day - No school for Grades 7 and 8
- March 9 to 18
March Break
- March 27
Assembly 9:00 a.m. (Led by Grades 3/4 and 4)

You are cordially invited to
Laurentian Hills Christian School's
Christmas musical,

Papa Panov

Performances:

Wednesday, December 20

Thursday, December 21

7:30 p.m.

at Community Christian
Reformed Church

1275 Bleams Rd. Kitchener

SPORTS REPORTS: SOCCER AND CROSS-COUNTRY

CROSS-COUNTRY '06

THIS YEAR THE L.H.C.S. CROSS-Country Team participated in events in Cambridge and Dundas.

In Cambridge we did very well. The Senior Girls placed 1st and the Senior Boys placed 2nd! The weather was very cool and windy! Thanks to God, it started to snow *after* all the races were finished and there were no injuries. Everyone showed outstanding sportsmanship.



In Dundas we tried hard but did not do as well as we wanted to. The Junior girls finished 4th overall, and our school placed 5th! It was sprinkling rain, and the mud was the nastiest ever! That created immense difficulty while we were running. Thanks to God again, everybody stayed safe and there were no major injuries.

Everybody enjoyed training together, especially running up and down the steep slopes of "Mount Trashmore." A big thank you to Mr. Ferber and Ms. Mantel for working us hard, feeding us with good healthy energy food like donuts, and for always making us feel good about ourselves! ~John Mark and Natasha



Congratulations to the winning team of the Annual LHCS Golf Tournament!

This event raised \$21 287.00, which will go towards the school.

Thank you to all participants and volunteers.

GIRLS SOCCER '06

THE SOCCER TOURNAMENT was lots of fun, despite the very cold and cloudy weather! All of the girls on the team had to wake up early because we had to be at the field at 8:15.



Our first game was at 9:00, and we were all excited to play! Our first game went well even though we lost, but we were still warming up. Our second game was more successful as we won 1-0! In the afternoon we played two more games and unfortunately we lost both of them. Most of the team was disappointed, but we didn't mind going home to our warm houses! In the end we came in sixth place, which really isn't bad since we had only four practices!

The team is thankful to our three coaches, Mrs. Beldman, Ms. Mantel and Mr. Szustaczek, to all our parents and everyone who came out to cheer us on in the FREEZING weather! We're looking forward to it next year! ~Chelsea

BOYS SOCCER '06

THE DAY OF THE CAMBRIDGE Soccer Tournament was a little bit chilly due to the fact that it had rained earlier that morning.

We played four games. We won twice, tied once and lost once. Mr. Zondag, our coach, made very good decisions about who should go on against different players and who should come off to make those changes. All our games, except our final one, took place on Enclosure, the biggest field there. During our lunch break we went to see the girls' team play. After lunch we played our final game. The fifth and sixth place game took place on W.E. Hamilton, a soccer field just like the one we practiced on here. After that, we packed up and went home, tired and yet satisfied with a job well done. ~John



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