

Principal Thoughts

Perseverance: Running the Race



Some think of perseverance only as grit or pushing through difficult circumstances. This year, through our theme “Perseverance: Running the Race,” we are exploring a deeper meaning for perseverance. Through assemblies that looked at included topics like immigrants and the persecuted church we looked at perseverance.

Perseverance is much more than sticking with a task or trying really hard. As Oswald Chambers put it: “Perseverance is more than endurance. It is endurance combined with absolute assurance and certainty that what we are looking for is going to happen.”

In our primary musical “The Tale of the Three Trees,” we were reminded that God has a plan for each one of us, even if we can’t see it. We can persevere knowing that we can trust in the plan of our Father in heaven. What a privilege to share this truth each day with our students here at LHCS!

—Ian Timmerman, Principal

Beyond the Class

A Learning Experience to Remember



In the fall, my grade four class participated in a service project by creating Christmas cards for children in Uganda. The recipients are children with debilitating conditions and diseases who have been “adopted” by a non-profit charity called One4Another International which provides them with life-changing surgeries.



Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith. —Hebrews 12:2

The first day back to school in January, I shared with my students the video created by Emma Roorda, an LHCS

alumni and intern for One4Another International (O4A). It is such a touching video of the children in Uganda receiving and responding to the Christmas cards.

My students wanted to learn more about O4A. We researched their website and learned about the “18th Man Project” – a program that encouraged AA and AAA hockey teams in Ontario to raise \$850 for a child’s surgery. Hockey teams were adopting their 18th player and offering support for a child in need.



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Did you know?

Our teaching staff bring 311 YEARS of combined teaching experience to the classroom!

My 17 students wondered about adopting an 18th student into our classroom and we began discussing how we could raise \$850 – some ideas were very creative! We settled on a hotdog lunch. We spent the rest of the class sorting out the details of the lunch. As I looked around at my students working together I realized how blessed I was for having an amazing group of compassionate students.

I connected with the students' parents about the idea and they were thrilled. As the news spread, God continued to be at work and an anonymous donor offered to match the proceeds from the lunch (up to \$500). I was so encouraged. This was unbelievable!

The students were excited to visit our local FreshCo grocery store to talk to the manager, asking for donations and work on gathering data for their math lesson. Jodie Martin, the manager of FreshCo, was incredibly generous and donated all of the hot dogs, buns and condiments for our luncheon. We calculated the cost of supplies and our savings. Thanks, FreshCo!

I invited Glenn Pascoe, co-founder of O4A, to come and share with the class about their work and how they are helping children struggle with clubbed feet, bone infections, cleft palates and other birth defects. The students took it all in with very inquisitive minds and empathetic hearts. They learned that these surgeries cost anywhere from \$250 to \$3000. The money the students would be raising would cover the cost of transportation for the child and their family to the clinic in Jinja and all the medical expenses.

My students thought beyond themselves, beyond the child in Uganda and projected into the future, thinking about how amazing it would be if this project was adopted

by other classes in other schools. With this energy, we created logos for our project. The students realized their name for the project should also change due to the fact that not all classes have 17 or 18 students, so after much brainstorming, we agreed on a new name for the project: The Beyond the Class Project.



They have walked in the steps of Jesus and have learned the importance of helping others in need. They have learned that they don't need to be adults to make a difference.



The hot dog lunch was fast approaching, and the grade four students were busy collecting orders, counting money and learning how to use Excel spreadsheets to total our orders. Donations for our lunch were generously provided by FreshCo, Martin's Fruit Farm, WalMart and Beverly Greenhouses.

The lunch was incredibly successful! The class raised \$2678 – enough to support two surgeries for two girls: Daphine, a 13 year old girl with osteomyelitis (a severe bone infection in her leg) and Jauhara, a 7 year old girl with a clubbed foot. The class raised enough money to cover the costs of the surgeries, school fees for both girls for a year, and family kits for each as well.

Today, if you ask a grade four student what they have learned this year, they will tell you how meaningful this project has been for them. They have walked in the steps of Jesus and have learned the importance of helping others in

need. They have learned that they don't need to be adults to make a difference. They have experienced hope for a better future for Daphine and Jauhara. Their smiles say it all.

This story was submitted by Terri-Lyn Mantel, our grade four teacher. Each class at LHCS participates in a service-learning project each year, providing students with an opportunity to love God by serving others, impacting both themselves and the local or global community.

Retiring Staff



Helen VanDyk



Helen Van Dyk has been an important member of the LHCS community for the past 20 years. She initially started as an Educational Assistant and then moved into her role as a grade 3 teacher. She was very involved in the development of our school library and has actively promoted the Forest

of Reading Program. Helen and many of her students fondly remember the class trip to Crawford Lake where they explored an Iroquoian village and nature trail around an old lake. In retirement, Helen is looking forward to traveling with her husband and spending time with her grandchildren.

Dawn Kooistra



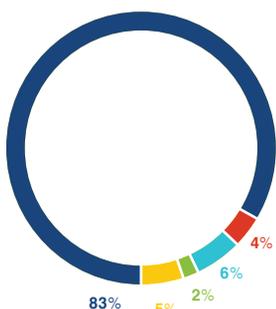
Dawn Kooistra joined LHCS 14 years ago after teaching for several years in the United States. She has taught in the senior and junior grades and enjoyed teaching art, math and Bible. Her students loved listening to her interesting life stories and learning the different art techniques. In retirement,

Dawn is looking forward to spending time with her family, particularly her grandchildren, and traveling to the US.

Financial Snapshot

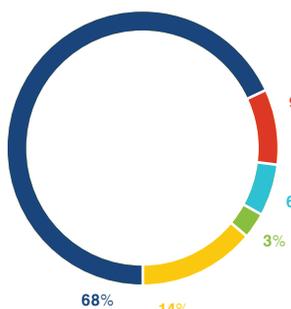
2015/16 Revenue & Expenses

2015/16 Revenue



Tuition & Fees	\$1,829,200
Donations	\$81,000
Fundraising	\$129,000
Student Income	\$50,500
Other	\$120,410
Total	\$2,210,110

2015/16 Expenses



Staffing	\$1,473,811
Facilities	\$197,695
Student Expenses	\$119,350
Mortgage	\$73,532
Other	\$301,200
Total	\$2,165,588

We are grateful for God's provision and thankful for your financial support of LHCS.

Newsorthy



A Perfect Seed for the Perfect Find

It's amazing when God places an idea before you. Ideas are like seeds, and God has planted a seed for an incredible opportunity that will support Laurentian Hills Christian School. He has been showing us and we have waited, we have listened and we are learning. In His time, what once was an idea has become a rooted plant with shoots that stretch out just above the soil!

The seed? The Perfect Find Thrift Store. It has strong roots. We are a board of six, rooted in faith and in a strong belief that this store will be a source of financial assistance for Laurentian Hills Christian School. It will be a store that has a story. A story to join with volunteers young and old, able bodied and weak, those looking for a purpose and for those who are looking to continue on with their purpose.

Some seed growth in practical terms... We are currently in lease negotiations with a plaza where The Perfect Find Thrift Store may be located. We have been greatly blessed with financial support. Both the location and the financial need for the store have been our main focus these past several months. Once the store location has been established and we can confirm our opening date we will invite those who can serve as volunteers in various capacities. It is our deepest hope that the Perfect Find will serve those as equally as they serve it.

What a privilege and responsibility we have been given. We are excited to bear fruit out of The Perfect Find Thrift Store. To serve and be a witness to His schools both locally and globally and to grow, grow, grow!

—The Board of The Perfect Find Thrift Store

Where Are They Now?



Stephen Janssen



My time at LHCS began in grade four in a school that looked much smaller and quite different than the well-equipped building the school enjoys today. I graduated from LHCS 25 years ago in 1991.

My memories of LHCS connect me with a different time: Commodore 64 computers, long walks through deep snow to an area church who had a gym (because we didn't), newspaper drives as fundraisers, and winter workshops to break up winter doldrums. I still remember pre-photocopier days when we could crank the handle on the blue inked-Gestetner machine for the teacher!

Christian education is a vocation for me today, but long before that it was already a treasured gift that my parents blessed me with. LHCS is one of many institutions that impressed upon me with clarity that this world belongs to God and that learning is incomplete without recognizing that true wisdom comes from the fear of the Lord.

Stephen Janssen lives in London, Ontario with his wife Lori-Anne and their four children: Nathan, Ryan, Adele, and Sarah. Stephen is currently serving as the principal of London Christian Elementary School. As a family, they attend Talbot Street Church.

Important Dates



2015/16

Retirement Open House

Thursday, June 17 at 7 pm at the LHCS Gym

Grade 8 Graduation

Thursday, June 23 at 8 pm at the Community CRC

Last Day of School

Friday, June 24

First Day of School

Tuesday, September 6

LHCS 50th Anniversary



Spring of 2017

Laurentian Hills Christian School will be celebrating their 50th anniversary in the Spring of 2017. If you would like to be included in mail or email communication regarding different anniversary celebration activities, please contact our Office Administrator, Mrs. Mary-Joyce Grift at mjgrift@lhcs.net. Please pass this along to anyone else that you may know that would be interested, including alumni and past parents.

We are thankful for God's continued blessings as we look forward to celebrating this special anniversary.

Volunteer?

Want to volunteer your time with the school in the classroom or at a special event?

Please contact

Melissa Alas at gifts.program@lhcs.net