

# The Link

Engaging Our Community . Christmas 2016



*Expanding opportunities in learning and faith*

## Principal Thoughts Expanding Leadership Opportunities

We are always looking for ways to help our students grow as leaders and to be engaged contributors in our community. We asked our Grades 7 and 8 students to sign up and take on at least one leadership task for the school year. Some of our opportunities have been in place for years, such as a student praise team and the students' council. These tasks help students contribute to the school.

We added a new initiative in September and called it the A-team, which stands for our Activity Team. Students are coordinating intramurals for students in Grades 5-8. The activities include playing indoor soccer and outdoor flag football.

Other leadership opportunities include: helping in a primary classroom during the lunch hour and welcoming guest speakers and visitors when they arrive at the school.

We are grateful for the opportunity as educators to develop important skills in our students' lives and to see them flourish as leaders.

~ Harriette Mostert, Vice-Principal

## Beyond the Class Encouraging Fellow Canadians

At the beginning of the school year, my Grade 6A wrote friendly and encouraging letters as part of their writing lessons to the Canadian Paralympic athletes in Rio, Brazil.

Each student was asked to select a Paralympian from the athletes' website after reading their personal profiles to learn as much about the athlete before writing a short letter of introduction and encouragement.

The education coordinator with the Canadian Paralympic organization, Jennifer Bruce, took all the letters received from our students and posted them on the bulletin board in the Canadian Athletic Pavilion.

The students were delighted to receive photos from the athletes holding their letters.

*This story was submitted by Alice Ann Tangelder, one of our grade 6 teachers. We are pleased to see our students reach out with the love of God and encourage others.*



Janet McLachlan, 39, wheelchair basketball player from Giessen, BC.

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Cory Caldwell, 28, wheelchair rugby player from London, ON.

**Special Note:** Aurelie Rivard lives in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec and won 3 gold medals in Rio (50, 100, and 400 Freestyle).

Dear Aurelie Rivard,

Congratulations on making it to the Paralympics!

My name is Hannah I am in sixth grade and I am eleven years old. My favourite sport to watch in the Olympics and Paralympics is swimming. A lot of people say I should train for swimming because I have really long arms. :) I see you have won a lot of medals and are really competitive; that's why I chose you. I personally think that you can do more than people think you can. Is it challenging to swim? For me I find the front stroke challenging, but I know that you practice so I should practice too.

I wish you the best of luck on the Paralympics this year.

From Hannah

Petersburg, Ontario

## Accessibility at LHCS Building Confidence in Learning



We are pleased that young people like Michaela, a grade eight student who uses a wheelchair to get around the school, affirms our accessibility by saying, "I can get everywhere I need to be ... I can open doors by myself, so I don't get stuck out in the cold." We are grateful for a number of improvements that were made to the school to benefit not only the three students that use wheelchairs, but everyone who visits our school. Through generous donations by our community and funding from the Community Care Access Centre (CCAC), our accessible washroom was updated and equipped with a special lift that has made an enormous difference in care.

It is important that our students feel a part of our school family. We work hard to offer the tools required to see our students succeed and recently offered the necessary equipment for Michaela so she could participate in band with her classmates. "I can make my keyboard sound like any instrument," Michaela says, "and I'm happy I can do band with my class." Wifi throughout the school allows Michaela to complete assignments in Google Classroom and her teachers can provide feedback online.

Our special education resource teachers, Mrs. Oosterhof and Mrs. Hayhoe, and our personal support workers, promote individual success for all students, using the many tools at their disposal. They work one-on-one and with small groups of students, reinforcing skills and building confidence through positive encouragement. We are grateful for their expertise and support to classroom teachers as they differentiate instruction to meet the needs of all our students.

Are you a past student of LHCS?  
**THEN THIS IS FOR YOU!**

Go to [lhcs.net](http://lhcs.net) or the  
**LHCS Facebook Page**  
for more information.



The following is an excerpt from Lisa Eelkema's presentation at the Edifide Teacher's Convention in October. Lisa is our Grade 7 teacher and Vice Principal.



It is an honour to have been selected as the first recipient of the John Rozema Teaching Excellence Award in the elementary category. I am blessed to have worked with a tremendous group of educators throughout my teaching career [and today] I have the privilege of working with very collaborative grade partners at LHCS, who readily share ideas and provide me with helpful, constructive feedback. It is here that I have been able to support my students in their learning as they grow into the beautiful and talented young men and women that God has intended them to be.

I am very aware that my time with them is short. It is important that the work we do together in class is interesting, challenging, relevant and engaging. I work very hard to design lessons and units that will push my students to take the topics we study and think critically about them, analyzing the content or issues and then offering alternatives or solutions.

I love the journey that we are on with our students, together. There is never a dull moment! We are truly blessed to be called to this profession.

**Congratulations, Lisa.**

**Other News**  
Joe Barbosa Plans to Retire



After faithfully cleaning our school for the past 20 years, our custodian, Joe Barbosa, has decided to retire at the end of this calendar year. We thank Mr. Barbosa for his years of service at LHCS and wish him all the best.

**Beginning the School Year with a Bang**

During our opening assembly in September, we kicked off the year with a little taste of the 50th anniversary celebrations that will take place throughout the school year. We dropped over 300 balloons on the students, and then gave them some frozen treats to enjoy – a perfect way to end a very hot first day of school.

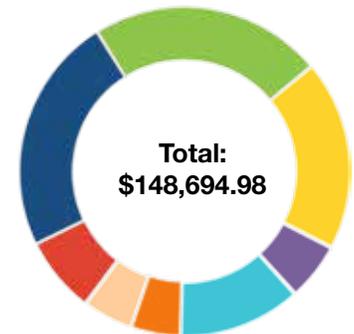


**Fundraising Shapshot**



We are grateful for your support of our fundraising efforts at LHCS. These funds help offset tuition. It is absolutely amazing to see what we can do when we work together!

- Gift Card Income
- Golf
- Auction
- Pies
- Gifts Opt Out
- Culinary Committee
- Read-a-thon
- Other (cheese sales, scrap-booking, advertising booklet, etc.)



## Where Are They Now?

Brian Enter



I graduated from LHCS in 1988. My favourite memories of grade school include track and field, the class trip to Ottawa and turning the soccer field into an ice rink in the winter.

It was great getting out of classes to go flood the rink!

Thinking back on those years now, almost 30 years later, I remember more the character shaping that happened than the actual academics, although I am sure they were good too.

I am very thankful for the impact that the teachers had on my life. Ironically, my grade 7 & 8 teacher and principal, Mr. Janssen, now lives just down the street from me and we've had some good chats over the years.

*Brian Enter lives in St. George, ON with his wife Holly and their five children. Brian is currently working as a civil engineer for IBI Group. As a family, they attend Redeeming Grace Reformed Church in Brantford. To appreciate his love of wildlife, check out his blog at <http://his-handiwork.blogspot.ca/>*



## Important Dates

### Christmas Program Performances at LHCS



Monday December 19th @ 1:15 PM  
Tuesday December 20th @ 7:00 PM

We are looking forward to seeing our Kindergarten to Grade 4 students present the Christmas message.

### LHCS 50th Anniversary

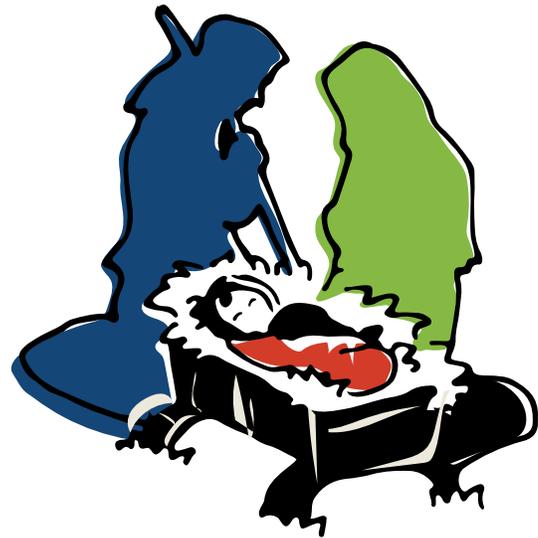


Friday, May 26th & Saturday, May 27th

If you would like to receive our anniversary communications, please contact our Office Administrator, Mrs. Mary-Joyce Grift at [mjgrift@lhcs.net](mailto:mjgrift@lhcs.net).

We are thankful for God's continued blessings as we celebrate this special anniversary.

## ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF AND BOARD OF LHCS,



We wish you and yours a wonderful Christmas with family and friends.