

Chairman's report

Arie Veenendaal

We have an Anchor!

*Will your anchor hold in the storms of life
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife
When the strong tides lift and the cables strain
Will your anchor drift or firm remain*

The doors of Dufferin Christian School have swung open to another new school year. With this comes another season of activities for students, parents, educators, committee activities and school board meetings. Much has happened again over the summer to ensure that everything is ready to welcome 227 students. Two weeks ago your chairman attended the opening kickoff staff meeting for this new school year. There were more than 25 people around the table, ready to support the parents in the task of educating their children in a manner pleasing to God. It is such a blessing to know that all of these men and women also are "fastened to the rock that cannot move". They as well have an anchor, Jesus Christ, who through the ages is and remains a constant source of love and energy and purpose and reason for all of them to be optimistic and energized to begin another year of teaching and learning!

The Lord has kept all of the students and staff safe over the summer. Despite a few accidents and I am sure some scrapes and bruises, everyone has been spared their life. We thank God for that. At the same time, God, in His wisdom, has not spared us from tears and sorrow! We as school society share in the grief of our sister, Mirjam Doek due to the loss of her brother Jan. We in Carman have certainly learned these past few years, and before, what sorrow and grief is all about. The waves and the billows certainly have swept over many of our lives and we sympathize with Mirjam. We pray that the "Rock" will be your anchor through this storm in your life. Our thoughts and prayers also have gone out for your dear sister-in-law and the children back home in Holland. May God sustain them also through this difficult time.

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll
Fastened to the Rock that cannot move
Grounded firm and deep in the Savior's love.*

A new beginning

This school year marks the beginning of a new phase of DCS as we have opened the doors to an off site campus for several of our students. After much prayer, discussion and meetings the board

deemed it wise to create a learning environment that would limit distractions for the students while at the same time offering the opportunity for some one-on-one instruction. This very exciting initiative is something brand new for us as a school society. We wish the students, parents, school administration and staff, the resource coordinator (Mrs. Sandra Vanderwoude) and the education assistant (Mr. Rob Kuizenga) optimism and energy as you together work through the details of this program.

The school board is again grateful that good and talented new staff could be found willing and hired to serve God's purposes within DCS. A hearty welcome to; Blaine Vandermeulen, Sandra Vanderwoude, Amanda Ellens and Rob Kuizenga as you begin your new career within the walls of DCS. For Blaine and Courtney we also congratulate you with the newest member to your family, Dylan Blaine! We wish you God's blessings on your family. At the same time yours truly is no longer the only grand-parent sitting around the board room table. Welcome to you, Mr. Huisman, to the grand father's club. I can assure you that it is a great club to belong to (unless of course you see too many of your own shortcomings display themselves in your grandchildren!)

Elections

Please take note of the fact that you need to consider who you will nominate for a position on the school board. The three year term of Jeremy Kamminga will come to an end in October. Jeremy has not made public his intentions for this next term. Please make use of the nomination form found elsewhere in this Beacon.

Prayer

With the many activities and events that surround DCS please remember the students, staff, board, committees and every other need in your prayers. It is so reassuring that none of us are on the sea of life by ourselves. God, in His wisdom, has bound us together as His people within the confines of His church. He has taught us to love, to be a hand and a foot to one another, to respect, to uphold, to be patient with one another's weaknesses, to be upbuilding and considerate to one another. We are not in the business of operating DCS for our benefit or purpose. God has a purpose, namely to have His children taught in a manner pleasing to Him and we, the parents, have the privilege of being a part of that purpose!

May you have a blessed beginning to this new school year.

Principal's report

Andy Huisman

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform and longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:1, 2 (DCS Theme Text)

Welcome back! With thankfulness to the Lord, DCS was again able to open its doors to the students. It is so good to have the school full once again. It is sometimes a lonely place during the summer as the teachers are preparing for the new year. What a beautiful start to the year when all of the students together with parents, grandparents and special friends were able to participate in the opening exercises. What a joyful sound when all together joined in singing Hymn 65:4

*With song and prayer, in faith progressing, in all you do God's will obey.
Expect from Him alone your blessing: He will renew it every day,
For God will never those disown who put their trust in Him alone.*

In Him and Him alone do we place our trust!

School Theme

As you have read above, Romans 12:1,2 is the theme text for the school year. In the next edition of the Beacon Mr. Lodder will include an article that explains in detail why this text was chosen.

Welcome to New Students

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome quite a few new people to DCS. Firstly, we begin with the brand new Kindergarten students: Luke Blok, Ariena Borst, Jeffrey Breukelman, Deandra deWitt, Silas Gunnink, Rebekah Kamminga, Lorianne Klaassen, Caleb Kooiker, Michael Lomeling, Hannah Smith, Kirk VanAssen, Kaelynn Vanderhooft, Brooke Vandersluis, Brydon Vandersluis, Kaelin Vanderveen, Carter Vanderzwaag, Lia VanLaar, Jacob VanLeeuwen, Bryce Visscher and Kaden Visscher.

I would also like to welcome a few other new students spread throughout the rest of the school. The Hamman family has moved here from Alberta. We welcome their two children, Amelia (gr. 9) and Jurgen (gr.5). As well, we also say welcome to Kenzie Wiebe (gr. 7). We welcome back the Vandergugten family with Konrad (gr.1), Mikala (gr. 3), Chanessa (gr. 5), Shalyn (gr. 7), Alex (OCP), Arlan (OCP) and Chantelle (gr. 12).

Mrs. Elaine Vandermeulen

As many of you know, our secretary, Mrs. Vandermeulen has been recovering from surgery and will still be off for the rest of September. We all know that she has been very anxious to get back and to be perfectly honest, we all miss you very much Elaine. After being secretary for as many years as she has, there are some things that only she knows how to do. We look forward to your return!

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Vandermeulen

Blaine and Courtney Vandermeulen have been blessed with the birth of their first child, Dylan Blaine Vandermeulen. Mr. Vandermeulen was thankful that Dylan waited until after the first week of school was complete before arriving on the scene. Mr. Vandermeulen took a few days off this past week and looks wonderfully rested – we will see if that is the case this coming week though.

Code of Student Behaviour

It is always good at the beginning of a new year to refresh our minds as to what expectations the school has of the students. I would appreciate it if parents would take the time to share the following information with their children. A lot of this information can be found on the school website. Please take time to browse that as well for more details.

You are expected, as students of a Christian school, to present yourself in speech and conduct in a Christ-like fashion. The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. With that in mind, you are expected to:

- Demonstrate respect for and obedience towards the Word of God as it is taught in the school. This respect means that opinions, decisions, and conduct are submitted to the authority of Scripture. This also includes a willingness to be corrected by the Word of God.
- Demonstrate respect for and obedience to the teachers as those set in authority over you. This respect can be shown by addressing teachers and referring to them by their proper titles, by speaking politely without backtalk and by accepting and submitting to their instruction and discipline.
- Demonstrate respect for fellow pupils. This respect can be shown through the ways in which you treat the person, property, and feelings of others. Gossip and ridicule break down and destroy.
- Stand up for what is right in our life before the LORD. This may mean speaking out against wrongdoing. It includes encouraging peers in doing good rather than evil.
- Use language respectfully in the service to God and their neighbour. Verbal abuse of any kind is sin and cannot be tolerated.

You are expected to reflect a Christian life-style in dress and appearance. You should be well-groomed and wear neat, modest, and clean clothing. Clothing also reflects an individual and his / her role. Therefore, at school, your clothing should be appropriate to a Christian school setting. In the interest of

promoting a proper Christian attitude, please avoid shirts with slogans that do not really reflect a proper attitude.

This code of conduct applies to the students while they are also riding the school bus. Please speak with your children about the privilege of bus ridership and the expectations that we have from students who attend a Christian school.

Tidbits of Information

From time to time, it becomes apparent that not all of the routines are equally known by all parents. To that end, here are a few items to consider/remember:

- If your child will be absent from school, please inform the school (either by agenda or by a phone call)
- If your child is not to go on the bus, please let us know well in advance (if possible). The end of the day can be kind of hectic so knowing this information in advance makes everything run smoother.
- If your child will be absent from IA/Home.Ec. please notify the Collegiate Office
- DCS is still peanut-free so please keep that in mind in regards to snacks. The school division is also peanut-free so those products are not to be transported on the buses either.
- Cell phone use by students is only permitted during breaks. If you need to get a hold of your child during class time, please contact the school office.
- Elementary students like to wear rubber boots on rainy days – the problem is that they all look alike on the boot racks – please label your child’s boots 😊
- All students who bike or walk to school are requested to do so safely. There is a wonderful path that goes from town right to the parking lot of DCS and it is a much safer option for the students to use.

ICS/DCS In-service

On Wednesday, August 31 the staffs of both schools came together in Carman for our kick-off meeting. It was a great opportunity to reacquaint ourselves with our counterparts from Winnipeg. Both schools have been working at fostering learning opportunities and collegiality. The day opened with a devotional based on the themes from both schools. After that, time was spent reviewing the experiences of the past year. We talked about the successes of combined field trips as part of building a closer relationship between the staff and students of both schools. This was an initiative that both schools felt was important and needs to be continued. Various discussions were also held about curriculum and programming that both schools are involved in. After the morning, a delicious lunch was held in King’s Park and afterwards a time of social interaction took place. It is good when both schools can work together to achieve the goals of Christian education. What a blessing!

Student Action Leadership Team (S.A.L.T.)

S.A.L.T. is a program at DCS which has incorporated all of the different aspects of daily high school life under one main umbrella. There are 6 aspects with which S.A.L.T. is involved with:

- Light - The group is in charge of coordinating High School assemblies and devotionals. Their goal is to concentrate on finding ways to 'let the light shine'
- Mission - This group's goal is to promote awareness about the different causes the students support and how important it is to help them and share our wealth with others.
- Business - This group's purpose is to keep track of the finances of the various groups within the High School. As well, it is their responsibility to maintain the canteen.
- Social Events - This group is in charge of organizing social events that promote school spirit.
- Sports - This group is in charge of organizing intramural sporting events for the benefit of the student body.
- Yearbook - This group is in charge of organizing and publishing the school's yearbook.

High School Portfolio

This past June we were able to view the first set of completed student portfolios. There were a few that were also available for viewing at the school membership meeting. As the students presented their portfolio projects to the staff during their exit interview, it became very clear that many put a tremendous effort into this project. It was impressive to see the wide variety of talents that each had been blessed with. It was equally impressive to see how for some of the students the volunteer component had played a role in determining a career direction. We are thankful for the volunteer opportunities that many of you had extended to the students and we invite you to continue to do so. If you know of an opportunity in which students could volunteer, simply let either Mrs. Janine Lodder or myself know and we can make arrangements. Together we can support each other and ultimately honour God with the many talents.

Children of Light

On Friday, September 23, Mrs. Gerda Vandenhaak will be at DCS for a presentation to the grade 8-12 students. The students sponsor a number of children through this program and Mrs. Vandenhaak will be sharing some pictures and experiences.

ARPA

The LIGHT component of SALT will be having their first guest speaker of the school year. On Tuesday, September 27, Andre Schutten from ARPA will be addressing the HS students on two topics: "hate" speech and pro-life activism. This will be held in the afternoon. For any interested parents, Mr. Schutten will also be making a presentation in the evening.

Orange-Maple Foundation

After a year off from the student exchange program, the OMF is gearing up for another round of exchanges. DCS will be hosting 4 students from Greijdanus in Zwolle, the Netherlands. At this point we have spaces for the two girls but are still waiting a placement for the two boys. I have included an abbreviated version of their biography. The exchange will take place for a period of three weeks (October 21 – November 11, 2011). It has been our experience that it is always best if the host brother or sister is approximately the same age. If you are interested, or if you need more information, please contact me either by phone (750-2391) or email principal@dufferinchristian.ca. The sooner that we can make arrangements, the sooner the students can begin corresponding back and forth. I know that the Dutch students are eager to get in contact with whoever their host family will be. It would be really appreciated if we had arrangements made before the end of July.

Yorick Slaa

Hello my name is Yorick Slaa. I'm 15 years old, but when I'm in Canada I'm already 16 years old. The village I live is called Nunspeet and is near to Zwolle. My parents are Jaap and Ingrid. Jaap is an architect, and Ingrid is an artist. My older brother Gunnar is going to leave the house in September because of college. Silke and Emeraë my sisters and they are 11 and 9 years old. My hobby's are playing volleyball and sailing, both I'm a doing for about 8 years. And I really like to do them. I would appreciate it if my host brother is a bit a sportive guy. My older brother Gunnar has been to Carman at exchange as well, so I know a bit what to expect. Maybe you remember him but I am really different as my brother, so... I hope to do and see lots of things in Canada, things about your Culture and things that are worldwide know about Canada like hockey and more of such things . It doesn't matter if there is no opportunity to do or see that because I know I'll do lots of other things that are pretty awesome. I have no further expectations, I will just take it as it comes! I prefer to come in a family with more children than just one, but as I just say, I will take it as it comes. Maybe it's good to tell that I'm allergic for everything that has hair except human beings. I'm really looking forward to meet you all! Greetings from the Netherlands!

Jan Willem Moesker

Hello my name is Jan Willem, I am currently 15 years old (16 when I am in Canada) and I live in Hardenberg with my parents. I also have a brother, Amse, who is 19. I also have a sister, Margreet, she is 22. I am really in to sports. My biggest hobby is football, I also play in a squad in my hometown. I also like mountain biking and just ordinary biking. And when there lies ice on the river near my house I like to ice skate. I am also really in to music, almost any kind. I also used to play music, but I stopped because it was getting in the way of me playing sports. And I wasn't really enjoying it anymore. My favorite kind of music is house music. But I also like just ordinary bands, that's why I am going to a Christian festival this summer. I go to grade 12 (if that's correct for your measures here we say VWO 5), the kind of education I get is pre- university . My expectation of Carman is a small village where a lot of people know each other and a lot of people are really involved. I hope to get in a family with kids, I always like

the cosiness of family. It would also be really great to have a family who is in to sports. It would be amazing to have a family who wants to show me Canada. I also want to say that this is not at all a demand list, perhaps I will be put in a totally different kind of family and I will have just as much or even more fun. So these things are absolutely not necessary, and I hope you don't see them as demands from me. I am really looking forward to this student exchange program and I would like to thank everyone involved in this project for giving me this opportunity.

CRTA Convention

This year's Canadian Reformed Teachers' Convention will be held at Arlington Beach Camp and Conference Center (2 hours north of Regina). The theme for the conference is *"Reaching All Learners – Inclusive Practices"*. The organizers have secured the services of a number of speakers:

- Bernice Stieva & Valerie Slaa - *"Inclusive Practices in the Elementary Grades"*
- Ronn VanAndel & Tina Morris - *"Inclusive Practices in the Higher Grades"*
- George & Sharon Hofsink - *"Gifted Learners"*

The Convention is scheduled for Thursday, October 6 and Friday, October 7. In order to allow the staff enough time to travel there will be a DCS-only early dismissal on Wednesday October 5. All students will be dismissed at 2:00. Parents will need to pick up their children at school as buses will not be available at that time. We greatly appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Relationship Building and Communication

In order for a strong relationship to work, there has to be communication. This can come in the form of mass communication (i.e. – Newsletter) or in the form of more personal notes, meetings or phone calls. I would like to encourage all, both parents and teachers to keep the lines of communication open. Quite often, a simple phone call solves a lot of confusion and prevents a small problem from becoming a big problem. If you are not sure where to find an answer to a question that you may have, please give me a call and I will do my best to help you. I would also encourage all to peruse the school's website. This is a good resource to check out the student handbook, newsletters, schedules, and other important information.

That is about all for now, enjoy the day of rest that our Lord has provided for us!

"Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth."

Psalm 46:10

Treasurer's Report

Anton Borst

¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. I John 4:15-16

Hello All,

Here is a brief update from your Treasurer. There are still a number of members who are contributing school dues based on the old rates. While all contributions are gratefully accepted we do need members to contribute at the expected level to be able to meet the budget. Please review what you are doing; the current rates are listed below.

This new fee schedule effective July 1,2011 is.

Cat A Members who have children attending DCS.	\$360 per month.
Cat with children in kindergarten only or with children who attended DCS.	\$240 per month.
Cat C Retired and married people.	\$130 per month.
Cat D Single young people.	\$65 per month.

The reason for the dues increase is that the board wants to continue to set money aside for the school expansion project. The board would like to encourage anyone who cannot make the contributions at the new or old level to contact a board member so that arrangements can be made.

I would like to remind the membership on all the membership or donation payment options that are available to you. Automatic withdrawal is now an option. You can set it up and no longer have to remember to write a cheque every month. Here is a list of the different ways you can make your membership or donation contribution.

Automatic bank withdrawal. This will happen on the 15th of every month. You need to fill out a form to get this set up. Send an email to myself at treasurer@dufferinchristian.ca or you can call me at 436-2032 and I will forward the form to you to fill in.

Telephone or Internet banking. You can pay your dues by phone or online if you bank at the CIBC or Access Credit Union. Your account number is 4 digits long – add zeroes to the front of your envelope number. For example, if your envelope number is 4, your account number is 0004.

Cheques. You can still pay your dues by cheque just as you always have in the past. Postdated cheques for the whole year are also gratefully accepted.

Cash. While it happens only rarely, we really prefer **not** to get any payments with cash money. If you do pay by cash, please mark the amount either directly on the envelope, or on a slip of paper and put it in the envelope. This makes it easier to double-check donation amounts at the end of the year. Thank you all for what you contribute to the school. Have a blessed Sunday.

From the Students Services Corner.

Welcome to a new school year. It is great to be back in the school together with staff and students. After a very exciting first year I am looking forward to touching base with all the high school students, to keep them on track with their course selections and career interests.

Our CTS (Career Internship) class had its first meeting this past week, this will once again be done together with Mrs. Jackie Metcalf from the Carman Collegiate. Students will be getting their placements very soon but they must also remember that there is a certain amount of class work that needs to be done as well.

Portfolio meetings will be starting soon, Mike Raap and I will be meeting with the grade 9 class, as well as touching base with all the high school students to answer any questions. Please encourage your child(ren) to save their school work or home projects that bring out their interests and talents that the Lord has given them.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call me at school or send me an email at studentservices@dufferinchristian.ca

Looking forward to a wonderful year! Janine Lodder.

Poster and Literary Contest 2011

The rules for this year's Royal Canadian Legion literary and poster contest have already arrived at the school. The deadline for local submissions is Nov. 18, 2011 at the local Legion branch. As in past years, each entry must be accompanied with the standard entry form signed by a parent. Entry forms will be available at the school.

Theme: Remembrance

General rules:

poster – black and white – pencil, charcoal and/or India ink

colour – full colour

Size: 56 cm x 71 cm

Categories:

Primary gr. K-3 Junior gr. 4-6 Intermediate gr. 7-9 Senior gr. 10-12

Literary contest:

Senior gr. 10-12	prose: 800 words maximum	poetry 32 line maximum
Intermediate gr. 7-9	prose: 500 words maximum	poetry 32 line maximum
Junior gr. 4-6	prose: 350 words maximum	poetry 32 line maximum

Students may submit only one entry in each class, however, they may do a black and white as well as a colour poster and enter in both the prose and the poetry class if they so desire. Well thought out entries take a lot of work. We would encourage students to begin early and we would encourage students to enter and so shine their light in our town in this way also.
Mrs. DeWit

Grade 8 Camp Out Fundraiser!



Yes, we've started fundraising!! We're offering two practical products for your busy households – the X-TRECO cleaning cloth and a unique 16 Month Family Activity Organizer. Your favourite Gr. 8 student will be able to show you a cloth today! The Organizer can be viewed in the school office.

Thanks in advance for your support!

(Don't worry! Mom's Pantry will make a comeback too and possibly other useful products.
Stay tuned!)

Grad Fundraising

It's that time of year again. The days are getting shorter, the grass isn't growing as fast, and leaves are starting to fall. Need to prep your yard for winter? Call up some students. The Grade 12 class is fundraising for their graduation with their annual fall clean-up campaign. Hire a few hardworking Grade 12's to give them an opportunity to make some money to put toward their graduation. Call the school to book a time – ask for Mr. Hoogerdijk. Thanks for your support!