

From the Pen of the Secretary.....

Nick Barendregt



At the end of the year and at the beginning of another year things just continue to tick right along. We have been blessed again this year with staff and as we start another year the same continues, it is truly a blessing to be thankful for. Also that the staff continues to have the strength and good health is another blessing that we take for granted all too often.

By the time you read this, the students will already have completed their last day of school before the break and the staff is probably already enjoying their break from the students. And parents are especially enjoying having their children home during the day☺. Let us hope and pray that the time off may serve to refresh both students and staff so they can take on their respective tasks again in January.

In January the Board will start addressing teacher contracts again, so at this time take extra time to encourage them to continue to enjoy this beautiful town of Carman, Manitoba. As we have said farewell to Mrs. Veenendaal the Board would like to welcome Mrs. D. Gear to the grade 3 classroom of DCS, to continue to teach them for the remainder of this year. We hope that this transition will go smoothly and that things continue to roll along in the grade 3 classroom.

The Board continues to go over policies and job descriptions as mentioned in previous Beacons. These are not small tasks and as time goes on they will be made available so please do not hesitate to ask if you are interested in reading them.

Over the next month the Board will be making committee appointments. The Board relies on and values the work of the various committees and as such each member, if approached, should consider these requests seriously. The smooth functioning of our school depends on it.

As we move into 2012 we continue to look at the need for expansion. Every year again the school building gets another year older. As we heard at the membership meeting in October we cannot take for granted that this building will last and that it will continue to be sustainable. Size wise something needs to be done in the near future. Continue to think about this and any suggestions or ideas should be shared with the Vision Committee.

As we start another year let us not take our freedom to serve our Lord for granted but that we constantly put our trust in our Lord and Savior also in providing our children with the knowledge of His word in school. I would like to end this report with wishing the students, staff and the membership, God's blessing for the New Year. Continue to think about the following verses from Romans:

"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. ² Do not conform any 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

Principal's Report

Andy Huisman

“In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.”

[Luke 2:1, 4-5 NIV](#)

As you read this Beacon, the school Christmas concert is another piece of DCS history. The weeks of preparation, the working out of details, the memorization of numerous songs, the dedication of staff, the effort and enthusiasm of students have culminated in a very successful concert! One can't help but think of the message that the students presented with fondness and enthusiasm. It is truly a blessing from God when our young people praise God through music and song.

On behalf of the staff of DCS, I would like to express appreciation for the support of the parents and all those involved with DCS in the journey of education. For the students it is time for a well-deserved break. It is my hope that you will have a restful time spent with family and friends and be invigorated to resume classes in the New Year. It is my wish that you all may have the peace for which Christ came to earth and a blessed new year.

Other News

Parent's Internet Safety Night



We have been in the planning stages for a ***K-12 Parent Information Evening*** (or a series of evenings) for some time. Those plans have now come to fruition and I would like to share the following announcement:

Internet 101: A Parent's Guide to the Preteen's Life Online
presented by Tanis Thiessen and William Hoogerdijk

Where: Dufferin Christian School

When: January 12, 2012; 7pm

What's a wiki? What's a cookie? What's an app? The internet opens up a world of entertainment, communication and educational opportunities. However, it also allows direct access to people and Web sites that can expose kids to age-inappropriate content and risky social contacts. This information evening offers a glimpse into the online lives of young people and how they can travel the information superhighway safely. Time for Q&A at the end too!

Topics covered include: social networking sites, online gaming, "history", "cookies" (they're not the kind you can eat!), handheld devices, and texting.

Our guest presenter is the current principal of Elm Creek School. She comes with 18 years of experience in both public and private Christian education, and has held workshops providing technology skill training to parents in Garden Valley School Division as well as Prairie Rose School Division.

DCHS Exams

The only other item that needs passing along is the exam schedule. The complete schedule is attached to this Beacon. As well, it can be found on the school's website. Examination times are published early so that there will be no conflict with other commitments, i.e. dentist appointments.

The rules for the Senior Four Provincial Exams will be discussed with the students in the various classes. A list of the exam rules for the DCS exams will be published in the newsletters prior to the exam week. I would also offer a small piece of advice. Start to study early, do not leave things to the last minute. Research has shown that studying in smaller increments of time over a longer period of time produces far better results than a lot of studying in a shorter amount of time. Structure your time wisely and if you have any questions about the material, feel free to ask your teacher.

Have a blessed Sunday.

French at DCS!

By Lisa Bergsma

French has returned to DCS. It is definitely still in the infant stages, and we are experiencing some growing pains, but it is exciting to me that the students of Gr. 4-7 get to experience a second language! We began teaching French last year, using some very outdated programs, but it was a beginning. This year we are blessed to have new program materials for grades six and seven. This program is called On Y Va!. While seeming very advanced, it is a program that can be somewhat "tailored" to the ability levels of a given classroom. What makes this program a lot of fun is the fact that it is meant to teach French with cross-curricular interests. There will be tie-ins to culture, science, social studies, history and art. The pictures and activities are quite engaging to the student. These grades work on grammar, verb conjugation and oral vocabulary.

Grades four and five as of yet do not have a new program to follow, but they are busy working with French also. This year will be an introductory year to the language. The idea is to give them a basic vocabulary and slowly introduce some grammar and verb conjugation later in the year.

The difficulty is that many students and others ask, “Why do we need to learn French?” French teachers frequently hear grumblings and complaints from students. I do want to encourage the students and parents to be more excited for this particular subject! Learning a second language offers far more benefit than you think. You may not ever have to go to Québec or France and converse with the locals, but you may have dealings with French speaking neighbours from time to time! Language learning also stimulates the brain and can help learning in other areas. It is also the second official language of our country, and being bi-lingual opens many opportunities for employment later in life. Not only that, it is part of our school day; and therefore we are called to do our best. God commands us to work as for Him, whether in ELA, Math, Science or French. We have been blessed with so many opportunities and we have so many gifted students at DCS, let us praise Him in all things!

Making Straight the Crooked

Inevitably, when you draw a line, it will be crooked. At least this was the gist of the speech I was giving to my grade 9 math class. If any “straight-edge” line is magnified sufficiently enough, eventually its “crookedness” becomes obvious. Is there any such thing as a perfectly straight line? Even the straight lines produced by light particles can bend around a corner. “Do straight lines exist,” some might ask? “What’s the point?” ask others. Good question, responds the mathematician, and also the Christian – though perhaps for different reasons.

Can we trust our rulers? I seem to recall that the word “ruler” or even the word “rule” implies some sort of guide by which we measure our actions. In math a ruler is a guide to join points or compare distances. When used in the sense of kingship, the citizens must have their actions follow what is prescribed by the royal ‘we’. If students are supposed to look to the teacher as a guide, then I must confess that my own rule is more crooked than I would probably want to admit.

Indeed, the whole fall of man into sin can be seen as a making crooked of what was once beautiful, straight, and perfect. The good has been twisted. Do not the students’ words mimic that of the teacher in Ecclesiastes: “I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them

are meaningless, a chasing after the wind. What is twisted cannot be straightened"? How can we even begin to work towards something true in this crooked world?

Then, as I was listening to Handel's Messiah (as people are wont to do near Christmas) I found the phrase from Isaiah and Matthew rolling around in my head: "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him." What does this mean to us as we remember the birth of a child, the Christ child? Isn't our task similar, to that of the way-preparer? Should we not strive to make straight what is still crooked in preparation for a second coming of this Child, this King, this Ruler?

Although the straight and narrow path is the best path, it is also quite difficult to keep crooked objects rolling along it. In fact, the job would be impossible if it weren't for the first coming of this Wonderful Counsellor. We can only strive towards straight-line perfection and reflect it because there is a perfect Ruler who exists and has already paved, and paid, the way. In addition, this King gives us constant grace and guidance through the Word and Spirit. We must constantly examine whether our lives line up with this Ruler.

With this in mind, when we look forward to Christmas this year, we remember not only the coming of Jesus into the world, but also the call to raise the valleys and to make the rough places plain so that we might spur each other along the path to the second coming of our Christ.

– Jordan Ellens

Elementary Student Council

Dicki Hunn Update

This is the most recent information we have on our sponsor child Dicki Hunn.

He is a student at the Reformed School in Nordale East Rote Indonesia. He is 13 years old and his birthday is on October 4. With his parents, brother and two sisters he attends the Maranatha church in Nordale. He cannot speak but C.O.L. was seeking medical help for him. At this time we do not know if they were successful. 25 cents per week will ensure our continued sponsorship.

We recently sent Dicki a parcel containing school supplies and a Winnipeg Jets T-shirt.

We encourage you to correspond with him as well. His address is:

Dicki Hunn
 JLN Timor Ray Km 14.5
 Noelbaki, Kupang Tengah
 N.T.T. Indonesia 85361

The Mousetrap

Agatha Christie
The Mousetrap



On February 24 and 25, 2011 we hope to produce the drama, "The Mousetrap". Each of our characters arrives

wearing a long, dark overcoat, a light scarf and a soft felt hat. Since these are 60s clothes, we had no luck in our first try at the self-help center. They suggested that we ask people to look in the back of their closets to see, if perhaps, they might still have a set that we could either have or borrow. **We need eight sets. So, would you all please check and consider whether you can help us out! Also, we will need people to help out with SOUND.** If you can help out with any of the above, please drop the items off at the school or contact Liz DeWit, Janine Lodder, or Lisa Bergsma., Andy Huisman. *Thank-you.*

DCS January 2012 Schedule

Provincial Exams

Tuesday, January 10	ELA 40S	Provincial Exam	9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Wednesday, January 11	ELA 40S	Provincial Exam	9:00 AM – 10:20 AM
Thursday, January 12	ELA 40S	Provincial Exam	9:00 AM – 10:20 AM
Friday, January 13	ELA 40S	Provincial Exam	9:00 AM – 10:20 AM
Wednesday, January 25	A-Math 40S	Provincial Exam	9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Thursday, January 26	A-Math 40S	Provincial Exam	9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

All exam rooms will be opened at 9:00 for opening devotions. Exams will begin after opening devotions.

Date	Time / No. of students		
Monday, January 30	Science 10F	Final Exam	9:00 AM
	Reformed Studies 21G	Final Exam	9:00 AM
	Chemistry 30S	Final Exam	9:00 AM
	A-Math 30S	Final Exam	9:00 AM
	Biology 40S	Mid-Term Exam	9:00 AM
Tuesday, January 31	ELA 10F	Final Exam	9:00 AM
	Science 20F	Mid-Term Exam	9:00 AM
	ELA 30S	Final Exam	9:00 AM
	Reformed Studies 41G	Final Exam	9:00 AM
Wednesday, Feb. 1	Math 10F	Final Exam	9:00 AM
	Math 10T	Final Exam	9:00 AM
	Reformed Studies 31G	Final Exam	9:00 AM
Thursday, Feb. 2	Physics 30S	Mid-Term Exam	9:00 AM