

Secretary's Report

Jeremy Kamminga

Welcome to this edition of the Beacon! Here we are, almost a full month into the school year. I imagine most classrooms are at the point where the routines are settling into place. As Board we are back into the swing of things too and it looks like we will be in for a busy year.

Of course, we're not all business all the time. A couple of weeks ago the board and staff got together for an evening of food, fellowship, and fun to kick off the new school year. It was a great opportunity for us all to get to know each other a little better and to spend some time together in a less formal setting. After all, our relationship as brothers and sisters in Christ is no less important than our relationship as Board and staff.

There are 2 new committees now in place to help take care of some of the things that need attention. One of them we call the **DCS Vision Initiative**. Thanks to Anton Borst, Martin Hamming, Michael Raap, and Les Vanderveen (chair) for volunteering their time to be on this committee. The

Vision Committee has been mandated to explore building options to fulfill the short term needs, keeping in mind the potential long term requirements. They have also been given the relevant information gathered at the board/staff brainstorm session we told you about at the June membership meeting.

The **Technology Committee** has been mandated to oversee the maintenance of the technology used in our school (e.g computers, intercom, bells) as well as doing some research of new technology that may be beneficial to the school. Thank-you to John DeWit, William Hoogerdijk, and Tim VanderHooft for giving up some of their time to work on this committee.

The Maintenance Committee didn't really get a break this summer. They were busy overseeing several projects at the school over the summer. Several rooms received a new coat of paint, some carpet was replaced and some repaired. The big project was fixing the sound problem in the gym. If you have been in the gym since

then you will have noticed a huge improvement in the sound. If you were in the school you likely also noticed the shiny floors. Thanks to Martin, Liz and crew for doing a great job preparing the building for another school year!

As you may know, we will require 2 board members to be elected at the upcoming annual meeting. Our treasurer, Dolf, will have completed his 2nd term and so is not eligible for nomination, while Ed. Comm. chair, Audrey has served one 3-year term as is eligible for nomination. Speaking of nominations, to date (Friday morning) **we have received only one nomination (that I am aware of at least). There still is time, but not much – we need them by 7:30 tomorrow (Monday, Oct 4) evening.** Just to clarify, each society member may sign for two (2) different nominees (as nominator or seconder). We will require a total of at least four (4) different nominees on the board table tomorrow evening or we **will** be voting the "old" way. The names of those nominated will be published along with the official notice

and agenda next week Sunday. I have no doubt that many of you have given this some thought; let's use this new process for the benefit of the society!

That's about all I can think of to report to you now. You will

learn more and have opportunity to ask any questions at the **annual membership meeting on D.V. Monday, October 25.**

This is an election meeting and as such a quorum is required to carry out the agenda. Please remember

the board, staff, students, committees, volunteers, and all involved in your prayers. It has been God's blessing and grace that have brought us to where we are and it is only that which can and will continue to carry us forward. Have a blessed Sunday!

Principal's Report

Andy Huisman

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."

Matthew 7:24

DCS Theme Text for 2010

This year's theme text was chosen for a number of reasons. The Bible often speaks metaphorically of God as a "rock". We do not teach in isolation, lessons are often connected to previous lessons. Looking at the theme from two years ago, "*Shine Your Light*", a beautiful picture of a lighthouse on a firm foundation, a "rock", was always on display to remind students of the theme. This past year "*We are the clay, You are the Potter*" pictured us as the moldable clay in the hands of the one true "Rock". Therefore, it really was a natural extension to pick Matthew 7:24 as the theme text (*Mr. Lodder will share more thoughts on this text elsewhere in this Beacon*). We look forward to the many 'teachable moments' that this text will bring as it binds the school together in its purpose of serving God. We trust and rely upon Him to guide us every step of the way. It is not through our strength that we are able to do our task. So therefore, let all of us together "...put them into practice..."

Other News

Thank You!

This past week DCS hosted several opportunities for parents to visit the school. First off was the annual Kindergarten "Teddy Bear's Picnic". Thank you to Miss Stad and her large class of 23 eager, energetic 'teddy bear's' for hosting this event. It was well attended by many parents and younger siblings. Based on all of the 'eager onlookers' (HS students peeking through the windows) and the excitement of the young ones, truly a great time was had by all.

The second event in which parents were invited to the school was the K-4 Parent Information evening. The theme for the evening was “Reading Strategies”. As part of the most recent School Improvement Plan in which improving and increasing the reading levels of our students was identified as a goal for the school, the teachers prepared a presentation that highlighted some of the strategies that they incorporate in their classroom to assist with meeting this goal. After the main session, parents had the opportunity to visit their child’s classroom and become acquainted with the programs that are covered at DCS. On behalf of the staff, thank you for your continued support for DCS. That was very evident in the large number of parents that showed up for this evening.

Have you ever had a question but weren’t sure who to ask?

It seems that we have a lot of ‘first-time’ parents at DCS, as the Kindergarten presentation was quite full. To that end, it sometimes may happen that we as school may take for granted that parents know what to do in certain situations. Many ‘first-time’ parents probably have many questions in regards to a variety of things ranging from busing concerns to school routines, to snow days, etc. In the interest of providing as much support as possible to help alleviate any concerns that parents may have, I would encourage you to phone the school and talk to your child’s teacher, the secretary or myself. If we don’t have the answers you are looking for, we will do our best to point you in the right direction. There will soon be a new tab on the DCS website (www.dufferinchristian.ca) that is often found on many other websites – FAQ (frequently asked questions). This should be seen as a place where you can also access answers to some of the more common questions that may arise. If you have a question, or a piece of advice that you wish you knew early in your school experience, feel free to phone me or email me at dcsprincipal@mts.net. Together, as parents and school, we may be able to eliminate your concerns and make life a little easier for others.

Canadian Reformed Teachers’ Association – West Convention, October 7/8, 2010

This coming week, teachers from across Alberta and Manitoba will be descending upon Moose Jaw for our annual convention. The organizers of this year’s conventions have done an excellent job in putting together a number of very interesting speakers and workshops. For example, the Keynote address will be delivered by Hans Vandooren.

“NOT AS I WILL, BUT AS YOU WILL”

This phrase from Matthew 26:39 was part of the prayer of Jesus Christ prior to his betrayal and arrest. In his most trying hour, our Saviour turned to his Father’s will, and not his own so that “his cup may pass”.

We live in a post-modern era with a focus on the individual’s right to determine what is right and wrong. The new society is pluralistic and tries to accommodate a variety of narratives of perceived reality. Self esteem takes priority over a higher moral standard that guides the

collective action of a community. Submitting one's will to a higher authority is a thing of the past.

This new perspective has impact on educational theory and new government initiatives. We will explore how our schools can wade through these increasingly child-centred and God-less initiatives to maintain a focus that is Christ-centred, teacher-directed and child-oriented.

To allow enough time for the staff to travel to the convention, students will be dismissed at 2:00 on Wednesday, October 6th. There will be no school buses so parents are requested to pick up their children at that time. The first day of classes after the convention will be Tuesday, October 12th. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Special Visitors to DCS

Over the past two weeks, DCS has been privileged to host several VIP's in the educational field in Manitoba. First, Susan Eberhard, the Director of MFIS (Manitoba Federation of Independent Schools) together with Darcy Bayne, Principal of Springs Christian Academy in Winnipeg paid a visit to DCS. For both, this was their first visit to DCS and they were extremely impressed with the school, the facilities, the staff and the students. To them it was very evident that there is tremendous support and energy in the school and its supporting community.

Secondly, Shelley Hasinoff paid a full day visit to DCS. Shelley is with the Manitoba Department of Education and is the one responsible for supervising all funded independent schools in the province. Shelley pays yearly visits to the school. She not only meets with me, but she also takes time to visit as many classrooms as possible. Shelley also had the opportunity to visit with several school board members. She was again very impressed with the dedication of the school and its supporting community in its dedication to providing a quality education.

That brings my report to a close. May you all have a blessed day of rest given to us by our Father, our Rock. To Him be all glory!

From the Library Committee

Reminder re: the policy on how to handle concerns about books in the library reads as follows:

1. Address the specific concerns in writing to the Library Committee.
2. The Committee will review the concern and advise the member in writing, as to whether it agrees or disagrees, preferably with its rationale.
3. When the Committee agrees the concerns are valid, the book will be withdrawn from the Library.
4. When the Committee does not agree that the concerns are valid and are unable to satisfy the member's concern(s), the member may approach the Board with their concerns in writing.

Thank-you.

Elsa VanLaar (745-2181) Tjarda Koster (745-2869)

Gail Breukelman (745-3510) Gerda Doornbos (745-2621)

A Call to Self-Examination

By Len Lodder

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on a rock” (Matthew 7:24).

These words from Matthew, chosen as theme text for the school year 2010-2011, are the beginning of Jesus' concluding remarks in His so-called Sermon on the Mount. Our Lord Jesus has a way of taking ordinary everyday things and turning them into a teaching about living our life in the way of wisdom. He has used birds and flowers and the hair on our head as examples to make his teachings clear to us. Here also Jesus uses a common enough occurrence to send His meaning and purpose deep into our thinking. Most people have had some experience at seeing a house being built, even if it is just from a distance.

The parallel passage found in Luke six beginning at verse forty-seven seems to emphasize the idea that the foundation laying is a hard but very important work.

The idea of using a theme text for a school year is to take the opportunity to really form a picture in our minds (staff and students alike) that will stick there for years to come. The repeated use of the theme idea throughout the year is meant to be something, like memory work, that can be recalled in times when you are under some kind of duress like persecution or the frenetic stresses of everyday life.

In some ways this text is very easy to understand. First, we need to hear the words of Jesus. Thankfully our gracious Lord caused these words to be written down or

else they would have been swept away on the wind of that day. Then only the people present at that time could know them and we would be oblivious to them. But the fact that they are written down, and that we do spend time reading them and discussing these words of our Saviour, adds weight to the importance of hearing them. Second, Jesus speaks of putting them into practice. We easily understand what He means by this as we know what it means to practice something. It means to do them again and again. Of course, Jesus, being the excellent teacher that He is, does not count on one simple sentence to pass on important information. Instead He elaborates on this sentence by building a picture of its meaning.

Jesus does this by means of comparing and contrasting two very different ways of building a house. The first way is by the wise man. This man is wise because he is thinking ahead and is willing to put the effort into building his house to last. This is such a simple concept that we often overlook it. The house the man is building is meant to be a shelter for him and his family. He wants it to look nice but he's more concerned with it being a safe place. Therefore he expends much energy and cost to carefully laying a strong foundation. He might not be able to build quite as fancy a home this way but at least it will last. Jesus says that the winds and the water beat against this house but it

stood solid. It really was a safe haven for the man and his family.

This is contrasted with the foolish man. He didn't seem to have time to think about the future or about his family's safety. He certainly did not want to take the time and hard work to lay a good foundation. Picture this man looking at a nice clear blue sky and then at the ground which was far away from any wadi where water would rush down during the frequent storms in the area, thinking that the other fellow is really being ridiculous spending that much time and energy, not to mention money, on digging down to the rock bed for his foundation. It just didn't seem necessary. Perhaps he was thinking that saving money and time on the foundation would allow him a more beautiful home, and be in it even quicker than his neighbour. He could spend his money on things that are more noticeable than the foundation. But, Jesus points out, when the winds and the water beat against that house it was swept away. Without a foundation firmly planted on the rock bed this house could not stand.

Jesus' teaching is not about real houses, of course. It is about the way we build our lives. Are we building our lives on the solid foundation of the Rock? God is often referred to as a Rock in Scripture (see Psalm 89:26 as one example). Sometimes, especially when we are young, we look at the fair weather and the seeming lack of danger, to decide how much effort to put into

the building of our lives. We take a very carefree attitude and instead of building our lives on a solid foundation we build our lives on the fluff of popularity. Our lives then look and feel exciting but we don't realize that a storm is coming and will beat against us. That is an important aspect of this teaching. The men in the parable and those listening to Jesus knew that storms were coming. It is not *if* a storm comes but *when* the storm comes. This is often overlooked in this teaching. We seem to forget that the storms of life will come in one form or another. Of course this is the result of sin's entrance into God's good creation. However, knowing about sin's effect should strengthen our resolve to build strong lives on the true foundation. It is imperative that the generation with experience in the coming of strong storms, pass this knowledge on to the generation coming up. We cannot always expect them to see it or understand its deep implications. That is what parents are to teach to their children. It is why Jesus spoke these words of warning. They are a blessing to those who observe them.

This is one of the reasons our parents began a school where the teaching would be based on the wisdom of God's word and the confessions of the church. I titled this article "A Call to Self-Examination" because we have the singular privilege to take time to consider these very poignant words of our Lord Jesus. Are we 'hearing' these words and putting them into practice?



Grade 6 ELA Contributions

Submitted by Nick Gunnink

In grade 6 we have regular writing classes. Those classes are often started with a fresh writing idea. Students start writing using the new idea. If they still have time, they continue with a previous piece or return to a piece they're not happy with. At certain intervals, I will ask the students to polish up a piece of writing for sharing and evaluation. The polishing process often includes peer and teacher editing and revision. The compositions you see here experienced a teacher revision and a computer spell check. We hope you enjoy the variety!

My Favourite Thing To Do *By Brittney Nicole DeRuiter*

My favourite thing to do on Saturday is but I did it only once before to our Terra came to our house with her horses. She let me Justin, Joel

Anyway it was really fun I was the first to ride Sham. But Justin wanted to so I hade to get off We each got about 3 terns on Sham. But Jesse, Cody and Derrick. So she had to leave. And I got to ride to the farm on her horse with her.

Would You Rather? *By Cindy Koster*

I would rather travel 50 years into the future than into the past because it would be cool to see what it would be like in 50 years. There would probably be some cool, new, inventions that I would like! Sure, it might be fun to travel 50 years into the past, but why would you want to go outside in the middle of a snowstorm, just to go to the washroom? I'd much rather have indoor plumbing! Besides, what if they have these awesome floating scooters that you could ride everywhere? What if they have these awesome little robots that do some of your chores for you!? Besides, someone could just tell you what it was like 50 years ago, but they won't be able to tell you what it will be like in exactly 50 years from now. Plus, I would really like to see what I'd look like in 50 years from now, what car I'd drive, what pets I'll have, and so on. These are the reasons why I would rather travel 50 years into the future than into the past.

Saturday Favourites *By Joshua Hoogerdijk*

My favourite things to do on Saturdays are wake up at six fifteen-six thirty and then read until seven thirty while waiting for my brother and parents to wake up. Then while I'm reading my cat named Murphy will come into my room and sleep on my feet, or sit on my windowsill.

When my brother and my parents wake up I get out of bed and eat breakfast. After I'm done eating my breakfast, usually cereal I put on my Carmen miner soccer jersey.

When I get to the soccer field our team starts practicing. After we are done practicing the ref blows his whistle and everyone gets into their positions. Then we start playing soccer. The teams we play against are Elm Creek, Notre Dame and Carmen Black. The past four or five games we have won but our season ended on Saturday. After the soccer game our cousins from Winnipeg come to our house and we have dart gun wars. It is a lot of fun. These are my favourite Saturday things.

Guess Who? *By Joshua Kamminga*

She has no hair. Her birthday is on Oct. 22. She was born in 2009. She is 0 years old. I will not tell her name. I think her eyes are blue. She is very playful. She has a small nose. She is very determined, and almost never gives up until her job is done. She likes to look at herself in the mirror. Her birthday is on the same day as Wesley. It's a bit gross but she likes to mess around with the toilet water so we have to keep the bathroom door closed when she's awake. She likes to clean the floor for my mom (I mean by eating all the stuff off the floor). Well, can you guess who it is?

Who is he? *By Kent Boeve*

He is the tallest person in my class, his feet are really long. Also he is not very fat at all, his hair is white and very short. He has long arms, he loves to play hockey. He does not like soccer that much, when he plays hockey he is usually in net. He has big ears that he wiggles, He doesn't really have a temper, he has big teeth especially his front teeth. He has a smudgy spot under his nose, He is pretty good at math, his eyes are blue.

When I Have Free Time *By Laura Amber Vanderpol*

I like to bike when I have free time. Like to bike because you can go really fast, with a dog chasing you. I like to bike with my brothers and watch them hurt themselves. I started riding my bike when I was 4 or 5.

It's fun to try to do tricks, and not fun to mess up cause that hurts really really bad. I really really really want to get a new bike. Because my bike sucks, But I probably won't get one in December though. One day my brother taught me to bike in a strait line, I got it after a while, I enjoy biking a lot.

Free Time! *By Miriam Pol*

When I have free time, my favourite thing to do is to play outside. I love to play with my dog. Sometimes she'll run away, but not always. My favourite season to play outside is in the fall. I love to play in our hammock too. It's a nice place to be if you're reading a book or something. Rebekah and I push each other in it. Sometimes it flips over really fast, and then I fall out! I also love to jump in the leaves. We climb up our big ash tree, and then we jump off into the leaf pile. That can keep me busy for an hour or more!

We also play on our tire swing. It spins a lot! I usually get nauseous from spinning so much. What I like most of all is when my Dad or Mom comes out to play with us. They can push the tire swing really hard! Then we all come in for a drink. These are my favourite things to do when I have free time!

Practising with a Pellet Gun *By Silas Bauer*

My favourite thing to do is Soccer but I would not want to spend my whole day playing Soccer. I would rather spend my whole day having our dog on a leash and walking through the forest shooting at trees with our pellet gun or shooting at the pond. Our pellet gun is brown and it has a black barrel and we have two scopes for our gun.

Shooting on our farm is so much fun because it has 40 acres and about thirty acres is all forest. There are deer and coyotes but the coyotes only come at night. There could be a bear, skunks, rats, mice, birds and more. You should try it.

50 Years Into the Future *By Vince VanDasselaar*

I would rather be ten 50 years in the future than ten 50 years in the past. I would like that because then I would be able to fly to the store in a glider suburban to the store.

You might think that riding a horse and buggy would be fun, but you could make a buggy and buy a horse any day, and you could also build an outhouse in the middle of winter. If you want to live in a cabin think of 50 years from you'll probably have free heating. 50 years from now you'll still have to go to the store, in the past you had to sit in a tree hours just to feed you and your family. And in the past you had to do everything by hand so it would take forever to build a house, and in the future you'll just start up your machines and be done in no time. That is why I'd rather go into the future.

My Favourite Thing To Do *By Wesley Wanders*

My favourite thing to do is to play wii. I enjoy it because Super Mario wii is quite a challenge to play. And I love to play challenging games. We don't only have Super Mario on our wii. We also have Big Game Hunter 2010, Mario and Sonic at the Winter Olympic Games, DDR, wii

Sports Resort, wii Sports, Rock Band, Band Hero, and that's all. So we have a lot of games to choose from. All our games can be played with more than one player. Wii is so cool because you can play like all the sports in the world in your own basement.

We all, and mostly me, have been enjoying it ever since my mom bought the wii and the games. It's nice having a wii because on really rainy and snowy days. We can play wii and not get really bored, by hanging around the house all day doing nothing but walking around. A wii is a game player that has wireless controllers that control the game you are playing. And you plug it into your TV and you can play the game you want to play on the wii.

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**WE ALSO INVITE YOU TO OUR *ELEMENTARY THANKSGIVING ASSEMBLY*,
Wednesday, October 6th, STARTING AT 1:00 P.M.**

A Grade One Thanksgiving Poem

Written by the Students of Grade One

We're thankful for parents who've sent us to this school;
They think it is important to learn according to God's Rule.

We're thankful for our lunch and the food we bring each day.
We're thankful that we have the time to sing and read and pray.

We're thankful for our classroom where we do our work each day.
We're thankful for our recess time because we love to play!

We're thankful for the gym where we can run and jump.
We're thankful that our school looks nothing like a dump!

We're thankful for our teacher who teaches us to read.
To learn about God's Word is what we really need!

We're thankful for our friends that we see each day at school.
We're glad that God has made them; each one is very cool!

