

Chairman's Report**Harry vanKammen**

God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them. We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure.

Hebrews 6:10 & 11

In the flurry of all the activities of the past two weeks, it was difficult to complete the final issue of the beacon for this school year in time.

We may look back on this past school year with much thankfulness for the providing and caring hand of our Heavenly Father. Many are the times we prayed for a blessing on the work done at DCS and how wonderfully God has answered our prayers. It was overwhelming to see the class of 2009 graduate. Congratulations to all graduates, their parents and our teachers at DCS!

God's blessings were over the work done in all grades at DCS, and for this we give Him the glory. He gave health and strength, patience and wisdom, and everything else that was needed for the instruction of our covenantal youth. May the education of this past year have a positive and lasting influence on our students, as they are

preparing to live as Christians in this world.

This past month the society held its semi-annual meeting. We are thankful for the fact that so many of our members did attend. The board had hoped to pass a change to the by-laws regarding the voting procedure. Due to the fact that the quorum was not met this item has to go back on the agenda for the annual membership meeting in the fall. There was a beneficial exchange of ideas on this point and the board will come with a slightly changed proposal in the fall.

At the meeting the membership was also informed that the board will actively seek an additional high school teacher. In addition to the reasons given at the meeting there is one more reason to continue our search. Two teachers Mr. Nick Gunnink and Mrs. Marcy Vandenbos had requested a reduced work load for

this coming year. The board has conceded to their request and this has resulted in the loss of almost half of a fulltime position between the two of them.

Staff requirements in the special needs however will be less this coming school year, due to the fact that there will be less special needs students. At the membership meeting Arlene Termeer and Jessica Breukelman were thanked for their faithful service as special needs assistants. They have done their work with great love and dedication towards the students in their charge. For this, they not only served those students well, but the whole school, of which these students were such an important part.

Jolene van Dijk and Hannah Vanderveen were thanked for teaching grade 5 and 7 resp. Hannah will become a student once more in order to be a full fledged *certified* teacher by next year. Jolene has

traveled west to become, on July 10, Mrs. Bouwman! Miranda Hulst and Courtney Huisman will also get married this summer. We congratulate Jolene and Harwin, Miranda and John, Courtney and Blaine; we wish you the Lord's blessings on your marriage that in many ways it may mirror the relationship

between the Lord Jesus and His church.

For all our students, and most of our staff, the summer holidays have started. We wish you all a good time of well deserved rest, and pray that the LORD may keep you safe while serving Him.

I also wish all our members and supporters an enjoyable summer, with God's care over you.

*The LORD will keep you
from all harm
He will watch over your life.
The LORD will watch over
your coming and going
both now and forevermore.
Psalm 121:7& 8*

Principal's Report

Andy Huisman

“Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”

Romans 12:11, 12

With thankfulness to the Lord, DCS was again able to graduate a number of students. Fifteen young people have come to the end of their formal education at DCS and we are thankful with them, that the Lord has brought them to this point in time. Brittany, Tim, Trevor, Teri, Janae, Robin, Shawn, Lisa, Rhonda Lyn, Ryan, Mark, Dana, Garret, Rhonda, and Ben, we have confidence that the education you have received will serve you well in all of your future endeavours.

This edition of the Beacon contains the various speeches given at the graduation ceremonies as well as a listing of the various awards and bursaries that were distributed to the graduates. As well, it contains a few comments in regards to preparations for the coming school year.

For those of you who came out to the last membership meeting, you received a fairly good idea as to how the mission statement of the school functions on a daily basis. I would like to thank you for taking the time to come out and participate in the school in this way as well.

I would also like to say thank you to Hannah, Jolene, Arlene and Jessica. These staff members have made a place for themselves here in Carman and at DCS. They will surely be missed by

many. They have contributed tirelessly to the school and the various functions in school life. I wish them the Lord's blessing in all of their future endeavours.

School Supplies

DCS provides all of the necessary school supplies for the students from Kindergarten to grade 8. This is not the case for the students in the High School. In most courses, students simply require a binder, paper and pens. In the event of more specific needs in various courses, you will find a list of supplies elsewhere in this Beacon that are required by the various HS teachers for the courses that they teach.

Orange-Maple Foundation

I have just received an e-mail from the Orange-Maple Foundation. This coming October, Carman will be host to 5 students from Greijdanus, 2 boys and 3 girls. We are looking for five families who would be interested in hosting a Dutch exchange student. If you have not hosted a student before and are unsure of what is all involved, or you would like to open your home to one of these students, please contact me as soon as possible, either by phone or e-mail (dcsprincipal@mts.net). I have attached a brief introduction to each of the exchange students to give you a better idea as to their interests.

***My name is Leonieke Dekker.** I'm a 16 year old spontaneous girl who lives in a very small city, called Vollenhove. I'm the youngest of 6 children in our family. I've got 2 married brothers and 2 married sisters, and another brother. I'm often at the computer, and I like reading. I've got a cat, his name is Droppie. I don't really like school, but I love my friends there! I also love my family. I'm not really a sportive girl, I like watching it, but not to do myself. A thing I do a lot of times, is talking, and laughing?! I would love to come in a host family with a host sister who also loves talking and laughing?. I'm not really good at talking English; I'll do all the grammar wrong! But I think I'll learn it there. I'm incredibly happy I am allowed going to Canada! I actually can't wait!*

***I'm Eline Bruintjes.** I'm 14 years old, and I live in Kampen, that's a city nearby Zwolle. I'm turning 15 in December, then I'm in the 10th Grade. You can see me on the pictures. I've one older brother of 17 years old, and one little brother of 10 years old. If I have to describe myself, I would say that I'm an open person, social, and cheerful. I play the clarinet, and I'm playing in a music orchestra. I love to relax on the couch while I'm watching TV, I love shopping, and having fun with my friends, and I love music. I'm very excited to meet new people! I'm very curious, spontaneous and I like to try new things. Greetings and I hope to see you in October!!*

***I'm Jeroen Aalberts.** I'm 16 years old. I've got 2 brothers and 3 sisters. 1 brother is married, and all of mine sisters are married. One sister have kids, 3 girls. I live on a farm in IJsselmuiden and it seems me lovely to come on a farm in Canada. We milk 90 cows on our farm. Totally we have 170 cows. I'm a sportive boy. I like many sports. I have two big hobby's, windsurfing and tennis. I play 7 years tennis. I do windsurfing since I was 13. It is a wonderful sport. I go to Italy in the summer, I go with mine parents and a Friend of my, mine friend and me go windsurfing there. I don't like to play the whole day computer. I go to the Dutch reformed church. I also like to talk with other peoples in Canada of my age. It likes me fun to see how the lessons at school going. I think there are lots different with Nederland's. Yours faithfully, Jeroen Aalberts*

Hello, my name is Trienke Hoekstra. My age is 15 years. I live in the city of Kampen; its about 1 hours drive from Amsterdam. Kampen is very nice medieval city with a lot of ancient buildings. I have a father, a mother and 2 brothers. One my the brothers is living on his one, one other brother lives at home. My school is in the city of Zwolle. Every day I cycle to school, that means 33 km per day. In the beginning I am a little bit a shy person. But when I get used to people, I turn into a lovely, funny lady. Music is one of de most in important things in my life. And further I like animals especially cats and dogs.

My favourite sport is badminton, I play this every Tuesday over 1 hour. I like the sport but I like it too because of the cosiness of my club. I am active in badminton since 10 years. On my days off, I go to work as a tomato picker.

I don't like this work but I want to earn some money and this is de only company where I can work as a youngster. One Sundays I go to a Baptist church. Once in a while I have to babysit so that the parents of the little children can attend the service. On Sunday evening we come together as a youthgroup to sing, to pray and do study the bible. When I have spare time left I like to do things on my computer, such as play computer games, and make my home work.

Besides that I like television soaps and films like in romantic-, comedy-, and action style. In an creative sense, I could mention that photography is a hobby of mine too. My favourite food is soup with baguette. I dislike commodity such as tomatoes ,cumcubmers, and lettuce. But actually I like all other food. On going to you country, I'd like to know more about the culture and the habits of the Canadians. Is must be great to meet and live with people on the other side of the world. I think I can learn a lot of things and have great fun also.

I'm Gunnar Slaa, I live in Nunspeet, a town at the Veluwe. A forest region in The Netherlands. At the moment I'm 15 years old, but at the date of the exchange, I will be 16 years old. I love to sport. Three times a week I play korfbal, a typical Dutch, which you might very well not know. To give you an intention, it's a little like basketball. In the summer I also sail at the Veluwemeer, we have our own sailing boat. Besides sailing myself I teach sailing to a group of children. I play piano too. I'm a little bit silent. At home, I live in a very nice family. I added a photo of myself and everyone in my family. I believe the exchange will be an amazing adventure and I'm really looking forward to it. I can't wait until it starts

I know that this edition of the Beacon is quite lengthy, but at the end of the year, there is just so much to tell. Pour yourself a second cup of coffee, sit back and relax. I wish you all a blessed Sunday.

Just so you know.....

Our First day of school for the 2009-2010 school year is: **Wednesday, September 9, 2009**, which is also the first Kindergarten day.

Kindergarten days will be **Mondays** and **Wednesdays** until November, and after that they will be Monday, Wednesday, and every second Friday .

Have a wonderful summer!!

Graduation Special Edition

Principal's Address to the Graduates . . .

Brittany, Tim, Trevor, Teri, Janae, Robin, Shawn, Lisa, Rhonda , Ryan, Mark, Dana, Garret, Rhonda, Ben

What a beautiful day today is! This is a very special occasion for each and every one of you. Here you sit, you are all dressed in your finest, surrounded by many people who love you. As you go through life, certain dates will become more special than others. At this point in your life, dates such as the first day of school, getting your driver's license, for some of you, doing profession of faith, but for all of you June 23rd is the date of your high school graduation. You may not remember the exact date in the future, but you will always recall the day. Let me give you something to help you remember the date. This is also a very special day for another reason as well. 25 years ago, on this very day, June 23rd, my wife and I were at another formal event, having just enjoyed a delicious meal, she was in a beautiful white dress and I was wearing a tuxedo. The event – our wedding - and tonight marks our 25th anniversary.

But that is not why you are all gathered here tonight, you are here to witness the culmination of years of Christian schooling. During those years, each and every one of you have experienced many things. It is those experiences, combined with your parents upbringing that have helped form your character and defined who you really are. Each and every one of you has made an impact upon the daily life at DCS. The make-up of the school will once again be different when the doors open in September. But we do move on, things do not stay the same, we have new experiences to conquer, we have new obligations to fulfill, but the one constant is that we must continue to serve our Lord and Maker. Our theme for the year was to "Shine Your Light". With that theme, we were reminded that we have an obligation to live out our faith in our daily actions, no matter how big or small they may seem. But shining your light is a huge responsibility. It can shine in a positive way or in a negative way. Sometimes we may even think, "Why bother? What difference does it make? The task is too big – where do I start?" However, we will never really know what our impact was, but that shouldn't stop us from truly living out the mission statement – for living a life of Christian discipleship. What you do not only impacts yourself, but it impacts many around you. To illustrate, I would like to share a short story, some of you may know this story – The Starfish:

"A friend of ours was walking down a deserted Mexican beach at sunset. As he walked along, he began to see another man in the distance. As he grew nearer, he noticed that the local native kept leaning down, picking something up, and throwing it out into the water. Time and again, he kept hurling something out into the ocean.

As our friend approached even closer, he noticed that the man was picking up starfish that had washed up on the beach and, one at a time, was throwing them back into the water.

Our friend was puzzled. He approached the man and said, "Good evening, friend. I was wondering what you are doing?"

"I'm throwing these starfish back into the ocean. You see, it is low tide right now, and all of these starfish have washed up onto the shore. If I don't throw them back into the sea, they'll die from lack of oxygen."

"I understand," my friend replied, "but there must be thousands of starfish on this beach! You can't possibly get to all of them. There are simply too many! And don't you realize this is probably happening on hundreds of beaches all up and down this coast? Can't you see that you can't possibly make a difference?"

The local native smiled, bent down, and picked up yet another starfish and, as he threw it back into the sea, replied, "I made a difference to THAT one!"

As we go along this road, guided by our Father and His Holy Word, we will meet many people. Let us remember that in all we do, those hundreds of little things that we encounter daily, from sitting in a restaurant, to driving our car, to the conversations that we have with a store clerk – all of those things make a difference - shine your light – Brittany, Tim, Trevor, Teri, Janae, Robin, Shawn, Lisa, Rhonda, Ryan, Mark, Dana, Garret, Rhonda, Ben - "What are people seeing when the light is reflected off of you?" It is my hope and prayer that as you leave DCS, you will remember the words of Matthew 5:16 – "In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

Guest Speaker

(Mrs. Liz DeWit)

Picture a grade 12 English class. It is September 18, 2008. The students have been given a writing assignment, a magazine article relating to accomplishments of man, viewed by man as invincible. In our discussion, we came up with a few, among them the tower of Babel, and the Twin Towers. This was prompted by our study of the book [A Night to Remember](#) which is about the sinking of the Titanic. The students were just settling down to work, that is most of them – a few always have a couple of last second things to discuss, when Rhonda pipes up, out of the blue, would I be their guest speaker for grad? Unexpected – never in my wildest dreams! A question, sure, no problem. That question left me speechless. I

pictured Titanic's final moments, upended to a vertical position after the back half cracked off, then sliding noiselessly into the sea – a situational irony, I as guest speaker, I who just love getting up in front of a crowd.

I talked to a colleague – she asked, What would you say to your class? My answer was easy – do it, it's a challenge. That made the answer I needed to give to the grade 12 class obvious as well – put your money where your mouth is! Difficult just means try harder! Talk about eating your own words!

Shakespeare's Portia said the same thing "t'were easier to tell 20 people what to do than to do it myself".

So, thank-you grade 12s for one of the greatest challenges of my teaching career. Thank-you for the honour of choosing me, this time choosing to listen to me lecture you one last time. Thank-you for the opportunity to share with you some of the things that mean the most to me, and looking at your graduation text, mean the most to you as well.

Graduates, colleagues, honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen:

We've come to the end of a long road, to the gate, the place from which you, graduates, will branch out onto different roads, different directions, careers, education, goals, and yet, in all of that still one road, one goal.

As a group, you have been active in Dufferin Christian School over the years, mostly in athletics and athlete-related events, banquets and drama, this last year in SALT. You've had fun, you've learned to organize events and make them work. You've helped in the community delivering hampers and volunteering.

Yet, trials have brought forth the most dramatic growth in your personalities and we have been privileged to see the adults that you are becoming.

Bereavement and sorrow have welded you together. You know what a friend is, you know how to cry together and together to seek comfort in God's Word, in His unfailing faithfulness.

You have cried in class and we have stood at the front struggling not to cry, only to give in later in private. You have shared your thoughts and feelings and we have grown to love you as individuals. The last two years have been tough but God has always been there.

Where has it led? To a hope that will never be shamed! To a newer, deeper joy in faith and a willingness to express and share that joy. To deeply caring, intensely involved graduates. To a class of which we are humbly proud in every way, Tim, persistent, yet always with a smile, the guy who can sell day old cinnamon buns to his peers for double what he paid for them and make them believe he's doing them a favour, Trevor, a keen basketball player and Elm Creek fire fighter, Ben, who likes to gamble just a little bit with the amount of work he needs to do, Ryan, never too busy to lend a hand, the guy who doesn't mind when we ask him to take down stuff no one else can reach, Rhonda Lyn whose motto seems to be, let's not get too serious while at the same time reaching out a hand where it is needed, sharing her excitement at a Remembrance Day poster prize. Robin and Janae who took home and washed all the boys' basketball jerseys so they would smell nice. Was this before the game where the boys used the girls changeroom or after? , Robin who

would help anyone before she looks to her own needs, Janae who leads and keeps the peace from behind the scenes, Rhonda with a heart for all who are having trouble, Teri, and Dana, volunteers in the community, dedicated to showing what a Christian life looks like, Teri who *needs* two serviettes for one hot dog, Lisa, a leader and organizer, Garret, thorough in all he does, Shawn with his cool sense of humour, Mark with his different way of looking at things, and Brittany, new to us here, who chose to graduate from a Christian school, all of you unique, all of you individually gifted by God for His service. By the way, while we taught you to try to think outside the box, and we really appreciate when it shows that you have listened, offroading in town is really taking it a step beyond what was intended. Janae expressed some of this in her poem Graduation which reads:

We spent thirteen fun-filled years together
Splashing in puddles and swinging on swings.
Fun times we've had, no matter what the weather,
We grew up and learned to spread out our wings.
Remember the days, the moments we shared
Deep and dark secrets, never to be revealed.
Now we must part ways, and 'though I am scared
This chapter of my life is ready to be sealed.
Plans come together, we're moving ahead
To jobs and schooling of every sort,
Moving on just like we all have said,
Our family and friends are here for support,
With cap and gown and diploma in hand,
We'll walk down the aisle to take our last stand.

Now that time has come for you to go and for us to let you go. We know that it is time for the year to end when the students begin to look at our faces to predict what we are going to say, and most of the time they are right. This too is a night to remember, but on this night we are not dependent on too few or even, for that matter, on any human lifeboats. With God there is no 3rd class.

You're moving ahead, but not without direction. This is shown in the text that you have chosen for your graduation, Romans 12:11,12 "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."

The portion of the Bible out of which you chose your text is entitled "Living Sacrifices". It follows a doxology praising the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God and His unsearchable judgments and paths. That has become very real to us in the past year, as the Lord has called home young people out of our midst. I quote from a paper written by one of these students: "This poem "Remember" really made me aware that just because we make plans with people, the Lord may decide to change them and whatever reason he has for this we need to trust that He does it for our good. Often good memories arise, and we laugh, and converse over these memories. This poem made me aware of how hard consequences can be to deal with."

To each of us God has given faith; to each of us he has given separate talents and functions within one body, His church. From us, He requires that we use those talents in his service, cheerfully and thankfully so that the glory may be his forever. How do we serve God with our talents? By serving man, by showing love to our neighbor. Paul continues on in his letter with a description of what that love looks like. It is genuine, not simpering, not condescending, it is sincere. It shows devotion to each other; it puts the needs of others first. It is without hypocrisy; acts go along with the words. It shows respect for the needs and feelings of others and promotes unity and happiness in the Christian community. How is this possible? Only because God loved us first, only by loving God first, only in thankfulness for the wisdom and grace of God.

In these verses of Romans, the apostle Paul reminds us that God has given us, as his redeemed children, much to accomplish; and he will hold us answerable for the faithful performance of it. We are told to be fervent – boiling, bubbling, intense, glowing- spiritually as servants of the Lord, obeying his commands and promoting His glory. Fervent means being full of something, so full it spills out and shares and affects all around us. Zeal is enthusiastic devotion to a cause, an ideal or goal and tireless diligence in its furtherance. Our cause is our service to God, “living sacrifices”, our lives devoted to Him. Now we have to remember the analogy to a body; we’re not meant to do this alone, but together, rejoicing together at the grace given us by the Lord.

In this fervor, we are compelled to use the talents God has given us to serve Him, if five talents, all of the five in the best way possible, if three, all of those three, if one, that one is essential to the wellbeing of that body. Imagine your body without one part, say an ear – how would you listen to me right now?

Granted, that’s hard. Using those talents is hard. Even figuring out how best you can use all your talents in the Lord’s service is hard. But you’re not alone. God is there. You’re going out into the world. Everything will be new; many things will be scary. May we let that hinder us or because we are afraid take the easy way out? You know that sometimes you just have to work harder, and if that is God’s will for you, he will make a way and he will bless your efforts. What is important is that you put Him first, every day, seeking His will in your life with your talents, all of them.

We are given further instructions: “be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer”.

Hope – something we look forward to, but do not yet have - This relates back to “spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.” We, as Christians have a hope that will never be put to shame; the gospel tells us about our Lord Jesus Christ who fulfilled all of God’s requirements for us and promises us eternal life and glory. This hope gives us joy in the present, a joy that nothing can remove, a joy that comforts us when loved ones are taken from us. This joy also lightens our labour when we know that we are pleasing the Lord with our service to Him. This joy allows us to enjoy our life here, our labour, our love, our friends and pastimes, the beauty God has created and to use all of this with thankfulness to Him. Having this joy, we can be patient in affliction. Trouble will come; hard times, difficult tasks, problems in the lives of friends and family, complicated questions – they come to all of us.

For this reason, we are also told to be faithful in prayer. In order to maintain a joyful hope and to be sustained in afflictions, it is necessary to cherish a spirit of prayer and to live close to God. This is so important that we need to allot time and a place in our schedules for prayer. In the morning, when we open our eyes and know that God has once again protected us during the night and given us a new day in his service, when our minds are fresh and our thoughts are clear and unoccupied by the world, before the day's duties, trials and temptations bombard us, we need to commune with God. In the evening when we have again experienced God's goodness, we need to commit ourselves to his care, we need his pardoning mercy for errors, foolishness, sin.

In afflictions, perplexity, danger, want, disappointment, loss of friends, despondency, we must draw near to God and pour out our hearts to him. In happy, blessed moments, we need to show our overflowing thankfulness to God for all he gives us.

Prayer must be a scheduled part of our lives. That does not preclude spontaneous prayers, a heart that pours forth to God "even when in business, when conversing with a friend, when walking, when alone, or when in society". So often we will need to pray, "Lord, give me the wisdom and the words I need right now" or "Lord, thank-you" or "Help me Lord", and you will experience that God answers prayer and gives you what you need right at that moment to serve Him.

It is characteristic of a Christian that he prays. It is fellowship with God. It is our main way of showing thankfulness, our source of strength and hope.

I would like to conclude with another excerpt from a piece of gr. 12 writing, a response to a song "Who am I" by Casting Crowns. *This song reminds me of how fragile we really are as humans; our human nature doesn't want to admit that we are weak and cannot do anything good in and of ourselves. Reading and listening to the lyrics of this song reminds us of what we are and whose we are. Life here on earth is temporary; we live for Christ and look forward to spending eternity with him. If I look at the message in the song, "Lord you catch me when I'm falling", it shows me that we don't need to be afraid; God is with us. It's comforting knowing that God is in control and nothing we do can change that.*

May you continue in that faith, fervent in prayer, fervent in zeal for God.

Thank-you, graduating class, for the little kind things you did, things that showed us you cared.

Thank you for laughs and teacher burns and student burns.

Thank you for letting us know you and for your caring to know us.

Thank God for oxymorons – laughter in our tears, joy in our sadness, hope on dark days, patience and trust in trials and troubles, and for His ever faithful listening to our formal and informal prayers.

One concluding text: Romans 11:36: "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To him be the glory forever!"

We don't know what the future holds, but God does. Our God who has given you gifts and talents to use in His service will also guide your paths and show you His purpose in your lives. Read His Word faithfully. May you ever be joyful in hope, patient in affliction

Valedictory Address

by Garret van Dijk

Good evening everyone, family, friends, teachers and fellow graduates.

The graduating class of 2009 from Dufferin Christian School is before you, all giddy with excitement and eager to get this ceremony finished.

The last thirteen years have gone by very quickly and at the same time have taken quite a while. Yet thirty years or so from now, the Lord willing, another generation of kids will walk down the halls of DCS and look at our graduation pictures on the wall, perhaps they will laugh at our ugly glasses and weird hair styles. But these pictures will be basically all that these kids will know of the graduating class of 2009. Sometimes when classes got boring we comforted each other by saying, "Whenever this class gets boring something wonderful happens. It ends." High school graduation is also the wonderful end to school life. Ultimately it is not when we came to school or our time in school that will be remembered, but what will be remembered is the celebration of the time we ended school as shown by that little picture on the wall. The end of school, graduation, is the apex of accomplishment of school. It is the culmination of those thirteen years of school bound in one joyous occasion.

This end is also a new beginning. While a door has been shut another has been opened. A fresh page is open for us to write another chapter of our lives. Now each of you can continue to insert the host of overused clichés that are standard in these speeches. This is where we should look at the graduating text, Romans 12:11, 12: "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." The life ahead of us is a life we are to be living for God. This text is a good reminder for all Christians but is particularly good for us as grads as we begin another portion of our lives. Let us continue to grow after school, particularly in our faith life and spiritual maturity. While formal education may be ending for some of us, we must never stop the spiritual growth in our walk of faith. In the end God will not ask us whether we had a good job or a nice car but whether we lived our life for Him. Let us not forget the most important thing in life, to serve the Lord.

Obviously, as this class knows, none of us graduated completely by ourselves. We thank the teachers for all their hard work in educating us, although it wasn't always appreciated at the time. We thank our families and friends for the support they gave us, each in a varying degree. Most importantly we must give thanks to our Lord and God for enabling us to get to this point. He gave us the gifts and talents that were necessary for completion of school. He gave us the strength to continue in all circumstances, both good and bad.

Let us continue to look to God for all that we need, in all aspects and circumstances in our life.

Thank you and May God bless.

Graduation Class History

By Dana van Dijk and Shawn Riepema

We started our school days with Miss devries. Our class consisted of 17 bright young children. These children included. Iwan Borst, Trevor deRuiter, Teri Douma, Janae Hillmer, Robin Lodder ,Cornelia Offringa, Sam Richardson, Alaric Schulenberg, Lisa Termeer, Rhonda Vandebos, Ryan Vandebos, Mark Vandermeulen, Dana van Dijk, Garret van Dijk, Sonya Versteeg, Rhonda Visscher, and Ben Weidenhammer. Later in the year Shawn Riepema and Josh Breukelman came and joined us from Ontario. One especially fond memory from this year was when Garret put a chair on his head and proceeded to chase people around the classroom. He was always a spry young man. Trevor and Iwan also spent their recesses chasing Robin down the tree line and fighting over who liked her more. Apparently Trevor won.

Next came grade one. Mrs. Boeve was our teacher that year. This was the year that the class decided that Ryan was an easy target to pick on. This went well until Rhonda Lyn found out and threatened us saying that she would beat us up if we kept bugging her brother.

Janae thought she was quite the hot shot in grade one because she knew how to hand write already.

Ben found pleasure in bugging Lisa by calling her "Lisa pizza". Lisa was quite alarmed and retaliated by saying "that doesn't even rhyme."

After grade one Josh left to be with the grade below and Iwan left for Holland

In grade two Mrs. Linde was our teacher. We welcomed James Moesker into the class, at least for a while. He tried to teach us his style of jumping jacks with three steps instead of two. Perhaps Shawn would like to demonstrate how this is done. (dana reads this part)

We took up gymnastics this year and Teri was a little too enthusiastic about this. One day she really went for the splits and split she did. Her pants ripped right up the middle so she had to find a new pair in the lost and found.

Alaric confessed his affection that year by writing in his journal "I love robin."

This was also the year that Shawn dreamed of being a florist. He made dandelion arrangements for everyone in the class.

In grade three we had two teachers. We had Mr. Lodder in the morning and Mr. Vreugdenhil in the afternoons. Mark joined us this year. Rhonda released her emotions and cried this year because Mr. Lodder told her that she would fail since she didn't know what an exclamation mark was.

We went on a field trip to Oak Hammock Marsh and Cornelia was feeling especially different by wearing her pants inside out all day. Whatever makes you happy.

Dana, Garret and Robin got away with not singing their memory work because of a blind spot from the teacher desk. To this day Dana still remembers that the song was Hymn 21:3.

Mark J. decided to stir up trouble this year while his dad taught. When Mr. V. had his back turned Mark would shuffle his desk forward more and more until he was within an arms length of his dad's coffee. He got it every time.

Grades 4 and 5 were both taught by Mr. Penninga. Cornelia left for New Zealand that year. Derek Gansekoele joined our class this year. The popular sport at this time was Chinese skipping. And yet again Janae thought she was the best.

Rhonda Lyn's finest memory of this grade was that Shawn was the tickle monster. Not sure why or how she remembered that.

Lisa often stayed inside during her lunch hour writing the lines, "speech is silver but silence is golden." I wonder why that was?

On April fool's day the class decided to play a joke on Mr. Penninga. Robin borrowed a Britney Spears tape and we put the folk songs sticker on it. We then asked Mr. Penninga if we could listen to some music. He agreed and we turned on the stereo and "hit me baby one more time" began blaring through the classroom.

Our gym classes involved throwing balls around and breaking lights. I think our record was breaking four light bulbs in one class.

Sam left us in grade four.

After grade 5 Derek went back to Ontario.

Grade 6 was with Mr. Jagersma. Kyle Vandergugten joined our class this year. We didn't like Kyle very much because he was from BC. To prove our dislike we played a game called "BC Butthead" rather than british bulldog.

Grade 6 was the beginning of an era. This was the era of crayon wars, pencil lead wars, and wars with pretty much anything that could be shot with an elastic. Trevor got so excited about this that he shot a piece of crayon right into Mark vandermeulens reading folder, creating a huge hole.

This year marked the first time Dana ever got kicked out of school. Mr. Jagersma sent her home and our class stood by the window cheering her on.

This year the girls hid in the bathrooms during recess, climbing the stalls and making up their own version of sign language. Mrs. Linde would often come in the bathroom to see if anyone was in there but we tricked her by standing on top of the toilets so that she couldn't see our feet. On one particular day Robin was swinging away on the stall door when suddenly it came down with a crash. There was no foul play in the bathroom after that.

Ryan taught us all the Bernoulli Principle this year. At least he was a genius back then.

Kyle spent his recesses playing soccer with logs and chasing people with trees.

After grade six James left us for Vernon.

In grade seven Mr. Huisman was our teacher which meant..(pause for effect) spelling bees, Pictionary and speeches! Sonya discovered something while playing a baseball game. Teri was running around the bases because she got a good hit and Sonya exclaimed "TERI RUNS LIKE A HORSE".

This year we had our first student teacher; Mr. Sandink. He was famous for saying "close but no cigar".

Tyler Vanleeuwen came from Neerlandia to join our class this year.

Alaric started a trend this year. It seemed that he was sick every day that we had a test.

Grade 8 was the year of the greatest speeches. Garret made a mad cow speech and walked into the classroom with a bag over his head and walked down the aisle making weird cow noises and clanging his cow bell. Mark also made a speech about pizza. His introduction was him running into the classroom and yelling "WHOOOO LIKES PIIIIZZA?!"

Grade Nine was the beginning of our high school years. We had our science with Mr. Hoogerdijk. He taught us all year, well at least most of us. Rhonda seemed to get kicked out of the classroom more than she was allowed in. I'm pretty sure that one day she got kicked out before the class even started.

Grade nine science has a unit on reproduction. Tyler didn't really pay attention in class and this showed when one day he raised his hand and said "Mr. Hoogerdijk, how come we haven't done any labs in this unit?".

Mark and Tyler left us after grade nine.

Tim joined our class in grade 10. He soon adopted the name "foreigner." He always took pride in his German soccer team, who would then lose to the Netherlands.

Grade 10 was also a very interesting Science year. Mr. Hoogerdijk was talking about a man who had many problems. He had a biopsy that didn't show anything. When the man had passed away they did the autopsy and found that he had cancer all over his body. Robin showed her true colors when she simply asked "well why didn't they just do the autopsy before he died?"

In Grade 11 Ben joined our class once again. When Lisa heard the news the first thing she said was "He better no call me pizza"

This year a bunch of us had A-Math with Mr. Raap. In a certain finance unit we all had to decide what we were going to do after we graduated. Rhonda would take over the farm and make "buttlloads". Janae would live in her parents basement until she was 45 years old and got married. Her source of income would be running a lemonade stand at the old esso station. There was also a day when Ben was trying to understand a concept. When he got teased about it he said "don't bug me guys, I'm just a home schooler. I'm still trying to find my place."

This year the teachers received pink scarves that they ordered from a catalog. Rhonda asked where they got the scarves from and Dana answered "they got them from Avon." Rhonda then asked "Who's Avon?"

Kyle left us this year.

Grade 12 was our last year in DCS. In the second semester we were joined by Brittany Baleja. She was always a happy and pleasant person, even in serious times. One day during Reformed Studies Mr. Lodder was giving an important lecture about the new Psalms when Brittany burst out in a loud ear piercing laughter. She continued to laugh for about 5 minutes and was unable to tell us what was so funny. Rhonda then told what was the cause of disturbance in the classroom. She had written a name on an envelope then turned it around to find that she wrote the name upside down.

Just last week we were on our grad campout and many memories were made. While playing Phase 10 (as was the custom every night) Ryan who was being quite loud continually got his turn skipped. On one special round Garret discarded a skip, looked Ryan in the eye and said in a really creepy voice "skippy the squirrel is coming to get you."

While playing a word game called Quiddler Lisa spelled the word "Boarine" and said "is that the name of a female boar?"

On the first night of the campout many of the grade 12's stayed up late. Ben began carving a stick and Teri decided that the carving should be called the grumpy stick and would be awarded to the grumpiest person the next morning. Unfortunately while carving the stick Ben ended up slicing his finger. All was okay until he turned white and said he was going to pass out. Trevor was then voted to go and wake up Mr. Raap. Mr. Raap then sleepily trudged into the campsite and said "who's the doofus?"..it was Ben. The next morning the grumpy stick was given to Janae.

It was on this camping trip that Shawn decided what he wanted to do with his life. This idea was inspired by Robin's onesy pajamas. Shawn wanted to make a suit for hunters that had a butt flap on them. This would allow for quick relief. His slogan would be "Stressed out? Take a load off." To decrease the bad smells he would add a mesh pocket inside the butt flap with a pine air freshener in it. Mrs. Lodder offered to be his sower.

Over the past thirteen years we had a lot of laughs, a lot of memories, and we sure found ways to be remembered. As the graduating class of 2009 we would like to thank all the parents and teachers for your support.

Awards and Bursaries

Subject Awards (highest cumulative average over grade 11/12)

Garret van Dijk	Reformed Studies 41G, ELA 40S, Physics 40S, Social Studies 40S, A-Math 40S, P-Math 40S, Chemistry 40S
Rhonda Lyn Vandenbos	Accounting 40S
Janae Hillmer	A-Math 40S
Lisa Termeer	Biology 40S

Special Awards

Citizenship Award	Robin Lodder
Scholten Education	Rhonda Lyn Vandenbos
Artal Farms	Rhonda Lyn Vandenbos
Dufferin Dental	Dana van Dijk
Co-op Community	Garret van Dijk
D&M Foods	Teri Douma/ Lisa Termeer
B.E.A.C.O.N. Award	Dana vanDijk/ Janae Hillmer

Bursaries

DCHS General	Ryan Vandenbos, Tim Bauer, Garret van Dijk Dana van Dijk, Teri Douma, Lisa Termeer
Walinga Trades	Ryan Vandenbos
Business	Garret van Dijk
Health	Teri Douma, Lisa Termeer

Free firewood

Anyone who would like firewood, please feel free to come and pick some up at the school Any that is on the south side of the school is free for the taking!!!

School Supply and Novel List for

Mrs. DeWit

List of novels for next year:

Grade 9: The Contender – Robert Lipsyte
I Heard the Owl Call My Name – Margaret Craven

Grade 10: To Kill a Mockingbird –Harper Lee
The Miracle Worker - William Gibson (supplied by the school)
Grain – Robert Stead

Grade 12: A Night to Remember – Walter Lord
The Importance of Being Ernest – Oscar Wilde
A Bird in the House – Margaret Laurence
Lord of the Flies – William Golding

Note to all English students: As more and more of you have trouble keeping up with the reading in class, you might want to consider a summer reading task: nothing stops you from acquiring and prereading the designated novels for your grade. It can only help you.

Supplies needed for 2009-2010

Grade 9, 10, and 12 English -a copy of Writers Inc. –Patrick Sebranek, Verne Meyer, Dave Kemper

A separate 1 inch binder for storing and eventually compiling English portfolio pieces. A set of page dividers and one envelope of plastic sleeves is handy for easy organization of entries.

-a paperback dictionary/thesaurus is a very useful tool to have

-black or blue pens, lined paper, a USB device, a pencil

-required novels (may be purchased from the school during the school term, or privately from those who are finished with them)

Grade 9 art -scrapbook

-a set of coloured pencils

-3 pencils of varying softness, preferably an HB, 3B and 5B. The addition of a 3H extends the possibilities

-one disposable camera or access to a digital camera

-Students may use their own real watercolours if they desire (for better quality work)

Reformed Studies Grade 9: Please hang on to your mission calendar and any mission news releases since we do have a mission unit.

Reformed Studies Grade 10: access to the lyrics of several songs by a popular gospel singer or group

All Reformed Studies: pens and lined paper

The following textbooks have not yet been returned.

This puts us in a position of having too few books for the class next year. Please return these books to the school immediately. The school is open yet for another week and the books can be dropped off at the secretary's office.

Animal Farm

Dianna Leyenhorst #5
Terry VanLeeuwen #27
Chrissy Huisman #16
Daniel Pol #7

Julius Caesar

Wesley Riedstra #18

Cody VanDijk #12
Sam Richardson #26

Church History –Keizer

Jared Vanderveen #6
Jeremy Vandervelde #18
Chrissy Huisman #3
Alison Brouwer #5
Sam Richardson #2
Wesley Riedstra #4

The Miracle Worker

Terry VanLeeuwen #3
Taylor Schulenberg #12

Jesse DeLeeuw #20
Sam Richardson #14

Canada in the Contemporary World (Gr.9 Socials)

Lori Leyenhorst
Tracy Termeer

From previous classes, still not in:

Shawn Riepema: Julius Caesar #9, Church in History -Keizer #11
Taylor Schulenberg: Merchant of Venice #2
Jesse DeLeeuw: Merchant of Venice #34

Missing Library Books

Please check your shelves for the following missing library books . Thank you!

Fiction

The Unexpected Gift	M. Pasytsch
The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood	Howard Pyle
Lord Brocktree: a Tale of Redwall	Brian Jacques
King of the Castle	Kathy Stinson
Beware the Fish!	Gordon Korman

Junior Easy

The Poor Little Rich King, and Other Stories	
Grimm's Fairy Tales	
Caleb's Story	Patricia MacLachlan
Dear Little Tramp	W.G. VandeHulst
The Pig Under the Pew	W. G. VandeHulst
Black Beauty	Leigh Hope Wood

Highschool Fiction

Betrayed	Patricia H. Rushford
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Junior Resource

The Manitoba Mixedwoods: a Forest in Transition	
Armies of Ants	Walter Retan
Lasers	Robin McKie
Wind Energy	Richard Graham
882 ½ Amazing Answers to Your Questions About the Titanic	Hugh Brewster
Welcome to Ukraine	Katharine Brown-Carpenter
Henry Hudson	Erinn Banting
The Last Safe House: A Story of the Underground Railroad	Barbara Greenwood

