

Secretary's Report

Jeremy Kamminga

Hello and welcome to another edition of the Beacon! It's that time of year again – back to the buses, books, and bagged lunches.

To start off with, on behalf of the board, I would like to welcome everyone to a new school year. We hope that our teachers and para-professional staff were able to enjoy some well-deserved time off this summer. It is our prayer that you will receive all that you need to carry out your tasks at DCS this coming school year. A special welcome to **Anje Jager** and **Courtney Vandermeulen**. Courtney is no stranger here, while Anje comes to us from Ontario, where she recently finished her studies at the CCRTC. All the best to both of you as you begin your teaching careers at DCS! We also hope that our students are refreshed to the point of being ready to carry on with the new grade ahead of them. We also pray that you will look to God to receive all that you need to complete your work at DCS this school year.

For the most part the board was able to take a break from our school related work this past summer as well. We ask for your prayers for us, as well as the staff and students, for God's blessing on all that we do at and for the DCS this year.

If you have a look inside and outside the school you should notice that not everyone has been relaxing this summer. Martin DeWit and crew spent several weeks completely stripping down and re-waxing the floors. The floors look brand new again – bright and shiny – they look great! Outside you will notice that quite a bunch of work was done to improve the look and function of the school grounds. The main soccer field was built up and slightly crowned to provide better water drainage. Borders were placed around the areas surrounding the playground equipment to help keep the pea stone from spreading all over the playground. The most prominent change is the removal and replacement of the row of trees south of the school. We realize that these trees have been well used and enjoyed by many a student over the years and that the trees will be missed. The reality is, though, that these trees were literally half dead and looking quite shabby. Thanks to Jacob Bosma and Tim VanderHooft for completing these and other improvements around the school yard.

Other than that there is not too much to report on. As board we urge you as parents to strive to build and maintain close and open relationships with the teachers of your child(ren) and vice versa as well. Let's work together under God's blessing to educate our children in a manner which builds up our faith and brings honor and glory to His Name!

Principal's Report

Andy Huisman

The Parents of Dufferin Christian School envision DCS as a place where students and teachers are engaged in the study of various subjects and enlightened by the Word of God, as confessed in the Belgic Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Canons of Dort, for living a life of Christian discipleship in contemporary society. ---

DCS Mission Statement

As you read this, another school year is about to start. Time for vacations and summer fun is drawing to a close and the school building is almost ready to accept all of the children. There has been much activity in and around the building this past summer. Work crews, and in particular **Tim VanderHooft** and **Jacob Bosma** have been busy sprucing up the outside and quite a few changes are readily noticeable as you walk the grounds. Inside, there is still a flurry of activity. The janitorial staff has once again performed their magic and the floors are so shiny that you can see your face in them. Teachers have their classrooms set up in a welcoming fashion that will have students eager to learn. We welcome two new teachers to DCS, **Miss Anje Jager (gr. 7)** and **Mrs. Courtney Vandermeulen (gr. 5)**. Judging by their classrooms, there are both as ready to go as the rest of the staff. I am sure that they will fit in and make their mark in DCS. I would like to thank all those who have worked so hard this summer to make DCS shine as a wonderful example of a great school.

I have said this before and will say it again. It is interesting to note that all of these changes, while interesting and beneficial, do not change the purpose of DCS. I started this article by sharing the mission statement of the school. "*The parents of DCS envision DCS ...*", DCS is a parental school, and as such I invite all parents to become involved in DCS. That may mean volunteering at school, attending interviews, social events, concerts, field trips, etc. More importantly, though, it means keeping DCS in your prayers. The school's purpose is to assist the parents in the education of their children, '*for living a life of Christian discipleship in contemporary society.*' Together, with God's blessing, that is the goal and purpose of DCS, and regardless of all the physical changes that take place at DCS, that goal and purpose will never change.

School Pictures – Monday, September 14th!

Brochures will be sent home with your child on Tuesday, **to be returned on picture day, Monday, Sept. 14.** All students will be photographed. Please complete a form for each school age child, with colour selection and pose.

School Theme – “*Shine your Light – Use your Gifts*”

“Yet, O Lord, You are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter, we are all the work of your hand.” Isaiah 64:8

Last year’s school theme “*Shine Your Light*” was based on 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.*” That theme pervaded many discussions, assemblies and lessons throughout the year. It was a theme that lent itself to many teachable moments in all areas of the school. As staff, we weren’t quite ready to let go of that theme. In a staff devotional at the end of last year, I shared with the staff a meditation on Proverbs 20:5 “*A plan in the heart of a man is like deep water, but a man of understanding draws it out.*” The devotional, by Charles Swindoll, talked about helping students discover their talents and interests. That devotional led to a discussion on how we could extend the “*Shine your Light*” theme this year. Talents and gifts are given by God and as such, we all have the responsibility to encourage each of our children to nurture those gifts. It is also important to help them understand that they have a responsibility to use those gifts. There are numerous Bible passages that talk of the gifts given to each of us and how we are expected to use them. *Philippians 4:8/9* talks about putting everything that we have learned from Christ into practice, *Romans 12:4 -6* talks about the many members of the body and how each has unique functions and how we are commanded to use our talents, *Matthew 25* deals with the Parable of the Talents and how, whether we have been given much or we have been given little, we are to use what we have been given. Discovering our talents, using our talents, helping each other in uncovering what God has given us is one way that we can also “*shine our light*”. It is a way of praising and thanking God for His gifts to us. The theme text from Isaiah 64:8, “*Yet, O Lord, You are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter, we are all the work of your hand.*” acknowledges that all of this is not any of our doing. We are simply that lump of clay in the hands of the Master. We, in ourselves, can do nothing, it is only through the grace of God that we are His people, we are the work of His hand. What a blessing!

First day of School – Wednesday, September 9

We will start the day with a school-wide opening assembly. This will take place in the gym and will begin shortly after 9:00 (depending on the arrival of the Elm Creek bus). Parents and children are very welcome to browse the school, find their classroom, and meet old friends. After the assembly, students will be accompanied by their teachers to their respective classrooms. If the classroom doors are open, you are invited to stop by and see what is happening. This is your school and as such, we would encourage all, young and old, to join us in the opening of a new school year.

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. A copy of the *Student's Handbook* is found on the school website under "*Student Information*". The handbook contains all of the pertinent information in regards to routines, conduct and policies that govern the student body. I would like to highlight one particular section of that handbook in regards to student behaviour. I would appreciate it if parents would take the time to share the following information with their children.

You are expected, as students of a Christian school, to present yourself in speech and conduct in a Christ-like fashion. The fruits of the spirit are 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.

High School Portfolio Project

"Exploring my gifts for serving God and my neighbor"

With the start of the new school year, the grade 9 class will also be starting the portfolio project (the grade 10/11 students will continue working on this project). The portfolio project is to be worked on during the final four years at DCS (grade 9-12). Students will earn a full credit for this project.

The portfolio is divided into five sections:

- Unit One – God’s Calling for Me: God’s Gifts to Me
- Unit Two – Exploring Opportunities: How can I fulfill my calling?
- Unit Three – Preparing for a changing world.
- Unit Four – Annual Summaries: Seeing who God made me to be.
- Unit Five – Graduation Summary: Who I am and how I have grown.

A fundamental component of this portfolio project is the “School and Community Service” component. It is one thing to talk about exploring gifts, thinking about ways in which to shine our light, but we fall short if that is where we stop and do not put our words into practice. It is through service that we may discover more about our gifts. The word ‘gift’ carries with it the inherent concepts of “Giver” (a gift has to be given by Someone) as well as responsibility (a receiver of a gift has the privilege and responsibility to make use of the gift given). To that end, over a period of four years, the students are to accumulate a number of hours spent in volunteer service to the school and the community.

In- school service hours may include things such as, but not limited to:

- Coaching. refereeing sporting events
- Student Action Leadership Team
- Student Athletics
- Mentoring/tutoring younger students
- Yearbook
- Library

Community service hours may include things such as, but not limited to:

- Church related activities (VBS)
- Fall Clean/Spring Clean
- Community organizations (Christmas Cheer Board, MCC, Prolife, Partners and Pals)
- Community Projects
- Community sports (i.e minor soccer coach)
- Hospital/Care Home
- Not-for-Profit Agencies (YFC)

The list is not an exhaustive nor restrictive list. The intent is to stimulate the children to consider their gifts and to use them for the glory of the Lord and the benefit of their neighbour. If you have opportunity to use students in this manner, simply call the school and we will make the necessary arrangements. As well, you may know of volunteer opportunities that exist that we may not be aware of. By truly being a community, we can share these ideas and opportunities

with one another and thus provide our children with new experiences. I would encourage everybody to be aware of such opportunities and to inform the school of them. That way they can be passed along to the students. You can also check the school website under "*Volunteer Opportunities*". This page will be updated as the school is informed of opportunities.

Pandemic Preparedness Policy

In light of the concerns regarding the H1N1 virus, the Minister of Education has required all schools in Manitoba to develop an action plan in the event of a possible pandemic. The purpose of the action plan is to ensure that all parents and students are informed of the precautions that schools will take to help prevent and/or deal with a possible pandemic. DCS is currently working on this, and once completed, will provide the necessary information to the membership.

Emergency Medical Information

From time to time, all parents have been required to fill in a portion of a consent form that requires all of the necessary medical information for your child. Sometimes that form is for a field trip, sometimes for an athletic event, or camping trip. In order to reduce the number of times that you have to fill in this form, the school will be sending home one copy of the blank form for each school aged child in your family. This form will be kept on file and used whenever your child is away from school. The forms will be sent home on the first day of classes and we ask that you fill in the forms and return asap. Thank you for your cooperation and we hope that by doing this, it will make it easier for both sides.

DCS Website

I would like to invite everybody to regularly check out the school's website. It does get updated fairly often. If you haven't seen it lately, take a peek. It is a great place to check out samples of student's work, view pictures of various events that have taken place at the school. You can also read copies of the newsletter and the Beacon online or find information about bursaries and awards. If you have other suggestion for items that you would like to see posted on our web simply drop me an e-mail . www.dufferinchristian.ca

Zone 4 Sports

It's time for those soccer games again. Upcoming games have been marked on our September calendar. Come on out and cheer the students on. All games start at 4:30 p.m. See you there.

O range - M aple F oundation

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. The exchange students are *eagerly* awaiting information on whom they will be staying with.

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 my sisters are married. One sister has kids, 3 girls. I live on a farm in IJsselmuiden and it seems to 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 hobbies... 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 my parents and a Friend of mine. My 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 people in Canada of my age. I look forward to see how the lessons at school are going. I think they 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; it's about 1 hour drive from Amsterdam. Kampen is a very nice medieval city with a lot of ancient buildings. I have a father, a mother and 2 brothers. One of my 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. On 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 youth group 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 ,cucumbers, 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. It 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



Final Thoughts

I would like to extend our appreciation to the membership for the love, support and prayers for DCS that is strongly evident on a day to day basis. I would encourage each and every member to stop by at the school from time to time to witness what DCS is all about and to show your children and their teachers, your support for the very important work.

To be able to start another year of operation is truly a blessing received from the Lord. It is a great opportunity to celebrate the blessings of covenantal, reformed education. In keeping with the theme I will end with these words – *“There is no small service to God – it all matters.”*

Have a blessed Sunday!

“Yet, O Lord, You are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter, we are all the work of your hand.” Isaiah 64:8

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

September is just around the corner and soon school will begin! We are very excited to begin our Kindergarten year. Kindergarten will be held on **Mondays** and **Wednesdays** for the first two months of school, except for Friday, Oct. 16. Beginning in November we will have school on Fridays every other week as well. So the one week we will have school on three days, and the next week there will be only two days. You will be given a schedule with all the K-days posted on it in the beginning of the year.

Students should bring the following items to school: a backpack to carry books and papers; indoor shoes (**non-lacing shoes**) which can be worn in the classroom and in the gym; a large painting shirt; a pillow to sit on; and a box of Kleenex. Please be sure to label all items except for the Kleenex box.

Please provide your child with a drink and snack for snack time (10:30), as well a lunch and drink for lunch time. We will also have a short snack time at 3:00.

Our first day of school, Sept. 9, will begin with a school assembly at 9:00 in the gym. Students will go to the assembly with their parents, and then **after the assembly**, students and their parents are invited to come to the Kindergarten room and find a location for their belongings. Lunch bags should be put into the labeled cubbies, pillows go in the reading area, paint shirts go into a plastic storage box, and back packs should be placed on shelf near the block area. Our beginning activities will be similar to our Kindergarten Orientation day routine. Students will greet me and I will give them a name tag. Students

will be asked to sign their name. They may then look around the room to see if they can find their names anywhere. Then they can find an activity to do at one of the tables in the room.

Please let me know how your child will be going home after school. If he/she is going on a bus they will need to have a “bus buddy” – someone who can watch your child and make sure he gets on the bus. Usually this is an older sibling, and if that is not possible please consider asking someone else on the bus. **The Kindergarten students are not allowed to leave the school without their “bus buddy”.** This helps to ensure that they get on the right bus at the right time. Thanks!

I hope this gives you an idea of what to expect on the first day of school. I am looking forward to meeting you all again on September 9.

Jane Stad

Novel list for ELA 2009-2010 – Mrs. DeWit

Grade 9: The Contender – Robert Lipsyte

I Heard the Owl Call My Name – Margaret Craven

The Merchant of Venice –supplied by the school

Grade 10: To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee

The Miracle Worker – William Gibson (supplied by the school)

Grain – Robert Stead

Julius Caesar –supplied by the school

Grade 12 Comprehensive

Hamlet – Shakespeare (supplied by the school)

Lord of the Flies – Sir William Golding

A Bird in the House – Margaret Laurence

A Night to Remember – Walter Lord

The Importance of Being Ernest – Oscar Wilde

All grades in English use Writers’ Inc. , the student handbook for writing.

