

Chairman's report

Arie Veenendaal

On October 25, 2010 we could hold our Annual Membership Meeting. It was truly wonderful to see the large turn out of members and supporters of Dufferin Christian School. We can truly be thankful to God for His rich blessings. From the various reports it was evident that DCS is running well on all fronts. The chairman could reflect on the fact that in order to be involved with DCS, in any capacity, each of us needs to remember our personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The secretary could report on some of the highlights from the past year, including the addition of new staff. The principal could share some of the spirit that lives in the school among the students and staff. The treasurer could give a report of a healthy balance sheet, and that healthy balance sheet is due as well to the support and involvement of the membership. The property and maintenance could report on a school that is well looked after, from a physical perspective, of which a highlight was the improved sound in the gym. The DCS vision committee could report on some of their work to date as they begin the exciting task of planning ahead, from many different fronts. Although not every committee brought a report, it is recognized that much more takes place than what we heard at the meeting. I need only mention the education committee, the promotion committee, the library committee, the technology committee.

Thank you

At the Annual Meeting we could recognize the contribution from Mrs. Alice Linde with her 20 plus years of teaching at DCS. From this column we would also like to thank Talbot Bergsma for his contribution as our MFIS representative and the many meetings and functions that he has attended on our behalf. At the same time we wish Tim VanderHooft all he needs to take over this position. A big thank you is also in order for the 6 years on the board from Dolf Feddes. He has spent many hours at this task and it goes without saying that we greatly appreciate your years of volunteer service. Thank you to all 5 members who let their name stand for nomination. Welcome, Anton Borst, to the school board. Anton has taken on the position of vice chairman and treasurer.

Committee appreciation

I want to take a moment to express appreciation to all the work that the members of the various committees do on behalf of DCS parents. Like was mentioned at the annual meeting, the school board relies very much on the diligent working behind the scenes from the committees. DCS is a large school with many students and many needs. Education and learning is always evolving. New issues and challenges arise every week, if not every day. The school board consists of only 5 members, who receive their mandate to deal with the day to day needs of DCS, from the membership. In order for DCS to truly reflect the wishes of the membership it then needs the dedicated input from as many of you as possible. Time does not permit the 5 school board members to deal with all of the issues in depth, and as such we call on and rely on the committee's input. We thank all of you for your work in this past year and encourage you to be diligent and thorough into this next year. It goes without saying that this appreciation also goes out to the staff of DCS. Your commitment and love for the students is recognized. Your daily involvement in the education of our children is foundational to their development.

What is important to you as a supporter of a Covenantal school?

As you could hear at the annual meeting the Vision Committee is looking for input. Now is the time to give a member a call or send him a note as to your priorities for the future of DCS. The decisions and recommendations that this committee will make will have influence as to the future of DCS. What is important to you as a supporter of a Covenantal school? What courses should/could be added, what physical building needs are important to you, how important is additional technology/computer training, etc? **What do you feel is working well, not working so well and what could be added to this learning institution we call DCS?** The committee is working hard and fast so if you have thoughts, this week would be a great time to share that with them.

Prayer

In among all of our thoughts and activities please remember to pray for strength, harmony, love, faithfulness, joyfulness and all the other gifts we all need as parents, students, staff and board and committee members. Our purpose is as always to do our best, in whatever task God gives us, to His praise and honour.

Treasurer's Report

Dolf Feddes

At the time of writing this report the annual meeting is more than a week in the past. Looking back at this meeting the one thing that really stands out is the large turnout from members at this meeting. It is the largest turnout I have seen in 6 years serving at the board. To the board members this is a sign that the society members are genuinely interested in the well being of the school. This support shows not only in words, but also in deeds, as one can see in the large number of volunteers, helpers, committee members and many other functions inside and outside the school. And yes, as *former* treasurer, also your financial support is important to keep the school operating. In my reports over the last few years I have mentioned quite a few times that the board would like to see an increase in the number of members. We certainly have seen some very encouraging results leading to a total of 140 members on the list published before last annual meeting. But we can still do better. There are still too many people that do qualify for membership but are not members. If you know of some of these persons in your family or circle of friends why not help the board members and talk to them about why it is important to support Reformed Education.

At the last meeting the board has appointed Anton as the new treasurer. His support and dedication to DCS combined with years of experience at the board table will be a great asset to the school. Please help him out a bit by staying current in your membership dues; it makes the job of treasurer so much easier.

As for me this is my last report to you as members. I would like to thank the many persons that I had the pleasure to work with in the last 6 years. Thanks to all the staff

for giving me the opportunity to visit their classrooms, I learned a lot just from observing you. I'd also like to thank our principal Andy, chairman Arie, former chair Harry and all other board members over the last years for the great working relationships. Also our bookkeeper Sarah who spends many hours to create reports for the board and keeps the books in a very efficient and transparent way. It's been a pleasure working with all of you. May our God bless the work at DCS now and in the future.

Principal's report

Andy Huisman

“O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!”

Psalm 8:1

Isn't it an absolutely beautiful time of year? The majesty of God's world is ever present. The season is starting to change and there is beauty in that change. The air is crisp, the geese are flying overhead, the weather is nice enough that the playground can still be used without tracking mud into the school. Soon it will be time for warm coats and boots, time for shovelling the front sidewalk off of snow and ice. As the year goes through its cycles, under the hand of our God, the school also goes through its cycles. We are at the time of year where report cards will soon be going home. The reports that show the progress of your children as they work their way through their various studies. Soon it will be time for the regular parent teacher conferences. I would encourage each of you to make parent-teacher interview arrangements with the school secretary. If you are unable to make such arrangements, please feel free to phone your child's teacher to discuss any issues that may arise.

In this edition of the Beacon, you will be able to read of the many learning experiences that the staff had while attending the last CRTA-West convention. It is always good to share these with the membership as it gives you a small taste of this valued experience that we were able to enjoy.

There are a few items that I would like to bring to everybody's attention.

Visit of Christine vanHalen-Faber

With two students of Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College at our school for three weeks in November comes the privilege of having one of the faculty members here for a couple of days as well. This year Mrs. Christine Faber will be coming. We are setting a public meeting date for **Thursday November 18 at 8:00 p.m. at Dufferin Christian School** (we do acknowledge this is a Bible Study evening, but it is the only evening available to us and we wanted to give the opportunity for our school society to make connection with the CCRTC while they are here in Manitoba). The topic:

"The teacher as pedagogue: Play-filled teaching for imaginative learning"

Reformed education today is a vibrant activity that connects home and school in many different ways. Keeping in mind the words of the apostle Peter, "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others. . ." (1 Peter 4:10a) we will explore how Reformed teachers can use their God-given gifts to evoke the best possible learning in our students. We will see how good pedagogical practice involves head, heart, and hands in order to help our students use the gifts they have been given by our God.

Remembrance Day Assembly

We are thankful for the freedoms that we have in this country and for His steadfast hand over all of it. When we speak of those freedoms, our minds also go to all of those who through the various wars have fought to maintain that freedom. To commemorate their contribution, this coming **Wednesday, Nov. 10, is the school's K-12 Remembrance Day assembly. All are invited to attend this assembly at 2:45 p.m.**

As this Beacon is quite lengthy with the many reports from both the teachers and the Board, the many exciting contributions from the grade 5 class, I will keep my report short. Thank you to the parents for your continued love and support for the school. Our God is an awesome God!

Have a blessed Sunday.

DCS Sports Program

Another season of soccer has come and gone, at this point of time I would like to say thank-you to our coaches for another wonderful year. Thank you all to our fans that came out and supported all of our athletes, they truly appreciate it. A huge thank you also goes to all the parents who have supported the athletes this year, through driving to and from games as well as the many prayers for safety while our students were travelling and playing.

I would like to say thank-you to all those who have supported our athletics program as well through everyone's many fundraising efforts. Whether the steak supper @ the Bosmas, Ladies Aid, hot dog lunches and drop in evenings, all these funds help support and run our program for our students, as the cost for many of these activities we participate in is quite costly.

We have also purchased new backboards and rims for our gym, which were recently installed this past week on Wednesday. Thank you to Brendan Bergsma for installing these new pieces of equipment, as well as all

his helpers: Jesse D, Kirk D, Richard L, Andrew VV, and Dean B. They are a great new addition to our gym equipment. If you have a chance please come by the school and take a look, they look great! Some students have made great use of them already, during lunch they are used extensively and even after school, to the point of students missing busses to get home, although the nice fall weather is a great time for a walk.

We are entering basketball season again shortly; practices for those that want to try out for the varsity boy's team will be starting this Tuesday at 8:00 in the morning. We have at least 18 boys trying out for the team from grades 9 – 12, with approximately 11 athletes able to make the team. It should make for some great practices in the coming weeks. The boys also have 2 exhibition games coming up in December, mark these dates on your calendar if you would like to see what the boys team will look like this year, Dec. 8 @ Carman Collegiate: 5:30 game time. Dec 15 @DCS 7:00 game time. Team selection will be made on December 16; if you would like more information about the varsity boy's basketball team please contact Michael Raap (745-2278) Regular season play will start in January.

The girls will be starting practice shortly as well; there practices will run Monday and Wednesday nights. Thank you to Anje Jager and Nikki Kooiker also for taking on this enormous task, and the long season of basketball.

Basketball fees have not been set yet, as the teams have not finalized all their tournament play this year. The girls are entered into two tournaments so far, one in Elm Creek and another @ Carman Collegiate. The boys are entered in 3 tournaments to date: Ste. Anne, Tuelon, as well as Gimli. The boy's tournament in Gimli will be an overnigher and more details will follow in the coming months. **Michael Raap**

CRTA-West Convention Reports

Effective Leadership

Submitted by Mr. T. VanderHooft

At this year's CRTA-West Convention, I was privileged to attend three different workshops. In addition to Rob vanSpronsen's session on *Student Resistance* and Len Lodder's workshop on *Christ-Esteem*, I also attended a workshop on *Effective Leadership*, presented by Mr. Ed Hoogerdyk, principal of Tyndale Christian School in Calgary, AB.

By way of introduction, Mr. Hoogerdyk opened the dialogue by suggesting that leaders have a vision; that they see where they would like to lead those left in their charge. However, sometimes that vision is hindered by the resources available or by certain limitations placed on the leader.

Further, leaders must understand their need to explore all options in order to accomplish their goals.

Mr. Hoogerdyk then went on to the main component of his presentation. He shared with us what he had gleaned from his reading of John MacArthur's book *The **Book** on Leadership*, a work written for those persons in or desiring of leadership roles. Complete with notes on each chapter, Mr. Hoogerdyk plainly revealed the content of the book, suggesting it to us all as a useful resource. MacArthur's book suggests that leadership has always had a spiritual dimension and that, in the person and work of Jesus Christ, Christians have the best model of leadership to emulate. So, in addition to school leaders, he suggested the book to be a great read for fathers, business executives, and officers of the church. Based on the leadership of Christ and of the Apostle Paul, MacArthur summarizes the traits of the ideal leader into 26 leadership principles:

An effective leader...

1. Is Trustworthy
2. Takes the Initiative
3. Uses Good Judgment
4. Speaks with Authority
5. Strengthens Others
6. Is Optimistic and Enthusiastic
7. Never Compromises the Absolutes
8. Focuses on Objectives, not Obstacles
9. Empowers by Example
10. Cultivates Loyalty
11. Has Empathy for Others
12. Keeps a Clear Conscience
13. Is Definite and Decisive
14. Knows When to Change His Mind
15. Does Not Abuse His Authority
16. Doesn't Abdicate His Role in the Face of Opposition
17. Is Sure of His Calling
18. Knows His Own Limitations
19. Is Resilient
20. Is Passionate
21. Is Courageous
22. Is Discerning
23. Is Disciplined
24. Is Energetic
25. Knows How to Delegate
26. Is Christlike

Following the book presentation, we had a session of small-group discussion, sharing various examples and experiences related to the 26 principles. Among other things, I left this session with two thoughts: "a true a leader is *an example to follow*" and "I think I'm gonna buy that book!"

“Rituals of Resistance”

Presentation by Rob vanSpronsen -- Submitted by Liz DeWit

During our afternoon of workshops, I moved from Christine VanHalen-Faber's presentation on types of learners to Rob vanSpronsen's rituals of resistance, definitely a trait of our dynamic students.

Resistance is defined as a set of student behaviours that appear to resist the instructional methods of the school, and can result in an overwhelming feeling of helplessness for the teacher, who is involved, without any choice in the matter, in a struggle over power and symbolic meanings.

This resistance occurs in seemingly average students, and although it is not necessarily personal, it does affect the students' abilities to achieve critical thinking; it affects the students' behaviours, the teacher's ability to instruct and maintain a positive attitude towards the class, and the school's ability to achieve academic and social goals.

A large question is, "Why do students do this?" Different theories exist:

- students try to change the school environment – it can be about poor teaching, lack of respect or the students' perception of the teacher and the schooling they are receiving
- students are disappointed in their expectation that the school will change their lives
- personality characteristics of a struggle with identity
- school's definition of appropriate behaviour differs from theirs
- schools generate resistance by explicit expectations

We do need to try to get to the root of the problem. Rules and authority are a necessary part of school, at the same time, we need to ensure that the rules are reasonable and make sense in terms of the schooling of all the students. The school must be clear about its values and beliefs; claiming to be Christian, it and its teachers need to be Christian in teaching and in conduct and need to insist on Christian conduct on the part of the students, consistently, integrating faith and learning. Teachers need to make connections to everyday life and establish relationships with the students.

In today's society, where the cult of teenage rebelliousness has become a norm, we, as Christians, must deal with each other with respect and dignity, acknowledging each other as God's children, valuable because God loved us first, and united in a common goal, to serve our God.

This call to respect is threefold: teachers for students and parents, parents for teachers, and students for teachers and parents. Together, we must strive for excellence, for this is what God desires from us, namely the dedicated use of the talents and gifts He has given us, to His honour and glory.

Obviously, this workshop left a lot of thinking to be done, as we apply what we learned in the problems of resistance that confront us from day to day.

“Not as I will, but as You will”

By Len Lodder

“Not as I will, but as you will” was the title of the keynote presentation given by Mr. Hans VanDooren at the CRTA West Teachers Convention 2010. I cannot hope to give a full picture of what was in this presentation. The presentation was very orderly but also very full. To my mind there are many discussion starting points in this message. Here is a little “taste” of the flavor of this remarkable presentation.

In introducing this topic Mr. VanDooren showed how the whole idea of promoting self-esteem in education and society at large, turned this title completely backwards. It is more like, “not as you will but as I will.” He pointed out that such thinking does not lead to the strengthening but the weakening of the entire culture. Instead culture is better served by each of us having a high regard for others. We need to look for opportunities to serve.

Although it is true that even recent secular research is saying that instilling the notion of self-esteem in children is not what it was thought to be, the idea of entitlement dies a slow death. It will take some time for it to come from research to the mindset of our culture. (I suspect this is true because we, as a culture, want to hold on to the ideology that man is the measure of all things)

It is important to keep a proper balance as we apply a Christ-centered education. Mr. VanDooren suggested that home, church and school each have their role to play in this balance. The home is the place where Christ-centeredness is incubated. The parents have a responsibility to teach a child from the earliest stages to put aside esteem for themselves to notice those around him, especially siblings and other family members. This is where they begin to look to Christ. The church inculcates Christ-centeredness through the preaching of the gospel message. The school helps the child integrate faith and life so the child may develop this knowledge into a world and life view.

The Christian school must keep a good balance between the cultural mandate and the great commission; taking care of the earth as God’s vice-regent, being fruitful and multiplying, and being an agent of spreading the gospel, the making of disciples are important aspects to keep in mind. There is often much disagreement as to how much the school should be used for the great commission. The question is often asked, “Isn’t that the task of the church?” The school does not wish to take away any authority from the home nor the church but to assist parents in their charge to “tell the next generation.”

Of course, we must add the aspect of the covenant. The children God has given us are His covenant children and as such have received the promise of salvation through faith in Christ Jesus and the obligation to live a life of thankful obedience. The students’ head and

heart must receive attention. Information and transformation are goals for the educational enterprise.

Ultimately we want to deliver all this in a balanced, Christ-centred education. We must have foresight, knowing the goal of our integrating work that it might be Christian and Reformed. We thus must be centered on Scripture and Confession. We must have insight into how the intellect and the heart receive instruction and process it. And we must have hindsight, understanding the context of our schools within our communities.

Not only should the education of our students be Christ-centred, it should be teacher-directed. Mr. VanDooren said that how we teach will have more impact on our students than what we teach. As an aside this whole discussion brought to mind the book that the DCS staff is currently studying, Teaching Redemptively: Bringing Grace and Truth into your Classroom by Donovan Graham.

Concentrating on the “how” we saw that a teacher should be reflecting on how they are coming across to the students. Even the public system has ethical standards for teachers which include care, respect, trust, and wisdom. Excellent teachers are passionately knowledgeable and biblically grounded; love for the Lord and love for the children. What we should model for our students is that we too are children of God and followers of Christ who seek wisdom based on the fear of the Lord. Yes, teachers need to find time to be “in the word,” submitting to it and putting it into practice (reminds us of our theme text Matthew 7:24).

Concentrating on the “what” we saw that a teacher should have a good grasp of what he/she is teaching. Content selection is an important aspect of what we do. We should consider how to use this knowledge to stimulate a student’s sense of wonder at God’s creation. Our concentration is on discovering and developing our minds and our gifts, emphasizing the importance of obedience to our calling as covenant children. At one point in our discussion of this point our speaker pointed out that our schools were started as a type of “greenhouse;” a place where the tender plants (ie our children) could grow and develop under the strictest care and protection. However our schools should increasingly become places where our children are outfitted as soldiers ready to do battle by living faithfully in obedience to the cultural mandate and the great commission. This can happen only when teachers (and the boards/committees involved with these decisions) continue to equip themselves with a thorough knowledge of their material and continually cultivate their knowledge and love for God’s revelation in Scripture.

As a fitting conclusion we considered Ecclesiastes 12:13, *“Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.”* Not much room there for the notion of building up your own esteem but for working for the Lord and relying on him to build us up as his covenant children: teachers and students.

Christ Esteem

Workshop Presented by Len Lodder -- *Report by Nick Gunnink*

Yes, I traveled all the way to the hamlet of Caronport to hear what Len Lodder had to share with his teaching colleagues! Doesn't sound real practical does it? What made the experience extra enriching is that the workshop is shared with colleagues whom you don't regularly have contact.

Mr. Hans VanDooren opened up the convention with an address which encouraged teachers to submit their will to the LORD's will despite the temptation to do otherwise. One aspect of this is the need for the teacher to reflect on his/her personal spiritual growth. Len's workshop did a good job of developing this aspect.

Our sense of well-being is often tied to our feelings of being successful. This means that we're not left with a whole lot when we fail and fall short. Len led us through a workshop that encourages us to take our eyes off ourselves. When we look to ourselves we are faced with our sinfulness: we sin because we are sinners. With this realization we have two options: build up ourselves or have ourselves built up in Christ. The first option is a trend in many education systems. The student and teacher are encouraged to feel better about themselves using various techniques in order to build up their self-esteem. The product of such a process is inward looking, selfish individuals.

Our only other option is to look to Christ. Don Matzat, in his book, [Christ Esteem: Where the Search for Self-Esteem Ends](#), says that it is good to come to the end of our rope such that we realize we are incapable of any good. Our failures, discouragements, and disappointments are God's way of bringing us to the end of our ropes. In the spirit of 2 Corinthians 5:14 and Galatians 2:20 we are to consider ourselves as being dead. When we come to that point the only thing we can do is turn to the person of Jesus Christ and his redeeming work.

By the grace of God we turn to Jesus and this has huge implications. If Jesus died, then we also died. And if Jesus came to life, then we also have come to life again (2 Corinthians 5:17). With the time he had left Len led us through the rest of Matzat's book. I would encourage you to pick up this book because I won't be able to do justice to Matzat's insights with the space I have left here.

Mr. Lodder's workshop was a real encouragement for our work as teachers. There is the reality of discouragement and disappointment but these serve to drive us to Christ. When we, students, teachers, parents and everyone else involved in the operation of Dufferin Christian School, are driven to Christ as God intended, what we think of ourselves does not matter so much as who we are in Christ!

PROMOTING CHRIST ESTEEM WE'VE ALL GOT GIFTS AND TALENTS.

Submitted by Mirjam Doek

A healthy relationship with God translates into a healthy relationship with each other. We are to be like Jesus to each other and the world.

In this workshop, Engelina Vanlaar shared a lot of her ideas and experiences with us. She gave us ideas for theme months, activities in the classroom. She categorized this in 5 main focus areas to develop, mature and apply the gifts and talents God has given us.

1. Safety among others (Col.3:1-17)

Are you a mosquito (irritating, a pest , bothersome) or a lady bug (gentle, happy)
Don't use hurtful words, but be helpful, compliment others.

2. Honouring and valuing each other (Luke 14:7-14)

Humble ourselves and make ourselves less so others can be more.

3. Giving: Living with each other (Deut. 15:1-4)

Theme month: Mission Month

4. Hospitality (Romans 12:13)

Activities: singing at old age homes, Pen Pals with Word and Deed children, making and sending cards.

5. Christ centered – self esteem (2Cor. 1:21-22)

Teaching and demonstrating the differences

- Learn to live who you are
- Live the same outside as inside
- Activities: Student of the month, Student Council, Student Mentors, Proverbs Bumper Stickers

It was a practical and enjoyable workshop.

First/Second Year Teachers Sharing Session

Submitted by Anje Jager

To start off, I'd like to say this was very beneficial and I encourage any first and second [maybe even third] year teachers to attend this seminar. It makes you realize that, although the first years are hard and jam- packed with marking, prepping, and a lot of late nights, you are not in it alone. It does get easier.

We discussed a few issues such as how to conduct interviews, how to communicate with parents - and not feel scared, how to get a hold of teachers who teach the same grade, EA's in the classroom, how to interact and communicate with them, and how to survive.

Dr. Christine Van Halen-Faber attended this Seminar and guided us through it. She commented on all the above issues, gave pointers and told us, "Always ask questions. First year is survival; second year generally becomes easier to handle" [we hope]. Van Halen-Faber helped us realize that teaching is not easy, but you do become more experienced, as time goes on.

Parent/ teacher interviews were one of the biggest concerns that we discussed. How do you act? What do you do? How do you approach a parent if their child is struggling? What do you say about a brilliant student? All these were summed up with the idea that you, the teacher, are trying your best.

Communication was a big part of our discussion. We conversed about the church, home, and school, what their roles are and how we can work together. We came to the conclusion that agenda's and communication books are a most helpful way to assist teaches and parents in getting to know each other and helping their child stay focused and organized. It's even nice for encouragement or a good laugh. For example one teacher in grade one received a note in her student's agenda; "Roses are red, violets are blue, if my boy is messed up, I'm blaming you!"

Was this session worth it? Yes, it was good to know that we are feeling the same way as other teachers. Furthermore, we gathered common ideas and shared our horror stories; we relived terrible moments, and shared encouraging and entertaining stories about our love for the job - the best job ever. This session made clear that we must stick with it even through the rough patches; we're not alone. Most importantly, we came to the realization that God is with us every step of the way; guiding us and helping us make a positive impact on the future generation.

First Time, First Impression

By Deb Vanderveen

Teacher's Convention...wow, a bit intimidating when you are "just" a Learning Assistant!! Could I pick out the Learning Assistants in the large group of people that were there? No! We were a large group of people, there to learn about ways of teaching and helping our students learn.

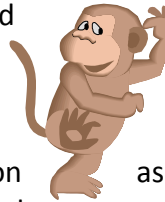
Did I learn anything? Yes, I did learn something in each session that can be applied to our lives, for our students, from what qualities make a good teacher, to "playing" in a classroom that can be "teaching" moments, and about "thinking outside the box". That being said, I had even greater opportunity to learn from the teachers on the bus ride and during our free time. I felt a bit like Ruth, gleaning in the fields, but I had a field of wisdom to glean from. I am grateful for the opportunity to have participated in the Teacher's Conference and the valuable learning experience it was!

Grade 5 Contribution

The Grade 5 class has been reading legends (for example: How the Rooster got his Crown). They wrote their own legends, which you can enjoy reading now!

Why Monkey's and Hyena's always Laugh *by Justine Hamming*

Once upon a time, monkeys and hyenas always were serious. They never had a smile on their face. Their life was so boring. Since monkeys and hyena's lived together, they were getting bored. There was no such thing as a monkey laugh, 1099, the sun never seemed to shine in the forest. No sun, no smile, no laugh. Soon a monkey mother gave birth to a strange monkey. They never saw such a thing. The monkey's and hyena's decided to call it "Gorilla". As soon as the gorilla was 5, he started to beat on his chest. The hyenas and monkey's started to smirk, then grin, and then... they exploded with laughter. Since then monkeys and hyena's always laughed. The End.



How the Mouse got its Tail *by Joel Vanderveen*

Once upon a time there was a mouse who loved cheese and a cat who loved mice. The cat would always chase him everywhere. So the cat got a mouse trap and put some cheese on it. But the mouse would not step on it. So, one day the cat caught the mouse and put a tail on it. One day, the cat put another trap with cheese then the mouse went to the cheese and the mouse's tail got caught. That's why mice have tails.



Why some men are Bald *by Marissa vanLaar*

Once, men had hair all over their scalps until they died. But there was this very unfortunate chap who was getting a hair cut because he had lice. Then his mother thought, why not PULL it all out? And when his mother had pulled a bit out, he said, "Ow, Ow! What are you doing!?" His mother said, "I am pulling out your hair because you have lice". At that, he ran to the police station to tell the officers that his mother had committed a horrible crime. By and by the year passed and his hair never grew back. Then he got married and had a son. His son had no hair in the middle of his head. Neither did his son, and if you are ever wondering if your father, husband, or son has a bald patch on the back of his head, just think of my story and trace back the family line and I'm sure that unfortunate chap was your husbands great great great grandfather. The End.



Why the Owl can turn his head all the way Around by *Daphne Linde*

Once, a very, very, long time ago an owl and a rabbit were sitting in a tree. Now at this time, rabbits were wise and owls weren't.

Two trees behind them were about to fall on them. The rabbit cried "watch out" for he had seen them and was on the ground. The owl turned his head a little bit to see why he had to watch out. Just then, the trees fell and his head was in the middle of them. These trees were small trees, but big enough to get his head stuck. Now this rabbit was a rabbit who like to play tricks. The rabbit left him there and said, "serves you right, but I am a rather nice rabbit so will get some friends and help you get unstuck." (Now, of course that wasn't true). The owl waited for a long time but the rabbit did not come back. Finally, he fell asleep.



That night, the rabbit and some of his friends came. They turned his head all the way around. Then they left him (at this time owls were awake during the day and asleep during the night). Early the next morning, before the owl was awake they took the trees away. His head was still backwards.

When the owl woke up he didn't remember anything. He took a step forward (to him it was a step backward). Then he fell forward. When he finally stopped bouncing his head had turned back. The rabbit's ran off laughing. Then he discovered he could still turn his head backward. The he told his friends and they decided to be wise from now on. Then the rabbits decided to play more tricks on other people and on every trick they became less wise. That's why the owl can turn his head all the way around.

How the Pig got a Curly Tail by *Luke Boeve*

Once upon a time, a long, long time ago, a pig was living at a farm. One day the owner came out to feed it some breakfast. The owner had curly hair and the pig had a straight tail. So he was starting to get jealous at his owner so one day he tried to pull his tail off, but of course, it didn't work. So he tried something else. The next day, he tripped his owner and tried to pull some of his hair out. But of course, it didn't work either. So he almost gave up trying to get a curly tail. But one day he thought of another idea. So when his owner came out he snuck out the gate and went inside. So he went to the bathroom and got the curler and curled his tail.

**Why the Ostrich cannot Fly** by *Russell Termeer*

Once upon a time, the ostrich was short and was a great flier. He would boast and boast about his flying talents. All of the animals were getting quite annoyed so they decided to do something about it. They decided to give him so many gifts of food and splendor that the ostrich would grow too fat to fly. The elephant and the hare worked together to get 100 beetles for the ostrich every day, and the

giraffe gave the ostrich his long neck. After a while the ostrich got so used to being fed he demanded 1,000 beetles every day. How could the hare and the elephant get 1,000 beetles? So they went to the lion, their king. The king was glad to help his subjects and he sent for the ostrich. The ostrich was way too fat to fly by now, but he had never tried flying yet. Why should he? When the ostrich got there he felt very proud. But when he heard what the king had to say, he felt very sad. "Because you have been so proud and greedy you will stay this size forever and you will never fly ever again. But, so you will be less vulnerable to predators I will give you long legs on which to run." Ever since, the ostrich had been very humble.

Why a Mouse has a Long Tail by David Koster

Once there was a cat. He always ran around and around the yard looking for food, like birds and mice. Sometimes he quietly went inside to look for the fish and hamster. Once he was even chasing the hamster when it was in its ball. Once he was outside and saw a mouse, the mouse was fat and could hardly run. When the cat got it, the cat dragged it by its tail, that's why mice have long tails!



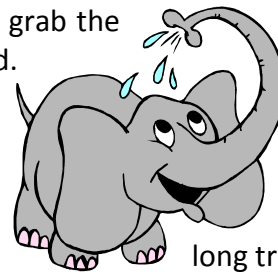
Why a Rabbit can Walk on Two Feet by Brandon Vanderwoude

One day a rabbit was walking along. He met a fox. The rabbit said, "my two feet are frozen." Well now the fox was keen in his senses. "Try walk on two feet and not four." "Well, I'll try." So the rabbit got up on two feet and started walking. Now the rabbit was not that bad at walking on two feet. He will need a little more practicing. So that's how the rabbit learned how to walk on two feet and not four.



Why the Elephant has a Long Trunk by Larisa Beichter

Once there was an elephant who saw a fox fishing, so he asked, "how do you fish?" So the fox said, "you put your mouth in the water and you open it and try to grab the fish with it." So elephant put his mouth in the water and grabbed around. One went on his trunk, he figured it was one. So the fox saw a shark grab the fish, and he said "its one, a shark, and not another fish," and he elephant's trunk. He said "now I will pull." So he did. So it was too heavy and he broke his trunk. He told others about it, they didn't believe it so they did it too, and they all broke their trunks. That is why the elephant has a long trunk.



Why not all Cats have Bushy Tails by Cheyenne Gansekoele

Once, when cats had bushy tails, a fox came across a cat with a very bushy tail. He thought if he asked the cat if he wanted to play tag, he would lead him to an old man's shop and of course the old man always has his fan on. The fox would back the cat up to the fan, the cat's tail would get to close to the fan and his poor tail would not be bushy.



And so it happened, he went up to the cat and asked, "Do you want to play tag? If you can catch me you will get a prize that will surprise you."

"If you promise, then I will" replied the cat. So they started off, the fox ran too

fast for the cat. When they got to the shop, the fox backed the cat up to the fan and said, "You would make a very good meal."

The cat cried, wishing that he had not done what he had done. Then the cat looked at his tail. The fan blades had cut all the hairs short! And from that time on all cats had short hairs on their tails.

How the Horse got a Long Fluffy Tail *by Sydney Schulenburg*



Once upon a time a horse had a cow looking tail. A fox came up to the horse and said, "Do you want food because I know where the food is." "Yes, I would like some food." "Then come follow me" So they came to the barn. "I don't see any food" "Just go in a little farther" said the fox. "I still don't see any food" Just then the door shut right on the horse's tail. The horse's tail fell right off. The fox took the tail and ran off. The horse got some fluffy long grass and glued it on and that is how the horse got a long, fluffy, tail.

How Crocodiles got their Scales *by Mekayla Barendregt*

Once there was a croc family. And every summer when they were going to another pool a hunter would try to kill them, for a nice smooth coat of croc skin. One year, the crocs were going to their usual pool. And the hunter was there as usual, except for this, he was not alone, there were two other men with him. They were each holding one side of a net. Then without warning, they threw the net and it landed on the smallest one, she slashed and struggled but she could not get away. The hunters pulled the croc onto land. Then one of them said, "get your knife out Johnny." Once thought the little croc, "I'm done for." But just as the knife hit the skin the croc bolted away and the knife dragged on the skin. And when the cuts healed she had bumps on her back. And that's how the crocodile got its scales.



Parent/Teacher Interviews

Thursday, Nov. 25th

7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Friday, November 26th

9:00 – 12:00 noon

Please call the secretary at 745-2278 / email at dufferin@mts.net
a.s.a.p. to schedule your interviews



Nancy VanderVelde will also have a Book Display during Parent/Teacher Interviews. Feel free to browse through and get that 'special' gift for someone.