

Chairman's Report

Harry Van Kammen

"The LORD is my Shepherd....." (Psalm 23)

When I saw a group of over fifty people gathered at Winnipeg airport preparing for the flight to B.C., the first thought that came to mind was *"Lord please keep them safe."* How comforting it is to know that God is in control, always has and always will be.

From here I like to wish the band and its director Mr. Huisman, together with the chaperones a good time in B.C., that it may be everything you had expected, and above all, to God's honour and glory. Looking forward to seeing you all back on March 31!

From time to time the board revisits existing policies to determine if they are still functioning the way it was intended to be. Perhaps circumstances have changed and a policy may have to be adjusted.

The board did such a review on the current high

school graduation ceremonies. The board is of the opinion that the way the ceremonies have been organized over the last several years is balanced and therefore will not need changes. The principal has been asked to continue his practice of explaining the graduation procedures to the students of grade twelve each year.

Talking about policies, the board has made some progress in formulizing a proposal to the membership for changing the voting procedures. The board expects that the proposal will be ready well before the semi-annual meeting, usually scheduled for June.

On the agenda of that meeting will also be a report from the building committee. The committee has met with the staff of the school and reported back to the board, that in

their opinion, a music/common room would be a real asset to the school to accommodate school assemblies and eliminate the noise interference of other classes from the band practises. Although some members of the society have encouraged the board to make this a priority, as board we are of the opinion that we should bring this to the membership for further discussion, so that the membership can make an informed decision before the board has spent any money.

The board is still advertising for two upcoming vacancies and one additional fulltime position. As you know, Jolene van Dijk is leaving for B.C., and Hannah Vanderveen has indicated that she wants to go back to study to become a fully certifiable teacher. From

the perspective of the board she is already a very well qualified teacher. (Too bad our government makes an unscientific distinction between the two).

I wish all staff and students a safe and blessed spring break. May you all return

well rested and ready for the last three months of the school year. Parents, I hope you will enjoy having your children home fulltime, and that you also may take some time to spend together as a family. Looking through the window the name "spring

break" seems a touch odd. Perhaps our children will enjoy the snow more now, than during the winter. At least the temperatures are a bit more pleasant.

Have a blessed day of worship and rest.

Principal's Report

Andy Huisman

"Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him...Whatever your task, work heartily, as serving the Lord and not men..." Col 3:17,23

As I sit behind my computer trying to write this report, my mind drifts to the upcoming band trip. I can sympathize with students who are trying to get homework done while something else is on their mind. It was our secretary, Elaine, who asked me if I would have a report ready before leaving with the Senior Band students for B.C. I promised her that I would but that it would be a short one because there was a lot of other last minute things that needed to be accomplished before leaving. She didn't quite believe me about the 'keeping it short' part, so we will see. ☺

I would like to draw your attention to a few things that are coming up in the month of April.

High School Course Registration Information Packages

On Thursday, April 9th, the information packages will be sent home with the students from grades 8-11. This package contains all of the necessary information for students to choose their courses for next year. Please take the time to read through the package, make notes, and feel free to phone any High School teacher if you have any questions. The registration forms are **due back at school on Friday, May 1st**.

High School Mid-term Exams

These exams are scheduled during the **week of April 14-17**. The exam schedule will be posted in the newsletter the week prior to the exams.

Easter Assembly

There will be **school-wide Easter Assembly on Thursday, April 9**. All parents are invited to attend this assembly that will start at 9:15 a.m.

School Closure

There will be **no school on Good Friday (April 10)**. As well, there will be no school on Monday, April 13 due to a combined inservice with Winnipeg.

School Website

I invite all to check out the website (www.dufferinchristian.ca) from time to time as new material is posted. In particular, we will try to provide almost daily updates while the Senior Band is in B.C.

High School Portfolio

In the next Beacon I will share in greater detail the components of the portfolio project for the High School students. One of the components involves the student's accumulation of volunteer hours over the course of the portfolio. Our school has a rich tradition of volunteerism. Our students have

volunteered at the local hospital, seniors complex, town events, and other charitable organizations that have needed help. To that end, I would like to invite you to submit to the school administration any volunteer opportunities that you may know of that our students could accomplish. Most recently our students helped out with the local Handi-van auction, the Partners and Pals Hockey tournament and we have even had a group of boys scrub the pews of the Carman East church building. The help is always appreciated by those who have requested it, and enjoyed by those who volunteered.

Senior Band Trip

I know that many of you are aware that the Senior Band is taking a trip. The Senior Band together with the ICS Band put on two concerts that presented quite a number of the selections that will be performed at this event. By the time you read this Beacon, we will have already been in B.C. since this past Wednesday evening. If you would like to see a complete itinerary of events, check out the information posted on the school website (side bar on the home page – DCS Band Trip). The Band would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the many supporters of this endeavour. As a community, you have found many ways in which the Band could raise the funds needed to take this trip.

That is all for now. I wish all of you a blessed day of rest.

Grade 10 Poetry

Teacher: *Liz DeWit*

Prairie Sandstorm -Sarah Riepema

Trudging along the country road,
 Nestled amongst flat prairie fields-
 Wind picks up, gusting viciously,
 Distress overcomes me, gotta get home
 Stepping faster with urgency and minor panic
 Thrashing and swirling dirt envelops me
 Dust devils all over, like mini tornadoes.
 Eyes biting with dirt, I scarcely see
 Becoming tearful, I pinch them tight.
 Feet feeling gravel direct me
 Exhausted, perspiring, and unnerved
 I attempt running, my legs rubbery
 So I stumble and stagger
 Dirt-filled clothing lashing my body
 Slamming into a wall, I discover the house.
 Finding the door, I yank it open
 Then pull it shut forcefully,
 Collapse to the floor, safely inside.

Airplane Crash - Wesley Riedstra

The challenge is to survive
 When a plane crashes and you are on it.
 You have to struggle to get loose under the
 wreckage
 When people all try to free themselves,
 You might be injured, maybe dead.
 You might be stuck and have to wait for the
 emergency crew.
 Short minutes feel like hours, sometimes days.
 It is dark; you close your eyes,
 You see flashes of death and pain,
 You open your eyes, and there is a spot of light.

You hear people yelling outside,
 You feel a hand, then another one,
 You get pulled out and see the light of day.
 You are happy; you cry for the people that were
 killed,
 You look at the horror in front of you,
 You thank God that you are still alive.

This Heavy Craft – Richard Lodder

A dream of flight
 Melted by the sun,
 Hope for a new day
 To rise from the grave.
 One bright section in me
 Unfurls its hopeful wings
 That one day
 we might flee from the darkness ever waiting.
 The dream of flight
 And the dream of life becomes
 The vision beyond reach-
 Ends at the grave of each.
 By body I'm grounded,
 In mind the hope still grows.
 From death He rose
 To one day see us rise.

Emotions – Anita Koster

A locker smashes;
 A resounding gong in the deserted hallways.
 His footsteps attack the helpless victim.
 He taunts, he towers, he torments.
 He slaps her face with his words.
 She seeks refuge,

Shrinking, shrivelling,
 Wishing invisibility upon herself;
 Stress surrounds her like darkness
 Still aching inside, she chooses to forgive
 And moves on.
 He refuses to let go; his pride is too deep.
 I see the pain he's inflicting on himself;
 The way he's self-destructed; torn down,
 Yet, I close my eyes and apologetically trudge
 away.

First Time- Cody VanDijk

They were hardly noticeable moving with the land.

The smell of fresh crimson dirt was in the air.
 The dull thud of my heart seemed to echo over
 the land.

 Their beauty was astonishing.

They were so gentle, so careful and yet ready to
 leap

 At a moment's notice.

They seemed so innocent, so unexpected.

 Then I squeezed and the grass waved

 Like on a windy day.

 Hooves pounded and then he was down,

 Fighting for his last breath of life

 Then all was silent.

Happiness- Megan Vanderveen

We were invincible,

Her exquisite beauty

-only a memory

-more – more!

We became materialistic

Soon forgetting about each other.

I had a wife,-

-more –more!

Sudden despair hit

As she was no more.

All I had now was everything

 I ever wanted.

Yet- I had nothing

Nothing but the vivid awareness that I'm alone.

Valley under the Sun – Ryan

Wierenga

The sun broke through

Casting the valley into

A new transfixing light.

A lengthened shadow

Fell over the valley

As the eagle

Spread its wings.

The snap and crack

Of twigs sounded

As the majestic grizzly

Lumbered through shadowed forest.

The heart rending song of nightingale

Split the air like a knife.

The musical tinkle of water

Echoed as trout danced

In the sun rays.

Silver wolf posed

On rocky ledge,

As the coyotes voiced

Their frustrations

To the unanswering moon.

Untitled - Kim Grant

A lack of trust, a cornucopia of disbelief,

Long ago, all felt faultless.

Unexpectedly, all crashed down

Shattering upon their heads.

A whirlwind of emotions spun around them

Chaos and confusion consumed them.

Hearts cease; faces diminished from memories.

They were displeasing to one another

Shut out; invisible existence,
 Acting in ignorance; uncivility overtook them.
 All they had established slowly eroded,
 Empty inside, yearning for a second chance,
 Taunted by their childish ways.
 Despite intense longing,
 They would not turn back.
 An eerie silence took them,
 Unspoken words would ridicule them eternally.

Rivers and Roads – Taylor Schulenberg

Warmth of a summer day, feeling that cool breeze
 across my face, His creation stands out more than
 ever

As I follow Him down the river,
 Knowing not where He takes me
 But knowing He will never leave my side.

Looking around me, praising the Lord for His
 creation
 Of things that my selfish mind would miss.
 I follow the river knowing that it's better for me
 To follow Him, than to chase worthless earthly
 things.
 We all die, but it's all about how we get there and
 how we leave.

Re: MS Readathon

Thank-you for your participation in
 the MS-Readathon, held during the
 month of February. The students
 raised approximately **\$1500.00** for
 the MS Society!

A Diamond In The Rough

By L. Lodder

- Dedicated staff
- Hard working and conscientious Board of Governors
- Working diligently toward accreditation, to being recognized as a viable institution of higher learning
- Well-maintained building
- "Dyed-in-the-wool" Reformed
- Actively working toward being technologically advanced
- Poised to be a positive influence and assistance to teachers and schools nationally and internationally
- Many of approx. 177 graduates are using their education in their service of God in His calling upon their lives as teachers, administrators, parents, school board members, elders, and/or volunteers in our schools

These are some of my observations of the Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College. It truly is a "diamond in the rough" waiting to be (re-) discovered by the very people who are supporting the Canadian Reformed Schools and the teachers that work in them and who could make very good use of it. The possibilities seem to be endless.

At the recent Annual General Meeting (Feb. 27-28, 2009), the delegates representing the various school societies continued with some bold initiatives that were set in motion in the last few years. Some of those initiatives you see in the list at the beginning of the article: technological advancement (specifically having the library go on-line); having distance education courses for teachers who are already employed in the schools (also utilizing the technology for this endeavour); the addition of one more instructor to ease the load of the staff currently working at the College and to give more opportunities for expanding the programs.

These initiatives would make the College more attractive to prospective teachers as well as to the teachers already in the workforce and to the schools who employ them.

However, initiatives do cost money, and so the budget continues to increase. We are trusting that the money will be there in the future although it has sometimes been difficult in the past to know what we can count on. We really do need to do something about this aspect of running our College.

This seems to be a bit of a vicious cycle. Full support of the College is withheld by our School Societies because the College does not provide adequate services i.e. Students are not certifiable in all provinces. On the other hand the College is unable to provide the much needed services because of the lack of monetary support. (For instance, we cannot offer distance education because the staff is already carrying a heavy load and the technology needs to be upgraded; both of these issues arise basically on account of the lack of funds). If the College is asked to provide more services and become accredited without increasing the budget then there will be a problem.

What can be done to stop this cycle? This is a good question and it deserves an answer. Part of the answer, I'm convinced, is to bury the hatchets and come out in full support of the College. The College can and will serve all Canadian Reformed Schools well when it is fully supported by these schools.

In Carman, we are one of only a few school societies who support the College as a society. We could question whether some of the others are doing the best that they can to support the College. However, as indicated earlier, we need to bury our hatchets and simply ask, "Could we do more?" For instance, do we also support this College with our prayers? Do we support this College by trying to persuade our relatives in other parts of the country that it deserves full support?

Could you become a donor? The suggested donation for the year (August 2008-July 2009) is set at \$396.00 (or \$33.00/month). Of course, donations of any size are helpful and welcome. (At the end of this article there is a form you could fill out which includes the convenience of automatic withdrawals. These could be given to me or mailed directly to the College). Prayerfully consider getting involved also in

these three ways: prayer, promotion, pecuniary (a fancy word for financial, I just wanted to make it three "p" words).

There is also a group called WATCH (Women Assist the Teachers College in Hamilton), which does some fundraising for the College. I see that we do not have a representative yet in this group. Is there someone who is interested in being involved in this? I can give you contact names and phone numbers if you are interested.

If you want proof of case in point of what the College has done for the entire Canadian Reformed community and beyond, you need look no further than the recent printing of **Milestones as Steppingstones**. Though this volume was printed in celebration of 25 years as a Canadian Reformed Teachers College, the book is not only relevant to those who have gone to this College. As the dedication page says, it is relevant, "To all who love Reformed education—past, present and future". Some very extensive research went into making this book suitable for all people who would like to follow the historical roots of why Reformed education was of such great importance to the founding members and why it should be of such great importance to us who follow in the next generations. (I still have several copies of this book in stock for only \$20 each).

I hope that you will consider how you can best help get this "diamond in the rough" cleaned up so that it will sparkle with all the brilliance that is intrinsic to it because of its "dyed-in-the-wool" Reformed foundation.

For more information contact Len Lodder @745-2278 or dcsviceprin@mts.net

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes! I would like to support the CCRTC! <input type="checkbox"/> One-Time gift of \$ _____ (cheque Enclosed) <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly by pre-authorized Automatic withdrawl NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ PROV _____ PC _____ CHURCH _____ PHONE _____ EMAIL (optional) _____	<p align="center">Pre-Authorized Direct Withdrawl Form</p> <p>I hereby authorize Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College to withdraw regular monthly payments from my bank account in the amount of and agree to accept annual increases as set by the board.:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> \$33/Month - Withdrawn on the: <input type="checkbox"/> 15th of the month <input type="checkbox"/> 30th of the month <input type="checkbox"/> \$396/Annually - Withdrawn on _____ each year <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____/Month - Withdrawn on the: <input type="checkbox"/> 15th of the month <input type="checkbox"/> 30th of the month <hr/> SIGNATURE _____ Please ATTACH a blank cheque marked "VOID" to this form.
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