

Secretary's Report

Jeremy Kamminga

Well, here we are, already one month into 2011. I'm sure everyone is back into the swing of things after the Christmas break. High school students are about to begin the second semester; elementary students are regularly enjoying the skating rink outside. In spite of the cold, snow, and ice it is a great time of year...isn't it?

For the board, this is the time we start working on filling the teaching positions for the next school year. Each member of our teaching staff has been offered a contract to come back to DCS next year. At this point we don't know for sure what everyone's intentions are (though we hope they will all just come back☺), but we pray that God will give wisdom and clarity to each staff member as they make this decision.

The recently updated DCHS Graduation Policy is now on the website. It was changed to include more specific and current details regarding graduation requirements and procedures for DCS students. You can find it under student information.

One of the items that the Education Committee is working on is putting together a purpose and procedure for a Parent Advisory

Council (PAC). It is government legislation that each school in Manitoba has a PAC, so we need to have such a committee up and running fairly soon. We want to ensure that such a committee can be elected without much extra burden on the membership (e.g. another meeting) and that it actually has a purpose within the Society.

It's great to see the skating rink functioning this year again. This is something that not very many schools have the opportunity to enjoy. This year the board decided to make it mandatory for helmets with a facemask for those playing hockey on the ice. This was done for safety and liability reasons. We realize this may present a challenge for some, but we're convinced it is not an insurmountable problem.

Other than that there is not a lot to report on. We will keep you updated each month via this column. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the board or administration (whichever is applicable). You can reach me via email at dcsecretary@mts.net or just pass a note along to any one of the board members. Have a refreshing Sunday!

Principal's Report

Andy Huisman

"In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps."

Proverbs 16:9

There are times during the year that seem to be exceptionally busy for many people. That is also the case for DCS. As you visit the school or read the newsletter, it becomes quite apparent that there is always a flurry of activity. DCS is a very vibrant

place. Apart from the regular curriculum and lessons, events such as basketball tournaments, elementary field trips, final exams, assemblies, special food days, student presentations, it becomes apparent that the staff and students at DCS are quite busy. But, amidst all of this planning and 'busy-ness', one really needs to stop and reflect on the above text. *"In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps"*. This is a reminder to all of us that the first step in service to God is total submission to Him. This text reminds us to focus on His plan and not our plans.

That is the focus that we need to concentrate on. How blessed we are when we look at the events and how they are being planned in order to give thanks to our Heavenly Father. Field trips such as the one that Mrs. Veenendaal and her grades threes went on, together with the grade three class from ICS really reflect the desire of building relationships with others from our circle of faith and point to the handiwork of our Creator. Such was also the case when Mr. Gunnink and his grade six class joined up with the grade six class from ICS to participate in a field trip to the Aviation Museum. Proverbs 16:9 beautifully reflects the dependence that we have on God and at the same time, the comfort we have. Man can plan, but God decides.

Other news

February is **"I Love to Read"** month at DCS



Ages & Pages Ago!



For years, stories of valour and nobility were told or sung by the word of mouth, but in the time of Kings and Knights, Queens and Maidens, literature began to make a comeback. With the Crusades, knowledge of printing was spread and so, in time, books became more accessible. February is Reading Month! This year the theme will be Medieval Times. The halls and library of DCS will be transformed! ***We will kick-off this month with an assembly on Tues, February 1 beginning at***

9:30 – all are welcome to attend! There are many fun opportunities to learn about the Medieval Times. Some of the fun activities planned are: *Read in the "Candlelight"*, *Build a Castle*, *Drawing/Colouring Contest*, *Bookmarks and Guest Readers* and of course, a *"Medieval Mayhem"* at the end of the month. We are looking for Guest Readers, so if you would like to be part of *Ages & Pages Ago*, please call and talk to Mrs. Courtney Vandermeulen! We also plan to have a **Medieval Dress-up Day & Lunch** on February 16, 2011, so begin to let your imagination go wild!

Visiting with ICS (submitted by Miranda Veenendaal)

At the beginning of the year, we had a kick off meeting with the staff members at ICS. We were encouraged to get together with our corresponding teachers and plan some

interactions between the students at DCS and ICS. Mary Ellen VanDoornik and I had a few ideas up our sleeves.

After Plan A fell through in October, we moved on to Plan B. It all came to fruition on Thursday! Our Grade Three class of 4 girls and 9 boys at DCS met up with the Grade Three class of 3 boys and 12 girls of ICS at the Science Gallery where we mixed up the groups and had the kids explore together. Then we headed to ICS where we had a hotdog lunch provided. ☺ Both classes enjoyed recess, playing with their new friends and meeting more. After recess we had a small group activity about "Exploring Our World" in which the students had to follow directions to colour or draw on a map. They worked really well together! By 2:00 we had to head home to meet the busses. The day was just not long enough!

Looking back on the outcome, I have to admit that I was amazed at how well they responded to each other and the connections that they made. We hope to return the favour sometime this spring and invite them to DCS!! Here are some of our class' reactions to Thursday:

"I like meeting new friends" Magdelene

"They need more boys in their class!" Logan

"Their school looks different than ours" Vincent

"We got to see old friends too!" Noah

"They have crazy carpets like our school" Henry

"They even have the same word wall words!" Alanna

"I think we should do it again." "I think we should invite them to our class and have a big party" "... or field trip" "... maybe we could go somewhere..." (all Grade Three)

It was a fun day, enjoyed by ALL!

DCS Skating Rink – Hockey and Helmets



The hockey rink is now up and running (or should I say 'iced up and slippery'). One of the favourite pastimes is a good old hockey game. However, in recent discussions on safety and responsibility requirements, it is apparent that some changes to our practice need to be made. To that end, a helmet with a full cage is now required for anyone playing hockey on the rink at DCS. I am sure that you understand the need for such a measure as your child's safety is our primary concern. During times of free skating on the ice (no hockey), helmets are recommended but not required. We realize that this will take some adjustment and that helmets are not cheap. If your children can share helmets, that would be good. We would also appreciate it if anyone who has a helmet that is no longer needed or being used, perhaps you could consider a donation to the school so that it could be used by our students. I would like to thank those who have already donated helmets for our students to use, that was and is hugely appreciated by all!

Healthy Living Week

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

2 Timothy 4:7

With that Bible text, the Elementary had as theme for their Healthy Living Week, "Running the Race on the path of the Ancient Faith." Throughout the week, the elementary students have been active participants in a number of activities that focused their attention on living healthy. Everyday had a different component that drew the students' attention, i.e. spiritual, heart, brain, exercise, and food. Congratulations to the organizers and to the students who thoroughly enjoyed the week.

In conjunction with healthy living, DCS has arranged for members of the Camp Arnes' staff to come to DCS and provide opportunity for our students to partake in some outdoor activities (cross-country skiing and snow-shoeing). For the grade 4 -7 classes this will happen on February 14th in the afternoon and for the grade 1-3 classes on February 15th in the morning. If any parents wish to come down and take pictures or watch, you're more than welcome.

Skating Evening

The Promotion Committee is organizing a skating evening to be held at the DCS rink. It was a wonderful time of community spirit last year and they look forward to seeing many children, parents and grandparents again this year. The date is scheduled for Friday, February 4th starting at 6:00 pm. Even if you don't skate, come on down for a hot chocolate and some fellowship!

That is all for now, have a blessed Sunday.

Bike Helmet Program

for Students and Families!



As in the previous couple of years, the Gov't. of MB is offering helmets at very reasonable prices to our families.

Order forms were attached to the last newsletter. (If you didn't get one and would like an order form, contact the secretary). The deadline to return your order (with payment by cheque) is **February 11 2011!** Please make cheques out to the MDA.

Orders will be delivered to the schools by the end of April 2011, in time for the new cycling season.



High School

Graduation Fundraiser



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The Grade 12 class is holding a fundraiser for its graduation. The fundraiser is through **Donelli/Alantra** and involves a fairly wide variety of food items. The order form is attached to the back of the newsletter. **All orders must be in by February 9. Orders can be picked up between 1:45 and 2:00 pm on Friday, February 18, 2011 in the Science Lab.** Cheques for the orders should be made out to DCS Grad Fund.

Dufferin Christian School's



4th Annual Family Skate Night Friday, Feb. 4, 2011

Starting at 6:00 pm

- Skating
- Fellowship
- Bonfire

- BBQ Hotdogs (\$1.00 each)
- Coffee / Hot Chocolate

Come join in the fun and fellowship!

Everyone Welcome!

DCS Promotion Committee Event

