

Chairman's report

Arie Veenendaal

. . . I am not my own

Most Reformed believers will recognize these five words as belonging to Lord's Day 1 of the Heidelberg Catechism. One can easily take these few simple words for granted, however, they are loaded with meaning and purpose. These few words form much of the basis of why we do what we do and why we think what we think. These few words especially give much purpose and meaning to the reason we are passionate about serving our God, passionate about education, passionate about life and passionate to protect our Reformed values and beliefs. As parents and supporters of Dufferin Christian School these few words form much of the basis as to why the school was started in the first place and why it is such an important institution of learning today. Indeed, we believe that we are not our own but belong to our faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He is the reason why we live and He is the One who gives true purpose to our life each and every day. To "belong" is such a comforting feeling! My God has determined, even predestined it, that I would

belong to Jesus Christ! That means we have value. Our gracious God has even gone to the extent to send His Son to find us when we were lost. One does not lose an old pop can for example, you simply throw away something that has no value, but we do have value in God's eyes. Even when we "were enemies of God" He valued us and loved us. These thoughts indeed propel us to want to serve Him and do our best to raise up His children in a manner that pleases Him. And what better way to raise them up than to continually set before them the truths and thoughts of our awesome God in relation to the realities of the smallness of man. These truths and realities then also form the basis of our deep, deep gratitude for God's boundless mercy for us sinners. Let us pray that God will always keep these thoughts before us because it is only with this perspective that we find TRUE purpose and meaning for our life.

". . . I am not my own" will also be of comfort to those who mourn. Our thoughts and hearts go out to Jellie and Harry VanKammen with the recent passing into glory of their brother in law. God's ways are always higher than

our ways and God's plans are always brought about for our benefit. Our prayer for your family is that through the sorrow and tears you may not lose sight of the One who loves us. May the passion for this life lead us to a greater passion for eternal life, which is our ultimate end.

Truths and thoughts of our awesome God

A wise man once said that *"the more I learn, the more I am aware that I do not know!"* This is especially true when it comes to the task of setting direction for a Christian school. God is the God of ALL of our life. Every subject should portray God's sovereignty over all aspects of life. Every subject should portray the truths and thoughts of our awesome God. We do not really get to choose to ignore certain aspects. For example, sports, athletics and physical fitness. I mention this one because this subject is often classified as "less important." Our bodies are *not our own* and as such sports and physical fitness also deserves our attention. But to what degree do we become involved in promoting and supporting the various sports programs? What should be the main focus of our sports and

physical fitness program? It is not my intention to enter into a lengthy debate about this matter in this article but I do highlight this issue so that as parents we take a holistic view of all of what is taught in our school and not just our favorite areas of learning.

The Creator has placed much in creation for man to "subdue." With this thought in mind the board, together with the principal, spent an evening to take a broad look at where and what needs DCS should be focusing on in the future. The list included topics such as:

BUILDING EXPANSION - What are our immediate needs and where may our school be in say 20 years? Is it wise to look far enough ahead into the future as opposed to just looking ahead for the next 4 years? God has blessed us with growth. What might our needs be in 20 years? How far ahead do we look?

COURSE SELECTION - If staffing becomes available, what additional courses and programs should be offered in our school? What about French and at what grade levels, what about fine arts courses, HS Choir, Art, additional English courses?

TECHNOLOGY - With our world rapidly changing, where and what

should receive our attention in the area of technology? What courses should we teach and at what grade levels?

ADULT/PARENT

EDUCATION - A passion for learning begins in the home. If parents are to be excited with their children about learning, is there a way that the school can better assist parents to become more knowledgeable as to what the students are being taught in the classroom? Should we again host "information evenings" for the parents? Should we offer a course for parents on "World views" (as taught in DCS) or what about "Internet Safety" (what should you be aware of?)

As you can see there is lots of work to do. Thankfully there are also lots of people involved in the work. The committees will be busy and it is also via this column that, on behalf of the board, I want to thank all of those involved in the committees and the many volunteers who give unselfishly of their time to support the school. May we all find enjoyment and purpose in serving our God as we serve one another.

Staffing

Miss Lisa Oosterhof was offered a contract and has

agreed to teach in Carman next school year. She is a member of the CRC in London Ontario, where she is currently teaching in the Christian School. She has 6 years of teaching experience and was a graduate of our teachers college. The board hopes to hear back from the current teachers as to their intentions for next year. In the meantime some applications have been received for both High School and Elementary School positions. Please be aware that staffing concerns is not only a board concern. Remember this issue in your prayers and always do your part in promoting Carman as a great place to take up residence! After all, I haven't had any mosquito bites in the last 2 months!

With that I will sign off. Pray that every one of us strives to serve God by living together with respect for one another. We do not always have to agree on every item but we do need to treat each other with respect, as children of the One Father. If anyone has comments and suggestions regarding this report please contact a board member. After all, we do our work on your behalf. The easiest way to contact myself is dcschairman@mts.net

Have a blessed Sunday

Treasurer's Report

Dolf Feddes

This Sunday all School Society members and donators will find the receipts for income tax in the mailboxes. Please check the amount donated on your statement whether this corresponds with your records. If you have any differences or questions you can always contact me or any of the other board members. The board is very thankful with the final donation amounts for 2009. It is a very positive sign if the church community shows such a broad support for the Christian

education of the children. If you are currently not a member or donator we kindly ask you to consider becoming involved in the school society. The school is not only for the parents and their children but the involvement of all ages, young and old, is needed to build a strong school community. May the Lord bless all our efforts to educate the next generation of His Church.

I wish you a blessed Sunday

Building Committee Report

Peter Linde

When gazing at our school you can't help but be amazed at how blessed we have been over the years! We went from a small beginning in 1973 to today when we are contemplating yet another expansion to the school, certainly a lot to be thankful for!

The school board, together with the staff has acknowledged the following as items for improvement in our school.

- The front foyer becomes quite crowded at times throughout the day. This is especially apparent in the winter when students are getting dressed for the cold and when they are putting skates on.

- The principal's office is quite small and offers no real privacy when meeting with students and/or parents (it also does not have proper heat or air-conditioning).
- The number of staff at DCS has increased to a point where the current staff room is too small for all of them. This makes meetings and devotionals quite crowded. At last count there are a total of 24 members on the staff, almost double the number when this staff room was first built in 1989.
- We have all enjoyed how wonderful the band sounds in the Carman West church. Now imagine these 54 students in a standard size classroom

with no acoustics at all, as you can imagine, the volume level is very high. I measured the volume level while the students were practicing and it ranged from 99-104 decibels. (80 dB is considered the point where hearing protection should be worn!) This high volume level is distracting to all the classrooms around the band. There is also a ventilation issue with this many active students in one classroom. Instrument storage will also become a problem because the room where they are stored now is to become the Athletic Director's office.

The school board has the following plan for the school facility.

Starting with the front foyer; it could be made much bigger by removing the principal's office. This will give us the room we need for the students. The current staff room could be made into the principal's office. We could then make the current grade 4 room into the staff room. This room would work well for this since it already has a section of tile floor for a kitchen (and some of the required plumbing) and is in a central location of the school. This would also mean that the grade 4 class could move to the current grade 7 classroom and

the grade 7 class could move down the hall into the high school section. This would also help keep elementary and high school more separate and mean fewer class time distractions between them.

This brings us to the proposed addition to the school. One of the proposed classrooms will be needed right away because of the one taken by the staff room. Right now there is no definite need for the other, but it could be put to use right away by high school students during spares. If we look at how our school has grown over the years, I'm sure you can see it won't be long before that classroom is used full time.

As for the Multipurpose / Band room; it will give the students and teachers a place to go to for small assemblies, S.A.L.T. meetings, drama rehearsals. It could also be used for parent information evenings and more. Having this room for the band would eliminate all of the current issues and will give the band room to grow.

The School Board would like to invite the membership to give their input on this plan and thanks those who have already sent in letters.



Principal's Report

Andy Huisman

“A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.” Proverbs 22:1

“for living a life of Christian discipleship in contemporary society”

Excerpt from DCS Mission Statement

As I sit behind my desk, again faced with the pleasure of writing another Principal's Report, I found myself going through some files looking for inspiration. I came across a folder that contained a number of thank you letters written to the students of DCS. I would like to share excerpts from a few of them.

1 – From Coram Deo International Aid

“Dear students of DCS – We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for donating to CDIA. We truly appreciate your donations... they will help many young people in need, by giving them an education, breakfast and lunch and also medical attention...we pray the Lord will continue to bless you at DCS.”

2 – from Bible League

“Dear Partners – I want to thank you for the generous gift which you recently contributed to the work of the Bible League of Canada... we are so grateful to God , and partners like you, who make this part of our ministry possible. Please pray that we will continue to be instruments of God.”

3 – from Carman Handi-Van

“Dear DCS – We want to thank you for once again helping with the transferring of furniture and other items from storage ...the students who came to help were of tremendous assistance and fine representatives of your school.”

What is it that these letters speak of? What is the common thread running through all of them? It is the act of service to God in one form or another. It is putting our mission statement into action. It is also a reflection of the student's reputation. The dictionary defines reputation as *“how you are known among your group”* and *“..is the opinion of the public towards a person, a group of people, or an organization.”* The Bible doesn't give us a definition of reputation. The Bible goes far beyond that by providing numerous examples of the importance of reputations.

- *“Mordecai was prominent in the palace; his reputation spread throughout the provinces, and he became more and more powerful” Esther 9:4*

- “.. or he who hears it may shame you and you will never lose your bad reputation.” Proverbs 25:10
- “He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil’s trap.” 1 Timothy 3:7

It was with this in mind that I talked with the grade 9/10 class the other day. An opportunity had presented itself in which to talk about reputations. Reputations are something that take a lot of work to develop, are sometimes ruined quite quickly by certain actions and, once ingrained in the minds of others are even harder to change. As we grow up through the years, we do things, we say things, we act in certain ways. All of those actions help others to form their opinions of us. They are the building blocks of our reputation. But in all of this, what should be the purpose of our reputation. Is it so that others around us think good things of us? Or is it to glorify God?

Reputations are not a final product that give us the sense that we have arrived, but rather something that we should be constantly building and developing. We cannot say, “*I have a good reputation for working hard*” and then stop working hard and resting on your reputation. That reputation will disappear quite quickly and another will take its place. We also cannot rest on the reputations of others. We cannot say, “*DCS students have an excellent work ethic at IA/HE at Carman Collegiate*” and then think that we can now do whatever we want because the Collegiate has this opinion of us and it will never change now matter what we do. That reputation was earned by others but must be maintained by us through our work ethic. “*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, and not men.*” Colossians 3:23

Reputations can be personal (how others see you), they can be school (how others see the school as a whole), or they can be community (how others view our faith community). What we have to realize, is that we all have a responsibility as individuals in maintaining our personal reputation, as well as that of the school and Church. Our conduct in school is vitally important but our conduct outside of school is equally important. It is important because those outside our school and faith community observe us and take note of our behaviour, “*By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another*” John 13:35. If the world knows that we love one another, we can conclude that they must be watching how we treat one another. As students, do we ensure that our words are positive, that our actions are upbuilding and in keeping with the standards expected, and are our interactions with others pleasing to the Lord? (*All very difficult things to accomplish but what will our reputation look like if we hold to the opposite – we have a negative view on things, we behave below standard and we gossip about one another*)

It should be noted that reputations grow with maturity. We do not expect our young children to act in the same way as our older children do. Reputations, like maturity, need to be nourished, encouraged, reminded of and given opportunities for growth and learning. Developing a good reputation is not some ambiguous notion that we assume all children know how to do by instinct. A popular saying goes something like this “*Do good and nobody remembers, do wrong and nobody lets you forget*”. There is a certain amount of truth in that statement but is it appropriate that nobody lets you forget? Students need to make mistakes along the way, but

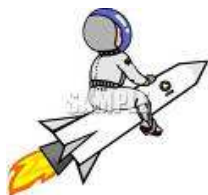
how they cope with those mistakes helps build their character and develop their reputation. However, they should not be doing this on their own. We are a community of faith and as such there should be active participation on the part of the home, church and school to encourage and guide them through this process. What a blessing to have this community of faith! *“Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.”* 1 Peter 3:8 - 9

Our school mission statement, *“for living a life of Christian discipleship in contemporary society”* and overall school theme of *“Shine your Light”* speak very much about our active participation as God’s children in school and in the broader community. What does your reputation say about you? Should we be concerned with what others think about us as individuals and as a Christian school and Church community? Should we be concerned about our reputation, individually and collectively? Most definitely, not because of a need for selfish attention, but because we bear our Saviour’s name and our actions should give Him the glory.

*“Then let us adore and give Him His right,
All glory and power and wisdom and might.
All honour and blessing with angels above,
And thanks never ceasing for infinite love.”*
Hymn 64:4

Other News

Reading Month



Have you heard?? There’s an astronaut lost in space and we have to “read” him home! Each minute of reading by K-6 students during February will bring him closer to earth. These minutes can be gathered at school, at home, on the bus, anywhere! Will we be able to “read” him all the way back to earth, or will he be lost in space forever?



A **kick-off assembly** for **“I Love to Read”** month is planned for **Monday, Feb. 1 at 10:45 a.m.** Please join us as Mr. Lodder gets things going with a story. Following this the students will be informed of the variety of activities planned for the entire month. “I Love to Read” month will bring exciting reading and learning for the students as well as anyone else who wishes to be involved. We invite people to come and read to the students. You could read to K-3 or 4-6 or both. If you are interested or have any questions about being a guest reader, please contact Mrs. Courtney Vandermeulen. We’d love to hear from you!

As a wrap-up to “I Love to Read” month, we’re inviting you to join us for a fun day of “spacey” activities on Friday, February 26, 2010. (a huge thank-you to the grade elevens who are preparing to entertain us with stories and other activities). Parents, grandparents, siblings, special friends.....please bring your lunch and come for the day, or part of the day.

We'll start with an assembly at 9:00 a.m. and the activities will run until 2:30 p.m. We'll need 5 or 6 volunteers in order for this day to be a success. The volunteers will be required to assist in taking a group from one activity to the next. If you can you help on Friday, Feb. 26 from 9:00 – 2:30 please let either Miss Mirjam Doek or Mrs. Alice Linde know via the student's agenda, or a phone call.

CCRTC Student Teacher

This coming month we will welcome our student teacher, Miss Jessica Bartels. Miss Bartels is currently in her third of the Teacher's College and she is looking forward to her practicum placement in grade two.

Family Skating Evening



Once again, the Promotion Committee is planning a great evening of skating at the DCS rink. This is scheduled for **Friday, February 12th**. So pack everybody up, throw the skates in the car and come on down to the school for a great evening of family fun and fellowship. See more details elsewhere in this Beacon.

Lego Mindstorm Lego Mindstorms are special Lego kits used to create computer programmable robots. A number of robotics sessions will be hosted at DCS for various grades. During these sessions, there will be a brief introduction to some robotics applications, an introduction to the kits being used, a simple robotics build, and then a "free-for all" where students can design their own robots.



Grade 10 students will have an opportunity to work with the robotics kits on Thursday January 28 from 1:00 – 3:30. **Grades 7-10** students will be able to work with the robotics kits on Friday, January 29 from 9:00 – 3:30. If students are interested in attending any of the sessions, they should contact Mr. Hoogerdijk to ensure there is room for them at these sessions. Room is limited due to the number of kits available for use.

Zone 4 Basketball



Currently many of our students are enjoying the competition at the Zone level. This is a great opportunity for our students to *'shine their light'* and develop school spirit. As they progress through the season, you can see the teams coming closer and closer together. This applies to our grade 7/8 girls team, our JV Boys team and our Varsity teams. I would like to extend the invitation to everybody to come down and support our teams in action. You will often find the schedule in the

newsletter, but it will also be posted on the school website (www.dufferinchristian.ca). There are several requests that I would like to share with everybody:

* if you have taken any pictures at the games and are willing to share some of them for the website, please forward them to me (dcsprincipal@mts.net)

* If your younger children would like to watch any games that are held at DCS, please be informed that they are to go home on the bus after school and return later at game time. There have been several occasions where students remain at school until game time. For reasons of safety and supervision, this is a practice that cannot continue.

* If your younger children are at school with the purpose of watching the game, please be aware that the coach and janitorial staff are not responsible for supervising your children. They would greatly appreciate it if the parents would also be in attendance to supervise their own children. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to our Remembrance Day Legion winners...

Senior Black/White poster	Primary black/white poster
Dianna Leyenhorst 1st	Kiera Barendregt 1 st
Color poster	Tori Bergsma 2 nd
Kyle Bergsma 1st	Levi Gunnink 3 rd
Junior Black/White poster	Literary Essay (Intermediate)
Natasha Lok 1 st	Nicole Vanderpol 2 nd
Color poster	Literary Essay (Senior)
Dominique Linde 3 rd	Linnette deRuiter
Primary color poster	Literary Poetry (Senior)
Tylyn Vandersluis 1 st	Linnette deRuiter
Cassie Voogt 2 nd	Congratulations to you all for a job well done!
Erin Lok 3 rd	

Computer Classes

Midland Adult Education Centre is hosting a course at our school on Microsoft Office 2007. The course will deal with Windows basics, a general introduction to Office, file management, Word (basic and advanced features), Excel (basic and advanced features) and the integration of Word and Excel.



The course will run for 6 weeks beginning on WEDNESDAY, February 10 and will end on WEDNESDAY, March 17. Classes run each Wednesday from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Space is limited so call the Midland Adult Education Centre to register as soon as possible @ 745-2095.

School Website

This is just a reminder that the school’s website is an excellent source of information on DCS. If it happens that your copy of the newsletter somehow goes missing, you can always find current and past editions of the newsletter (and the Beacon) on the website. As well, school closures and general announcements can also be found on the website. I think of this past week when school was closed and exams were scheduled to be written. A new exam schedule was posted daily for the benefit of the students. As well, upcoming events are always posted on the home page. If there are other items that you think may be useful for others to know about, please let me know and it can be added to the website. Consider adding our website to your list of favourites – www.dufferinchristian.ca .

As I come to the end of this report, I look back and stand amazed at the great gift that God has given us in DCS. It is truly a blessing that we should not take for granted but become intrinsically involved with on a daily basis, through our actions and our prayers. As 1 Peter 3:12 states, “...the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their prayer.” Have a blessed Sunday.

Yearbooks are coming soon.....



We are on the verge of completion, and as we are wrapping things up we will need to know how many yearbooks need to be printed. The 2008-2009 yearbooks (last year) will be **\$12.00 each** and we hope to have them out in the early spring. Order forms below. If you would like to order yearbooks and do not have an order form, **please write your name, and how many yearbooks you would like on a piece of paper, along with payment (cheque payable to DCS Yearbook**

or cash) and send it to school by February 16,2010.

Thank-you. *Kimberly Grant*

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Yearbook 2008-2009 Order Form

Name: _____ **Phone number:** _____

Number of yearbooks: @ \$12/yearbook _____

Total price: _____

***Note: We will accept cash or cheques. Please make cheques payable to Stingers Yearbook. Thank-you!**

Mark your Calendars!
Dufferin Christian School's
3rd Annual Family Skate Night



Friday, February 12, 2010

Beginning at 6:00 pm

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

Come join in the fun and fellowship!

**Donations will be gratefully accepted for
CDIA – Haiti Relief**

Everyone Welcome!

-The Promotion Committee

Beef for Sale

Proceeds to support Children of the Light in West Timor

With recent events in Haiti, attention of the world has shifted to the need there. While we acknowledge and do support the work there, we also need to maintain the work to which we have committed, among



people who also rely on our support for daily food, schooling and very basic needs. We once again have beef for sale from an animal donated for this express purpose. We have ground meat, lean, packaged and frozen in two pound packages. For this we are charging **\$2.00 per pound**.

A small amount of marinating steak is also available at **\$4.00 per pound**. (ribeye, tenderloin, and striploin) The steak will not be ready for about another two weeks.

Thank-you to those who have already placed orders. Those of you who have not, please return the attached form, at the end of the newsletter, to the school immediately We will call those who have ordered to confirm when you should pick it up. ***Cheques may be made out to DCS Student Fund*** when you pick up the meat.

Please return the order form to the school and give it to the secretary or Mrs. DeWit.

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Beef order Children of the Light

I would like to order _____ pounds of **hamburger @ \$2.00** a pound.

I am also interested in marinating steak _____(kind, if possible) at **\$4.00** per pound.

(subject to first order, first serve)

Name: _____

Telephone contact number _____

