

Chairman's Report

Harry van Kammen

***Give thanks to the LORD for He is good.
His love endures for ever. Psalm 136***

School is always an exciting work place, but especially at this time of the school year! Many activities are organized and the curriculum has to be completed. Think about the upcoming graduation, field trips and campouts, and you can well imagine that our staff members are busy at school.

Our students too are working hard no doubt. Their last assignments are soon due, and the exam week is looming.

It is so easy to take DCS and all the hard work that goes on in the school for granted. It is a great privilege to be able to send our children to school and know that they are instructed in the foundation that their parents taught them and that foundation is Christ.

As we are heading into the summer, the board has been planning for the next school year. Staffing is foremost in our minds. The board has been blessed in their search for new teachers in the fact that Courtney Huisman did sign a teacher contract. We thank God for His provisional care for our school and continue to pray that the LORD may also provide a candidate to fill the remaining vacancy in the high school.

The **membership meeting is scheduled for June 11**. By now you must have received the proposed bylaw change. In order to be able to deal with this proposal the meeting needs a quorum of 60% of the membership. This means that 60% of the members need to be present at the meeting. The board would appreciate if can make the attendance of this meeting a priority.

I pray that staff and students may receive all that they need to finish this school year successfully, as well as that above all, all we do be done to His honour and that we may be fruitful in His Kingdom.

May you all enjoy a blessed day of worship and rest.

Principal's Report

Andy Huisman

“And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.” Romans 5:5

I always find that when it comes time to write an article for the Beacon I struggle with two things. One, I find it tough to start (*because there is so much to tell, where do you begin?*) and 2 – Once I start, I find it tough to stop (*again because there is so much to tell*). I can relate to some of the students in the school who, when asked to write an essay, always find the introduction the hardest part to write. DCS is a vibrant learning community busy in serving God through education.

As the due date draws closer, I start to think more about possible topics to address. I start to look for inspiration, perhaps something a student said, a lesson that I observed, or a conversation that I had with a parent. All of those areas provide a lot of opportunity to talk about events in the school. I thought of that children’s campfire song *“It only takes a spark to get a fire going”*. The spark in this case was the Bible text on my desk calendar for today - *“And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.” Romans 5:5*. It was the word ‘*hope*’ that my eyes kept concentrating on. What a wonderful word – hope. It is one of the things that keep us going and it truly does not disappoint us. God’s love surrounds us daily. It is always our hope and prayer that what we are trying to accomplish at DCS is to help educate children so that they will grow up into discerning, caring individuals who see that their purpose is to serve God. Since it is the task of Dufferin Christian School to assist parents in educating their children from a Biblical perspective, it seeks to do so by:

- *Teaching students that their calling in this world is to know God, their Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, and to honour and serve Him*
- *Helping students grow into mature human beings, prepared to employ their talents in the service of their neighbors, at home and abroad, and in all areas of life*
- *Assisting students in recognizing their value and privileges as God's Covenant children, and reminding them that they are enabled by grace to respond in obedience to the call to serve.*
- *Helping students discern the pervasiveness and corrupting influence of secular values and philosophies, so that under the Lordship of Christ they may, with due humility, begin to think in a fundamentally Christian way about all aspects of life.*
- *Reminding students that this world has not been abandoned by God, that Christ has redeemed it, and that, therefore, their work as His followers and co-workers is of value for the restoration of God's Kingdom on this earth.*

- *Showing students that true knowledge and wisdom is only attainable in God, in knowing and fearing Him. Wisdom, knowledge, teaching, and learning are bound up with one's relationship to God.*

That little word *hope* started me thinking about those six points that serve as the purpose of Reformed Education at DCS. Those six points provide us with an excellent focus, and it is good to remind ourselves of these points. It is good to reflect!

This past week I had the opportunity to work with a student in the higher grades who was having some difficulty with an assignment. The assignment dealt with her having to analyze her learning style. The questionnaire asked a number of different questions about how she would respond in certain situations and it provided a number of answers in which she was to rank in the order that they applied to her. After discussing the meanings of some of the descriptions and possible examples/scenarios in which they may apply, we worked through that tough part – looking at oneself. At the end she asked, *“What is the value of knowing your learning style? What was the purpose of reflecting on how you might act in a certain situation?”* These are very valid questions that opened the door to a discussion on reflection. We talked about how at the end of every day we think back on the events of the day. We relive certain events or conversations of the day. We perhaps have regrets in how we dealt with a certain situation. We think of things that we should have said, should have done. We reflect. We look at ourselves, we look at our talents and gifts. We look at how we would act in a certain scenario. We look back in order to move forward. By reflecting, we learn a little more about ourselves and a lot more about our calling as God’s children.

This is not something that only the students should do, it is something that we all should do. It becomes very easy to think we are always right, but when we look at things with a different view in mind, perhaps we can see the other side. It is very easy for actions/words to be mistaken. Be patient and try to see the other side. Perhaps somebody is overwhelmed, preoccupied. As fellow Christians, we are there to build one another up. That is what DCS attempts to do in its mission statement – *‘for living a life of Christian discipleship’*. That is the aim, it is something we strive to do (but fall short on because of sin). But that doesn’t stop us from trying.

I would like to share a good example of looking at things through the eyes of someone else. A while back, some of the girls in the grade 6 class have been asking if they could have a tire swing by their fort in the school yard. I promised them that I would get them some rope and help them put up the swing. A few days passed and the girls exercised great patience waiting for the rope. When the promised day of installation arrived, it coincided with a hamburger day in the high school (an event that I had to cook the burgers for). The girls continued to exercise their patience waiting for the swing. When it became apparent that it wasn’t going to happen that recess, they came to me while I was cooking the burgers and asked, *“Mr. Huisman, we really appreciate that you will be helping us with our fort and we know that you are very busy but we were wondering something – Is there anything we can do for you?”* Wow! Talk about looking through the eyes of someone else. I was impressed. Rather than become

exasperated with the situation and storming off because their rope wasn't put up, this is what they came up with. A wonderful moment!

The school day is filled with those kinds of moments, they just may not always get recognized as such. The other side of the coin also exists. Sometimes there are moments in the day when we don't always 'shine our light'. Those are the moments we also need to reflect on. We need to look at the hope that is found in Jesus Christ and to ask ourselves the tough questions. When we do that, we are living in service to our God. Celebrate the positives and work with the negatives. And yes, we got the tire swing up at the next recess!

Other News

Graduation Update

On **Tuesday, June 23rd**, DCS will be holding its 17th Grade 12 Graduation Ceremony. This is indeed a special occasion as our students come to the end of their formal schooling at DCS. We invite all to attend this event. The ceremony will start at 7:30 pm at the Carman-west Church.

Awards and Bursaries

I would like to remind all graduating students to ensure that they have checked out the website for information on the various awards and bursaries available to them. Please be aware that the **deadline for DCHS bursary applications is June 15th**.

Citizenship Award Nomination

It is that time of year again when DCS solicits nominations for the DCS Citizenship Award. This award will be presented to recognize a particular student's role in the wider sphere of school and community. This award is based on the following four criteria: 1 - Christian regard for others; 2 - Extra-curricular involvement; 3 - Involvement in other community activities; 4 - Academic achievement. If there is a student who is worthy of this award, please feel free to nominate them. The form is available on the school website (under "*Student Information – Awards and Bursaries*"). Completed forms may be submitted to the school office.

June Activities

As sure as the sun shines and the flowers grow, June is the season of elementary field trips. All of the trips are listed in the calendar attached at the end of this Beacon. If you have any questions about a particular field trip, do not hesitate to ask your child's teacher.

June is also the time of year when the grade 8 class goes on their annual camping trip. This year, Miss Hannah Vanderveen is leading this group to Falcon Lake for an enjoyable three day excursion.

Elementary Track and Field

Friday, June 12th is the day set aside for the K-6 Track and Field event (*rain date – June 15th*). This year DCS will be hosting ICS for a day filled with exciting activities. The coordinators of this event have spent many hours in planning the day. They are still looking for parent volunteers to help with the day's events. The Promotion Committee will be providing refreshments during the day and I am sure that they could use an extra hand or two. Of course you are also more than welcome to come out and cheer on the young ones.

K-Day Orientation

It is that very special day of the year which many people look forward to. **Friday, June 5th** is the day set aside for next year's Kindergarten students to spend a day at school. It is always an exciting day for the new students as well as for us at school. Quite often the comment is heard from the HS students – "*They seem to get smaller every year!*"

Staff Members

I would like to take this opportunity to express my great appreciation for all of the hard work accomplished by the very dedicated DCS staff. Many long hours are put into ensuring the smooth operation of DCS and that effort is noticeable on a daily basis. Thank you!

At this point I would like to introduce the staff for the 2009/2010 school year.

Kindergarten – Miss Jane Stad

Grade One – Mr. Tim VanderHooft

Grade Two – Mrs. Alice Linde

Grade Three – Mrs. Miranda Veenendaal

Grade Four – Miss Mirjam Doek

Grade Five – Mrs. Courtney Vandermeulen

Grade Six – Mr. Nick Gunnink

Grade Seven – Miss Anje Jager

Grade Eight –Twelve: Mrs. Marcy Vandenbos, Mrs. Liz DeWit, Mrs. Janine Lodder, Mr. Mike Raap, Mr. William Hoogerdijk, Mr. Len Lodder, Mr. Andy Huisman

Learning Assistance/Special Needs/Support Staff: Mrs. Jellie VanKammen, Mrs. Yolanda Grant, Miss Evelyn Weidenhammer, Mrs. Jennifer Wiebe, Mrs. Carolyn van Dijk, Mrs. Brenda Lodder, Mrs. Kathy Vandersluis, Mrs. Deb Vanderveen, Mrs. Elaine Vandermeulen, Mr. Martin DeWit

Fine Arts Gala

The time is fast approaching. **Friday, June 5th** is scheduled for this momentous occasion. The doors of the Carman West Church will be open at 7:00 pm to allow for viewing the many artistic displays (paintings, sculptures, etc.) of all of our students. The **formal part of the evening will begin at 7:30.**

During this portion you will have the opportunity to hear the Junior and Senior band, the Elementary School Choir and a number of solo/duet performances. After the performance, the displays will still be available for you to view. We look forward to seeing you at this event

DCS Website

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

It is just as I said in the beginning of this article, once I get started it is sometimes hard to stop. I will end here with the text chosen by this year's graduating class, "*Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.*" Romans 12:11b-12

Have a blessed Sunday!



The Great Canadian Mail Race

Jolene van Dijk

"Dear Fellow Teacher," the letter began, "I would like to introduce you to *The Great Canadian Mail Race*." It was these words and the remainder of the letter I read to my students more than a month ago, that continued this race. Excitement rippled through the students at the idea of writing a letter to a grade 5 class *anywhere* in Canada. Let me explain...

Why: The original purpose is that students write to other communities as part of an effort to learn more about Canada and the students that live there.

Who: Any grade 5 class (and as of late, Tyndale Christian School in Calgary decided to start up the same idea with grade 4 classes, and the grade 4 class is presently working on letters).

What: The idea is basically the same as a chain letter. A grade 5 class located anywhere throughout Canada will receive a letter from a student in a grade 5 class in a different location. One student responds to this letter, and the whole class chooses a different school to

write to. The first student who receives a response from the school (s)he wrote to is considered the winner.

The letter we received was from a boy who attended *Yellowhead Koinonia Christian School* in Edson, AB. That class had received it from a student in Surrey, BC. Previous to that or even the origins of this activity remains unknown (even after a search from Google!).

I decided to make use of the Directory for Canadian Reformed (and American and Australian) schools. This gave my class an opportunity to write to cousins, old friends, or students of a relative who teaches.

Not only is this activity enjoyable for the students, for some it is a completely new experience. They learn to write (or type) a proper letter, address an envelope, and wait patiently to see if there will be a response. Presently six out of my 17 students have received a response. They came in from all different directions: Tyndale Christian School (Calgary), John Calvin Christian School (Burlington), Maranatha Christian School (Fergus), John Calvin School (Smithville), Parkland Immanuel School (Edmonton), and just the other day Ebenezer Canadian Reformed School (Smithers). As letters slowly drift in, the remaining students wonder if they will have a response coming in the last few weeks before school ends, but that is all part of this experience!

Novel list for ELA 2009-2010

Mrs. DeWit

Grade 9:

The Contender – Robert Lipsyte
I Heard the Owl Call My Name – Margaret Craven
The Merchant of Venice –supplied by the school

Grade 10:

To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee
The Miracle Worker – William Gibson (supplied by the school)
Grain – Robert Stead
Julius Caesar –supplied by the school

Grade 12 Comprehensive

Hamlet – Shakespeare (supplied by the school)
Lord of the Flies – Sir William Golding
A Bird in the House – Margaret Laurence
A Night to Remember – Walter Lord
The Importance of Being Ernest – Oscar Wilde

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

Stingers Athletics:

Year in Review 2008/09

Serving God Through Athletics – Submitted by Mike Raap

As we reflect on the past year of athletics, there is much reason to give thanks to our heavenly Father for providing us with the opportunities as well as the abilities to participate in sports. We fielded a boys and girls soccer team this year, we also had a J.V. boys basketball team as well as varsity boys and girls teams, and we also fielded a track team. There were 41 athletes involved in soccer, 39 involved in basketball and 5 in track and field. We also had 1 student involved in the co-op program with the collegiate for hockey. If you were unable to attend some of the sports we offered this year, I encourage you to come and cheer for our student athletes next year, as they often do show Christian sportsmanship in their activities. I encourage the athletes also to continue to ask, "How am I serving God through our sports activities, and what does Christian sportsmanship really mean and how it is different than what is portrayed in the media?"

Our athletics program is a user pay system and as a result there will be some restructuring to the current system. Students currently only pay 1 fee, regardless of what sport and how many sports they are involved in. The fees are too small to cover all the costs; and as a result students will need to pay activity fees per every sport next year. The fees will cover the costs of referees *and possibly 1 tournament*. The fees will be finalized, and be published in the first Beacon of next year's school year. Any fundraising in the future will be to more capital projects (score clocks, new jersey's etc...)

The Lord willing we had our athletic banquet (*dessert*) last night, congratulations to all the athletes who won awards. Every year the coaches of their respective teams hand out team awards, Most Valuable Player, Most Improved, and Christian Character. This year we also awarded Christian male/female athlete of the year awards. Congratulations to those athletes as they best exemplified the ability to balance faith life, school work and athletics, Christian sportsmanship and leadership, effort and attitude and a high skill level over several sports.

I would also like to use this opportunity to thank our dedicated coaches (*Mrs. M. Vandenbos, Mr. L Hillmer, Mrs. L Visscher, Miss N. Vanderveen, Mr. Hoogerdijk, and Mrs. B. Raap*) for their countless hours of time invested in our athletes. To be away from their families and other family events, spending weekends in gyms or on soccer fields, travelling throughout our zone (Portage la Prairie to Vita), and missing countless dinners – Thank you.

We are also looking for fundraisers for next year; if you would like some student athletes to help out in anyway, don't hesitate to call the school. (745-2278)

Thank-you!

The Promotion Committee would like to thank the Ladies Aid for their generous contribution to the school! Recently they purchased a 120 cup coffee percolator for the school. We look forward to being able to use this for functions held at the school. THANK-YOU!!

The Promotion Committee, together with the elementary staff...

are in need of **VOLUNTEERS** for **Sports Day, on June 12^h**. Volunteers are needed as group leaders, refreshment coordinators, and event supervisors. Please **contact the school secretary ASAP** to offer your assistance. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles are welcome! We require a minimum of 15-20 people.

June Membership Meeting

Of the Canadian Reformed School Society of Carman, Inc.

Thursday, June 11, 2009 at 8:00 p.m. in the Carman West Church

Please plan to attend.

,"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." Romans 12:11b-12

DCS GRAD '09

You are all cordially invited to attend the Graduation Ceremonies on **Tuesday, June 23, 2009** at **7:30 p.m.** in the **Carman West Church**.

Tickets for the supper are available from the school for \$15.00 per person. Dinner will be held in the Carman West Church at **4:30 p.m.**
Please purchase your tickets ASAP.



