



The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

COLIN MEERSTRA

"We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul" (Hebrews 6:19a)

A bimonthly Publication for the promotion of Communication between the home and the school by the Canadian Reformed School Society of Fergus – Guelph and District Inc.

With great thankfulness to the Lord for His guiding hand we look forward with excitement to the opening of another school year on September 6th. He has blessed us with the necessary staff, resources and parental support to make this possible once again. Please consider joining the staff and students for the opening assembly on the first day of school, held on Tuesday September 6th at 9:00 AM.

We pray that the students and staff may have had a relaxing and rejuvenating summer break and be eager to take up their respective tasks. We wish all the best to our returning staff members and extend a special welcome to the newest ones: Patricia Bouwman (Gr

5B), Katriel Hoogsteen (SERT), Joanna Kapteyn (Gr 5A), Jocelyn Kottelenberg (RN, EA), Hannah Medemblik (Gr 4), and Sarena Reinink (Gr 3 TA) (hopefully I have them all as there were many this year!). We have no doubt that you will soon feel at home at MCS.

The MCS board has also been busy over the summer to ensure that everything is in place for the opening day. School clean-up days were well attended during the summer, giving the school its annual thorough cleaning. The property committee in particular had several work days to ensure everything is in good working order. Thank you very much to all those who helped out, and especially to our custodian Pauline Knot for co-ordinating the summer cleaning. The transportation committee also worked diligently to finalize the bus routes, which you can find elsewhere in this LINK.

We would like to make you aware of our fall membership meeting, which has been scheduled for Thursday, September 29. At that meeting we will hear the regular committee reports, vote for three new board members, seek approval for the 2021/2022 draft financial statements and share the details of the plans for fundraising for the addition as recently approved by the membership. At this point the Capital Campaign Committee consists of Colin Meerstra, Marnix Sikkema, Morris Thalen and Ryan Vanveen. Each of these members will head up a sub-committee with different tasks – please give prayerful consideration to serving on one of these committees if you are contacted. They should only be in place for a year, Lord willing, thus the work should not be onerous.

Please remember the staff and board in your prayers as we begin another year of covenantal education at Maranatha Christian School.

LINK

The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. (Zephaniah 3:17)

The above text is our “theme text” for the school year 2022/2023. The chapter begins with serious judgment on God’s people. It calls down God’s woe on a rebellious, defiled and oppressing city: Jerusalem. The indictment follows: “she listens to no voice; she accepts no correction. She does not trust in the LORD; she does not draw near to her God.” The following verses indicate the culpability of the officials, the judges, the prophets and the priests. Whatever they do, it is the opposite of what God wants. But, God remains righteous and just, but this doesn’t seem to phase these leaders, they know no shame. This just God has given examples for these leaders. Verses 6 and 7 show how God has brought other nations to ruin in order to teach His people. But this had the opposite effect. Verses 8 through 13 indicate that God will then call others into the fold, but only after He has consumed the earth in order to make it pure. He promises to humble the people so that they serve God in the manner that He requires and the result of this is that His people will no longer be afraid.

Comfort. That is what God promises. Merriam-Webster defines ‘comfort’ as: to give strength and hope, to cheer; or to ease the grief

of trouble, to console. The balance of Zephaniah 3 gives this comfort. God consoles His people. His people, now beyond the borders of Israel, are commanded to sing. Why? Because the LORD has taken away His judgments. He has taken away the enemies of His people. And in this section is our text. “The LORD your God is in your midst.” Don’t miss the fact that He uses His covenant name: YHWH: LORD. It is God who took the initiative with respect to the salvation of His people. The chapter began by indicating that the people of God are willful against Him. It ends with God intervening and causing His people to live in peace and quiet. God is the mighty One who will save. We know that salvation is in the name Jesus. God will be joyful because of His work in His people. Did you catch that in the verse? God is rejoicing over His people. He brings quiet to His people because the cause for disquiet has been removed. And so, He sings in exultation.

How humbling is all that? Consider Romans 5:8 where we read: “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” We were enemies of God, so He changed that into making us children of God. Romans 5: 11: “More than that, we also rejoice in God through

our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.”

And so, we are consoled, we are cheered, we are given strength to carry on in this life knowing that Jesus Christ has renewed us in our relationship with the Father. How can we but praise Him for His kindness!

In that knowledge and confidence, we open our doors at the beginning of Maranatha’s 54th year of operation, welcoming 254 covenant children as well as a staff of 23 teachers and assistants. There are some new faces to welcome. We will simply start at the bottom and work our way up. Mrs. Betsy Kingma returns as our Kindergarten teacher teaching both classes representing 32 children. In grade 1A we find Mrs. Jackie Deboer as well as Ms. Helene Nobel and Mrs. Jocelyn Kottenlenberg. These last two will be alternating days. This classroom has 17 children. In grade 1B we welcome (back) Mrs. Marianne VanderVeen and Mrs. Jaclyn Sikkema. Mrs. Sikkema will be teaching part of 4 mornings per week. They will be teaching 18 children. Mrs. Diana Broersma will be assisting in this room as well. Jumping up to grade 2 takes us to Mrs. Helen Vanderwoerd, and Mrs. Sikkema

will still be teaching on Mondays. They will be sharing 23 children. Grade 3 welcomes 27 children under the tutelage of Mr. Ottaway. Ms. Sarena Reinink will be assisting here daily as well for Mathematics and Language Arts. We welcome Ms. Hannah Medemblik to grade 4 with 24 children. We also welcome two grade 5 teachers: Ms. Joanna Kapteyn and Ms. Patricia Bouwman. They each have 17 children in their respective classrooms. Grade 6 welcomes Ms. Katharine deJong back as she teaches 27 children. Grade 7 continues under the capable leadership of Ms. Alexandra Van-Sydenborgh. Our grade 7 classroom has 23 children. And that

takes us to our grade 8 students spread between two classrooms at 15 and 14 children respectively in the capable hands of Mr. Wayne Bartels and Ms. Sydney Koning. Mrs. Marsha Hoeksema and Mrs. Jocelyn Kottelenberg (when she isn't busy with Grade 1) assist in grade 8 as well. We also welcome Ms. Katriel Hoogsteen as our Special Education Teacher. She works with Mrs. Pamela Nijenhuis as well as Mrs. Christine Vellema in the resource room as well as supporting students in various classrooms. Finally, in the office, we have Mrs. Nicole Hutten as well as yours truly, and, making sure that all is neat and tidy, we have Mrs. Pauline Knot returning as

our custodian. Quite a crowd; quite a blessing. Some names may be familiar while others may not be. So, we are having an **Open House on Thursday, September 1st (6:30 PM – 8:30PM)** so you can meet the staff, find where classrooms may have moved to and drop off that first day paraphernalia. You can find a list of required supplies in the June LINK, but it has been copied in this one as well. We hope to see you then.

And so, under God's blessing, we begin our 54th year of operation with confidence and welcome you all to start it with us at our opening assembly on Tuesday September 6th at 9:00 AM

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AMY LINDE

“Unless the LORD builds a house, those who build it labour in vain.” (Psalm 127:1a)

Summer break has flown by and once again we were blessed with so much beautiful weather. As September 6 approaches, we are preparing for the start of a new school year, whether at home or at school. We are extremely thankful to be blessed to have a Christian school to send our children too, may we never take this for granted! Even more so, we are thankful to know it does not rely on us to succeed but on the

LORD, who has all things in His Hands and who has already richly blessed us beyond our own understanding.

We are so grateful that the Lord provided us with the staff needed once again. Welcome to all the new teachers, may you feel quick at home and well supported. A special thanks to Anita Bouwman for all the work she has done in

the past teaching our Music Program for the older grades, I am sure she will be missed.

We wish all the staff, committees, and the School Board the Lord's blessing as they take up their tasks once again, may the Lord bless your labours. May we all continue to lean on our Heavenly Father and support one another, as we step into the 2022-2023 school year.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

MORRIS THALEN

We thank the Lord for being able to open our school doors once again after a summer break. I

hope the teachers as well as the students had a time of relaxation

and are ready to take up their daily callings in the classroom.

We would like to take this time to thank Kyle Jonker for his time as chairman of the property committee. Thank you for your work and dedication over the last couple of years and we pray for a

blessing as you take up the task of elder in Elora.

A big thanks to all the members for their help during the school cleaning nights. This makes work

easier for the property committee as well as our janitor.

Property continues to use their work nights for small projects and fixing things around the school building.

TREASURER'S REPORT

MARNIX SIKKEMA

Summer is nearly gone and staff and students alike (whether they like to admit it or not!) are eagerly looking forward to another year of school. We can see the hand of our faithful Father in this. He is the one who continues to maintain all things and who continues to gather his church from one year to the next.

As far as finance goes here at Maranatha, things are rolling along nicely. We don't have much to report this time around. As was mentioned previously, we did end up in a deficit position. The final audited numbers are not known yet at this time.

We thank all supporters, both non-parent members and donors alike, for your support. Without your help, the fees for parent members would be out of range for most. As it is, our fees are high enough (but still much lower than many other reformed schools in Ontario.) We continue to encourage those that are able, to continue to donate more than the current fees. As you know, the general donation portion of our current budget has increased substantially.

A vast majority of our members make their payments using PAP (pre-authorized payment) and

this has significantly reduced our arrears! Much to be thankful for indeed! We continue to depend on God for all things, including the financial well-being of MCS.



Harvest Foundation exists to minimize the cost of Reformed Christian school tuition in Ontario. We provide the following support tools...

- 1) School Endowment Fund... generates interest for a long period.
- 2) School 5-year Deployment Fund... pays interest plus 20% of capital each year.
- 3) Direct Tuition Assistance... provides a 20, 25 or 30% tuition reduction to qualified families.
- 4) Harvest Kingdom Builder Deposits... offers unique savings/interest donation combination.

Contact our executive director to learn more. info@harvestfoundation.ca | 289.309.1466

Please feel free to contact any committee member if you have any questions.

Till next time.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

KEVIN VANLEEUVEN

The Transportation committee has finalized the bus routes for this school year which you can find in this Link. They will also

be available on the school website. We are thankful that Brenmar Transit will be doing the busing for us again this year

and we pray for safe travels again this coming school year.

<p><u>General (ALL Students)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> sharpened Staples/Staedtler/Crayola pencil crayons (2 packs for when they begin to run out?) <input type="checkbox"/> pencil case (zippered) <input type="checkbox"/> pencil sharpeners (Staedtler brand recommended - small one with container attached) <input type="checkbox"/> non-marking soled shoes for PE (<u>not crocs</u>) <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor shoes (may be same as above) 	<p><u>Grade 5</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 - 1.5" Binder <input type="checkbox"/> 1 pack dividers <input type="checkbox"/> Lined paper <input type="checkbox"/> Correction tape (please no liquid) <input type="checkbox"/> PE uniform(Purchased through office) <input type="checkbox"/> WHITE Erasers <p><u>Grade 6</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 1.5" Binder <input type="checkbox"/> Dividers <input type="checkbox"/> Lined Paper (lots) <input type="checkbox"/> PE uniform(Purchased through office) <input type="checkbox"/> Erasers
<p><u>Grade 7</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pens (3 red, several blue/black) <input type="checkbox"/> Pencils <input type="checkbox"/> Erasers <input type="checkbox"/> Lined paper (lots) <input type="checkbox"/> PE uniform(Purchased through office) <input type="checkbox"/> Geometry Set <input type="checkbox"/> 2 – 1.5" Binders <input type="checkbox"/> 2 packs of dividers 	<p><u>Grade 8</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pens (3 red, several blue/black) <input type="checkbox"/> Pencils <input type="checkbox"/> Erasers <input type="checkbox"/> Lined paper (lots) <input type="checkbox"/> PE uniform(Purchased through office) <input type="checkbox"/> Geometry Set <input type="checkbox"/> 2 - 1.5 inch binders (Morning/Afternoon) <input type="checkbox"/> A BASIC (not scientific) calculator

Elora - Fergus (Eeyore) Drop off

Family Name	Phone	KA	KB	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	T	Drop off Location	drop off
Meerstra Colin & Laura	519-846-1233									1			1		1	5	6819 First Line W. Alma	04:19
Kottelenberg, Matt & Inge	519-212-2561	1			1	1		1	1		1					7	6695 Irvine St.	04:13
deWitt, Pete and Sandra	519-829-5930												1	1		3	6596 Gerrie Rd	04:10
Post, Josh & Gail	519-546-1697	1			1		1			1						5	28 Joanne Cres	04:07
Hutten, Rob and Fallon	519-400-3335		1		1											2	Irvine and Colborne St	04:05
VanLeeuwen, Dave & Ciska	519-843-7424												1			2	Canrobert & Omar	04:00
VanderZwaag, Kevin & Andrea	519-787-2823						1			1		1			1	6	861 Omar St. Fergus	03:59
VanVeen, Craig & Carrie	519-993-2925			1		1										2	St Andrew St & Johnston	03:56
Lenting, Gerald & Michelle	519-636-7683			1		1		1			1				1	6	54 Sideroad 19	03:52
VanderWoerd, John & Twyla	519-830-8833			1		1						1	1			5	54 Sideroad 19	03:52
Kingma, Walter & Leanne	519-843-3831	1					1		1							3	54 Sideroad 19	03:52
Thalen, Moris & Rebecca	519-803-1641	1			1											2	7798 Side Rd 15	03:49
Hutten, Kevin & Kathryn	519-500-8763			1												1	Beatty Ln/Side Rd 18	03:46
VanderWoerd Rob & Lydia	519-400-4738			1			1									2	6511 Beatty Line	03:45
Hutten, Shawn & Monica	519 803 7674			1			1	1								3	Campbell Ave & Elizabeth	03:43
VanGrootheest, Paul & Rachel	226-971-3106			1		1		1	1							4	717 Campbell Ave	03:42
DeWitt, Mitchell & Hannah	519-831-3298	1														1	609 Perry St	03:40
DEPART ECHS																	ECHS	03:35
VanBeek, Ian & Jennifer	519 400 4546	1				1		1								3	180 Gordon St.	03:20
Swaving, Jeremy & Jacq	519-820-9955		1			1		1			1					5	Gordon & Gibbons	03:19
Total																64	Depart MCS	03:15
																	DEpart ECHS	03:35

Arthur-North (Tigger) Pick-up

Family Name	Phone	KA	KB	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	T	Pick Up Location	Time
Bijlsma, Marten & Margriet	519-638-2383			1			1	1		1	1		1			8	7729 14th Line Mapleton	07:30 AM
DeBoer, Robert & Jackie	519-498-4100						1		1		1	1				5	7729 14th Line Mapleton	07:30 AM
Vandenbergh, Reuben & Kassia	226-203-1919			1												1	7729 14th Line Mapleton	07:30 AM
Groen, Joel & Katie	519-938-0374	1			1											1	401 Preston Street S, Arth	07:43 AM
Feenstra, Joop & Carolyn	226-820-3063					1			1			1			1	5	401 Preston Street S, Arth	07:43 AM
Agema, Derek and Brittany		1				1											401 Preston Street S Arth	07:43 AM
Gansekoele, Nathan & Garrie	519-835-7253			1		1										2	401 Preston Street S, Arth	07:43 AM
Bouwman, Arnold & Karissa	519-831-0851			1	1		1									2	401 Preston Street S, Arth	07:43 AM
Kingma, Mitch & Sarah		-	1													1	401 Preston Street S, Arth	07:43 AM
Vanderveen, Dan & Shelley	226-370-0145	1			1		1									2	7207 Hwy 6 Arthur	07:53 AM
Lodder, Tom and Amy				1	1			1	1		1					4	7149 Hwy 6 Arthur	07:57 AM
Linde, Tim & Amy	519-993-1444		1		1		1			1						5	7882 Sideroad 21 Alma	08:00 AM
Reinink, Derek & Patricia	519-848-3983							1		1			1	1		6	7882 Sideroad 21 Alma	08:00 AM
Niezen, Brian & Nancy-Jo	519-848-3045										1		1			3	7154 Jones Baseline	08:03 AM
VanLeeuwen, Bob & Antje	519-848-6085	1			1			1	1				1	1		7	7154 Jones Baseline	08:03 AM
Vanwoudenberg, Gerard & Christa	226-979-5690		1			1		1			1	1				6	7063 2nd Line	08:10 AM
Reinink, Frank & Anne	519-803-7198									1			1	1		5	7052 2nd Line	08:11 AM
Nijenhuis, Gary & Pam	519-843-1385						1			1			1			4	6953 2nd Line	08:14 AM
Dehaan, Sjoerd & Lisa	519-831-0548							1		1					1	3	6640 2nd Line	08:19 AM
Total																69	Arrive MCS	08:25 AM
																	Arrive ECHS	08:40 AM

1. Opening by Chairman
 - 1.1. Scripture Reading (**Ps. 62**); Singing (**Ps. 62:1&4**), and Prayer
 - 1.2. Roll Call: Richard Hoeksema, Dustin Hutten, Kyle Jonker, Amy Linde, Colin Meerstra, Marnix Sikkema, Trish Smith, Morris Thalen, Ryan VanVeen, Absent with notice: Kevin Vanleeuwen
2. Establish Agenda
3. Minutes - approved with one correction
4. Short Report - approved with one correction
5. Email Conversations to be recorded: - Agreement via email to amend the expansion proposal to include a cap of \$1.5M on the mortgage.
6. Matters arising from Minutes - still need to update the decision book as per the May board meeting minutes.
7. Reports
 - 7.1. Education
 - 7.1.1. Looking for a replacement music teacher
 - 7.1.2. 1 replacement committee member.
 - 7.1.3. One TA hired, all positions are filled for next year.
 - 7.2. Principal's Report
 - 7.2.1. Policy review, the pre support policy was due to review this year. Review under PR.
 - 7.2.2. The Board Handbook was also due for review. Copy in the drive had highlighted areas for suggested changes which we worked through and approved.
 - 7.2.3. Some notes made for the PR committee to review at their next meeting in regards to the condition of the school after the PR BBQ.
 - 7.3. League/Harvest
 - 7.3.1. 2 items from the league were attached for review.
 - 7.4. Public Relations
 - 7.4.1. PR BBQ seemed to go quite well.
 - 7.4.2. Pre-support policy reviewed.
 - 7.5. Executive
 - 7.5.1. Membership meeting minutes - June 2 - approved
 - 7.5.2. Membership meeting - June 16 - next steps? Setup 2 new committee's, and assigned board members to get them started. One for fundraising and one for building.
 - 7.5.3. Board member nominations
 - 7.5.3.1. Prepared and voted for board nominations.
 - 7.5.4. Termination of member from Society due to constitutional requirements.
 - 7.5.5. One letter received, taken for information, no response required.
 - 7.6. Property
 - 7.6.1. Chairman is requesting to be removed from his position as he was elected as an elder in Elora. Request is granted. Since his term was almost complete and we are close to electing new board members we will just run through the summer as is. Thank you to him for his work and we wish the Lord's blessing in his new task.
 - 7.7. Transportation

7.7.1. Had a meeting on June 7th. Working on the routes, note that we hope to see the routes for the August meeting.

7.8.Finance

7.8.1. Finance Report - on track to finish the year with about a \$30,000 deficit.

7.8.2. Finance Minutes - reviewed

8. Correspondence

8.1.Incoming

8.1.1. 2 letters received from members, one needs immediate attention and 2 board members assigned to deal with it. The other letter will be passed on to review at the next meeting.

8.2.Outgoing

9. Next Meeting: **Aug 22nd, Sept 19th, Oct 24th**

10. Closing (Ps. 62:7)

10.1.Closing Prayer – Dustin Hutten

10.2.Adjournment 10:32 PM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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STANDING COMMITTEES

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Amy Linde, Chairman
Trish Smith, Board Liaison
Richard Hoeksema, (Ex Officio)
Reuel Feenstra (Ex Officio)
Carolyn Feenstra
Tim Swaving
Joyce Tenhage
Antje Vanleeuwen

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Ryan VanVeen, Board Liaison
Tom Lodder (Arthur)
Jeff Hutten (Elora)
Walter Kingma (Fergus Maranatha)
Gary Nijenhuis, Jr. (Fergus North)
Chris Feenstra (Grand Valley)

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Morris Thalen, Chairman
Kenton Bouwman
Mitchel Dewitt
John Nobel
Lambert Reinink
Craig Vanveen

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Kevin Vanleeuwen, Chairman
Rachel VanGrootheest (Fergus/Elora) (226-971-3106)
Henrietta Jonker (Alma/Elora) (226-486-1316)
Vanessa Taekema (South) 1-780-284-1476
Alex Thalen (Arthur) 519-731-6712
Henriette Lodder (Belwood) (519-787-1851)

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Secretary

Nicole Hutten

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Joyce Feenstra, VicePresident
Carolyn Feenstra, Treasurer
Andrea Vanderzwaag, Secretary
Helen Vanderwoerd, Staff Liaison
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LEAGUE DELEGATE

Trish Smith

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