



The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

COLIN MEERSTRA

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.

LINK

The theme text for this school year is Zephaniah 3:17: "The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing." May these words lead and guide us all as we continue through another school year under the Lord's blessing!

We give praise and thanks to God that another school year could begin with His blessing, and that already seven weeks of instruction have taken place. Students and staff have all settled nicely into their roles.

Our fall membership meeting was held on October 13<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting we could watch a brief video presentation from Bernie Kottelenberg, the Executive Director of the Harvest Foundation. He gave us an update on the work and goals of Harvest and presented MCS with a cheque of some \$20,000! We are very thankful for this, and we commend the work that Harvest does and encourage all mem-

bers to support it, especially as they move into their upcoming growth campaign.

At the meeting we also formally approved the financial statements for June 30, 2022, and voted in new directors. Elected to the Board were Rod Dykstra, Henk Huijgen and Joseph Vangrootheest. We thank all who were willing to stand for election, and we pray for the Lord's blessing over these new directors. We also thank the outgoing directors - Kyle Jonker, Amy Linde and Ryan VanVeen for their hard work during their terms. Both Amy and Ryan are involved in the capital campaign, thus we appreciate their willingness to continue to give of their time.

An update was also given at the meeting on the capital campaign. All the various committees are now in place and have had their initial meetings. Thus the campaigning will begin in earnest over the next few months. Keep your eyes and ears open for details as the fundraising commences!

Embarking on a large expansion project such as we are, it is good to consider why we go through all this effort to have our Christian schools. I would like to draw your attention to the 'Statement of Purpose' from our Parent Handbook, the first paragraph of which reads as follows:

*"The Maranatha Christian School was built by parents and other*

*school society members in the conviction that education, like all of life, must be biblically based and directed. The "founding fathers" of our school recognized that there must be unity in what children are taught at home, in church and in school. Furthermore, they were convinced that reformed education was a necessity and not an option because the LORD demands that parents instruct their children in the fear of His Name. This has not changed. The school assists parents in carrying out the task they promised to fulfill at the baptism of their children."*

It is good for us all to be reminded of this, as we can often get caught up in our duties, get discouraged and even loose focus as to why we are putting so much effort into Reformed education. We would encourage all members to be familiar with this 'Statement of Purpose' as it can refocus and energize us in our work for the school, especially as we enter into the fundraising campaign.

As the Board of MCS we pray for the Lord's blessing on the work of all those involved with the operation of the school. We especially pray for and are thankful for our teachers and our principal, for their dedication and professionalism. May all be done in a spirit of harmony, with joy and thanksgiving, to the honour and glory of God's holy name

*You shall not be in dread of them, for the Lord your God is in your midst, a great and awesome God.* (Deuteronomy 7:21)

As you are aware, our theme text this year is *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* from Zephaniah 3. One of the keys to the message in Zephaniah is that in spite of the unfaithfulness of His people He continues to dwell among them. The text above is from Deuteronomy. As you know, Deuteronomy is the “commentary” on the Law of God. Moses gave this book (under God’s direction, of course) to the people of Israel prior to entering the Promised Land. The purpose was to ensure that the people knew what God’s expectations were for them, and that they understood them. The words above, taken from Deuteronomy 7, come after the people hear the Law for a second time and after God gives the summary of the Law in chapter 6. He has taught His people that the Law was to be central in their lives. Then comes chapter 7. God begins immediately by expounding on the entering into the Land. And then comes this verse...don’t be afraid of the people dwelling in the land. That had been the issue 40 years prior. The spies reported and the people were in dread of the people of Canaan. Now God tells them don’t do that again! He also teaches them why they shouldn’t; because the Lord your God is in your midst. The nations around Israel believed that the power of their gods would transfer to them by these gods being in their midst. That is why the gods

they made connected to their livelihood. Dagon was part fish, because fishing was a key industry for Philistia. But Israel’s God is different, even though the Israelites didn’t always have it correct either. Just consider Hophni and Phinehas taking the ark into battle. The Philistines were afraid, but the Israelites were attempting to force God’s hand. But Israel’s God doesn’t work that way. He isn’t limited to His location or the industry of His people. He is great and awesome. No other god can make that claim. He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords! He is working and dwelling among His people even in spite of their sins. So we can, in good confidence, take up our tasks every day in His service, working for His glory. Not because we are so good but because of His awesome presence among us.

Since our last Link we have had a couple of activities to report on:

1. First off, we were able to open up the school year with a “normal” assembly. It was wonderful to see so many of you there in the audience interested in and supportive of Reformed Education. Thank you! In this way we see our vision as a school worked out in reality in that your children and grandchildren see the generations living a life of obedience and service to God and our neighbour.
2. Later in September we had our community fundraiser. This year’s event was for the Centre Wellington Pregnancy Centre.

As school community we raised just short of \$3800! Thank you on behalf of the Centre!

3. On October 1st the Grades 7&8 soccer teams travelled down to Smithville for the annual LCRSS soccer tournament. It was a wonderful and enjoyable day! For those who are more familiar with the event, the boys’ and girls’ teams play at the West Lincoln Leisureplex and the mixed teams play at John Calvin School. Next year the plan is to use a larger facility in Grimsby (nope, no closer to home, really) where all the teams can compete at the same place.
4. Grades 7&8 competed in the annual Cross Country Race. Both teams took home the trophy.
5. They returned to school to join us for the Thanksgiving Assembly led by grades 3&6.
6. On Saturday October 15 more than 50 students joined a number of staff to assist the Fergus Lion’s Club complete the fall roadside cleanup. In case you are not aware, we clean ditches along highway 6 between Canadian Tire and 4th line two times per year. In doing so we together raised another \$500 toward outdoor activities for the students at recess. It was a wonderful morning, at least 65% of it. The rest was rather wet! But, the rain blew over quickly and once everyone had a few TimBits in them they were their regular jovial selves again.

7. And finally, a “future event” is the annual collection of hygiene materials (bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes) for local men’s and women’s shelters. Stitches from the Heart partners with us. They do all the work, and we contribute as a school with the aforementioned items. This ‘drive’ ends on Wednesday, November 2.
8. That date, Wednesday, November 2nd is also our Grandparents’ Day. All seniors are invited to join us for the morning (9:00-12:00). At noon our grades 8 classes will serve you lunch in the gym. So come out and see your school busy, and enjoy some fellowship and coffee as well!

In the coming week we have 2 PD Days scheduled. Friday is the Annual Teachers’ Conference, scheduled this year for ECHS. In the past (and hopefully future) this was/will

be a 2-day event. Therefore, we have kept the Thursday PD Day. This year the teachers will be using this day to complete necessary work in connection with reporting, curriculum, etc. Monday October 31<sup>st</sup> is Reformation Day and our grade 7&8B classes will be hosting the assembly. It is scheduled to begin at 8:45. Term repots will be coming home, DV, on Friday November 4, except for Kindergarten, they will receive their interim reports on their final day of classes for that week. Additionally, we will be having Interviews by Request. Teachers may request to meet with you, or you may request to meet with your child’s teacher. Parent requests are done via an online program and the office will send a link to you alerting you to the schedule for signing up. All interviews will take place on Wednesday November 9. On Friday, November 11 at 10:45 AM grade 8A will lead the Remembrance Day assembly. That day our grade 6 class

walks to the Fergus Cenotaph to take part in the local Remembrance Day activities. Friday November 18 is a PD day. This day deals with Curriculum projects in connection with CARE. And finally, to round off the busy month, our grade 7&8 volleyball teams have a Tournament scheduled at ECHS on Friday, November 25.

Allow me to end with the words of James 4: 13 – 15: *Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.”*

*solī deo gloria*

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AMY LINDE

***“While the earth remains, seed-time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease.”*** (Genesis 8:22)

We can be so thankful for God’s providence and faithfulness, we can see it in this bright and beautiful Fall we have been able to enjoy. He truly is the greatest artist!! We also see His hand in our school, as He continues to uphold, guide and bless us this school year.

We, as Ed Com, have Class visits underway. It is a wonderful opportunity for the Ed Com and

Board to build a personal connection with staff. Being able to witness the teachers guide and teach God’s covenant children, makes you so thankful for the opportunity we have been given to send our children to such a wonderful Christian School.

The Curriculum Review Committee has chosen to focus on our Health/Phys. Ed curriculum this year. CARE is also busy working

with Health/Phys. Ed so we are taking the opportunity to work along side with CARE.

We are thankful that MCS has been blessed with such dedicated staff and a supportive school society, please continue to remember the Staff, Board, and Committees in your prayers.

What a blessing that we were once again able to open the doors of MCS for another school year! What a blessing that our Lord and Saviour continues to make this possible! We acknowledge that all things are in His Fatherly hands. He continues to bless us also financially, allowing us to go about our daily tasks in His service.

For those who are able, please keep in mind that we budgeted significantly more in the general donation



category this year, to try to maintain the fees at a more manageable level. If you are able to pay over and above the regular membership fee amount, this would be very much appreciated!

We are already well into our next fiscal year and will soon be preparing another budget. Any comments and suggestions are always welcome.

We thank you all for your continued support and we also continue to thank our Father in heaven, who continues to provide for us..

A ROUND FOR THE FUTURE THANK YOU

OCTOBER 17 2022

Greetings on behalf of the “A Round for the Future” golf tournament committee.

It seemed like (for a change) everything went our way this year. No flooding, no windstorms, no COVID..... Just beautiful sunshine and a wide open 27-hole course. What a treat for our fifth year. I'm not for a minute suggesting that past years didn't offer any enjoyment. However, it is nice to skip the drama from time to time and just play golf, win some cheese, and relax.

This year we were blessed again with a full complement of 200 golfers and 40 corporate sponsors. Ariss Valley Golf and Country Club was kind enough to commit the entire course to our tournament for the day. So, in addition to beautiful weather the pace of play was very steady. As in earlier years we were able to gather together after

the golfing was done for a great meal and a run at the prize table.

When it was all said and done this year's tournament raised \$72,600.00. As in previous years



this will be split among the five area schools and an additional portion going to the Harvest Foundation. Each group will be receiving a cheque for \$12,100.00

As a committee we would like to offer our sincere thanks to all those involved in the successful operation of this tournament. The sponsors, the volunteers, the golfers, and all those working behind the scenes, help to make this event a success year after year.

Above all we give thanks to our Heavenly Father. He has provided us with an opportunity to educate His children in a way that shows His glory. He also blesses our efforts to ensure the means are available for that education to continue. It is our prayer that this tournament will be around for many years in the future.

Thank you

Cornerstone Christian School – Kor Reinink

Dufferin Area Christian School – Gerard Kottelenberg

Emmanuel Christian High School – Harry Linde

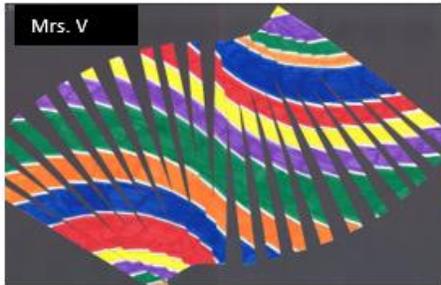
Harvest Canadian Reformed School - Ben Vis

Maranatha Christian School – Tim Linde

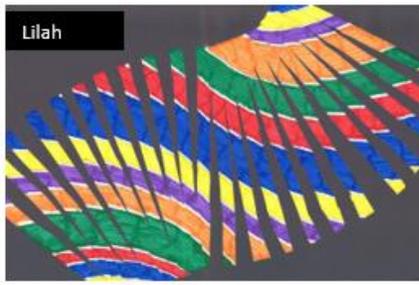
Administration – Laura Vanleewen

FROM THE DESKS OF GRADE 2

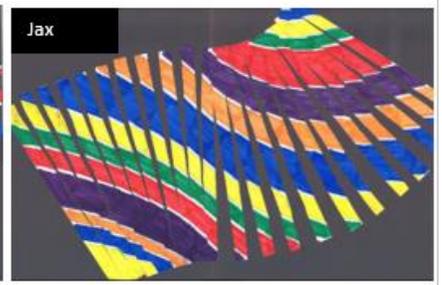
In art, Grade 2 has been working with the element line. In this lesson, we learned that line shows movement.



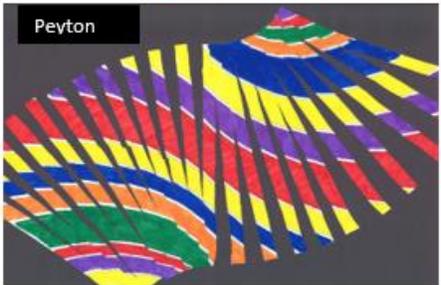
Mrs. V



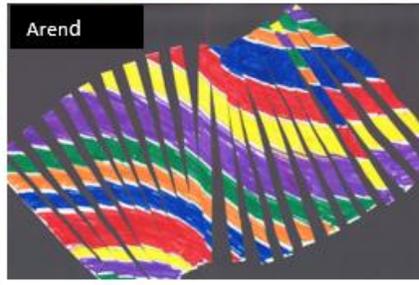
Lilah



Jax



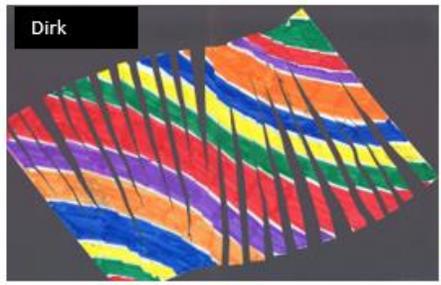
Peyton



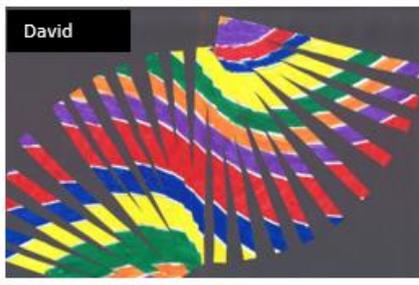
Arend



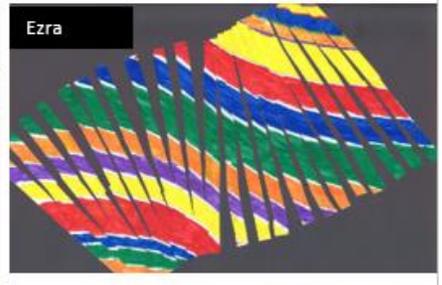
Kylie



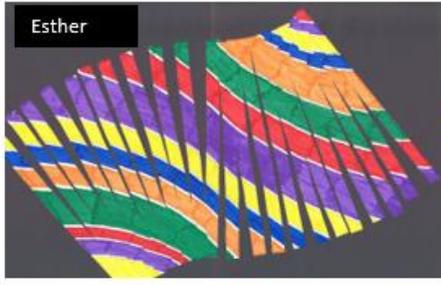
Dirk



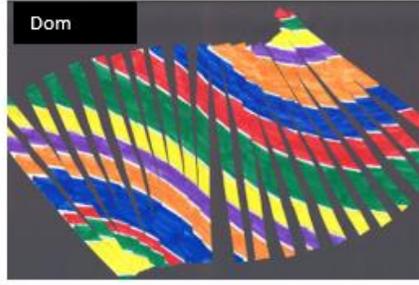
David



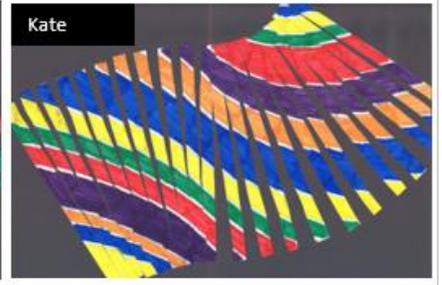
Ezra



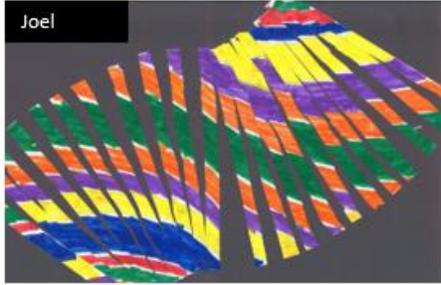
Esther



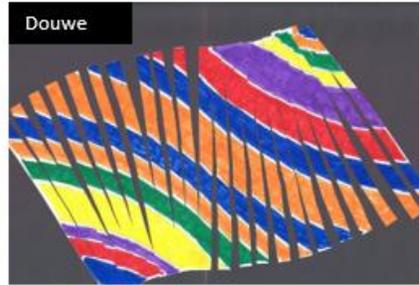
Dom



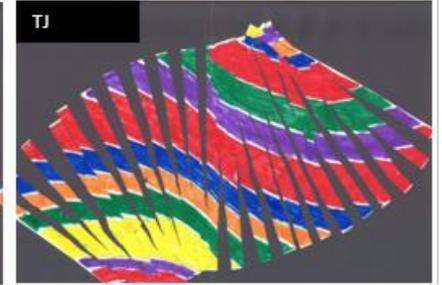
Kate



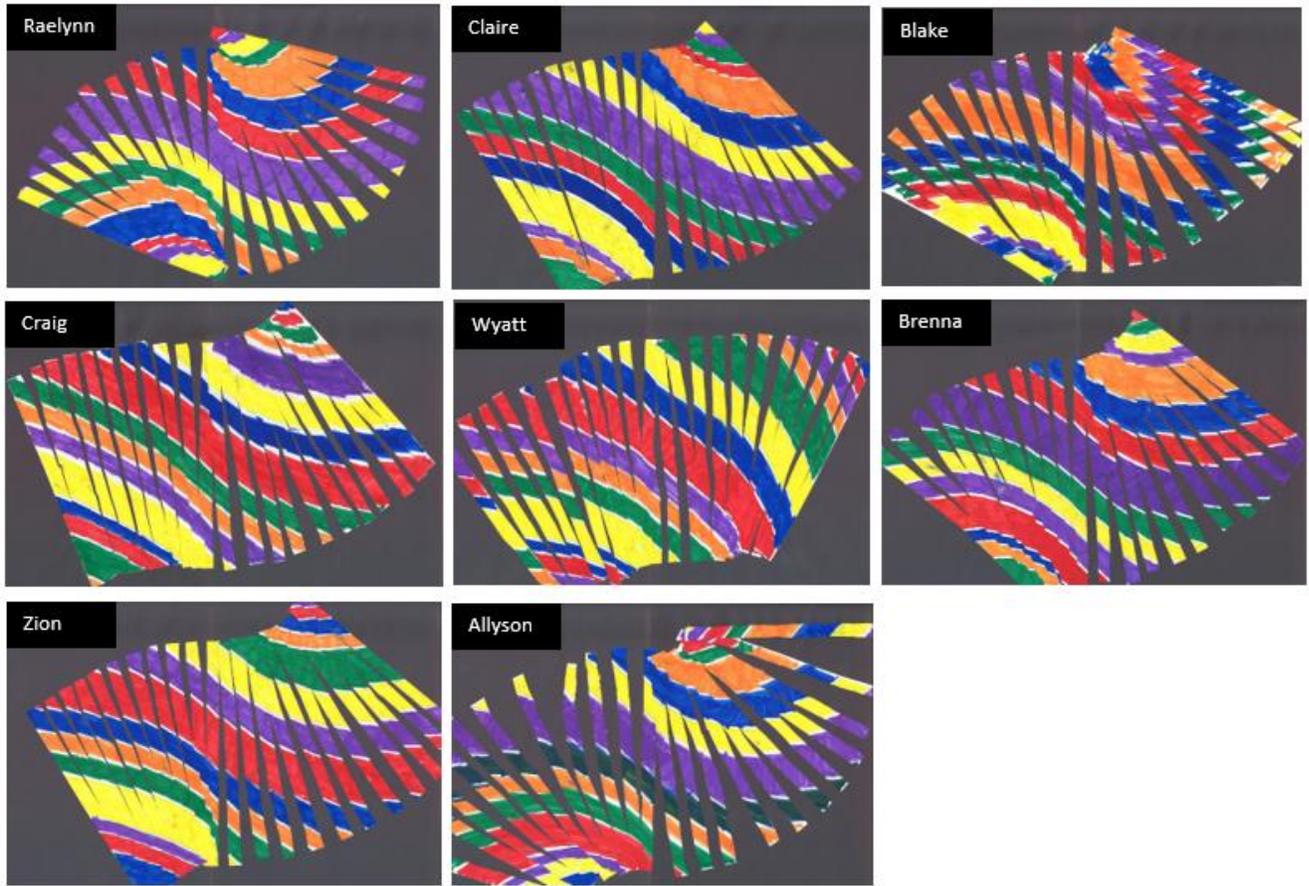
Joel



Douwe



TJ



**PTA LIST FOR LUNCH/CONCERT DAYS**

Soup Days: you are asked to bring ONE BIG, HOT PAN OF SOUP, and serve it to the assigned class at 12:25. Hot Dog Day: please come to the kitchen at 12:00 to help assemble the hot dogs (provided by PTA) and then serve them to the assigned classroom. Please provide ketchup and mustard for your assigned classroom. Christmas Concert: we ask that the mom's with a C, please bring baked goods to the assigned classroom (amounts will be provided beforehand),

and help in the classroom by serving and cleaning up. Mom's with a K, please bring 1 1/2 dozen baked goods to the kitchen, AS WELL as help clean up the kitchen after the concert. Ice Cream Day: please take along ONE 4 LITRE tub of Vanilla ice cream and a scoop. Please meet in the kitchen at 10:05 AM where you will be directed where to serve your assigned class. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO TAKE YOUR TURN, PLEASE FIND YOUR OWN REPLACEMENT,

and we ask that you let Leanne Kingma know so that we know who to expect on each event. \* Please note that we will NO longer be providing Gluten Free or Dairy Free options, with the exception of Ice Cream Day. \* Thank you ALL for making these days fun for our students, and staff. :) Any questions, please call, text, or email Leanne Kingma @ 519-835-3533 or [leannekingma410@hotmail.com](mailto:leannekingma410@hotmail.com)

See next page for lists.

<b>SOUP DAY NOVEMBER 25, 2022</b>	
<b>1A</b> Wilma Mans, Tamara Ekema	<b>5B</b> Jocelyn Kottelenberg, Marina Stegmann
<b>1B</b> Margriet Bijlsma, Kassia Vandenberg	<b>6</b> Janine Dykstra, Jaclyn Sikkema
<b>2</b> Sharlene Reinink, Natasha Huijgen	<b>7</b> Christine VanEerde, Anne Reinink
<b>3</b> Laura Lodder, Shannon Swaving	<b>8A</b> Netty Vanleeuwen, Joyce Feenstra
<b>4</b> Shelley VanderVeen, Jennifer Thalen	<b>8B</b> Nicoline Pieffers, Kelly VanRaalte
<b>5A</b> Nicole Hutten, Michelle Lenting	

<b>CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DECEMBER 16, 2022</b>	
<b>KA K:</b> Jessica Lodder, <b>C:</b> Hannah Dewitt	<b>5A K:</b> Kristin Swaving, <b>C:</b> Antje Vanleeuwen
<b>KB K:</b> Amy Linde, <b>C:</b> Janine Kroezen	<b>5B K:</b> Jacqueline Swaving, <b>C:</b> Alida Smith
<b>1A K:</b> Debra Vandenberg, <b>C:</b> Carrie VanVeen	<b>6 K:</b> Marli Nijenhuis, <b>C:</b> Anne-Marie Sikkema
<b>1B K:</b> Amy Lodder, <b>C:</b> Rachel VanGrootheest	<b>7 K:</b> Charmaine Vis, <b>C:</b> Laura Meerstra
<b>2 K:</b> Inge Kottelenberg, <b>C:</b> Katie Groen	<b>8A K:</b> Henrietta Lodder, <b>C:</b> Veronica Hart
<b>3 K:</b> Pam Hutten, <b>C:</b> Nicole Gansekoele	<b>8B K:</b> Becky Thalen, <b>C:</b> Nancy-Jo Niezen
<b>4 K:</b> Emma Bultena, <b>C:</b> Karissa Bouwman	

<b>HOT DOG DAY JANUARY 27, 2023</b>	
<b>KA (JAN 26)</b> Jocelyn Foster, Joanna Medemblik	<b>5A</b> Lisa DeHaan
<b>KB (JAN 25)</b> Fallon Hutten	<b>5B</b> Christa VanWoudenberg
<b>1A</b> Rachel Broekema	<b>6</b> Feikje Flach
<b>1B</b> Tineke Agema	<b>7</b> Rebecca Feenstra
<b>2</b> Laurie DeHaan	<b>8A</b> Margriet Bijlsma
<b>3</b> Brittany Agema	<b>8B</b> Cobie Hutten
<b>4</b> Janneke Kamphuis	

<b>SOUP DAY MARCH 24, 2023</b>	
<b>1A</b> Klarissa Hutchinson, Lauren Hutten	<b>5B</b> Rachel VanGrootheest, Danielle Vanleeuwen
<b>1B</b> Sylvia Nobel, Joanna DeBoer	<b>6</b> Carolyn Feenstra, Vanessa Taekema
<b>2</b> Karen Hutten, Henrietta Lodder	<b>7</b> Jolene Lodder, Follie Vanleeuwen
<b>3</b> Henrietta Jonker, Jennifer Vanbeek	<b>8A</b> Tracey VanRaalte, Joanne VanTol
<b>4</b> Andrea Vanderzwaag, Jenna Swaving	<b>8B</b> Alice Swaving, Laura Thalen
<b>5A</b> Inge Kottelenberg, Amy Lodder	

<b>SOUP DAY APRIL 28, 2023</b>	
<b>1A</b> Trish Smith, Lydia Vanderwoerd	<b>5B</b> Jacqueline Swaving, Megan Swaving
<b>1B</b> Kathryn Hutten, Veronica Hart	<b>6</b> Adena Timmerman, Antje Vanleeuwen
<b>2</b> Gail Post, Rebecca Thalen	<b>7</b> Trish Reinink, Pam Nijenhuis
<b>3</b> Lorissa VanVeen, Alida Smith	<b>8A</b> Candice Vanleeuwen, Christa VanWoudenberg
<b>4</b> Ria Vanleeuwen, Leanne Kingma	<b>8B</b> Twyla Vanderwoerd, Tonya Thalen
<b>5A</b> Rieneke Feenstra, Monica Hutten	

<b>ICE CREAM DAY MAY 26, 2023</b>	
<b>KA (MAY 25)</b> Sarah Kingma, Julia VanGrootheest	<b>5A</b> Matthew Ottaway
<b>KB (MAY 26)</b> Marianne VanderVeen	<b>5B</b> Shannon Swaving
<b>1A</b> Garrie Gansekoele	<b>6</b> Diana Broersma
<b>1B</b> Carol-Ann Hutten	<b>7</b> Geraldine DeBoer
<b>2</b> Jennifer Thalen	<b>8A</b> Christine Vellema
<b>3</b> McKenzie Reinink	<b>8B</b> Jackie DeBoer
<b>4</b> Marsha Hoeksema	

**SHORT REPORT FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2022**

1. Opening by Chairman
  - 1.1. Scripture Reading (**1 Pet 1:13-21**); Singing (**Ps 15:1&2**), and Prayer
  - 1.2. Roll Call: Richard Hoeksema, Dustin Hutten, Amy Linde, Colin Meerstra, Trish Smith, Morris Thalen, Ryan VanVeen
  - 1.3. Absent with Notice: Marnix Sikkema, Kevin Vanleeuwen
2. Established Agenda
3. Minutes - approved with a couple minor corrections
  - 3.1. Approved minutes of the June 16th Membership Meeting.
4. Short Report - approved with some corrections
5. Email Conversations to be recorded:
  - 5.1. An update was sent to the board with the results of a letter.
6. Matters arising from Minutes
7. Decision Book Item
  - 7.1. Reviewed the additions and approved.
8. Reports
  - 8.1. Education
    - 8.1.1. Still looking for a music teacher for grade 6-8, but may consider changing for a teacher for an art program instead.
    - 8.1.2. The nurses have been moved from hourly to salary.
  - 8.2. Principal's Report
    - 8.2.1. The board is responsible for organizing the board/staff social. A date and location were set.
    - 8.2.2. Link schedule is on the website.
  - 8.3. League/Harvest
    - 8.3.1. Next league meeting is in October.

- 8.4.Public Relations
  - 8.4.1. Meeting in July, reviewed the handbook package for first time parents and discussed ways to make it more clear.
  - 8.4.2. Discussed the PR BBQ and made notes on some of the feedback
  - 8.4.3. Ways to have more communications with the members
- 8.5.Executive
  - 8.5.1. Fall Membership Meeting Agenda set
    - 8.5.1.1. Membership meeting date is set for Thurs, Sept 29th @ 8pm
  - 8.5.2. Review June 16 Membership Meeting Minutes - approved with minor corrections earlier in the meeting.
  - 8.5.3. The building committee was set and names were approved by email. First meeting is set for Aug 31st, 2022.
- 8.6.Property - Couple work nights. Next meeting is in September.
- 8.7.Transportation - Need to make sure these routes are finalized before the Link goes out next week Wednesday.
- 8.8.Annual Calendar
  - 8.8.1. Need to have draft statements for the membership meeting.
  - 8.8.2. Teachers will have a meeting with the benefits rep at the beginning of the school year.
- 8.9.Finance
  - 8.9.1. Finance Report
  - 8.9.2. Finance Minutes
    - 8.9.2.1. The adhoc committee for fee structure hasn't met, but plans to meet in September.
    - 8.9.2.2. Look into the payment from Harvest and the HST return
- 9. Consideration of New Business
  - Fundraising committees - send names of people we think would be good fits for the various committee's asap.
- 10. Correspondence
  - 10.1.Incoming
    - 10.1.1. Reviewed a letter received and discussed a response that will be sent out
    - 10.1.2. Letter received regarding special enrollment, discussed the situation and what our response is. A letter will be sent.
  - 10.2.Outgoing
    - 10.2.1. 2 responses to letters received
    - 10.2.2. Termination letter to be sent
- 11. Next Meeting: **Sept 19th, Oct 24th, Nov 21st**
- 12. Closing (**Ps 15:3**)
  - 12.1. Closing Prayer – Trish Smith
  - 12.2. Adjournment 10:20 PM

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Colin Meerstra, President	colin@meerstraco.ca
Marnix Sikkema, Treasurer /Finance Chair	marnix@eloquip.com
Dustin Hutten, Secretary/Harvest Foundation Representative	dustinh31@gmail.com
Trish Smith, Ed-Com Liaison/LCRSS Rep/PTA Liaison	erictrishsmith@hotmail.com
Kevin Vanleeuwen, Transportation Chair	exactconstructionltd@gmail.com
Morris Thalen, Property Chair/Public Relations Liaison	morristhalen@hotmail.com
Rod Dykstra (TBD)	rod@stationearth.com
Henk Huijgen (TBD)	henk@alexiosgroup.com
Joseph VanGrootheest (TBD)	josephvangrootheest@gmail.com

**STAFF**

<b>Staff Member</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Email</b>
<b>Mrs. Besty Kingma BEd</b>	Kindergarten	bkingma@mcsfergus.ca
<b>Mrs. Jackie DeBoer Dip Teach</b>	Grade 1A	jdeboer@mcsfergus.ca
<b>Mrs. Marianne Vanderveen BA, Dip Ed</b>	Grade 1B	mvanderveen@mcsfergus.ca
<b>Mrs. Jaclyn Sikkema BEd (AM Tue-Fri)</b>	Grade 1B	jsikkema@mcsfergus.ca
<b>Mrs. Helen Vanderwoerd, BA (Tue-Fri)</b>	Grade 2	hvanderwoerd@mcsfergus.ca
<b>Mrs. Jaclyn Sikkema BEd (Mon)</b>	Grade 2	jsikkema@mcsfergus.ca
<b>Mr. Matthew Ottaway, BA Dip. Ed.</b>	Grade 3	mottaway@mcsfergus.ca
<b>Ms. Hannah Medemblik Dip Teach</b>	Grade 4	hmedemblik@mcsfergus.ca
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<b>Ms. Patricia Bouwman Dip Teach</b>	Grade 5B	pbouwman@mcsfergus.ca
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