



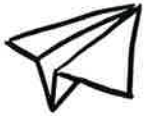
August
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Issue 1

THE LINK



MARANATHA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

A bi-monthly publication for the promotion of communication between
the home and the school.



THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF KNOWLEDGE



**"FINALLY, BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN THE STRENGTH OF HIS MIGHT. PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD"
EPHESIANS 6:10,11A**

REMINDER

MCS Open House is on August 31 2023 from 6:30pm-8:00pm! Come to the school to meet your teacher, find your desk, and bring your school supplies!

PUT ON THE FULL ARMOUR OF GOD



EPHESIANS 6:10

UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 31 Open house
- September 5 First day of school
- September 5 Opening Assembly
- September 18 Board Meeting
- September 21 Picture Day
- September 30 Soccer Tournament
- October 6 Gr.7/8 Cross Country
- October 8 Thanksgiving Day



SCHOOL CONTACT

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519.843.3029

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God. *Ephesians 6: 10, 11a*

The text quoted above is our theme text for this school year, the Lord willing. As always, words are only words without a context. The letter is written by the Apostle Paul to the believers in Ephesus. This was a prominent city in Asia Minor (now Turkey) as it was a port city. This resulted in a lot of commerce in the city. It was also the city where the great temple to Artemis (Diana) was. Paul does not address any specific struggle or heresy here, but gives encouragement for service in God's kingdom to the believers there. In Revelation 2: 1 - 7, John records Christ's admonition to this church: *I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first.* This shows that the church here did struggle in its pagan context, but, in the end, lost their first love.

With this as the context, we consider Ephesians 6. This chapter begins with the charge for children to obey parents in the LORD. The passage emphasizes

that this command comes with a promise for long life in the land of promise. However, it also calls parents to raise up children in a positive way (Fathers, do not provoke your children). The second section deals with the relationship between slaves and masters. Slaves ought to work diligently in humble obedience. Again, masters are to consider Who is master of all when they deal with their slaves.

With this stage set, the chapter takes a turn to spiritual warfare. In light of the context of the book, whether the cares of the world are distracting, whether the threats of culture are drawing one away from the Lord, whether you are a child, a parent, a slave, a master, all of God's people are instructed to suit up for battle. Notice that the command to be strong in the LORD precedes the command to put on armor. In other words, God's people need to be in the right frame of mind before they can go out to battle. We do not act in our own strength but in God's. And if in God's, then we can be confident for He is omnipotent. Consider John 16: 33 as well: *I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.*" Here is our confidence: We put

on the armour of God in His strength and power... the One who has overcome the world.

In this confidence we begin another school year in His service. In the course of the year we hope to continue digging in to subsequent passages and ideas of this chapter, but for now, we will end this here and we hope to see you join us throughout the year at our assemblies.

As we were preparing for the school year we found ourselves struggling somewhat to fill positions for teachers in our classrooms. God provided and we hired sufficient personnel to fill the openings. We had a position in grade 2A for Mondays. Mrs. Jaclyn Sikkema taught this day for a number of years, but she added grade 1 to her work last year and requested to stay with grade 1 moving forward. As such we welcome Mrs. Danielle Vanleeuwen back to our staff who will be taking on this position. Grade 2B was open and we were provided with two teachers to fill this space as well. Mrs. Shaelynn Boonstra and Mrs. Shelley Smith. At the beginning of summer, it became known that Mrs. Smith would not be able to help us out due to health concerns. Ms. Jocelyn Wanders was subsequently hired to take on this

position. Welcome Ms. Wanders and we hope you will feel at home with us at MCS soon! With Ms. DeJong moving away, Ms. Bouwman has moved up to grade 6A, but that left Grade 6B vacant. Mrs. Marsha Hoeksema will be teaching in 6B for 3 days of the week and we welcome Mr. Keith Sikkema for the other 2 days. Mr. Sikkema is moving from being retired to being semi-retired in order to help us out. We also have some changes in our support staff. Ms. Nobel decided to retire fully, as noted in the June LINK, and so Mrs. Jennifer Kottelenberg was hired for this position. Additionally, due to Ms. Reinink going to the Teachers' College, we have hired Ms. Shannon Scheper as an EA. Finally, Mrs. Deanna Linde was hired for Music instruction at the grades 6 – 8 level. And, if you count up all the numbers, that makes for a total staff of 26 for the 2023/2024 school year.

On the student front, we welcome some new families as well. Dan and Rachel Hofsink, Travis and Jen Kamphuis, Jon and Alisha

Kruizenga, Cam and Tara Lodder, John and Danielle Nobel and Evan and Sydney VanGrootheest all join us as new Kindergarten parents. Additionally, we welcome Grant and Shelly Kottelenberg who have moved into Ferguson with children in grades 6 and 8. We hope that you soon feel comfortable in the MCS family.

Included in this LINK edition is an updated classroom supplies list. Please ensure that these supplies are available to your child on the first day of school. You can drop these off at the school on Thursday, August 31 between 6:30 – 8:00 PM during our meet and greet Open House. Come down, meet the teachers and find your desks, hooks, etc. Our opening assembly is also scheduled for 9:00 AM on Tuesday September 5, DV.

We will be having a second theme at MCS this year as well: Construction. With the renovations starting there are some areas of impact. First off, the bus lane is closed. There is no access through the rear gate as this is a

construction entrance. Fences are separating the play areas on the west and east side of the driveway. Thus, children will be playing in two distinct areas. Buses will drop off and pick up daily from the parking lot. There can be no parking along the soccer fields. Parents picking up children will need to do so from the parking lot end of the bus lane. Children in grades 5 – 8 will enter and exit the school via the east/front doors while the K – 4 students will continue to enter and exit from the west/rear doors. There is limited pavement area for play, and, at the time of writing, only half of one basketball court outdoors is available. This will come with its challenges, I'm sure, but will also potentially boost the creative juices of our students. The school will continue to keep you updated as changes occur.

In the end, all that we do is done in the strength of our Father, and we can take comfort and solace in His care. To Him be all glory.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

TRISH SMITH

There is a saying; "all good things must come to an end" and that appears to be true for the summer of 2023. Hopefully the students have enjoyed their break from the regular routines of school and the staff have enjoyed some holiday time as well.

As Education Committee we would like to welcome Jason Feenstra as our newest member. Thank you for your willingness to join our committee in the wonderful work that we are able to be a part of.

From a staffing standpoint, we also have some new members to

welcome. Although no stranger to MCS staff we welcome Danielle Vanleeuwen as she takes on one day in Grade 2A and Shaelynn Boonstra as she begins her work in Grade 2B. We also welcome Jocelyn Wanders as she will work alongside Shaelynn in Grade 2B and Shannon Scheper

who will be working as an EA in Grade 4. We also welcome Jenn Kottelenberg as an RN in Grade 2A for a couple days a week and Keith Sikkema who will be teaching part time in Grade 6B. We hope all of you feel at home at MCS as you work with God's covenant children.

There is always some level of nerves as we all start to think

about school again. The students might wonder what their next teacher will be like, or where their desk will be situated, or if their friendships have changed over the summer. And the staff might be thinking about what new challenges their new students might bring, or if their newly planned units will work smoothly. Thankfully, if we reflect on the staying; "all good

things must come to an end" we know that the best thing of all, God's grace and faithfulness will never come to an end.

It is on his promises that we can start this new school year, in the full confidence of our Lord's blessing.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

JOSEPH VANGROOTHEEST

Another summer gone, how quickly they go! We are all surely rested from some time away, and also excited for a new school year.

We start this year with some new memberships, both with children and without, and we are thankful for your support. Welcome to MCS! We also had a number of students that have left, we have said our farewells, and they will

be missed! And a new group joining us, maybe over the summer your child received a postcard from the ever popular Mrs. Kingma? I know my son is quite excited that he will be going to join her in Kindergarten this year!

Should you have any questions related to enrolment or school, visit our website or reach out to your local Rep.

We are thankful for the break that we have been given over the summer, we are thankful to see construction progress beginning at the school (messy as it may be), we are thankful for a full staff list going into the school year, and we are thankful for the freedom and financial resources to run our school! Once again our cup overflows, our God is Great!

TREASURER'S REPORT

MARNIX SIKKEMA

It's been a relatively quiet summer for the finance committee.

Another fiscal year has begun (on July 1). We continue to depend on our heavenly Father for all things and without his blessing, also Maranatha could not continue. As this new year begins, it is good to reflect on this and to also be comforted knowing that all things are in His hands and in His control!

At our upcoming membership meeting this fall we will see how



Harvest Foundation supports families in their conviction for providing Reformed Christian schooling to covenant youth. Some families struggle with the monthly cost...

We and our donors want to help!

Qualified families can receive 20, 35 or 50% of their annual tuition cost. Our goal is to provide assistance to families who need it most.



Interested in applying for Tuition Assistance? Visit the Tuition Assistance page at harvestfoundation.ca, and click on the **Apply for Support** link. You will be asked to provide basic financial information. It is held confidentially by 3rd party staff at ISM and a small sub-committee of Harvest Foundation.

we fared on the budget for this past year. Scott Swaving is working hard on this and will be preparing the documents that will be sent out in the membership package.

Some of you are still paying the old fees. Just a reminder that effective July 1, the new fees are as follows: category 1 (retired

(+65), single) - \$182/month, category 2 (married & post school) - \$455/month, category 3 (grades K-8) - \$911/month. If you are not sure what category you are in, please contact a member of the PR committee.

As I am also part of the capital campaign committee, I would remind everyone that we are now

accepting donations as we already have some expenses related to the expansion. The construction has begun and the bills are coming in.

Thank you all for your continued prayers and financial support.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

ROD DYKSTRA

Desks fixed, maintenance items completed, school cleaned. We are almost ready for another school year!

There has been lots of action this summer at our school. If you have been by, there is a fencing system around the construction zone. This will keep it interesting for the kids this year since this also cut down on the pavement play area.

To accommodate infrastructure for the new addition we had to remove the tiles down the hallways so that contractors could run utilities. Water lines and power wires were needed along

with fire alarm security, computer wiring and intercom wiring. The majority of these tiles were still original and were quite fragile and very dusty! After utilities were run, a few more nights were required to install the new ones which was also a dusty job. It took Pauline several rounds of dusting to get it clean but the end result is a nice fresh look to the ceiling. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped out.

Since the back driveway is now blocked off for the next year, the parking lot will need to be adjusted to accommodate. There will be a temporary barrier put up to allow a bus lane to keep a safe parking lot.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the school cleaning. Pauline had some juggling to do since at the time the hallways had no ceiling tiles so cleaning was only needed in the rooms and gym. The classrooms and gym had the floors waxed but the hallways could not be completed. The nice shiny halls give a great welcome to the teachers and kids but unfortunately we will have to wait this time.

Once again we have been Blessed with the resources to maintain and upgrade our great school. We have much to be Thankful once again!

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

KEVIN VANLEEUVEN

Our route coordinators have been very busy planning the bus routes for this year. You can

find these routes in this link as well. The bus rules are also published in this link at the back.

Please review these and go over them with your children

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Mrs. Jocelyn Kottelenberg	RN/EA	jkottelenberg@mcsfergus.ca
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Mr. Wayne Bartels	Vice-Principal	wbartels@mcsfergus.ca
Mrs. Nicole Hutten	Office Administrator	office@mcsfergus.ca
Mrs. Pauline Knot	Custodian	

STANDING COMMITTEES

To sign up as a member, contact your local representative or contact Joseph VanGrootheest
Phone: (519) 760-5998 Email: josephvangrootheest@gmail.com

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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Christa VanWoudenberg
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Henk Huijgen

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Jaclyn Sikkema, Staff Liaison
Diana Broersma
Pam Hutten

HARVEST FOUNDATION

Dustin Hutten

BOOKKEEPER

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CARETAKER

Pauline Knot

Secretary

Nicole Hutten

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BUS RULES

1. Please call your Route Coordinator if your child(ren) will not be regularly riding the bus on a certain day. They will inform Elliott's who in turn inform the driver.
2. Children are not to ride on a bus other than the one to which they have been assigned. Exceptions to this rule will be considered only after the following process has been followed
BY THE PARENTS:
Process for Bus Transfers (temporary)
Parent must *write* and *sign* a note requesting a temporary bus transfer or send an email to the principal <principal@mcsfergus.ca>. This note **MUST** indicate:
 - i. the date of the requested transfer,
 - ii. the bus being transferred to,
 - iii. the desired drop off/pick up point (must be existing on the route)
 - iv. the duration of the transfer (i.e. one day, two days, etc.).
3. The principal will supply a note to the bus driver to indicate the above information for the driver.
4. **There are NO exceptions to the above, except in the case of serious emergency.**
5. Children must be dressed to suit weather conditions.
6. Bulky equipment (hockey sticks, baseball bats) may be transported on to school on the first day of the week and transported home on the last day of the week. This remains subject to the discrepancy of the bus driver.
7. Please notify route coordinator if your child has a chronic health concern. The coordinator will take the necessary measures to notify the bus driver.
8. Children are to be at their bus stop 10 minutes before the scheduled pick-up time.
9. Children must be aware of "the danger zone" (within 10 feet around the entire bus) The bus driver cannot see you when you are in this area.
10. When boarding bus, do not approach bus until it has come to a **complete stop**. If crossing the road to board the bus, wait for the crossing arm to be extended. Then either the bus patrol or bus driver will signal you when it is safe to cross.
11. Seating arrangement to be set by the bus driver.
12. Children are expected to obey and respect both the bus driver and the bus patrol.
13. After boarding, promptly take your assigned seat. Remain seated and facing forward while the bus is in motion.
14. Emergency exits may only be used in case of emergency.
15. Keep all body parts (including hands) inside the bus.
16. Swearing and foul language are not permitted. Do not distract the driver with annoying or loud noises.
17. No eating or drinking on the bus.
18. No litter is to be thrown from or to be left on the bus.
19. No fighting on the bus.
20. Any costs incurred due to willful damage to the bus will be the responsibility of the student and/or parents. Feet are not permitted on seats and backrests.
21. Electronic devices are permitted on the bus for individual use only. They should only be seen and heard by the user. They are not to be a disturbance to other riders or the bus driver. The content on these devices is the full responsibility of the child's parents. **NOTE:** While these personal devices are permitted on the bus, they are not to be seen or used on school property or on school trips.

<p>General (ALL Students)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sharpened & Labelled Crayola pencil crayons (2 packs for when they begin to run out?) <input type="checkbox"/> pencil case (zippered) <input type="checkbox"/> pencil sharpeners (NOT Kindergarten) (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>Grade 5</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>Grade 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 2-1.5” Binder <input type="checkbox"/> 2 packs dividers <input type="checkbox"/> Lined Paper (lots) <input type="checkbox"/> PE uniform(Purchased through office) <input type="checkbox"/> Erasers
<p>Grade 7</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"/> 2 or 3 different highlighters <input type="checkbox"/> PE uniform(Purchased through office) <input type="checkbox"/> Geometry Set 	<p>Grade 8</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"/> 3 - 1.5 inch binders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 3 – 1.5” Binders <input type="checkbox"/> 3 packs of dividers <input type="checkbox"/> A BASIC (not scientific) calculator [be sure it has a square root key!] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 pack dividers <input type="checkbox"/> A BASIC (not scientific) calculator [be sure it has a square root key!]