

Training covenant children for a life of thankful and obedient service to God and our neighbour



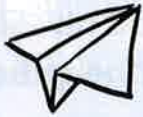
October
2023
Volume 56
Issue 2



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**

REMINDERS:

Not sure about the date of an event? Perhaps you would like to find a copy of the weekly? Or check the cost of fees? All this information and more is posted to the school website!
www.mcsfergus.ca

PUT ON THE FULL ARMOUR OF GOD



EPHESIANS 6:10

UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 26/27 PD Days
- October 31 (8:45AM) Assembly
- November 3 Interim Reports Home
- November 8 Interviews by Request
- November 10 Soup Day
- November 10 (10:45AM) Assembly
- November 17 PD Day
- December 1 Volleyball Tournament
- December 20/21 Hotdog day



SCHOOL CONTACT

info@mcsfergus.ca
519.843.3029

In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle. 2 Samuel 11:1a

Ephesians 6, from which we have our 2023/2024 theme text, speaks about battles. In August I reviewed that text. Recently I was reading about the kings of Israel and Judah. The passage above from 2 Samuel speaks about a time for war...spring time. The text doesn't distinguish between who these kings are: Israelite or other. In 1 Samuel 8 Israel demanded a king. God sent Samuel with the message of what a king would be like. Israel's demand was pretty simple...a king like all the other nations. Note what they didn't ask for...a king after God's own heart. Fortunately, by God's grace, Israel ultimately received the King after God's own heart, fulfilled in Jesus Christ. But in order to get there, there had to be a lot of battles. David was typified as the man of blood, preventing him from building the temple, due to the amount of wars he fought. This was the work that God gave him to do. In the New Testament we see that the time for battle continues, and as prophets, priests and kings, we are all called to that time for battle. The Old Testament people fought for an earthly kingdom. The King now leads us to battle in that heavenly kingdom. But battle we must...it is the time for us to go out to battle. We are in a dark world, and it becomes darker by the day. This was part

of the discussion at the Principals' Conference. I have added a summary of that event elsewhere in this LINK as well.

Since our first LINK of the year in August, things have been busy at MCS. Students were welcomed at the opening assembly by a large crowd of parents and supporters. This was wonderful and very much appreciated. We also saw a similar crowd at the Thanksgiving Assembly...something more to be Thankful for! Thank you! We had another successful picture day that went off without a hitch, thanks to Leanne Kingma, our parent volunteer who kept everything running smoothly. Students have adjusted to modified recess play areas. We also enjoyed a new donated Gaga Ball Pit for our senior students. A big THANK YOU goes out to Rona Elora as well as Gara Farms for the materials and the labour. It is very much appreciated as it is quite popular! While on the topic of expansion, the floor of the addition has been poured and, as I write this, the walls begin to take shape! While the construction is a distraction at times, especially to our grade 5 and 8 classes, we trust the end results will by far outweigh the inconveniences. Our grade 7 and 8 Students enjoyed a wonderful soccer tournament. This year a new venue in Grimsby was utilised. It

was wonderful to see all teams able to participate in the same location. Previously the mixed teams played at a different location. At the beginning of October our 7&8 students also participated in the Annual Cross Country run. This event is hosted by Guido de Bres High School at Dundas Conservation Area. It was a beautiful day for running and our students did very well, with the girls bringing the trophy back to Fergus. Many blessings indeed to reflect upon during this time of Thanksgiving.

As we look forward, we have a few things 'on tap.' As you read this, staff are preparing to attend the Compass Reformed Educators Convention. This is a new name for our annual convention. This year it returns as a two-day event with a plethora of workshop choices to assist in staff development. It is hosted in Mt. Hope by Bellstone Christian School. The Friday following the convention you should receive your child's interim report card. While this report does not give an academic overview of your child's performance (6 weeks is too short to make valid long-term evaluations) it does allow for some sense of concern. Additionally, you have the opportunity to meet with the teachers, if you wish to. This will be electronically booked again, but with a

different system that looks to be more user friendly. On the Assembly front we have 2 upcoming assemblies. On October 31 grade 6B and 8 will host our Reformation Day assembly at 8:45 AM. On Friday, November 10 our grade 4 & 5 classes will be hosting our Remembrance Day assembly. This assembly begins at 10:45 (immediately following

our morning recess). Our grade 7&8 students are busily preparing for the Volleyball Tournament in late November. This event is hosted by ECHS. This year the event may have a new venue, so stay tuned! Finally, as staff we also will be taking a day to work on curriculum. November 17 is a designated PD Day for the purpose of building new units

for various subject areas including Physical Education and Health.

And this takes us to the end of this issue's installment. We thank you all for your continued support and wish you all care and guidance under God's blessing and care as all things are dependent upon His favour (Ps.12).

CHAIRMAN REPORT

COLIN MEERSTRA

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armour of God".

Ephesians 6:10.11

We were blessed to open another school year on Sept. 5th with an assembly, at which our principal spoke briefly about these verses and the staff sang the theme song. It was wonderful to see all the teachers and students back at school and eager to begin another year under the Lord's care and guidance.

We are now already seven weeks into the school year and staff and students have settled into their roles. We pray for the Lord's blessing for our staff, to provide them with the strength and wisdom they need each day to teach covenant children.

This year will be filled with the special challenge of having to cope with the on-going construction. We pray for patience for the

staff and students as they deal with the noise and decreased yard and activity access during this time.

We thank all those who participated in the membership meeting on October 5th. At that meeting we approved the 2022/2023 audited financial statements, and the membership elected as new directors James Medemblik, Ivan Sikkema and Twyla Vanderwoerd. Thanks to everyone who was willing to let their name stand for election, and we pray for the Lord's blessing on these individuals as they take up their task. At the same time we thank the retiring directors (Henk Huijgen, Dustin Hutten and Marnix Sikkema) for their service.

There was also a presentation from the Harvest Foundation at the membership meeting. They indicated that MCS would be receiving nearly \$50,000 from Harvest for this school year – about \$12,000 for families that need tuition support, and about \$38,000 in general funding for MCS. This is a great blessing for MCS, and we are very thankful to Harvest for the work that it is doing.

We ask for your continued support for MCS in all aspects of its operations – prayers for the staff, students and Board; volunteer support; financial support, etc. Working together under the Lord's blessing we can go forward with confidence, trusting in His providence.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

JOSEPH VANGROOTHEEST

Another season started, and we are ever thankful for this to have begun smoothly. We see our needs constantly provided for,

and we are thankful for the health and strength of our student body and staff. Our God is Great!

We are working on a few things, which I brought up at the membership meeting. If you missed it,

we have placed a folder with relevant information for interested new supporters in the back of each church, it also has Gift Card information as well as enrolment forms. We have created an informational brochure prior to our fall membership drive. You should receive this in your Church mailbox shortly. We are currently working on an informational handout for first time parents enrolling their eldest child. This was at the request and comment of more than a few mothers, we hope it helps!

I also would like to address our committee's current challenge.

We have a hardworking group, but we have vacancies in Grand Valley, Arthur, and Fergus, and more coming soon in Fergus and Elora. We, as PR, encourage our membership and answer any questions or concerns that arise. We are the statisticians of our school, we supervise the special enrolment process, we express thankfulness to our membership and keep them involved and up to date on what is happening in our school, and we provide church social contact that we believe interests our membership. We do also approach people and encourage them to support us if they currently are not. This last one is

only one part of our task, but it appears to be the one holding many people back from committing. If you believe the whole list above is something you see worth in, or things you have a penchant for, please reach out to me! We would love to have you join us.

I wish you a lovely week ahead! If you have any questions concerning the school or how to use the Gift Card program to reduce fees, please contact one of our reps.

TREASURER'S REPORT

MARNIX SIKKEMA

The finance committee has quietly been going about its task and will soon be preparing the budget for the next fiscal year. If you have any cost saving ideas, please feel free to contact anyone from the committee. The list of committee members can be found near the back of the Link.

Currently things are quite tight. Our revenue is lower than expected in a few key categories, namely parental fees, non-parental fees and general donations. Please remember to pay your dues on time and if you are also able to make a general donation at this time, that would be greatly appreciated!

As you may have heard at the membership meeting on October 5, the Harvest Foundation has quite a bit of money set aside to assist members with tuition. Not many people from our school society make use of this and Harvest is urging people to apply and take advantage of this program. If you are feeling the pinch, please consider contacting Harvest. Everything is done in complete confidentiality.

We also urge you to speak with those in your church communities who are not members yet. Every additional member helps to significantly reduce the fees. We really appreciate all those who are members and do not have children in school. We are thankful that you also consider Christian education to be an investment in the church and not simply a tool to educate the youth in reading, writing and arithmetic. It is much more than that! We are encouraged to share the Good News from generation to generation and what better way to do this than through Christian education.

Thank you all for your continued prayers and financial support.



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

As we see the beauty in God's beautiful creation in the fall season, we are reminded of his faithfulness that all things will continue in his guiding love and care. We are thankful that his faithfulness is evident as the students continue their learning under the guidance of our capable teachers, educational and teacher assistants, the principal and all the volunteers in MCS. The work of the Education Committee continues under the Lord's guidance as well, and we

are thankful to have the opportunity to begin our Fall Class Visits this month. In connection to visiting the classrooms, we get an opportunity to talk with the teachers to see how things are going from their perspective. We also make a point of asking each permanent staff member about their Growth Plan. Did you know that the staff have Growth Plans? It is a document that they thoughtfully fill out and work with throughout the year

that is focused on their own personal growth as a teacher. They make Growth Goals focused on three strands Reformed Christianity; Educational Quality; and Service to the Community. Under each category, they make a goal for their own growth, they discuss their progress with the principal and it gets reported to the Education Committee. We are thankful for staff who strive to continually learn and grow as they teach God's covenant children to learn and grow!

PRINCIPAL'S CONFERENCE SUMMARY

RICHARD HOEKSEMA

Monday, September 25 – Wednesday, September 27, 2023: Principals' Conference: Camp Hope, Hope, BC.

At 11:30 AM, Chris DeBoer, principal at Dufferin Area School, Carmen, MB, and Kent Dykstra, principal of Credo Christian High School, Langley, BC, opened the conference, under the Theme/Title: "Strong Foundations: Moving Tides," with a meditation on the "8 C's": Creation Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Covenant, Christ, cross and Consummation as well as singing of several selections.

With the conference officially open, the floor was passed to the LCRSS Coordinator, Mr. John Wynia. This first presentation

was entitled: Reformed Education in the Gathering Storm. This presentation was based on the Book by R. Albert Mohler Jr. "The Gathering Storm: Secularism, Culture and the Church.

Other books were also referenced, particular "iGen" authored by Jean M. Twenge as well as Nancy R. Pearcey's book "Love Thy Body."

The presentation began with the storm clouds over society. The primary issue today is "hyper-individualism." This coincides with hyper-protective parenting. This results in an extension/prolongation of childhood as well as slow life strategy development. The authors also argued that smaller families were causing increased narcissism. "At the

heart of liberty is the right to define one's own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe and of the mystery of human life." This quotation, recorded by Carl R. Trueman in his book "Strange New World" shows how society can adopt such a level of personal autonomy allowing for any interpretation of reality. As noted by Nancy Pearcey, "The social order is built around the protection of individuals and their freedoms and far less so our mutual obligations. Any rule that limits personal freedom can be questioned...."

As we turn to our schools, we see the need for each generation to rearticulate their themselves what the purpose of Reformed Education is. Having to rearticulate an organizations purpose is not a new idea. It is actually part of a regular organizational model as depicted in the illustration below.

But, how do you know if you need to rearticulate? You need to ask the appropriate questions, the primary being: Is there a changing culture of support? There are various reasons why this could be. Does the community still see the Reformed School as the option rather than just an option? Our founders believed that the Reformed School was THE option. Are we affected by the various ecumenical relations (E.g. ICRC/NA-PARC). Some schools are heading in a more “missional” direction, which may affect support. Parents may find financial challenges due to competing claims on their time, energy and/or money. Parents may be looking for more specialize programs involving sports, drama, or other areas.

And if these are some of the bigger triggers to waning involvement, how do you assess this? How do you know? While perhaps not 100% indicative, the first question to ask is: How many people attend membership meetings? How easy is it to find people for Board or Committee positions? How easy is it to attract individual members? And one caution was added: It

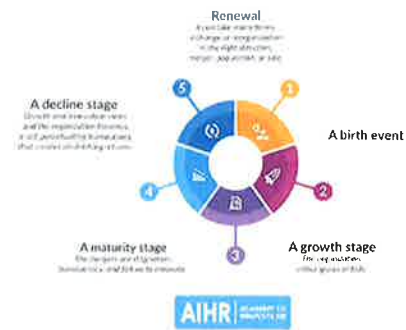
doesn't take a majority rejecting the terms of the social contract to erode the organizations viability; a handful is enough.

The third area of assessment is the cloud over our students.

We hear of a Mental Health Pandemic in the education world. Psychological concerns are at an all time high, suicide and self-harm rates are unprecedented and community involvement is at an all time low.

Why is this? Virtual Reality. Some stats: In 1996 50% of teens read for pleasure. In 2017 this dropped to 10%. This is because teens are immersed in virtual worlds via technology. Social relations are substituted for virtual ones. Students demonstrated technological dependence rather than social connection, and the primary concern raised by teens is cyberbullying: “you are never free. You are never safe.” Attention is negatively affected because technology is constantly switching out stimuli. Social distancing measures of the COVID pandemic has reinforced narcissistic behaviours and finally, this too has resulted in connections being made within affirming communities that function more like echo chambers than ‘iron sharpening iron.’(Prov.27:17). And this affirmation resulted in a loop of destruction.

Five Phases of Organizational Life Cycle



How can the school respond? That is the purpose of the Hallmarks of Reformed Education. Education in the Reformed school must be Antithetical (demonstrates the enmity God put into His creation after the fall in order to protect His people), Covenantal (God covenanted with man, not the other way around), Confessional (we live what we speak) and finally Bound in Unity (home/church/school...all camps are speaking the same things). On the topic of Unity, several principals wanted to include (in one way or another) the government or society in general. Funding, curriculum, inspections, involvement by Public Health, among other things, do affect our schools and so should be acknowledged (this could likely be a topic on it's own, and my intention here is to simply report).

After dinner we reconvened to listen to Mr. Ray Pennings speak about “Exploring Babylon.” The basic intent of this presentation was to show just where our nation is, this world we are in but not of. Historically Canada is founded on Christian principles. And while according to a 2021

survey, 63.2% of Canadians claim Christianity as their religion it is important to now that for those 57 year of age and younger, 67% have never been in a Christian worship service. In fact, religion of any kind is on a decline. A series of survey questions were brought to several thousand Canadians: Do you believe in God or a higher power? Do you believe in life after death? How important is it for parents to teach religious beliefs to their children? How often do you experience God's presence? How often, if at all, do you pray to God/higher power? How often do you read the Bible/Qu'ran or other sacred text? How often do you attend a religious service, other than a wedding or funeral? 16% responded positively to 6 or 7 of the questions. These are considered religious people. 4% answered positively to 4 or 5 questions and they are considered to be "privately faithful." 65% answered affirmatively to 2 or 3 questions and 23% answers in the 0 to 1 range. So, by interpretation, the non-religious/irreligious constitute 88% of Canada's population. The first question I have is how do we get to 108% of the population, but the idea remains valid. The vast majority of Canadians are not religious. And, incidentally, the 16% that are religious are primarily Evangelical. Reformed Christians are a very small group. Seeing these numbers, it makes sense that Nigeria sends Christian Missionaries to Canada.

To make it more concrete, Christianity is speaking about 'water' but Canadians are 'birds' and only understand 'air.' 'Water' has no meaning for them.

Tuesday began with a morning presentation from Ray Pennings. This was a follow-up to the previous day's material, and was presented under the title "Equipping Ambassadors."

It is important to note that our generations are growing up with competing narratives. On the one hand we hear from John Lennon, in his 1971 song Imagine, to Imaging there's no countries. It isn't hard to do. Nothing to kill or die for and no religion too. And competing with that, only 8 years prior in 1963, these immortal words from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr: there are some things so dear, some things so precious, some things so eternally true, that they are worth dying for. I submit to you that if a man has not discovered something that he will die for, he isn't fit to live. After this Mr. Pennings discussed various types of people who make up society: 20% are secular soldiers who want to stop all religion, 65% are living with hols in their hearts who do not know God but feel the pain of His absence in their lives. The remaining 15% are those who live for themselves, those who are bent on legalities of life and finally those who go through rituals of piety but have very little content. Within these about 1-5% would fit our definition of Christian. There was extensive presentation dealing

with the practical workings out of these views as well as how to bring these into the classroom/school/community in a real way. He did emphasise two points: 1. Singing is the closest thing that the Christian has as a down-payment to heaven, and 2. When hiring schools/boards/principals need to consider A) skills/abilities B) Passion C) Temperament and D) Providence.

Tuesday afternoon was spent outdoors in meditation and the grandeur of creation in the mountains of BC.

On Tuesday evening we joined together again for an update on the national Teach with Us! Campaign that was launched to promote teaching/education in our Reformed schools across the country. It is encouraging so see what God is completing through these efforts of men. Later after having had time earlier in the day, the various groups presented their case study presentations.

Wednesday morning was the final day together. John Wynia presented on "Measuring the Success of Reformed Education.

We all understand the importance of evaluation and assessment when it comes to teaching and learning for our students, but how do we measure our success as Reformed schools? In the big picture, what are the "key performance indicators" for a Reformed school? John Wynia reflected on Elijah's

post-Carmel experience of despair and God's response (1 Kings 19). We attempted to pull together several of the threads of the conference as we thought about how we gauge the effectiveness of our schools. Understanding the times and knowing what Israel ought to do, the sons of Issachar put themselves in service of the Lord's anointed king (1 Chronicles 12).

Suggested key performance indicators include Faithfulness, Hope and Love. These may not

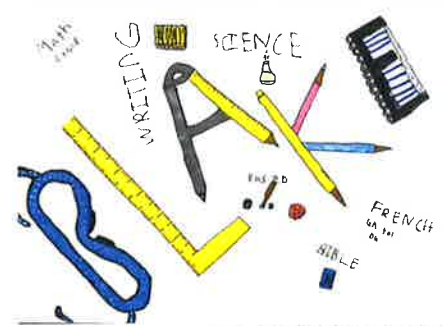
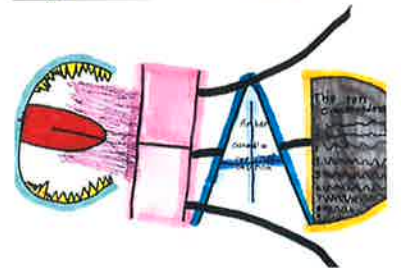
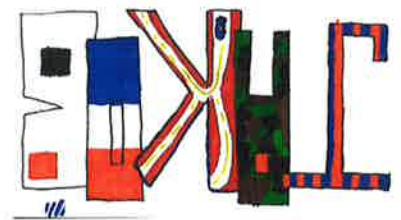
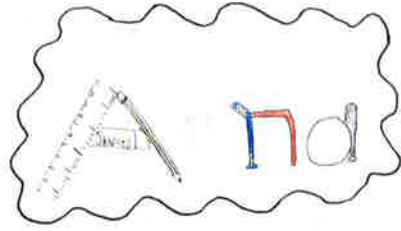
be as convenient as we would like them to be since they are difficult to assess in the traditional way (numbers on a report card), but, as the discussion brought out, our schools will have these noticeable characteristics, or, as some suggested, it would definitely be noticed if they were not present.

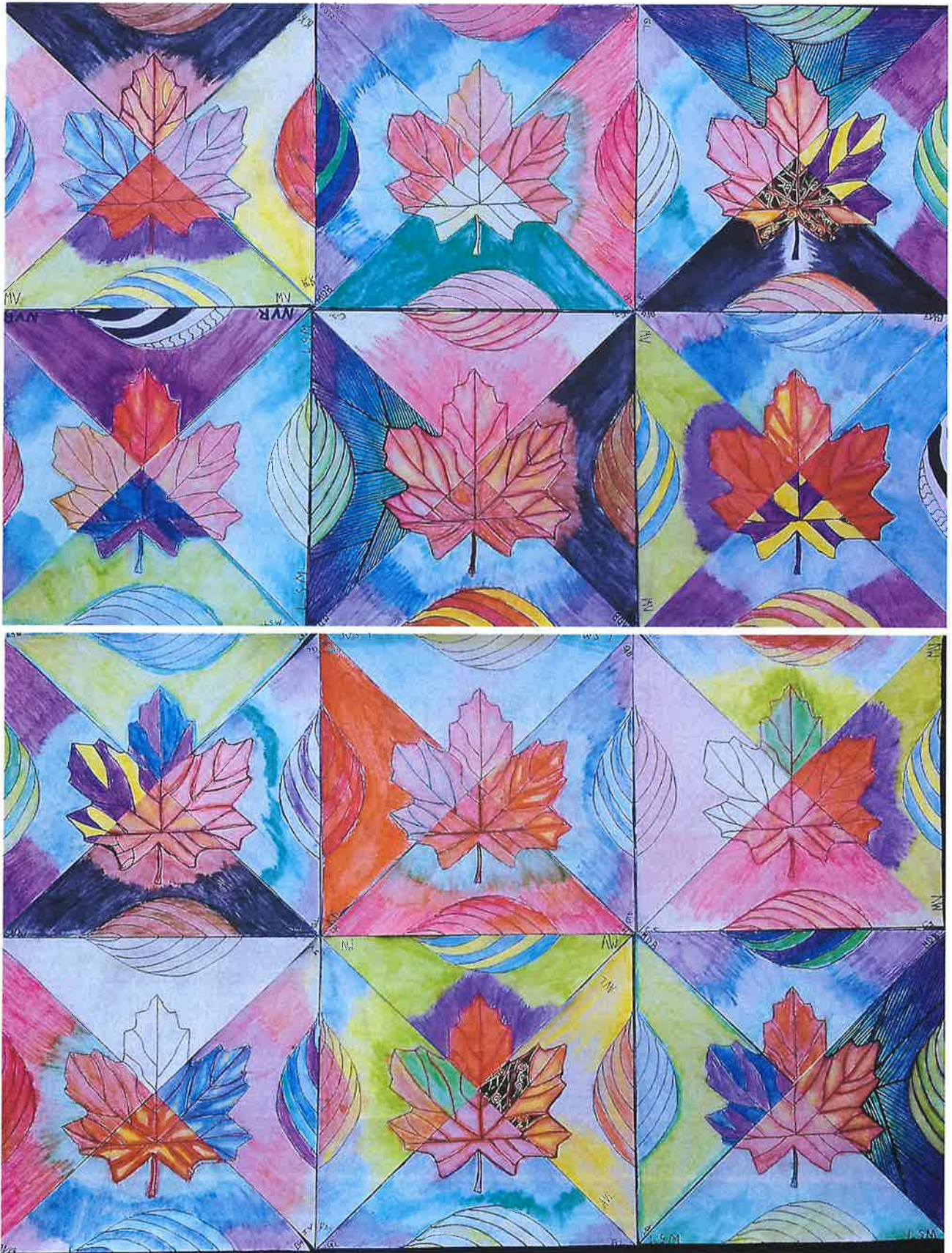
Mr. Harry Moes, a long term educator, retired principal and retires school examiner from BC, had the closing presentation of the conference. His focus was to

Reflect and Encourage (or, in the Greek, Antanaklaseis and Parakaleo).

And so, after three days of networking, engagement, encouragement and praise, the 2023 National Principals' Conference came to a close. May this work to the Glory of our King and Redeemer, also in how this works out in His schools across this country, and may He continue to be with us all until our next conference in September 2025 in Ontario. DV.

This year, Grade 6A started off their art by writing their name and personalizing it with things that represented who they were. Continue reading to see what each of them have created







FROM THE DESKS OF GRADE 6B

GRADE 6B & MR.K.SIKKEMA

Thanksgiving

By Sarah, Lukas, Blake

Thanksgiving is a day to be thankful for many things. Thanksgiving happens in fall on the first weekend of October. We should be thankful for our families that God gave us, and the fields harvested by the farmers to give us food for the winter. On Thanksgiving Monday we can have a holiday with turkey and a joyful Thanksgiving worshiping and praising God. *"Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever." Psalm 136:1.*



ARMENIANS

By Alec, Mea, and Maddy

Armenia was a very persecuted country. Most of them were Christian and they were tortured by the Turks because of their religion. The Armenians sacrificed their lives for God. A lot of them had to leave their homes and all their belongings to escape the Turks. The Armenian Genocide took place on April 24, 1915, and they are still being persecuted today. There is more to the story than just Armenians being persecuted. Adolf Hitler, the German leader saw what the Turks had done to the Armenians and copied it to the Jews. Even though Armenia is not remembered often, its history is still important.



SPORTS!

BY AVERY, JUDE, MALACHI, AND NIKARA!

Sports are awesome! Have you ever kicked a soccer ball or shot a basketball? because that's the kind of thing we are going to talk about. We are going to talk about many different sports and their rules. Soccer is one of the sports we are going to talk about. This sport is very active and awesome. You have two teams and two nets. For each team you have a soccer ball and you kick it around and try to put it in the net. Hockey is another sport that you play with a stick and a puck and you put the puck in the net. There are many different sports to play and it's awesome because it makes you stronger and more healthy, and it is very fun to play with family and friends and at school. We are so lucky to have so many fun sports to play, they are one of the funnest things to do and we want to convince you to love all sports too!!



Contentment

The meaning of contentment is being pleased with what you have. It's like Thanksgiving, when you celebrate God's blessings and praise his word. When you're content with what you have, it makes you pleased and also makes you happy, grateful and kind. Being ungrateful leads to jealousy which leads to not being happy with anything you have. The Lord has blessed you even though you are sinful, so be grateful to the Lord for he is good, so praise him with all your heart. *For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities, for when I am weak I am strong.* (2 Corinthians 12:10)

By Carly Swaving, Brenden Kottelenberg, and Levi Smith

*I've
So much to be
THANKFUL
for*

MUTTS

By Lexie Hart, Gavin Lodder, Kerry Kottelenberg,
and Ryker Swaving

Mutts are the best pets to have! Mutts are a mixed breed of dog, and they are great companions to humans. Most mutts have fur or hair, they either have hair or fur. Most of them are soft and they are usually playful as puppies. "And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds." (Genesis 1:25)

There are many breeds of mutts and there will be many more. Did you know that mostly only younger mutts get adopted? It's because older dogs are not that playful and they might not live for many more years! If you want a dog, then go to a shelter and buy a dog you love! Mutts are awesome, and you should have one!



1. Opening by Chairman
 - 1.1. Scripture Reading (**Ps. 146**); Singing (**Ps 146:1&3**), and Prayer
 - 1.2. Roll Call: Rod Dykstra, Richard Hoeksema, Henk Huijgen, Dustin Hutten, Colin Meerstra, Trish Smith, Morris Thalen, Kevin Vanleeuwen, Joseph Vangrootheest.
 - 1.3. Absent with notice: Marnix Sikkema
2. Established Agenda
3. Minutes - one correction, approved
4. Short Report - two corrections, approved
5. Email Conversations to be recorded:
 - 5.1. Letter received to be dealt with by Edcom
 - 5.2. Approval of the new math curriculum to be paid for \$7,000/year for 5 years, approved to purchase in Feb 2024.
6. Reports
 - 6.1. Education
 - 6.1.1. Proposed names approved for committee member replacement
 - 6.2. Principal's Report
 - 6.2.1. Board Handbook Review - just need to update the agenda order to our current layout
 - 6.2.2. Ad hoc committee for policy review suggestions were completed by Richard.
 - 6.2.3. Richard shared a chart of comparison with other league schools to show the numbers of staff, students, EA/TA's. Taken for information, but very nice to see the information.
 - 6.3. League/Harvest
 - 6.3.1. League - Henk attended a meeting May 25th. The league has asked us to look at the vision of the league. They would like our board's feedback on what can the league offer us? Are we getting value back from the league? And the coordinator? Do we start opening the league up to other denominations to become members of the league? They would like this feedback by the October meeting.
 - 6.3.2. We had asked if they could share more information on other schools' budgets, and the league has added some of this information to their site.
 - 6.4. Public Relations
 - 6.4.1. BBQ was well attended, and we were under the \$2000 budget and ended up being about \$1600. Lots of good feedback.
 - 6.4.2. Replacement name proposed, approved. Having a hard time finding a rep for Arthur and they will try to send a message through Arthur church social requesting someone to volunteer to be a member.
 - 6.5. Executive
 - 6.5.1. Capital Campaign Committee Update - no update at this time.
 - 6.5.2. Building Committee Update - still waiting for SPA, almost there but still waiting. The ceiling will need to be dropped in all the hallways, so a few things need to be coordinated.
 - 6.5.3. Executive activity report to the Board
 - 6.5.4. Spring Membership Meeting Minutes - will be reviewed at the August meeting.
 - 6.5.5. Adhoc Committee Policy Review - policies were updated and reviewed, the work of the ad hoc committee is completed.
 - 6.5.6. Nomination for replacement Board Members - calls will be made to the in the order of the poll completed prior to the August board meeting.
 - 6.6. Property - just need to coordinate with the building committee on some of the work this summer.
 - 6.7. Transportation
 - 6.7.1. The transportation budget was out a little for what we collect from ECHS so we will be getting another \$10,000 from them. Working away on the routes, the buses are very full.

Starting to enforce rules for walkers, but getting push back on that. With some of the recent moves to Arthur it has changed things a little. The committee is meeting again soon to get this finalized asap.

6.7.2. If the buses are that full then temporary transfers will not be allowed.

6.8. Annual Calendar

Principal left the meeting

6.9. Finance

6.9.1. Finance Reports - check to confirm the building/capital is being kept separate and confirm if this is included in the net income.

6.9.2. Finance Minutes: reviewed, brief discussion on a couple members that have left for DACS, most seem to have grown up in that school.

7. Correspondence

7.1. Incoming

7.1.1. 2 letters received.

7.2. Outgoing - none

8. Question Period:

9. Next Meeting: **Switched the next meeting from Aug 21 to Aug 28st, Sept 18th**

10. Closing (**Psalm 146:5**)

10.1. Closing Prayer – Kevin Vanleeuwen

10.2. Adjournment

SHORT REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AUGUST 28 2023

1. Opening by Chairman

1.1. Scripture Reading (**Ps. 27**); Singing (**Ps. 27:1**), and Prayer

1.2. Roll Call: Rod Dykstra, Richard Hoeksema, Dustin Hutten, Colin Meerstra, Marnix Sikkema, Trish Smith, Morris Thalen, Kevin Vanleeuwen, Absent with notice: Henk Huijgen, Joseph Vangrootheest

2. Established Agenda, several minor revisions.

3. Minutes - several minor revisions, approved

4. Short Report - several minor revisions, approved

5. Email Conversations to be recorded:

5.1. Approval of application for teaching position - Jocelyn Wanders

6. Matters arising from Minutes - approved the Spring Membership Meeting Minutes

7. Decision Book Item - no changes

8. Reports

8.1. Education

8.1.1. Minutes reviewed.

8.2. Principal's Report

8.2.1. Board Handbook Review - all of our markups have been corrected. Just need to upload to the drive folder.

8.2.2. A written report on a very helpful presentation at the principals meeting from a lawyer at the Acacia group will be available for the next meeting

8.3. League/Harvest

8.3.1. Discussion on the league vision presentation. We are okay with moving forward with their proposals and can pass this on at the next league meeting.

8.4. Public Relations

8.4.1. Minutes & report reviewed, replacement names are approved.

8.4.2. Discussion was held regarding a potential special enrolment application.

8.5. Executive

- 8.5.1. Capital Campaign Committee Update - 55th anniversary merchandise discussed
- 8.5.2. Building Committee Update - Updated on the building progress and that we are currently on budget with the building. Working very hard at getting the town septic connection completed before the start of school, as of right now the timing looks like it should work out.
- 8.5.3. Executive activity report to the Board
 - 8.5.3.1. Met August 3rd to discuss letters & response
 - 8.5.3.2. Drafted and approved 3 letters based on Board direction from June meeting
- 8.5.4. Spring Membership Meeting Minutes - approved. Next meeting in the fall date is set for Thursday, Oct 5th.
- 8.5.5. Accepted Nomination for replacement Board Members - Mitchell Kingma, James Medemblik, Ivan Sikkema, Ryan Smith, Kevin Timmerman, Twyla Vanderwoerd
- 8.6. Property - discussed some ideas for some fencing for guiding the buses and giving a better area for the students to play and stay out of the parking areas. Approved to go ahead with the construction fencing.
- 8.7. Transportation - minutes attached and routes are figured out, it was a tougher year to get this done as the buses are very full.
- 8.8. PTA - question on the grade 8 graduation dinner if the menu is mandated by the board. It is not, and PTA is okay to look into other food options, or survey the parents to see what the preference is.
- 8.9. Annual Calendar - reviewed, all items that need attention are already dealt with.

Principal left the meeting - 9:37pm

8.10. Finance

- 8.10.1. Finance Reports - reviewed
- 8.10.2. Finance Minutes - reviewed

9. Consideration of New Business -

- 9.1. Anniversary merchandise - re-engage with the communication team on some design ideas.

10. Correspondence

10.1. Incoming

- 10.1.1. 2 letters received, one letter will be passed on to Edcom with some notes for a response.

10.2. Outgoing - nothing from the board

11. Question Period: no questions

12. Next Meeting: **Sept 18th, Oct 23rd**

Link Material Due:

- October 18, 2023
- December 20, 2023
- February 21, 2024
- April 24, 2024
- June 19, 2024

13. Closing (**Ps 27:2**)

13.1. Closing Prayer – Rod Dykstra

13.2. Adjournment - 10:01pm

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HARVEST FOUNDATION

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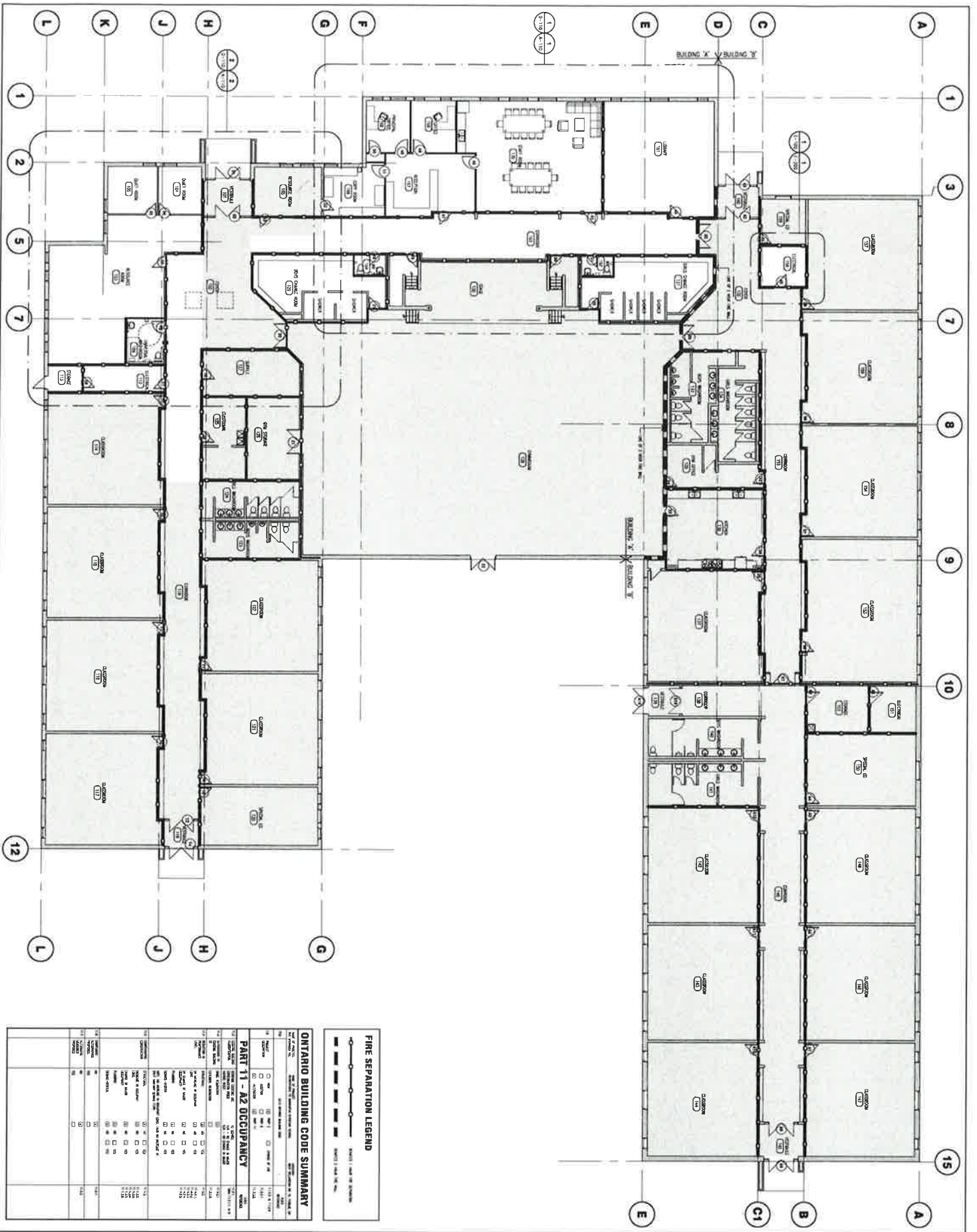
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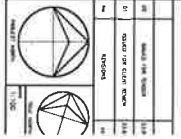


ONTARIO BUILDING CODE SUMMARY

SECTION	DESCRIPTION	REQUIREMENT	COMPLIANCE
1.0	GENERAL	Building Code of Ontario, 1997	1997
2.0	GENERAL	Building Code of Ontario, 1997	1997
3.0	GENERAL	Building Code of Ontario, 1997	1997
4.0	GENERAL	Building Code of Ontario, 1997	1997
5.0	GENERAL	Building Code of Ontario, 1997	1997
6.0	GENERAL	Building Code of Ontario, 1997	1997
7.0	GENERAL	Building Code of Ontario, 1997	1997
8.0	GENERAL	Building Code of Ontario, 1997	1997
9.0	GENERAL	Building Code of Ontario, 1997	1997
10.0	GENERAL	Building Code of Ontario, 1997	1997
11.0	GENERAL	Building Code of Ontario, 1997	1997
12.0	GENERAL	Building Code of Ontario, 1997	1997
13.0	GENERAL	Building Code of Ontario, 1997	1997
14.0	GENERAL	Building Code of Ontario, 1997	1997
15.0	GENERAL	Building Code of Ontario, 1997	1997



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MARANATHA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
MIDWINTER RENOVATIONS
MARANATHA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

DATE: 11/11/11
DRAWING: 111
PROJECT: MARANATHA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
SHEET: 111
SCALE: AS SHOWN
PROJECT NO.: A-00201

