

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



**December
2023
Volume 56
Issue 3**



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



PUT ON THE FULL ARMOUR OF GOD

					
BELT OF TRUTH	BREAST PLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS	SWORD OF PEACE	SHIELD OF FAITH	HELMET OF SALVATION	SWORD OF SPIRIT

EPHESIANS 6:10

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan 8 First Day back
- Jan 8 Assembly: 8:45AM
- Jan 26 Soup Day
- Feb 2 PD Day
- Feb 8 Interview Link sent home
- Feb 9 Report cards home
- Feb 13/15 Parent/Teacher Interviews
- Feb 16/19 PD Day
- Feb 21 LINK materials Due
- Feb 23 KB Friday



DON'T FORGET!

Enrollment for the upcoming school year is due Feb 1 2024 Form can be found at the back of this LINK

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). Matthew 1: 23

As you walk through the hallways and classrooms of the school, you see a student body excited for a holiday season. The staff, as well, is looking forward to a break in the routine of school. But that doesn't mean that nothing is happening. In the hallways and several classrooms, you can see displays connecting to the Christmas season, and, in particular, the names given in Scripture for the Saviour of the world. One of those names is above: Immanuel. So, what's in a name, for a rose by any other name would still smell as sweet? (Romeo and Juliet)

As Shakespeare records, some names are simply chosen and meanings are imposed upon them. We also know that some names are given because we like the sound of them regardless of the meaning. Other names are deliberately given. This last category covers our Saviour's names. Not one name was given frivolously...all are intentional and important. The apostle Matthew records the name Immanuel, and the meaning of this name is included in the passage. Consider its significance. God created a world that was very good where He walked in the garden with man. After man's sin, man hid from God. God then promised to

be God to His people and that included a renewal of that relationship (Gen 17). He then ensured that His people inherited the Promised Land. On the way there He had them construct a tabernacle where He would live among His people, and later, during Solomon's reign, made that into a permanent structure. But, it was part of this world, so it was corrupted, destroyed and replaced a number of times. Then the Christ enters with the name "God with us." This becomes(is) the permanent solution. God is with His people once again, and as He took them to the promised land of Israel in the Old Testament, so now His people are on the path to the eternal Promised Land. God is with us, every day. That is the reason for the season. Let us celebrate this love of God as His people today and every day.

Since our last LINK there have been a few items of note that have taken place. First of all, the Teachers' Conference, now dubbed Compass Reformed Educators' Conference. This took place at Bellstone Christian School in Mount Hope. Dr. Reuben Bredenhof opened the conference with a presentation on the Grammar of Reformed Liturgy. A summary of that presentation

can be found elsewhere in this edition. The second day was spearheaded by Dr. Jeff Temple with his devotional address about Wonder. A summary of that presentation is available in this LINK. This conference was a wonderful opportunity for Reformed Teachers to come together to focus on the "why" of what we do every day. If school was simply about Math and Language Arts and the other subjects, we are spending a lot of time, money and energy for something that can be had for free in the public system. Refocussing on the Reformed Framework that we work under is important and valuable to reflect upon as well as grow in.

Our grades 7&8 students also enjoyed a volleyball tournament at ECHS. This is reported as having been a very enjoyable day. We were able to send three teams again this year, and are thankful for such opportunities.

On the expansion side of school life, if you've been by the school you have noticed a lot of activity. On the one side, and nearing completion, is the connection to a new water supply. As I write this, the crew is busy refilling holes and preparing to clean things up. It will be nice to have one side of the school available again. On the

other side, the brick façade is going up as well as the roof is being covered. Things seem to be closing up on that end as well. Things look like they we be reaching completion on the new section earlier than anticipated. And then the renovation to existing space begins. We will see how all of this will impact us next! In the end, we are all thankful for the opportunities we have and the

blessings we can enjoy every day.

Meanwhile educating Covenant children in the fear of the Lord so that they can be effective stewards bringing service to God and neighbour continues. On behalf of the staff I would like to thank you for your continued support for our work here assisting you,

as parents, in the academic learning of your children. May we continue down that road together knowing that the destination has been assured by our Faithful Father in Jesus Christ, His Son. We wish you a Merry Christmas and God's blessings for the New Year. May He keep us all in His safety and care during this holiday season.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

JOSEPH VANGROOTHEEST

Merry Christmas! What a lovely time of year, a joyous time to remember the birth of our Saviour and our deliverance from sin and Satan. We are also blessed to have this school, in the midst of a fallen world, that proclaims this day upon day. Our school assists parents raising their children in accordance with the truth of the Gospel, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We wish all the best to our staff and students as they take a break, get refreshed, and enjoy some family time together. Finally, we pray that our light at MCS may continue to shine forth in the community around us.

I assume by now most of you have seen our handout that went out in conjunction with the Membership drive, we hope it was informative and helpful for encouraging conversations. We have been busy with our calling and reaching out for new supporters, a quiet response so far yet we sow the seed in the trust and knowledge that God alone can provide growth. He has already provided us with a solid and committed membership and we thank Him for this, also as we see it grow year by year. We also finalized the MCS informational paper for those with their first child attending Kindergarten, this will be utilized this coming spring.

We are thankful to welcome Cailey Scharringa as our second Arthur Rep and Calvin Kingma as our second Fergus Maranatha Rep, and we thank Janneke and Monica for their work in the committee! We are still firming up our replacement Fergus North and Grand Valley reps, if this sounds like the thing for you please reach out.

As always, if you have questions please contact a rep. Our committee is listed in the back of the LINK, and we are ready and willing to support you as needed. We wish you a blessed Christmas Season!



It's hard to believe that we are at the end of another calendar year! Another year of our Lord is soon behind us. We can be very thankful to him for the many spiritual and physical blessings we continue to receive from our Lord and Saviour. Let us not take them for granted, as if we have a right to them!

Several weeks ago, you received a letter regarding our current cash flow challenges. With much thankfulness, I can report that we have received a significant and positive response from our members and donors. Thank you to all those who have responded with a donation. Thanks to your donations we are now in a better position. We are

so thankful that the Lord provides the means and the willingness to our members and donors so that they are willing and able to respond so quickly and abundantly when the need arises. We can certainly see the Lord's hand in this!

major focus of the finance committee and of the board as a whole. We strongly encourage life time membership for all church members. If you are not currently a supporting member of the school, please consider signing up. Any new members, especially while we are making our budget for next year, has the direct effect of reducing the fees for all families. It goes without saying that the more members we have, the more manageable the fees will be.

As we approach the end of the calendar year, please remember that all donations must be handed in by December 31, 2022 to go towards your 2023 income tax deductions.

Harvest
FOUNDATION

Kingdom Builder Deposit

Ethical: Funds support mortgages to churches/schools.
Smart: Consistent rates of return to depositor.
Charitable: Interest earnings shared with the school plus a donation receipt to you.

Helping parents. Reducing tuition.
Contact our Executive Director Bernie Kottelenberg
info@harvestfoundation.ca | 289.309.1466

We are also in the process of drafting the budget for the next school year, it continues to be a challenge to keep the fees affordable as our operating costs continue to rise. Keeping the monthly fees affordable is a ma-

As we are nearing the end of one calendar year and getting close to the start of another; we often think about where we have been, and what new goals we might be looking towards. We often take stock of how things have gone in the past year, what is going well and what changes we need to make. This is no different for the Education Committee, we are always reflecting on improvements that can be made, and we

appreciate when we receive parental feedback for improvement. We are also looking forward, and have already been busy planning for the 2024/2025 school year.

One big change that has been in the works for the last couple of years is a new Math program. The current one we have is quite dated and resources are no longer available. A subcommit-

tee of the Ed Com, the Curriculum Committee (consisting of two members for the Ed Com and a few staff members), did a thorough review of the different programs that are available. They set their sights on the Nelson program and obtained a couple of sample units. After a deeper review of those units, and giving them a trail run in a couple classrooms, we decided that this was the best option for

MCS. We hope to have this program in the school early this spring so that the teachers can start looking at it, reviewing it and planning accordingly for the 2024/2025 school year. We are thankful that we can provide our staff with the tools that they need

in order to teach our Covenant children.

As we reflect on things that are in need of improvement or our plans for the future, one thing that we can be sure of is the Lord's faithfulness. Things might not work out as we plan,

different struggles might arise, but the Lord will guide us through. And as we look at what improvements can be made, or what will stay nearly the same, we also know that the Lord is unchanging and faithful, may He continue to bless our plans.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

ROD DYKSTRA

Merry Christmas all; surely everyone is looking forward to some time off to celebrate the birth of our Saviour!

The addition is coming along smoothly on the build side. It's certainly been quite busy for the building committee staying on top of it. Thanks to this committee for putting in the time and effort to help manage this project. Many things happen behind the scenes to oversee the timing and budgets. With construction comes the mess before the final

product is complete "gotta crack that egg first."

The warmer weather has made it particularly muddy on the property for the kids and teachers, buses and parents. Thanks to Pauline for the extra effort to clean up behind us all!

You may have noticed the front of the school along the road has been excavated as well. There was a water main installed for a fire hydrant along the front of the school; this was an additional surprise requirement and

took some more play area away but on the bright side, the big machinery and construction has been interesting for many kids as they watched the progress.

Property maintenance and planning continues while we duck and dodge with the building committee as construction continues and prepare for upcoming renovations. Much to be thankful for again this Christmas season! Thanks again for reading!



TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

KEVIN VANLIEUWEN

We can once again report with much thankfulness that the buses have been granted safe travels thus far this year. This is something we cannot take for granted. The transportation committee has extended our contract with Brenmar Transit. We are thankful for our relations with this

company which also values Christian education. A little plug in here for them, they are looking for more bus drivers, so if you are willing and able let me know, they are happy to train you to drive for them.

We have put together a handbook for our committee that will

be very helpful for any new members, and also as a reference guide. A change that can be noted is that the walker's distance will be revised for future school years. Previously the walking distances were as follows: Gr K-1: 1.6 km; Gr 2-6: 2.4 km; and Gr 7-8: 4.8 km. This

has been revised to 1.6 km across the board for MCS students. As a final note, we have been made aware that there have

been many requests for bus transfers (over 110 in the first 2 months). Please take into con-

sideration the hassle this involves and use this privilege only when truly necessary.

"WONDER" BY JEFF TEMPLE

BETSY KINGMA

We were blessed at the Compass Teacher's Convention to listen to a devotional by Dr. Temple. In this short article I will give a brief summary of the speech and then demonstrate how it applies in our kindergarten room.

Dr. Temple began with describing one of his university classes. In one lecture he was teaching the steps in Germany before the Holocaust when over 6 million Jews were killed. Of the 80 students in the lecture hall, very few were engaged and listening. He went on to explain that there is a change in universities. In the past you paid for an education and went to learn. Universities are now more of a business. You pay tuition to receive a paper end product to get a good job. Many of the students attending his history class, did so because they had to, not because they wanted to learn more.

When it rains in the world it drops in the church. This commodified education can easily slip into our schools. How can we as teachers restore the sentiment that simple learning is a noble end goal? Dr. Temple called us to resist the commodity trend by bringing wonder back into the classroom. This is not a challenge you do by yourself. You bring wonder into the classroom when you direct the hearts of your students to the God who created them.

In Psalm 8 David praises God who has made the heavens and the earth. This God made his existence and creative power evident before all men. This awesome Creator upholds creation. The creation speaks of God's love and his goodness and grace. In Psalm 8 we read of how David was moved to awe and wonder.

We have a unique opportunity as Christian educators. We start with, "There is a God who made the world and left a testimony of his grace and power and goodness." The math teacher shows the wonder of patterns. God is a witness to himself as a God of structure and balance. The English teacher shows that God is a God of language, and he gives us the ability to communicate our emotions and thoughts. God is a God of stories. In Music class we see harmony and a form of expression that moves the heart. In Science class we help the children to see that everything is reflective of the Creator. As an Art teacher, we show that God loves beautiful things. As a history teacher, we teach that we have a historical faith where Jesus came in time and will return in God's time. All history points to our God. He created this world to his end and for his glory. He still moves stones in the lives of his people for his purpose. Learning and wonder is glorious.

In our kindergarten class our theme is that God created the wonderful world, and we are created to praise God. We begin the year with the Bible story of creation. Our first memory work song is Psalm 8:1.

"O LORD, our Lord, yours be all adoration.

How glorious is your name in all creation!

You have displayed your majesty on high;

Your glory reaches far above the sky."

Throughout the school year in all subject areas, we come back to this song.

One of the curriculum frames in kindergarten is "Problem Solving and Innovating". The "Big Idea" of this frame is to foster the desire of students to explore the world out of natural curiosity to make meaning of God's intricate world by asking questions, testing theories, solving problems, and using creative and analytical thinking. In kindergarten we don't have specific topics to teach in science and social studies class. Instead we have the freedom to wonder and learn about many different things in God's creation. I plan my year using the days of creation and various social study topics such as Thanksgiving and Remembrance Day. However, we often will change what we have planned and instead conduct an

inquiry about a topic that the students have been wondering about. For example, we see ants in the hallway. We use our senses and analytical skills to learn more about ants. My students often bring in special pebbles or other nature items. We wonder and are amazed at these simple things. Many times we all gather at the window to look at birds flying by or beautiful clouds formations. The children time and again help me to see the beauty in simple things in God's creation.

In math class we marvel at all the patterns we find in numbers and geometric shapes, etc. In language arts, we see how God created language and how we can learn to read to learn more about this world and God's revealed Word in the Bible. In our social interactions in the classroom, we learn that God created us to serve him and to serve our classmate. We learn that our amazing God has a plan of salvation for us his children.

It is indeed a blessing to teach our young covenant children to wonder and praise God. Every day again, I am amazed at their insight and childlike faith. Together we walk through the school year learning and wondering about God's creation. Together we praise and glorify God for his creation and providential care.

Indeed, learning and wonder is glorious! What a blessing to teach and learn in a Christian school.

GRAMMAR OF REFORMED LITERACY BY DR. R. BRENDENHOF RICHARD HOEKSEMA

On October 26, 2023 over 200 Reformed Educators sat in the pews in the Trinity Canadian Reformed Church at Glanbrook. The gathering was the Compass Reformed Educators' Convention. After the official opening, Dr. Reuben Bredenhof took the podium with his presentation "The Grammar of Reformed Literacy." He began with the premise: *Words are important!* What if we didn't have words? Literacy is consequential for all of life. Language shapes our thoughts and values. It mediates our reality. It is essential for all students, no matter their age or station. It is the building block for all education, so start early.

All the more are these things true for Christians, for we are *The people of the Book*. But is this such a big deal? We can all read. Studies show that 25% of Canadians have not read a single book in the past twelve months. While society may not be illiterate, it can be considered alliterate. It's

not that we can't read, we simply don't. Is that much different in the church? Jesus is the Word. Yet, society spends more time finding the right emoji than finding the right word.

As teachers it is your duty to teach students that they need to learn the function and importance of Scripture. They need to read and pray...the need to speak and listen to God. As such, the Reformed School should promote reading, for it is in reading that our children are equipped for life and Life. In this way we can also better fulfil our obligations to our neighbours.

So, what should we read? Does it matter? Yes, it matters a lot. We should read good books. And what is a *good book*? According to Dr. Bredenhof, a good book is one that is long enough to change our mind. Don't slog your way through a book because you started to read it. There is too much to read to

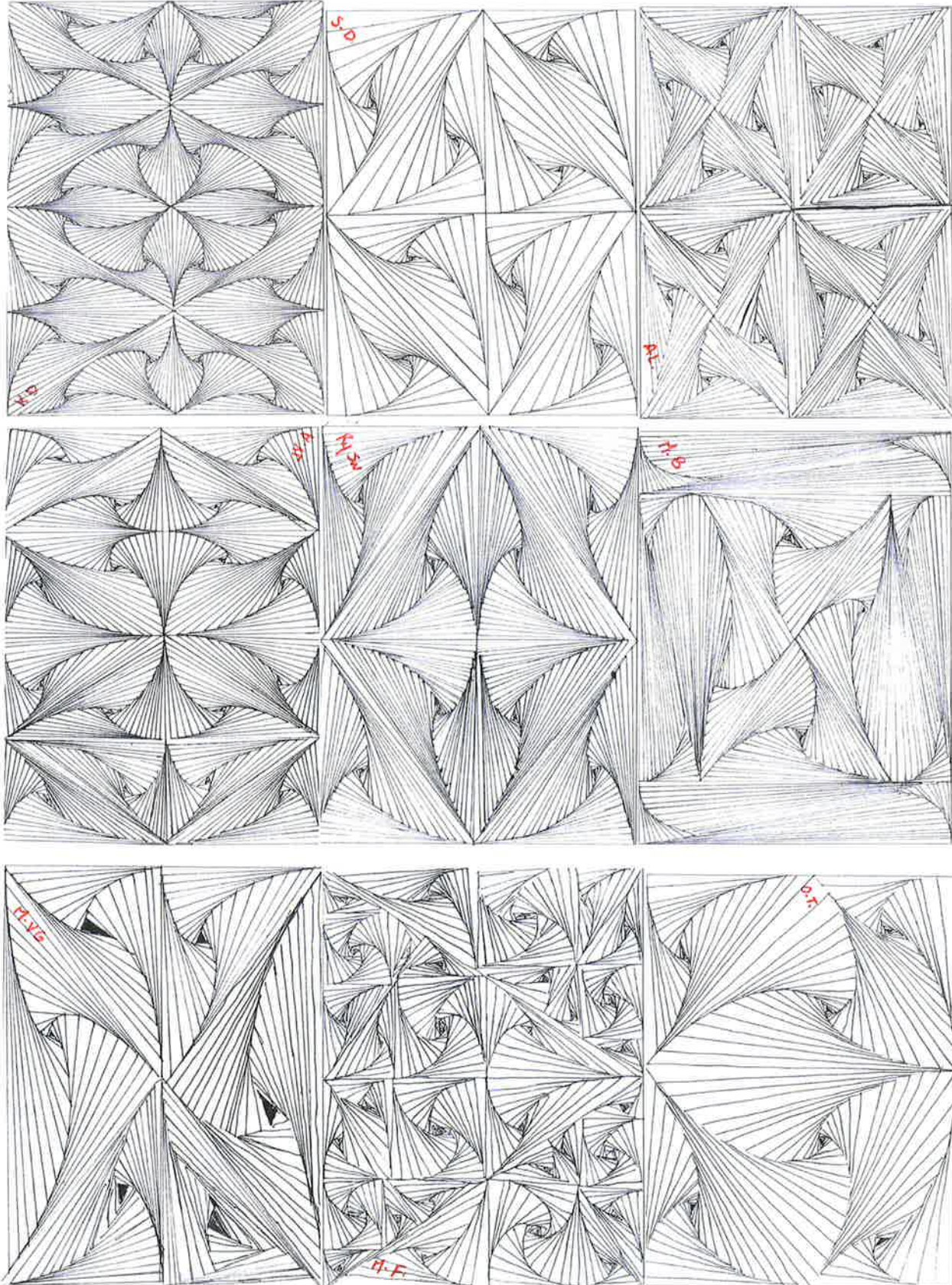
waste time on that! Read good books!

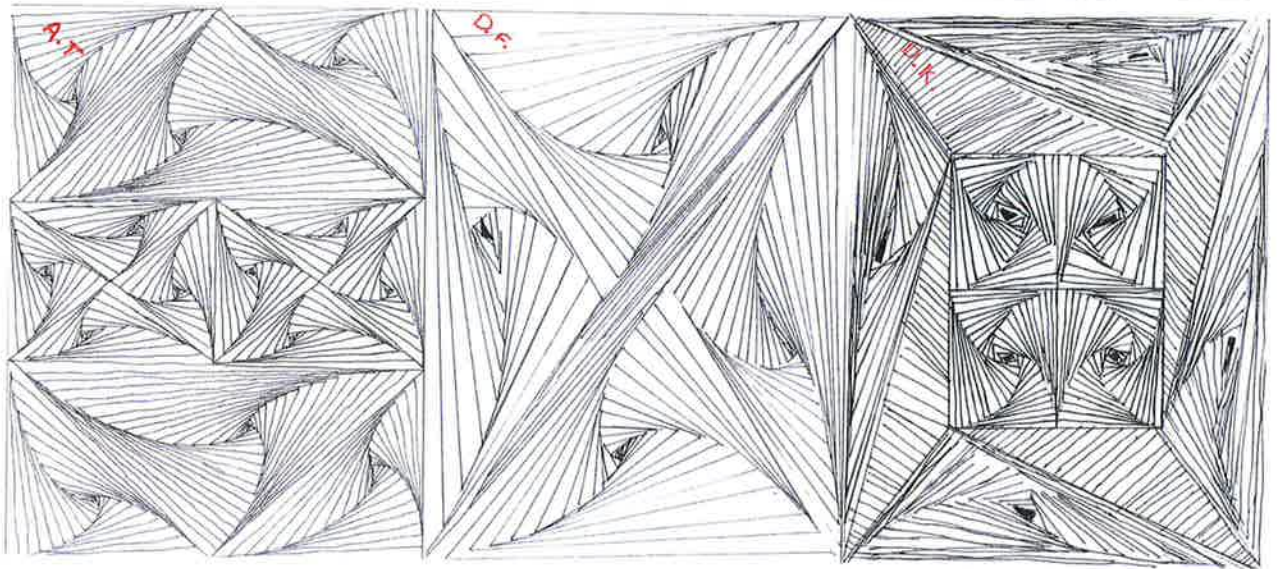
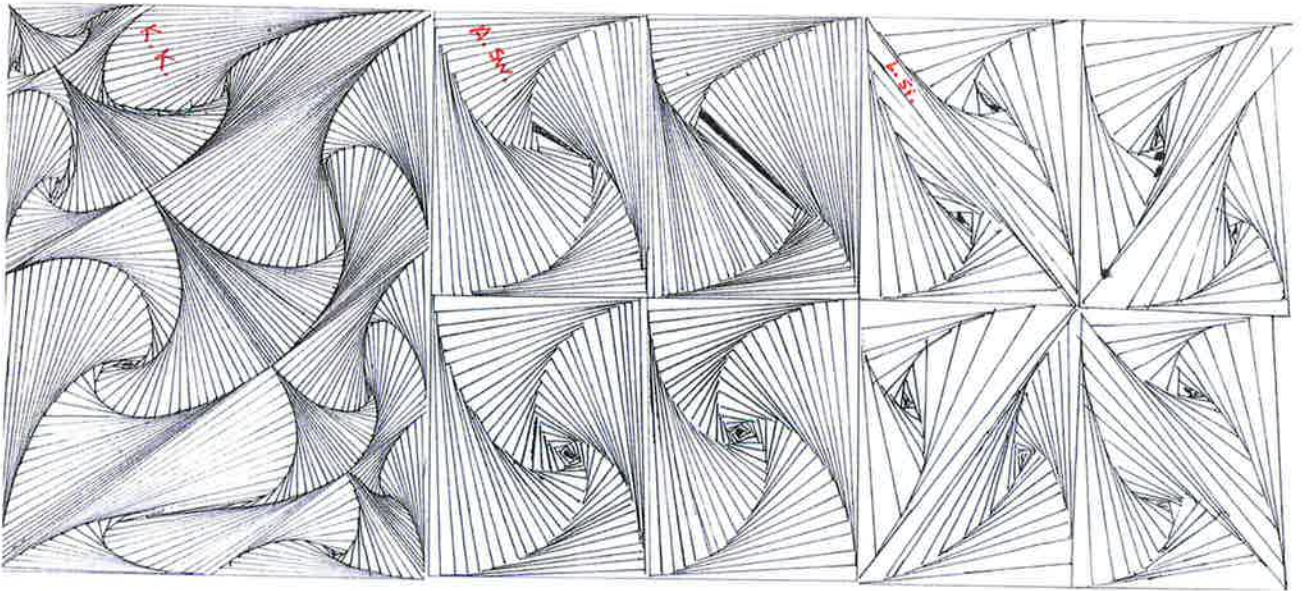
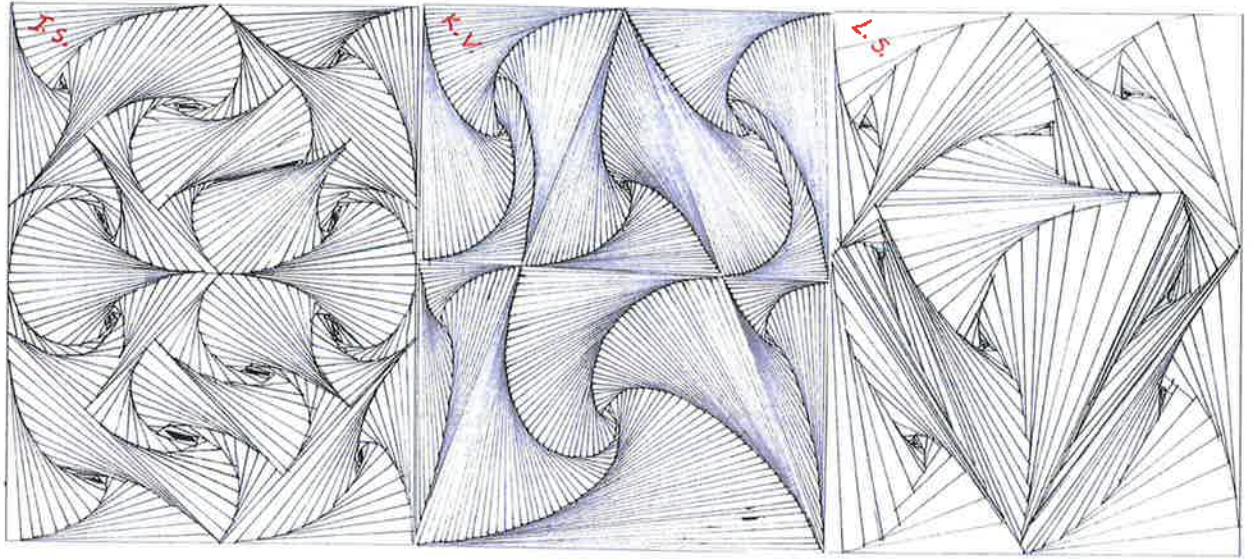
Dr. Bredenhof then turned to the three imperatives of Literacy: 1) Read! 2) Write! And 3) Speak. But imperatives aren't the only words...some important adverbs: 1) Teach daringly 2) Teach enthusiastically 3) Recommend widely (yes, that means teachers much read in order to recommend) 4) Think deeply and 5) reading discerningly...test the spirits.

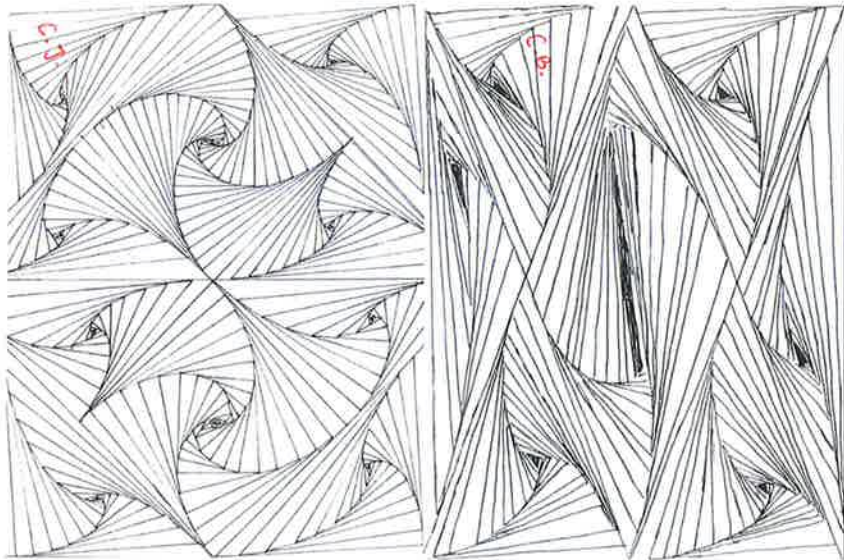
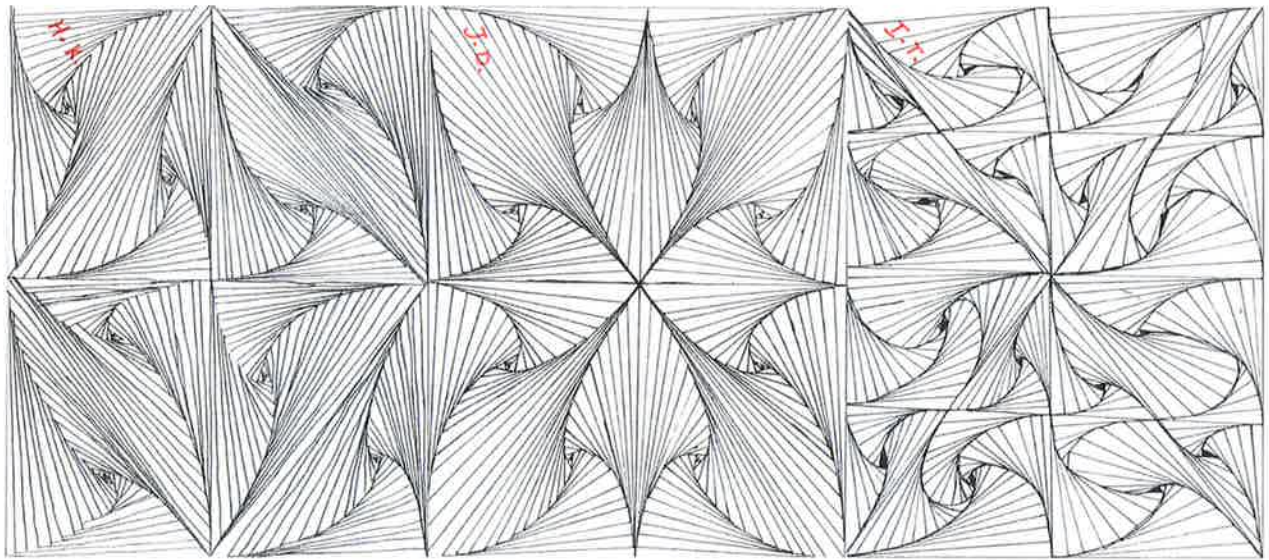
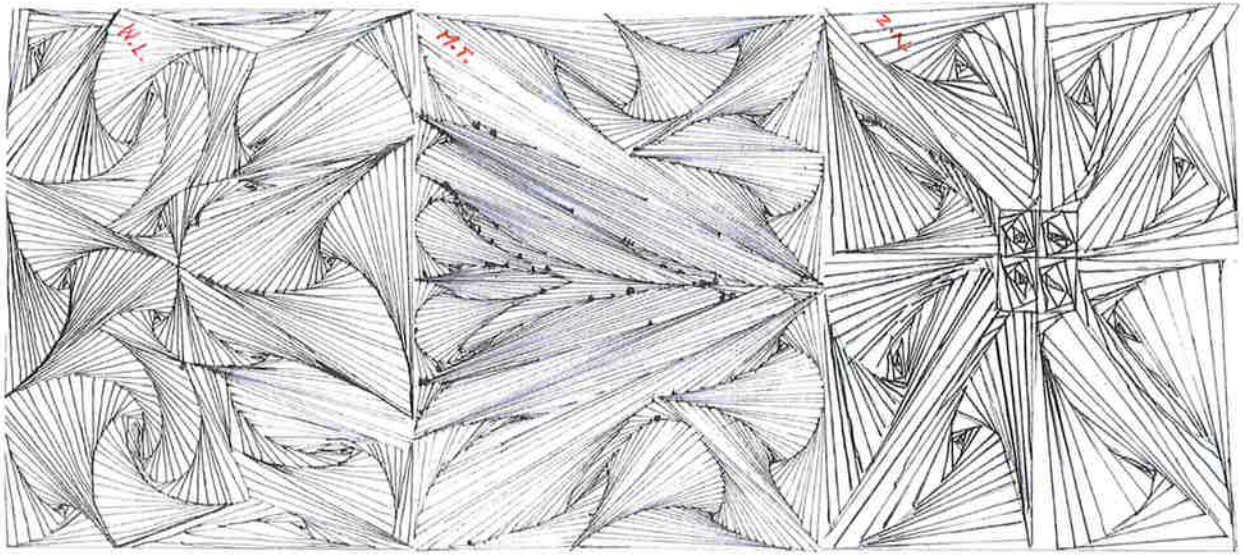
So, in conclusion, we must harness the power of words for God's glory.

Dr. Bredenhof, who is an avid reader, ended his presentation with some recommendations: [The Lost Art of Reading](#) by David Ulin, [On Reading Well](#) by Karen Swallow Prior, [Triumphs of the Imagination: Literature in Christian Perspective](#) by Leland Ryken, and [People of the Book](#) by Geraldine Brooks

In Grade 7 art class, we spent some time working with lines and the different designs we can create. Here are the optical illusions the students created just by using lines.







FROM THE STAFF AND COMMUNITY

*
 Nick Hulken
 Christine Vellera
 Patricia Bouwman
 Diana Braasna
 Alex VanSpelenburgh
 Shaelynn Boonstra
 *
 Djenkeusson
 Helen Vanderweerd
 Richard Hoeksema
 Wayne Basted
 *
 Betty Kingma
 Shannon Schepers
 Joana Linder
 Hannah VanSpelenburgh
 Tom Nijenhuis
 Jaelyn Lekkema
 *
 Jacob DeBoer
 Karel Thompson
 Monique Vanderweerd
 *
 P. Kist

* THE STAFF AT MARANATHA WISHES YOU
 a Merry Christmas and a Happy
 new year



THANK YOU!

ON BEHALF OF STITCHES FROM THE HEART, WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE PARENTS AND STUDENTS OF MARANATHA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL FOR THEIR DONATION OF TOOTHBRUSHES, TOOTHPASTE, DEODORANTS, SOAPS AND MORE. WE HAVE BEEN COLLECTING FOR 11+ YEARS AND HAVE MADE OVER 1500+ "BLESSING BAGS" WHICH HAVE BEEN DELIVERED TO VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FERGUS, GUELPH AND WATERLOO AREA. THESE ORGANIZATIONS WERE VERY THANKFUL TO RECEIVE THESE GIFTS, AND FELT BLESSED THAT WE DONATED TO THEM.



We need your help:
 If there is anyone interested in organizing the collection of these items, please call Nelly Hoeksema at 519-843-2694





The students were given the opportunity to see the roof trusses being laid! What an experience!



Volleyball Tournament



Canadian Tuxedo Day



1. Opening by Chairman
 - 1.1. Scripture Reading (**Ps. 70**); Singing (**Ps 70: 1**), and Prayer
 - 1.2. Roll Call: Richard Hoeksema, Henk Huijgen, Dustin Hutten, Colin Meerstra, Marnix Sikkema, Trish Smith, Morris Thalen, Joseph Van Grootheest, Kevin Vanleeuwen
 - 1.3. Absent with Notice: Rod Dykstra
 2. Established Agenda
 3. Minutes - approved with 2 minor changes
 4. Short Report - approved with one correction
 5. Email Conversations to be recorded:
 - 5.1. Decision to not approve a special enrollment application.
 6. Matters arising from Minutes - none that will not be addressed later in the agenda
 7. Decision Book Item - no changes
 8. Reports
 - 8.1. Education- Reviewed the minutes.
 - 8.2. Principal's Report
 - 8.2.1. Board Handbook adjustments were completed and were attached to the drive folder.
 - 8.2.2. Notes from the Acacia presentation were documented. We don't have an accessibility policy which is required by the labour board. We need to look into adding this policy.
 - 8.2.3. School evaluation is due fall 2024 - look into this further to see about the best timing.
 - 8.3. League/Harvest
 - 8.3.1. The next league meeting is the same date as our membership meeting.
 - 8.3.2. TWUC - report update attached for information.
 - 8.3.3. Bernie Kottelenberg from Harvest will be attending our membership meeting.
 - 8.4. Public Relations
 - 8.4.1. A special enrollment request was received, sent back for additional information and awaiting a response.
 - 8.4.2. Finalizing the membership drive presentation and that will be sent around for review.
 - 8.4.3. Names for Fergus North replacement are approved. Arthur rep may be confirmed soon.
 - 8.5. Executive
 - 8.5.1. Capital Campaign Committee Update - anniversary merchandise (55th anniversary), still waiting on an answer on this.
 - 8.5.2. Building Committee Update - plans are continuing with the renovations to happen this summer.
 - 8.5.3. Fall Membership Meeting Accepted Nomination for replacement Board Members - *Mitchell Kingma, James Medemblik, Ivan Sikkema, Ryan Smith, Kevin Timmerman, Twyla Vanderwoerd*
 - 8.6. Property
 - 8.6.1. Snow contract up for tender
 - 8.6.2. One member with a term expiring was willing to continue his term, names for replacement of one other member are approved.
 - 8.7. Transportation - No minutes
 - 8.8. PTA - nothing, meeting tomorrow
 - 8.9. Annual Calendar - consider for when the League coordinator comes to our next meeting anything we would like him to present on.
- Principal left the meeting - 8:25pm
- 8.10. Finance
 - 8.10.1. Finance Reports - reviewed, everything on track with typical progression.
 - 8.10.2. Finance Minutes - cleaned up the accounts with some construction items that were on the operational budget that had to be moved back. Finance is looking into the mortgage information next week.

9. Next Meeting: Oct 23rd, Nov 20th, Dec 18th

10. Closing (Ps 70: 2)

10.1. Closing Prayer – Henk Huijgen

Adjournment 8:38pm

SHORT REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OCTOBER 23 2023

1. Opening by Chairman

1.1. Scripture Reading (Ps. 84); Singing (Ps. 84:1), and Prayer

1.2. Roll Call: Rod Dykstra, Richard Hoeksema, Dustin Hutten, James Medemblik, Colin Meerstra, Ivan Sikkema, Marnix Sikkema, Trish Smith, Morris Thalen, Joseph Van Grootheest, Kevin Vanleeuwen, Twyla Vanderwoerd

1.3. Absent with Notice: Henk Huijgen

2. Established Agenda

3. Minutes - approved, no changes

4. Short Report - approved, no changes

5. Email Conversations to be recorded:

5.1. Approved the league's proposal to hire an administrative assistant.

6. Matters arising from Minutes

6.1. Review the membership meeting minutes. 2 corrections, approved

6.2. Matters arising: nothing that we need to respond with.

7. Decision Book Item -

8. 8.1 Election to Positions: Election successfully completed. Ivan Sikkema was assigned to the position of Treasurer and Harvest rep. James Medemblik was assigned to the position of Education Committee and League rep. Twyla Vanderwoerd was assigned to the position of Secretary. All other positions remain the same.

9. Reports

9.1. Education: Teacher assessment and monitoring discussed

9.2. Principal's Report

9.2.1 Accessibility Policy reviewed and changes made. Requirements are met regarding access for individuals with disabilities. Changes accepted for Accessibility Report. To be reviewed June 2028

9.2.2 Principal Conference Summary

9.2.3 Request regarding possible purchase of a AED. Property Committee to look into this.

9.3. League/Harvest

9.3.1 Approval obtained to hire the league coordinator administrative assistant.

9.3.2 School review is up and coming fall of 2024. Recommendation made to push school review to beginning of 2025 given renovations and changes happening within the school.

9.4. Public Relations

9.4.1 Continued efforts to find reps have been difficult. Smaller church communities can manage with one representative, however larger communities benefit from two given the mandate.

9.5. Executive

9.5.1. Capital Campaign Committee Update - anniversary merchandise (55th anniversary)

Design for a hoodie has been released on church socials (for a fundraising campaign)

9.5.2. Building Committee Update

9.5.2.1 Building is going well. Time frame is good.

9.5.2.2 Question regarding placement of the main office, as it is not located directly by the main entrance. Would this pose concern that the secretary/principal would not have visuals of people coming in and out of the school building? Changes at this point in the process is not realistic

9.5.3. Executive activity report to the Board- nothing to report on

9.6. Property

9.6.1 Jason Feenstra accepted position on the property committee

9.6.2 Contract renewed with Whispering Pines

9.7. Transportation

9.7.1 Possibility of piggybacking bussing was discussed and decision made not to pursue this as an option

9.7.2 Walking boundaries being looked at after concerns voiced about distance of walking

9.7.3 Bussing contract to expire at the end of this school year.

9.8. PTA

9.8.1 Survey sent to parents regarding graduation dinner menu.

9.9. Annual Calendar

Principal left the meeting - 9:20 p.m

9.10. Finance

9.10.1 Finance Report: Monthly statements to be given extra time to complete.

10. Consideration of New Business -

11. Correspondence

11.1. Incoming -none

11.2. Outgoing - none

12. Question Period:

-Will the bussing contract be substantially higher when renewed? This will not be known until the renewal process occurs.

-What reports can we expect on our drive prior to each meeting? Any activity from different committees should be reported on.

13. Next Meeting: **Oct 23rd, Nov 20th, Dec 18th**

14. LINK Materials Due Date

October 18, 2023

December 20, 2023

February 21, 2024

April 24, 2024

June 19, 2024

15. Closing (**Ps. 84:6**)

15.1. Closing Prayer – Trish Smith

15.2. Adjournment

SHORT REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NOVEMBER 20 2023

1. Opening by Chairman

1.1. Scripture Reading (**Ps 73**); Singing (**Ps 73:1**), and Prayer

1.2. Roll Call: Rod Dykstra, Richard Hoeksema, James Medemblik, Colin Meerstra, Ivan Sikkema, Trish Smith, Morris Thalen, Twyla VanderWoerd, Joseph Van Grootheest, Kevin Vanleeuwen

1.3. Absent with Notice: Kevin Vanleeuwen late with notice

2. Establish Agenda

3. Presentation by John Wynia- Presentation on different committee work. **ACE** (Assisting Children with Exceptionalities) hosted a Mental Health in Reformed Schools panel which was well attended. **The Compensation Committee** has brought up discussion on starting salary for teachers coming into the profession as well as compensation for staff without teaching background but other credentials. **CARE** has introduced conceptual frameworks over the years. This past summer they released a new Church History framework which assists teachers. Resources have been shared all over the world with others. Our schools have access to the Reformed Curriculum Development of British Columbia and they have supported our curriculum development as well. **The Government Contact Committee** has assisted schools in different areas ensuring they are meeting guidelines and laws. A SOGI committee has been formed to deal with sexual orientation and gender identity and reformed schools. They looked at the Conversion Therapy bans and reformed schools. **The Professional Development Committee** works hard with convention schedules and presentations to OPA. **The School Review Committee** proposed the league to look at structuring principal review like the school review.

4. Minutes: Approved
 5. Short Report: Approved
 6. Email Conversations to be recorded: None
 7. Matters arising from Minutes
 - 6.1 Update on Grant Application for extra protection of Christian Schools: The deadline has expired at this point.
 8. Decision Book Item
 - 8.1. Review complete decision book: Decision 15 discussed
 9. Reports
 - 9.1. Education
 - 9.1.1 5-year plan: Projected 14 classrooms needed for the next 5 years. Projected 14 teachers for the next 5 years
 - 9.1.2 Education Committee Budget
 - 9.1.3 Education Committee proposal: Ed Comm proposes a subscription to an additional monitoring system for the student chromebooks of older grade levels. Proposal approved.
 - 9.1.4 Education Committee minutes from November 2023
 - 9.2. Principal's Report: OPA meeting attended and reported on. Discussion regarding Board Code of Conduct.
 - 9.3. League/Harvest: Accessibility Report sent to Property Committee
 - 9.4. Public Relations
 - 9.4.1 Public Relations Minutes for November: New PR rep from Maranatha and from Arthur have been found.
 - 9.4.2 Public Relations Proposal: A proposal to start up an early years program to be run by volunteering mothers. More information to be given
 - 9.4.3 Enrollment Form Application: Reviewed and approved
 - 9.5. Executive
 - 9.5.1 Capital Campaign Committee Update: lots of interest and ordered hoodies
 - 9.5.2 Building committee Update: Renovation is going well. Block work is close to being done.
 - 9.6. Property: Work day took place.
 - 9.7. Transportation
 - 9.7.1 Minutes from September 2023
 - 9.7.2 Minutes from October 2023:
 - 9.7.3 Bussing contracts are being worked on. Bremer Bussing contract on the table.
 - 9.7.4 Handbook is being worked on and will be presented to the board.
 - 9.8. PTA
 - 9.9. Annual Calendar
 - 9.9.1 Review the evaluation report progress: Not applicable
 - 9.9.2 Review and approve standing committee members: No concerns
- Principal left the meeting: 10:14 pm
- 9.10. Finance
 - 9.10.1. Finance Reports:
 - 9.10.1.1 Budgets from committees are coming in and being worked on. Cash flow has been an issue and a letter to be sent to the membership asking for donations was approved.
 - 9.10.2. Finance Minutes -reviewed
 10. Consideration of New Business -
 11. Correspondence
 - 11.1. Incoming -
 - 11.2. Outgoing -
 12. Question Period:
 13. Next Meeting: **Dec 18th, Jan 15th, Feb, 19th, March 18th**
 14. LINK Material Due
 - December 20, 2023
 - February 21, 2024
 - April 24, 2024
 - June 19, 2024
 15. Closing (**Psalm 73: 8**); Closing Prayer – Morris Thalen; Adjournment

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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

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Jeff Hutten (Elora)
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Mitchel Dewitt
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Jennifer VanBeek, Vice President
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Henk Huijgen

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

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Jason Feenstra, Ed Com Liaison
Jaclyn Sikkema, Staff Liaison
Diana Broersma
Pam Hutten

HARVEST FOUNDATION

Dustin Hutten

BOOKKEEPER

Charmaine Vis (519-803-6722)

CARETAKER

Pauline Knot

Secretary

Nicole Hutten

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December 11, 2023

To the Board and Members of Maranatha Christian School,

Harvest Foundation has been able to continue its work through 2023. God has blessed our humble labors. As mentioned in our Fall membership meeting updates, our total school support for the year increased to \$951,000.

Over the last few years, God's abundant provision to us and our supporters was made evident in:

- Growth to our capital resources, mostly from some significant living donations
- Growth in our future bequest pipeline
- Increased use of our Targeted Tuition Assistance program with 104 applications approved
- Launching a CCRTC student support program, with \$100,000 available each year
- Many couples/individuals gained peace of mind via our complimentary will planning process.

For the MCS school society, total 2023 support in the amount of \$50,554 has been generated from the following tools & services:

○ Specific School Support Fund distributions	\$ 7,826
○ Harvest Kingdom Builder Deposits (donated interest)	\$ 2,523
○ Harvest General payment	\$ 5,000
○ Harvest Per Student payment (\$95)	\$23,726
○ Targeted Tuition Assistance	\$11,479

The targeted tuition assistance is paid to your treasurer each August and January. For the other amounts we provide our cheque in the amount of \$39,075.

We invite any of your members to reach out on our website www.harvestfoundation.ca to make use of the will planning we facilitate. Or to discuss planned giving, interested donors or depositors may connect at berniekottelenberg@harvestfoundation.ca or at the number below to explore opportunities.

Please join us in thanking God for His blessing on our humble kingdom service. We look forward to serving your school society, the Lord willing for many years to come. May the work in our churches, homes and schools result in a new generation being raised to know Him, to praise and glorify Him!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bernie Kottelenberg".

Bernie Kottelenberg,
Harvest Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry Linde".

Harry Linde
Board Chair



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ENROLMENT FORM

General Information

<small>surname</small>	<small>given name</small>	<small>usual name</small>	<small>middle name</small>
<small>date of birth</small>	<small>birth certificate number</small>		<small>gender (m/f)</small> <small>grade of entry</small>
<small>street name</small>		<small>apartment</small>	<small>PO Box</small> <small>RR #</small>
<small>city/town</small>	<small>postal code</small>	<small>phone number (with area code)</small>	
Siblings attending this school		Grade	Siblings attending this school Grade
Mother's Name		Father's Name	
Mother's Work #		Father's Work #	
Mother's Cell #		Father's Cell #	
Mother's email		Father's email	
Emergency EMAIL: (checked for emergency closing)			
Emergency Contact	<small>name</small>	<small>relation</small>	<small>phone number</small>
Previous school attended			
Address of School			
School Phone #			
Health Information (please use the back of this form if necessary)			
Family Doctor			
Phone Number			
Health Card #			<small>exp.</small>
Health Concerns (allergies, etc.)			

RETURN THIS FORM TO THE MCS OFFICE BY FEBRUARY 1st

OVER

OVER

OVER

<p>General Comments/ Information that the school should be aware.</p>	
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Parent Signature

Date

BE SURE TO INCLUDE: Copy of Birth Certificate Copy of Vaccination Record

I would like a meeting with staff representatives to discuss matters pertaining to my child PRIOR to the start of school.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OSR - The record of a student's educational progress through school in Ontario is maintained in his/her Ontario Student Record (OSR) folder. The contents in the OSR folder are privileged for the information and use of supervisory officers, the principal and the teachers of the school. Material contained in the OSR is to be used for the improvement of the instruction of the students. Each student and the parent(s), barring any court orders denying any access, or guardian(s) of a student who is not an adult, may have access to the student's OSR.

Authorization for the collection and maintenance of this information is in the Education Act. Users of this information may be **supervisory officers, principals, teacher and support staff. Parent or other volunteers** may be privy to home/work telephone numbers. The purpose for this is to assist in administering school programs. Information from this form will become part of the official record of the pupil's education history. Contact person for queries concerning this information is the principal of the school. *If, for any reason, you object to phone numbers being made available to parent or other volunteers, please contact the school principal.*

RETURN THIS FORM TO THE MCS OFFICE BY FEBRUARY 1st