

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



THE LINK

February
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Volume 56
Issue 4

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 ARMOR OF GOD

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

EPHESIANS 6:10

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar.11-15 March Break
- Mar 22 Gr.7/8 Basketball Tournament
- Mar 28 Grandparent's Open House
- Mar 28 Easter Concert
- Mar 29 Good Friday
- Apr 1 Easter Monday
- Apr 5 KB Friday
- Apr 12 Chess Tournament
- Apr 18 Progress Reports home
- Apr 24 Interviews By Request
- Apr 26 Soup Day



MARCH 28 2024
Mark your calendars!
Grandparents day and the Easter Concert is March 28. More details to come.

“Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but you are the same, and your years have no end. The children of your servants shall dwell secure; their offspring shall be established before you.” Ps. 102: 25 – 28

These words offer so much comfort in the middle of a changing, seemingly unstable world. We know that our God and Father will remain the same and that His years have no end. We can do our daily work in the comfort this knowledge gives us.

The work of the MCS Board has continued over the past few months. We are working hard to fill all the necessary teaching positions for the next school year and finalizing the budget that will be required to support the operations of MCS. The building is being faithfully maintained by the property committee, and the various other committees diligently continue their work as well. At each monthly Board meeting it is encouraging to hear reports of all the work that is being done by the sub-committees, all supported by willing volunteers. We are very thankful to all those who are involved in this work.

We are particularly thankful to the response to our plea for funds in December. Our general donations for the year had been down, likely due to funds being donated to the expansion drive instead. However, the response was immediate and very generous – our budget for general donations for

the entire year was \$150,000, and in December and January alone we received nearly \$157,000!

These general donations are very beneficial for our budget, as they allow us to keep the monthly membership fees lower, which is especially helpful for young families facing financial pressures.

Our spring membership meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 30th at 8pm. Please plan to attend to vote on the 2024/2025 budget, as well as to have an opportunity to view the new addition (for which we hope to have the occupancy permit very soon, perhaps even by the time you read this). The doors of the addition will be open for viewing following the end of our membership meeting. We're very thankful that everything on the expansion project has gone well thus far, even finishing ahead of the initial projected time frame. Work will soon be starting on the renovation portion of the project, with the plan that all be completed in time for the start of the 2024/2025 school year. We thank everyone for the financial contributions to this expansion, and we ask for your continued support in terms of prayers for successful completion, as well as for volunteers when requested for various items

of assistance in the renovation and in moving classrooms. Many hands make light work!

We note that it is the time of year when Public Health provides the school with notices for children that have not received their required vaccinations. We ask that you please work with Public Health to sort this out to avoid any repercussion on the school's end. These records need to be updated with Public Health by March 15th.

The term of our Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College (CCRTC) rep is coming to a close this spring. We are very thankful to Jackie Deboer for all the work she has done in representing the interests of the teacher's college at our school. We have benefited greatly from the CCRTC with many of our current staff being graduates. We pray this might continue, and even increase if the College receives accreditation. Given that Jackie's term is ending, we are looking for someone who is interested and willing to stand on the CCRTC Board of Governors. Please contact the Principal or Jackie directly if you would like further details.

Another organization we receive a lot of benefit from is the League

of Canadian Reformed School Societies (LCRSS). They are in the midst of writing up a narrative of the history of the League, and are looking to bolster their records by calling on members of school societies to help. If you have history with the League, your unique perspective is invaluable as they strive to prepare this narrative, showing the vision and mission, as well as the history of

the organization. They invite you to share your personal journey with the League, milestones that may have left a mark, memories and events that held value for the school society, and insights that have shaped our collective identity. Your contributions will help them craft an engaging historical account. To participate, kindly reach out to James Medemblik

and he will get you in contact with the appropriate people.

We thank the Principal and staff for their efforts daily in the school. May we as members and parents continually remember them in our prayers, seeking the Lord for His blessing upon their work. May all be done to His honour and glory.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

RICHARD HOEKSEMA

"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it," ¹ *Corinthians 12:27*

The metaphor of a body representing the church is a familiar (and important) one in Scripture. I believe that this metaphor can be extended into different contexts, in most cases with the same/similar connotations. Regardless of the context, the main message is clear. Where ever people are grouped together, there are roles for all to play. One commentator translates the verses 25-27 as follows: *The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance. You are Christ's body - that's who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body*

does your "part" mean anything. I've also used the analogy of an engine. No part is an engine on its own. Only all parts functioning together make an engine.

That can be quite the struggle for us as believers. That is true of young believers as well. Modern psychology would have you believe that 'you do you.' Each one of us is unique and individual. So, you need to stand up for yourself and ensure that you get what you need. You may be aware that Japanese culture is very different. In Japan all is centred on the group/the nation. As an individual you have no place other than to be a part of the whole.

When we compare these cultural expressions to Scripture, we see that both are wrong...and that both have some truth. Scripture teaches that we are a group (a body) made up of individuals. You cannot have a body without

individual parts. But the individual parts are useless without the body. As human beings, fraught with sin, we find this concept challenging. We don't want to be dependent on others. We don't want input from others. We are fine on our own, thank you very much! And if that is how we behave as adults (although we know better, and our intentions are properly directed), so it should come as no surprise to see this same attitude in children. So, at the school, we guide children through these rough roads, not based on the value fallen man places in himself, but on the basis of the all-surpassing worth of Jesus Christ and in His redemption.

Much has changed at MCS since our last LINK. The latest I received on the construction front was that by the time you are reading this, the trades have completed their work in the addition. Students (and their families) have

enjoyed a Christmas break. Things have been running rather smoothly. We are thankful for the opportunity to meet with parents during our February Parent/Teacher Interviews. Staff enjoyed some learning time with colleagues via the CARE Day PD day. Mr. Bartels has submitted a summary in this issue of the LINK. It is with thankfulness that

we can enjoy 'boring and mundane' days at school. We have arrived safely every day, by God's grace, and returned home in kind. God is indeed gracious. Some special activities included preparing for the provincial speech contest by our Grade 7&8 students. Also, the annual Great Canadian Geography Challenge, at the grade 7&8 and the 4-6 levels. And finally the chess club is

winding up to prepare for the annual Chess Tournament. Basketball teams are in full swing as well. This year we will be sending 3 teams to the ECHS sponsored tournament after the March Break, and a week later we will be welcoming Grandparents to our school on Thursday March 30 for an open house, culminating in our Good Friday/Easter program.

CARE DAY: CHURCH HISTORY

WAYNE BARTELS

On Friday February 16th, many of the elementary teachers from our Canadian Reformed Schools gathered at Timothy Christian School in Hamilton for a PD day. The League recently published a

grade 5-8 Church History curriculum, which had been produced by CARE. This is a branch of the League which stands for "Curriculum Assistance for Reformed Education". The focus was on examining the teaching of Church History in our schools.

After an opening led by CARE representative James Kanis, Rev. E. Kampen came forward and gave a devotional address on the topic "The Son of God gathers, defends and preserves his church by his Word and Spirit." He generated this topic based on the CARE theme chart for Church History (see insert), and split his address into three points. During each point, he made connections to both Scripture and our Confessions. We concluded each point by standing to sing a corresponding Psalm and Hymn. Here is a summary of his speech.

1: The Church is the LORD's work. The Church is the Bride of Christ, and he is actively involved in caring for her. As high

THEME CHART

The Son of God gathers, defends, and preserves his church by his Word and Spirit

Strands	Strand 1	Strand 2	Strand 3
	THE CHURCH	ITS HISTORY	ITS TASK
	What do we confess about the church?	How has the Lord preserved and gathered his church in history?	What does it mean to be a member of the church of Jesus Christ?
Themes	CHRIST IS THE HEAD	GOD'S PROVIDENCE	WORSHIP
Theme 1 The church is the Lord's work: All glory belongs to him.	Jesus Christ is the head and king of the church which he bought with his blood. He rules his church by his Word and Spirit	God determines the history of the church. He controls the events of this world by his almighty power so that the church is gathered. He sets his people apart by maintaining the antithesis.	We worship the Lord as the God of our salvation in our congregation, our families, and our personal lives according to his word to the praise of his glory.
Theme 2 Christ gathers his church in all times and places through faith in him.	COMMUNION OF SAINTS Through faith in Jesus Christ alone, the believers of all times and places are united with Christ as their head and with each other as their body.	REAL PEOPLE By the power of his Word and Spirit God works through weak and sinful people who experience the triumph of God's grace in their lives of struggle.	EQUIP THE SAINTS In the church, we are trained by God's Word for a life of service within the communion of saints and in this world.
Theme 3 Because the church belongs to the Lord, it lives by the Word of God.	CONFESSION The Holy Spirit works faith through the Word of God which the church confesses as the true and complete doctrine of salvation.	REFORMATION AND DEFORMATION Reformation and deformation in doctrine, order, and life show the struggle and triumph of the church.	WITNESS IN THE WORLD Christ commissions his church to preach the gospel to all nations and to be a witness of the truth in this world.

priest, he gave his life as a ransom; the Church is most precious to him. Additionally, we see Christ as King of his church all throughout the book of Acts, as both ruler and protector. That care has not diminished in the past 2000 years of history! He continues to have all authority (Eph. 1:19-23), and nothing happens to the Church outside of his will, despite persecutions and heresies seemingly snuffing out the light of the Gospel. The triune God is involved in the history of His Church, and we see evidence of this both in God's Word and in all the events that have taken place since His Word was completed.

2: Christ gathers his church in all times and places. The existence of the Church was foretold in Genesis 12:2-3, when God blessed Abram. The Psalms refer to a Catholic Church (all times and places), when people of other tribes and nations will come to know God (Psalm 87). Jesus himself told his disciples to preach to all nations during the Great Commission, and once Peter sees of the vision of the unclean animals, the apostles begin to spread outside Judea. Galatians 3 tells us that the blessings of Abraham are shared with the Gentiles, which of course includes those of European descent. In Church History, we examine how the Gospel came to Canada through those of Dutch descent that held to the reformed faith. By the grace of God, there is a unity of the faith

as well: "one LORD, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all" (Eph. 4:5) To accomplish this, it pleases God to use sinful believers to spread His Word and to reform the Church. Church History involves learning about these people, not so that we elevate them as perfect saints, but so that we see what God can do with weak vessels. It's worthy to note that this extends beyond religious reformers like Augustine and John Calvin, and includes political leaders like Charlemagne, William the Silent and King James I, who are used for His purpose in accordance with His plans.

3: The Church lives by the Word of God. The Church is the fruit of the Word; in Romans 10 we read that coming to faith requires hearing the gospel message. Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 7, 21 and 25 all echo the importance of preaching the Word. When the Word fades, the Church fades, which is deformation. The path to deformation is often slow, and so teaching Church History equips the students to look for warning signs. Scripture warns us that the Church will come under attack by wolves (Acts 20:29), so the saints in the Church must know their Bible and their confessions. To assist with this, reformed doctrine is examined and taught in Church History class. For example, when learning about the Remonstrants, the students study the Canons of

Dort and learn about total depravity, unconditional election, limited atonement, etc.

After this devotional address, the teachers split into two groups. Grades 1-4 met together under the guidance of Dr. van Halen-Faber to examine current practices with the already existing Church History curriculum. These resources had already been developed years beforehand by Judy Kingma, who was also present to provide her expertise. An opportunity was given to provide feedback for suggested improvements. Grades 5-8 were led by Keith Sikkema, who helped the attendees to understand the format of the newly published Church History resources. Then these grades split up into four groups to discuss ideas on how these new resources could be taught to our students.

For those who are curious, the newly published Church History curriculum split the past 2000 years of history chronologically in the following way:

Grade 5: From the fall of Jerusalem to Augustine and the heresy of Pelagius.

Grade 6: From the rise of the papacy to the earliest reformers (i.e. Wycliffe and Huss).

Grade 7: From Luther to the Synod of Dort, including Puritanism and Presbyterianism.

Grade 8: From the ideas of the Enlightenment to the foundation of the Canadian Ref. Churches.

Sometimes we look at the turning of the seasons and we are reminded of God's faithfulness. But it's a good thing that we see God's faithfulness in so many more things as we look at our spring like weather in February. Even though we might be experiencing weather that is not what we normally expect, we know that the Lord is still in control of all things and faithful to his children all of the time.

As a school community, we feel the Lord's faithfulness as he guides the ins and outs of MCS. We are excited to see the addition nearly finished and are excited to think about how the much needed space will affect the running of the school and the day to day learning activities. The Library Committee has been busy planning their move into the new space, and to allow for the renovation to start, they will be packing everything for the remainder of the school year. Thank you to the library committee for all that they are doing! Also, a special

thank you to Betsy Kingma as she is volunteering a lot of her personal time to move the Kindergarten classroom into a temporary space for the remainder of this school year. And thank you to the SER team as they will also be moving out of their current space to allow the renovation to start.

As Ed Com, we have been busy planning for next year. We are often balancing what is best for each student, with what is best for each class, with what is best for the whole student body as a whole school. Next year, we will see some changes in our Special Education Resource Team. Katriel Hoogsteen is moving on from MCS, and with that we have decided against replacing her with another teacher. Instead, two of our full time Educational Assistants, Pam Nijenhuis and Christine Vellema will be stepping up and sharing the administrative and leadership duties for the team. Diana Broersma will

also be increasing her responsibilities to help fill the needs in the SER department. We have also decided to run next year's Grade 5 class without a full time EA, but the class will be supported through the SER department in other ways. This then leaves Shannon Scheper able and willing to step into a full time teaching position in our primary department. Diane Breukelman has decided to return to MCS as a teacher in our primary department. And to fill the full time teaching position in Grade 7, we have hired Kathleen DeBoer. We only have one primary position to fill and the Ed Com continues to work with the many balls in the air to get this worked out. Indeed, the Lord is faithful! We are thankful to him for providing MCS with capable staff who are willing to help the school society to fill gaps where and when needed. He is faithful in providing new and returning staff, and we can live in the comfort of his faithfulness as we continue our plans for next year!

TREASURER'S REPORT

IVAN SIKKEMA

In November last year MCS was in a critical cash crunch and a letter was sent out requesting general donations. The response from the membership and the church community was quick and generous! We are extremely thankful for God's goodness in providing his people with the

means and willingness for such a strong and immediate response! In December and January we received a total of \$157,000 in general donations! This once again puts us in a healthy cash position. A huge Thank You! to all who helped out with these donations.

As the addition to the school nears completion, the invoices are also rolling in. We have spent all the pledges that have been received thus far. We have secured a 1 million dollar mortgage to continue to pay the invoices as they come. The mortgage is an interest only

mortgage at a rate of 6.25%, closed for two years and then fully open. The funds that are not immediately required for the addition or the renovation are being invested in a cashable GIC with an interest rate of 4.95% which allows us to earn back as much interest as possible to offset some of the interest of the mortgage.

The tax receipts have been emailed, if you have not received

your tax receipt, check your junk mail...if you still do not see it,

feel free to contact me (treasurer@mcsfergus.ca).



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

PR REPORT

It's a quieter time of year for the PR committee, we keep ourselves busy with membership review and new programs and support ideas. We are thankful to say we have a steady and committed membership, although we have found it challenging to encourage voluntary growth in our church communities for MCS support. We do have another exciting option coming out that we believe will help encourage community support, more details to follow!

We have begun to work on our pre-school drop in day. This will be a moms and tots morning once a month, an informal and come if you want type of group. The purpose is to allow kids the opportunity to get used to being at school and become more comfortable in the building. Also we hope it helps young families feel more connected to our school and realize the blessing of MCS. There will be a few volunteers needed, if you're interested reach

JOSEPH VANGROOTHEEST

out to Sarah Kingma! Her email is sarahkingma@gmail.com

We are thankful that the school has been able to stay open, safe, and effective. We encourage you to join us at assemblies and special days so that you can witness first hand the blessing of Covenantal Education, it's truly a joyful thing to see!

Wishing students and staff all the best as they look forward to a break in March.

01	\$182.00 Single (+65)/ Retired	02	\$455.00 Married/ Post- school	03	\$911.00 Grades K-8	04	By donation
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1. Opening by Chairman
Scripture Reading (**Matthew 3:1-6**); Singing (**Hy. 15:2**), and Prayer
Roll Call: Rod Dykstra, Richard Hoeksema, James Medemblik, Colin Meerstra, Ivan Sikkema, Trish Smith, Morris Thalen, Twyla VanderWoerd, Joseph Van Grootheest, Kevin Vanleeuwen
Absent with Notice: Colin Meerstra, Morris Thalen
2. Establish Agenda
3. Minutes: approved with minor changes
4. Short Report: approved with minor changes
5. Email Conversations to be recorded: Private Lender proposed by the finance committee was approved for mortgage by the board.
6. Matters arising from Minutes:
7. Decision Book Item
8. Reports
 - 8.1 Education
 - 8.1.1 Education Committee Interview: Co-op student was interviewed and accepted to spend another semester's co-op in our school.
 - 8.1.2 Education Committee Minutes from Dec. 11, 2023: New quote for math program was sent to finances. To be ordered in February so teachers can start to become familiar with this program.
Classroom visits were completed and reviewed
 - 8.1.3 Classroom Needs: No drastic changes in class splits. The classes already split will continue to be split. Current grade 4 class requires a full time EA given the needs within the classroom. We will be adding another teacher next year to the roster. We have 13 classrooms currently and will have 14 classrooms for the 2024/2025 school year.
 - 8.1.4 Education Committee Proposals:
 - Proposal to eliminate the SERT position and to instead allocate SERT administrative duties among Learning Resource Staff.
 - Kindergarten to one class, set for Tuesdays and Thursdays.
 - Proposal to hire a grade 8 teacher at 20% so current grade 8 teacher can take on VP administrative work.Board approves the proposals brought forward from the Educational Committee.
 - 8.2 Principal's Report
 - 8.2.1 Code of Conduct: Folder presented a Code of Conduct for board members. Discussion followed. Our by-laws involve membership involvement if an individual need to be excused from their position on the board. A signed paper will help with accountability. Two board members will move forward in fitting such a paper together that fits with our by-laws.
 - 8.3 League/Harvest
 - 8.3.1 LLRC meeting highlights: Nothing to report on. LLRC liaison to look into dues.
 - 8.3.2 Harvest letter: to be included in the next issue of the LINK
 - 8.4 Public Relations
 - 8.5 Executive
 - 8.5.1 Project budget for MCS expansion was discussed. Extra costs were incurred. Permit fees were more than expected, the hydrant was not in the proposal and we were required to make the addition larger for a fire exit.
 - 8.5.2 Copy of Salary report from League: To be discussed in the next meeting.
 - 8.5.3 Cost savings led to accepting of the bid from Exact Construction for the renovation
 - 8.6 Property
 - 8.6.1 Property Committee minutes from Nov. 29, 2023:
 - Janitorial budget will increase with size of building, as will gas and energy prices. Sewer will also be an additional charge. Looking into approx. numbers.

-AED defibrillator will cost approx \$2300. It needs to be tested and maintenance is required yearly. Will need to train individuals on how to properly use the device. Property committee has brought this information to the board for final decision. What would it cost for the yearly maintenance of this device? At some point in the future it will be required and a proposal accepted to wait until it is required of us.

-Accessibility requirements from the Government, including staff training has been completed and will be submitted by Richard.

8.7 Transportation

8.7.1 Transportation Minutes from November 22, 2023

8.7.2 Review Transportation Committee Handbook: Proposal to change the area for pick up. 1.6 Km for MCS. 3.5 km for ECHS. Decision to allow ECHS to look over this change before we approve this proposal.

Also added, if MCS doesn't have school because of unforeseen circumstances, busses will still run for ECHS.

Proposal to make this the official handbook was accepted by the board.

8.8 PTA: Nothing to report

8.9 Annual Calendar

8.9.1 Approval of Staff requirements: Already discussed

8.9.2 Principal evaluation review Follow-up:

Principal left the meeting: 9:22 pm

8.10 Finance

8.10.1 Finance Minutes from Dec.13 2023

-\$35,000 donated in response to our letter and more projected to donate.

-Large percent of arrears is due to pre-support funds due. Question arising as to whether or not the Harvest Foundation will help with pre-support payments for families that are struggling.

8.10.2 Preliminary Budget for MCS w/o mortgage: Budget looked at and discussed. Discussion about school fees and how payment of mortgage interest will take place.

8.10.3 Financial Statements for November-Pledges that came in, we made \$25,000 in interest. Budget is looking reasonable

Consideration of New Business

9. Correspondence

Incoming -

Outgoing - Letter to membership was sent out

10. Question Period: Question about how to cut costs and yet meet the needs of children with learning differences by perhaps by having a combination of grades. Ed Comm will look into this.

Next Meeting: **Jan 22nd, Feb 19th, March 18th**

Next Link Material Due:

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

11. Closing

Closing Prayer – Joseph VanGrootheest.

Adjournment

1. Opening by Chairman

1.1. Scripture Reading (**Psalm 93**); Singing (**Psalm 93:1,2**), 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: Richard Hoeksema

2. Establish Agenda: Agenda was approved with minor changes

3.Minutes: Minutes approved with changes

4.Short Report: Approved with Changes

5.Email Conversations to be recorded:

5.1 Board approval given to hire an applicant.

6.Matters arising from Minutes

6.1 Question regarding Harvest: Harvest will help families with pre-support. You do not have to have a child in our school to ask Harvest for assistance.

6.2 Confirmed that ECHS has approved the walking distance for their students.

7.Decision Book Item: Nothing to note

8.Reports

8.1.Education

8.1.1 Education Committee minutes-reviewed.

8.1.2 Edcom proposal: Proposal for moving of classrooms was presented. The proposal was discussed and declined. Alternative ideas given to ed com to consider.

The library will be moved with the help of volunteers, and the Staff room can be moved during March Break.

8.2.Principal's Report

8.2.1 Advertisement for teaching positions

8.2.2 Board policy on interactions with Public health discussed. Discussion in regards to Public Health's laws to suspend students who are not up to date on their vaccinations as well as discussion on the exemption form required to be filled out by these parents.

Motion made to have the principal, alongside the board, encourage parents to work things out with public health, should they have a letter given to them regarding the vaccination policy and possible suspension of their child, to not make it the school's issue. If such an event occurs and a child is facing suspension, the board is to call a meeting to discuss this issue. Motion passed.

8.3.League/Harvest

8.3.1 League Report: Request to reach out to our membership to ask for help with gathering information on the history of our schools. This could be recorded in a report and added to the Link.

Salary report was included and discussed in order for future vote to approve the salary grid changes. No feedback or concerns or objections.

8.4.Public Relations

8.4.1 P.R. minutes. New Rep for Fergus North. No rep for Grand Valley. Option to find someone to put events into their church news.

8.4.2 Early Years Proposal: Approved in principle with further discussion needed between P.R. and Principal to iron out the specifics.

8.5.Executive

8.5.1 Executive Activity Report:

-Email received regarding a meeting to discuss busing from Arthur to DACS. Decision made to contact DACS about this matter.

-Discussion regarding staff changes and contract renewals.

8.5.2 Renovation/Expansion Committee.

-All is going well. Exact Construction will be doing the renovation, so Kevin Vanleeuwen will be replaced on this committee.

8.6.Property: Nothing to report

8.7.Transportation

8.7.1 Transportation Minutes: Reviewed

8.8.PTA Nothing to report

8.9.Annual Calendar

Principal left the meeting: N/A

8.10.Finance

8.10.1 Finance Minutes

8.10.2 December financial Statements:

-Significant amount of donations were received. Cash flow is healthy.

8.10.3 MCS Budget Draft 2025

-Question arising: who will budget the cost for new student and teacher desks for the expansion? It will not be the renovation budget. This should not be a huge expense to worry about at this time.

-Maintenance costs may increase. This will be revisited and hopefully decrease in the future when the renovations are completed.

- Each committee at their next meeting is to look at what they could do to reduce the budget.

- Discussion on keeping the class trip budget within the means of fundraising amounts to take pressure of the budget,

8.10.4 Budget Draft Memo

9.Consideration of New Business - None

10.Correspondence

10.1.Incoming -

10.1.1- Letter from ECHS HR committee "Teach With Us" Program

Trish Smith found willing to be a part of this committee.

10.2.Outgoing -

11.Question Period:

12.Next Meeting: **Feb. 26th, March 18th, April 22th**

LINK Material Due:

- February 28, 2024
- April 24, 2024
- June 19, 2024

13. Closing (**Psalm 93: 3,4**)

13.1. Closing Prayer – Twyla Vanderwoerd

13.2. Adjournment 11:40 pm

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Colin Meerstra, President	colin@meerstraco.ca
Trish Smith, Vice President/Ed Com Chair/PTA Liaison, Transportation Liaison	erictrishsmith@hotmail.com
Ivan Sikkema, Treasurer/Finance Chair/Harvest Rep	treasurer@mcsfergus.ca
Twyla Vanderwoerd, Secretary	secretary@mcsfergus.ca
James Medemblik, Ed-Com Liaison/LCRSS Rep	jamesmedemblik@gmail.com
Joseph VanGrootheest, Public Relations Chair/Finance Liaison	josephvangrootheest@gmail.com
Kevin Vanleeuwen, Transportation Chair	exactconstructionltd@gmail.com
Rod Dykstra, Property Chair	rod@stationearth.com
Morris Thalen, Property Liaison/Public Relations Liaison	morristhalen@hotmail.com

STAFF

Staff Member	Position	Email
Mrs. Betsy Kingma	Kindergarten	bkingma@mcsfergus.ca
Mrs. Jackie DeBoer	Grade 1A	jdeboer@mcsfergus.ca
Mrs. Marianne Vanderveen	Grade 1B	mvanderveen@mcsfergus.ca
Mrs. Jaclyn Sikkema	Grade 1B	jsikkema@mcsfergus.ca
Mrs. Helen Vanderwoerd	Grade 2A	hvanderwoerd@mcsfergus.ca
Mrs. Shaelynn Boonstra	Grade 2B	sboonstra@mcsfergus.ca
Mrs. Jocelyn Wanders	Grade 2B	jwanders@mcsfergus.ca
Mr. Matthew Ottaway	Grade 3	mottaway@mcsfergus.ca
Mrs. Hannah VanSydenborgh	Grade 4	hvansydenborgh@mcsfergus.ca
Ms. Joanna Kapteyn	Grade 5	jkapteyn@mcsfergus.ca
Ms. Patricia Bouwman	Grade 6A	pbouwman@mcsfergus.ca
Mrs. Marsha Hoeksema	Grade 6B	mhoeksema@mcsfergus.ca
Mr. Keith Sikkema	Grade 6B	ksikkema@mcsfergus.ca
Ms. Alexandra VanSydenborgh	Grade 7	avansydenborgh@mcsfergus.ca
Mr. Wayne Bartels	Grade 8A	wbartels@mcsfergus.ca
Mrs. Deanna Linde	Music	dlinde@mcsfergus.ca
Support Staff		
Ms. Katriel Hoogsteen	SERT	khoogsteen@mcsfergus.ca
Mrs. Pamela Nijenhuis	EA	pnijenhuis@mcsfergus.ca
Mrs. Christine Vellema	EA	cvellema@mcsfergus.ca
Mrs. Diana Broersma	TA	dbroersma@mcsfergus.ca
Ms. Shannon Schepper	TA	sschepper@mcsfergus.ca
Mrs. Jennifer Kottelenberg	RN	jenkottelenberg@mcsfergus.ca
Mrs. Jocelyn Kottelenberg	RN/EA	jkottelenberg@mcsfergus.ca
Office Staff:		
Mr. Richard Hoeksema	Principal	principal@mcsfergus.ca
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

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Mitchel Dewitt
John Nobel
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Craig Vanveen

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Kevin Vanleeuwen, Chairman
exactconstructionltd@gmail.com
Trish Smith, Board Liaison
erictrishsmith@hotmail.com
Rachel VanGrootheest (Fergus/Elora)
rachel_vg@yahoo.com
Sylvia Nobel (Alma/Elora)
neilsynobel@gmail.com
Kevin Timmerman (South)
kevin.p.timmerman@gmail.com
Jennifer Kamphuis (Arthur)
tjkamp14@gmail.com
Henrietta Lodder (Belwood)
henrietalodder@hotmail.com

MCS FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Anne Reinink, President, anneandfrank@hotmail.com
Follie Vanleeuwen, Secretary, follie@live.com
Shannon Swaving, smswaving@gmail.com
Hannah DeWitt, hannaha_14@hotmail.com
Laura Thalen, alexandlaurathalen@hotmail.com

MCS GIFT CARD COMMITTEE

Kathryn Hutten -kkhutten@gmail.com
Henrietta Jonker -henriettajonker@gmail.com
Annette Nobel -henkannettenobel@gmail.com

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Klaarissa Hutchinson, President
Jennifer VanBeek, Vice President
Leanne Kingma, Treasurer
Garrie Gansekoele, Secretary
Helen Vanderwoerd, Staff Liaison
Trish Smith, Board Liaison

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Joseph VanGrootheest, Chairman
josephvangrootheest@gmail.com
Morris Thalen, Board Liaison
morrithalen@hotmail.com
Sarah Kingma (Arthur)
sarahhkingma@gmail.com
Cailey Scharringa
Cailey.vanveen@gmail.com
Reuben Vandenberg (Elora)
r.vandenberg@wightman.ca
Kathryn Hutten (Elora)
kkhutten@gmail.com
Calvin Kingma (Fergus Maranatha)
calvinkingma@gmail.com
Alice Swaving (Fergus Maranatha)
alicevellema@hotmail.com
Evan VanGrootheest (Fergus North)
evan.vg@hotmail.com

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Laura Meerstra, Head Librarian
Jason Feenstra, Ed Com Liaison
Jaclyn Sikkema, Staff Liaison
Diana Broersma
Pam Hutten

HARVEST FOUNDATION

Ivan Sikkema

LEAGUE DELEGATE

James Medemblik

BOOKKEEPER

Charmaine Vis (519-803-6722)

CARETAKER

Pauline Knot

SECRETARY

Nicole Hutten

SCHOOL ADDRESS:

8037 Wellington Rd. 19 Fergus, ON., N1M 2W4
web: www.mcsfergus.ca
E-Mail: office@mcsfergus.ca
Phone: (519) 843-3029

