

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



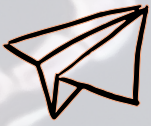
April  
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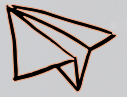
THE LINK

# 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 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

- May 3/4 Musical
- May 6 PD Day
- May 9 Assembly (2:30PM)
- May 17/20 PD Day
- May 23 Ice Cream Day
- May 24 KB Friday
- May 30 Membership meeting
- June 19 Year End Trip
- June 20 Assembly (11AM)
- June 20 Last day of school



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Take note! The Spring membership meeting is on May 30, 2024 at 8:00PM

***“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease” (Gen 8:22)***

Sunny days and warmer temperatures have arrived and been met with much excitement by children and parents alike. We are very thankful for the Lord's protection throughout the winter as students and staff travelled to and from school each day. With the warmer temperatures we are in the home stretch of the school year with only two months left at this point!

As this school year draws to a close, the board and committees are actively planning for next year. We are thankful that nearly all the staff is in place. We are mindful of the Lord's provision

and the hard work of the Education Committee in recruiting, interviewing and hiring these new staff.

The Board held an extra meeting in March to deal with the Public Health suspension notices for any students that had not either been vaccinated or completed an exemption form. It was decided at that meeting to continue to enforce these suspensions as has been done in the past.

Hopefully the students and staff enjoyed their extra day off during the eclipse due to the lack of transportation, and that they took the opportunity to watch it. It was

an excellent chance to see how the Lord has ordered His amazing creation!

The spring MCS membership meeting is to be held on Thursday, May 30 at 8pm at MCS. Please plan to attend as we will be voting on the budget for the 2024/2025 school year, as well as other proposals from the finance committee. As noted previously, there will also be an opportunity to view the new school addition.

The regular committee reports follow. We pray for your continued support for the work of the teachers, the board and its committees.

***Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. (Psalm 127: 1)***

As Spring establishes itself and the children begin to count down to summer vacation, it is easy for us to be caught in the doldrums of taking life for granted. Each day follows the previous, and the perceived monotony seems to continue. Yes, we see the natural world around us come to life and perhaps we are out in the yard cultivating some of that new life. Maybe we are even astounded at times. But are we struck by the wonder of it? Do we really see God's providence at work? The theory is there, yes. As we quote from the catechism: *Seedtime*

*and harvest continue*, but does it really affect us? If we are honest, the answer is likely 'no.' But here is the amazing part, it is not dependent on our acknowledging God's work...His work continues, usually in spite of us.

This Psalm has the title *A song of ascents. Of Solomon*. These were songs that were sung as families and tribes made their way up to Jerusalem for Feast Days. It was the memory work of the Old Testament...memory work that taught of the wonder of God's grace to His people. It is also

worthy to note that this is 'Of Solomon.' We know that there was no other king in the history of Israel that superseded Solomon. As such, he had money, power, influence and blessings beyond all other kings. It is to be noted that the king who would be able to do anything begins this Psalm confessing his total dependence on God for all things. There is nothing that can be done without God's intervention. If God is not active in something, that something is vain. It is this very idea that is the basis for James's injunction in James 4:13

– 15 where James charges God’s people to say “If the Lord wills” when planning things. He then completes that section (verses 16 and 17) by addressing boasting. The implication is that there is the idea that we can do things of ourselves and our arrogant hearts do not consider God in our activities. This is an interesting injunction, especially in a job where much of my day involves specific planning...a call to consider God in all things rather than default to the opinion that things will happen as expected or planned, or worse, taking success of these plans for granted. May we always consider God and His blessing in all things.

Since our last LINK, construction has turned from addition to renovation. Many of you took the opportunity at some point to do a quick walk-through. Now the noise is closer to the office with renovations of the library wing and office area in full swing. It is great to see things progressing,

and the end product is worth some inconvenience for the short-term. This too happens only with God’s blessing. The Board hopes to have a bit of an “Open House” for the addition at the May 30<sup>th</sup> membership meeting.

At the meeting we plan to have a table displaying items from a ‘time capsule’ that was found in the library ceiling. That wing of the school is in full renovations, and when the ceiling tile was removed, a plywood box with two years’ worth of mementos. If you were in grade 7 in 1988-89 and in grade 10 in 1992-93, this is from your class. Some interesting articles/pictures are inside. The capsule was marked to be opened in 2020, so it is 4 years late, but, as they say, better late than never.

Also, since our last LINK we had some significant things happen at MCS. Our Grandparents’ Open House was very well attended, as was our Good Friday/Easter Concert “He Reigns!” Our 7&8 stu-

dents enjoyed the annual basketball tournament and some others enjoyed the annual MCS Hosted Chess Tournament. I would like to mention Mrs. Teresa Jongsma who, although no longer living in our community, drives up and organizes the Tournament on Maranatha’s behalf. A hearty “Thank you” for this! And, while I’m on the topic of volunteers, we have many who help out in the younger grades (particularly in Kindergarten and Grades 1, but also in other places), “Thank You!” to you as well. MCS is better because of you. And, if you’ve always been interested in helping out, there is always room for more volunteers!

All of these things are testaments to our Father’s grace to us. May He continue to bless us all, children, parents, staff and other supporters. It is in this grace and confidence that we go forward into the final weeks of this school year with confidence.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

TRISH SMITH

A privilege of being on the Education Committee is being able to partake in class visits. It is such a blessing to enter the school and hear praises to our God ringing through the halls, to see the interaction between staff and students where everyone is doing their best to praise the Lord in their work. If you were able to attend the Easter Concert, you were witness to a small part of this when we were blessed with listening to

God's covenant children's voices resound as they sang with gusto “And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.”

As you would have read in a recent weekly newsletter, we have added an extra Professional Development Day on Monday, May 6. The PD Day will give opportunity for the staff to dig deeper into the new Math program that begins in September. With a new program comes new ideas, a new

approach to learning, new resources, etc. and having a day dedicated to figuring all of this out will enable staff to use this new program to its full extent and therefore benefit our children’s learning.

As we enter this ‘last leg’ of the school year, everyone’s schedule gets busy and there is so much on the school calendar as well. I’m sure some students are already

counting down to the exciting aspects of the year end and the activities that they are blessed to partake in. And I am sure there are others who are just counting down to the last day, which they are likely thankful to be a day earlier than originally scheduled for. By ending school one day early, with a half day being on the Thursday, we are, in essence, adding a Professional Activity Day (PA Day) for the staff, since this day is not an extra day off for them, but allows them to get their administrative work complete on

the Friday and focus on doing the great shuffle of classrooms the week after! We have decided to switch things around, the primary division (Grade 1-3) will be in the newly built addition, with Kindergarten right next to them in the current Grade 8 room (or the science room as many of us might remember it as). The junior students (Grade 4-5) will use the rest of the east wing, while the senior students (Grade 6-8) will move across the school to the west wing.

Through the excitement, the changes, and the challenges we can be thankful for our staff who are invested in, not only our children’s educational wellbeing, but even more so their spiritual wellbeing as was noticed in the song that they sang at the Easter program, “Little one be strong in the power of the Lord...you’re covered head to toe. And from your mouth the Lord has made a fountain for His praise.”

**TREASURER’S REPORT** **IVAN SIKKEMA**

MCS continues to struggle with cash flow in the operating budget. To be in a comfortable cash flow situation, we need to have at least one month’s worth of cash in the bank, this would be around \$160,000. Over the past few months we have been averaging close to \$0.00 in the bank. We did receive significant donations late last year and early this year which helped tremendously as we were quite far in the red at the time, and we are extremely thankful for those contributions. Expenses over the last month were higher than usual and so we are still not in a comfortable position.

We have now finalized the budget for next year and, yes, fees will be going up due to increased costs across the board. If you find that school fees are becoming unmanageable, please reach out to Harvest and apply to

their tuition assistance program. Harvest is there to help you! You do not have to wait until your kids are in school, Harvest will also help you meet your pre-support payments.

At the upcoming membership meeting, in addition to the budget, two proposals will be brought to the floor for the membership to vote on. The first is a new fee category which is intended for married couples who are not yet due to pay pre-support. We have found that when two singles get married their “married” fees were higher than the sum of their two single fees. The intention of the new “Married Pre-School” category is to make membership more affordable to newly married

couples and hopefully we will see more young married couples signing up as members. The second proposal is a new tiered pre-support structure, where the first year of pre-support is much more affordable, each year the fee increases such that after you have paid the four years of presupport, you would have paid an equal total amount of presupport as in the past. Again, the goal here is to make presupport more affordable for young families and slowly increase the payment as they

<b>01</b>	<b>\$182.00</b> Single (+65)/ Retired	<b>02</b>	<b>\$455.00</b> Married/ Post- school
<b>03</b>	<b>\$911.00</b> Grades K-8	<b>04</b>	By donation

become more financially secure and are able to adjust their budgets accordingly. More

details to follow on these two proposals in the package for the spring membership meeting.

Thank you all for your continued prayers and financial support.

#### PROPERTY COMMITTEE

ROD DYKSTRA

Spring is here as we see God's amazing creation starting to bloom and turn green.

With construction now finished on the addition, the renovation starts. If you come to the school now you will see a temporary wall blocking off the library hall. Behind that, Exact construction is hard at work adjusting walls and plumbing for the new offices and staff room.

The warm weather has been slowly drying up the property but

the plentiful rain has still kept it muddy on the driveway and especially the dirt areas. Thanks again to our caretaker for the extra effort to clean up all that mud behind us -next year will be different, Pauline!

Plans are moving along on regrading and seeding to clean up the after effects of the construction. The parking lot and driveway will get regraded and fresh gravel will be added. The soccer field is scheduled to be rolled and

the baseball diamond has been graded with fresh stone dust added.

Still a lot of work to do and a busy summer ahead for us to get ready for next year- If you have any of that elusive spare time let me know!

On behalf of the Property Committee Thanks again for reading

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

JOSEPH VANGROOTHEEST

This is an important but unsure time of year for PR as we sign up those due for pre-support, reach out to those increasing in category, and hear from people moving and/or dropping their membership as of July. We never quite know the exact membership count for next year until July approaches and these details firm up. This membership number is how we set our annual budget, which makes projections important due to the effect it has on your monthly fees. Currently our membership has stayed close to last year's number, but we have not seen any growth. We forecast a membership of 218-220 across all categories. This lack of growth also affects our school's budget as expenses and inflation continue

to climb. We once again encourage all members to approach family and friends and discuss the benefits of the school and what MCS does for our community. Each year we see more clearly why having Christian Education apart from the public system is a need for setting our children on a Godly path.

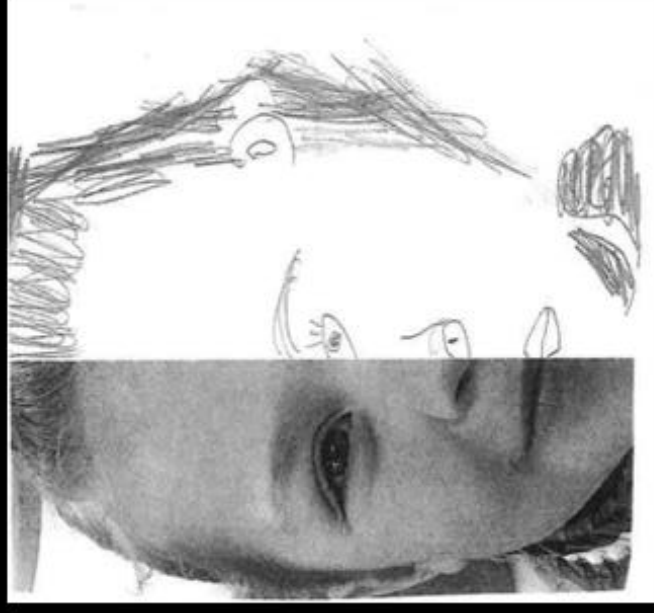
We do have an exciting new proposals from the finance committee that you will see in the finance report. We are sincerely hoping that these help with our membership situation to encourage a stronger community support. There are over 30 couples as potential members that would fit this new proposed category so we hope to see growth there. Also,

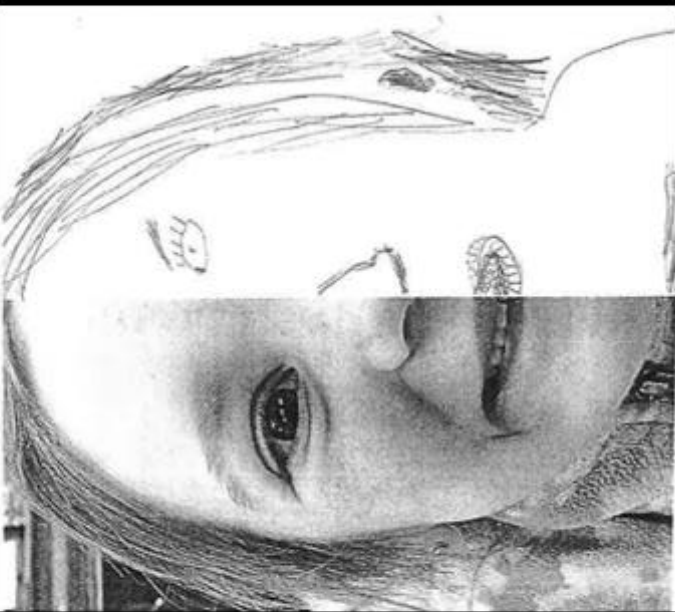
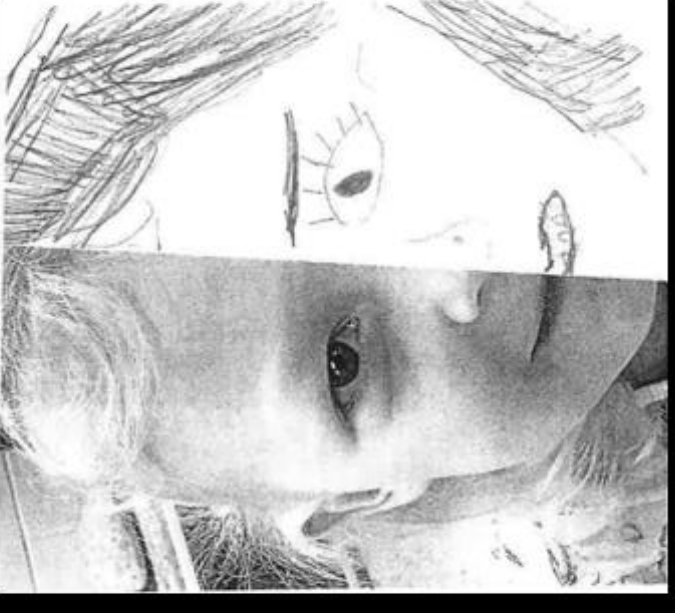
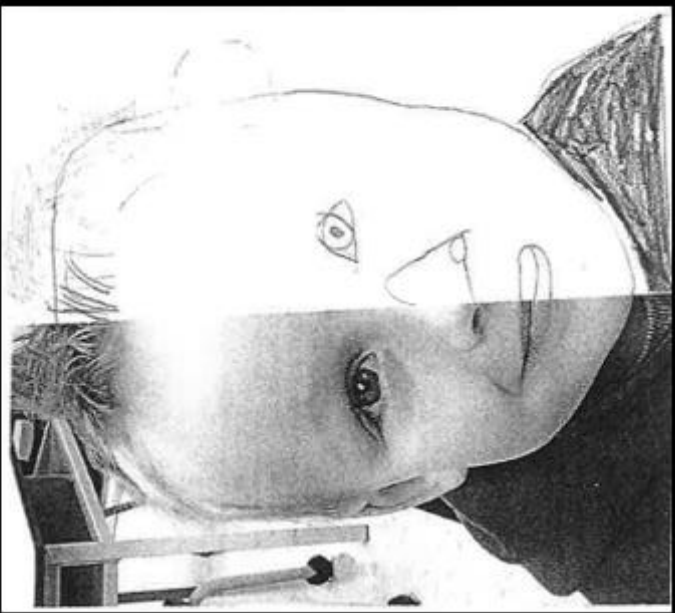
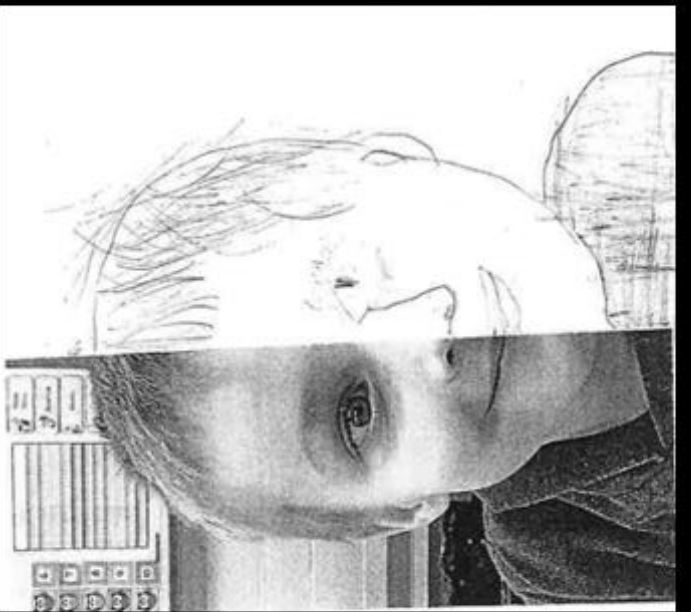
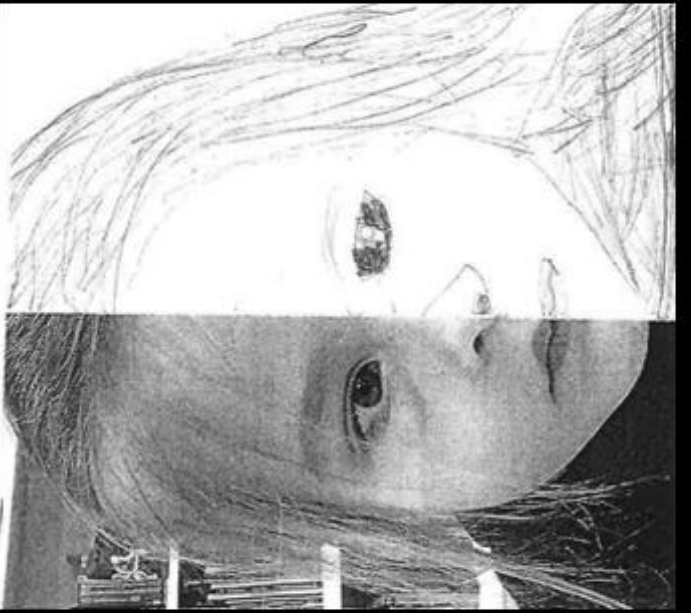
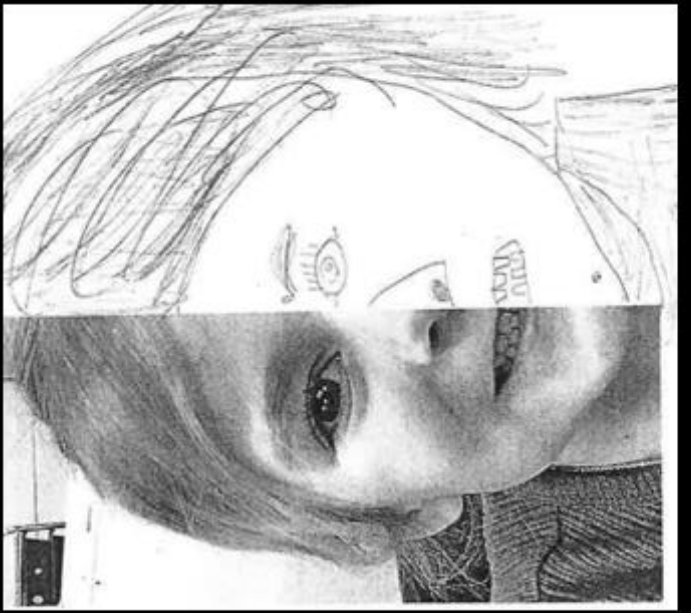
we remind everyone that Harvest Support is available for tuition, but also for pre-support.

On a positive note our Early Years Program planning is progressing. We hope this monthly opportunity for mothers and young children to attend the school is another way to encourage enrolment and community involvement. We again share our sincere thanks to our non-parental supporters. A true blessing to have the task of educating the coming generation shared across the generations, and this is evident every year when we look at the budget. Wishing everyone a lovely spring, and we'll see you at our BBQ!

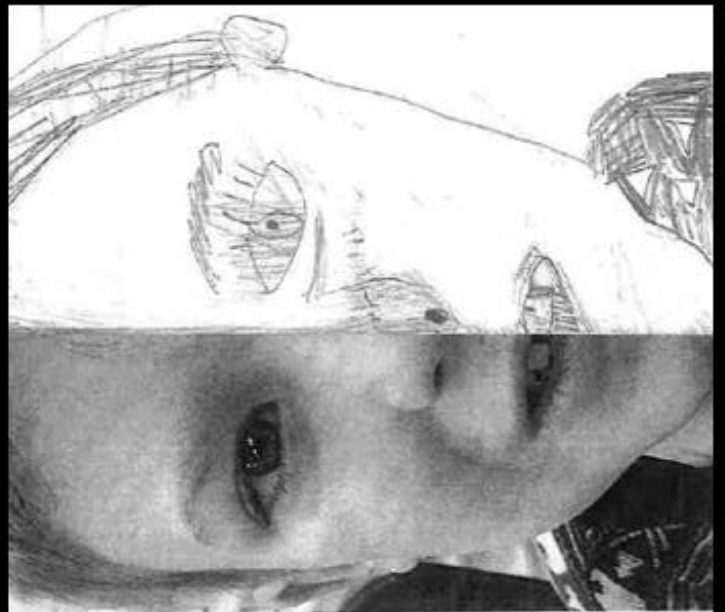
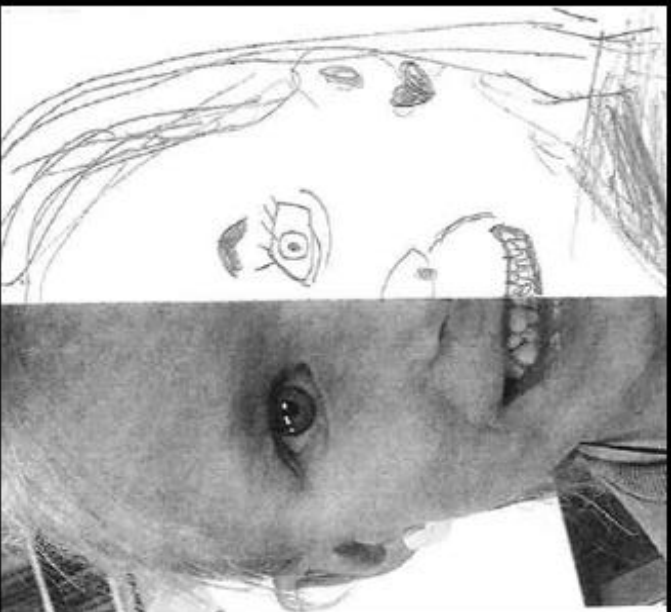
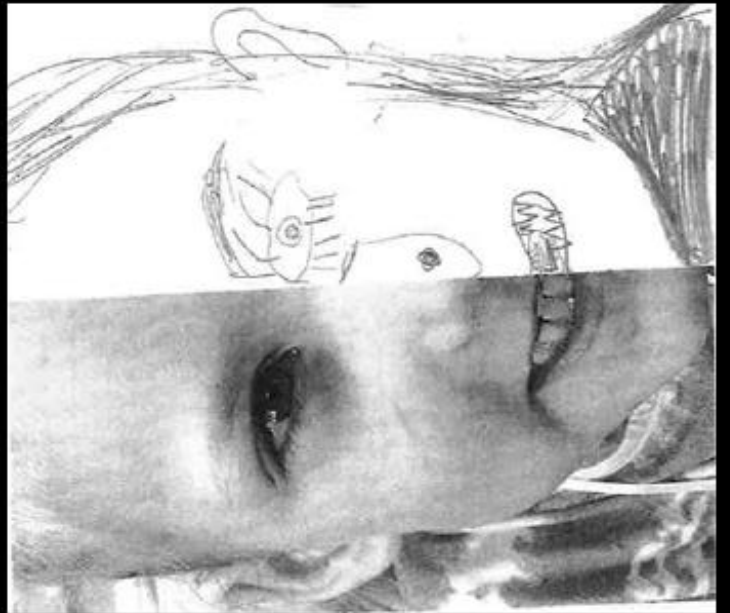
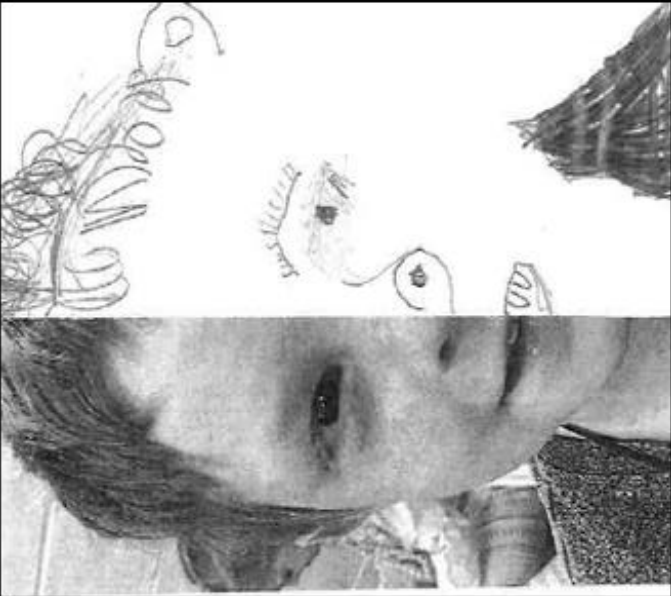
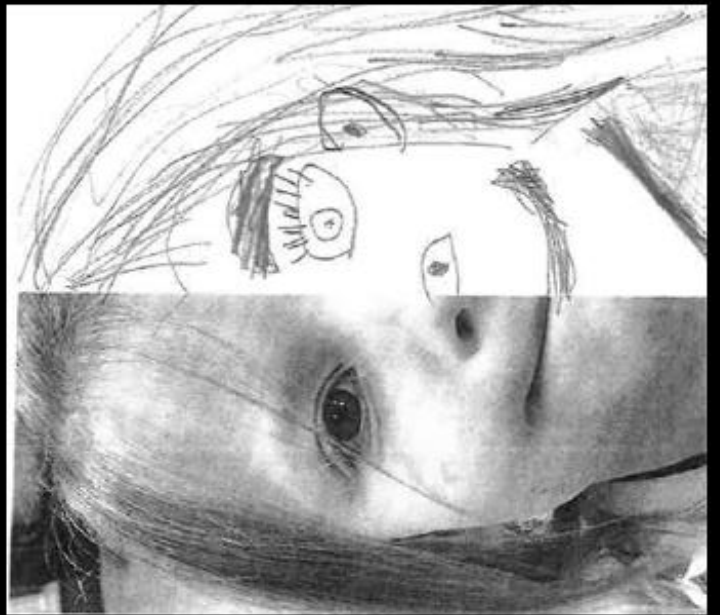
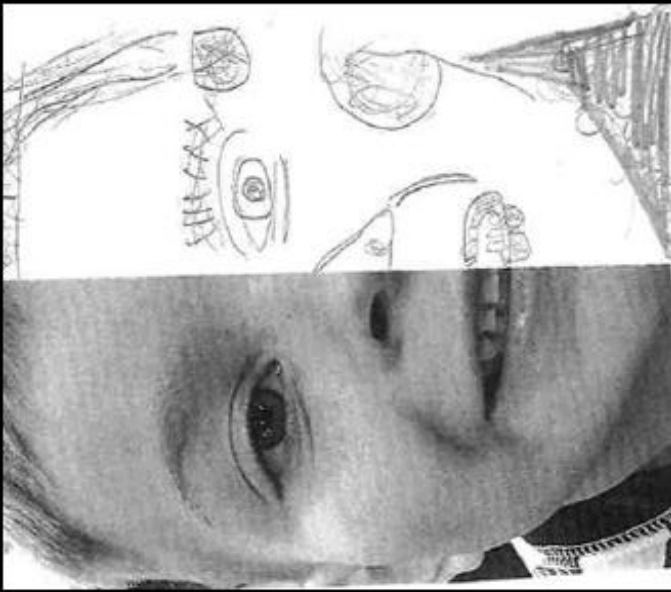
## Kindergarten Self Portraits

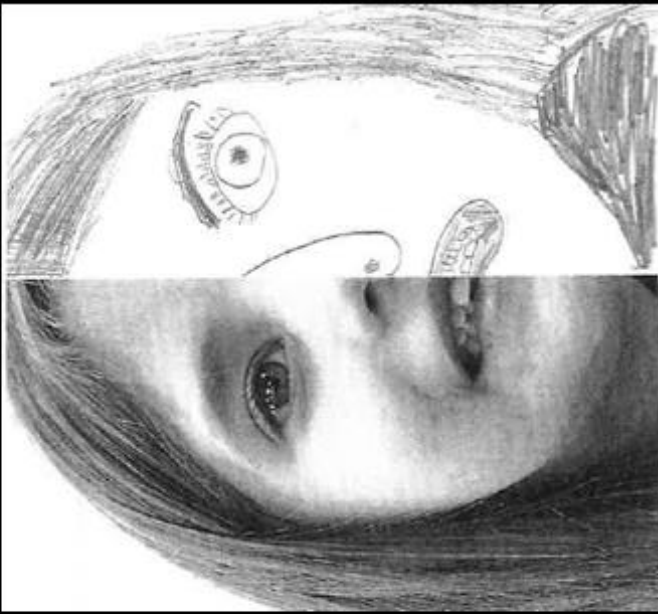
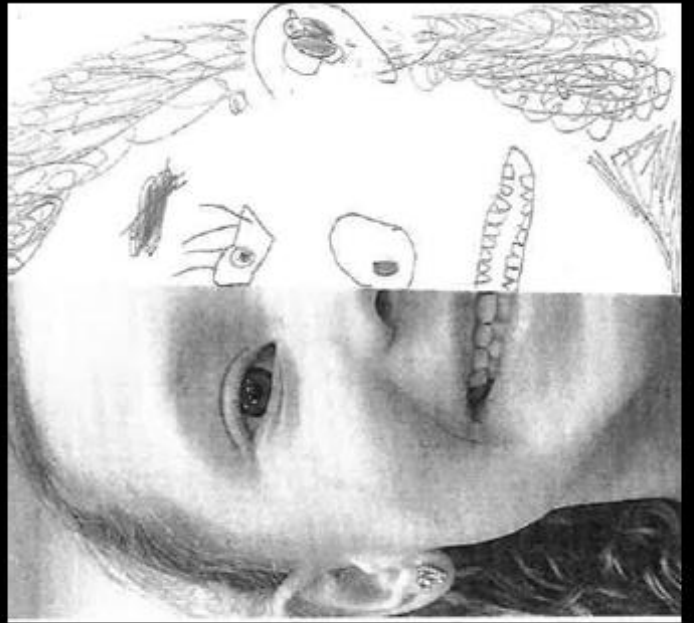
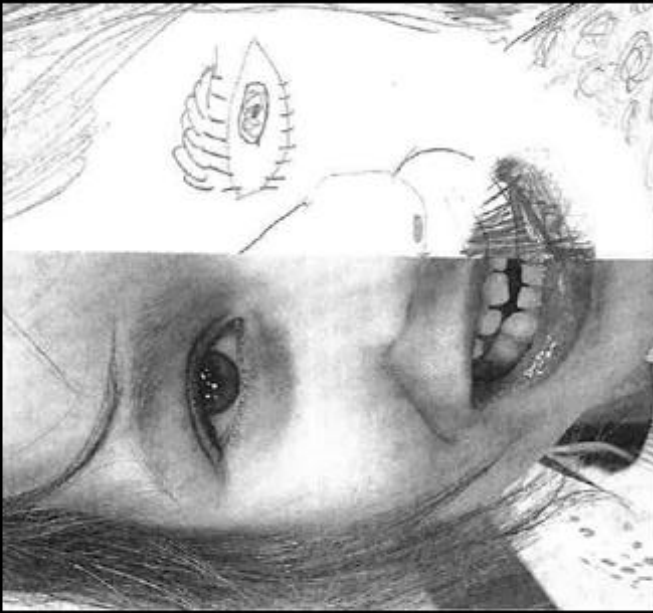
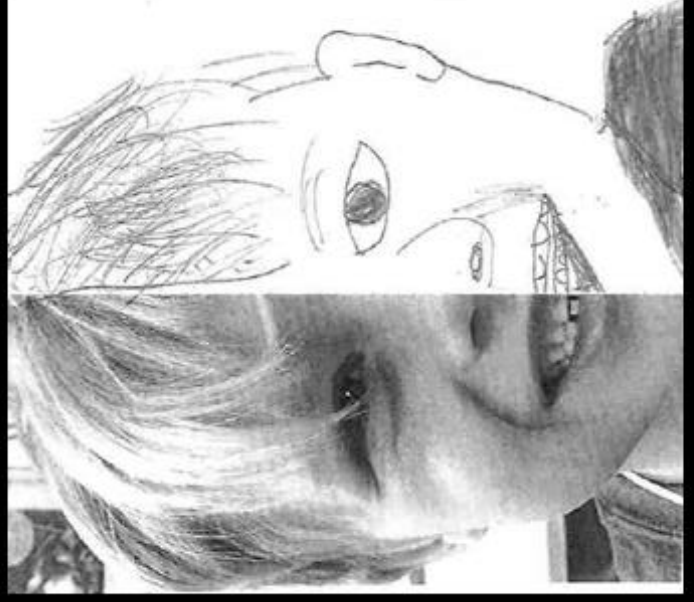
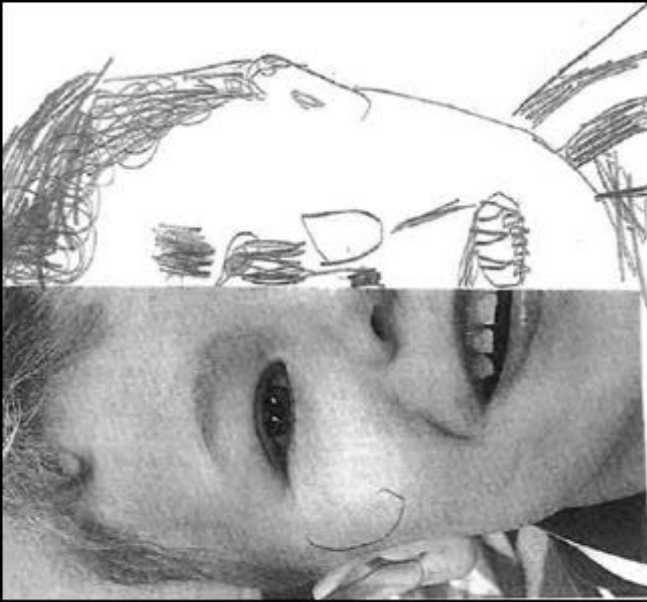
Our class has been working with symmetry. We have noticed things in creation that God has created that have symmetry. We enjoyed making butterflies. Then we looked at our faces. Although not exactly symmetric, we did observe that they also show symmetry. We worked hard to draw our face. It was not an easy task! Perhaps you can recognize who we are?

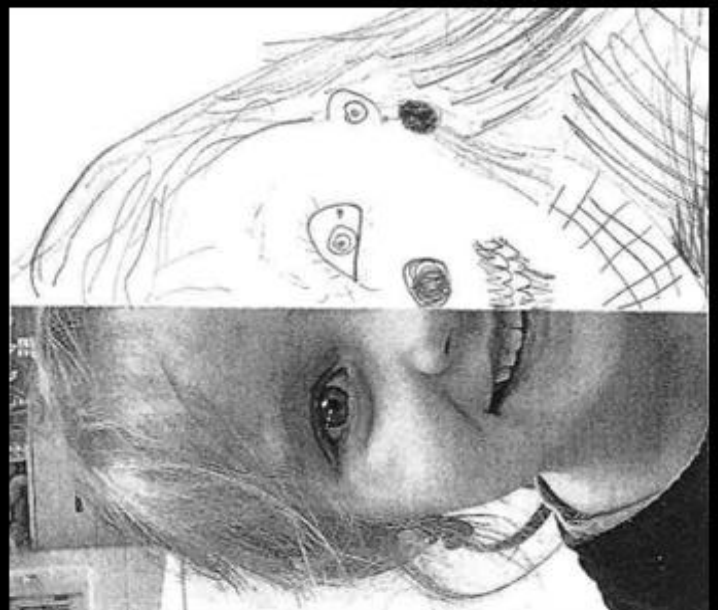
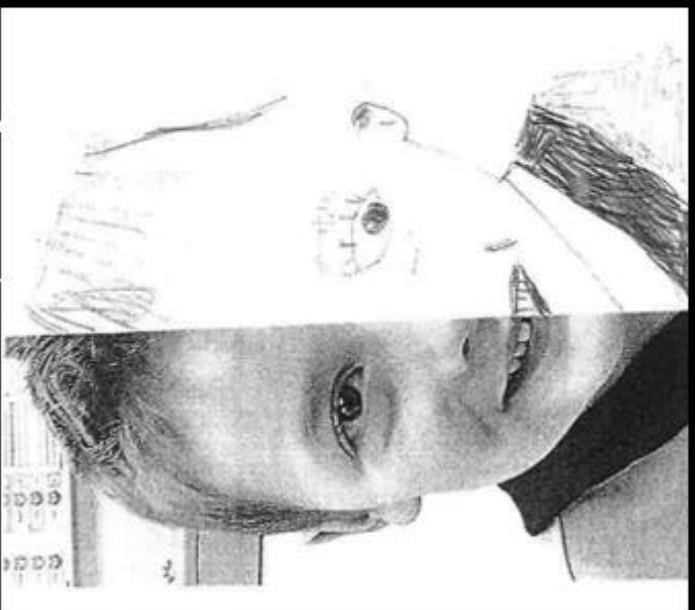
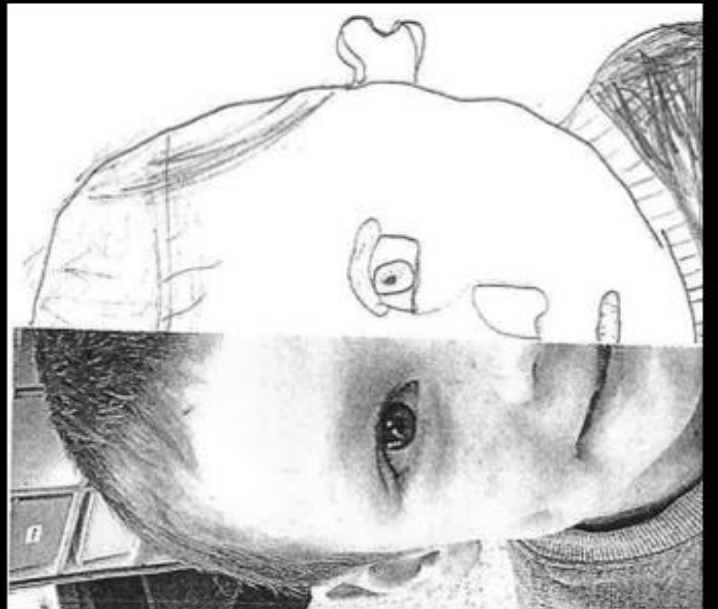
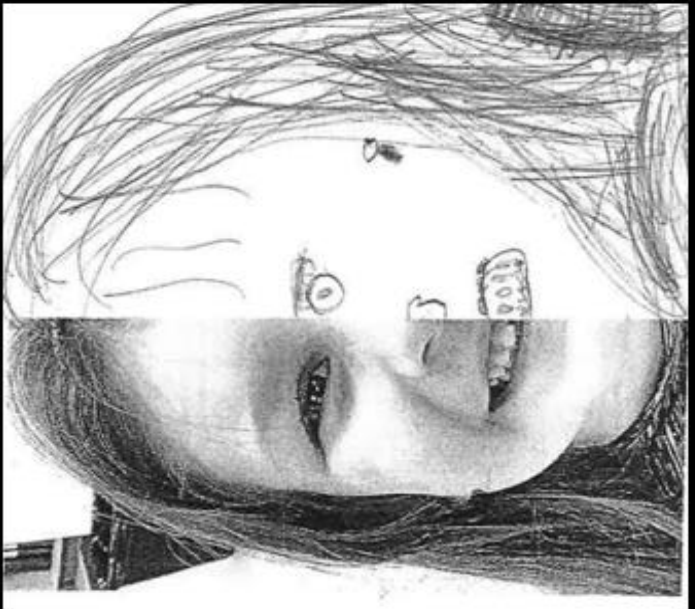
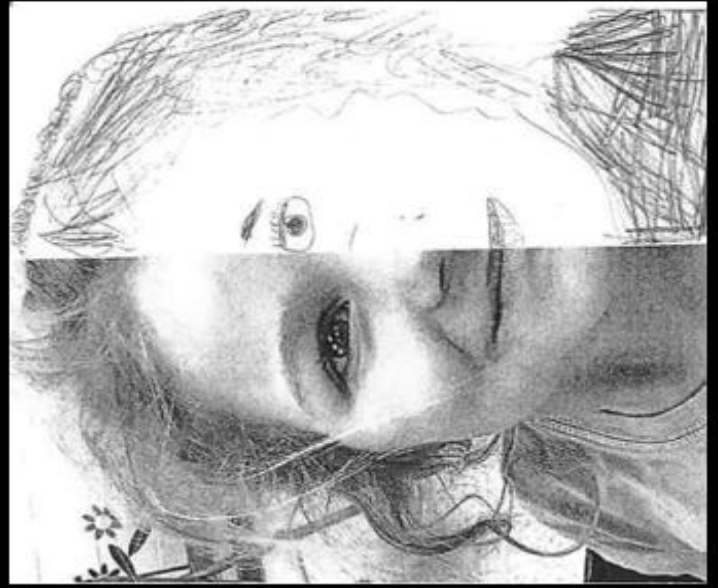
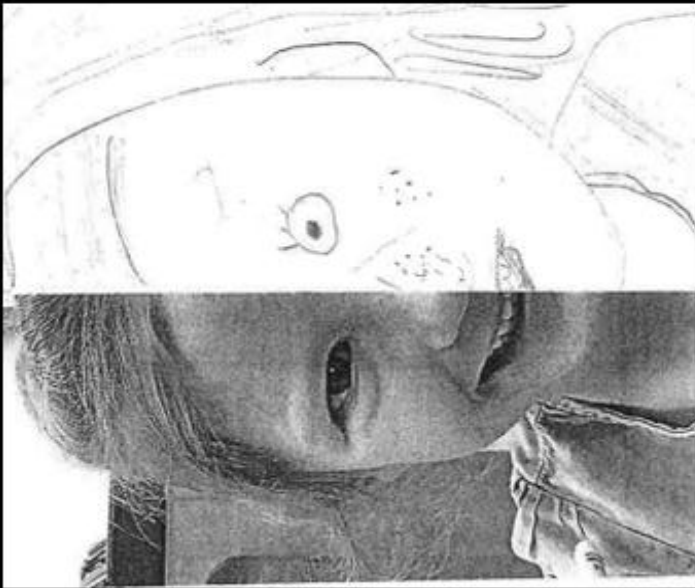










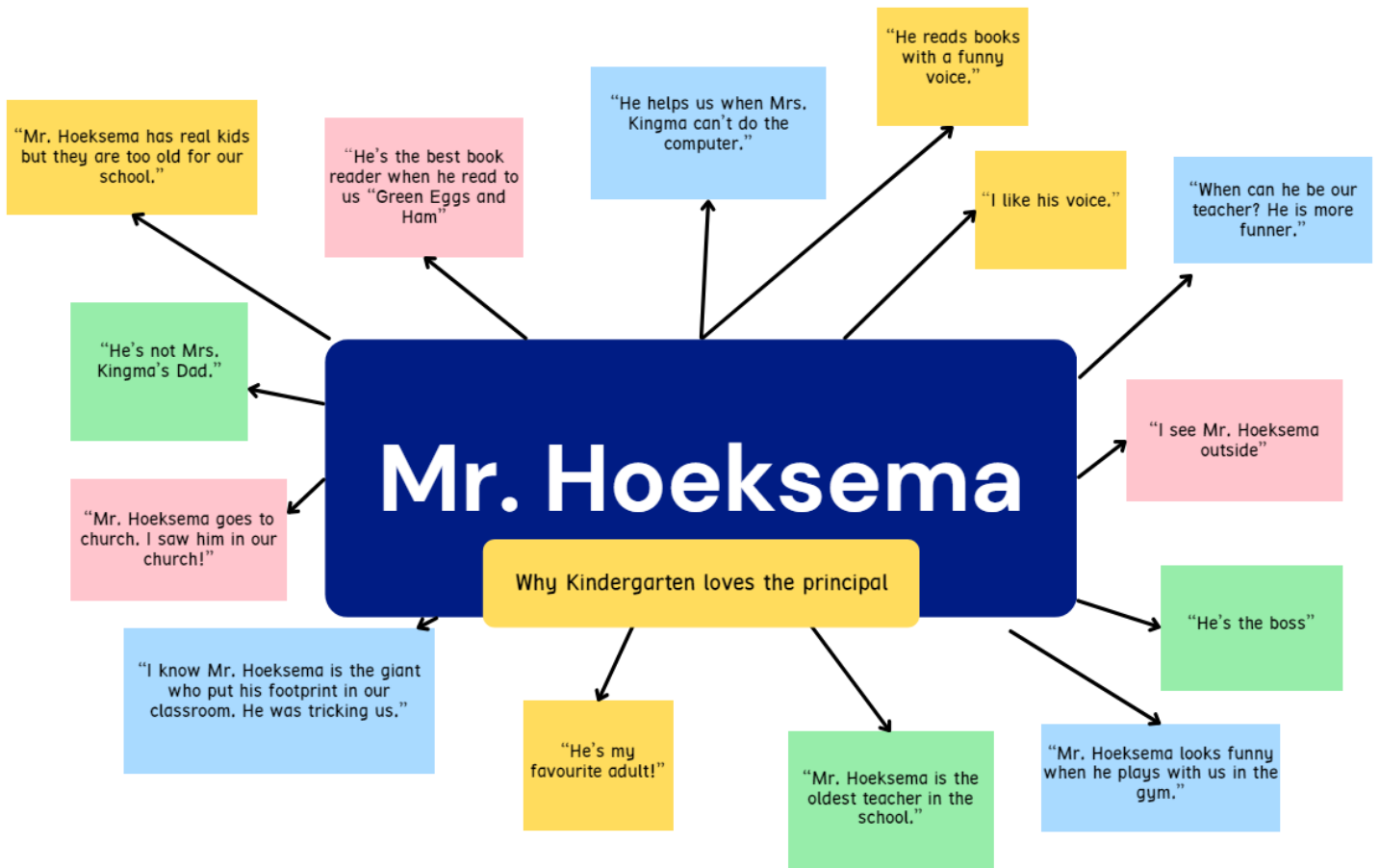


## KINDERGARTEN LOVES OUR PRINCIPAL!

Our kindergarten classes have a good relationship with Mr. Hoeksema. At the beginning of the year we learn that the principal has an important job in the school. He helps the students and he helps the teachers. Every

morning he greets the students as they come off the bus. During the day he often drops into our classroom. If we have a problem with our projector, he fixes it. After he lined up in the hallway with our class, his new name became "Mr.

Kindergarten". Our students, feeling comfortable with Mr. Hoeksema, make numerous comments about him. I have recorded them throughout the year.



1. Opening by Chairman
  - 1.1. Scripture Reading (**Ps.101**); Singing (**Ps. 101**), 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:
2. Establish Agenda
3. Presentation from Teachers College Representative (Jackie deBoer)

Jackie provided an update on the activities of the Teacher's College, the specifics which will be provided to the membership at the spring membership meeting.

Jackie was thanked for her work serving MCS as a Director on the CCRTC board, as her term is now complete.
4. Approve minutes: Minutes of the February 26, 2024 meeting were approved
5. Short Report: Approved with minor changes
6. Email Conversations to be recorded:
  - 6.1 Approval of staff application sent to the board.
  - 6.2 Approval to move several part time teachers to permanent teaching contracts.
  - 6.3 Approval of special board meeting for March 21st.
7. Matters arising from Minutes
  - 7.1 Reaching out to Secretary, bookkeeper and treasurer positions will occur next month
  - 7.2 P.D day for October: This PD day will not be added in the next calendar year.
  - 7.3 5 Families working with Public Health regarding suspension requirements.
  - 7.4 Incoming Letter from member be dealt with at the next Education Committee meeting.
8. Decision Book Item- nothing to be added to the decision book at this time.
9. Reports
  - 9.1. Education
    - 9.1.1 Education Committee Minutes: Ed Comm has revised the forms for the board to fill out during teacher observations.
    - 9.1.2 Education Committee Proposal: The request is to move up the last day of school to give teachers time to finish administrative work on the Friday and begin with movement of classrooms the following Monday. Proposal is approved by the board.
  - 9.2. Principal's Report
    - 9.2.1 Principal's report: Staffing is in place for next year.
  - 9.3. League/Harvest
    - 9.3.1 League Report: Highly recommending that the board develop a Statement of Belief. ADHoc of the past looked into our statements. There are examples in the league documents. James Medemblik and Joseph Vangrootheest will work to develop a Statement of Belief.

League Learning day is coming up - James Medemblik is delegated to attend.
  - 9.4. Public Relations
    - 9.4.1 Report: Grand Valley contact for church social items has been found. Replacement names for a leaving committee member approved.

Membership numbers have decreased slightly. With regards to the new category which was approved by board, bylaw 7.04, speaks of majority vote of members with regards to payments. When we vote on the new budget, the new fees/category will be part of the vote. Explaining this new category can also be done at the May membership meeting.

## 9.5.Executive

9.5.1 Executive activity report to the Board: Nothing to report

9.5.2 Expansion Committee: Walk through was completed. Blue fencing has been taken down.

9.5.3 Renovation Committee: Volunteers coming Saturday, and renovations will commence on Monday.

9.5.4 Discuss ONCA (Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act) compliance: We will require a lawyer to go through our by-laws and see if we need to change any by-laws to meet ONCA requirements. By-laws must be approved by membership and will need to be addressed in our fall membership.

AdHoc committee of Ivan Sikkema and James Medemblik to start this process.

9.6.Property: Access points have been completed for wifi. Paving and repair to the play area will occur. Parking lot will need to be cleaned up. Landscaping will be done partially by donated time which will assist in maintaining the budget.

9.7.Transportation: Board approves names listed to ask to stand on the Transportation Committee.

9.8.PTA: Nothing to report.

## 9.9.Annual Calendar

9.9.1 Approve hiring: Done

9.9.2 Approve teacher contracts: In progress

9.9.3 Review the evaluation report progress: Nothing to report

Principal left the meeting: 9:20pm

## 9.10.Finance

9.10.1 Finance Minutes: Changes in membership has increased the overall fee for next year.

9.10.2 Fee structure fee proposal approved. The board approves this proposal. This will be included in the budget package for the membership at the next meeting. We will have a vote for all matters pertaining to finance at our May membership meeting. (Budget, new category, new fee structure fee)

9.10.3 February Finance statements: No big changes from previous month.

10. Consideration of New Business -

11. Correspondence

11.1.Incoming -

11.1.1 Letter from DACS: Read and discussed

11.2.3 Letter from member. Discussed. Response will be given.

11.2.Outgoing -

11.1 Email to families to request written reassurance regarding Public Health suspension requirement

12. Question Period:

13. Next Meeting: **April 22th, May 27, June 17**

LINK Material due dates:

- April 24, 2024

- June 19, 2024

14. Closing (**Ps 101**)

14.1. Closing Prayer – Rod Dykstra

14.2. Adjournment: 10:30 pm

1. Opening by Chairman
  - 1.1. Scripture Reading (**Ps. 133**); Singing (**Ps.133**), 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: Rod Dykstra
2. Establish Agenda/rules for meeting: Agenda was established as is.  
MOTION: *The Principal shall continue to carry out suspension requests as ordered by Public Health.*
3. **Round 1** – 5 minutes (maximum, per person)
  - Everyone was given the opportunity to speak their initial thoughts.
4. **Round 2** – 5 minutes
  - Everyone was given the opportunity to speak any rebuttals to the initial thoughts.
5. **Round 3** – 3 minutes
  - Another opportunity was given for everyone to speak if they have something new to add.
6. **Round 4** – 2 minutes
  - Opportunity was given but no one took the opportunity, to speak one more time
7. Voting was done by secret ballot.
8. Results: The Board votes in favour of the motion that was presented.
9. Decision: Decision made to enforce the Suspension Policy of Public Health regarding unvaccinated students.
10. Question period was made use of.
11. Closing by Richard Hoeksema  
Time is 9:08



**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

# Plant Sale

## Saturday, May 25

The MCS Plant Sale is coming up and we need your help to make it a success! We are in need of lots of plants as well as pots. These can be dropped off at the home of Follie Vanleeuwen (8125 Wellington Rd. 18, Fergus) or contact your local MCS Fundraising committee rep if you need help.

Follie - (519)843-2848 follievl@gmail.com

Shannon - (226)200-1860 smswaving@gmail.com

Anne - (519)803-719 anneandfrank@hotmail.com

Laura - (519)831-1023 alexandlaurathalen@hotmail.com

Hannah (519)831-3298 hannaha\_14@hotmail.com





## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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