

# The Communicator

Summer 2015

Community Christian School

2681 Glen Street, Metcalfe

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[info@ccsmetcalfe.ca](mailto:info@ccsmetcalfe.ca)



Community Christian School Graduation Ceremonies

Wednesday, June 17, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

*Walk in the Light*

*Your Word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. Ps. 119:105*



## From the Principal's Desk - Mr. Rick Dykstra

"What marvelous love the Father has extended to us! Just look at it—we're called children of God!" (1 John 3:1a MSG)

Community Christian School is excited to proclaim this every day. Teachers are free to share, live out, pray, read scripture, lead in song, and teach in a way that shares God's redemptive story in their classrooms everyday. What a privilege and honour we have!

With the school year rapidly drawing to a close we can reflect on God's faithfulness and God's Tapestry, which continues to be unveiled in each child here. We now prepare to celebrate the graduation of seven Kindergarten students and eleven Grade 8 students. These are great milestones in our youths' (and parents') lives. The Grade 8 class has chosen the theme "Walk in the Light", based on Psalms 119: 105 "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path". As the students in our Grade 8 class begin a new journey, we pray that they leave with the knowledge that this world belongs to God and that all of creation honours Him.

Our school community has again been active in carrying out the awesome task before us. Students explored how God intricately knit us together (even the odd parts that are so necessary), they grappled with why Christ had to die on the cross, recognized the importance of being active in taking care of creation, and had the opportunity to wrestle with their faith under the guidance of mature Christian teachers. Additionally:

- ⇒ our Kindergarten class watched the wonders of God's design with the lifecycle of a butterfly and explored concepts of symmetry in the wing design and structure. They were amazed by how some butterflies are protected by being poisonous, while others rely on mimicry.
- ⇒ our Primary students accepted a challenge to do chores for others as a way to actively raise funds for those in need.
- ⇒ Grade 5 and 6 students were exposed to the ins and outs of taking an idea and masterfully working out the design principles, and then pitching their concept to the Board of Directors and the Facilities Committee.
- ⇒ Grade 7 and 8 students continued to share baked goods with our neighbours and helped a neighbour clean up her yard after the long winter months.

CCS has been blessed with many volunteers who take on both big and small roles, from running a major auction, to helping supervise students at lunch. They organize hockey and baseball tournaments, cut out crafts for students, serve lunch to our grandparents and friends, and prepare grilled cheese sandwiches and hotdogs. They also helped to organize the "Meet and Greet on Victoria Street", coach basketball or track and field at lunch or after school, chaperoned a trip to Québec City and drove students to the apple orchard. What a spirit of community!

We have also been blessed with devoted members assembling together to ensure Christian education remains a viable option for this area. We are grateful for those who regularly pray for our school and for those who recently dedicated a day to prayer and fasting. We feel God's assurance that He not only hears our prayers, but He also delights in answering them.

It will soon be summertime—a time for restoration and refreshment. I wish each family a safe and enjoyable summer, blessed with opportunities to explore God's creation in new and inspiring ways.

May the peace of our risen Saviour be with you.  
R. Dykstra

## Program Changes for 2015-16

Some changes are in place for our new school year. We pray that God will bless our efforts to fill several part-time positions. We have openings in Primary and Junior classes, an opening for our French program, an opening for our Learning Resource program, and a coordinator position for our Extended Kindergarten Program. Our needs seem great, but not too great for our faithful God.

The structure for grades 3 – 8 will look a bit different during the afternoon. The adjustments will allow for core subjects to be taught during the morning and non-core subjects during the afternoon. For non-core subjects, grades 3, 4, and 5 will be combined, as will grades 6, 7, and 8. Subjects considered non-core include Social/Environmental Studies, Bible, Art, Music, Phys. Ed., Science, Geography, and History. There will be no changes in the program for JK – grade 2.

## Staffing Changes

The members of our staff continue to work hard to realize the goals of Christian education, but like the students, they also look forward to the summer break.

Some changes in staffing will occur next year. God has a habit of spreading His people around to carry on His work in new places.

- Mrs. Maria Tamming has already moved to St-Catharines to join her husband who accepted a new position there. She has accepted a Grade 3 position with John Knox Christian School in Fruitland.
- Miss Sarah Schinkel will be moving on to seek opportunities to teach in an inner-city school. We pray that God will continue to use her to spread His love to children in need of love. Miss Schinkel has been with us for one year teaching grades 1&2. She has also assumed responsibilities in Learning Resource recently. We are sad to see her leave.
- We will also miss Mrs. Laura Mallette as she moves on to pursue her education degree at the University of Ottawa. She has dutifully served as our Extended Kindergarten Program Coordinator for one year and has worked well to support our core program through play-based activities.
- Mme Anna Dominique will be transitioning to new challenges for next year as she will be teaching at Redeemer Christian High School. We are proud of the success she has had in building confidence in our students' French language skills.
- Mrs. Nancy Schoenmaker will also be leaving us as her family relocates to the Cambridge area. We are grateful for her passion for Christian education and her ability to share our vision with prospective families. She has served CCS fervently for four years in Promotions and Admissions.

Through these changes, we are grateful to God that He has provided for us: Mrs. Jodi Ferguson will lead our Promotion Committee and Mrs. Marie Cooper will share her passion of Christian education as our new Admissions Coordinator.

We are in the process of interviewing candidates for the Primary and Junior positions, the French position, and for the Extended Kindergarten Program Coordinator position. We pray that God will bless CCS with excellent candidates to carry on His work in our community.

## SmartBoards

We are pleased to have received two "new to us" Smartboards as a donation. They are up and working in our Grade 5/6 and 7/8 classrooms and are a big hit!



## Digital Communication

Our Website subcommittee has been working diligently on rethinking our digital presence. After researching best-practices that increase our chances of appearing in a Google search, the Committee feels that it will be prudent to change back to our previous domain name. However, our domain name currently remains [ccsmetcalfe.ca](http://ccsmetcalfe.ca).

We are also planning a revision on our website and will launch it in early fall. These changes will be communicated when ready. Our addresses are as follows:

Our website address is [www.ccsmetcalfe.ca](http://www.ccsmetcalfe.ca)

Our school's email address is [info@ccsmetcalfe.ca](mailto:info@ccsmetcalfe.ca)

We apologize for any inconvenience these changes will cause. We trust that God will bless our efforts to promote our school in the best way possible.

We are present on Facebook and Twitter and encourage you to use these social media sites to keep up-to-date on the happenings of CCS or the education scene. Connect your friends and their friends to our sites. On Facebook, search for Community Christian School Metcalfe Ontario. To connect to our Twitter account, search for [@metcalfe\\_ccs](https://twitter.com/metcalfe_ccs). These links are both on our website.





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## The Board of Trustees

Thankful. Overwhelmingly thankful.

That's the best way I can summarize my feelings as this year draws to a close. It has been a difficult year for Community Christian School, but at the end of it there are many reasons to look back and look ahead with hearts full of thanks to our Heavenly Father.

I thank God for the support of our community. Prayers have been raised, offers to help have been abundant and financial support has been tremendous. To date, the Foundations Campaign has raised over \$90,000 in one-time donations and the annual equivalent of over \$18,000 through recurring monthly donations. We have been abundantly blessed. I am also thankful for those, led by John Vedder, who are committed to bringing the Foundations Campaign to completion and am thankful that they can count on your support as they do.

I thank God for our Grade 8 Graduates. May He richly bless them as they take the next steps in their education. We send them off confident that the trajectory for their journey of "becoming stewards" is properly oriented because of the partnership between CCS and their family to provide the academic tools and Biblical principles for a lifetime of learning, discipleship, service and worship.

I thank God for the Faculty and Staff of CCS. They have been steadfast and poured their lives into our children again this year. They are professional, dedicated and the best our community has to offer. I am thankful for the staff and faculty who are returning for the upcoming school year. I am thankful for Anna Dominique, Sarah Schinkel and Laura Mallette and the time they have served among us. I know that you join me in wishing them God's richest blessing as they follow his calling in new ways. I am thankful for our Principal, Rick Dykstra and the strong partner he has been to the Board through the past year. I am thankful for the new faculty who God is currently leading to join us for next year through our in-progress hiring process.

I thank God for Nancy Schoenmaker. I recognize that it's unusual to single out one person in a report like this, but

I trust you agree that Nancy's pioneering role as our volunteer Communications and Promotions Director over the past four years has been an a remarkable demonstration of what passion, commitment and a love for CCS can accomplish. Nancy's energy, community connections and dedication will be deeply missed. We wish the entire Schoenmaker family well as they make their transition to Cambridge over the summer.

I thank God for my fellow Board Members. Jennifer Post has just completed a full term and has served faithfully. She has been a stalwart liaison with Fundraising through her time on the Board and has helped coordinate a lifetime's worth of events. Mark Johnston has resigned after a brief, but meaningful, period of service. I am thankful for Mark's efforts, particularly on the CCS Auction this past spring. I am thankful for the new Directors who have joined the Board: Marc Dominique and Marie Cooper, particularly Marie's immediate engagement in the role of Admissions Coordinator.

I thank God for a clear path and direction for the year ahead. The support received to this point enables us to enter the year ahead in a relatively strong position and to begin looking farther ahead to 2016-2017, the third year of our Three-Year Restructuring plan. This support has not just been financial. The Board has been supported and sustained continuously by your words of encouragement, engagement at meetings and assurances of prayer. We thank God for the courage and direction your support has provided and for path it has set for us to follow.

I thank God for the summer ahead. Your Board will take some time to plan for the upcoming year, particularly our Landscape Review with the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools. More importantly, we look forward to the rest, restoration and ability to reconnect with loved ones that the summer months provide.

We wish grace and peace for you and your family through the months ahead. In all you do this summer, give thanks to the Giver of all good gifts.

Jacob Zwiers, Chair  
on behalf of the Board of Directors



## Grades 5&6 - Mr. Dykstra

Small desks with little to no storage space added up to a unique learning opportunity this winter. Students were challenged to step beyond textbook learning and design a bigger and more comfortable desk prototype.

Not only did the desk project expect students to engage with geometry in a fresh, hands-on way, it addressed three important learning goals: to take ownership of their own learning, embrace hard work without too much prompting from their teacher, and come up with a beautiful product at the end of the assignment. It is vital for students to feel comfortable making mistakes and confident enough to revisit and even improve upon those mistakes in their daily work.

Students first had to sketch orthographic views of their desk prototype, and show what their structure would look like from a variety of angles. After that, they needed to create 3D pencil drawings, along with 3D renderings of their prototypes using the computer program Sketchup.

Measuring was important too. Each designer had to ensure that 20 of their desks could (hypothetically) fit inside their classroom. They also had to price out their materials, and be able to tell how much their desk would cost to build when they were finished. It was a labour-intensive process that required patience and careful planning—but students were more than willing to take on the challenge.

Students were creating their own small business—designing their own logos and creating portfolios, listening to construction experts from the local high school, and learning about the Sketchup program from seasoned landscapers who came in to visit the class. When it came time for students to present their desk prototypes to the school's Board of Directors and Facilities Committee, it was clear they had made the most of these learning opportunities. Their excellent work was proof.

(Paraphrased from Laura Konyndyk's article posted March 12, 2015 on OACS News Service, <http://www.oacs.org/2015/delighting-in-the-desk-at-ccs%E2%80%A8/>)



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## Grade 3/4 Visits Osgoode Care Centre

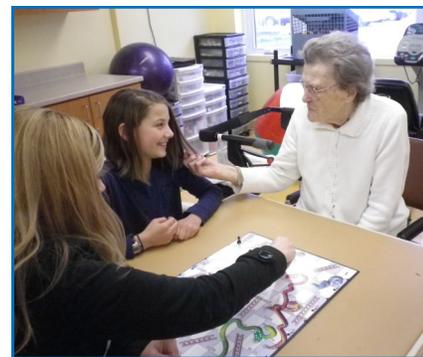


On Monday, May 11th, our class travelled to the Osgoode Care Center. I had a terrific time playing Connect Four with the residents. One of the elders kept forgetting how to play, so my friend and I helped her. When it came time to leave, it was hard to say goodbye. I hope to go back soon.  
By: Jane

On Monday, May 11th, my class went to the Osgoode Care Center for the morning. We were going there to play games with the residents, and spend some time visiting them.

I played the game of Sorry with a few others and it took a long time to play. Eventually, the resident with us, managed to get all of her men to the home. She cheated a bit to get there, but we didn't care. We thought it was cute and funny.

I enjoyed being there and loved their personalities. They were a lot of fun to play with. They enjoyed seeing us also. I could tell by their smiles. I hope to go back again soon!  
By: Amy



On Monday, May 11th, my class and I went to the Osgoode Care Center to play games with the residents. Two of us were paired up with one of the residents for the first game. He was really funny and enjoyed teasing me and asking me all kinds of questions.

The first game we played was called Life Stories. I had never played it before, but really enjoyed sharing things about me throughout the game. I also liked hearing about the other players' lives when they answered the questions.

After a bit, we were joined by another resident and played Uno. Unfortunately, I didn't win the game, but I still had fun.

I am so happy we were able to spend some time with the residents!  
By: Sydney

When I was at the Osgoode Care Center on May 11th, our class played games like Skip Bo, Uno, Sorry, and Connect Four with the residents. The man we were with was so funny and kind. He looked quite healthy too!

My favourite game we played was Uno because the older man always won.

When it was time to go, it was hard to say good bye because we had so much fun. I think they had a hard time saying good bye to us also. Before we left, the lady in charge let us pet their cute bunny named Oreo.  
By: Mattheus

## Spelling Bee of Canada:

This year CCS once again had the privilege of participating in the Spelling Bee of Canada on April 11, 2015. This was a great opportunity for some of our students to expand their spelling and vocabulary skills. Students worked hard to prepare for the competition, committing to daily practice and studying. We are proud of all of the students that competed!



Congratulations to Adalia Zwierns, Jessica Dominique and Abijah Zwierns for doing a fantastic job at the Spelling Bee! It was a privilege for CCS to be represented by such gifted and hardworking students. Your great sportsmanship to your fellow competitors was also a great example of Christ. Thank you for all your hard work and diligence in this competition. Looking forward to next year!

## "Our Lives: God's Tapestry!"

Teachers have led chapels this past term with the goal of helping students understand their responsibility to have an impact on their world. This "world" may seem quite small to our students and their impact equally the same. Seeing the "world" instead through God's eyes continues to be our focus, not only in chapels, but interwoven throughout our curriculum and in our relationships.

Themes for each month have been:

March: Servant-Working - Students were reminded to look for opportunities to honour God by understanding and caring for creation, by healing brokenness, and bringing joy. Sometimes this would be a response to injustice and sometimes it was doing 'good things' just for the sake of doing them. We cultivated a heart for service. Why do we need to bring joy or do good things? To bring glory to God!

April: God-Worshipping - Worshipping God does not only happen in formal situations like church. Worshipping God is about celebrating who He is, what He has done, what He has created, His relationship with us, and developing a sense of wonder.

May: Image-Reflecting - Discussions were developed around how we are all image-bearers of Christ. The explanation was given of a mirror in which the image of the 'real person' is reflected. The actual 'real person' can't be seen, but a representation of what they are like, can be. It was explained that all the characteristics we admire in God are also within us, because we are His reflection. People around us often form impressions of who God is by looking at God's followers.

June: Review - In June we will wrap up each of the themes explored throughout the year.

One chapel in March featured a very special guest. She shared information about her recent missions trip to Uganda and encouraged all the students to think of ways they could show God's love to others. In Bible class that afternoon, the Grade 1-3 students were all quite excited and brainstormed about ways they could help. They decided they wanted to help children go to school who wouldn't otherwise get the opportunity. They knew that would require raising some funds, but they didn't just want to ask their parents for money; they wanted to raise it on their own. After thinking about it over the weekend, they decided that they wanted to raise money by doing chores around family members' homes. For some students, they understood the money they would make doing this might even replace their regular allowance.

Their goal for this project was to raise at least \$200 between the three grades (which the Grade 3 students helped calculate as only \$10 per student). The children did some research and found out that through World Vision they could furnish an entire classroom for \$200. Over a short period of time, the students were not only able to earn \$200, but they exceeded their goal by another \$100! Together the students were able to pay for furnishing an entire classroom (desks, chairs, chalkboard), equipping seven classrooms with supplies, and were able to afford a water filter as well.



## Facilities Committee

The Facilities Committee continues to be diligent with maintaining and caring for our school and its campus. Overall, our campus is kept in good working order. Our drinking water is regularly flushed and inspected and meets all the requirements from the Ministry of the Environment. Our septic system continues to be monitored as required. It is beginning to show it's age, but we pray that with some minor adjustments we will be able to get a few more years out of the filter media. This summer we will be looking at a section of our roof that requires some structural repair. We hope that this will be a quick and low-cost project.

CCS was not awarded a grant this year to hire a summer student. Although we are disappointed about this result, we remain grateful that we have been blessed with this grant for many years in the past.

A request for tenders for our caretaking position is posted on our website for the new school year. Our lawn care contract is with Jim Mallette for the current season.

The committee members are committed to keeping our school in top shape, safe and clean for all staff and students.

Harry Rylaarsdam (Chair), Bob Cooper, Les Forrest, Thom Fuller, Alan Herbert, Jim Mallette, and Mark Moran.

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## Snow Removal Contract 2015-2016

Community Christian School is seeking a qualified individual to provide snow clearing services for the school property for the 2015-2016 snowfall season. The proposals must quote a specific seasonal rate. It is understood that GST may be applicable to the quote.

**Snow Clearing Tasks:** Snowplow the entire parking lot, entrances and all paved areas. Sanding and/or salting must be done if required, to make icy surfaces safe for driving and walking.

The successful bidder must be able to obtain their own accident insurance to cover themselves in case of injury while performing snow-clearing services at the school.

All interested parties are asked to submit their proposal in writing to the Facilities Committee no later than September 31, 2015. Please contact Mr. Harry Rylaarsdam at 613-821-1050 with any questions.



## Fundraising Committee

Our school is very blessed to have such an awesome community of businesses, parents and volunteers. The CCS auction was a huge success! On April 25, 2015, everyone came out to support our great school and we raised over \$39,000. Praise God for every blessing.



Thanks go to all the committee members: Mark Johnston who spent hours with the new computer system, Les Forrest who arranged tables and chairs, Carlena Schipper and Anna Dominique who organized the canteen and bake sale table, Wendy and Thom Fuller, our alumni John Vedder and Steve Bakker (who just know when to get you to bid and pay more), Bill and Sharon Kollaard who got so many donations, Jodi Ferguson who did the Toonie auction, and many more people who helped out in various areas. Thank you everyone. We look forward to planning the next auction in 2017!

A special thank you goes to John and Fred Vedder who hosted our annual Hockey tournament in Russell and to Becky VanderMolen who organized the canteen. We made over \$2,800.

Next up is the annual Baseball tournament on June 20th, in McKendry park. We will have a canteen open so come on out for some lunch and to cheer on your favourite team! If you have a team that you want to sign up please contact John Vedder. Hope to see you all there!

- Jennifer Post



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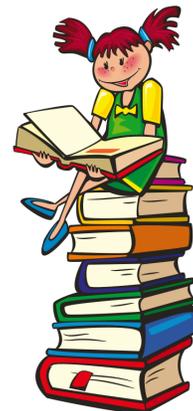
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## Grade 5/6 Book "Reports"



*Angelina's novel: "Maze Runner"*

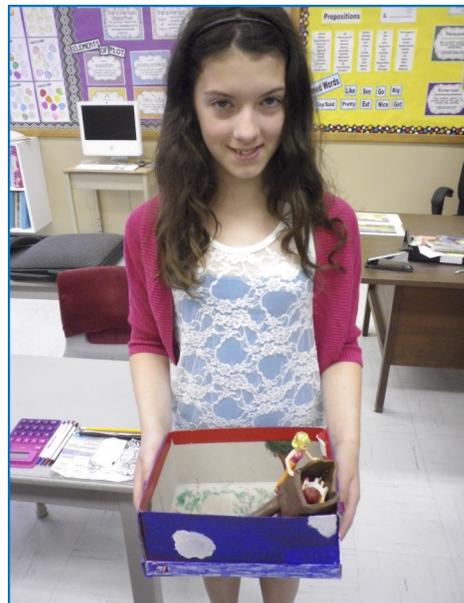
Students were assigned a book report on a novel of their choice. They were given a few creative options to choose from to visually present their book. They did an amazing job depicting a favourite scene both visually and orally.



*Gannon's novel: "Allegiant"*



*Joanna's novel: "Holly's Heart"*



*Chara's novel: "True (Sort of)"*

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## Promotion

After 12 years of having children at CCS, it is my desire to reflect on blessings received. My family and I have felt led to move to Southern Ontario. We have so enjoyed our years at Community Christian School and will always be grateful for all who have poured into our children and our family over these years. We thank our Lord for the privilege our children have had to receive such a great education in such a caring community. We know nothing will replace all that our children have learned at CCS in these formative years.

As I leave the Promotions and Admissions position at CCS, I am thankful that God has provided others to fill the gap. We welcome Mrs. Jodi Ferguson, a new parent to CCS, who is developing the promotional role and avenues to further promote CCS in our community. She has already become engaged with our business community in the spring event called "Meet and Greet on Victoria Street". She brings to CCS her experience with social media and her connections to local organizations. We trust her to be a significant blessing to CCS. Be sure to follow CCS more actively on our Facebook page.

We are also thrilled that Mrs. Marie Cooper is once again returning to serve at CCS. Marie is passionate about Christian education and has been very involved at CCS in previous years. Her two children graduated from CCS a number of years ago, and in the past six years she has served at Redeemer Christian High school as the Promotions and Advancement Coordinator. Since her retirement from RCHS this spring, she has felt led to return to CCS to serve on the Board of Directors, and also assist in working with prospective families. We are so thankful for God's provision to CCS with both Jodi and Marie joining the Promotions team and committee.

Please continue to pray for CCS as we prayerfully and actively communicate the tuition reduction message for new families. With the many changes in the public school curriculum we see the opportunity for Christian education to be an even greater need and blessing. Our children are truly a blessing and we are charged with the task of bringing them up in the fear and admonition of the Lord. As parents we know that CCS is partnering with us to continue "diligently teaching our sons and daughters" in the ways of the Lord.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve at CCS over these past years. May God continue to bless each of you in the years ahead.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Schoenmaker

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## A Two-Minute Response

Has anyone ever asked you what is so special about CCS? Have you had difficulty responding confidently? What can you say in less than two minutes, before they lose interest?

We know that our best promotion is done one-to-one, by word of mouth and by friends of this community. Here are three quick highlights you can share about CCS.

### Teachers are intentional about:

- ⇒ building relationships for learning
- ⇒ shaping character through a Christian worldview; and
- ⇒ advancing minds by meeting the needs of individual learners.

This year we further define our approach to academics. In the CCS environment, the focus is on developing a mindset of growth from a Godly perspective, which vastly impacts the capacity to learn and the results a child will experience. It begins with teaching students that they each possess the potential to be his or her best for what God created them to be, no matter what, and to provide them with the support they need to be successful. At CCS, this translates into an environment where each child is taught to:

- ⇒ apply rigorous effort aimed towards excellence;
- ⇒ gain confidence in their learning; and
- ⇒ embrace mistakes as growth opportunities.

If this has piqued their interest, they will no doubt want to know more:

Achieving a level of excellence looks different for each student, as each is created with varying interests, talents and gifts. Engaging students by tapping into these areas and personal learning styles draws them in and ignites passion.

Equipped with these tools and perspective, CCS is growing a generation of learners that will be well able to confidently step forward in answer to God's call on their lives.

Take these highlights with you! Feel free to use them. CCS will be able to bless other families as a result.



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