
Notes from the Board of Directors

P. Buitenwerf, Chairman

On August 17, 2015 the Board could once again meet together with our Principal to continue our task in operating John Calvin School. Though the rest over the summer was a pleasant break from meetings and such, many committee members be it transport, the building committee, finance, etc., had to take advantage of the school's closure to get extra work done. For some the final rest comes when school begins and things are back to normal. The Lord willing, September 8, the doors will open and we all can go back to normal, "whatever our normal is".

At our first meeting to begin the new school year we could open the meeting reading from Deuteronomy 28 where the Lord spells out to His people the blessings they will receive if they obey His commands: *"All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you if you obey the LORD your God."* (Deuteronomy 28:2) We can be truly thankful that the Lord has showered His blessings upon us. We have been given much health and strength. While we hear of so much persecution and struggle around the world for Christians, He has blessed us with freedom to worship Him, to be instructed in His commands and strengthened each Sunday through the preaching of His word.

What an example of how the Lord has blessed us when we look at the "Building on Blessings" campaign. Among those who have worked hard over the summer is the Fundraising Committee. The Lord has truly blessed the comings and goings of this committee as they put so much effort forward to fulfill their mandate to raise the funds necessary to begin construction of the addition and special needs facility. At last count, we were less than \$20,000.00 short of the 75% cash in hand needed to begin construction. WOW! We thank the Committee for their excellent work so far. We also want to thank all who volunteered their time to help in the special fundraising events as well as all who have and continue to contribute to the Building on Blessings campaign. Much appreciation as well to the Expansion Committee for their work. All building permits are close to being in place. The Lord willing, excavation and foundation work may start this fall.

Much work over the summer has also been done in and

around the school by the Property Committee and many volunteers. At the beginning of summer some classroom flooring was added and damaged flooring replaced. Items such as maps, shelving, bulletin boards, etc. have been moved around and refastened in various classrooms, bathroom stalls were repaired, maintenance on the lights throughout the school, heat rejection window film has been installed to reduce the greenhouse heating affect for one classroom. The pea gravel has been topped up in the playground to reduce mud and increase safety. New door hardware has been installed throughout the old section to make the keying standard throughout the school. Door windows are also being added for health and safety purposes. Thank you to all the volunteers who came out to give the final cleaning of the school and a special thank you to the 20 volunteers who came out one night to help the property committee replace 19 toilets throughout the older section of the school. Many hands made light work.

I invite you to go to johncalvin.ca and you will see a dandy new website for the school. Although not yet 100% complete, we hope you visit and check it out. Information such as School Policies and Procedures, snow day information, school calendars and events, and a memory work tab for every grade are included. You can track the progress of the Building on Blessings campaign and also...crisp, clear and easy to read bus routes!

Our Principal, Mr. George Hofsink, could report to the Board that all systems are go for school to begin. Teaching positions have been filled with one addition. We may welcome Mrs. Inge De Visser who will fill in for Mrs Aasman while she is on her maternity leave. We are thankful to the Lord that He continues to provide capable teachers to teach His covenant children at John Calvin. We wish Mrs. DeVisser the Lord's blessing and we hope she will find teaching here amongst our staff and students a fulfilling experience.

We also wish to congratulate Maria Koolsbergen who was married over the summer to her husband Dave; she is now Mrs. DeBoer. May the Lord bless them as they begin their life together as husband and wife assisting each other in all

good things.

The teachers have begun their work already at the school on August 24 with classroom preparations, staff meetings to discuss and review the school calendar, professional development, staff and parent handbooks and other procedures and routines. An open house for students and parents to meet their teachers is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept 2 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. We are thankful the Lord has kept all of our staff in His care over the summer and we wish them the Lord's blessing and strength to do their task in the coming year.

On August 20 we could hold our annual Staff/Board/

Committee Social. We thank Albert and Emily Bruelkelman for hosting the evening to help make it an enjoyable time for those who are involved in the work of the school to meet together for a casual evening of good food and good fun.

As we begin another season we may all be truly thankful to our Heavenly Father who continues to uphold what He has promised. May we continue to strive to keep His commands and serve our Gracious God who has blessed us with so much. For then "*the Lord will send a blessing on your barns and everything you put your hand to. The Lord your God will bless you in the land He is giving you*". (Deut. 28:8) To God be all the Glory!

Notes from the Office

G. Hofsink, Principal

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law...If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit." (Galatians 5:22,23,25)

This well-known text was selected as our theme text for the 2015-2016 school year in conjunction with our study of the 7 intellectual virtues (courage, carefulness, tenacity, fair-mindedness, curiosity, honesty, humility) as described by Philip Dow in his book, *Virtuous Minds: Intellectual Character Development*. During the course of the school year, the staff will be paying attention to each of these virtues as well as to the 9 fruit of the Spirit (one virtue per month which will be followed by three clusters of three fruit for April, May, and June).

The fruit of the Spirit (moral, Christian character) is the spontaneous work of the Holy Spirit in us. The Spirit produces these character traits that are found in the nature of Christ. They are the by-products of Christ's control - we cannot obtain them by trying to get them without His help. If we want the fruit of the Spirit to grow in us, we must join our lives to His. We must know Him, love Him, remember Him, and imitate Him. As a result, we will fulfill the intended purpose of the law-to love God and our neighbours. A person who exhibits the fruit of the Spirit fulfills the law far better

than a person who observes the rituals but has little love in his or her heart. Each day we must pray to God our Father to work in us these fruit by His Spirit and His Word.

God is interested in every part of our lives, not just the spiritual part. As we live by the Holy Spirit's power, we need to submit every aspect of our lives to God-emotional, intellectual, physical, social, and vocational. Paul says that because we are saved, we should live like it. The Holy Spirit is the source of our new life, so we need to keep in step with His leading. We must not let anything or anyone else determine our values and standards in any area of our life.

Greetings everyone from the John Calvin School community, and welcome to another school year. By God's grace, in just over one week's time on Tuesday, September 8, D.V., the doors of John Calvin School will open to the students and the 52nd year of operation at JCS will begin. We look forward to welcoming back the students from Grades 1-8 as well as welcoming to John Calvin School a new group of 31 kindergarten students.

The staff has been working in the school on and off during the month of August. During the weeks of August 24 - 28 and August 31 - September 4, the teachers will be in every day. They will be attending preparatory week staff meetings, participating in an AIM French workshop at our

school, reviewing the staff development plan, various other meetings, discussing student needs, and getting their classrooms ready to meet the students at the Open House on Wednesday, September 2, and on the first day of school. The staff is looking forward to another exciting year of Christ-centered teaching and learning at John Calvin School in the service of our Heavenly Father.

As we enter another school year, we pray that the Lord will provide the Board and its committees with all they need to carry out their respective tasks. These men and women do their work on a volunteer basis and we appreciate all that they do in behalf of the Canadian Reformed School Society of Smithville and Surrounding District. We thank the committees for the work done in and around the school during the summer. The property committee was once again busy with various maintenance projects at the school. On August 4, 5, and 6, many volunteers descended on the school to participate in the annual summer school cleaning. We very much appreciate the time and effort put in by all who helped out. We especially thank Miss J. Breukelman, Mrs. J. vanBrederode, and the rest of the PTA for coordinating the cleaning. Mr. R. Bos was in at different times during July and August to wax and buff the halls, gym, and classroom floors to a fine shine in preparation for the new school year.

The transportation committee was also busy putting the final touches on the bus routes for the upcoming school year. The routes are included elsewhere in this issue of the News and Views and can also be found on the new John Calvin School website at- www.johncalvin.ca

Tuesday, September 8, marks the first day of school. We hope to start the year with an assembly beginning at 8:30 a.m. Parents, grandparents and other members of our community are invited to attend the assembly to help get the new school year started.

Parents are reminded that during the first week of school a number of papers will be handed out seeking some new or updated information for administrative purposes in the office. Once again, the youngest child in each family at school will act as the school-to-home courier. That means

that the weekly Chronicle will come home in their hands, if necessary. We will only be handing out paper copies if you cannot receive the Chronicle via email. If you let Mrs. Elgersma know your email address she will be glad to add you to the list. This year, the Chronicle will also be regularly posted on the school's website.

Staffing

In the class assignments listed below you will notice one new name, that being Mrs. Inge deVisser. She will be joining the staff to replace Mrs. Jessica Aasman who will be on maternity leave for this school year.

Mrs. deVisser lives in Hamilton and is a member of the Cornerstone congregation. She has many years of experience in the field of education; in the Netherlands, in South Africa, and in Canada (Ontario). Most recently, she has taught at Covenant Christian School in Flamborough. We welcome Mrs. deVisser and wish her all the best and the Lord's blessing as she takes up her part-time teaching task in Grade 4A, and as she makes herself familiar with the John Calvin School community.

On Saturday, July 11, Miss M. Koolsbergen became Mrs. M. DeBoer. We extend our congratulations to her and her husband and may the Lord grant them a blessed marriage.

Besides the new staff, we also welcome back Mrs. Rachel Gansekoele from her maternity leave, Mrs. Francine Bergsma who will reprise her teaching task in Grade 2, and the returning staff for another year of teaching and learning at John Calvin. The teaching assignments for 2015-2016 are as follows:

Gr. KA	Mrs. M. DeBoersap
Gr. KB	Mrs. S. Lovato
Gr. 1A	Mrs. J. vanBrederode
Gr. 1B	Mrs. H. Buikema
Gr. 2A	Miss H. VanLuik
Gr. 2B	Mrs. R. Gansekoele (4 days)
	Mrs. F. Bergsma (1 day)
Gr. 3A	Miss J. Breukelman
Gr. 3B	Mrs. M. Poort
Gr. 4A	Mrs. M. Blokker

	Mrs. I. deVisser	T. Spoelstra (Keagan)
Gr. 4B	Mrs. S. Oosterhoff	KB-T. DeBoer (Jaxon)
Gr. 5	Miss A. Buist/Mrs. S. Boersema(TA)	W. DeJong (Mikenna)
	Mr. G. Hofsink (Math)	R. Ondersma (Dylan)
Gr. 6A	Mrs. C. VanAndel	J. Porter (Taylor)
Gr. 6B	Mrs. M. DeBoer	T. Schulenberg (Evan)
Gr. 7A	Mr. T. Witten	D. Spoelstra (Emersyn)
Gr. 7B	Mr. K. Bergsma	W. Vandenoever (Liam)
Gr. 8	Mr. M. Joosse	
	Mr. G. Hofsink (Math and French)	
Spec Ed	Miss P. VanderZwaag	
	Mrs. M. Ravensbergen (EA)	
Principal	Mr. G. Hofsink	
Secretary	Mrs. N. Elgersma	

Kindergarten classes will be operating in the same manner as they did last year: KA- Mondays, Thursdays and every other Wednesday; KB- Tuesdays, Fridays, and every other Wednesday. KB's first day of school will be Tuesday, September 8 and KA's first day of school will be Wednesday, September 9.

May our Heavenly Father provide the staff with the wisdom, understanding, health, and strength they need to go about their daily duties with ability, patience, and enthusiasm. Please remember the staff and students in your daily prayers.

Enrolment and Class Assignments

The enrolment per grade for 2015-2016 is as follows (as at August 18, 2015):

Grade KA- 15	Grade 4A- 16
Grade KB- 16	Grade 4B- 17
Grade 1A- 20	Grade 5- 28
Grade 1B- 21	Grade 6A- 18
Grade 2A- 15	Grade 6B- 17
Grade 2B- 15	Grade 7A- 15
Grade 3A- 14	Grade 7B- 15
Grade 3B- 15	Grade 8- 27
Total = 284 students from 135 families	

We extend a hearty welcome to the P. Vanes family (Abigayle- Gr. 1B) to John Calvin. We hope and pray that they will soon find themselves at home in our school. We also extend a hearty welcome to those families who will be sending their first child to Kindergarten:

KA- W. Bijlsma (Tahlia)
I. Dokter (Jacob)
S. Horsman (Charlotte)
D. Lof (Jenna)
J. Ravensbergen (Chloe)

Curriculum

This is a key element of the teacher's work at school. This is the second part of why teachers teach; the first, of course, being the students. In teaching their curriculum, the teachers strive to incorporate the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord whenever they can and wherever relevant. They work hard in developing curriculum that is rooted in God's Word. It is developed and organized so that the students they teach may come to know God more deeply and richly and live for Him more faithfully.

Curriculum is always undergoing review and change and this year is no exception. Once again, the teachers will be involved with several projects:

- 1) Mathematics- This year, we are implementing the ACSI Purposeful Design Mathematics program in Grades K, 1, 7, and 8. We plan to implement Grades 2-4 (2nd edition) in the 2016-2017 school year, and Grades 5&6 (2nd edition) in the 2017-2018 school year.
- 2) Growing Success- The teachers plan to apply various aspects of assessment and evaluation to improve their instructional practice and to improve their students' learning.
- 3) Social Studies- Our goal for the Social Studies, History, Geography curriculum is to review and revise our current units of study, as necessary, and to remain updated on the work being done by CARE on Social Studies.
- 4) Church History- The goal is to remain updated on

the work being done by CARE in this subject area.

5) Virtuous Minds (Intellectual Character Development)- Our goal in this book study is to become more informed about intellectual character development and determine how best to apply character development to the education of covenant children at John Calvin School.

Parent Handbook

What follows are several items that can be found in your copy of the Parent Handbook.

Dress Code

Parents and students are reminded of the John Calvin School dress code as found on pp 11-13 in the policies section of the Parent Handbook. Students' clothing needs to reflect the basic Christian values of modesty, neatness, and cleanliness.

Buses

The Transportation Committee has certain expectations which you will find elsewhere in this issue of the News and Views. You can also find more information about bus rules, bus safety, and bus service cancellation in the Policies and Procedures section of the Parent Handbook (this section of the handbook is also found on the website). There are a few things that specifically need to be mentioned by way of reminder:

- Obey and cooperate with the bus drivers.
- There is to be no eating, drinking, or gum chewing on the buses.
- Please remember that riding the bus is a privilege.

Gym Clothing

We refer you to the dress code policy in the Policies and Procedures section of the Parent Handbook. All students are expected to have the necessary items. If you are lacking some items, and for students new to the school, these items will be made available at the school. A notice with specifics will go home in the first week of school.

Please be reminded to purchase non-scuffing gym shoes and the need for good shock absorbency in shoes on a non-giving gym floor. All the floors throughout the school have been waxed over the summer and we would like to preserve the

clean and shiny look as long as possible; soft, black rubber soles will scuff up the floors very quickly. Our custodian, Mr. Bos, will be especially grateful for your cooperation.

School Times

School hours will remain the same as in previous years:

8:10	School starts
9:55-10:15	Morning recess
11:45-12:40	Lunch break
2:55-3:00	Clean-up and dismissal
3:10	Buses leave

We encourage parents to note that school starts at 8:10 which is already quite early. We discourage students living within walking or biking distance from showing up at school any earlier than 7:55 a.m.. Staff members are quite busy during the time before the start of the school day, and playground supervision is not provided for at that time of day. Thanks again for your cooperation.

The school secretary, Mrs. N. Elgersma, will conduct office business in the school every morning from 8:00-12:00. Mr. Hofsink will be available in the mornings from before school to 8:25, from 9:10 to 10:15, and during each afternoon. Please keep this in mind when trying to contact the school.

Student Supplies and Order Forms

We can be brief under this topic and simply refer you to the Policies and Procedures section of the Parent Handbook. Once again, we would like to make mention of the need for a good pencil case/ box since some of the classrooms are going to be used for catechism classes and some rooms will be accommodating more than one grade. Such an item is great for storing writing and colouring tools and is also helpful for maintaining neat desks and floors.

Mission

The collections for this work have done really well for many years, and if we continue to be diligent at the fairly minimal amount of 25 cents per child per week (of course we are not limited to that amount), we can keep up that tradition. We encourage the students to give spontaneously and joyfully. Let us share generously from our abundance. This year, we

will be supporting the operation of Adoration Christian School in Haiti, Children of Light, and Hope Academy in Toronto. In the event of additional monies we will help support New Hope Orphanage in Timor.

Anaphylaxis and Allergies

John Calvin School is a nut free school. Please be reminded of the following precautions that need to be taken:

1. All nut products are banned in the school. We have several students in the school population identified with a severe nut allergy. Be especially wary of peanut butter.
2. A student with a nut allergy is at greatest risk on the bus. Children do not always observe the No Eating rule on the bus. Please impress upon your children that they do not consume food or drink on the bus. Guido students who use the bus should also be cautioned about this.
3. Encourage your children to wash their hands and brush their teeth to remove any peanut butter residue before they go to school.
4. If you wish to treat your child's class, i.e. birthdays, please make sure about any children in that class who may have a food-related allergy, e.g. peanuts, brazil nuts, milk products, etc.

We also have a number of children with asthma and/or related respiratory allergies. For the benefit of these children we ask all teachers not to wear perfumes, after shaves, or other scented products. We also urge parent volunteers who work in the school to refrain from using scented products when they are at school. Those suffering from allergies will appreciate it.

Volunteers

The help and enthusiastic assistance of volunteers is and remains much appreciated by the staff. A lot of time consuming tasks for the teachers can be taken over by volunteers, thus allowing them to focus on the tasks that only they can/should do. If you are wondering if your helping hands are still needed, the answer is YES. Just let the PTA know that you are available and interested and they will take it from there. The Kindergarten classes are especially in need of volunteers this year. Thanks in advance for your consideration.

Please join us for the annual Open House on Wednesday, September 2 from 7:00-8:30. You and your children will be able to visit the school and meet the staff. The Ladies' uxiliary has once again agreed to make a treat available to us. We hope to see you then.

Parents, grandparents, and members of the supporting community are invited to join us at the opening assembly on Tuesday morning, September 8 beginning at 8:30.

In conclusion, we pray for the Lord's blessing and guidance on the new school year, 2015-2016. May He provide everyone involved in the education process at John Calvin School- students, staff, parents, board and committees, supporting community- wisdom and understanding, health and strength so that they may carry out there respective tasks in and for the school.

Calendar of Events for September and October

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| Aug. 24-Sept. 4 | Preparation Weeks |
| September | Monthly Theme: Intellectual Courage |
| September 2 | Parent Open House |
| September 7 | Labour Day* |
| September 8 | First Day of School |
| Opening Assembly (8:30) | |
| September 21 | School Photographer |
| September 26 | Soccer Tournament (JCS hosts) |
| Sept. 28-30 | National Principals' Conference |
| October | Monthly Theme: Intellectual Carefulness |
| October 8 | Hep B #1 for Grade 7 students |
| October 9 | Thanksgiving Assembly (p.m.)
Grades 7&8 Cross Country Run |
| October 12 | Thanksgiving Day* |
| October 13 | PD Day*
News and View materials due |
| October 14-16 | Agriculture Theme Week: Poultry Party |
| October 18 | News and Views |
| October 23 | Interim Report Cards |
| October 28 | Reformation Day Assembly (a.m.) |
| October 28 | Parent-Teacher conferences (by request,
teacher or parent) |
| October 29,30 | CRTA Convention in London* |

Smiles for the Day:

The first day of school, Mrs. Kay enthusiastically greeted her new students. One young mother introduced her son, Cameron, adding that they called him Cammie.

"What do you want us to call you at kindergarten?" Mrs. Kay asked.

"Cammie, I guess," he replied, with a grin. "Cameron is what they call me when I get in trouble."

A few puns:

*I didn't understand the math, so the teacher summed it up for me.

*Little Jimmy told his teacher he never saw a humming bird but he had watched a spelling bee.

*The little old woman who lived in a shoe wasn't the sole owner - there were strings attached.

Transportation Committee Report

D. Bartels, A. Breukelman, T. Linde, B. VandenOever

The Transportation Committee has once again been busy getting the bus routes and buses ready for another school year. This year we will not be publishing the maps in the News and Views. Maps can be found online at johncalvin.ca. (If you are unable to access the website, please contact one of the Transportation Committee members.) The routes are quite similar to last year but please still review your routes and information. If we have made any errors please contact a member of our committee so that we can update our records and keep them accurate. It is important that we have the correct information in order to help things run smoothly in the event of a school cancellation. If school is going to be cancelled due to weather conditions, we will let the bus drivers know and they in turn will inform all the families on their afternoon routes.

When making the bus routes we try to prevent children from crossing busy roads, but unfortunately in some cases it is difficult to avoid. If you are at all uncomfortable with your

child(ren) crossing the road to get on or off their bus we ask that you please assist them. Also, due to the afternoon buses being filled to their maximum capacity, children will not be allowed to use a bus other than their own unless they have permission from a Transportation Committee Member.

Please take a few moments, with your children, to go over the rules for riding the buses (these rules can be found in the Parent Handbook). We have had to deal with some damages done to a school bus this past year so please stress to your children that there will be zero tolerance for vandalism of any kind. Those involved in damaging the bus will be expected to pay for repairs and may also run the risk of losing the privilege of bus service.

Thank you once again for your cooperation and if you have any questions please contact one of us. It is our prayer that the LORD will watch over the drivers and students in this year and once again keep them safe from harm.

