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ECHOES

TED HARRIS

Blessings remembered



Now that the 2007-08 school year is coming to a close, we are able to reflect on a year of blessings.

We have once again been blessed with strong student community and leadership. It is a blessing to hear so frequently from students how much they love their school.

Our grade 9 admissions process has gone very well. The grade 9 class of at least 62 students will be our biggest class next year. We have had so many late enrolments that we were able to lower the projected tuition rate before registration packages were sent out in early June.

Our second annual grade 12 portfolio day on May 22 was another wonderful opportunity for staff, board and committee members to interact with our graduating class. Their testimonies were a blessing and encouragement to us in our work.

The leadership of SDCH has been blessed through a discussion of how best to align ourselves to serve a wider variety of Christians from our area. The board, committees and administration have worked hard through surveys and evaluations to plan major marketing strategies. Toward that end, we are blessed to be able to announce the appointment of Marlene Bergsma for the new position of Direction of Communications and Admissions. (See the notice elsewhere in this Echoes.)

God has been so good to us. We spend much time in prayer for what we do in Christ's name. We have also been in a position to see how God has answered those prayers. To Him be all the glory!

We are all now ready for the blessing of a rest from our labours. Each of us needs to experience this blessing, whether we be in the calling of student, supporting parent, board or committee member, teacher or administrator. May God grant us each a blessed summer.

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Board Report

WAYNE SCHILSTRA

Last week I had the privilege and honour of chaperoning and cheering on our girl's soccer team in Timmins. They are OFSSA champions- Congratulations ladies!

What do an 18-hour round trip between Smithville and Timmins and a Board report have to do with each other? Nothing really. Except, I was reminded first hand of all that our great school has to offer. We have dedicated staff members who go the extra mile to make SDCH the very best place of learning it can be. We have wonderful students who work hard at sports, drama, the year book, students' council, academics and a plethora of other activities.

At the end of this 2007/2008 school year, the Board would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to so many who make SDCH the amazing school that it is:

Thank you to the entire staff for all your hard work and dedication this past year and thank you for going the extra mile for our kids.

Thank you to the fundraising committee who worked hard to put on a great plant sale, dinner and auction. Over \$25,000.00 was raised!

Thank you to all the committee members who take time out of their busy schedules so that the school runs smoothly.

Thank you to the parents and many volunteers who generously support the school with their time, talents and funds.

Thank you to the greater supporting community for always supporting our efforts, financially and through prayer.

Thank you to the Foundation of Niagara Christian Schools for the fine work it is doing in building wealth for the future generations who will attend SDCH.

Here are a few initiatives that your Board of Directors is currently working on:

We are very pleased and excited to have hired Marlene Bergsma as our new marketing director. This appointment represents an intentional push that the Board is making in order to better market SDCH to our feeder schools, area churches and the general Christian community. The Board is also working with three marketing gurus: Karen Buitenwerf, Darryl Andre and Jenn Kikkert, who are putting together a marketing plan (free of charge). Thanks Karen, Darryl and Jenn for your hours and hours of hard work. This Board does not want SDCH just to survive, but

rather thrive and grow.

Strategic planning is a constant element of our board agenda. We are approaching our fifth year of our five-year strategic plan. Next year we will be looking at creating a new vision statement and broadly defining a new five-year strategic plan.

Board development also takes place regularly with regular discussions about effective Board leadership.

We also hear from Ted Harris, our Administrator, every month on how the school is operating. We are so thankful for all the work that Ted does and how well he governs the school. He is a gifted administrator.

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2008! We pray that you will experience God's grace and love as you build on the Christian experience you have had at SDCH.

God is good to our school – His school.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

It's the time of year when the SDCH board and committees are looking for some members to fill spots vacated by those whose terms are complete. These opportunities include the board as well as the following committees: finance, fund raising, golf tournament, membership, promotion and program. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact the school office.

SDCH Girls' Soccer Team Wins OFSAA Gold

DAVE WONDER



What a week, what a season! As many of you know already, the SDCH girls' soccer team (aka THE STORM) won OFSAA gold this year in Timmins, Ontario. This year's team has its share of quality players; however, the team's success is due to the fact that these young athletes play well together. Both on and off the pitch, these players exhibit huge amounts of heart and character. THE STORM is a team that is able to patiently move the ball around and therefore keep possession. In addition to moving the ball well, they can also score goals. In fact, over the course of the season, every goal scored against THE STORM was matched by an average of six goals for THE STORM.

At the beginning of the week of June 8-11, we travelled north to Timmins, Ontario to participate in the Girls 'A' OFSAA Soccer Tournament. On Monday, June 9, we played our first two of three round robin pool matches, which our ladies won quite handily. We placed first in our pool and were matched up against a strong team from Goderich, in the quarter finals. It was a tight match that went into double over time and then penalty kicks. On that particular

afternoon our keeper, Staci Pols, was at her best and in the end we were awarded a 3- 2 win over Goderich on penalty kicks.

A day later, in the semi finals, THE STORM defeated another strong, determined team from Charlottenburg & Lancaster District High School, with a score of 6-2. Goal scorers for SDCH were Colleen Slappendal and Kandace Hessels, both with a pair and Jasmin Elmers and Tori Vermeer, both with one.

In the final match of the tournament, we played a strong disciplined team from Port Hope; Trinity College, a team who like ourselves enjoy playing possession soccer. Both teams battled for the gold, but in the end, a very fit and skilled Smithville District Christian High School came out on top; two goals to nil. Goal scorers for THE STORM were Kandace Hessels and Colleen Slappendal.

Well done Ladies! I thank you all; the back four, the midfielders and strikers for a very memorable season filled with many wins and much laughter. WHOSE HOUSE IS THIS?



**SDCH WILL BE HOSTING OFSAA GIRLS 'A' SOCCER
JUNE 4-6, 2009!**

Storm Report

TAYLOR SCHILSTRA

Wednesday, May 28 was the Athletics Banquet. It was a night filled with fellowship, great food, and many awards. The night started out with devotions and prayer, and then we all enjoyed a potluck dinner and dessert. The awards ceremony began and all of the coaches had very positive things to say about the STORM teams from this year. We have various awards at our school for each sport based on criteria such as leadership, commitment, enthusiasm, Christ like character, and athletic ability. Here are this year's awards winners.

Cross Country – Brian Van Buuren , Esther Vermeer
Volleyball – Kelly Harris, Kandace Hessels , Cody Vansoelen , Matt Zantingh
Badminton – Kelly Harris, Colleen Slappendel, Brandon Vansoelen , Kandace Hessels
Basketball – Colleen Slappendel, Amanda Harris , Cody Vansoelen Mark Snippe
Girls Soccer – Dawn Elmers, Boys Soccer – Matt Zantingh
Track – Dorothy Deboer , Greg Hoekstra , Jacqueline Vos

And congratulations to the Athletes of the Year for 2008. They are: Kelly Harris (junior girl), Esther Vermeer (senior girl), Cody Vansoelen (junior boy), and Matt Zantingh (senior boy). These are very talented and dedicated athletes and each one of them deserves the title they have been awarded.

Special thanks to all the coaches of our teams, scorekeepers, athletics council, and athletes for making this another awesome year for the STORM!!! Looking forward to seeing what we can do next year!



Honouring John Langendoen

John Langendoen was recently granted the Ontario Volunteer Award for his service to SDCH. John has served as our board chair, he has chaired two consecutive capital campaigns, and he has for years represented SDCH on the board of the Foundation for Niagara Christian Schools. Congratulations John, this is a well deserved honour!

John Langendoen receives the Ontario Volunteer Award from the Honourable Michael Chan, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. ►



Announcing ...

SDCH is pleased to announce the appointment of Marlene Bergsma for the new position of Director of Communications and Admissions. Her position will include the following duties: directing relationships with partner schools, managing the admissions process, overseeing all external communications, managing the web site, and fostering relationships within the Christian community. We are blessed to have her as part of our leadership team, and we ask that the SDCH family give her their support and prayers.

Foundation Footnotes – Investing God's Wealth in Christian Education

As many of you are aware, the Foundation membership is currently comprised of 5 school societies. The 5 elementary and 2 secondary school sites are collectively serving approximately 1050 students this school year. The combined total of the proposed 08/09 operating budgets is nearly \$7.15 million. Revenue in excess of \$5.7 million is budgeted as tuition from parents – all of this from only 545 tuition-paying families! (Families with children enrolled in both SDCH and one of its feeder schools are counted twice since they pay twice.)

Parents, given these tuition figures, you are obviously very committed to Christian education. I have spoken with former school society members only 20 or so years older than myself who can still remember tuition rates of \$5 to \$6 per child per week. May God continue to bless you as many of you struggle to meet these financial commitments. Remember that we are paying this forward and that along with our own children and grandchildren, many future generations of students will be blessed as well. Your Foundation Directors are also developing innovative ways to ensure the broader Christian community continues to stand with you "investing God's wealth in Christian education".

Wishing you all a safe and blessed summer! Stay tuned.

*Henry J. Koornneef, CFP, Executive Director, FNCS
SDCH is a founding member of the Foundation for Niagara Christian Schools.*

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GRADE 12 QUEBEC TRIP



Aantjes, S.



Batenburg, K.



Beldman, C.



Eggink, C.



Elmers, J.



Eyk, H.



Hogeterp, K.



Kooiman, J.



Koornneef, A.



Moesker, L.



Nienhuis, C.



Pols, S.



Slappendel, K.



Snippe, M.



Stoner, R.



VanHoffen, M.



VanSoelen, B.



VanSoelen, K.

Student Services

LINDA BOOY-KORVEMAKER

As another year comes to a close, it's good to reflect on some of the year's accomplishments. Working with students in a non traditional setting allows us to see things and hear things that we don't always notice in the classroom. One of my favourite aspects of being a guidance counselor is hearing about the awards and accomplishments of SDCH students. Some were mentioned in the last issue, here are a few more that have come across my desk recently:

Kyle Buma who received the Academic Achievement Scholarship (renewable), Board of Governors Scholarship, and the Voortman Cookies Bursary from Redeemer College totalling \$8,100. Christa Buys has been awarded the Redeemer Foundation Leadership Scholarship valued at \$2000 for her significant leadership achievements and potential.

Sara Stuive has been selected as a feature author in "Authors of Tomorrow" published by Elder & Leemaur, for the essay she wrote on "What I would do with one year off school". This essay was a component of the admission selection process in her application to the University of Toronto's Specialist in International Development to which she has been accepted and plans to attend.

Anne Vandermey has received an Entrance Scholarship valued at \$10,000 over 4 years from Carleton University for excellent academic standing. Anne plans to study History at Carleton.

Matt Zantingh has been awarded the Calvin College Presidential Scholarship valued at \$6000 and Jasmin Elmers has been awarded the Calvin College Faculty Honors Scholarship valued at \$3500.

Levi Moesker has won the Niagara Cattlemen's Association Award in the amount of \$250.00. The scholarship winner is decided by a committee and is based on academic standing, leadership, and work experience.

Finally our grade 10 students success rate on the provincial literacy test was 93%, nine percent higher than the provincial score of 84%.



Students' Council 2008

MATTHEW ZANTINGH

This article spells the end of the Students' Council of 07/08. Through this past year, we have had the pleasure of serving the student body of SDCH in the many different ways and avenues. We pray that the student body will continue to "Live the Mystery" by sharing Christ's love and mercy with others.

We would like to extend our congratulations to Calvin DeVries, Adam Vermeer, Steven Zantingh, Hannah Kikkert, and Kelly Harris for becoming the Student's Council next year and we know that you will have a blast serving and organizing events for SDCH.

Grade 9 music concert at Bethesda Homes

LEANNE RIEBOT

This past week we played at Bethesda Homes, and it was a great experience. The residents were the most encouraging audience, and that made me want to play my best and also have a good time. The audience was clapping, dancing, singing and smiling, which made us more energetic and also have fun. Going there inspired me. I hope to work there one day, because the residents are so caring and compassionate. They form a smile on your face, and leave a mark on your heart!



Science in action



DANIEL HEERSINK, GR. 12

Over the course of the past year, I designed, developed and constructed an innovation that improves a work-related function. The machine itself was made to hold maple sugar and spin it until the sugar is cooled. It does this in order to yield a sugar that is finer and results in less work being done by employees, because there is no sifting out of the coarse sugar that was produced in the past. My father and Uncle are quite happy with the results as it is a benefit for their company, Smokey Kettle Maple Co. Ltd.

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER	
2	First day of School	3	Early Progress Report sent out
5	Grade 9 Blast	7	OCSSAA Cross Country
10	SDCH 101 New Member/ Parent Orientation	8	Project/PD Day
17, 20	TPCE Golf Tournament	13	Thanksgiving
27	SDCH Baseball Tournament	23, 24	Teachers Convention
		Oct. 31- Nov. 1	OCSSAA Boys Volleyball, Girls Basketball



This year's auction was again a success... hard work, but God is good, and many hands were willing.

SDCH 14th Annual Plant Sale, Dinner and Auction

\$25,000 raised!



Thank you...

for your contribution to the Smithville District Christian High School Fundraiser. The Lord has blessed us through you.



Bouwens, S. Buma, K. Buys, C. Colyn, T. Copeland, R. Damm, B. DeBoer, G. DeHaan, J. deJonge, J.



Feddema, S. Forestell, T. Hamming, B. Harris, A. Heeg, M. Heemskerk, M. Heersink, D. Hessels, J. Hessels, K.

Smithville District Christian High School Class of 2008



Koornneef, S. Korten, E. Ludeboom, N.



Riebot, S. Rintjema, B. Rintjema, M. Robson, M. Scholman, R. Sikkens, H. Slappendel, K.



Stuive, S. Tiersma, M. Vahrmeijer, K. Vandendool, J. VanderMeer, H. Vandermeij, A. VanderMey, J. VanderVeen, E. VanGeest, G.



Vermeer, E. Vermeer, K. Vos, J. Vos, M. Wagter, J. Wassenaar, C. Westerhoff, A. Witteveen, M. Zantingh, M.



WHERE FAITH AND LEARNING MEET

THE MYSTERY THAT HAS BEEN KEPT HIDDEN FOR AGES AND GENERATIONS, BUT IS NOW DISCLOSED TO THE SAINTS. TO THEM GOD HAS CHOSEN TO MAKE KNOWN AMONG THE GENTILES THE GLORIOUS RICHES OF THIS MYSTERY, **WHICH IS CHRIST IN YOU**, THE HOPE OF GLORY. WE PROCLAIM HIM, ADMONISHING AND TEACHING EVERYONE WITH ALL WISDOM, SO THAT WE MAY PRESENT EVERYONE PERFECT IN CHRIST.

COLOSSIANS 1:26-28

