

OH WHAT A NIGHT(S)!

Over the course of 3 amazing evenings, beginning on 'Giving Tuesday', November 28th, we witnessed, once again the outpouring of support from our school community during our Phone Campaign. Gathered in the gym each night, a group of enthusiastic volunteers made over 500 calls.

"It was really interesting to hear the volume of the buzz around the gym increase as callers began to connect, and in many cases, reconnect with the supporting community." says Principal Nick Geleynse. "We are so encouraged by the continued interest and investment in HCS and Christian education, and to see so many volunteers who are future parents of the school!"

As a Phone Campaign caller, Phil Dykstra says, "It was great to get together with a group of volunteers at the school. Everything was organized and it seemed like light work to make phone calls for a few evenings and raise this kind of money." We are delighted to share that the Phone and Letter Campaign has raised over \$20,000 to date with gifts continuing to arrive each day! We are truly grateful to all those who so generously supported this fundraising initiative and to our amazing team who helped make this fundraising activity such a success:

MAIL STUFFING CREW!

Cindy Brown, Rebekah Donald, Gary Sutcliffe, Tania VanderHeide, and Jennifer Whaling

PHONE CALLERS!

Dave Boersma, Aric Bos, Darren Bouman, Luke Bouman, Justin Damsma, Ryan DeVries, Jason Doble, Alf and Marianne Dykstra, Phil Dykstra, Jenn Hoogendoorn, Deb Siertsema, Norma VanderLaan, Sheila VanderLaan, Kim VanWyk, and Mark Veenstra

DINNER CHEFS!

A special thank you to the parent volunteers, Cindy Brown, Holly Kroes and Rachel Doble and their families, who provided supper for us each evening. We couldn't have done it without you!

Thank you also to Vicki Wielinga and Karen Wynja who supervised the Pledge Station in the school lobby during the evenings of the parent teacher interviews!



Seasons Greetings
 FROM OUR HOME TO YOURS!

We wish you and your family a blessed Christmas, as we celebrate the birth of our Savior together! God bless all of us as we continue the promotion of Christian education in 2018. See you in the new year!

“FROM WHERE I SIT” – A STUDENT’S PERSPECTIVE

How do students process the idea of a new school, including the move to a new location next year? Some are concerned about what might be lost. Cassandra wants to make sure the gaga ball pit stays. “What about the library and our soccer fields?” wondered Anneliese. Others see this as an opportunity to add some ‘cool new stuff’; new playground equipment would be great according to Jared; Olivia thinks a cafeteria is long overdue, and Ben heard that the front lobby will look like a hotel! Drew is pretty excited that the walk to the washroom is not going to be nearly as long for primary students, and Lauren’s excitement about the two-storey part over the student lounge was shared by a lot of other Grade 3 students. Speaking of the student lounge, the easy chairs and couches sound like they will be a hit with the students. “A prim and proper school,” noted Nicola.

Being offsite next year gets a few students nervous, especially for Ashley who lives in Brussels. She figures her ride will probably be even longer. Grade 3’s solution to finding another building was that everyone should just stay home for the year! An SK student shared that he couldn’t go to the school next year because it is going to be on an island and he did not want to take the boat ride every day. And since the playground was going to be on the roof, he didn’t think that was safe at all! He had somehow put together the stories that he heard from Mario Matos, Executive Director of COCREP in the DR. The DR is an island and sometimes schools have their playground on the roof! Somehow he had understood that was where we were having school next year.

The new building has some students wondering how they will know where to go. “We’ll get lost if we don’t have maps on the first day of school, or at least have a tour guide leading us around!” suggested Kasey. Sarah, however, thought that checking out the new building would add to the excitement of the first day. Joel already has regular trips prepared next year – his class will go and check the progress on the new building. Grade 8 students have their regrets about missing out on the new building, but Nadine found the silver lining to that cloud - they get to at least graduate from the building they were in for the last 10 years. And, Olivia figured she’ll see it when she comes back for the pancake supper!

Students offer interesting perspectives on the build. But maybe Grade 3 had the most interesting idea to help save costs... they want to come and help knock down parts of the old building! As the Principal of HCS, I must say I have the most rewarding and interesting job ever!

Nick Geleynse
Principal



A VISIT FROM EDUDEO

On November 14, HCS hosted some very special guests - Mario Matos, Executive Director of COCREP (Colegios Cristianos Reformados) from the Dominican Republic and Phil Beck (Operations Director Edu Deo). First, they joined Grades JK to 3 for an assembly, followed by Grades 4 – 8. Approximately 10 donors then gathered in the library for a reception and had the opportunity to hear some of the exciting, more in-depth results of our support of these schools. At noon, thanks to 8 parent volunteers who supervised the classrooms and outside recess, the whole staff enjoyed a catered lunch while listening to more inspiring stories. Visits to individual classes rounded out the day.

God is doing great things through COCREP and its 15 member schools as they educate Dominican children for lives of service. But God is also using this small association of Christian schools at a national level as the Ministry of Education has invited them to sit at the table to discuss educational reform for the whole country. The Ministry has recognized that these schools have something unique going on. What a privilege and blessing that HCS can partner with them in this great ministry!

