

## DETAILS OF OUR PROJECT: SIGHTS & SOUNDS AT HCS

The gym remains the main gathering space for our school community. Together, we mark and celebrate special days and seasons in our school year in this space. In 2015, our gym underwent a great improvement with the installation of a high-quality floor thanks to the generosity of a donor. With further investment in the gym we will enhance the overall performance of the space. The current location of the stage, at one end of the gym, has presented ongoing challenges when hosting large events. Those who find themselves seated at the opposite end to the stage, have difficulty hearing the performers and presenters. By repositioning the stage to the long wall, all guests will be seated in close proximity, greatly improving the sound level, sight lines and our guests' overall experience during performances, presentations, and speeches.

### Performing Arts Room

Music is a very real part of programming at HCS. Music plays an important role in the academic program offered at HCS. Our current facility was built during a time when a full music and band program was not part of the curriculum. Now, the sound of music is heard daily in the halls at HCS and comes from various practise rooms and any other creatively-used spaces throughout the school. Band instruments routinely line the halls and the piano rolls to whichever destination will be used to teach music that day!

In response to the clear need for a specific space for our growing music program, our renovation project will include a Performing Arts Room for the band, choir and drama program. This dedicated room will provide a permanent home for all instruments and will always be ready for our music classes.

Band, choir, and drama have become an important part of learning and development of God's gifts in our students over the past decade. We desire to acknowledge these arts and enhance them further with this dedicated learning space.



## MUSIC EDUCATION THEN AND NOW:

### A "Q & A" WITH HCS PRINCIPAL NICK GELEYNSE

#### **Q: What percentage of the weekly curriculum is currently dedicated to music?**

**A:** When the school was first built, the music program consisted of individual music classes, introduction to the recorder in Grade 4, choir for special occasions, and musicals every 3rd year. Our program has grown considerably since then with regular lessons, productions and performances. Now, for each class taking band it comprises up to 6% of the curriculum. Choir is in addition to that once we head into an event like the Christmas program, graduation, musical, etc.

We started the band program in 2007 and until 2 years ago, band was one 60-minute class per week. Since then, we have increased it to two 45-minute classes, for grades 6 to 8, which is in line with most Christian schools we consulted.

#### **Q: How does the current facility limit the possibilities of the program today?**

**A:** As we continue to grow, the use of the stage for the band becomes more problematic. We constantly have to move to accommodate other events that need the stage, and it prevents the gym from being used by other classes during band practice. A dedicated Performing Arts Room would impact so many other areas of the school beyond our music program.

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### **Q: How much learning time is used just to transition from class room to music space?**

**A:** Too much. Currently the location of the band space is on the stage and there are many distractions for students during transition there. First, the band teacher ushers the students from their classroom to pick up their instruments from the band cupboard located in the back hallway, then to the washrooms to wash their mouthpieces, and then to the stage. A Performing Arts Room with an instrument cupboard and wash area will make this whole process run much more efficiently and will be better supervised.

### **Q: Are there additional music options available at school?**

**A:** Yes! Outside of the music program, we accommodate private music lessons for piano, voice, violin, percussion, brass instruments, and guitar. The school also benefits as these students contribute to other musical areas of our program. However, currently, private piano lessons are taught in a drafty back hallway, or whatever space is available at the time, as well as at the church. The Performing Arts Room will provide a greatly needed dedicated room for these lessons.

### **Q: What other value do you feel the Performing Arts Room will provide the school?**

**A:** By designating a room for the Performing Arts programs, we are acknowledging that band, choir and drama are a legitimate part of our curriculum. While programs in the arts are being cut in other sectors of society, we recognize this is an important area of God's creation and we are committed to promoting them. We have a huge gymnasium and program dedicated to sports. We're long overdue in providing that for the performing arts.

## **BURSTING AT THE SEAMS!!**

Since the launch of the Same Foundation Next Generation Capital Campaign, the student population at HCS has grown! Growth comes with some welcomed logistical challenges! Late last Fall, the Grade 3 students moved to the Supply and Staff room, while the Supply and Staff room moved to the small Grade 3 room. As well, the addition of new families in the new year caused the JK class to outgrow their classroom and recently moved to the Clinton Christian Reformed Church next door. This allowed the Grade 3 students to move from the Supply Room to the JK room. Enrollment at HCS continues to increase – clear evidence that it is time to renovate and make great learning spaces for ALL our students. This project cannot happen a moment too soon!

## **A FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION**

### **How is the campaign progressing? How much has been raised?**

The Campaign Cabinet and Canvassers are working diligently to raise the funds as quickly as possible. We have received heart-warming support from those we have visited thus far. We will be making an announcement as to how much has been raised toward our \$3M goal at the 2017 Spring Membership meeting to be held on May 8, 2017 at 7:30pm. We hope everyone will join us for this exciting news!



We give our heartfelt thanks to those who are sharing their time and talents with the *Same Foundation Next Generation Capital Campaign* to make it a success.

### **CAMPAIGN CABINET**

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