

Education Built on Relationships

It has been wonderful to be back to Linden and connect with members of our school community. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we navigate through the first stage of the building project. I know that some inconvenience with construction lies ahead. However, I also believe this will not get in the way of accomplishing all that we have been called to achieve. We are committed to do everything we can to ensure things run as smoothly as possible and to fine tune for improvement.



Groundbreaking Ceremony, June 27, 2010. Principal Robert Charach with honorary sod-turners Katarina & Natasha M. (Early Years) - Class of 2021.

Over the summer I attended a conference in Colorado Springs that featured Dr. Christian Smith. Dr. Smith is leading the most extensive sociological research project ever undertaken on youth and religion. The results have proven to be very interesting. The research demonstrates that the majority of teens consider their faith as “somewhat important”, but in reality it operates in the background of their lives with little recognition of its true importance or distinction in life. The majority of teens hold little understanding of the basics of the Christian gospel. Sadly, very few could communicate effectively what they believe. Though most of the data presented was very disconcerting, there are two points I would like to highlight as important factors in strengthening the Christian faith of teens:

- Parents who work intentionally to share their faith with their children;
- Christian adults who develop significant personal relationships with students.

At the conclusion of the lecture series, I reflected on the critical role parents play as teachers of their children. I agree with Dr. Smith’s belief that in the majority of cases we will reproduce what we are. Our children are growing up in a complex and often hostile culture that requires our intentional investment in their lives. As well, our children need other voices speaking truth into their lives. I commend you for investing in your child’s future through Christian Education.

What a blessing to have an incredible team of staff at Linden. They have an important role in the development of the academic, emotional and spiritual growth of students. Our “Education Built on Relationships” focus is sound; over the next months my prayer is that the relationships between students and staff will be strengthened.

In His Service,

Robert Charach
Principal

**LINDEN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

Imagine

A Linden Letter Publication

ISSUE 3 | OCT 2010

BUILDING TO SHAPE LIVES

IMAGINE Campaign Priorities

Expanding and upgrading the campus will allow Linden Christian School to:

- advance growing programs in the sciences, performing arts and athletics;
- retain and attract top teaching staff;
- provide social spaces critical to the educational development of students;
- improve operational efficiencies;
- support our vision for excellence in education.

WHAT IT WILL COST

Total Project:

▶ \$4,500,000 (estimated total)

Fundraising Goal:

▶ \$2,500,000

Financing, as needed:

▶ \$2,000,000

PLEDGES & CASH RECEIVED

▶ \$1,112,547 (pledges to date)

▶ \$287,256 (cash to date)

HOW TO GIVE

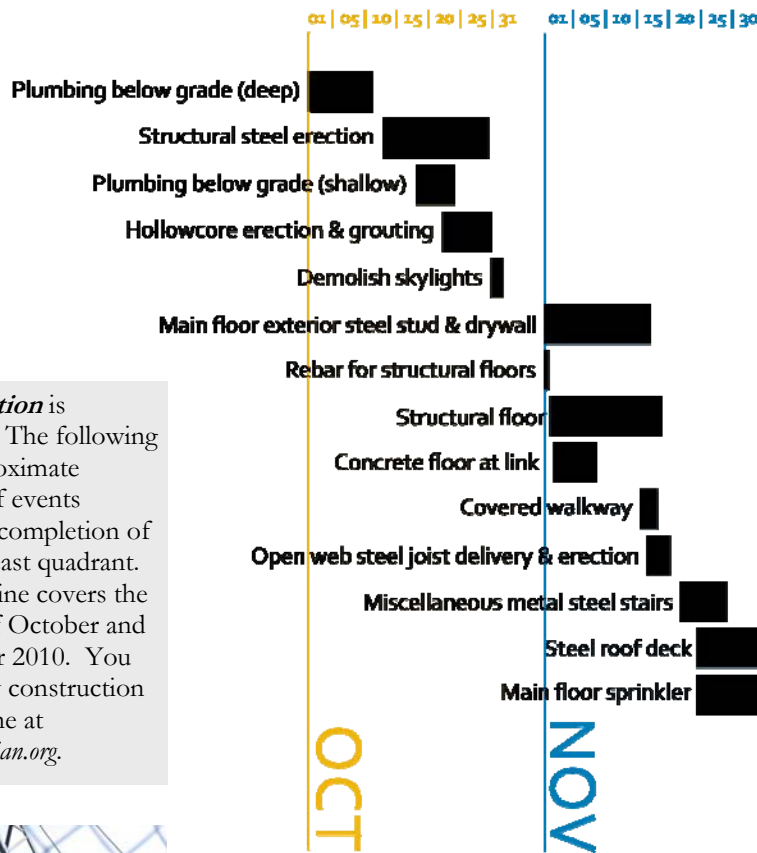
- One time gift
- Monthly gift for 3 years
- Annual gift for 3 years
- Gift of stocks or other securities

Contact Mrs. Loris Enns

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Construction TIMELINE



Construction is underway. The following is an approximate timeline of events related to completion of the northeast quadrant. This timeline covers the months of October and November 2010. You can follow construction news online at lindenchristian.org.

Stages of construction | July-October, 2010: construction fence installed; HQRs (high quality re-locatables) are *relocated*; foundation work, including the installation of precast piles and concrete work.



Groundbreaking Ceremony June 27, 2010

On the right: Honorary sod-turners Hailey G. (Senior Years), Calahan B. (Middle Years), Katarina & Natasha M. (Early Years).

Pictured on the left, special guests included LCS board members and school administration: Gerry Bettig, Fran Giesbrecht, Diane Epp, Vice Principals Derek Kroeker (SY) & Lorraine de Mony  (EY), Principal Robert Charach, VP Jeff Thiessen (MY), Board Chair Robin Hutchinson, Marlin Reimer, Gail Peters.



Imagine ... shaping lives for tomorrow

TEACHING IN FUNNY PLACES

By Lisa Friesen, LCS Faculty



I have had the opportunity to attend Grant Memorial for all 23 years of my life and go to school at Linden Christian from kindergarten through grade 12. I was also able to do my final teaching practicum at LCS in a grade 5 class.

Throughout my time in the building, I have seen both the school and church transform through building expansions. Particularly on the school side, had these expansions not taken place, I would not have been able to continue my education here, so I am very thankful to those who put all the time and effort into the project, and also to those who generously gave to the projects.

To adults, building projects can seem like one big headache, but to the students, they are exciting and fun. I know that,

as a student, the teachers are the ones that made the building projects exciting for me. I remember two of my teachers camping out on the roof to raise money for the gym we have today, and I remember the huge thermometer poster by the office that tracked our financial progress. I remember all the banging as concrete piles were drilled, but what I remember more are the impromptu “stomp” sessions one teacher let us do to learn to appreciate the rhythm of what was happening outside our window. I remember the busy days of drop-off and pick-up at the church doors, but what I remember more are the teachers who gave up their time after school, even though they weren’t on duty, to make sure we were safe outside. I even got to be a patrol during that time, and I felt so much more important!

My favourite memories of the building projects were the interesting place our classes would take place. We had band in the balcony, but the best places were the hallways and stairwells. It seemed to add a new edge, a new excitement. The stairwell where I had French class was either unbelievably hot or terribly cold, so we wore our jackets some days, and our teachers let us make fans the next! Other days, we would have clipboards instead of desks because another class needed the desks more. Those days allowed for group work and a change of pace. My teachers that had to teach in hallways and stairwells were amazing at adjusting to the circumstances and making learning fun for us.

God has led me back to the school once again ... this time as a teacher! I am excited to start my teaching career while this building project is happening. I’m excited for teaching about beat and rhythm to the piles banging. I’m excited for continued creativity in fundraising, and I’m excited for the end result. Most of all, I am excited to teach in funny places, be it the stairwells, hallways, or squished up with another class. These memories are some of my best from being here, and I’m excited to give my students some of their own.

Lisa received a BA/B.Ed in education from the University of Winnipeg in 2010. She is beginning her career at LCS teaching grade 5 in the mornings and high school in the afternoons. Lisa is planning a wedding — her own! She will marry Chad Petrim in the summer of 2011.



Questions & Answers

Q. When will the northeast quadrant be finished?

A. The projected completion date is September 2011.

Q. How can I get involved?

A. The *Imagine ~ Building to Shape Lives Capital Campaign* is a three year renovation and expansion campaign launched in 2009. The school’s part of Phase 1 is a \$4.5 million project that includes Performing and Fine Arts space, an expanded library, 10 new classrooms, and a student gathering space.

We are at \$1.1 million of required pledges. The school still needs to raise at least \$1.4 million to reach the fundraising goal of \$2.5 million. **We need your help.** Take the “Building to Shape Lives” challenge and invest in education that calls students to be *fully devoted followers of Christ, insightful thinkers, discerning decision-makers and compassionate community members.*

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Take the Challenge BUILDING TO SHAPE LIVES

We believe that God will provide all that is needed to continue and expand the educational experience at Linden. Please join us in this adventure of faith. Case Statements are available at the school office and online at www.lindenchristian.org.

WAYS TO GIVE:

- One time gift
- Monthly Gift for 3 years
- Annual Gift for 3 years
- Gift of stocks or other securities

Imagine ... preparing students to live uncommon lives

THIS MAD DASH CALLED TEENAGE LIFE

*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness,
and all these things will be given to you as well (Matthew 6:33).*

By Cam Stephens, LCS Faculty

Life is busy. And it's no different for the typical Canadian teenager. While the sheer volume of time spent on Facebook and online gaming may disagree with this statement, it is, nonetheless, true. The average student spends around 35 hours a week at school, in classes alone. This does not include any before or after school activities, out of school programs, or part-time jobs. Our culture breeds a lifestyle of busyness, and forces our students to exist in survival mode.

Even at Linden, we can fuel the fire. During the school year, we have opportunities for students to give their time to multiple sports teams, band and choral ensembles, student council, work days and missions trips, field trips and retreats, fundraisers, musicals and drama productions, and chapel teams, not to mention numerous clubs and committees. Don't get me wrong, these are positive opportunities for students, and my hope is that each and every student would use and develop their God-given gifts and abilities through participation in these extra-curricular activities. The problem, however, is

when our busyness gets in the way of our relationship with God. Our natural tendency, amidst our busyness, is to lose sight of the big picture. We focus on keeping all the plates spinning, without stopping to ask why we are doing so.

As the Director of Spiritual Care and Campus Life, it is my job to help students keep Christ in the center of this mad dash called teenage life. While homework, sports, music, jobs and a multitude of other things continue to vie for their time, it is essential that God does not become an afterthought. Through prayer meetings, Bible studies, chapels as well as many opportunities for conversation, I have the opportunity to connect with students, reminding them that God is with them, and desires to be the centerpiece of their lives. In short, it is my role, as well as desire, that at Linden, God and His purposes would be sought above all else, and that we would trust God to take care of the rest.



Cam has served in full-time youth ministry for nearly eight years. When he is not spending time with students, he can be found with his wife Bethany and his three-year-old son, McAllister. Cam is currently working on his M.A. in theology at CMU.

Imagine a place of growth & blessing Performing Arts Achievements

Congratulations to the following students who have been accepted into the Manitoba Senior Honour Band. This ensemble is comprised of the best high school (grade 9-12) musicians across Manitoba.

- Rebecca W.
- Ness S.
- Allison K.
- Riker G.
- Ben K.

Imagine

BUILDING TO SHAPE LIVES
LINDEN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

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For more information on the campaign,
visit www.lindenchristian.org.