



Building in Faith | Capital Campaign

October 2011 Newsletter

London District Christian Secondary School

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READY TO ROLL:

Campaign reaches 75% – enough to give the "green light"

Celebrate this campaign milestone with us! The "Building in Faith" capital campaign has now reached the 75% trigger point, raising \$1.125M of the \$1.5M goal! This gives the "green light" to the building committee to move forward with the planning process.

The campaign team has experienced enthusiastic response to their visits in the generous LDCSS supporting community. Thank you to the many donors who have helped in reaching this milestone so far!! Our captains and canvassers are excited to continue their work and we invite you to partner with us over the next several months as we finish raising the remaining 25% of the campaign goal together. If you are ready to make your gift before a canvasser can reach you, please feel free to contact any one of the regional captains or canvassers listed on the back of this newsletter.



About Teaching Tech Ed

During my career as a high school technical teacher in the Thames Valley District School Board, I have had several conversations with colleagues about LDCSS. They refer to it as "that Christian school where kids don't put locks on their lockers"; or they make mention of the strong sports teams we have and the polite and positive character of our athletes. They also frequently comment on our reputation as a strong academic school. I always enthusiastically agree with those comments and gladly say that I sent my kids there, and that they were well prepared for university.

Indeed, we have much to be thankful for. God has blessed LDCSS with a professional, caring and committed staff, with a good facility and a faithful supporting community. And now, after four years of feasibility studies and planning committees, our school is once again poised to undergo a significant expansion of facilities and curriculum by implementing a Technical Studies program. I would like to make a few observations about how such a program can enhance the education of our students.

First of all, I believe that we often make too much of a distinction between technical courses and academic courses. We maintain that academic courses are for university bound, abstract thinking types of students, and that technical courses are for hands on learners bound for the world of work or community college. Clearly subject matter differs greatly and technical courses appeal much more to those who have technical interests, stronger spatial abilities and tactile skills.

However, well designed technical courses at the high school level should not only make it their goal to lead students into a particular trade or career (in our case, carpentry or woodworking careers); if that happens, that's wonderful! Technical courses can also be designed to teach students the amazing complexity of the materials God has designed for our use, and the stewardly use of those materials, in addition to problem solving skills, design and planning techniques, math skills, technical literacy, communication abilities, and teamwork skills, to name only a few. I often begin my courses by saying to my students that my main objective is to teach them how to think, and much to their relief that objective is interwoven into the teaching of technical processes. Because technical courses offer a different vehicle by which students can learn, they provide an opportunity for some students to succeed who might not have, had there only been academic course offerings.

So LDCSS is changing. We are acting on our belief that not everyone learns in the same manner. We recognize the incredible diversity that God has created among his children. The master builder has deemed it wise and wonderful that although we are all His image bearers, no one of us is quite the same as another.

written by Pete Van Geest, member of the Building Committee

Meet your Campaign Team:

Bernice Bentum, Woodstock
Dwayne Bulthuis, LDCSS
Tim DeWeerd, Exeter
John DeGroot, Sarnia
Ken Haagsma, London
Red Hooghiem, Aylmer
Evelyn Huizinga, Wyoming
Pete Minnesma, LDCSS Staff Rep
Mike Oegema, St Thomas
Kim Van Wyk, Clinton
Henry Wiersema, Strathroy
Rob and Rose Wynands,
Stratford/St Mary's

Campaign Co-chairs:

Hank Vander Laan
and Andy Oudman

Campaign Coordinator:

Tetcy De Boer

Campaign Counsel:

Jackie Jones, The Dennis Group Inc.

Volunteers

Helina Baker, Strathroy
Tim Bentum, Woodstock
Jerome de Schiffert, Strathroy
Wick Hamstra, Strathroy
Al Hooghiem, Aylmer
Gien Janssens, LDCSS
Jerry Kingma, Strathroy
Jenny Linker, Strathroy
Harry Marissen, Aylmer
Matt & Laura Miedema,
St Thomas
Renata Nydam, Strathroy
Hilda Olbach, St. Mary's
Dick Saarloos, Aylmer
Harry Schipper, Aylmer
Margaret Schmor, Woodstock
John Smit, Aylmer
Richard Tjoelker, Strathroy
Gary Vander Laan, London
Bill Van Wyk, Clinton
Gail Wiersema, Strathroy
Pete Ypma, Tillsonburg



Meeting a Donor

Meet Hilke and Chris Bakker, from the family owned business AKKO Ltd Cement Finishers in Strathroy. They are father and son. Chris is an LDCSS alumnus and is passionate about supporting Christian education, "especially since becoming a Dad himself", says Hilke. They responded right away when Henry and Gail Wiersema, regional "Building in Faith" campaign captains made a canvassing visit.

AKKO is one of the first of several companies that have offered their services and made an In Kind gift to the campaign.

In discussing financial commitments, Chris observed that many people face double and sometimes triple tuitions and choose to faithfully support their churches on top of that. Being part of a school and church community also involves commitments of time. "A lot of people are blessed to be able to support Christian education financially", says Chris, "...and in our busy society, sometimes giving your time means even more."

It was great to sit down with Hilke and Chris. Their enthusiastic support early in the campaign has been very encouraging for the campaign team. The neatest part is that stories like this are taking place in many regional LDCSS communities.

"For the LORD is good and His love endures forever...
His faithfulness continues to all generations."

Psalms 100:5



Visit the website: www.ldcss.ca
to see the September 2011 newsletter.

Do you have a question, comment, or an
encouragement to share with the campaign team?
Please feel free to drop us a line at: campaign@ldcss.ca