

Guido de Brès Highlights, November 2018

Welcome to another addition of the *Guido de Brès Highlights*. School days are busy and full and the calendar pages flip along rapidly! The first term is complete and we are already on our way into the second half of Semester One.

Fall Membership Meeting

On November 1st the fall general membership meeting was held. Thanks to all who attended. Board Chair Dave Kampen opened the meeting with a devotional word from the first chapter of the book of Joshua. Dave reminded us how important it is to rely on the Lord in the spiritual battles we face, also here at Guido. He had encouraged the staff with these words back in August and yet repeated them at the meeting because they apply really to the whole community, parents and supporters as well as staff. God has promised to be with us so we can be bold and courageous as we serve Him.

Citing the importance of transparency, Dave went on to share some of the ways that the school board is 'walking alongside' our new principal Jason Heemskerck. Year by year plans and goals, as well as outlined objectives and opportunities for reflection have been laid out so that Mr. Heemskerck can be successful as he takes up this large and important task of leading staff and students at Guido.

Plucking key verbs from the school's vision statement in the Parent Handbook, Dave went on to remind the membership that we have called the teachers at Guido not only to teach but also show, help, remind and challenge our teens. The staff does this to assist us as parents in our task of raising our children to fear and serve the Lord. Primarily, it is an endeavour that is initiated and worked out holistically and most importantly in the home and yet then is

augmented and worked out academically at the school.

It's Our Privilege

Our new principal picked up on this theme in his principal's address, emphasizing the privilege it is for the staff to be part of this important work. Forty plus staff members at Guido have received the exciting opportunity to help guide and lead 412 young Christian men and women in their service of Christ. Jason admitted that with this many sinners in the building on a daily basis, sin tends to "bubble' up" but as the words of 1 John 1:9 reminds us, "if we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." This is the wonderful gospel that staff and students at the school stand in the comfort of every day as they work together. These students are young men and women who have been given rich promises by a loving Father. They come to Guido de Brès High every day to learn how to take hold of those promises and respond faithfully to their full potential.

Serving the School Community

Also at the meeting, Dave welcomed the incoming board representative from Grassie, Bart Ludwig. The chairman also urged a member from the Fellowship congregation to step forward to represent that local at the regional level as there has been no one to do so for some time. Mention was also made of the upcoming school evaluation in the spring. If you receive a survey to fill out, please take the time to do so as it is a valuable part of this process to make our school better. Community involvement at all levels from regional to local is crucial in order for this parent-run school to operate effectively.

From your Regional Guido Promotion Committee

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Financial Future

Andrew Chong spoke at the meeting on behalf of the Finance Committee, encouraging us with the excellent results from the deficit drive this past spring. We received more than double what was set as a goal to collect and the board is so thankful to all who generously donated. In order to avoid further drives of this nature, Andrew did urge everyone to pray (and work!) for an increase in the donor base of support for Guido. The donors' portion currently represents approximately 37% of the entire budget. If this support base does not broaden, tuition will have to increase significantly, something everyone wants to avoid.

Positive Potential

Principal Jason Heemskerk also spoke about this matter in his address, noting that approximately 50% of the possible donors in all 17 supporting locals currently give at this time. He urged us to look at this fact as a 'glass half full rather than half empty' scenario. He referenced an urban legend about a late 19th century shoe salesman who traveled to Africa and was thrilled rather than dejected to see that there was a huge potential market there because no one wore shoes! Jason reminded us that it is all in your perspective. There is so much potential for increased donor support in our community! As tuition payers, let's volunteer on a local level to help get that percentage much higher. By God's grace, it is there for the asking!

Creative Mettle with Metal

In the final portion of the membership meeting, Art Teacher Ms. Cobie VanEerden was given the opportunity to share a fascinating example of how she challenges our teens to learn more

about creating art. Through slide presentation, video interviews, as well as actual examples of student work, Cobie explained how a huge pile of junk metal was used to test the student's creative mettle. The ability to create visual flow and produce a unique artistic piece out of what appeared to be garbage was remarkable! Giving students the opportunity to go off site and use welding tools and material to learn and develop skills is just another example of the efforts being made by our staff to be innovative and effective teachers.

Guido Gryphon Update

So it's not all pencil, paper, and books at Guido, of course. Athletic Council member, Elliott Holtvluwer reports: *The month of October was a very successful month in Guido sports. The cross country team finished up their season with the SOSSA meet. All the runners ran hard and Kristen Deboer even advanced to OFSAA. Great work! The junior boys' volleyball team is having an excellent season, losing only one game. They are currently second place in the city standings. The senior boys' volleyball team has the same record as the junior team and has advanced to the city quarter-finals. As for basketball, the junior girls' team is playing amazingly this year. They are currently undefeated in seven games and hold the first place position in the standings. The senior girls' basketball team has also progressed to the playoff stage. Let's Go Gryphons!*

Lest we Forget!

Please remember Guido in your prayers! We wish everyone a blessed Sunday of worship also as we remember the sacrifice of some for the freedom of all in the wars of the last century.

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