

## *Guido de Brès Highlights, May, 2017*

### **Home stretch...**

We are in the home stretch of Semester Two! Early Dismissal days are over, the June exam schedule is out, and final independent study projects are being prepared. Time flies!

The learning *outside* the classroom has been ongoing as well. The Outdoors Club returned from a chilly but fun-filled trip to Killarney and the Art Club left this past week to visit the National Art Museum in Ottawa. A number of our students also attended the March for Life in the capital and participated in the 'God and Government' program. In fact, visits to *many* different locations over the past months have provided a rich opportunity to see the lordship of King Jesus over all areas of life. Whether in the courtroom, at the assembly line, in an art museum or concert hall, the evidence is clear that this is our Father's world! Thanks to the teachers and volunteers who have made these trips possible. Check out the Guido de Brès FB page for pictures and more details.

### **Our Identity - Who are we?**

At the recent Membership meeting, the board chairman reflected on how our identity as Christians should be determined. Who really are we? Recalling this particular focus of the *Truth Exposed* Conference held at the school, Dave Kampen reminded us to find our answers to the questions about identity in Scripture, not from people, position, or particular gifts. Referencing 2 Corinthians, he highlighted some of the key identity statements which all of us can claim in Christ: *child of God, redeemed, ambassadors of Christ* etc. As adults it is an ongoing challenge to claim these identities meaningfully, and as we join together to teach our youth this as well, both at home and at school, we need to pray for each other.

The chairman then reviewed what the Board and staff have been busy with since the Fall and the list was not short! A new *Human Resources Committee* is in the works, and staffing has been secured for next year. Richard Tomlin has been appointed to the administration team. Along with Paul Leistra and Ronn VanAndel, he will round out a team of Vice-Principals who will lead the school until a principal has been found. A *Search Committee* for that very purpose has also been established as well as a *School Expansion Planning Committee*. See more about these matters in the upcoming *Guido Gazette*.

### **'Extra'- Curricular?**

At the meeting, Principal Roger Vanoostveen spoke about the value of extra-curricular activities at school. He emphasized that 'extra' is really a misnomer. These learning opportunities outside of the classroom very intentionally teach skills of teamwork, perseverance, problem-solving, and many more besides! Participation in activities like Robotics Club, Track team, Outdoors Club, Orchestra, etc. contributes to shaping the Christian character of our students.

Recently, no 'extra' activity highlighted these benefits more clearly than the production of "*Annie*" at our school. What a show! It was certainly a night to remember and well worth the many hours dedicated to making this production happen.

Back in March the *Truth Exposed Conference* was also very well-received and is proving to be an excellent foundation for further conversation and assistance in the areas of sexual purity and identity among the students, their parents, and teachers. The Board approved hiring a female counselor for three weeks after the conference to help address further need among the student

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body. The cooperation and connection at this event between everyone was truly a blessing from the Lord!

### **School Assemblies**

Presentations at school assemblies also continue to have an impact on the student body. In March Pastor Hilmer Jagersma spoke about evangelism and stressed the need for gospel-centered conversations and actions to begin right in the halls of Guido. In April minister-elect Johann Bruntjes led a meditation at the Easter Assembly about the gift of the Resurrected One. Beautiful singing and music-making accompanied a wondrous message of salvation.

### **Connecting with Our Community**

Once again staff and students hosted founders and grandparents in April. If you have never taken the time to come out on this day, please make sure you do next time. It is a wonderful way to see what really goes on at Guido. **Career Day** was also held in April. This day always provides a great opportunity for members of our community to interact and share with our Grade 10 students about experiences in their respective fields of employment. Thanks to all who presented!

Looking ahead to another community event, *save the date* Monday, October 30, 2017. Teachers George Alkema and Ronn VanAndel informed us at the membership meeting that an Open house style celebration will take place at Guido to commemorate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Reformation. Stay tuned for more details!

After the wind storm we had in March, a Grade 10 Bible Class took a morning to clean up the school neighbourhood. This neighbour love is just one instance of how Guido students are learning to reach out with the love of Christ to others. This love was on

display again when Anchor residents were welcomed to Guido this month. Much fun and camaraderie was had by all! May God continue to bless the bond between our students and their special brothers and sisters. From our community 'abroad' we also recently again welcomed students from Gomarus College in the Netherlands. Thanks to all who hosted!

### **Guido Griffins and the Guido Website**

Volleyball, basketball, badminton and hockey season have all come to an end by this time. Track, baseball, and soccer are in full swing. Check out schedules, scores, field locations, coaches, and standings on the website [www.guidodebres.org](http://www.guidodebres.org) under 'Athletics'. In fact, take the time to have a good look at our website. Teacher Fred Dewit walked us through some changes at the recent membership meeting. You can find out lots of important information, including dates, forms etc. The Photo Gallery is kept up to date, and resources for further education can be found under the tab 'Student Services'. Take the time to check out the teachers' pages too – some really neat stuff!

A shout out to the Athletics Council for securing the purchase of our first ever 'hydration station' in the downstairs hall by the gym. It is a great thing especially for our hardworking athletes as the warmer weather advances!

### **Harvest**

The Harvest Foundation has established a School Relations Council and a representative from Guido has joined. The Guido Regional Board is eager to work more closely with Harvest for the further benefit of tuition-paying members. *See how in their attached newsletter*. Have a wonderful day of worship, and please remember Guido in your prayers!

*From your Regional Guido Promotion Committee*