

## *Guido de Brès Highlights, November, 2016*

Welcome to another edition of the Highlights! Have you missed a previous edition? Go to [www.guidodebres.org](http://www.guidodebres.org) and look under *Publications & Forms* and then under *School Communication Archive*. Here you will also find past issues of the *Guido Gazette*, and the brand new monthly (this year) *Guido Gab*. **Check it out!**

### **Fall Membership meeting**

Earlier this month, on November 3rd the Fall Membership meeting was held at the school. Those present heard from various speakers, the first of whom was our Principal. Mr. Vanoostveen organized his presentation around the terms *climate, atmosphere, environment, and culture*. Questions that parents and staff should always be considering are: are we able to create a climate conducive to learning, have we established a Christian atmosphere and a positive environment at our school, and is the culture of the school God-honouring? With these goals in mind, a Christian high school can flourish under God's blessing. The Principal stressed that the name "Christian" on our school wall also should be the name printed on the hearts of all those inside. Emphasis this year is being placed on how our relationships with one another in the halls of Guido ought to reflect this heart, under the banner of this year's school theme, "*Build one another up*".

In line with this theme, it was also reported that the SLT this year is expanding their mentorship program with the younger students. They now hope to meet *monthly* as SLT with ninth grade students. The desire is that these interactions promote and cultivate a distinctly Christian climate within the student body.

Department Head and PhysEd teacher Mr. Tim Wildeboer also had a very informative presentation regarding the work of the Physical Education Department and how they

approach sexual education at Guido, particularly in light of the new mandated Ontario curriculum. A summary of his presentation will be available in the upcoming *Guido Gazette* in December. Be sure to read it when it appears in your mailbox at church!

As usual, our treasurer, Mr. Alan Datema, reported on all things financial. Among others matters to take note of, he also pointed out an *unprecedented* point of thankfulness. In his 11 years involved in Guido's finances, Alan has never seen Guido without debt. Thank you to all who support the school! While it still remains difficult to meet the annual budget each year because of a struggling donor base, we are managing to stay in the black! When you get that phone call or email from someone in your local congregation looking to broaden and strengthen Guido's support base, please remember that these folks are not telemarketers. They are just one of hundreds of those volunteering their time out of simple love and thankfulness for this school we graciously call "ours". Praise God for all He provides!

### **Assembled to Remember**

On November 11th we could gather as staff, students, and many guests to honour those who have fallen in various battles while fighting for and protecting the freedom of others. It is good to value these memories. We were honoured during this assembly to witness a slide show and fascinating speech by Captain Cooper, a fellow Hamiltonian who has been and is still a genuine Canadian soldier. He shared with us many personal stories and photographs from his time abroad. Thank you Captain Cooper for taking time out of your day to speak to us. Your efforts and the efforts of all those who serve in the military are profoundly appreciated!

Fittingly, during the moment of silence

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for those fallen, we heard the Lancaster bomber in flight overhead. We stood in Christian freedom, among an assembly of believers, while audibly reflecting on times past and our gracious Father's care and protection. As a conclusion to the assembly we were treated to some talented musical accompaniment from the band, a soloist and her pianist, as well as the choir. In the end the choir encircled the audience, voices beautifully raised. Perhaps many others present had goosebumps during this performance? Over all it was another wonderful assembly! *Join us for the next one, scheduled for December 16th at 9 a.m.*

### **Extra- Curricular**

While Guido *is* a school, and the students and teachers *do* keep to a regular routine of instruction and learning, there are still plenty of extra-special and exciting things always happening. If you'd like to stay informed, join almost 1900 others on our private Facebook group, and be kept up to date with pictures, videos, and other news or anecdotal tidbits about life at Guido! Here are just a few of Guido's most recent "extra-curricular" joys:

- A choir from Greijdanus Christian School in the Netherlands visited Guido and our students joined them for a time of musical worship. A treat for the ears!
- Rev. Eric Kayayan from "Reformed Faith and Life" came to speak about his work with French language media broadcasts into many countries. As Europe turns more and more away from the Lord, the need for the work of such men increases.
- Rev Yonson Dethan and his wife Mary-Lynn came to speak about their challenges regarding his work as a pastor/missionary in Indonesia. Mr. John Kottelenberg also

spoke about the work of "Word and Deed", and "Children of Light". Please pray for this important work in your homes.

- More than a dozen area pastors visited with the administration team this past Monday to discuss shared topics of interest. Teaching methodologies for the new millennium generation, approaches to the challenges presented by our over-sexualized culture, and how to pastor the struggling were some of the main items discussed. The pasta lunch prepared by the Food & Nutrition class was reported to be "*Magnifico*"! Some of the ministers were so full they had to work off some extra calories in the gym shooting hoops with the students! This meeting was a wonderful display of the importance and rich benefit of the harmony and cooperation between home, church, and school.
- There was also a 'buzz' about the school the day you realized that while Guido is located in the city, many of her daily occupants hail from the countryside. This was evidenced by two very large, very red, very shiny tractors driven to school by two very farm-proud boys. Check out the pictures on our FB group.

### **Guido Gryphons**

Many different athletic scores and standings can be found on the website under *Athletics*, but a very recent accomplishment was the title of "City Champs" as well as the silver prize won by the Senior Boys Volleyball team at SOSSA. Quoted from a FB post with pictures attached "...they displayed great athleticism, teamwork, enthusiasm, sportsmanship, and most importantly, carried themselves well as ambassadors of Christ!" Excellent representation bo

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