

Guido de Brès Highlights, November, 2017

Leadership at Guido

At this time of year—right around Remembrance Day—we can already say that we are at the midway point of our first Semester of this school year. The interim *Administration* Leadership team of Leistra, Tomlin, and VanAndel has been richly blessed by the Lord and things are running smoothly at Guido. We are thankful for the ongoing prayers of our community during this year without a full-time Principal and ask that you also pray for the Principal Search Committee. In due time, may God provide a suitable candidate to lead our school. At the most recent membership meeting it was announced by the Board chair, Dave Kampen, that applications are being reviewed and an announcement of appointment may be coming by year end, Lord willing!

The new *Student* Leadership Team has been busy already as well, encouraging and guiding our new grade nine students as well as preparing for “Promote Your Neighbour Week” coming up in the week of November 20th to 23rd. May God bless these young people as they strive to set an example and lead the rest of the students in neighbor-love. The Regional Board has also experienced a change in leadership on their executive with Bart Devries and Bernadine Togeretz completing their terms of service and Mike Tel and Angeline Langendoen taking up their roles respectively. Additionally, Garrett VanIperen has been hired for the position as school treasurer. Garrett replaces Alan Datema who has worked tirelessly in this position for more than 6 years. So many men and women devote countless hours to Board and Committee work for the high school and their work is so appreciated by all of us.

Commencement 2017

99 graduates received their Guido de Brès diploma on September 30th at the Mohawk College auditorium. Rev. Rodney Vermeulen gave an address entitled, “Post-truth” which was an encouragement for all of us to stand firm on the truth taught in our homes, churches, and also reinforced in our schools. Commencement is the highlight of the year for staff in particular who are able to see a ‘crown’ on their work, by God’s grace. Although this event ‘routinely’ happens each year, it is not something to ever be taken for granted. And, in fact, this school year it will be taking place *twice* as we begin to celebrate Commencement in June for the first time. Stay tuned for more details but for now, [save the date of Tuesday, June 26, 2018](http://youtu.be/yXndoKGBfHs). To watch the Commencement of the Class of 2017 go to <http://youtu.be/yXndoKGBfHs>.

Visitors to our School

12 International students from the Netherlands have arrived once again as part of the Orange-Maple Program and we have been endeavoring to show them a wonderful Canadian welcome. By November 15th of this month, students from Guido will have had an opportunity to apply for the trip to Holland next March. Twelve of our students will be selected for this exciting opportunity. On Thursday, November 16 the area pastors of the 17 supporting congregations are invited to visit Guido and enjoy lunch and conversation with the school administration and leadership. May God bless the relationship between church, home, and school also through this annual event.

Reformation 500

Writing an account of this event is actually rather difficult because describing the evening

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with only words seems simply inadequate. After all, the staff and students used so much more than mere words to present to our community this wonderful celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The orchestra, the drama, the poetry readings, the singing, the keynote speech, the giant golden hammer with its impact, the 500 clay pots, all of the unique and varied classroom displays, the food—oh, the food!—everything came together to represent a very diverse community full of many different talents and gifts all aiming to give glory to our one God and Father alone. God, in His mercy, does His work through people like us, people like Guido de Brès. Dr. Ted VanRaalte's address reminded a gym packed full of listeners that while it took courage for Guido de Brès to defend his faith and even die for it, he never sought his own glory. Dr. VanRaalte remarked, "This school has been named in honour of one of God's faithful reformation servants – to the Glory of God. How astonished he would be to hear his name chanted at our sports games!"

If you did not have a chance to attend this event, ask your neighbour in the pew if they were there and what their impression was. Also check out Facebook as well as next month's Gazette for pictures of the displays.

Membership Meeting Update

After a very busy couple of weeks with Parent-Teacher Conferences and the Reformation Open House, it was encouraging to see a good number of people also attend the Membership Meeting held on November 2nd. The chairman ably walked us through the regular 'business' of the Board and the Administration, and an informative presentation from Harvest Foundation

representative Bernie Kottelenberg was accompanied by a generous gift. To learn more about how Harvest and school communities like Guido's can work together, go to the Harvest Foundation website www.harvestfoundation.ca.

We dare say that the highlight of the membership meeting was a video presentation from Geography teacher, Laurie Koning. A classroom assignment in the form of *Project Based Learning* developed into an exciting opportunity for her students to help out needy people in South Sudan. Through cooperation with organizations like CRWRF and World Renew, Miss Koning's students were able to develop their skills of problem solving in a meaningful way. The video is on the school website as well as posted on our Facebook page. The video is a terrific and encouraging example of the reason why we should support schools like Guido de Brès Christian High. We can only echo the closing remarks of Mr. Tomlin's Principal Report: "We love our students. Keep us in your prayers. Important work is being done here."

A New Alumni Association

Your Regional Promotion Committee has launched this initiative in order to better connect our former Guido students with our current ones. Thanks to all who have shown interest in this venture. Your participation will determine the success of this new connection! In due time you will receive a letter in the mail as well as an email in the spring. It is our goal to keep you informed about what takes place in the halls and within the walls of Guido as well as what we can look forward to in the future. Thanks for your interest! Haven't signed up yet? Click on our website, spare two minutes to register and stay informed!

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