



NACE

Notes

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO LOVE, LEARN, AND LEAD TOGETHER IN GOD'S WORLD!

Inspiring Leadership

KEVIN HUININK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our final issue of NACE Notes for the 2018-19 school year rounds out our mission statement with a focus on leadership. With the foundation in place inspiring students to love and to learn, they have the tools to lead. A popular set of ideas that has always bothered me in reference to our children and young people addresses them as "The leaders of tomorrow", or that "They are our future". Unfortunately, this line of thinking describes our students as people worthy to invest in only for some

undefined task in the future. Their worth is determined and diminished by potential, not kinetic energy.

If you've ever spent time with a student aged 14 years or younger, you know that long term targets are difficult. Sometimes next week can feel like an eternity. We also know that God has gifted each of us with skills, talents, and great responsibility. At NACE, we are inspiring students to LEAD together in God's world.

Notice that we are not building future leaders, *...continued on page 2*



Summer 2019

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we are inspiring leaders. It is for these reasons that we need to and do give them regular opportunities right now to lead.

Leadership takes many, many forms and some of those are presented in this issue. They acknowledge the energy and passion our students have to serve and to live out their faith in real and tangible ways. Our desire for our young people

Leading Worship

BY CHRISTINE WINTER, DRAMA, JKCS/CCS

Welcome, call to worship, 2 songs, setting up the story, Bible story, wrapping up the story, bottom line, memory verse, prayer, securing the bottom line, blessing song, exit.

This was our structure for the chapels that the Leadership Class planned and led at Covenant this year. We met in September, explained that we would be leading chapels twice a month for the year, how everyone would have a part in each one, how we would take turns between the longer more difficult roles versus reading the prayer or running the tech table. We prioritized that our work needed to be memorized each time so our heads were held high and our eyes were on those we would be leading. We met for 40 minutes a week on Thursdays.



is that they take that which they've learned, and lead with integrity, bringing Christ's love to the world. By giving them opportunities to lead now, we allow them to express their love for God and set them up to lead TODAY!!! Leaders of today remain leaders into tomorrow!!

The students studied, memorized, rehearsed and led. This was extra work, with demands for a quick turnaround. The students were responsible for teaching from God's Word and leading 250 people in prayer. They did it. There was no mark given, and this class was not on their report card. They did the work to be good leaders, to learn skills, and because they were poured into and they were believed in. They did it because they could and because they were given the opportunity.

In March, I took a step back and stopped giving the students the material so that they could start to work on their own. Breaking into two groups, they were able to collaborate more easily. On their own, they found their life application, created their bottom line, matched it to a memory verse, chose a Bible story, found songs to go with the theme, wrote the prayer and even created their own videos to show. Having learned to lead, they wrote their own chapels from scratch and then led them. What a beautiful gift for Covenant. What a beautiful gift for God.

Leadership Experiences and Trips

BY LEADERSHIP TEAM, NACE

At NACE, aside from leadership opportunities built into our weekly routines, there are also three focussed experiences that allow staff and students to dig deeper into what it means to be a leader and leave them with memories that will last a lifetime.

As with leadership, these experiences grow and develop over time, increasing in exposure and depth.

In grade six, students attend a single day activity, facilitated by a recreation and leadership expert. This experience provides experiences that teach students about teamwork, relying on one another, the distribution of gifts and talents, and how to communicate well and build trust.

In grade seven, this is brought up a notch with an overnight experience at the Fair Glen Outdoor Christian Education Centre. "The purpose of the [Fair Glen] Outdoor Christian Education Centre is to provide an educational experience that enables students to fully appreciate God's Creation in its natural setting. From snowshoeing in the winter time, to rock-climbing in the spring time, it's all an intricate part of human development both physically and spiritually. This unique opportunity builds team work, excellence, growth and wisdom that carries on with the students throughout their lives"

The capstone leadership experience is in grade eight, and has been a longstanding tradition at NACE - the Pioneer Camp Trip. "The Outdoor Education Program at Pioneer Camp is designed to help students develop leadership and

interpersonal skills while promoting a greater appreciation of the environment they live in and the benefits of being physically active"

Partnering with Christian institutions that share our vision for growth and development has blessed our programs incredibly. Mentoring and specifically teaching our students as they grow that they have a very important role to play both now and into the future plays prominently into our program and in our culture. Presently, we are visioning forward with our grade 6-8 teachers to develop specific themes in which to live our leadership out more deliberately each day, bridging the learning from these experiences into habit and character.



Strategy Update - Build Clarity

BY KEVIN HUININK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The time has come. NACE was formed 20 years ago with a big idea and a bold plan forward. The name, Niagara Association for Christian Education was dubbed with a dream to unify a number of Christian School boards across the Niagara Region. Twenty years later, we are here with two schools working well together, having realized some of the efficiencies the founders dreamed of, and having discovered additional benefits.

The name 'NACE', however, does not describe who we are and does cause confusion. A professional brand audit has uncovered some strategic opportunities that we are ready to take as an association, and as schools. We were able to share the results of this audit at our spring membership meeting. When you watch it, you'll quickly see that we've partnered with a marketing firm that is not only successful in what they do but also understand who we are and what is vital to our schools. <http://bit.ly/NACEBrandAudit>

Thanks to the excitement and generosity of donors in our community, this project is moving forward fully funded outside of our operating budget!! So, it is both with excitement (as well as a bit of sadness) that this is the final edition of 'NACE Notes'. In the fall, there will be no NACE, John Knox or Covenant Christian School. In August, we will be revealing a new name, a new logo, and will be adopting a new communications strategy that is more consistent with our mission and vision.

Students will arrive at their school in Smithville or in Stoney Creek but will call their school something else. Admittedly, this will take some time to get used to, and while we are confident that most will be excited and happy, we also know that change is not always easy. However, we do know that as a part of a detailed strategic plan crafted by a group of people that are deeply committed to our schools' success, this is the right thing to do at this time.

Watch closely for our press releases in August to find out what we will call ourselves for perhaps the next 20 years!!!



CON
GRAD
ULATIONS
To Our Classes

*“May you go in the
love of your
Father God*

*May you go in the
grace of Christ*

*May you go in the
power of the Spirit
now*

*To bring Him
glory with your life”*



Leading on Field Day

What makes field day at NACE unique?

All students from Grades 1-8 are placed on teams that go to events as a team. That means that 6 year olds and 13 year olds, along with everyone in between, are moving collaboratively from event to event all day long. Standards are used to determine whether stars or ribbons are awarded, but stars and ribbons are definitely not our main focus for the day. This type of field day is consistent with our vision for the educational experience of our children. The team emphasis fosters interaction between students of different ages, which has been excellent for our school environment.

Parents and teachers alike have given very positive feedback over the years. But what about the students? How do they feel about a field day that is designed in this fashion?

Here are words taken directly from our JKCS Grade 8 Historian's speech, given at the graduation dinner on June 20.

"I would like to share one of my memories from John Knox. It was, I believe, two years ago, when I was in Grade 6 and we were running the 800 m race. If you know me, I'm not the most athletic kid, but I do participate and I try. I remember standing at the start line waiting for the whistle to go. And then we were off! I watched my classmates pull away from the start; I know that I'm behind, but I continue pushing forward. As I have quite a distance to go. At that point I wanted to stop. And then I saw my Grade 8 captain running across the field. As he approached, he was saying "Let's go, Jacob". As I rounded the last corner, I could hear my class, along with other students, chanting "Let's go, Jacob!". I passed the finish line and was high fived by quite a few kids. It was an emotional moment! This year, I looked forward to track and field day, not because of the events, but because of the support and encouragement I could offer to my team as their captain".

So will we continue to organize our field days in the same way next year? Absolutely!



Fort George

BY COLTON VAN STAALDUINEN GRADE 5 STUDENT, JKCS

When I found out my class was going to Fort George, I was very excited. I love history and I had never been to Fort George. When we got there, we were met by two people in uniform who took us to the barracks where we could leave our lunches and coats. We were given a red army coat to wear for the day. We then watched a video about the battles and forts in southern Ontario during the 1800's. We learned that the first Battle of 1812 was at Queenston Heights. The war started because Great Britain was blocking the United States from giving supplies to the French. The French were fighting the British.

After the video we learned a little bit about the life of a soldier. Men in Great Britain would sign up to be in the army because life as a soldier was better than life in Great Britain. Soldiers were up early, usually at 3:30

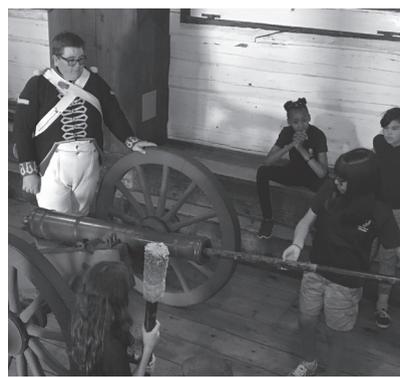
am. They would only eat two meals a day breakfast and dinner. Only a few soldiers could have their wives and one child live with them in the barracks. If a soldier had more children, those children would go and live with relatives or in an orphanage.

Next, we went to the powder magazine, the only original building on site. The stone walls were a couple of feet thick to protect the gunpowder inside. If it exploded, it would be felt in Toronto

We saw a musket demonstration. We learned that a musket was a close range weapon and that a rifle was better for shooting farther. A rifle shot was more on target than a musket shot. Rifle shooters are today's snipers.

In the afternoon, we played games and learned about the artillery of the soldiers in 1812. Cannons were used to shoot at enemy boats. We all had a chance to take part in loading a cannon.

Then it was time to go back to school. I had a great day!





Strategy Update - Grow Further

Our strategic plan outlined four strategic priorities - Build Clarity, Grow Deeper, Grow Further, and Equip Staff, Families, and Schools. Growing further has become a necessary focus as our school populations grow, and as we need to find room for our students! Two initiatives in our 'growing further' priority are a) take care of paying down debt, and b) investigate and expand current buildings.

After a community assessment and feasibility study undertaken by our consultant the Dennis Group, the board adopted and agreed to moving forward on a capital campaign this fall to address three major projects:

- a) paying off our debt,
- b) taking care of repairs and renovations at John Knox, and
- c) renovating and putting on an addition at Covenant.

The feasibility study identified not only a high level of community support for these initiatives; it also indicated that now is the ideal time to move forward with this campaign.

Through the summer, a pre-campaign planning team will be meeting to plan the campaign, identify key volunteers to head it up and keep us moving, and to solidify the case for support and specifics around each of the projects.

Just after the unveiling of our new name(s), you will begin to hear news about growth, building, and paying down debt. To say that we are excited to move forward on this is an understatement. God is blessing our schools through the work they do and the lives they transform.

These initiatives will be giving driven, so as people pray and consider how they can give, God will be able to work through us to grow further, to meet the growing demands by families for an education that offers more and better for their children, inspiring them to love, learn, and lead together in God's world.



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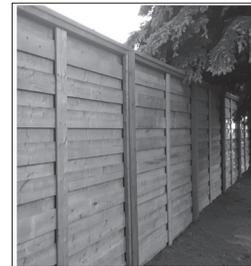
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