

SPOTLIGHT ON MISSION

Positive stories
Valuable work

Linden Christian School will be a biblically based learning community where all students grow to be devoted followers of Christ, insightful thinkers, discerning decision makers and compassionate community members.



Photos courtesy Linden Christian School



Spots

- Linden Christian School was founded in 1987 with three teachers and 33 students.
- In 1994, LCS produced its first musical and introduced a performing arts program.
- In 2009, the school was selected as one of the best Christian workplaces in Canada.
- Since its inception LCS has focused on providing a Christ-centred education that equips students to love and serve God.

- LCS was built on the belief that "the Bible is the ultimate source of truth"—a principle that remains at the centre of the school's vision and core values.

Linden Christian School's Core Values:

- A Christ-centred education based on a biblical world view;
- A commitment to excellence and the development of Godly character;
- A safe, caring learning environment that focuses on the whole person;
- Equipping students to serve in the local and global community.

Linden Christian School celebrates vision for education

*Renée Joette Friesen
Special to ChristianWeek*

WINNIPEG, MB—What started out as a tiny elementary school 25 years ago has grown into a respected Christian school known for its holistic approach to education.

Grant Memorial Baptist Church started Linden Christian School (LCS) in 1987 with just 33 students and three instructors, made up of founding principal Phyllis Cook, and teachers Val Peters and Elizabeth Knight.

"They were supported by the visionary leadership of Grant Memorial Baptist Church. This ministry was a huge step of faith," says LCS principal Robert Charach. "In the early days some classes were held in the hallway of the church. Now Linden Christian School is a fully equipped facility."

Since its humble beginnings, the school has grown to 870 students in Kindergarten to Grade 12, and 103 staff, including a full-time director of spiritual care.

The school's growth is most apparent by its strong enrollment and expanded space, shared with Grant Memorial Church.

The school recently completed a 28,000 square-foot renovation, which includes 10 additional classrooms, student study space, new band, choir and art facilities.

With a mission to "provide a Christ-centred education that equips students to love and serve God," LCS is focused on graduating students who hold a biblical world-view and are equipped to serve locally and globally.

"The purpose of the school is to have a Christian school to meet the whole needs of the child," Charach says, pointing to the biblical based learning community that helps students develop academically and spiritually.

And that development relies on quality Christian teachers and staff who are themselves committed believers.

"The heart of the school is the classroom and the heart of the

classroom is the teachers," Charach says, adding there has been less than five per cent staff turnover in recent years, helping to ensure continuity in the classroom.

"We have a tremendous amount to celebrate," he says. "We are built on a strong biblical foundations which has allowed for growth. We are blessed by the way God has provided for our school."

LCS added Grades 7 and 8 in 1992, and commenced its first high school class in 1994. Grade 10 was added in 1997, Grade 11 in 1998 and Grade 12 in 1999.

In addition to its strong focus on academic achievement, the school is well known for its athletic and performing arts programs. "These have matured into signature programs at the school," Charach says.

International music festivals in Chicago and New York have recognized LCS and the school has won provincial volleyball, basketball, and curling championships.

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But what continues to set the school apart is the emphasis on spiritual growth and building relationships, with God, people and the community.

"Linden Christian School is very intentional about building compassionate community members," Charach says.

The school encourages students to live out their beliefs, express compassion for others and engage in acts of service. As part of its outreach, the school collects winter clothing for those less fortunate, conducts an inner-city day of service, participates in collecting Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes and supports the World Vision Christmas catalogue campaign.

In 2009, the school launched an annual short-term mission trip to send high school students to Guatemala. This year 18 students and three staff members will be doing ministry during the month of February.

With the momentum built in its first 25 years, LCS is headed for a bright future. There is a sense of optimism highlighted by the school's theme for this year, Psalm 100:5, which states that God's faithfulness continues through all generations.

"It is exciting to consider how God is going to work during the years ahead," says Charach.

For more information, visit lindenchristian.org.



Linden

Christian School

Education Built on Relationships



- *Province-wide reputation for educational excellence*
- *Biblically-based instruction*
- *Exceptional athletic and performing arts programs*



Plan to attend our Information Evenings...

Early Years (K-Grade 4): January 22, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Middle Years (Grade 5-8): February 7, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Senior Years (Grade 9-12): February 21, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

877 Wilkes Avenue Winnipeg, Manitoba R3P 1B8

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Seeking restorative justice raises serious questions

Mags Storey
ChristianWeek Staff

KITCHENER, ON—Ask Eileen Henderson what her hope was for National Restorative Justice Week, and a lot of questions spring to mind.

"My hope would be that as we...as members of the faith community might continue, or even begin, to ask ourselves... 'What does justice look like?'" says Henderson, restorative justice coordinator for the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Ontario.

MCC Ontario used Restorative

Justice week, which ran November 18 to 25, to launch a new website—LivesRestored.ca—which looks at the ways MCC is helping both the abuser and abused to find healthy, hope-filled communities. This includes highlighting programs like their work with female inmates, providing support and accountability for men whose crimes have marginalized them from society, and preventive efforts aimed at creating safe communities.

Of particular concern, Henderson adds, is care for the elderly, noting that MCC

"My hope would be that as we...as members of the faith community might continue, or even begin, to ask ourselves... 'What does justice look like?'"

has developed Circles of Care in Kitchener, to help address the growing number of seniors experiencing abuse.

"The Christian message is one of hope," Henderson adds. "What are we engaging in as people of faith that has the potential of offering hope to those who have been impacted by crime-victims, communities and offenders?"

"Lots of questions and with no easy answers, but questions we need to work at and struggle with, not simply put aside and left to the legislatures of policy."