

PICS LIFE



March 23, 2025



March 2025

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Short Report

President's Report

*"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,
as good stewards of God's varied grace.*

*whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God;
whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—
in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ."*
~(1 Peter 4:10-11a)

This text reminds us that every gift we possess is entrusted to us by God to build up His people and reflect His glory. As a school community, it's part of our LIFE.

March 20th marked the official first day of spring, and this week our students and teachers get a week of well-deserved rest in spring break. Well done students and teachers!

In the last issue of PICS LIFE our principal discussed the purpose of education. What are our goals as a school, as parents, as students? Do we have our priorities aligned with God's will? He also noted a spirit of individualism in the world that sometimes creeps into our society as well. If you have not read his report yet, please read it! Past issues of PICS LIFE can be found on the website on the PICS members tab.

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President's Report Continued

Over the past couple of weeks, I've been considering what he wrote. The Board and many volunteer committee members have been working selflessly on school drive preparations, our upcoming budget, strategic plans, education and policy matters, and various initiatives, all towards a common goal.

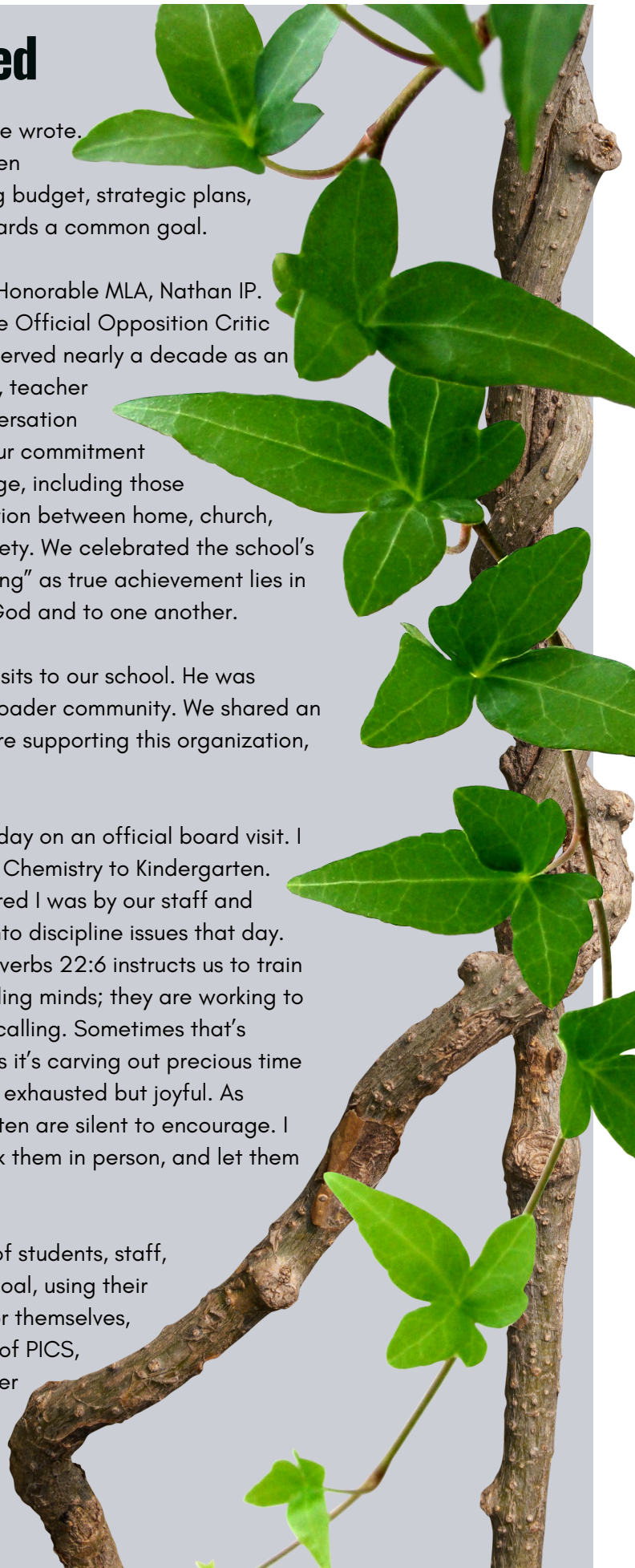
At our last Board meeting in early March, we welcomed the Honorable MLA, Nathan IP. Mr. IP is the MLA for Edmonton-South West, and serves as the Official Opposition Critic for Jobs, Economy, and Trade. Prior to being an MLA, Mr. IP served nearly a decade as an Edmonton public school trustee. While we discussed funding, teacher recruitment challenges, and school choice, most of our conversation focused on the covenantal blessings at PICS. We spoke of our commitment to supporting all students, each uniquely made in God's image, including those who require extra support. We highlighted the close connection between home, church, and school, and the support we receive from the school society. We celebrated the school's academic success, but emphasized the school theme "I Belong" as true achievement lies in fostering community where everyone knows they belong to God and to one another.

Mr. IP praised our staff and students, recalling his previous visits to our school. He was particularly impressed by the society's efforts to serve the broader community. We shared an example of Safe Families and how many in our community are supporting this organization, both directly and indirectly.

On March 18th, I had the privilege of attending PICS for the day on an official board visit. I was able to visit classrooms and experience everything from Chemistry to Kindergarten. A separate report could be written (and is!) about how inspired I was by our staff and students. Yes, there were student antics--some escalating into discipline issues that day. Thank a teacher next time you see them, it's a tough job. Proverbs 22:6 instructs us to train our children the way they should go. Teachers are not just filling minds; they are working to change hearts and encourage souls. This is a tough, sacred calling. Sometimes that's enforcing a rule to redirect a struggling child, and sometimes it's carving out precious time to play floor hockey and collapsing on the staff room couch, exhausted but joyful. As sometimes is the case, we speak up to raise concerns but often are silent to encourage. I encourage you to lift up our staff. Send them an email, thank them in person, and let them know how much you value their hard work and sacrifice.

In my short time on the Board, I've sensed a collective body of students, staff, volunteers, and society members working toward the same goal, using their various God-given gifts to the best of their ability, not just for themselves, but for the good of all. When you and your children are part of PICS, you join a community of individuals serving each other in order that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. What a beautiful thing to be part of and support.

Henry Bosch



April 2

PICS School Drive



Goal: \$150,000

As April approaches, so does the season of our Annual School Drive! For years, this important event has taken place on the first Wednesday of April, and this year is no exception.

Why Are We Raising Funds?

This year's fundraising efforts will go toward purchasing a new school bus—a much-needed addition to our fleet. With our recent school expansion, much of our funding has been dedicated to that project, but now we need to focus on transportation improvements. Maintaining our older buses has become increasingly costly, and a new bus will bring major benefits to our school society:

- More Reliable & Safer Travel - Fewer breakdowns mean smoother, stress-free transportation for students and parents.
- Lower Maintenance Costs - Saving money on repairs allows us to invest in other vital areas of our school.
- A Long-Term Investment - A new bus will serve students for years to come!

We Need You! Become a Canvassing Volunteer

The Promotions Committee is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help with canvassing. Not sure if it's for you? Here's why you should consider joining:

- It's Easy! No experience is needed—just a willingness to help. We'll provide you with all the materials and guidance you need.
- It's Impactful! Every conversation you have and every dollar raised brings us closer to our goal of a new school bus for our students.
- It's a Great Way to Connect! Meet other school families, strengthen community ties, and be part of something bigger.
- It's Rewarding! Many past volunteers say it's an experience that fills you with a sense of purpose and accomplishment.

Whether you've volunteered before or are considering it for the first time, we would love to have you on board! Contact your church rep for more information.

Thank you in advance for your support, prayers, and willingness to serve. Your generosity and time make a lasting difference in our school community!

Jessica Vander Woerd - PICS Promotions (promotion@parklandimmanuel.ca)

Lori De Jong - Immanuel rep

Nelena Geusebroek - Providence rep


Colleen Wassink - Grace URC rep

Sarah Ostermeier - Devon rep

Lynette Geusebroek - St. Albert rep

Vacant - Cornerstone URC rep

Volunteer Spotlight



On the final performance of the Adrenaline Theatre's production of *Lady Pirates of Captain Bree*, I experienced one of the tell-tale signs of aging: nostalgia. While performing the encore song, I noticed one of the actresses singing the last lyrics while getting emotional. It reminded me of a picture I have of me and my dear friend Lisa, in the dressing room after our final performance of a play in my Grade 12 year. Both of us are looking at the camera with puffy red eyes, tears, and big smiles: it was great, but now it was over.

These productions gave me memories that I look back on with such fondness, even all these years later. Every time I use a certain brand of hairspray, the scent transports me back. Slurpee runs, whispering jokes to your friends while waiting for your turn to perform on the makeshift stage as you rehearse, and carpool karaoke, to name a few.

As an adult, I now realize that aside from all the fun, something more important was being formed: the sense of community that is built up when a group works toward a common goal. Forming bonds with those from other grades you wouldn't have normally spent time with. Learning that the lady from church can assemble the most beautiful costumes, and that the man from the other congregation designed the coolest set. Watching the usually quiet girl save a scene with some quick thinking. Saying, "I didn't know that guy could be so funny!" when someone unexpected came out of his shell. Sharing in the glow of successful teamwork and the blessing of community.

This would not be possible if not for the volunteers willing to set the stage in the first place. This year's production was Jenna Boes' third as director for Adrenaline Theatre, in conjunction with Jess DeWitt as producer. These tasks are an incredible amount of work, not just regarding the organization of the production, but also as encouragers of young people finding and appreciating their talents. And for shining a light on the many, many talented kids we have.

The list of other volunteers is too large to list here individually, so, to all the volunteers, makeup artists, choreographers, carpenters, stage managers, costume designers, technical directors, sound engineers, and every single person who makes these performances possible—thank you. Your dedication doesn't just create theatre; it creates lasting memories, builds community, and grants our kids a look at God-given talents they may not have known they had before. It's a gift that keeps giving, long after the final curtain call.

– Ashley Bos

PICS JOB BOARD

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SUMMER EMPLOYEES?
POST AN AD ON THE PICS JOB BOARD!

Please include:

- Job Title
- Company Name, website and brief description
- Qualifications and Responsibilities
- Type of Position (PT, FT, Summer)
- Requirements: drivers license, minimum age
- Contact name and email address
- Application instructions and deadline

HIRE A
STUDENT!

Send information to sleffers@pics76.ca





Grandparents' Day!

We are excited to host another Grandparents Day at PICS!



Connected in Christ: "...He is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him..." Deut. 7:9

Who is invited: Grandparents and great-grandparents of students are invited to join us. If a student has no grandparents or great-grandparents to invite then they are encouraged to invite one or two special persons to visit them. Special persons are ONLY for students who do not have any grandparents or great-grandparents coming.

Due to the growth of student population at PICS, this has become a very busy morning so we would like to keep this event as an ADULTS ONLY event and limit the attendees to grandparents, great grandparents or special persons.

*Please note that only one Kindergarten class will be at school for Grandparents Day, Mrs. Hoetmer's Tuesday/Thursday class will be in class that day.

Grandparents/Special Person: Our doors will be open for visitors at 9 am, you will have some time to have a coffee and a snack in the foyer before visiting classrooms. Classrooms will be open for visiting from 9:30-11:40. You will receive a schedule showing you where to find the students you want to visit during each block. Lunch will be served in the school gymnasium at noon, which will be followed by a short band performance. After lunch there will be a music concert/performance in from Elementary students in the Immanuel Church building from approximately 1:30-2:30 pm.

You are welcome to join us for all or just part of the day's activities and lunch. We hope to see you there!

SERVE. DRIVE. *INSPIRE.*

We Are Hiring For:



Parkland Immanuel
Christian School

2025-2026 School Year Bus Driver - 2 Routes Available

Part time and full time routes available
Competitive Wages and Health & Dental Benefits

Inquire about training now to be ready to drive by next year
Newly trained drivers may qualify for a \$1000 bonus!

**APPLY
NOW**



PICS Mission:

To Glorify God through Reformed Education

find more details: www.parklandimmanuel.ca

SERVE. TEACH. *INSPIRE.*

We Are Hiring For:



Parkland Immanuel
Christian School
Edmonton, AB

2025-2026 School Year

- High School Assistant Principal
- High School Humanities/PE Teacher
- Grade 7/8 Teacher
- Educational Assistant

**APPLY
NOW**



PICS Mission:

To Glorify God through Reformed Education

find more details: www.parklandimmanuel.ca

WEST END CRC
149 ST. & 100 AVE
MAY 2 @ 7:00 PM



EVER FAITHFUL

A Musical Reflection

Please join our PICS Music 8-12 students at their last band performance of the school year! Our Music 8-10 students have been preparing a variety of selections and our high school students are excited to share some of their Mass Band arrangements (April 21, Winnipeg) with you as well as some other moving compositions. We look forward to seeing you there!

"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music!" Psalm 98:4

PARKLAND IMMANUEL PRESENTS

PENGUINS BASKETBALL SHOWDOWN



**PICS
ALUMNI**

VS



**PICS
STUDENTS**

**FRIDAY,
APRIL 4TH**

**PARKLAND IMMANUEL
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

**GIRLS MATCH:
5:30PM
BOYS MATCH:
7:30PM**

SKILLS COMPETITION BETWEEN THE BOYS & GIRLS MATCHES

Short Report of Board Meeting March 12, 2025

1. The President opened with reading Psalm 13 and prayer
2. Welcome and attendance
 - 2.1. Present: Ken Leffers (Principal), Richard Veldkamp (Facility Manager), Rob Appleyard, Henry Bosch, Jessica Vander Woerd, Tyson Stel, Casey Leyenhorst, Derek Wassink, Rachel Sikkema (Business Manager) (Late with notice, Brian de Haan)
 - 2.2. Special Guest – Honorable MLA Nathan Ip
 - 2.3. Henry Bosch introduced Nathan Ip to the board and shared some of our school's history. The board engaged in Q & A and discussions with Nathan Ip, he then left the meeting.
3. Consent Agenda
 - 3.1. Minutes
 - 3.1.1. February 5, 2025 (Board)
 - 3.2. Reports
 - 3.2.1. Principal's Report
 - 3.2.1.1. IT 2025 Roadmap
 - 3.2.2. Education
 - 3.2.3. Finance
 - 3.2.4. Maintenance
 - 3.2.5. Personnel
 - 3.2.6. Promotion
 - 3.2.7. Strategic Planning
 - 3.3. Correspondence
 - 3.3.1. Annual Charitable Return
 - 3.3.2. Letter to Reuben & Rosanne VanLaar
 - 3.3.3. Letter To Ladies Aid
4. Agenda was adopted
5. Approval of Minutes
 - 5.1. Minutes from February 5, 2025 Board meeting were approved.
6. Business arising from minutes- none noted
7. Approval of E-mail Votes
 - 7.1. Approval of Teacher Hiring – February 13, 2025 Email Vote
8. Action list was reviewed
9. Principal's Report
 - 9.1. General discussion about current staffing levels and the upcoming years enrollment. The Board approves the purchase of a new bus.
 - 9.2. Richard Veldkamp presented and answered questions about the 2025 IT Plan.
10. Education Discussion
11. Finance Discussion
 - 11.1. Review of Metrix 2024 Audit findings report
 - 11.2. Review and discussion of the preliminary budget was held.
12. Personnel Discussion
 - 12.1. Board approves the hiring of a bus driver.
13. Promotion Discussion
14. Strategic Planning Discussion
 - 14.1. The Board decides to move ahead with the proposed Board governance map.
15. Correspondence
16. Timeline/Action List was reviewed.
17. Question Period was not made use of.
18. Closed Session was held.
19. Next regular Board meeting scheduled for April 23, 2025 @ 7:30PM.
20. Tyson Stel closed the meeting in prayer.



CANADIAN REFORMED SCHOOL SOCIETY OF EDMONTON

14, 9703 174 STREET, EDMONTON AB, T5T 6C5

FINANCE@PARKLANDIMMANUEL.CA

PHONE: 780-483-2253 FAX: 780-451-1917

TUITION / MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM			
I (we) wish to become a member(s) of the Society at the applicable monthly membership fee (see fee schedule) of \$ _____ per month.			
Name: _____			
Address: _____			
Phone #:		Date:	
Email: _____			
Signature: _____			
Payment Method:			
Cheque:		AFT*:	
*Please attach AFT authorization form.			
Special Instructions (if any): _____			
<p>Please return form to: Canadian Reformed School Society of Edmonton 14, 9703 174 Street, Edmonton AB, T5T 6C5 or email to finance@parklandimmanuel.ca</p>			
Fee Schedule 2024-2025			
TUITION / MEMBERSHIP FEES ^{1,2,3,4}		Month	Year
1	Kindergarten	\$400	\$4,800
2	Grade 1-4	\$665	\$7,980
3	Grade 5-8	\$775	\$9,300
4	Grade 9-12	\$885	\$10,620
5	No children attending PICS ⁵	\$185	\$2,220
6	Single/Retired ⁴	\$150	\$1,800

¹ A donation receipt will be issued for amounts paid in excess of the cost of education.

² Policy 203: A tuition credit of 33% of all non-tuition funds contributed before a family had a child eligible to attend kindergarten will be granted.

³ Monthly Tuition payments are to be made for 12 months of the year (September – August). The total annual tuition fee for the current school year (September 1 – August 31) is also shown in the table above.

⁴ Tuition fees represent cost of education per family, based on the grade of oldest child attending PICS.

⁵ Non-Tuition Membership merely indicates the amount of donation that is required to be a member of the Society. We will, of course, accept donations of any size.



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AUTHORIZATION OF AUTOMATED FUND TRANSFER

I/we, the undersigned, authorize the Board of the Canadian Reformed School Society of Edmonton to withdraw funds from the bank account indicated on the attached "void" cheque and/or as described below. Such withdrawals will cover payment of membership and/or tuition fees and surcharges, as approved by the Society and as listed on the Notice of Required Fees which was forwarded to me by the Board. I acknowledge that this authorization is provided for the benefit of the Board and my financial institution, and is provided in consideration of my financial institution agreeing to process debits against my account in accordance with the Rules of the Canadian Payment Association. I acknowledge that provision and delivery of this authorization to the Board constitutes delivery by me to my financial institution. I warrant that all persons whose signature(s) are required or authorized to sign on this account have signed the application below. I will notify the Board in writing of any changes in the account information at least 5 business days prior to the next due date of the pre-authorized withdrawal. I may cancel this authorization in writing at least 5 business days prior to the next due date of the pre-authorized withdrawal, upon which cancellation I will provide payment via alternate methods. The Board may terminate this authorization at any time verbally or in writing.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone (home): _____ Phone (work): _____

BANK ACCOUNT INFORMATION (attach a voided cheque to ensure proper account information is used)

Please withdraw \$ _____ on the 1st 10th 15th 20th day of each month

Transit No. _____ Bank No. _____ Account No. _____

Type of Bank Account: Personal Chequing Savings Joint Chequing/Savings

Name of your Financial Institution: _____

Address of your Financial Institution: _____

AUTHORIZATION (as you would sign your cheque)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Hi5

Referral Program

For churches and non-profits



Sign up for day-to-day banking* and we'll donate

\$50 to your church
or non-profit

Visit www.christiancu.ca or contact a branch for more details.



Christian
CREDIT UNION

Find **contentment** with your finances.

*Day-to-Day Banking is defined as one automatic payroll deposit or two automatic debits per month. Your church or non-profit must be a Christian Credit Union member to qualify. Limited time offer. Some conditions apply.