



A Calvin Christian School Publication

# i n TOUCH

2023/2024 | Issue 2



**SPORTS  
INTERVIEWS**

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**COMING BACK  
TO CCS**

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**SAYING GOODBYE  
TO GRADE 8**





## Arn Boonstra Connections: Athletics at CCS

by Mr. A. Boonstra, Principal



**YOU MIGHT NOTICE** in this particular edition of the inTouch, there are a number of articles and pictures associated with some of the extra-curricular opportunities students have at CCS, and in particular, some of the sporting activities. I regularly provide tours to prospective families and I am frequently asked about these “enrichment” opportunities. I’m only too happy to share my thoughts on the wide variety of options students can select from. Although some of the extracurricular activities are geared a little more towards our grade 7 and 8 students, we do provide opportunities for many children. Over the years, students have had opportunities for participation in choirs, concert band, Battle of the Books, spelling bees, musicals, speech competitions and a wide variety of sports.

With the above in mind, I thought I would share a few thoughts on our sport programs. CCS is pleased to offer a wide range of sporting options for our students, and we have made a concerted effort to allow as many students as possible to have the sporting experience that many of them desire. Students in grades 7 and 8 are asked to list the three sports that they would like to try out for. From there, coaches do their best to ensure that every student gets a chance to be on at least one school team.

As you can see, the school has made a commitment to students to do what it can to provide sport participation. We do add the caveat that a student has to be able to meet minimum requirements for participation, and that usually involves providing the necessary equipment for sport participation, or to be able to play the sport well enough so as to avoid injury. The school hockey team is an example where both of those factors come into play. Students need to have the necessary equipment to play hockey and they have to be a good enough skater for safety reasons. The above approach to sport participation has worked relatively well for us for a number of years.

With this approach, we feel as if we are once again equipping our students to shine, which is directly related to our vision statement: “All God’s children are thoroughly equipped for every good work”. Students also have a responsibility when it comes to participation. They have to commit to the goals and objectives that we have, and those are mainly related to doing one’s best and competing with an attitude of sportsmanship and integrity. CCS has been very competitive in the area of athletics over the years and it is often not difficult to enjoy sporting experiences





when things go well. However, it is also fair to wonder what happens when the team struggles to be competitive. What does participation look like then? To give you a bit of an idea of what that looked like this year, I'd like to share my experiences of coaching the CCS hockey team this past year.

CCS has a long history of competitiveness in hockey and we have won numerous tournaments over the years. More recently though, it seems as if far fewer students participate in local hockey leagues, which makes a big difference in some of the players' ability to play the sport. Students who play in competitive or rep leagues usually have a great deal of experience and/or skill. It has not been unusual to have most of the team playing organized hockey of some sort in the past. However, today many students have never played "high level" hockey and the three practices we hold just don't make enough of a difference in skill development for team members. It is in these situations that I receive some of my most memorable moments coaching the CCS hockey team. This past year, many of our hockey players were relatively new to the game, and yet they played against some teams with a great deal of experience. What struck me about the team members was their resilient attitude, their sportsmanship and their positivity. It would have been easy to get frustrated or even upset when things were not going well, but the players did just the opposite. They worked harder than ever and remained positive in the face of adversity and challenge. They encouraged one another to not give up and to continue to try their best. As a coach, I was incredibly proud of how the team responded in the face of those challenges and the sportsmanship team members displayed when faced with tough competition. We may not have won a lot of games, but the players still enjoyed the tournaments and ultimately had fun playing and learning about hockey.

In our world of ultra competitiveness in sport and even in life, it was refreshing to see a bunch of young men and women play for the love of the game and to do their best while playing. It is my hope and prayer that our students will have learned valuable lessons about what matters in sport: to do one's best and to honour God when faced with adversity. I am grateful to this year's hockey team for their amazing sportsmanship and to all the students at CCS who represent our school so well when involved in any extracurricular activity. May we all strive to recognize sport as a gift from God that can be used to honour Him while celebrating the talents that He has bestowed upon us. ●

# i n TOUCH

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**VISION** Calvin Christian School's vision is that all God's children are "thoroughly equipped for every good work."

*2 Timothy 3:17*

**MISSION** The mission of Calvin Christian School is to assist parents by providing for each student a Bible based elementary education in a supportive Christian classroom community that nurtures growth in knowledge, maturity and commitment to God for sharing in the life and work of his people in the world.

**UNITY CAMPUS**  
32 Unity Side Road  
Caledonia, ON N7W 1Y1

**WEST 5TH CAMPUS**  
547 West 5th Street  
Hamilton, ON L9C 3P7





## Unity Campus Update

by Mrs. A. Breimer, Vice Principal, Unity Campus

### JEHOVAH JIREH, IMMANUEL, RABBI, EL SHADDAI.

Throughout the course of the school year, students have gathered weekly in chapel to learn about the names of God. As we come to know who God is, we can see Him at work all around us. It's about more than just learning; it's about growing closer to God and understanding His love for each of them as His own. It is our prayer that the students of Unity call on the names of the Lord in times of trials, challenges and celebrations.

This winter, we welcomed Mrs. Karen Van Houten and Mrs. Joy Hannah Flokstra to our staff. We are thankful for their willingness to step into the maternity leave positions of Mrs. Louw and Mrs. Steed at the Kindergarten and grade 3/4 level respectively. We also welcomed Miss Julia Bootsma to our paraeducator team.

Throughout the year, there were plenty of moments for students to shine. Some of these days included the Christmas program and Easter chapel, class presentations during Open House, the Spelling Bee and Track and Field Day. This year, students shone through shadow presentations, choir performances, black light presentations, singing, reciting Bible verses, bucket drumming, presenting class projects and encouraging one another through different sporting events. Our older students were given the opportunity to shine this year through student leadership clubs. Students had the opportunity to serve as school ambassadors and recess buddies, or participate in the gardening club.

As we begin planning for the upcoming school year, we anticipate growing to grade 5 and welcoming new students. We look forward to God continuing to work in our students and through our staff. ●







## Building Unity Project

by Mr. J. Hosmar

"HELLO, AND THANK YOU for your inquiry to enroll your child into Calvin Christian School. At this time, we have been blessed with many inquiries and returning families, and currently our class rosters are full. In the meantime, we have placed your name into our growing list of inquiring families, and we will be sure to reach out to you if our situation changes."

This message was in need of being communicated to inquiring families several years ago, but since the start up of the Unity campus, this type of message has not been needed as frequently. However, as time moves forward, these spaces are being filled up. Christian education in the greater Hamilton area is growing!!

Some have been asking how the plans are coming along for this new build. You will recall that there was an approved recommendation for a new facility to be built on the current Unity campus property... and then COVID hit! Where are we now with respect to the timeline? The Unity Management Committee, made up of Board of Directors, Administration, and a few community members, have all been working diligently to move this project forward. What follows is a high-level overview of the work that has been completed and is ongoing, and the plans for where we are headed.

The Capital Campaign, currently under the direction of Mr. Dan Postma, is moving along. Many in the broad CCS community have received either a visit, a phone call, or some literature expressing our hopes and dreams for the Unity campus and our desire for financial support. This work continues to progress, and we are feeling blessed by a supportive community as we see the fundraising needle move closer to our goal of \$5.5 million. As Mr. Postma continues in this aspect to "Build Unity", we look forward to future stories of joy and support.

The Management Committee was, for a period of time, in a waiting period with the intended goals, but that time has come to an end and progress is being made. Much of the current progress is the behind-the-scenes items. Mr. Dave Rodda, the Project Manager, has been in contact with several agencies that will address the required work before the shovel can hit the ground; these agencies include archeology, Ontario Hydro

and traffic studies. The Management Committee continues with ongoing discussions about how to best navigate the different steps we need to take. We shared detailed information to "Build Unity" at the May membership meeting.

Administration is also hard at work, overseeing the daily operation of the two campuses as well as speaking into the above mentioned actions, including some of the architectural designs for the new Unity classrooms and the overall layout of the proposed building. One of the upcoming decisions that the Administration will undertake is how best to fill the classroom with furniture and other necessary resources, as we continue to "Build Unity" so students can fill the rooms and hallways.

And finally, the Board of Directors have also been involved, in varying degrees, with each of the above mentioned aspects to "Build Unity", by ensuring stewardship with our finances and diligence in our policies, promoting the hopes and goals to the broader community, and being supportive in time and prayer.

In closing, I give thanks to God and to each individual who has been working over the past few years to see this plan come together. We seek your continued and faithful support to "Build Unity" through prayer, finances, time, listening ears, and engaging conversations as we work together to broaden the reach of Christian education in the greater Hamilton and Caledonia area. ●



# Creating Beauty

by Mrs. K. Wensink

## IN KINDERGARTEN

Learners engage in beautiful work that enriches the world and reflects God's heart for diversity, complexity, and creativity.

**THIS YEAR, THE KINDERGARTEN CLASSES** at Calvin Christian School have been exploring the question, 'How can we use colour and creativity to create beauty and glorify God?' Creating beauty offers praise to God. He has given us this world to enjoy, to play in, to explore. We see God as THE artist! We want to use our natural creative desires and abilities to bring joy to our communities. Albert Einstein once said, "Creativity is intelligence having fun!"

Every month, our Kindergarten classes explored a different artist. We learned a little about the artist's life, their artistic journey, and their style. Often we read children's books that featured that artist. We then got busy being creative, making our own masterpieces in the style of the featured artist. During this time, we explored how to use colour to create a happy, calm, excited, or reflective mood. The students learned how to use different kinds of paint, pastels, fabric, markers, and 'found' items in their creations.

In **September**, we learned about the colourful world of Jackson Pollock and made splatter paintings. Vases of sunflowers inspired by Vincent Van Gogh were our focus in **October**. In **November**, we learned about Georgia O'Keefe as we painted giant poppies. We learned about pointillism and Georges Seurat as we made Christmas trees in **December**. Ted Harrison and his arctic landscapes were our inspiration for **January**. We had fun making snowmen in the style of Pablo Picasso in **February**. In **March**, we used bright colours to make Kandinsky style paintings. **April** introduced us to the art of Paul Klee as we used oil pastels to make cats. In **May** and **June** we learned about the fun and colourful art of Romero Britto and the distinctive style of Piet Mondrian. The children and teachers have also been blessed to have local artist Betty Brouwer come to the

West 5th campus and teach us how to create story art with materials and stones. It was delightful to hear the 'story' behind each little artist's creation.

To conclude our year of art, we celebrated our inquiry with a trip to the Children's Art Factory in Guelph. The children also loved highlighting their beautiful art in our art gallery during Grandparents Day and Open House this past May.

We hope that you will be inspired to seek and create beauty in this world. Dust off your paint brushes and pastels and see what happens! ●



by Flynn H. "My Mom and Dad's First Date" inspired by Betty Brouwer



by Julian S.  
inspired by Jackson Pollock





by Lachlan S. inspired by Kandinsky



by Jessica G. inspired by bird studies



by Vera R. inspired by Vincent Van Gogh



by Jonas G. inspired by Jackson Pollock



by Livia K. inspired by Ted Harrison





# Coming Back TO CCS



## **Joel Harsevoort:**

In 1988, I started grade 2 at CCS and it felt just like the school I had come from: kind teachers, other kids I could be friends with, and always a focus on how God is revealing Himself through creation and everything we were learning.

Eventually, I became aware of a motto at the school that exactly described how I was being taught: 1-2-3, A-B-C, God-You-Me. It is this perspective that still sticks with me today and what made me sure I wanted to send my own children to this school.

Now that I am a parent, I have appreciated the deep investment of the staff and administration in my kids. It's obvious that my kids are loved and cared for and that they are being led to embody something very close to the old motto.

By the time my kids graduate, I'm hoping that they approach all of life with God first, with a loving heart and active hands for others, and with a strong sense of self and their place in this world and in God's Kingdom. And I think CCS is the right place for them to do it!



## **Chantelle DeWeerd:**

My husband and I both attended CCS from Kindergarten to Grade 8. Many of our closest friendships were made in grade school and have continued to the present. We value the amazing community that CCS has, and we are so excited for our children to develop lifelong friendships.

Looking back to when I was a student, I realize that I always felt safe. Knowing that everyone in the school shared the same faith and having many personal connections within the student body was something very valuable. We love Unity Campus for that very reason! I also appreciated the opportunity to be involved in many different extracurriculars. The school offered a large range of activities, including various intramurals and sports teams, Concert Band, Bell Choir, Chamber Choir, Battle of the Books, Science Fair, and the annual school production, to name a few. I always appreciated that there was something for everyone.

As parents, we appreciate that our children are learning so much about God in all aspects of their learning, not just in Bible class. Friday afternoon chapel at the Unity Campus has been a highlight for us as parents to glimpse what our children experience day to day. We get to hear the students sing so loudly to worship music and witness the community and relationships that are being built between the teachers and the students. They all know each other so well!

We hope our children will get to experience a dynamic learning environment. We want our kids to be active and involved in what they learn, which is why we are so excited about edVenture learning at Unity Campus. Curiosity, engagement and hands-on experiences in all aspects of education not only sounds like a fun way to learn, but it promotes wonder and connection within all skills and subjects.



## Jolanna Love-Stirling:

We decided to enroll our children at CCS for many reasons. It is important to us that our children receive a Biblically based education and worldview. We appreciate that the educators and administrators, with whom our children will spend 30-plus hours a week, share the same values. It is a beautiful partnership between home and school where teachers at CCS come alongside our precious children to support and encourage them in their faith journey, reinforcing what we are teaching at home. The vision and mission statement at CCS resonates with our hearts as parents to raise our children to know and love God and also be equipped to shine in our dark world. We love that our kids are being inspired to serve others both in their school and also in the greater community.

As parents, we are thrilled with the high academic expectations and exciting learning opportunities at CCS. For example, project-based learning, where students grapple with difficult questions and engage in research to develop solutions, truly fosters creativity and a deeper level of engagement. We love that our children are given the freedom to explore and demonstrate their learning in unique ways at CCS. It is a beautiful thing when students are engaged and taking responsibility for their own learning.

As a former student at CCS, I do not remember all the curriculum expectations that were covered, but I do remember all the fun and the sense of community and belonging that is present there. It is such a gift to belong to a loving, supportive community. I fondly recall the Fair Glen and Ottawa trips, where many friendships were forged. I treasure the friendships that I made at CCS and hope that my children can make life-long friends as well. I have precious memories of the teachers at CCS, some of whom taught me and are now teaching my children. I recall the warmth and kindness of teachers who went out of their way to truly know me as a whole person and encourage me in my giftings. I knew they cared about more than just grades. I want these special relationships and mentorships for my children, too. We appreciate that the teachers at CCS are sensitive to the needs of the whole child, both academics, social-emotional and the spiritual. Another benefit of CCS is all the extracurriculars! From Battle of the Books, to sports teams, Spelling Bee, choir, and ice-skating at recess - there are many opportunities for each child of God to thrive! I have sweet memories of my time at CCS, and I am excited that my children will experience these magical moments as well!

## Josh Vanderlaan:

I graduated from CCS in 2000, and I had a great experience during my time there. When my wife, Natalie, and I had our first child we started to discuss the plans for our children's education. It was clear that Christian education was very important to us and, because we lived on the Hamilton mountain, CCS was an obvious choice for us.

When I was a student at CCS, there were many aspects of school life that I appreciated. First, the teachers, staff, and students viewed the world from a Christian perspective and held deeply to those beliefs. This belief in God created a fundamental connection with each person at the school where everyone was welcome to participate and had access to special education if required. CCS had great teachers throughout each grade that helped me to develop the skills I would need in life. I also have fond memories of the music and athletic programs. I enjoyed the opportunity to participate in piano lessons at the school, join the handbell choir, and learn about music in class as well. I also enjoyed the opportunity to participate in tryouts for various sports teams and compete against other schools. I believe that the entire experience at CCS built character in myself and my fellow classmates.

As a parent with children at CCS, I am pleased to observe that the experiences I enjoyed are still thriving at the school. CCS is made up of wonderful teachers who care deeply about their students' academic success, their spiritual lives, and their overall wellness as children of God.

My hope for my children is that they have a great experience at CCS, that they continue to build a relationship with God, and that they try their best in everything they do.





# SCHOOL *counselling* CORNER

by Mrs. T. Schinkel RP, MC:AT

## STUDENT WELLNESS TEAM

### BUDDY-UP BOARD GAME

For Pink Shirt Day on February 28, our Student Wellness Team designed and facilitated a giant board game in the gym: "The Buddy Up Board Game". The game pieces had questions designed to facilitate conversations around social-emotional skills, anti-bullying, and mental health and wellness. Classes came into the gym with their buddy class and participated in the game together. It was amazing to see the older students leading their buddies through this fun and thought-provoking game.

The Student Wellness Team is a team of grade 7 and 8 student ambassadors who meet two times per month to brainstorm whole school initiatives related to mental/social/emotional health and wellness. They have planned events for spirit days at Christmas and end of the year (June); Kindness Challenges in November; and mental health initiatives for Mental Health Month in May. Mrs. Tricia Schinkel (school counsellor) and Mrs. Jolene Smith (grade 1 teacher) were the adult leaders. Additionally this year, Mrs. Schinkel had a student placement helper from Redeemer for several months, Ms. Larissa Zomer.

### UNWIND GROUP

Mrs. Schinkel runs a recess group on Mondays and Wednesdays at the West 5th campus that is available to all students from grades 2-8. Any and all students have a chance to participate, giving everyone an opportunity to try the group when their class has a turn (about once a month). The goal of the group is to practice skills to unwind, relax and manage emotions. This is done through various activities, such as board games, feeling/mood charts, making stress balloons, clay, friendship bracelets, pinwheels and breathing tools, as well as painting and art for relaxation. ●







## Relaunch of West 5th Library

by Mrs. T. Malda

After a few months of quiet in the library this fall, we've been so thankful to be able to relaunch the CCS library at West 5th! It's been so fun to welcome the students back to our ocean-themed library space and provide lots of opportunities to share books once again. We spent the month of January reading books such as *I Love Sharks Too* by Leanne Shirliffe, *Barracuda* by Sigmund Brouwer and *Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt.

As each class enters the library, we sing our own library song to help us get quickly settled on colourful pillows and feel ready for our library lesson. The students listen to a picture book or a chapter from a novel. They hear a short lesson on practical library skills like book care or the characteristics of a genre, before scattering around the library to search for books. After the students have checked out their books, they head to the centres of the day, which may include art, creative writing, fine motor activities or reading/listening. These centres are wonderful ways for students to engage with reading creatively, using all of our different talents.



Reading aloud is an important part of fostering a love for books by introducing students to a wide variety of authors, series and genres. Read-alouds engage students' curiosity and expose them to books they may not choose on their own. Our goal is for every student to see themselves as a reader, regardless of whether they read picture books, levelled readers, graphic novels, chapter books or information books. In order to ensure that students all leave the library with a book in their hands, we continue to do our best to make books accessible by providing fresh graphic novels, new middle grade titles and contemporary levelled readers, as well as growing the library collection to complement the size of the student population.

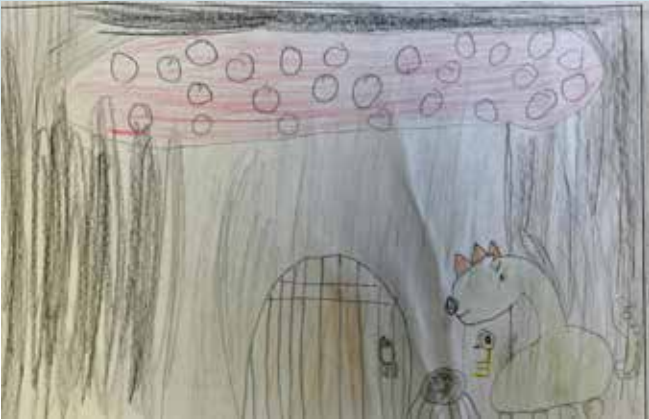
Some of this wonderful work is possible through funds raised in the annual Scholastic book fair, with the assistance of an amazing group of library volunteers, and with the cheerful diligence of a co-op student Maryn Voortman from Hamilton District Christian High School.

If you're in the neighbourhood, stop by and see what we're up to in the library! ●



# Fairytales

by GRADE 2



## Bob's Adventure by Jett L.

Long ago, there lived a talking turtle named Bob and a snail named Gary. They both lived in a mushroom house in a super poor village. Far away, there lived a greedy dragon named Stewart and his pet spider.

One dark night, Stewart the scary dragon snuck into Bob's mushroom house. He went upstairs and tiptoed into his room. He took his blanket off him and took him to his dark, black cave. He took him to three cages and put him in the middle. Bob woke up and screamed loudly. "Ahhh!" yelled Bob. He yelled all through the dark night.

In the morning, when Bob's pet snail woke up, he was super worried and he yelled super loud, "Bob! Bob!" Bob heard Gary and yelled back, "Gary! Gary! Help me! I'm in Stewart the dragon's dark black cave. Invite friends over to help!"

"Okay," said Gary, "I'll invite Tom the turtle and Snaily the snail." So they ran into the darkness. "I'm scared," said Tom the turtle.

"Okay does everybody know the plan? We just need to go in and get that key without waking up the dragon," said Gary. They saw the key in the dark cave so they snuck in the cave and grabbed it and let Bob the turtle out of the cage. They brought him back to the mushroom house. They all lived happily ever after.



## The Amulet by Aria S.

Once upon a time there lived a girl named Elanna. She was a very helpful girl. She lived in a castle. There also lived a very greedy queen named Queen Gum. She was very jealous of Elanna's helpfulness.

One day, Queen Gum put an enchanted amulet on the forest floor and Elanna happened to go for a walk too with her kitten. Suddenly, she stepped in the amulet and spun really, really fast three times until she was trapped in the amulet. Elanna said "Let me out now!"

Then, Elanna saw seven elves. She shouted "Can you help me!" The elves looked at the amulet and saw Elanna in it. Elanna said "Please go to the castle and steal a wand from Queen Gum!" So the seven elves went and stole the wand.

The seven elves took the wand and said "Alakazam, alakazoo, turn this girl out like you!" and Elanna was free. She got on her pegasus and stood up to Queen Gum. Queen Gum apologized and Elanna and Queen Gum were friends and lived happily ever after.





### Jamie's Adventure by Juliet G.

Once upon a time there was a kind princess and her name was Jamie. She lived in a treehouse castle with the handsome prince, her three kids and a golden dog named Clive. The castle was made of purple bricks, and had 14 pink windows and 7 fluffy bedrooms.

One day, Jamie was out in a soft field with her kids and she found a little black kitten. "I'm so glad you found me, Princess," said the kitten. "A witch didn't like my black fur."

Princess Jamie was sad the kitten was thrown away. "That's ok kitten!" said Jamie, "You are beautiful and can stay with us!" The kitten said, "Thank you for the new home, but my sister is still with the mean evil witch!"

"What is your name, kitten?" asked one of the kids named Addison. "I'm Sparkles and my sister's name is Sprinkles," said the black kitten. The black kitten was so sad.

Jamie went to the witch's green house. They went in and it was so dark in the witch's house that the princess was scared. She said in her brain, "It is okay. God is with me." So she went and the witch said, "What are you doing here?" The kids said, "Go get your sparkly wand out." She did.

"No, no. Don't do it!" the witch said. But Jamie didn't care. So she did it. She turned into a purple frog. She said, "Ribbit" and turned back to normal. Jamie ran out the door. She quickly got the black kitten. The black kitten said, "Thank you for saving me, Jamie." "You're welcome," she said and they ran back to their house. They had hot cocoa and they went to the rainbow park. Then they got to go to the splash pad and they went to bed and they had a great time. They lived happily ever after.



### The King Destiny by Jeremiah T.

Once upon a time there was a king and a fairy. The king and the fairy lived in a black castle. But in the dungeon there was a wolf. The wolf was mean. Meanwhile, the king and the fairy were partying with friends.

The king wandered into the beautiful village and said, "Does anyone know how to get the gold?" "I know," a voice said. Just then the king noticed he was talking to 3 trolls. "Follow me," said one troll. He pointed to a gray cave. The king was surprised so he went to the troll cave. "Ahh," said the king. "Where is the gold?" "Shhhhh," said the troll. "You don't want to wake the wolf."

Suddenly the troll picked up the glorious king and swallowed up the king. Meanwhile, the fairy was washing the golden dishes. When she was done she went to the backyard. When she got the mail she noticed that the king was nowhere to be found! She yelled, "King!" The king was cold. "Help!" said the king.

Meanwhile, the fairy went on a dangerous journey. First, she went to the dark forest. Then she heard a laughing noise. She noticed that her magical senses could detect a troll. The fairy went to the spot that her senses told her. "I'm coming," said the fairy. She smelled a gross smelling troll. The fairy went to the troll and started using her magic to freeze him. She went in the troll, but she couldn't find the king. She suddenly heard a noise saying, "Help!" She went to the noise and then she found the king sitting in the dark cave.

The fairy went back to the castle with the king and they lived happily ever after.



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We asked some CCS people involved in sports over the year to answer the following questions:

WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THIS SPORT?

WHAT WAS A HIGHLIGHT FROM THE SEASON?

WHAT IS A LASTING MEMORY OF SPORTS AT CCS FOR YOU?

WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE ABOUT YOUR CCS SPORTING EXPERIENCE?

## **CROSS-COUNTRY: BY PARENT COACH MR. MARK NYMAN**

It was wonderful to be a part of the cross country team this year as a coach/helper! Watching the team practice and then give their all at the meet was so powerful. To see children at such a young age push themselves to their limits was an inspiration. It was also wonderful as a father to see my daughter put in the work and improve so much from one year to the next. However, the highlight of the experience was watching the CCS students cheering on their fellow runners. The students should be very proud for not just their effort in running, but also for their incredible display of sportsmanship and camaraderie. I look forward to helping out again next year!

## **CROSS-COUNTRY: BY GRADE 6 TEAM MEMBER AVERIE N.**

One thing I loved about cross country is how positive everyone is. I learned throughout the cross country season that practice is key. I remember running for the first time during the summer and not getting the time I wanted or even the pace I wanted because I hadn't been practicing. But when we started practicing for cross country, I got a million times better. When you get to that finish line and see what place you got, even if you did not do as good as you were hoping, it's such a fun experience. I remember after I finished running, I felt so happy to see my family and friends. That is why I really love cross country!

## **GIRLS' SOCCER: BY GRADE 7 TEAM MEMBER TIRZAH S.**

Playing on the girls' soccer team was a blast! As a team, we grew and improved. We learned how to support each other, on and off the field, and built great friendships. We were not only a team, but a community. Being a part of a team is an awesome experience. It was a highlight to represent CCS in this sport.

## **BOYS' SOCCER: BY GRADE 8 TEAM MEMBER NOAH J.**

I participated on many teams at CCS: cross country, hockey, soccer, volleyball and basketball. I am happy to share specifically about my participation on the boys' soccer team. I got to be on the boys' soccer team 2 years in a row. I really enjoyed being a part of the team and playing with my friends. I developed my soccer skills and so did everyone on the team. We ended up winning the tournament at Hamilton District Christian High by a few goals. Then we ended up going to the Niagara District Christian School tournament. The final game was the highlight of the soccer tournament. It was a very fun game, even though the result wasn't in our favour. We had a very good season, and I loved it. Big THANKS to our coach, Mr. Schaefer.

## **GIRLS' BASKETBALL: BY GRADE 8 TEAM MEMBERS KATE H. AND DANIELLA I.**

Hi! We are Daniella and Kate, and we were on the school's girls' basketball team this year. We had a great season this year coming in third place in the HDCH basketball tournament and coming first in the NDCS basketball tournament! A highlight from our season together was hanging out with friends, creating and growing relationships, and winning our first tournament in over 5 years! Throughout the season, we learned so many new things about our offense, defense, and the kind of mentality that we showed during games. We feel like all these things played a key role in our win. This was a year full of memories, and coming first in our NDCS tournament made it all more enjoyable. The season was great and a big THANKS to our coaches: Mr. Jesse Van Houwelingen and Mrs. Cook for leading us to a great season overall.







### **BOYS' BASKETBALL: BY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER COACH MR. ROB BROUWER**

About 10 years ago, I had a conversation with Arn Boonstra about offering my assistance to the CCS (then Cougars!) basketball program. Our intent was to increase the interest in basketball, and to bring a higher level of skill and competitiveness to the program. We have some solid evidence of accomplishing those objectives - with pennants on gym walls, great memories of team spirit, and player development that has translated into many participants making the roster of their high school teams. This school year, we had approximately 40 players express interest in tryouts. Wow!

There have been outpourings of support and encouragement from the CCS community (and even some new rims!) that have been a blessing to all of us involved in CCS Blazer basketball.

As I have told the players from the beginning, our best takeaway from a competition comes from the supporters, referees and opponents that say, "Hey, guys, that was some good basketball!" And that's what it's all about: developing students into teammates with an objective of using their talents to pursue excellence - not only in basketball skills and points, but in cooperation, in personal discipline, in respect for teammates and opposition, and a love for using their abilities to glorify God through the beauty of sport.

We will proudly remember our game-winning buzzer beater (!) to clinch the consolation final in the HDCH Invitational, and our "Spurs" offensive maneuvers in the Niagara tournament. And, we rose to our rebounding challenge and earned our pizza lunch by claiming our "Blazer Space!"



### **GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL: BY VOLUNTEER COACH AND PARENT MR. TIM GROENEWEGEN**

#### **Coach's perspective:**

As a coach, the highlight for me was practice time, where I got to know the girls and see their personalities emerge as they competed and collaborated. We are blessed to have many amazing, talented, and coachable students representing CCS through athletics. I will always remember watching my daughter play against her cousin on opposite sides of the volleyball net as parents, aunts, uncles, and grandparents cheered on. I volunteered to run a sports team because I remember the pride of being on a sports team and the positive effect it had on my schooling and community involvement. Coaching allowed me to volunteer my time to free up a CCS teacher to run something else and was a way to volunteer my time standing in volleyball shoes instead of sitting in a Board meeting!

#### **Parent's perspective:**

To coach or not to coach; that is the question. I chose to coach volleyball because there was a need for a coach, as our amazing faculty members are highly invested in many extracurricular activities that appeal to students with varied interests, including those not inclined to sports. Coaching for 12-15 hours a year is an enjoyable way to get to know students, particularly those I did not meet through my daughter's peer group, especially as they were very coachable! This is a special memory my daughter and I will share. My son is already asking if I will coach his team. There are many ways to volunteer your time at CCS to make it a great place to learn and grow, but running a sports team combined my passions nicely.



### **BOYS' VOLLEYBALL: BY STAFF COACH MRS. K. TAEKEMA**

Grade 7 and 8 boys had a great volleyball season. We were blessed to take the grade 8's to the Hamilton District tournament, where they came in third, and both grade 7 and 8 teams to the district tournament. The highlight of that tournament was having both teams face each other in a semi-final match - which was harder than our grade 8 team thought it would be. :) Special thanks goes out to our parent volunteer, Mr. Nick Kaplan, who coached the grade 7 team, and to all the boys who made this season one of competition, skill development and much joy.



### **BOYS' HOCKEY: BY GRADE 8 TEAM MEMBER NOAH D.**

This year I was able to be part of the CCS hockey team. A highlight from the season was the tournaments. It is great to have a day with multiple games and some hang out time in between games. We all played great and we did win some of our games. The season started off with us not knowing if we were going to have a team at all because we had no one to play goalie. Finally Ethan volunteered to take on the challenge of being goalie! Mr. Boonstra was a great coach, and all of us improved over the season. Thank you to Ethan for taking on the hardest position for the first time, and thank you to Mr. Boonstra for coaching. It was a great season with lots of fun and memories!



## SPORTS AT UNITY: BY STAFF COACH MRS. J. MULDER

Sports have been a highlight of the year at Unity campus. Students in grades 3 and 4 made up the first Unity team to ever represent Calvin Christian School at a sporting event. They enthusiastically participated in the Golden Horseshoe Invitational Cross Country Meet in October. In the weeks leading up to the meet, students trained diligently, persevered continually, and came together as a team. In the way they supported and encouraged one another, the Unity Cross Country team demonstrated strength and sportsmanship.

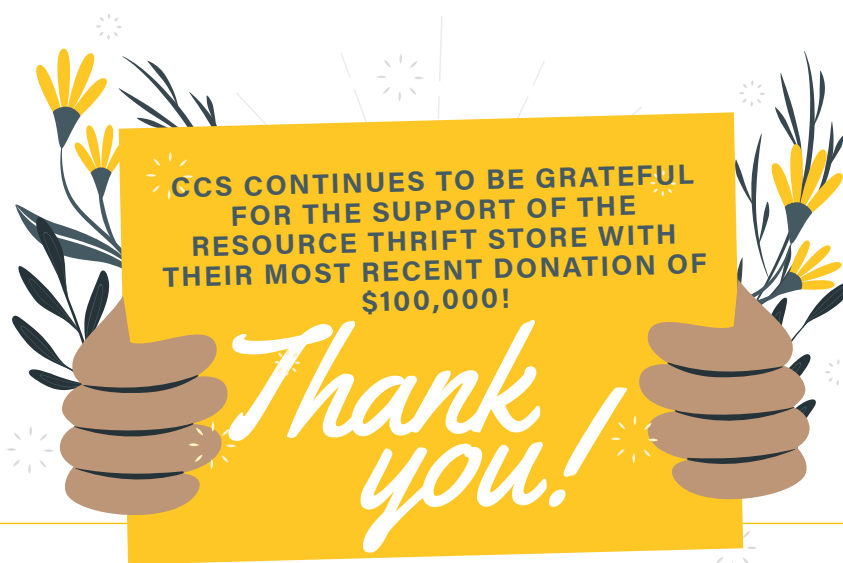
Unity campus also hosted its first round of hockey intramurals this year. Students in grades 2-4 were invited to sign up. They were then divided into teams and divisions. The hockey intramural tournament spanned roughly a month and concluded with a championship game. Students created their own trophy to award the winning team. It was such a joy to observe students work together, uplift one another and celebrate each other's gifts. Students are already excited for next year's tournament!



"It was fun to be a part of a team. Cross Country was awesome."  
- Morgan B.



"It was great to be able to play hockey. It was so fun. I can't wait to do it again."  
- Andrew D.



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## Before and After School Care

by Mrs. A. Hood Almas, Early Childhood Educator (ECR) and Supervisor of Before and After School Care

CCS HAS BEEN OFFERING After School Care (ASC) for over 15 years and Before School Care (BSC) for over 10 years at the West 5th campus. It is a great program that involves children of all ages of the school. Many past graduates of CCS enjoy coming back to fulfill their volunteer hours and often get hired to be a student worker in the program.

We begin our program after school in the music room with a snack. We then often head outside to play at one of the school's playgrounds, or to the gym for games and free play. We also have fun getting active by playing "Go Noodle" in the music room. We even have movie days with popcorn and hot chocolate during the winter months, as well as board game days. We celebrate birthdays each month with a special treat. We celebrate summer birthdays in June so no one is left out.

It really is a great program that integrates students of all ages and grades. On more than a few occasions, I have had students request to attend ASC on their birthday when asked by their parents how they would like to celebrate! ●

### PARENT QUOTES:

**Jeff:** "Ethan always talks about how much fun he has at Before and After School Care. He enjoys all the games and activities, to the point he gets upset when we come early. He is so thankful for Miss Amy and her team."

**Melanie:** "All of my children loved After School Care. I always felt good having Amy and her team take care of them. She shows so much care in making the time fun, and she made my kids feel important on their birthdays and other special days."

**Cara:** "We are so thankful for Miss Amy and the school care program. Our kids enjoy all the activities and making friends. As parents, we appreciate the flexibility and reliability of the program."

### STUDENT QUOTES:

**Lydia:** "I like the movies and using the soccer nets in the gym as tents to play in."

**Aria:** "I like when we have yummy snacks; and when we have a birthday, we get special treats. I like playing "Go Noodle" exercises and fun stuff like that."

**Brayden:** "I like gym because we get to do sports and fun stuff. I also like movie day because we get popcorn and sometimes hot chocolate."

### PAST STUDENTS' FAVOURITE MEMORIES:

**Emily (grade 11):** "My favourite memory is playing grounders and the older kids would always help the younger kids, and it was a great time for the kids of all ages to bond TOGETHER!"

**Leah (grade 9):** "My favourite part was Miss Amy's hugs, and when we got to play with scooters in the gym."

**Josiah (grade 9):** "I always liked playing on the climbers, and saying 'Bye' to the teachers as they left the school at the end of the day, and searching for different coloured pebbles in the playground."





# GRADE 3 Pioneer Day

On February 9, 2024 (1824), we had Pioneer Day. In the morning we had roll call, checked fingers and ears, and said The Lord's Prayer and God Save the Queen. Then we had math and writing. After that, we had recess and lunch. Then, fiiiiiiiiinally, we had centers! The centers were crafts, games, and cornbread. First, we had games, then crafts, and finally we had baking. For games, there was tic-tac-toe, checkers, marbles, Jenga, and some other things. For crafts, there was weaving and making a thaumatrope. My mom was a helper for baking. In baking, there was a wet group and a dry group. We all got to stir it together. At the second lunch we got to taste our cornbread. Yum! Then, we did square dance. It was soooooo fun! Square dancing was something pioneers did to get to know different families better and to have fun with each other. Last, we got to watch Charlie Chaplin. What a fun day!

- By Marcus L.

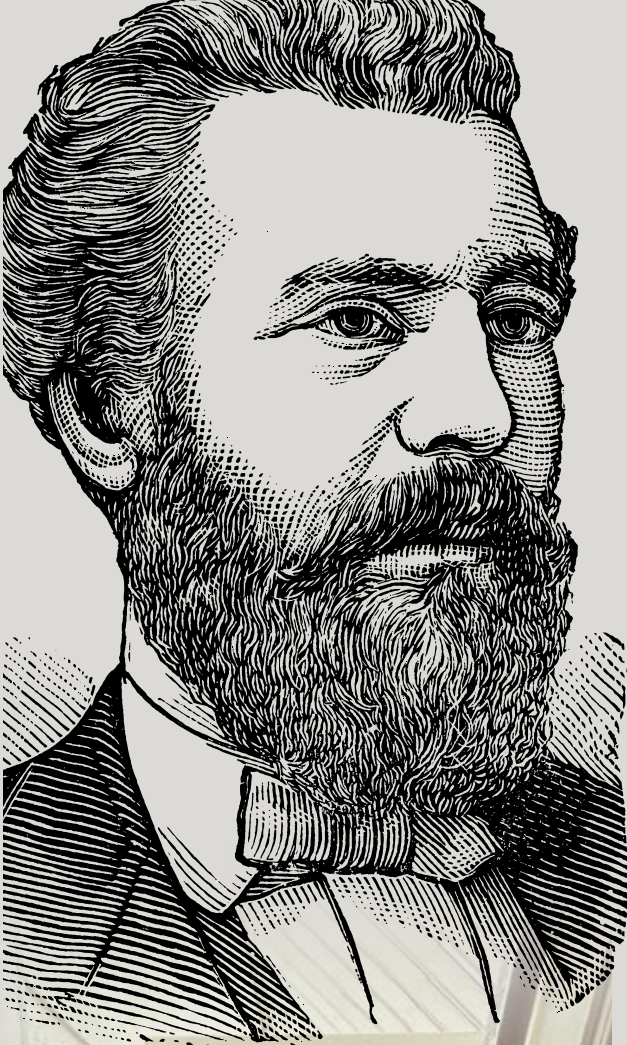


Today was Pioneer Day! I woke up at 7:16 to get ready. I brought a basket for my lunch. In my lunch I had one potato, a few carrots, one boiled egg, bread with butter on top, and two apples, one for Mrs. Eising and one for me. When I went to school, on one side of the room sat the girls and on the other side sat the boys. The girls were wearing bonnets and aprons. The boys were wearing hats and vests. We had to call Mrs. Eising "Ma-am." It was so fun. For math and penmanship we wrote on slates. After recess and lunch, we went to three different stations. The first station we did weaving and made a movie picture making thing. At the second station, we made cornbread. We took turns mixing it for five seconds. It was super fun. At the last station, we churned butter and played games. A few of the games were Jenga and a marble game. During the second lunch break, we got to taste the cornbread and the butter we made. It was so...yummy! At the end of the day we did some square dancing. The girls went first. I was partnered with Annie. Next, the boys did square dancing. It was fun to watch the boys do square dancing. We also wrote our names on paper with fountain pens, made weavings, and did embroidery. It was awesome! Then, we watched Charlie Chaplin while eating apples. Pioneer Day was the best. I will never forget it!

- By Danbi K.







# A Visit to Alexander Graham Bell's Homestead

by Mrs. K. Van Houten

In the winter, the grade 3/4 class at Unity campus studied magnetism as part of their "God Speaks Through Magnetism" unit. Near the conclusion of this unit, the class visited Alexander Graham Bell's Homestead in Brantford.

Magnets played an important role in the invention of the telephone and, as a result, the Homestead offers a "Wonders of Magnets" program for students.

The field trip was divided into two parts. We began the day with a variety of experiments with magnets. The students sorted magnetic and non-magnetic objects, and investigated why some items were not magnetic, even if they were made of metal. Next, students measured the strength of several different types of magnets. One of the tests involved putting a magnet between the pages of a book to see how many pages it would take before the magnet would no longer attract another magnet (it's a lot of pages!). The students also worked with iron filings and finished with an experiment to see if magnets would work when they are immersed in water.

After a snack break, the students were then given a tour of Alexander Graham Bell's house. They were able to see how people lived in the mid 1800's. Near the end of the tour, the guide explained how and where the telephone was invented and the role of magnets in this world-changing invention.

One of the highlights for the students was testing out a hearing tube that would have been used by someone with hearing loss. Mr. Bell's mother and wife both had hearing loss, which was an important reason for many of Mr. Bell's experiments, including the telephone. The students also enjoyed seeing and trying out some toys that children may have played with in the 1800's. ●





# Shine

## FESTIVAL

On April 25, 2024, CCS held its second annual Shine Festival, featuring music, poetry and artwork from students in grades 5-8. The theme of the evening was **"You Are God's Masterpiece"**, based on Ephesians 2:10: "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."









# Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

by Mrs. M. Koolsbergen

This winter, grade 5 worked their way through our science unit entitled "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made" and reflected on Psalm 139:13-14. Through discussions, videos, hands-on activities, experiments and worksheets, students spent time learning about their respiratory, circulatory and digestive systems, in order to answer the driving question: "How do our bodies and body systems show that we are fearfully and wonderfully made by God?"

One exciting learning activity was inviting Mr. Jason Taekema into class, along with a fetal pig and pig heart specimens. Students were given an authentic hands-on learning experience to be able to see and touch the parts of the different systems they had been learning about. Focusing specifically on the respiratory and circulatory systems, students were able to touch the heart, feel the diaphragm, stick their finger through the aorta and much more. We thank Mr. Taekema for this wonderful learning experience for students. When asked what they learned through seeing and touching the specimens, as well as their thoughts on this experience, students had a variety of responses:



I thought when Mr. Taekema cut open the pig it was gross, but after the shock it was cool. I learned that the diaphragm is a really strong muscle.

When we saw a pig's organ system, I was grossed out at first, but then I found it cool! I learned that the heart is a little hard but mostly squishy, that the lungs have a slimy gooish thing on them to keep them from heating up, and I saw how big the aorta is!

It was an amazing experience and I really enjoyed it!

Something I thought that was cool was the pig's heart. I also thought the pig's intestine was interesting.

When Mr. Taekema came in with a dead pig, I learned that when you feel like you have butterflies in your stomach, it's actually your small intestines moving up and down.

Throughout this unit of study, students were asked to reflect on how what they had learned showed that we are fearfully and wonderfully made by God. Students were able to provide many reflections, including:



God made my epiglottis smart enough to know when and how to open and close so I can talk, breathe, eat and drink without choking or getting food or water where it shouldn't be.

God made it so my body systems all work together perfectly without me having to tell them to.

God gave me mucus in my stomach so that my stomach acid does not eat away at my stomach.

God put my ribcage in the perfect place to protect my lungs.

We praise our heavenly Father that He has fearfully and wonderfully made our bodies. As a class, we learned that what others may call a "coincidence" is in fact God's care and plan to have our bodies work in a fearful and wonderful way. Praise God! ●



# quorable QUOTES

Grade 1 student: "I'm leaving for a vacation next week and as soon as I get back, March Break begins!"

Teacher: "Wow, you're going to be out of school for a long time then."

Grade 1 student: "Yup, I hope my brain doesn't turn to mush!"

Overheard by a student looking at a map of Paul's missionary journeys: "Hey, Paul went to visit cappuccino." (Cappadocia)

During a grammar lesson, students in grade 3 were asked to write sentences with a singular noun made into a plural noun. For the noun 'woman' a student wrote: "My dad was in love with two women, but he could only marry one."

During our trip to the fire station, as we were looking at the fire truck, a student said: "I hope it doesn't start driving! If it does, I might jump right out of my pants!"

Also on the trip to the fire station, the fire chief asked: "If your mom is driving and you see us behind you, what should she do?"  
Student: "Stop, drop, and roll!"

Grade 2 conversation with a student:

Student: "Look at my picture. I'm finally done."

Teacher: "Wow, that is a cool vehicle. It has so many seats it could be a minivan or even a bus."

Student (with a sigh): "I meant it to be a Suburban. You do know what an SUV is, right?"

During a game of "Would You Rather":

Grade 6 teacher: "Would you rather sneeze every ten minutes or burp every ten minutes?"

Grade 6 student: "Sneeze - because then someone would bless me every ten minutes!"

Overheard at SK lunch table:

Boy 1: "Rockstars are awesome!"

Boy 2: "No, they're not!"

Boy 1: "Yes! Rockstars are awesome!"

Boy 3: "I play piano, so I'm a rockstar."

Boy 2: "Only God is awesome!"

Boy 1: "And rockstars!"

A grade 2 student to another: "Did you know boys are made of dust and girls are made of ribs?"

The other student: "What? No way, my sister LOVES ribs!"



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# CCS STAFF HARD AT WORK & PLAY.





# A DAY IN THE LIFE @ CCS.





# CCS Welcomes NEW STAFF



## **JULIA BOOTSMA** PARAEDUCATOR AT UNITY CAMPUS

Julia grew up outside of Brantford. She was homeschooled with her six sisters and one brother, and learned to care for many animals on her family farm. She has an Administrative Certificate from Mohawk College and a BA in psychology from Redeemer University. She has been able to use this education as she has worked supporting individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities, providing in-home care for seniors, and as an Educational Assistant. In her free time, she loves spending time outdoors on her family farm, gardening, and creating drawings and paintings. Welcome, Julia!

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## **JOY-HANNA FLOKSTRA** KINDERGARTEN TEACHER AT UNITY CAMPUS

CCS welcomes Joy-Hanna as the Kindergarten teacher at Unity Campus. She has a degree in Human Behaviour with a specialization in Autism and Behavioural Science, as well as a Masters of Science in Education. Joy-Hanna worked as an Autism Therapist and an Educational Assistant before stepping into the teaching role. She and her husband Ryan have spent the past eight summers working at Camp Shalom, a local Christian camp for youth. She loves spending as much time as possible outdoors. She is excited to see this year how students discover more and more what it means to shine in God's kingdom.

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## **EMMA KERR** PARAEDUCATOR AT WEST 5TH CAMPUS

Emma began working at CCS midway through this past school year. She grew up in Caledonia, and has also lived in England and Calgary, AB. She has a Bachelor of Arts in urban and intercultural ministry from Redeemer University. She has worked for Indwell as a housing support worker, and loves being part of her church community in downtown Hamilton. In her free time, she loves rollerblading outside in warm weather, reading and cooking food with her mom. We are glad to welcome Emma to CCS this year!

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## **TESSA MALDA** SCHOOL LIBRARIAN AT WEST 5TH CAMPUS

Tessa grew up in a busy, noisy Christian family. She was the oldest girl in a family of nine kids; both of her parents were teachers, so she grew up surrounded by books and educational outings. She has more than 15 years of experience volunteering on school Library Committees, as well as ten years working as a school librarian for Bellstone Christian School, where she developed a K-8 library curriculum and programs. She also managed the Reformed Librarians Together blog for Christian School librarians for more than ten years. She and her husband have four children. She is excited to expand the West 5th Campus library and to encourage every student to see themselves as a reader.





### KAREN VAN HOUTEN **GRADE 3 & 4 TEACHER AT UNITY CAMPUS**

Karen grew up in Clinton, ON. She attended Redeemer University, where she earned a BA and BEd. She has worked in Christian schools for many years: she taught grades 1&2 at Athens Christian School, grade 1 at the CCS West 5th campus, and also worked as a school office administrator. She and her husband Chris are celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary this summer. Together they have three children and enjoy camping, kayaking, and hiking together, as well as participating in their church community. Welcome, Karen!



### YVONNE WEAVER **FINANCE MANAGER**

Yvonne has a Bachelor of Arts degree in accounting from the University of Waterloo, as well as a Chartered Professional Accountant designation. She worked for eight years at Beacon Christian School (where she also attended as a child), and for ten years at Edvance Christian Schools Association, supporting finance personnel at Christian schools across Ontario. In her free time, she enjoys camping and canoeing with her husband and three adult daughters, taking her dog for a walk, and lounging by her pool with a good book. She looks forward to learning more about CCS and getting to know the staff, parents and volunteers.

# Baby NEWS



### LUCA IZAK LOUW

Mrs. Candice Louw (grade 3/4 teacher, Unity campus) and her husband Charl celebrated the birth of their baby Luca Izak Louw on November 25, 2023. He weighed 5lbs 4oz. The name Luca means 'bringer of light', while Izak means 'laughter'. Mrs. Louw writes, "We're loving being his parents. Everyday he is learning something new, which is exciting and fun at the same time."

### LENNY AARON JAMES SCHAEFER

Mr. Ben Schaefer (grade 8 teacher, West 5th campus) and his wife Amber welcomed Lenny Aaron James Schaefer to the world in February. Mr. Schaefer writes: "It has been such a blessing to have welcomed Lenny into our lives on February 26th, 2024. We appreciate all the support and prayers from the community as we enter this new chapter of our lives. Both Amber and I are teachers and we have been so inspired and encouraged by so many of the wonderful families and students at Calvin."



### THEODORE STANLEY STEED

Mrs. Amanda Steed (Kindergarten teacher, Unity campus), with her husband Adam and daughter Amelia, welcomed Theodore Stanley Steed this past winter. He was born on February 2, 2024, weighing 8lbs 1oz and measuring 20 inches long. Mrs. Steed writes, "Theodore means 'a gift from God' and his middle name is after my dad, who passed away when I was 17" Welcome to the world, Theodore!



# GRADE 8 Reflections

I have so many good memories from my time at CCS. I have made many friends. Treetop Trekking in grade 7 was probably my favourite field trip. It was awesome to be climbing so high up in the trees or to be riding across ziplines. Over the many years, my faith and understanding of Christ has grown and I have been very encouraged by friends and family who have walked beside me all of my years here. I am going to miss this school and the memories that came with it.

- Makayla W.

I have been at CCS for 8 years now and have definitely enjoyed my time here. Being at CCS has helped me to meet new friends and grow in my own spiritual faith. Some of my favourite memories are the grade 7 & 8 ski/snowboarding trip and going to Fair Glen for three days in grade 6. We got to play games, go on hikes, and go canoeing there.

- Sierra V.

Grade 8 has been a rollercoaster. There have been ups, and there have been downs, but, overall, it was amazing and I would gladly do it again. I have really admired the sense of community here at CCS. I have felt safe and loved here and this school has really taught me how to be a blessing.

My favourite parts of the school year have honestly been the ordinary days; the days when I walk into class with my friends, absorb the information that is fed to me, and all the little events and conversations in between. I enjoyed hearing the most random and creative things like, "I'm a toaster," and the thoughtful things like, "There is a person in my eye. He writes my dreams." Everything said and done has helped me grow in many different ways that I wouldn't ever have thought of before.

- Samantha V.

I first came to CCS in JK and then left to move to the US for my mom's job. In grade 2, I came back to finish grades 2-8. The teachers always wanted us to strive to do our best. Some of my favourite memories are the Fair Glen trip in grade 6 when we played Capture the Flag in the dark and the ski/snowboarding trip in grades 7 & 8. Even though I'm excited to graduate, CCS was the best possible school that I could go to and I loved getting to know my fellow classmates throughout the years.

- Claire V.H.

There have been so many cool things that I have done during my time here, but out of all the things I have done, the ski trips in

grades 7 & 8 were definitely my favourite. I liked them so much because I love snowboarding, and it was even more fun on the trip because I could go with all my friends.

- Kalem T.

During my time at CCS, my faith in God has grown stronger, my social skills have improved, and my academics have seen changes for the better. I have also had the opportunity to participate in and enjoy a variety of extracurriculars, like the volleyball team, Concert Band, and Senior Choir. There have been good days and bad days, but I will look back on these 10 years as a valuable experience where I have built a strong faith foundation.

- Sophia P.

I came to this school when I was 5 and now I am 13 and about to graduate with my friends. I made it, and I can't even believe it went by so fast. I made new friends with the same beliefs in a school with a great education and amazing teachers. It's not the big things like the field trips. It's the small things like being in class with your friends and laughing and getting in trouble (not that I like getting in trouble). It's the time you spend with the people you love most!

- Priscilla M.

I have only been at this school for 2 years. I have so many fun memories. One of my favourite field trips was the ski trip. This trip was so fun for me because it was the first year I went. I got to learn how to snowboard. This year, I got to learn how to stop and turn and I even took a chair lift up one of the hills. I have been to three different schools in my life, but this one has been the best one yet.

- Sebastien M.

I am sad to be leaving this place after being here for 10 years. My favourite memory of my time here at school was playing soccer for hours at Fair Glen and the amazing food there. Thank you to everyone who has helped me along this journey. It has been great!

- Jacob K.

I have enjoyed making a bunch of friends. We have done lots of fun things like field trips. I think my favourite field trip was going to Fair Glen, an overnight field trip in grade 6. Every grade I have been here has been a great learning experience and a great Christian experience, but I think out of all of the years I have been here, my overall favourite was grade 8.

- Jonah K.



During my years at CCS, I enjoyed making new friends. I have the honour of becoming a Christian student at this school and growing in my faith. My favourite field trip was the ski/snowboard trip in grade 8. I have really enjoyed my years at CCS.

- Noah J.

I have been attending CCS since grade 3 and my time here has been amazing. I have had a lot of amazing experiences at this school. I have learned so many new things about God and about his promises to us. My faith has grown so much since I've been here. I have so many friends here and made a lot of new relationships. I don't have a favourite memory from this school because all of my memories are the best. I know that I will keep my memories at this school for the rest of my life.

- Daniella I.

I have been attending CCS since JK and it has been a wonderful place to grow up. As I went through the years, I learned many valuable skills and my faith grew strong. All the teachers here are amazing and have been a big part of my childhood. My best memories are being on sports teams and participating in other extracurricular activities with my friends. I really enjoyed going to Master Field Day multiple times. CCS has been a wonderful place for me because of the community of believers that are here who I can share my faith with.

- Sara Jayne H.

In my ten years at CCS, I have made lots of memories and learned so much. Our teachers were always SO nice and taught us more about our lives in Christ. My favourite memory at CCS was probably the ski trip this year. We had a great time skiing and hanging out with friends. That was for sure one highlight of this year.

- Kate H.

In my 10 years at CCS, I have seen my classmates grow and learn with me. I have learned how to do many things that will help me in life, not just counting

and spelling, but making friendships that will last forever. I have so many good memories, from in the classroom to field trips to hanging out after school hours, but one of my favourites has to be the Fair Glen trip. Because of COVID, it was moved to later in the year, so it was warmer and brighter. When the trip finally came, we could go on hikes, canoe in the lake and play soccer in the rain.

- Kerrington G.

I have been at CCS because my parents chose for me to go here. I was very open to come here. I met nice people in my classes. People are interested in what I share.

- Don E.

I have been at CCS for all of my schooling. One thing I really enjoyed was Field Day every year. It was a great day competing against other teams in different events. I also really enjoyed Fair Glen. It is awesome to have a Christian education and it is a great environment to learn in.

- Noah D.

I've been going to CCS since 2014. My favourite memories from this school are Pioneer Day and all the other special fun days, as well as being able to make and spend time with my friends. CCS has amazing, nice, fun, and creative teachers. It has been so wonderful to learn and grow with all my friends and I can't wait for highschool to learn and make more friends and to continue to grow with the ones I have already.

- Jaeda D.

I was at CCS in grade 4 and came back again this year. I had a very good time participating in different activities, including sports teams. One of my favourite field trips was the ski trip. I had a great time with my friends and teachers. CCS is one of the best schools.

- Joseph C.

Grade 8 has been my first and only year at CCS. It's a great school and there are so many nice people here that welcomed me. My favourite memory would probably be having a field trip

at Binbrook. There was a splash pad and a bunch of games. It was so fun to go there and I also got pretty close with some friends that I now have. I'm really excited about the Ottawa trip, graduation and starting high school in the fall.

- Marley B.

I have been attending CCS for 10 years. There have been so many great class trips and other experiences. My favourite was Fair Glen. It was such a great experience and was so much fun. We played so many fun games and also got to play lots of sports. The food was good and I will always remember that.

- Rylan B.

In my time at CCS, I have had many great experiences that I will never forget. My favourite field trip was Fair Glen, as I got to hang out with a bunch of my friends and we got to play a lot of games and sports. I have made so many friends and so many memories that I will always remember and that I will take with me for the rest of my life. I really like how I share the same beliefs as everyone else here so I can trust them and talk to them.

- Kaden B.

I have some great memories and I can't wait for Ottawa. Right now, my favourite memory is Fair Glen. I loved the way the teachers treated me during this trip and also just in general. I feel like I have grown in my spiritual faith and my friends and the teachers really helped with that.

- Abbey B.

I have really enjoyed my time here at CCS. Grade 8 is especially fun because you go on fun field trips with great friends, and recess is great. My favourite field trip was the grade 8 retreat in September. I really loved playing floor hockey in PE.

- Luca B.

I have spent all of my school years at CCS and I'm incredibly grateful for it. Plays, field trips, and Grandparents Day are only some of the reasons why I have enjoyed my years here. The

teachers here are all amazing, I'm grateful that I got to be in their classes. In my senior years of CCS, I got multiple concussions. The teachers were very understanding and helpful. Being in a Christian environment has been wonderful and I'm glad that I am surrounded by people who share my beliefs and faith. So thank you to the CCS staff and my classmates for making my years here enjoyable and fun filled.

- Sabrina B.

When I first came to CCS, I was very shy, but I opened up because of the loving and accepting community here. The teachers here have been kind and helpful. I have enjoyed participation in many extra-curricular activities like the Steel Beams volunteer team, the Drama Club, choir, and Concert Band. One of my fondest memories is the trip to Fair Glen in grade 6. In grade 7, we were able to go Treetop Trekking which I enjoyed, even though I wasn't tall enough to go on the tallest zipline. I am so grateful for my time here at CCS.

- Grace K.

CCS was a blast that will stay in all of my heart forever. I loved the classes, teachers and extracurricular activities. I made some really good friends that could always make me laugh. This grade has become more than just a group of teens that were divided in two classes, it became a community. The class group chat helped us grow, and hang out when we weren't at school.

- Kent W.

I have attended CCS since JK, and have grown so much in my time here. Not only have I learned so much academically, spiritually and emotionally, but I have also met many great friends and teachers along the way. Some of my favourite moments at CCS were acting in the 'Wing It' play in 3rd grade, the grade 6 Fair Glen trip, the ski trip, and Treetop Trekking. It was definitely a learning curve during COVID lockdown, but we survived and the three small classes in 5th

grade ended up being one of my favourite years. I am so thankful for my time at this school, and couldn't imagine a better place to have grown up. - *Brinley P.*

From my years at CCS, I have many favourite memories that I will never forget, such as Treetop Trekking and all of the sports teams that I was on in grades 7 and 8. I am very thankful for the many teachers that have taught me and the many friends I will always remember.

- *Anneliese D.*

In my ten years at this school, I have learned many life lessons. My favourite times were spent on field trips to far lands including zoos, farms, conservation areas and much more. I have made many friends and great memories. The worst part of this decade was COVID, but the best part was Fair Glen. I vividly remember the light switch in grade 6 that literally shocked people. I am excited to start high school in the fall. - *Nicholas R.*

I came to this school in grade 1. When I started here at CCS, I found a school that I really loved. I made new friendships and had some very funny moments. I am excited to see what God has in store for me in the future.

- *Jordyn P.*

At CCS, I have a lot of fun and have some crazy memories, like rolling down the stairs, and "accidentally" kicking a ball multiple times over a fence. My favourite subjects were gym, science and history. To the teachers who encouraged me, you guys were the best. You taught me to stand up for myself.

- *Hudson V.*

I have been attending CCS since JK and every new year has brought a new experience. I love how this school has a wide variety of different extracurricular activities such as soccer, volleyball and Concert Band. I especially enjoyed Treetop Trekking and Fair Glen. I've made so many friends and I can't wait to make more in high school.

- *Jacob V.*

This is the best school ever, I have made lots of friends. Everyday at school, I had a ton of fun. Grade 8 was filled with jokes and lots of fun times with my closest friends. - *James G.*

My favourite part of my school life here was all the days we got to play fun games and interact with my classmates. We also went on field trips and other outdoor activities such as Treetop Trekking and Fair Glen. The best part of the school decade was meeting all my good buddies. I will miss all the people who are not going to the high school I am going to. Best wishes from the cucumber lover.

- *Joel F.*

I came to CCS in grade 6 and I had no clue who people were. The next day, I had 7 friends. In grade 7, we went on a ski trip with just the grade 7s and 8s. In grade 8, I am having a blast. I am so pumped about the Ottawa trip in June! The best memories for me are in grade 8 when I made the basketball team and in our last tournament when I made 6/10 three point shots. I will also really miss Concert Band and choir.

- *Julian C.*

At CCS, I have made amazing friends, have met some of the best teachers the world could have, and I have fully appreciated the extracurriculars that CCS has to offer. There were ups like field trips, fun class moments, and fun projects, and there were downs like COVID, but CCS has offered me a great experience that I will treasure forever. I really enjoyed Field Day, Steel Beams, Treetop Trekking, and Fair Glen, and the bonds our class has made.

- *Alyvia V.*

As grade 8 comes to an end, I can't help but feel incredibly grateful for my teachers and friends who have made this year such a memorable and blessed time. Being a member of this class has been an unforgettable experience, and I have enjoyed every moment of it. I am sad to leave this school, but I trust in God for the plans that he has for me moving forward. I particularly

enjoyed our science experiments and seeing how we were encouraged to explore the world from a Christian perspective. Thank you, everyone, for making these years from grades 6 to 8 so special and important to me.

- *Deborah K.*

Throughout my decade at CCS, I have made friends with people in different grades than me. Something I have enjoyed the most was making inside jokes with my classmates, friends and teachers during the school year, like Grandma's curly hair, the Grade 8A group chat, 13 ½ bananas, the Concert Band vote, and Frederick the wasp.

- *Rachael H.*

I've had some of the best times of my life at CCS. I've made a lot of friends, made some good memories, had some crazy moments, but overall it was amazing. My favourite trip was Treetop Trekking in grade 7 and I don't think I'm going to forget it. Also, being in Concert Band, blasting my trumpet and making everyone annoyed was really fun. I had hours of information fed into my brain non-stop here at CCS so I am excited to see what the future holds and how I will use it.

- *John P.B.*

I came to CCS in JK and some of my favourite memories include being a Field Day captain, Fair Glen, and Concert Band. All the teachers were awesome and it was so nice having a Christian school to learn at.

- *Tyler V.*

My time at CCS has been great! I liked our grade 6 class trip when we went to Fair Glen. Since we were partly through COVID, we had to do it closer to summer instead of the winter. I also really enjoyed that CCS has sports teams for grade 7 and 8 students and how it can really bring students together. It is nice to be able to go to a Christian school and be a part of so many things. I have grown and learned in friendships with one another, through all the highs and lows.

- *Faith P.*

I am forever grateful for the teachers and friends that have supported me during the good and bad times that I have had at CCS. I will never forget the fond memories I have made here, such as the giant rainbow parachute that we would always go under as little kids. I will really miss this school, but I am excited for the plans God has for me in the future. Thank you, CCS, for giving me the chance to have such a wonderful experience.

- *Kaitlyn S.*

I am so glad to have attended CCS since Kindergarten. I am going to miss all the teachers. My favourite parts of my years here are Field Days, sport teams, extracurricular activities and field trips, especially Fair Glen in grade 6. CCS has provided me with plenty of friends who will help make transitioning into high school much easier. I feel like CCS has become a part of me, and I am sad to leave. I feel so blessed to have had this opportunity of having these splendid teachers and amazing classmates in this safe environment. I am trusting God to help me go into highschool and onto the next part of my life, wherever that may lead me.

- *Kristina S.*

I came to CCS in grade 7 and immediately I felt welcome. People came to talk to me and before I knew it, I had friends. I have a lot of great memories here and have enjoyed learning new things. Being here in a Christian school has really deepened my faith and I feel very lucky to have had this opportunity.

- *Brenna B.H.*

I loved being at CCS because I made so many great friends, and I loved all the extracurricular activities. Being on the basketball and soccer teams was so much fun, and I'll never forget the Concert Band. Playing drums and Retreat Day was so much fun. I first came to this school in grade 5, and it's the best school I've ever been in. I will never forget all the great times I've had at this school.

- *Salem L.*



# FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

## GOLF TOURNAMENT | SPRING 2024

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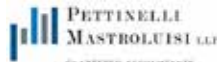
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