



A Calvin Christian School Publication

# i n TOUCH

2019/2020 | Issue 2

LEARNING  
FROM HOME

FAIRY TALES

GRADUATE  
REFLECTIONS



# ABC – Arn Boonstra Connections

by Mr. A. Boonstra, Principal



When I read my last ABC article, it was full of optimism, promise, and hope as we were about to embark on the opening of the Unity Campus in September 2020. We were in the midst of purchasing the Unity Campus school, planning to hire staff and starting the process of enrolling families at the new school. I shared my excitement about offering Christian education to hundreds more children in the greater Hamilton region over the course of time.

Things at the West 5th Campus were going well, with the opening of the newly installed playground, with Christmas program planning in the works and with the end of the first semester just around the corner. There was excitement and optimism, and with good reason. However, suddenly and seemingly overnight, everything was turned upside down.

I really find myself struggling to write this latest InTouch ABC article. Where does one find hope and inspiration in the midst of a worldwide pandemic that has significantly impacted the CCS community? Plans to open the Unity Campus were put on hold until September, 2021, our educational platform shifted from at school learning to at home learning, many CCS staff and parents were laid off from their jobs, as well as many other serious ways in which our community was disrupted. These concerns do not even address the world wide concerns that are perhaps even more worrisome. The loss of life and the catastrophic economic impact of COVID-19 are staggering. Where does one find hope and optimism?

I find myself reading certain scripture passages more closely and listening to the words of my pastor more intently these days. Both provide some direction, hope and inspiration when much seems lost. Lamentations 3, in particular, is a source of inspiration for me. The chapter outlines a number of very difficult calamities brought upon humanity. In the midst of those hardships, one can always find God. Read the whole passage, but pay extra attention to verses 22 and 23, where it says, "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." It is reassuring to know that God's love and faithfulness are so great, that his compassion for us will always be evident, although it is certainly a matter of looking for it at times.

In my search for God's compassion and for hope in times of difficulty, I find church as meaningful as ever, a real credit to our pastor and his team, who have helped us make sense out of troubling times. I find hope offered from parents who are struggling to pay bills or are working on the front lines of health care. I find hope from a board of directors that is measured and

wise. I find hope from teachers working overtime to prepare meaningful lessons for their students, all the while displaying their love and care for each child. I find hope from students themselves who are still excited to learn and engage with God's creation. All around me are signs of hope and optimism; it is often a matter of keeping one's eyes open to those signs.

So let me elaborate on some of those signs. First, the Bible never promised an easy life; however, it does provide clues as to how to navigate challenges and difficulties. My church leadership team has been inspirational in helping us make some sense of why things happen the way they do. Scripture itself gives me hope in knowing that although times are challenging, God has a carefully worked out plan that has Jesus as the centre of hope. We are reminded in Isaiah 55:8-9 how God's plans may differ from ours.

*"For my thoughts are not  
your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways,"  
declares the Lord.*

*As the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways,  
and my thoughts than your thoughts."*

Although we may not know what God has in store for us, he nevertheless provides us with hope and direction. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." In the midst of so much death and sad news, we are assured that Christ has victory over death and will provide a future that is free of sickness and sin.

Within our own neighbourhoods I see encouraging messages of hope on sidewalks (in chalk), in storefront windows and elsewhere. A constant refrain is that we are all in this together, and that has never been more evident, in that this present health crisis knows no boundaries, politics, gender, or economic status.

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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.

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## ABC Connections *...continued from page 2*

We are in this together even when we are apart, and the best way forward is to rely on God's strength and on each other.

The CCS staff has also been inspirational in the way it has rallied together to, in a matter of days, develop an online learning platform that we have called Learning From Home. Teachers have risen to the challenge of pivoting from a method of teaching that has been around for decades to a method of learning that can be accessed from home by parents and their children. Teachers are working with each other, with students, and with parents like never before. Yes, there are problems and challenges, but I also see incredible understanding and grace being exhibited during very trying circumstances.

Some of our CCS families have experienced significant financial losses, including the loss of a job. Paying the monthly food bill is a challenge, never mind trying to pay tuition. Yet other CCS families in a better financial position are donating to the CCS tuition assistance fund in order to support those struggling to pay tuition. Coming together to support others in times of need is a sure sign of hope.

If you read the school's vision and mission statements (on page 2), you can see

how teachers and parents are working in tandem to equip each child to shine. As much as they are able, parents are guiding the lesson activities that are sent to them by the teacher on a daily basis. The only thing missing from the mission statement in our current circumstances is the classroom. However, significant attempts are being made to foster community in each class, as teachers have set up video conferencing opportunities to meet with students regularly. It has been a privilege to witness how students, parents, and teachers are working together to do the best they can to ensure that learning still takes place at CCS, even in the midst of a pandemic.

Finally, and maybe most importantly, I find hope in our students. They diligently complete lessons emailed to their home. They follow instructions sent by their teachers and explained by their parents. They produce amazing work and share inspirational messages of hope that often only the young can provide. I have students who leave these inspiration messages in chalk on the sidewalk in front of my house! Other children send out messages of love and care to their grandparents on Grandparents Day (you can find examples in this edition of the InTouch). Our young people are growing in knowl-



edge, maturity and commitment to God. In short, children at CCS are shining, shining in their talents, their kindness, and their commitment to God.

In times of crisis, it is a blessing to know that we can rely on one another. We have support systems in place, we have people that we can turn to. We are blessed by the comforting words found in scripture and by God's own handiwork in the beauty all around us. May we continue to look for opportunities to support one another and may we always be thankful for a God who loves us and provides. 🔥





# Crazy for You

by Micah H, Grade 8

We sat nervously outside the JK classroom waiting for our turn to audition. I remember sitting there watching others audition knowing that the competition was tough. I reflected on what other actors did differently than me in those auditions, nervous that they may have delivered their lines in a more captivating way. I realized in that moment that I could learn from those around me and that we had a large talented group of students auditioning for this musical. When the cast list was posted, some were happy and others were disappointed.

As rehearsals got underway, I will never forget the moment that the morning announcer explained to the school body that, "Today the Crazy for You actors will practice the musical number *Slap That Bass*", except he was referring to the fish instead of the musical instrument. We looked at each other in our homeroom and howled. I think some teachers and students wondered what exactly our musical was about.

Ms. Beth and Ms. Sonja worked hard teaching us the choreography for all the songs, teaching us to project our voices, teaching us to be confident. Practices were a highlight of my year. We laughed and joked and got to know others that

we maybe wouldn't have gotten to know normally. I want to thank Ms. Beth and Ms. Sonja for all their hard work and dedication.

While the cast got to practice the musical, the other students in grade 7 and 8 were divided into four groups trying their hands using drills and sewing machines to help create the set and costumes for the musical. Another group of students went shopping at thrift stores for props and another group of students took pictures and were working on the publicity.

Truth is, it is hard that we didn't get to finish something that we worked so hard on. But even though we didn't get to bow at the final curtain call like we dreamed, we did learn a lot that we will carry into other life opportunities. 🔥



# Expectations and Hope

By Lisa Vanderzwaag  
on behalf of the Board of Directors

Beginning something new always includes expectations and hope. I joined the Calvin Christian School Board of Directors and attended my first meeting in June, 2019. I expected the “typical” logistics of meetings, planning, strategic discussions and emails. I was hopeful that I would have opportunities to use my gifts and talents to further the good work that was already being done at CCS. I was looking forward to meeting and working alongside people who shared the vision of unifying and strengthening our school community.

Along with the work being done at the West 5th site, it was so exciting to jump into the conversations of expanding to add a second campus on Unity Road. These plans follow years of prayer, hope and dreams for growing Christian Education in the Hamilton area. The Compass Committee was tasked with exploring expansion options, and their incredible efforts laid the groundwork for the acquisition of the Unity Road property, with a building suitable for starting up. As a Board, we gathered for additional meetings and a visioning retreat to dream about what the new campus could be. We focused on providing a school that was distinctly Calvin Christian School, while also offering a new vision for the curriculum and learning programs. An extensive market survey was conducted, which helped the Board and staff create a plan for what could be offered. The Open House on January 30 hosted a large gathering in the new space, providing opportunity for discussion and tours. Plans were well underway to offer classes for Junior Kindergarten up to grade 3 for a September 2020 opening, and to move the grades up as the students progressed. We developed a scope-of-work schedule which outlined actions that needed to be completed prior to a fall occupancy. These included renovations to create a safe learning space. Resumes started to come in, and staffing was beginning to come together. There was excitement and hope in the air as the momentum was growing. God was working His hand into these plans, and

we were so hopeful for what the future would bring.

We had another Board meeting on March 3rd, and it was my turn to lead our devotions. Considering we were in the season of Lent, and with March Break around the corner, I chose to focus on the verse “Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10). Busy lives need rest. Rest from work, school, meetings, and routines. We sometimes need a reminder to be still, and to align ourselves with the one in whom we find our true rest.

And then, less than two weeks later, the world was told to stand still.

We did not expect this. We were expecting the rest that was to come with March Break, holidays and time spent with family and friends. The Board did not expect to shift quickly into making decisions around what it looks like to close our school. Teachers and administrative staff found themselves reinventing their workday. Parents did not expect to be working from home, or not having work to return to. Families did not expect to have time with loved ones affected by new physical distancing and self isolation measures that had been put into place. Children did not expect to have to stay home unable to return to the school, staff and classmates they hold so dear. Our Board quickly became focused on the well-being of our CCS society: supporting families and our community, examining financial implications, looking at the future of CCS, and the responsibility we had to our staff. We wanted to put our full support behind responding to the needs of the West 5th campus during this unprecedented time.

The COVID-19 pandemic was not part of our Unity Road Board retreat, the Unity Road Open House or our scope-of-work schedule. The closure of job sites and the slowing down of the construction industry was affecting the required school building renovations. Our market survey results seemed so distant in this new economic landscape. The difficult decision was made to postpone the opening of our Unity Road campus. This is not what we expected. Our hope for this site was being shaken, and the momentum and interest that was growing could slow down.

## “BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD”

Our current school year has been disrupted. Our children have now experienced a few months of our Learning From Home Program that is being provided by our CCS teachers. New skills are being developed as we all navigate our way through this. In it all, our teachers and staff have come alongside families to support and encourage. Each family situation looks different and the staff have committed to providing hope, care, love and support to their students. Our Vision Statement at Calvin is that each child is “thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Tim 3:17) and, despite the current situation, this continues to be our focus. Woven through our education remains the student goals to Know God, Know Self, Mature, Commit, Be Competent and Serve. Learning looks much different than we expected, however our hope in this vision for our children is unchanging.

Proverbs 3: 5 “Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight”. It will take a long time to understand the implications this pandemic will have on the world, but we have to trust. Trust that God is in control. Trust that God loves and cares for each one of us. Trust that God will take our plans, and carefully continue to hold them in His hands. In this trust we have hope for the future. The Unity Road campus will look very different this September than we expected, however, our hope for this expansion is unchanging. Taking one step at a time, we will continue to move forward and look ahead to a September 2021 opening. The excitement is still there, and the momentum will grow as we continue to trust.

At my first CCS Board meeting we gathered around the long wooden table in the school's staff room. Now we gather in our homes at our computers around a virtual table. Beginning something new may not always turn out as we had expected. Psalm 46 shows that in our stillness we will know God. I pray that during this time of stillness, we are reminded of who God is, where we find our rest, and in whom we put our trust. This gives us so much hope for the future. 🔥



## Fairy Tales by Gr. 2A

### MAGIC SOUP

Once upon a time there were 2 elephants, Johnny and his mom Malinda. They lived in a warm cozy cave in the jungle. They loved the jungle because they could go outside and pick their own food. There were lots of different types of food to choose from. Johnny loved this because he loved to cook, and make special food for his mom. Johnny was special, because he had a magic trunk, that could make magical soup. This soup could help people who were sick or hurt. Nearby there was a spooky castle where two mean witches lived, Mrs. Wicked and Miss Evil. they were very mean and wanted to steal Johnny's magic for themselves. Mrs. Wicked and Miss Evil have tried for many years to get the magic, but have not succeeded.

One day Mrs. Wicked came to her sister and said "I have a brilliant plan!" Miss Evil responded by saying "What now?" Miss Evil was getting tired of always trying to steal the magic, she wanted to leave the elephants alone. "We should find 7 bees to put a magic spell on with magic slime, who can sting the elephant and steal his magic," said Mrs. wicked. "Fine" Agred Miss Evil, "but this is the last time we try to get the elephant. If this doesn't work, we agree to leave them alone!" "Agreed" said Mrs. Wicked. A few days later, when it was warm and sunny in the jungle, Johnny and Malinda went for a walk to collect fruit for their breakfast. "It's such a great day for collecting food and making soup," said Johnny. Malinda agreed. She loved it when her son cooked for her. Johnny and Malinda were always on the lookout for suspicious things, as they have been trying to avoid the witches for many years. Suddenly Johnny spots 7 very angry looking, green, slimy bees headed straight towards them. "RUN!" yells Johnny to his mom and they race back to their cave. As fast as he can, Johnny gets out some of his magic soup for the bees. As soon as the bees smell the soup they head to it and drink it up. The delicious soup lifts the slime spell from the bees and they become nice.

The 7 bees and the 2 elephants become best friends. They live together in the warm cozy cave, making soup. And, true to their words, the witches never bothered the elephants again. The End.

—Ellie S



### THE DRAGON AND THE WIZZARD

Once upon a time there was a good dragon named Pickle. He was stuck in a high tower in a magical castle because he got a spell put on him from the evil wizzard named Hickel. The King and Queen sent a good wizzard named Maggy to break Hickel's magic wand to break the evil spell. Now Pickel can escape the tower and fly back to the king and Queen. They lived happily ever after.

—Denver T



Arie S.



## PRINCESS ROSE'S PARTY



Once upon a time, there was a beautiful princess named Rose. She had a birthday party at the pink castle. She invited all her bird friends. Each bird gave her a birthday present. The evil bird gave her a magic pill. The pill looked like a mint candy cane (Rose's

favourite food). She gobbled it all! The two good birds tried to stop her but it was too late. Rose turned into an evil witch! The one good bird fought the bad bird while the other good bird stole the bad bird's wand. The good birds pecked at the wand and all the spells undid! Rose turned back into a princess! The bad bird disappeared forever! The End!

—Amelie T



## THE LITTLE PROBLEM

Once upon a time there was a boy named Asher he got bullied by another boy named Ben. Asher lived in a small yellow house with his brother named Evan. One day in the forest they found a magic wand. When Ben came back to tease them they shrunk him with the magic wand. They carried him home in their pocket. They made him a tiny bed for him to sleep in. they all became friends. Asher and Evan used the magic wand to make Ben big again. Then they made the little yellow house big enough for all of them to live in with the magic wand. And they lived happily ever after.

—Arie S



## COWBOYS TO THE RESCUE

Once upon a time the whole world was covered with snow. Dr. Claw and his dog had made a snow machine. That made a lot of snow so he could bury the people and take over the world. Nobody knew what to do! There were three cowboys Peter, Landon and Ezra. They were riding their horses when Peter stopped short, then the other two bumped into Peter. Peter saw a weird looking cabin that wasn't there before. Peter said "Let's investigate." They hopped off their horses and walked over to the cabin to spy. They looked in the window and saw Dr. Claw and his dog making an ice machine. They heard him say "I can't wait to cover the world in ice so everyone will keep on slipping except for me." "Hmmm, that gave me an idea" said Ezra. Ezra's idea is to make their own ice gripping boots. They make the boots that day. The next day when they woke up everything was covered in ice so the people were stuck inside. The cowboys were ready for this. They used their boots to get on the roof. Three, two, one, throw! They all threw their magic lassos up to the sun and pulled it down to melt the ice. The ice and snow melted and all the people came out to celebrate!

—Landon VdH





# Outdoor Education in Grade 3

by Hannah F and Madeline vdW, Grade 3

## LEARNING TARGETS FOR 'BUILDING A LEAN-TO'

In my group....

- I can imagine life as a pioneer when first arriving to Ontario
- I can listen to the ideas of other
- I can participate with effort and enthusiasm
- I can work cooperatively
- I can understand the phrase "Strength in Community"

On January 28, we went on a field trip to the forest. We got into our groups and then went to Mrs. Eising's truck. The first thing we did as a group was to pull heavy cedar boughs from the truck to the

forest. We then found a spot to build. Next, we collected large branches to make the start of our lean-to. We leaned the sticks against two trees. Then we added smaller sticks to go across the lean-to, and we used twine to hold the sticks together. After, we put cedar boughs flat across the sticks. We made sure that all the holes were covered. We put cedar boughs on the ground inside of our lean-to to soften the ground. Then, one of the teachers gave us a surprise to eat! The surprise was cookies with hot chocolate. We ate them inside our lean-to. Finally, we checked out all the other lean-tos. We had a great day in the woods imagining life as a pioneer in early Canada. 🔥



## Grade 3A Diamante Poems and Descriptive Adjectives



Snow  
Cold, Fluffy  
Falling, Drifting, blowing  
Getting slushy, Starting to melt  
Shining, Warming, Drying  
Hot, Bright  
Sun

—Hendrik V

Day  
Bright, Sunny  
Laughing, Playing, Doing,  
Up in the East, Down in the West  
Talking, Resting, Sleeping  
Quiet, Dark  
Night

—Hannah F

Snow  
Playful, Cold  
Snowboarding, Sledding, Skating  
White flakes fall, Slowly melts in the sun  
Growing, Blowing, Shining  
Green, New  
Leaves

—Lincoln H

Hockey Rink  
Cold, Arena  
Cheering, Playing, Skating  
Puck, Stick, Scooter, Fishbowl  
Skateboarding, Riding, Tricks  
Outdoors, Ramps  
Skate Park

—Verity W

Winter  
Cold, Freezing  
Freezing, Shivering, Cooling  
Snow on the grass, Flowers sprouting up.  
Blooming, Raining, Blossoming  
Warm, Sunny  
Spring

—Sophie H



—Lyla V.



—Mya Z.



## Staff News



### MRS. MCKNIGHT TOP LEFT

Congratulations to Mrs. McKnight on her retirement after 18 years of working in the Senior Kindergarten classroom. Mrs. McKnight's love for children and people shone through in her daily tasks. Her great love for Jesus was displayed in all that she did, inside our school and out. We will miss her cheerful presence and wisdom on our staff, and our "dishwasher fairy." We wish her God's blessings as she begins a new chapter in her life! The Senior Kindergarten children did a lot of writing and drawing to help Mrs. McKnight celebrate her birthday!



### MRS. TAEKEMA TOP RIGHT

Mrs. Krista Taekema enjoyed her students and her time with them in the classroom. The students were always excited to sit down and listen to one of her Bible stories, always told expressively with character voices or even as though she was the character herself. The students also enjoyed learning to improve their reading with Mrs. Taekema. Her excitement for reading and encouragement for student growth and confidence were just what students needed to challenge themselves to master another reading strategy. The students who enjoyed her coaching in volleyball will also miss her ready smile and steady serve. All the primary students will remember fondly all the primary musicals she directed. How she dressed as a bird for Wing-It and got all bug-eyed over the Bugz Musical. Always encouraging the students to bring their best singing voices and smiles to each performance evening. Mrs. Taekema, thank you for all your dedication to Christian education.



### MRS. HENDRIKS RIGHT

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Hendriks, who were united in marriage on Saturday December 21, 2019. We wish you a lifetime of happiness!!

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# Better Together

## CALVIN'S CONNECTIONS THROUGH EDVANCE

From Edvance Christian School Association

Calvin's legacy of collaborating with Christian schools across Ontario continues vibrantly throughout these unusual days. One of the first schools to join the Edvance Christian Schools Association when it opened its doors less than two years ago, Calvin is now one of 81 Edvance affiliate schools in Ontario and Eastern Canada.

Edvance, a Christian school leadership organization, walks alongside Christian elementary and secondary school leaders in fostering excellence in Christian education. Since excellence in education depends on excellence in leadership, Edvance offers professional support in administration, learning, and leadership development. Edvance also advocates on behalf of the Christian school sector as a whole to the government and the broader public. Edvance's team of professionals is experienced in education, finance and accounting, administration, communications, advocacy, and governance.

As the work of Edvance continues to grow, this mission has manifested itself in new ways during this time of pandemic. As schools pivoted to a "learning at home" model, Edvance provided a platform for school leaders and educators, including the entire staff at Calvin, to come together to support and encourage each other, as they wrestled through a myriad of questions related to learning remotely. Leaders, educators, boards, and others have been warmly invited to draw on the experience and expertise of others. In addition,

Edvance has regularly corresponded with the government and advocated for affiliates regarding back-to-school dates, Family Support Program, and other regulatory issues.

The Edvance team is committed to supporting affiliate schools in three areas of continuity: business, learning, and leadership.

**BUSINESS CONTINUITY.** In practical terms, this has meant providing regular email bulletin updates and Zoom events that offered timely information on government programs, employment issues, governance concerns, and other pressing issues. Featured guests such as lawyers and accountants addressed questions about government programs at both the federal and provincial level. A favourite past conference keynote presenter, Jim McKenzie, gave advice about recruiting new families for next year, while ensuring current families continued engagement in their school community.

**LEARNING CONTINUITY.** Discussions have happened both online and via Zoom to help school leaders evaluate learning platforms, ensure student engagement and inclusion, and plan for student assessment (thank you Dr. Phil Teeuwssen for providing your expertise!). Teachers have gathered online—many building new professional friendships—to collaborate and share their lesson plans for learning-from-home.



**LEADERSHIP CONTINUITY.** Edvance featured counsellors from Shalem Mental Health Network to talk about leader mental wellbeing, and how leaders can support their staff through this time of increased stress. In addition, Calvin's principal, Mr. Boonstra, frequently joins school leaders at regional leadership cohorts established by Edvance for support and fellowship.

Throughout the past few months, it has been abundantly clear that schools are not alone—that Calvin is not alone—in this task of Christian education. There is a strong network here! Most importantly, the whole community has been able to remind each other regularly that God is with all of us through this storm: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1 🔥

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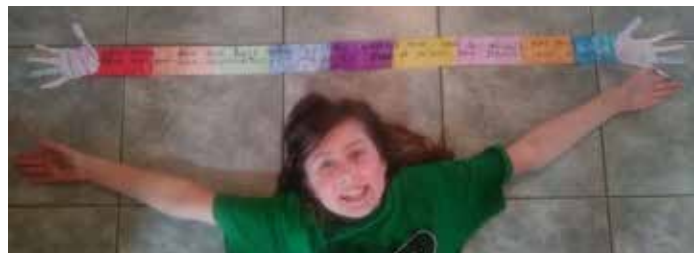
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## Grandparents' and Grandfriends' Day

While we missed having our grandparents at CCS for Grandparents day, here are some pictures showing how we celebrated!





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# School Counselling Corner

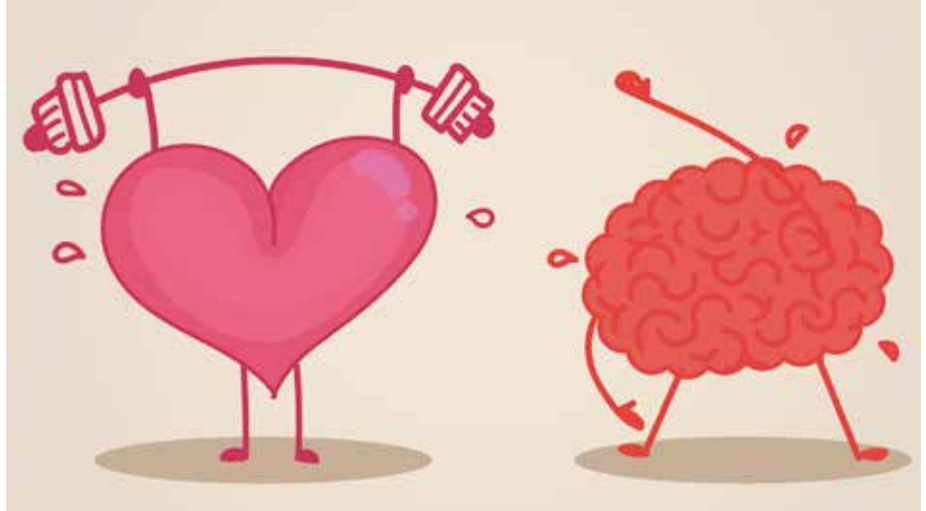
by Tricia Schinkel RP, MC:AT  
Registered Psychotherapist, Art Therapist

Calvin Christian School, with the support of the Board of Directors, understood the importance of mental health and created the position of school counsellor for 2019/20 school year. This year has been about learning and developing the position in order to meet the social and emotional needs of the students, staff, families, and the greater CCS community.

## THE SCHOOL COUNSELLING ROLE

The goal for the school counselling role is not intended to provide long term support or "therapy" for individual students but to improve mental health and wellbeing for all students, however some one-on-one support may be needed. This support is done in three ways: through teaching school-wide social/emotional curriculum in classrooms, through small groups, or through short term individual coaching for specific skills and strategies. Here are some of the things that I have been doing this past year:

- Defining and developing what the role of a school counsellor is, based on standards from School Mental Health Ontario (SMHO), and the American School Counselling Association (ASCA)
- Assisting teachers, students, and parents with strategies for managing behavioural, emotional, and social challenges
- Presenting a school wide initiative for learning about emotional regulation called "The Zones of Regulation," a model developed by Leah Kuypers and Social Thinking Inc.. Many teachers have expanded on this model in their individual classrooms
- Continuing with the previously established Grade 6 Social and Emotional Health Unit, held during January and February
- Liaising with community professionals
- Gathering, consolidating, and sharing resources



## THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON MENTAL HEALTH

Since COVID-19 and school closure, there have been many changes in all of our lives. Some of us may have gotten busier, while others have slowed down significantly. Many of us have learned to adapt in new ways but there may still be a range of emotions daily. Some of the common ways that our mental health has been impacted is by having an increase in:

- Fear and worry
- Guilt, comparisons, and feelings of failure
- Stress and anxiety
- Depression and apathy
- Loneliness, sadness, grief
- Fatigue
- Overworking
- Changes in sleep or eating patterns
- Worsened chronic health conditions
- Increased use of alcohol, tobacco, other drugs

## TIPS TO SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH DURING COVID-19:

Due to the potential increase of some of the above symptoms, it is helpful to take care of basic needs and to find time for self-care (physical, emotional, spiritual, social). During this time, it may be challenging to do but it is good to remember that we can't pour from an empty cup.

- Get enough sleep
- Eat healthy
- Exercise/be active
- Limit screen time
- Take breaks and do things you enjoy
- Have a schedule/routine/structure to your day

- Connect with others in new ways
- Stay informed but limit time listening to news and social media
- Find humour and fun when you can
- Take a step back when experiencing heightened emotions.
- Be real and honest with your struggles. It is ok to not have it all figured out or to feel happy all the time
- Be gracious with yourself and others
- Give yourself permission to keep things simple
- Communicate your needs with your spouse/partner/other support people
- Keep low and reasonable expectations of yourself and others
- Take it one day at a time and continue to give it over to God

If you are experiencing a crisis or are having a hard time coping, reach out and ask for help from a professional. See a list of these resources on the CCS School Counselling page ([ccshamilton.ca/schoolcounselling](https://ccshamilton.ca/schoolcounselling)).

## UNDERSTANDING LOSS AND STAYING CONNECTED

We have all experienced losses during this pandemic, including the immediate loss of our connection to others, jobs, stability, structure, security, freedoms (to enjoy restaurants, parks, the great outdoors), sense of the future, and a sense of control. We have been unable to participate in the typical rituals, such as funerals, weddings, and graduation ceremonies. These rituals bring closure and are important for moving from one stage to the next.

During this time, it is still important to attend to these losses and learn how to grieve and cope in new ways that will allow



## Counselling Corner

...continued from page 12

us to move forward and honour memories or moments. It has been amazing to see all of the creative ways that people have learned to cope and connect:

- Virtual dance/art/music lessons or classes, social meetings, game nights, driveway visits
- Caring and encouraging messages or gestures (on sidewalks, windows, letters, phone calls, social media)
- Planting a tree, gardening, dropping off flowers/gifts/meals
- Listening to or creating music/art/funny videos (individually or virtually with a group)

### AFTER COVID 19

After this world crisis settles and life returns to a new normal, we can expect that

it may be a slow process with many changes. There are still many unknowns at this point in time but we can put our faith in God's guidance and direction. I am thankful for the team of staff, support staff, and the board at CCS and I am confident that they will work together to support a transition that will be as smooth as possible. 🔥

### CONTACT:

Visit the School Counseling page on the CCS website for regular updates and resources.

Email or phone consultation is available at this time. Visit the website to submit a consultation request.

[ccshamilton.ca/schoolcounselling](http://ccshamilton.ca/schoolcounselling)



## All About My Day

by Grade 1

My day at home is very fun! First I wake up and hug my mom. Next I read some books and do some work. Then, I watch the Magic Schoolbus and play with my toys. Finally I brush my teeth and say goodnight to my family. Tomorrow I will have another fun day!

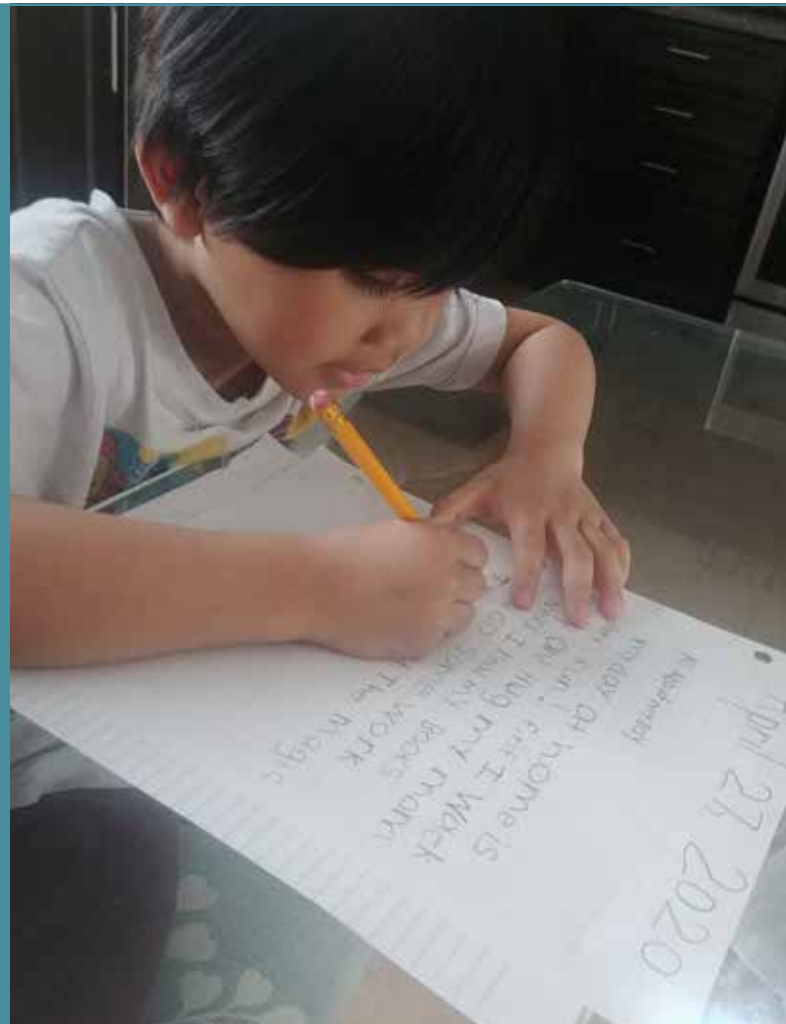
—Noah T

Let me tell you about my day. First I wake up and then I eat breakfast. Next, I play in the fort. Each day, I make it bigger. Then we eat lunch. I like to eat cheesy nachos for lunch. Then I play ball outside. Then I watch a show. Next, I do my homework. Math is my favourite! Next, I eat dinner and play in the fort. Finally, I read a book and jump into bed!

—Lincoln M

All day at home is a lot of fun. First I eat a yummy breakfast. Next I play math games and do art. Then I go outside and play on the trampoline and on the tree fort and playground. I ride my bike or walk through the forest and find snakes, birds, and squirrels. Then I play with my dog Phoenix. Finally I do Zoom dance classes. All of these things are fun to do.

—Blayre VG

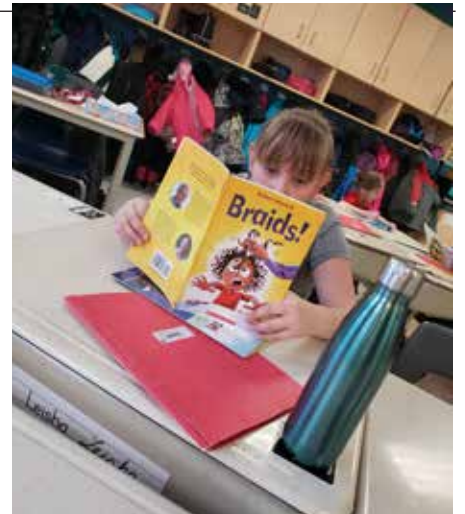


## I Read Canadian

A new nationwide initiative that celebrated the richness, diversity, and breadth of Canadian literature, was spearheaded by Eric Walter, in collaboration with the Canadian Children's Book Centre, the Canadian Society of Children's Authors, Illustrators and Performers, and the Ontario Library Association.

The very first I Read Canadian Day, happened on February 19, 2020, with the purpose to empower families, schools, libraries, bookstores, and orga-

nizations to host activities and events by reading Canadian books for just fifteen minutes. The purpose of this event was to raise awareness of Canadian books and to celebrate the excellence of Canadian literature. Wearing red clothes, CCS students participated in this event, which started off with a short video with Mrs. Wikkerink and Mr. Boonstra talking to Sigmund Brouwer, our writer in residence. In the classrooms, the teachers promoted the event by reading books written by Canadian authors to their students. It was a red letter day! 🔥



## Interview with an Olympian

by Julia N, grade 5

For my Great Canadian project I chose Clara Hughes. She is Canada's most decorated Olympian and rode over 12,000 kms across Canada to bring awareness to Mental Health. We reached out to her on Instagram and she agreed to be interviewed over Zoom. It was a great experience while doing school from home. 🔥





# Wonderfully Made

By Rachel Vandendool

You may find yourself looking for new ways to move as we have been asked to stay home to help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Running is a great way to elevate your heart rate, manage stress levels and spend some time outdoors. Maybe you've heard that runners are prone to injuries and while there can be a higher incidence injuries in runners, most of them can be easily avoided with a few key tips.

**1. BE GRADUAL.** One of the number one reasons runners become injured is because they do too much too soon. Ever try going to the gym to shed a few pounds and you don't notice any changes for weeks? That's because God created our bodies to adapt slowly. Take it slow and steady. Your tendons and joints will be less likely to feel overloaded and irritated. General rule of thumb is to not increase any set parameters by more than 10% per week, be it distance or intensity.

**2. ADD VARIETY.** Vary your running surfaces. Running on hard pavement for kilometers at a time can be very repetitive for your joints and tendons leading to injury. Running on trails, adding hills or intervals are great ways to make running less repetitive. Cross training is also beneficial for your body, allowing you to improve strength and stability. Get on a bike or pick up some weights.

**3. SET A GOAL AND HAVE A PLAN.** What is your goal? Are you running to get in shape, training to race a specific

distance? Knowing your goal will help give you focus and motivation. Goals can be short or long term and they can change over time as well. Write out your plan for running on your calendar. Does it fit in with all the other things going on in your life? If it looks like it is too much, then it probably is.

**4. SHOW YOURSELF SOME SELF-LOVE.** Take care of yourself. If you run with limited resources you are more likely to overload tissues. Are you regularly getting 7-8 hours of sleep? Are you eating a variety of fruits and veggies and staying away from processed foods? Is your water intake sufficient? Do you have strategies for managing the stress in your life? When you run tired, malnourished/dehydrated or stressed your body is not able to handle the physical demands as well, that is your body. Take care of yourself.

**5. GET A RUNNING ASSESSMENT.** God created each of us individually so what may work well for one person may not work for another. Bodies, running styles and goals are different. See a physiotherapist or a running expert who can identify biomechanical or gait inefficiencies and provide you with an individualized plan that addresses you specifically and enables you to stay healthy and injury free. 🔥

*Rachel is a CCS parent and works as a Registered Physiotherapist at Origin Physiotherapy. If you have questions about anything above please visit [www.originphysio.ca](http://www.originphysio.ca) to get in touch.*



Grade 2a



**100% not for profit.**  
**100% volunteer run.**  
**100% donation supported.**

1050 Upper Gage Avenue  
905-560-5410  
[info@re-sourcethriftshop.ca](mailto:info@re-sourcethriftshop.ca)  
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 10-5  
Thurs 10-6, Sat 10-3

The store is a thriving community and uses its financial surpluses to support special projects at CCS, with a tithe given to a wide variety of agencies and charities across Hamilton.

Thank you to our customers, volunteers, and to God for his blessings.

## HAVE THINGS TO DONATE?

We accept and appreciate **clothes, housewares, furniture, etc.**

## WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

**We can always use more help!** Please sign up for a regular weekly time slot.

As of May 25, the re-Source Thrift Shop is open for business after a long closure due to COVID-19.

We are also posting items to our Facebook page to help you shop from the comfort and safety of your own home.

We encourage our customers and volunteers alike to be safe and help reduce the transmission of COVID-19. Stay safe and God bless!

## Learning Before March 13



*While our students learn from home, our school building sits empty. We can't wait to welcome everyone back!*



## Grade 7B



*New France day*



*Twin Day*



## Nature Photography by Grade 7A





## Haida Art

Grade 7A



—Ava VH.



—Megan Z.



—Tori M.

## CCS 2019/20 Capital Campaign

Calvin Christian School has been able to continue supporting students even while they are at home in the midst of the COVID-19 health crisis. We have been put in the very unique situation of providing lessons to students while they learn from home. Equipping to Shine remains our mission even when students are not at school!

This year's Capital Campaign is focused on Tuition Assistance for families in need and who still desire Christian education for their children. Because of the health crisis, we have greater need than ever. We ask that you consider partnering with us in providing hope and support for families in financial need.

The present health crisis has also created a wonderful opportunity to foster community and care for one another and we have certainly experienced that fact. A number of families have redirected some of their transportation rebates back to the school. And, even though physical distancing is keeping us apart, communication between school and home is allowing us to stay connected and provide support for one another.

Please consider how a gift to our Capital Campaign will provide a lasting legacy of support in times of crisis. Your donation will provide educational opportunities for students and families in need. 🔥

Mail your cheque to Calvin Christian School  
or donate online (Click on the blue "Donations" button):

[ccshamilton.ca/campaigndrive](https://ccshamilton.ca/campaigndrive)



One Lord.  
One League.  
One Story.  
One Mission.

Learn more at  
[BibleLeague.ca](https://BibleLeague.ca)

 BibleLeague CANADA





## AIM French

By Mme. Van Eek

Mme Van Eek's students were very creative with an assignment for the AIM French program.

The assignment was to take a newly learned French word, and illustrate it so that the meaning of the word is communicated through the design. "Regarde" (Look) is the sample word designed by Mme Van Eek. "Merci" to all those students who contributed to the collection, "et bon travail, tout le monde!" 🌟

regarde



—Bethany F.



—Peyton R.



—Hudson VG.



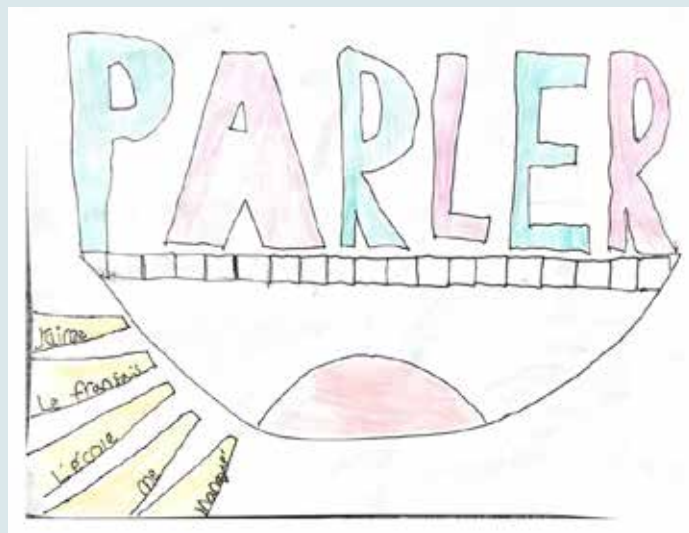
—Aleah H.



—Faith P.



—Moriah K.



—Claire VH.



—Joel F.



—Jaeda H.



—Landon VG.



—Rose G.



—Elijah B.



Congratulations  
to our  
Graduates!





# Graduate Reflections

**ADAM S:** Calvin Christian School is a great school full of loving teachers, staff, students and principal. From being in the classroom to being outside during recess, there's plenty of time to make friends and communicate with each other. The education at CCS is amazing. I've been able to learn more about God and grow in my faith through Bible classes. The teachers help us to better understand the Bible as we read through it. Subjects I have enjoyed are math, gym, science, and Bible. Every subject challenges you to think outside of the box, be creative and to try your best. I have really enjoyed my years at Calvin Christian School.

**AIDEN S:** CCS has been pretty good. I made some amazing friends that have been with me through the hard and great times. Without them, I wouldn't be the person I am today. Being a Christian is a big part of my life and if I didn't go to CCS my faith wouldn't be where it is today. My favourite subjects are gym, science, math, and history. I liked gym because I like to be active, I like science because of the experiments we did. I liked Math because I like to do equations and I like history because it's good to know about history.

**AMY H:** I have learned everything at CCS. Not just math, Bible, history, or any other subject, but also how to respect others, how to be a hard worker, how to be patient, how to be kind, how to appreciate the things that I have, how to be a good Christian, and so much more. I have been at CCS for ten years. It has been my life. It is all I know. CCS has been my second home. Calvin Christian School has made me who I am and has shaped my future.

**ANDREW H:** Attending CCS has been one of the best privileges in my life. I am able to go to a Christian school when many kids in the world can barely even get an education. I came to CCS in grade 4. That was a pretty good year once I got used to where everything was and what I had to do. My favourite subjects at CCS were probably P.E. and geography. Through my 5 years at CCS I have made many new friends each year and by the time I was there long enough I pretty much knew everyone in my grade.

**ANITA T:** Attending CCS has definitely been an experience. Though I lost friends, I learned how to make new ones. Through I had embarrassing moments, I learned how to laugh at myself and keep on going. When things got tough during school, I learned to appreciate all the happy things in life. Some of my favourite subjects at CCS have been Language Arts because I get to try to think outside of the box and make up stories. I loved History class, because we got to write stories and learn more about, well, history. I loved seventh grade World Life because we got to debate in class, and I love arguing with people. All in

all, school has been interesting and over the years I've learned to like it more and more. Thank you everyone!

**ANNA N:** I am grateful for the teachers that not only taught our class everyday, but how they supported me all the way through these ten years at CCS. I am grateful for Mr. de Schiffert and Mrs. Wikk for making our last year such a blast! Especially through the whole quarantine, they did so well at teaching us and still making it fun! Thank you!

**BEN B:** I have been a part of CCS since I started grade school in JK. I loved going down and under the indoor slide that was in our classroom! I have learned a lot about different things over the years, but always loved math and P.E.! I made good friends that I liked hanging out with at recess. I enjoyed trying out and making sports teams. I had fun doing intramurals. I liked helping out the school by being part of Steel Beams, especially being on the MAPS team and a gatekeeper. CCS has been a great place for me to learn and grow as a Christian. I am thankful for the time I could spend here.

**CLAIRA V:** Over the years of being a student at CCS, I have enjoyed doing many things offered here, such as sports teams, choir, band and also the spring musical. Through those activities I have made friends with some really amazing people. At CCS, I really enjoy doing subjects like Music/Band, Literature, Composition and World Life. I am thankful to have been a student at CCS, to have been able to make so many friends and get to know so many great teachers.

**COLIN O:** I came to CCS in grade four because I moved from St. George to Hamilton. I was really nervous to go to school because before I moved I was homeschooled. When I got there I couldn't find my classroom so I was just wandering the halls until one of the teachers helped me to my classroom. The teachers were really nice and welcoming. I made a lot of friends pretty quickly because I talk a lot. My favourite subject is P.E. and it's not because I don't have to think a lot in P.E. It's because I really enjoy exercising and staying in shape. Also, my P.E. teacher is pretty cool.



**DAVID I:** I guess being at CCS for the past three years has taught me a thing or two, like that the world doesn't revolve around me and that everything I do affects others. I think the best part about CCS was the friendships I made there. I'll never forget running out of the halls as soon as the second bell rang, my first time playing hockey, my first goal, making the basketball team and getting a role in the musical. My favourite subject has always been art. I really wanted to leave a mark at CCS and since I didn't think it would be in sports, I hoped to be able to paint one of the ceiling tiles. I think a Christian school helped me grow closer to God. I used to see him as almighty and all powerful and kind of scary. At CCS I learned that he is also my caretaker and forgiving.

**DEANNA G:** I have had an amazing eight years at CCS! I loved making friends that I can laugh and hang out with. Being at CCS has made me more focused on God and has made me a better Christian. I really loved doing art because the teachers always came up with so many different art tasks that helped my imagination grow. I also love history, learning about where you came from and what happened before you were even born.

**DEKRICK VD:** It's pretty cool all the things I've learned while at CCS. I liked doing projects with my friends. Participating in the spelling bee was also a cool experience. I loved hanging out with my friends and sometimes getting in trouble with them. I was glad to make many new friends, and it was hard to say goodbye to friends who moved away. The ski trips were amazing. I had so much fun. It was so much fun being on the soccer team. The sense of camaraderie felt amazing and I was proud of our winning team.



**EVEN W:** CCS provided me with a good Christian education. I could keep making good friends every year. I got to participate in so many extracurricular activities like band, choir, steel beams, and more. I got to be a part of sports teams like soccer, volleyball, cross country, and track. We could have so many different teachers and subjects. Being at CCS meant we could have assemblies and fun events like field day, grandparents day, spirit days, the bazaar, variety shows, bake sales, field trips and more. I won't forget all the memories made from the first day of Kindergarten all the way to graduating from grade 8.

**EVINE T:** I met so many people and became friends with almost everyone in my class. Everyone has been so helpful. Whenever I needed help, another student would come and explain what I needed to do. My favorite subject was art. It was a lot of fun and I could be really creative if I wanted to.

**HAYLEY V:** Attending CCS has definitely changed me for the better. My faith has strengthened by being in a Christian environment and learning about the Bible in class. CCS made it their top priority to make sure every student gets the help and education they need. CCS tries to find the best way to help each student meet their full potential. That means a lot to me that the school tries it best to make learning fun for everyone.

**HOPE VV:** In my 10 years of attending CCS, I have learned what it means to be a follower of Christ. I made long-term relationships with my friends and classmates, and overall became a stronger Christian. My favourite subjects are always changing over the years, however I have always been connected to music and art. It has been a blessing to go to a school with friends that have the same beliefs and have been encouraging. The one thing that I have appreciated is that all the teachers have connected every subject with my belief in Christ. I'm going to miss the relationships I made throughout my elementary experience as everyone heads in different directions. However, I know that we will always be connected by our memories and our belief in Christ.

**JADA VG:** Attending CCS over the last number of years was pretty crazy. I met a lot of amazing people and have had a blast with them throughout the years. I made some sports teams in grade 7 and grade 8 and I think I might have gotten closer to people with that. I was in the praise team in grade 8 and became friends with amazing people there. I got closer to God which I am so proud of. I am very happy I attended CCS, but I am so sad it is over so soon.

**JULIA N:** I can see that attending CCS helped me learn from my mistakes, the importance of friends, family and God. When I first came to CCS I didn't know how to speak English so I was scared that I wouldn't make any friends. However, on my first day



of school everyone was so nice to me. Everyone helped me understand what the teacher was saying and what I was supposed to do. As time passed I got better at English and was able to have normal conversations with people. They cheered me on when I was upset and said really nice things about my artworks. This made me realize how important friends are. Because of Bible classes and morning devotions, I was able to understand more about God and how much he loves us. My favourite subject is art because I felt confident when it came to art. The friends I made here are such an important part of my life. I loved all the field trips I've been to. All the teachers taught me so many things and I am very grateful. I am very thankful for everything, friends, teachers, family, and God. Thank you for all the great years I was able to have.

**KATE W:** To me CCS was more than a school. It was a family. Because of CCS, I learned how to make friends, how to work hard, and I learned more about myself and about the people around me. I love CCS because they have a high level of respect for their students. It's going to be really hard to leave that family behind but I'm excited to start a new chapter of my life. Yet, I will never forget the amazing things that CCS did for me. So thank you to all the students, teachers, and parents that helped me feel loved and supported throughout my years at Calvin Christian school.

**MARYN V:** CCS has been my school since grade one. I made and lost a few friends along the way, but here I am, grade 8. The teachers here always focus on one thing, and it's not how well you're doing with grades, it's how the rest of your life is, how your family is, if you're feeling okay, and how your relationship with God is. Of course grades still matter and I've tried to keep them high, but God is what everybody focused on. In every subject, somehow God was put into the picture.

**MATTHEW S:** CCS has been a really fun experience. We played all different kinds of games, my personal favorites are silent ball, prodigy, and would you rather games (when we were out on fire drills). My favourite subjects are gym and math. I like gym because we got to try new sports out like rugby, European handball, and badminton. It was a blast playing sports with all my gym teachers. The reason I like math so much was that I felt I could go at my own pace.

**WON J:** I met lots of good Canadian friends in CCS. When I first arrived in Canada, I was nervous that I wouldn't make any friends in school, but classmates were really nice. My favourite subject in school is science, mostly because I'm a science nerd. My parents gave up a lot to support my education program. To me, Christian education means learning to see things from a Christian perspective.

**HANNAH B:** I attended Calvin Christian school for 10 years. Making new friends has definitely been a highlight. At

CCS there are many opportunities that support your hobbies and likes. I have had the chance to be a part of the Spanish club and the school hockey and soccer teams, and many more. These definitely brought me closer to my friends and I had a chance to make a lot of memories. Going to a Christian school has brought me closer to God and helped me to get to know him better.

**MICAH B:** Being at CCS was a really great experience. I made friends with lots of the people at school and some from other schools through things such as sports teams. The education that I received from all of the teachers was always meaningful and good. They taught me about God really well. My favourite subjects were usually PE and math because I like athletics and solving math problems. I really appreciated all of the people that worked to give me a good Christian education.



**MAKAYLA T:** I came to CCS in grade 6 and I made a lot of great friends! The teachers were fun and kind. The way that the teachers taught was easy to understand. At CCS it was easy to make friends, I met a lot of great people. They had great school trips and opportunities for every age. CCS has so many sports teams that you can participate in. When you go to CCS for your first time you get surrounded by people wanting to get to know you. I loved my time at CCS!

**ADANNA UA:** I have attended CCS for the last ten years of my life. It makes me very happy to see my peers I've known for almost my entire life growing up with me. It has been a blessing to know my classmates and I pray that even as we go on we will not forget all the fun memories we've made together. CCS has helped me enhance my knowledge and relationship with Christ. My favourite subject has to be art because it taught me to put to use the abilities God gifted me with and was a way for me to express myself.

**ALICE K:** While I was at CCS I focused on making friends, learning English and learning more about the Bible. I came to CCS on the first day of grade 8 so I don't have as many memories as others, but my favourite memory is of the ski trip because it was my first time going to a ski park with friends.

**ANDREW O:** Going to CCS meant a lot to me. Over the years, I learned a lot about what it means to be Christ like. I loved meeting and becoming friends with so many of my classmates. A highlight would be our year end class trips, too bad we never made it to Ottawa. I also loved going to the bazaar every year, hanging out with friends at school but not doing school-work, just having a good time.

**CALEB B:** CCS has been my school for the past 9 1/2 years. I started right after I had cancer. CCS has been really good for my education and my faith in God. I have made a lot of friends over the years. I have made some friendships that haven't lasted but a lot of them have been strong and have lasted through the years. I am disappointed that we don't get to go to Ottawa but grade 8 was still my favourite year.

**CHLOE O:** My time at CCS encouraged me to grow. Everything about me has changed positively. When I first came to CCS in grade 6, I didn't know what being in a 'Christian Learning Environment' meant. Now I have learned: It means being comfortable talking about and sharing my faith with others. I've realized that in my time spent at CCS, I've become more comfortable with my faith journey and that in turn reflected positively on my actions and my emotions. I discovered things I liked to do like Music & Arts. In my time at CCS, I had a chance to not only develop my academic skills, but also my talents and hob-

bies through activities like choir and the play. Being at CCS has taught me lessons, social and academic, and made me develop positively in all aspects of my life.

**DANIEL J:** I started CCS in kindergarten. At first I was very anxious and felt like I didn't belong here but my new class welcomed me and I made some of my first friends. Being at CCS has meant a lot to me and has shaped me to be the person I am today. Even though there were some negative memories, the positives outweigh them. CCS will always feel like a home to me because of all the great people there who accepted me and made me feel like I belong. Love makes a place a home. My favourite subject at CCS is Bible because I love exploring the word of God and I think it's a very important part of my everyday life.

**DEBORAH-PEACE D:** Going to CCS has really been a great educational experience for me. Being able to surround myself with amazing friends and learn more about my faith was an opportunity I am very grateful to have had. Over the past several years, I have been able to connect with many people and make memories I will never forget. I feel that finding God in each subject has really helped to develop my faith in Him. One of my favourite subjects was science because we were able to connect the wonders of the world to God's greatness. To me CCS means community where everyone is accepted and cared for.

**ESTHER T:** Attending Calvin Christian School over the last few years, I've learned how easy it is to make friends. The education we receive from Calvin Christian School is good. It can be difficult but that's part of the learning process. My favourite subject in school right now is art because I can show my creativity through what I draw.

**GABE M:** CCS has meant a lot to me in the last 10 years. It has taught me necessary life skills like drive, respect, and to keep going even when you don't want to. It has also taught me how to make friends and to be happy with what we have. CCS also strengthened my love for God because with prayer every morning, at lunch, and at the end of the school day, even if I forgot to do devotions at home, I would still have done it at school.

**GIDEON S:** CCS has been the centre of my life for the last many years, I have been in that building more than I have ever been in another building other than my house. I have made many memories there, many good and some bad, I have also had many great experiences there that have changed me and the people around me. I have appreciated my time there and I am sad to leave but I also know that where I am going will also be fun.

**IRENE P:** It was fun attending CCS for the past 5 years because I got to make awesome friends. There were lots of events



that I could participate in especially in grade 8, even though we missed out on lots of those. I liked that I could be educated in a Christian environment with other people who love God. My favourite subjects were art and science because I love drawing/painting and because there were more tests than projects for science.

**MICAH H:** I am thankful for the 10 years that I have spent at CCS. I am thankful for the hockey program and the drama program that have helped me hone my skills and have made my grade eight year lots of fun. I am thankful for the Christian education that has helped me grow in God's word and in my personal relationship with Christ. I am thankful that the school made me memorize scriptures that will be with me for the rest of my life. I am thankful for the many friends that I have made and our many hours playing street hockey during recess. I am thankful for the STEEL BEAMS programs that have enabled me to use my other talents during my time on the ambassador team and morning announcement team. Even though this year didn't turn out like we hoped, there is still a lot to be thankful for.

**NATHAN DV:** CCS has been a good school for me. I have attended JK through grade 8. I have met some amazing friends. The teachers have been really helpful throughout the years. My favourite subjects are math and science.

**RYAN F:** CCS has been an amazing experience for me in the past ten years. Ever since JK, I have had many great friendships and have met some great people. I enjoyed the Christian education that is brought to me through this school, along with the great teachers that helped me learn. I loved going to Fair Glen and going on the ski trip. The end of the year field trips were also super fun. My favourite subjects were gym and lunch. Overall it was a blast going to CCS.

**SAMANTHA J:** My time at Calvin Christian School has made a big impact on my life and it shaped the person that I am today. I am grateful for all the memories, all the fun and for the great education that has helped me prepare well for high

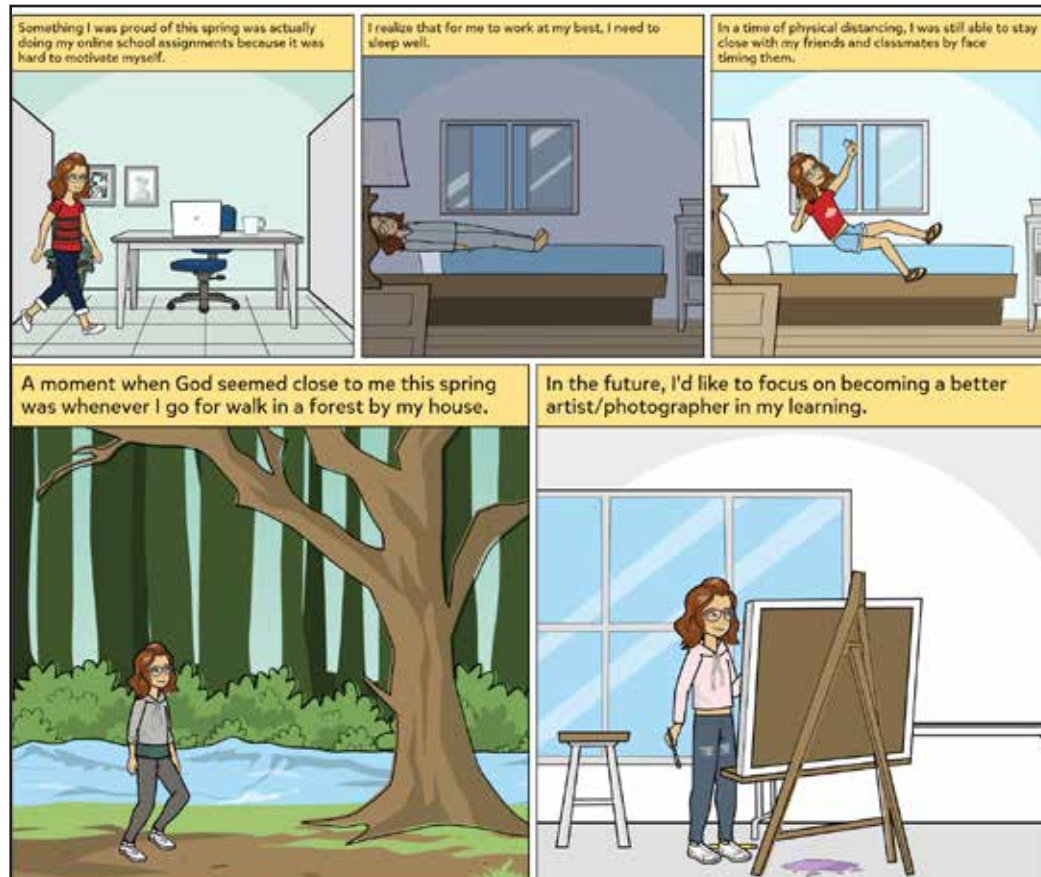
school. The nine years that I have been going here has passed by so quickly, and I have grown so much in every way. Everyone means so much to me and I wouldn't want to spend elementary school anywhere else. I'm truly thankful God placed me in this school with all the wonderful people in it. As a new chapter in my life unfolds I think I will miss my friends the most. They are all so special to me and made even the hard days better. Even though I am leaving, this school will always be a part of me and everyone that is special to me will forever be in my heart.

**SARAH P:** What CCS means to me is being with people who are helpful, kind, caring, and respectful. My favourite subject was math because everyday we would get a laugh from someone in our math group. The meaning of Christian education is great. We learn about Christ everyday through Bible classes, morning meetings, praying before a meal, at assemblies, and at the end of the day so we don't forget that God is with us. My friends are great. We have fun together and they are always there for me and I will always be there for them. I want to thank you for everyone at CCS (students, teachers, families for all the hard work that you do. We appreciate it. 🔥

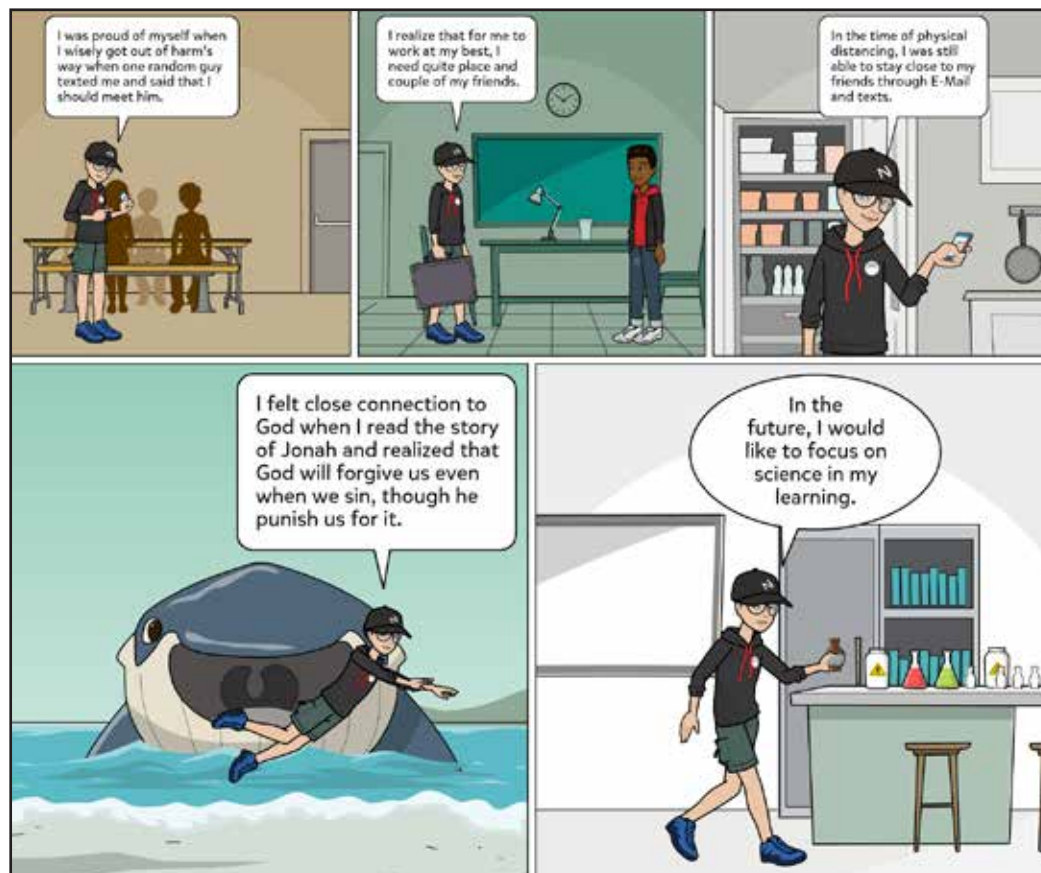




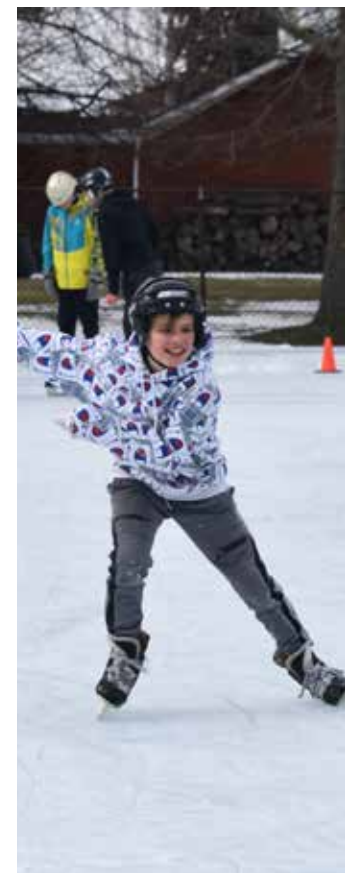
## Grade 8 Comics



—Hayley V.



—Won J.







Although the inhouse TRIP program has been impacted by the COVID-19 health crisis, supporters are still encouraged to participate through the Fundscrip program and the direct shipping to home option. We have seen a number of supporters use this method and continue to support the TRIP program.

During this time Fundscrip has offered free shipping on all orders between \$200 to \$500 via lettermail direct to your home. It's easy to get started by just clicking on the Fundscrip box on the homepage of the CCS website and it's another way that our community can support CCS!

We are grateful to all our supporters for another successful year for the TRIP program raising over **\$16,200!**



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## Quotable Quotes

After a lengthy lesson on the sermon on the mount, one grade two student remarked, **"Wow, Jesus said a lot of things."**

While reviewing the dreams that Joseph interpreted during a grade 3 Bible lesson, a student began to explain the dreams of the cupbearer and the chief baker: **"So, the wine drinker was squeezing grapes on three vines...."**

After reading a book about junk food and the importance of exercise, a student came up to me, puffed out her chest, rubbed her hands down her belly and exclaimed, **"I'm sooo athletic!"**

After sliding down a huge hill in the forest, a SK child commented, **"God's creation is fun."**

Grade 1 student after coming back in at the end of the day because he forgot his snow pants: **I'm a forgetter. I think it's because of my devices. I think I need an unplugged weekend. That's when there's no devices. But I want devices!**

After a discussion about families, and how we are all part of God's family, a grade one student commented, **"So this is kind of like a family school!"**

A Quote from 1B student

Student: Our bus isn't running tonight.

Teacher: Oh, is it broken down?

Student: No, Mrs. Vyn isn't driving tonight because she has to help her husband.

Big pause.

Student: **I'm pretty sure that's not allowed!**

Junior Kindergarten Student:

Question: Would you rather be a flower or a tree?

Students Answer: **I would rather be a tree cause then I could grow flowers, or apples!**

Junior Kindergarten Student:

Question: Would you rather be a flower or a tree?

Students Answer: **I would rather be a tree because they are bigger than flowers! 🌿**





*"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8*

# iINTOUCH



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