



A Calvin Christian School Publication

# in TOUCH

2020/2021 | Issue 2



**COMMITTED  
TO UNITY**

**SCIENCE FAIR**

**GRADUATE  
REFLECTIONS**

# ABC – Arn Boonstra Connections

by Mr. A. Boonstra, Principal



WE ARE MOVING into the last two months of the school year and at the time of this writing (mid April), our students have just transitioned back to online learning. At Calvin Christian School, we have dubbed our online program “Learn from Home.” Like many schools across Ontario, what we offer online looks a whole lot different than what is done in

school. Words like “synchronous” and “asynchronous” play a heavy role in trying to determine what works best for students who are at home for a third time in the past year while we deal with another wave of COVID-19. Needless to say, it has been a challenging year. However, what strikes me is the resiliency of our staff and students. It has been nothing short of remarkable how our staff and students have been able to transition to a mode of learning that has not been a part of the way that we have ever operated, and yet, students continue to complete assignments, develop skills, and broaden their horizons. Our teachers find ways to continue the task of “equipping to shine.”

For me there have been many lessons from our struggles in dealing with the health crisis and three of them stand out. First, for over a year our teachers have been forced to work with each other like never before. They have relied upon each other when it comes to lesson preparation, tech concerns, and lesson presentations. On many occasions, teachers have communicated to me how grateful they are for their colleagues who have helped them navigate complex situations. This collaboration has resulted in the fine tuning of lessons that better meet student needs, as well as the alignment of curriculum from one class to the other.

Second, students have come to see the value of being in school, if for no other reason than to be with their friends. We are all social beings and this pandemic has resulted in a tremendous loss of that ability to socialize. Schools provide amazing communities for our children and their social needs. I am thankful for the fact that when we are in school, our students learn social skills to help them better navigate the challenges of life, but also to lead a more fulfilling life. Relationships, friendships, and community are important components of school life that are not easily replicated outside the school building. Not only do students have the opportunity to develop and enjoy their social skills, they have the privilege of doing so from a Christian perspective at CCS. Teachers open each day in a time of devotion and a hallmark of those devotions is the opportunity to develop community. They do that by praying with and for each other. There are few better ways to love your neighbour than to pray for them and that's what our students do daily. To do that in person enhances the experience of fellowship and caring for one another.

Finally, the pandemic has reminded me of the passage in Romans 5:1-5, where it says,

Therefore since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

I find this passage incredibly comforting. Suffering is the reality of the human condition, but it is not the final condition. As a matter of fact, it provides for so much more, including the gifts of perseverance, character, and hope. When I read the list of things that suffering leads us to, hope is the final word—hope in a God who cares for and loves us. COVID-19 has tested all of us. It has stretched us beyond our limits at times, but it will not break us if we don't allow it to do that. I remain committed to a God who provides for us, even in the midst of a health crisis few of us could ever have predicted. At CCS, we see how our staff and students also remain committed to a God who cares for us.

Although it has been a challenging year, at CCS our staff has spent valuable time working together to better support their students. Our students have seen the incredible value of in person learning, as it fosters a sense of community. Through all the turmoil, we see God's providential care and love for us. Please pray for the staff and students at CCS as we wrap up this school year and as we long for a return to in person learning in September. May God grant all of us peace and hope! 🔥

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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

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## The Fight For Rights

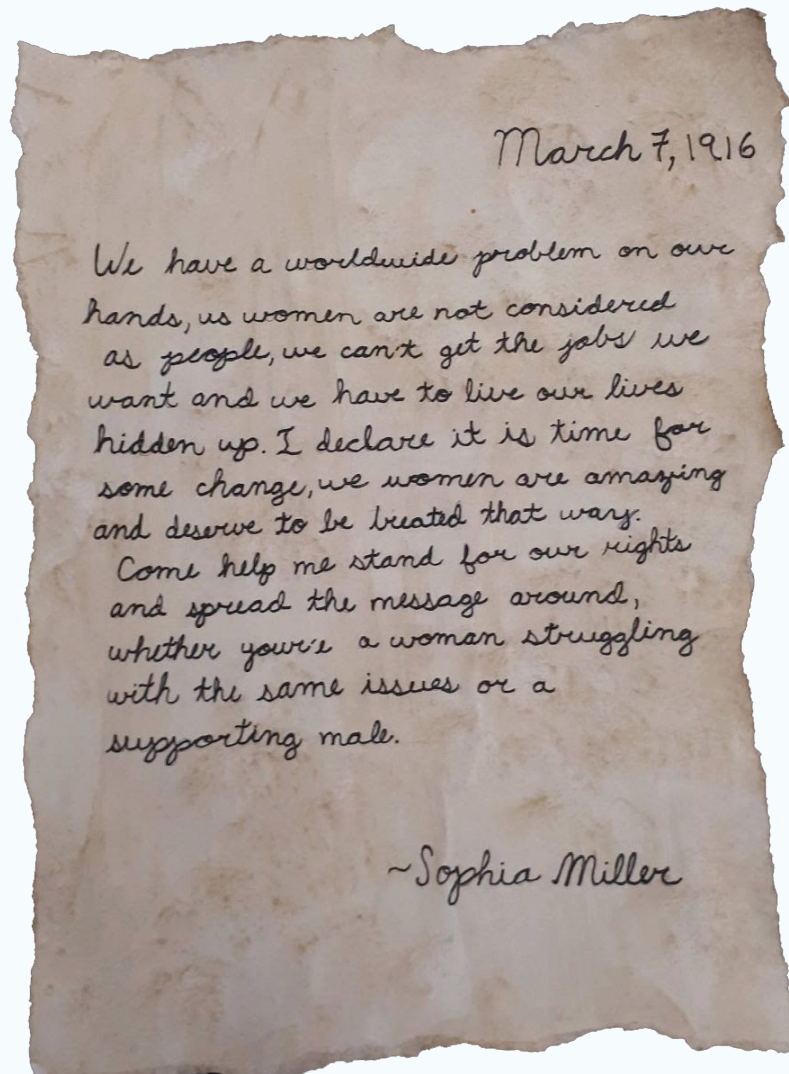
By Rachel C., Gr. 8B

**CONGRATULATIONS to Rachel C. for placing second place in the Hamilton Public Library's Power of the Pen Creative Writing Contest with her historically accurate short story, "The Fight For Rights".**



My story is based on 23 year old Lydia Paterson, mother, wife, friend and much more. She is fighting for women's rights and going through difficulties in life. This event in time is significant because it was a big change for everyone. It made women have better job options. They were able to vote and do much more. This shaped the forming of Canada by helping it to become a country with equal rights, and a great place for all to live.

The piece of art I decided to make was a letter. The materials I used were paper, pencil, sharpie, and tea bags. The elements of art I used were texture, by ripping the letter and I used colour, by tea-staining the letter to give it an old-look effect. This letter is the letter that Lydia writes to a local newspaper asking for rights. Her letter then gets published in the newspaper, the same newspaper as Nellie McClung, another female suffragette who was part of the Famous 5. I chose to make the letter for my art project because it represents how women felt and how they had to hide their identities from the world. 🔥



## CCS Service Project 2020-2021

By Ms. J. DeJong

INSTEAD OF OUR traditional walkathon, our CCS Service Project this year focused on helping to keep the shelves of two local Food Banks well-stocked with food and personal hygiene supplies. The West 5th Campus collected donations for the Neighbour2Neighbour Centre and the Unity Road Campus collected donations for the Caledonia Food Bank.

In order for everyone to be involved, each grade was responsible for collecting food and personal hygiene supplies for one month. During their assigned month, the students and staff of that particular grade brought donations. By doing this, we worked to ensure that the N2N Centre/Caledonia Food Bank received a steady supply of food.

The students were challenged to bring in at least four items. Each grade that met this goal was rewarded with an extra recess and a small treat.

In addition, there was an opportunity for everyone to make a birthday donation. For students and staff members who brought in items in celebration of their birthday, their picture with their



donation was hung on The Birthday Blessings Wall. In the month of October, there was a school-wide Thanksgiving Food Drive.

It is our hope and prayer that all these donations helped our neighbours receive not only essential items, but also to see the love and care our Saviour has for each one of us. 🔥

## Office Life

By Mrs. M. Hendriks

IT HAS BEEN A strange year for Mrs. Nagtegaal and myself in the school office, and our daily responsibilities have looked much different than they have in the past years.

From behind the plexiglass shield in front of my desk, I have been able to welcome a great deal fewer visitors to the school and to also help students requiring some sort of assistance. I used to know the name of every student who would come into the office, but now I find myself hesitating as I see only the eyes (and hair when they are not wearing winter clothing!). With the cohorting I am not able to be in contact with the children as regularly as before, and I often shake my head in disbelief when I see a student who is 3 or 4 inches taller than they were the last time we were together!

Despite all the modifications that have had to take place, we count ourselves blessed to have been in the school building as long as we have. We are blessed by children who are obviously so happy to be together and learning. As I do my walk first thing in the morning picking up each homeroom's attendance sheet, I love to hear the morning meeting activities and general teaching that is taking place. I have found an almost tangible, warm community feel through the school with these resilient, adaptable students.



My days have been filled with doing my part to make the school safe, whether by encouraging the use of the screening app, answering questions about the everchanging protocol in terms of symptoms, and making sure staff have access to the appropriate PPE. There have been many phone calls and emails from apprehensive, anxious, and yet clearly supportive parents, for some whom I have become their eyes and hands as they are sadly kept outside the school. The home-time routine has become just that, routine, as we carefully stagger the students heading home for the day.

And now as I write this we have pivoted once again to "Learn from Home". The school is eerily quiet during the day, and the hvac creates wind tunnels howling down the hallways when different doors are opened, which only adds to the eeriness. It seems to me that this school building is begging for the sound of the day to day happy noise of "school."

The door to Mr. Boonstra's office is open, and I do love to hear our principal giggle (yep, giggle) as he joins in with various classes in their classroom Google Meets. He so obviously enjoys connecting with the students.

It is my hope and prayer that, whatever form school has taken for CCS, the office staff will continue to provide a safe, welcoming, and informative place for our community! 🔥



## Masks, Microbes & Minors

By Mr. B. Cochran

WHEN I ARRIVED at Calvin Christian School I had many visions of what I could do as the custodian. I had ideas of making little changes here and there to aid the educators and administrators in assisting children's minds to grow in this wonderful school. As I write this article, I am closing in on finishing my third year at CCS. It feels more like I just started here and it seems that every month there are new changes and adjustments to be made. I am thankful that my first year was normal as the past two have been different, to say the least.

Pandemics are not part of the planning for anyone in their day-to-day life. COVID-19 has become a big part of our lives as we isolate ourselves and aim to protect those around us. The same is true of a custodian. The two biggest questions I have been asked are: "How is your battle keeping COVID-19 out of the school?" and "What will you do if there is an outbreak?" I realized the custodial team is on the front-line and is working to keep the students safe. We can only prevent potential spread, or contain spread if there is ever an outbreak. I now spend a big part of each day sanitizing the washrooms, door handles, and stair railings to make them safer for all who use them.

Since I am sanitizing more, I see students more regularly and I have been learning to recognize them behind their variety of masks. I can ask about their days and connect with them and have been given some wonderfully animated tales from the kindergarten classes. Now in the third stay-at-home order, I have been given some freedom to catch up on the maintenance of the building and the property again. The halls are eerily quiet without the sound of teachers giving their lessons; the rush to be the first student to be somewhere important, whether it be the washroom or outside to play the latest popular game; or even just the quietness of pages turning over during reading time.

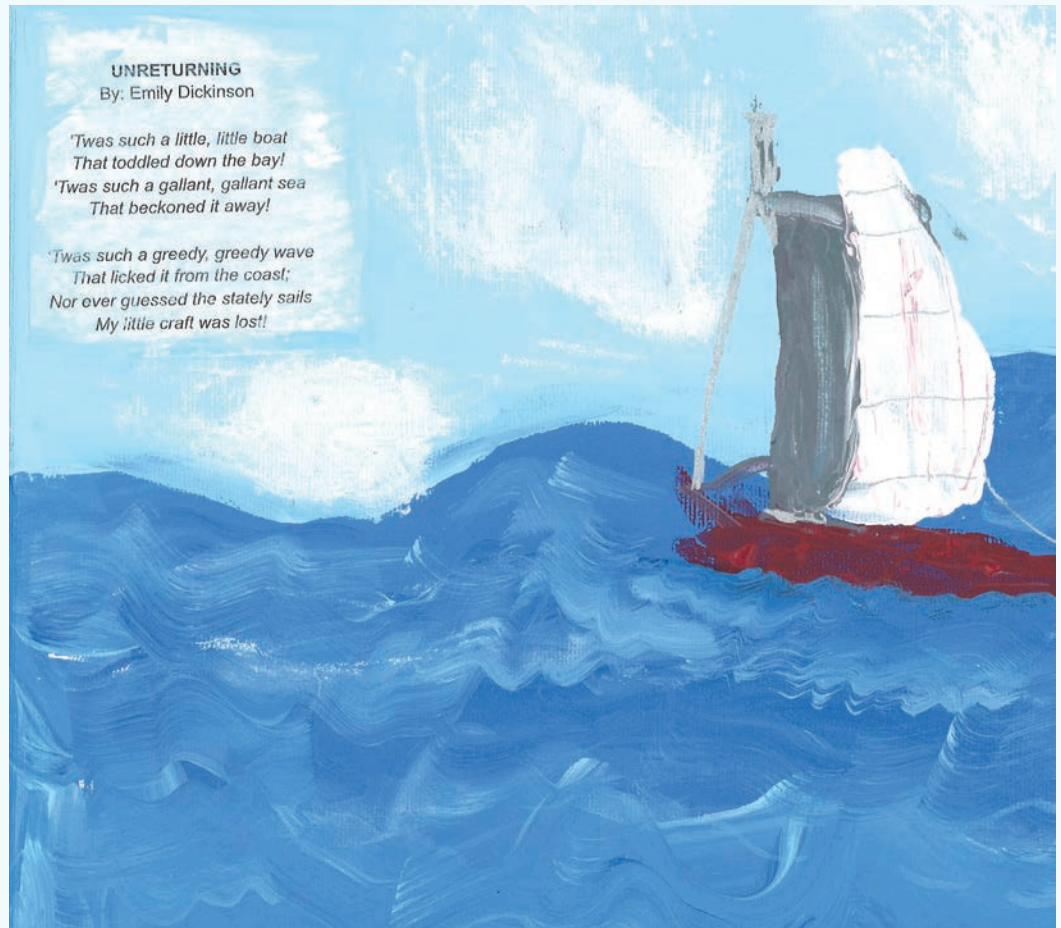
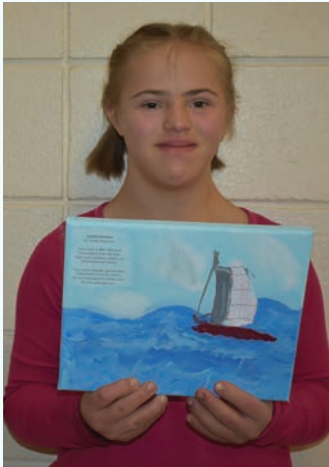
Now, it is the echo of my footsteps down the hallways and sometimes the sound of Mrs. Hendriks and Mr. Boonstra doing their office work. Even though these are the current sounds of CCS, I know that once again students will be back making noises and learning in person. I look forward to that, with the laughter, voices, and chaos. When the students are back, there will come a need for more sanitizing to keep everyone in the building as safe as possible. I am looking forward to another "normal" year soon. 🔥



# Unreturning

By Ms. K. Vos

DURING HER UNIT on poetry, Gloria (6B) memorized the Poem "Unreturning" By Emily Dickinson and recited it to her class. In connection with that poem, Gloria attached a copy of the poem to a blank canvas and used acrylic paints to paint a scene to match the poem. 🔥



## According to Gr. 3

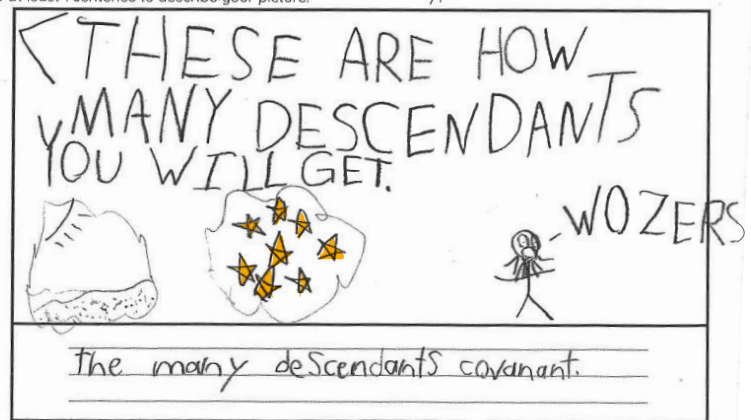
**Q.** Tell the Story of when God told Abraham to sacrifice his son. Include names, places, and good information. Write at least 6 sentences to tell the whole story. More sentences are allowed.

**A.** God said in a God type voice: Sacrifice your only son, Abram, but Abram said: What? But how can our covenant work if that happens!? and God said, just trust. So the very next morning Abram woke up, got ready, and set off. He went with Isaac, a donkey and two servants to a mountain. When they got there, Abram said, "Stay at the bottom of the mountain and me and my son will go up to the top." They went up. Abram was about to kill his son, when an angel came down and said "STOP!" Abram and his son were relieved. "THE END"

**THE REFLECTION BELOW** came from a grade three student, in response to the instruction to design and plan a private island, as part of the Creation Studies unit "Mapping God's World." His teacher can't wait for him to be one of our earth's leaders and is looking forward to that heated pool and tamed animals living on an earth that is healthy and sustainable!

On my island I will have an ice-cream place full of different kinds of ice-cream flavours. I'll have tamed animals free on my island. I'll have tigers, monkeys, panthers, and all sorts of animals. I will be able to have a call for each species. And, everything will be free! It'll be all earth healthy! It will be summer all year round, except three months of very snowy winter. I will have sun energy things and windmills. I will have a heated pool and it will have a company that will help earth not be polluted. It will be paradise.

G. Draw a picture of your favourite Abraham story below. /2  
Write at least 1 sentence to describe your picture. /1



# Committed to Unity

## *What 11 crazy weeks taught us about God's planning*

By Mr. D. Postma

APRIL 20, 2020: "Hey folks, we're going to postpone Unity campus construction and open next year instead."

June 23, 2020: "Hey folks, what are the chances you can warp speed Unity construction and open in, uh, 11 weeks?"

Each day of the 2020-2021 COVID pandemic has brought new challenges for the students, parents, staff, and administration of Calvin Christian School. From chemicals to curriculum, everything changed overnight, and then changed again.

Through it all, we have seen unity. Unity between parents and teachers, as the work of instruction was shared between them. Unity between students and teachers, who found ways to connect emotionally when digital connections were all they had. Unity within and between staff, faculty, and board.

But the most beautiful unity is between our two campuses: our flagship in Hamilton



and our new site in Caledonia. CCS took the opportunity—utterly unique in our region, to our knowledge—to not just wish for reduced class sizes, but actually and substantially reduce class sizes during the pandemic by moving in early to our recently-acquired building on Unity Road.

As a board, we felt both privilege and responsibility to steward our two facilities. We shuttled our oldest two grades to Caledonia each day. We maximized physical distancing and footprint. Our unbelievable volunteers and staff designed and executed a safe Return to School plan. The pandemic's not over yet, but CCS has suffered no outbreaks, and this year there were fewer than five cases among over 500 students and staff.

The swinging pendulum of on-again, off-again lockdowns

has been difficult, perhaps toughest on our children, but we see signs of God's faithfulness everywhere. We see God's kingdom advancing, even in baby steps when we're kept apart. In the classrooms and on the buses, He is here. In the Google Meets and the carefully recorded lesson videos, He is able. In the memory work, the virtual Field Day, and in graduation, He is faithful. When everything else is changing, these truths are not.

And so we move forward, committed to unity. Soon the campaign for building up our second campus will begin, to create the space we envision for the newest generation of Christian students, and we do so with confidence. In 11 crazy weeks our second campus went from still to student-ready, with our oldest students marvelling in their newfound space.

Two years ago in this magazine, I wrote that "the hallways of 547 West 5th burst with beauty and grace". Soon these sounds will lift us again, but now from double the hallways. 🔥



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# CALVIN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL UNITY CAMPUS

*Offering Christian Education to Caledonia and Area Families for September 2021*

By Mrs. A. Breimer

THIS COMING SEPTEMBER, Calvin Christian School, with hope and excitement, is opening a second campus, located on the north end of Caledonia, for JK to grade 4. We are thrilled to open up the opportunity for Christian education to the surrounding community.

The staff of Unity Campus has been participating in a curriculum design workshop led by Edvance this past year, designing edVentures, an innovative approach in which students are motivated by a guiding question that has them dig deeper in their learning and discover how they can make a positive impact in their community. Students will be invited

on a journey of cultivating a wonder of God's creation, gaining wisdom as they discover their place in His unfolding story through meaningful work with practical implications for building His kingdom.

It's an exciting time for Calvin Christian School as we take this step forward in faith. We ask for your prayers as we prepare for and welcome our new community of students and families to Unity Campus. It's exciting to see God move and work in and among our school community. We look forward with anticipation to when we officially open up the doors of Unity and celebrate the amazing things that God has done, and is doing, in and through our extended school community. 🔥

## Unity Campus Capital Campaign

By Mr. A. Boonstra

LAST SUMMER the Calvin Christian School Board of Directors finalized the purchase of the Unity Campus located in Caledonia, with the expressed purpose of providing a Christian day school option for families living in the broader Hamilton community. Like so many other things, COVID-19 scuttled those plans and forced us to think outside the box. Although we could not launch our JK-grade 4 school, we quickly pivoted to using the campus for our Grade 7 and 8 students, which allowed us to create smaller class sizes. Smaller class sizes ensured that we were doing all we could to minimize the spread of COVID within our classes. The plan worked very well, as CCS experienced very few problems with the virus.

However, with a return to normal in much of Ontario, we are shifting our focus back to our original plans of opening up the campus to grades JK-grade 2. I say grade 2 because at the time of this writing, we have not been able to enroll enough students to justify a grade 3/4 class. It should also be noted that we have over 30 students

enrolled in JK-grade 2, who might not otherwise be able to attend a Christian elementary school, as our West 5th campus is close to capacity in these grades.

The next phase of planning includes the launch of a Capital Campaign. CCS has hired Hathway-Stewart to provide guidance on the next steps involved in running the campaign. Three very important steps have been identified:

1. In time, we plan to tear down the old school building and construct a state of the art building that supports learning for students in grades JK-grade 8.
2. We plan to hire a Campaign Leader who will chart the course of the campaign. If you are interested in this paid position, we invite you to contact the school at [office@ccshamilton.ca](mailto:office@ccshamilton.ca).
3. We covet your prayers as we undertake this exciting initiative to provide Christian education to families in the broader Hamilton region. Consider

joining a prayer team that will meet regularly to offer up prayers to God to support the campaign, as well as the learning that will take place at both our West 5th Campus and at our Unity Campus.

Although we are in the early stages of planning, you can expect a great deal more information about our upcoming capital campaign over the next few months. In the meantime, we are excited to welcome JK-grade 2 aged children into our Unity Campus in September. 🔥



## Fundraising

By Mr. J. Hosmar

REMEMBER WHEN we used to get together for the annual Sunrise Fest? We would get to eat pancakes and sausages, hang out with friends, buy a plant or something from one of the great artisans showing their wares. Maybe you heard things from your children like "Mom, Dad, can we do the walkathon again? Last year we weren't able to do any of those fun things and this year doesn't look much different!"

Well, fear not, faithful CCS community. The Fundraising Committee has not forgotten these events, where community was had, memories were made, and funds were raised! The committee has been busy already this year, albeit in a slightly less visible manner. Already this year the committee of five has aided in the Lunchbox program where your children are able to order a different kind of lunch a few times each month. There was a popcorn sale where students could enjoy some deliciously flavoured popcorn for a snack, something that has been difficult to do this year with no microwaves in the classrooms!

The committee is not finished yet! At the time of this writing, we are organising a plant sale and a walk/bike-a-thon, but in a slightly different manner. Once the details have been ironed out, you will be given a renewed purpose for all the walks and biking that you have come to enjoy! If that is not enough, did you know that the Fundraising Committee has a page on the CCS Website where the year round fundraisers like Mabel's Labels can be found? Go on, take a look, you might be reminded of some upcoming events.

We ask that you hold this committee up in prayer for current and future endeavors as they work to bring community, build memories, and raise funds for Calvin Christian School. 🔥

## The Bazaar!

From the Bazaar Committee

THANK YOU for supporting our Bazaar this past November! The Bazaar Committee creatively reimagined the Bazaar during COVID-19. We were able to host favourites like the Christmas room, Croquettes, Home & Style, Soup, Baking, Silent Auction, Veggies, and even prepared meals including Boerenkole. A hit for the kids was the Bottle Game, reinvented as the Bottle Wheel spin game. The teachers were involved creating excitement in their classrooms, gathering bottles, and enthusiastically hosting on the day of the Bazaar. The cheers could be heard across the parking lot! Community was truly felt through your generosity and support. People expressed the ease of shopping online with curbside pickup. Drive-through payment was received and cars were loaded by our great volunteers! We are thankful for God's blessings in this event, and grateful to share we raised over **\$40,000**. 🔥



## Winter Auction 2021

From the Winter Auction Committee

DID YOU KNOW that Mrs. Eising will be enjoying a story time book reading by Mrs. Taekema? Did you know that the teachers might be enjoying baking from Joelle Bouma, unless the teacher who won the goodies is going to keep them all to himself? Did you know that Mrs. VanderWier was the winner of the Mystery Box, and her family will be enjoying some delicacies from the deluxe pressure cooker that crisps from the Ninja? Mr. & Mrs. DeWeerd have won the Gourmet Meats dinner almost every time for the last decade, and once again they didn't disappoint! Thanks to Ken and Diane for their continued support of the school. All the bid winners drove through the pick-up line and enjoyed the sun, peace and quiet in their vehicles as they waited to be loaded up.

Thank you so much to the school community for adapting with us, to support our online auction and for helping us raise over **\$24,000**! 🔥





# 2020/21 Annual Drive Update

By Mr. A. Boonstra

WE ARE THANKFUL to the Calvin Christian School community for their incredible support in raising funds for 2020/21 Annual Drive, as over \$345,000 was donated to the school – thanks be to God! Much of the money donated helped offset significant challenges that the school faced this past year because of the current health crisis. Your ongoing investment in Christian education ensures that we will be able to equip the next generation of students to shine in God's kingdom.

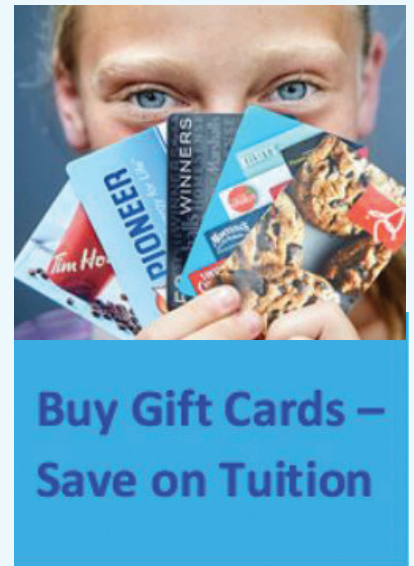
*Thank you for  
helping us raise over  
**\$345,000!***



THANK YOU for your support of the TRIP program! Although this year has been a challenging one, we are very grateful for the funds that were earned over the year by the participants in the TRIP program.

For those not familiar with our TRIP program, it's a great way to support the school by purchasing gift cards. Simply, you purchase gift cards and the school is given a discount. A percentage of the discount is passed on to the purchaser as a credit towards their tuition, or designated to another family's tuition, or to the Tuition Assistance fund.

We continue with offering both In-house retailers and the Fundscrip program. We are encouraged by the support of over 100 registered participants on the Fundscrip program. Fundscrip offers over 200 retailers to meet your purchasing needs from health and beauty to department stores to your favourite restaurants. The online website is very user friendly. This year has seen a number of new retailers join the program, including digital and online retail options like Amazon and DoorDash. So if you haven't checked out Fundscrip lately, there is no time like the present to get started as a new cycle of savings for the 2022/23 year has just begun. Go to [www.ccs.hamilton.ca/TRIP](http://www.ccs.hamilton.ca/TRIP) for more information.



## April Snowmen

GRADE 2 WAS given a snowman challenge on Wednesday, April 21. It's not everyday you get to make a snowman in April! Learning at home can be fun! 🔥





# Black History Month

Reflections by Grade 7

WE STUDY HISTORY for many different reasons, but one of the reasons is to find out more about what interests you. Portia White is a great example of that. She was the first black Canadian concert singer to win international acclaim, which means she got international popularity. She was considered one of the best classical singers of the twentieth century! Her voice was described as "a gift from heaven" by a singing critic, and she often was compared to the celebrated African American Marian Anderson who could sing very, very low. Portia White inspires me to keep doing what I love (even if it is not singing)! I hope she inspires you too!

—Jaeda H.

A way we can study history is that we can be inspired by other inspirational figures. A woman who inspired me quite substantially went by the name of Marie-Josèphe d'Angélique. We all can be inspired by this courageous woman because she was not afraid to speak up. Though it is unknown whether or not she started the great Montreal fire she still is a very influential person just like each and every one of us. For people like

me who are of colour, she is one of the many people who fought for our freedom. Her ways were quite violent. Overall I think everyone should be inspired by Marie-Josèphe d'Angélique.

—Sarah I.

One of the reasons to study history is because you want to be inspired by historical figures and the things they do. Willie O'Ree is a historical figure everyone should know about, and he should be remembered in the history of Canada and the NHL. When Willie was a young boy, he played hockey with his friends. He dreamed that he was going to be in the NHL, and his dreams came true. In 1958, Willie O'Ree stepped on the ice of his first game for the Boston Bruins, in the NHL. He was the first black player in the NHL. His playing career ended earlier than expected because of an injury, but in 1998, he became the director of youth and development for the NHL. He travels around North America to teach kids from various cultural backgrounds how to play hockey. Willie's home town of Fredericton named a hockey arena after him, honouring his achievements. Willie O'Ree's



Art by Gr. 2



Quilt by Gr. 3

actions continue to inspire the world, and he should inspire you too.

—Nathan W.

We can be inspired by the actions of others by learning about them. Lincoln M. Alexander was born in 1922 in Toronto. He was part of the Royal Canadian Air Force in World War II. He was educated at McMaster University and Osgoode Hall School of Law. He was appointed to the Queen's Counsel. He was also the first black person to become a Member of

Parliament. Lincoln Alexander was appointed Ontario's 24th Lieutenant Governor. He was the first member of a visible minority to serve as the Queen's representative in Canada. He was chair of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation. He was named the "Greatest Hamiltonian of All Time." Mr. Alexander died on October 19, 2012 at the age 90. On December 2013, the province of Ontario proclaimed January 21, Lincoln Alexander's birthday, as "Lincoln Alexander Day". He is a great example for everyone to follow.

—Evan W.



Roy K., Gr. 3A



# Outdoor Classroom

By Mrs. K. Harsevoort

CAN YOU PICTURE a class quietly filing through the halls and then racing across the pavement to pick a tree stump to sit on? Can you hear children singing praises, a bird chirping, and the murmur of Kindergarten learning across the way? Can you smile at a student standing by a stump, presenting animatedly about her invention to others in her cohort? Can you see the raincoats and blankets arranged for warmth on a dreary day as students prepare to listen to a guest speaker? Now plug your ears for a moment as

the students jump from stump to stump in a game of "The Floor is Lava" at recess.

The addition of a beautiful, natural outdoor classroom encouraged more outdoor breaks throughout the day and allowed for safe learning opportunities not available indoors this year. Students and teachers enjoyed having lessons outdoors, and often came inside refocused for the remainder of the day. A big thank you to Tyler and Andrew Eggink, Jay, Ben and Lucas Haanstra, Nathan Wamsteeker and Kodiak Tree Services for providing and installing this classroom. Though we pray that the pandemic is almost over, we know that increased outdoor learning is here to stay! 🔥



## Finding the Good in COVID-19

By Grade 5

BECAUSE OF COVID we have more time with family and we also have more time to read the Bible, pray, and spend time with God.

—Makayla W.

My grandparents lived with us before COVID-19, so now I can see them everyday while other people can't see their grandparents. My family and I started going for walks and drives in the country. We've seen a lot of sunsets too.

—Cambree D.

This virus is kind of nice because I used to not read but now there is not a ton to do, so I read a little bit.

—Rylan B.

I like having smaller classes. I get to talk more and get more chances to answer questions in class. It makes me feel more open to be myself, and I'm not as shy with a small audience.

—B.P.

The bathrooms aren't that crowded, and recess is also not too crowded.

—Rachael H.

We have more time for family and we usually take a lot of things for granted but nowadays we don't want to lose them so we hold them closer than ever before.

—Grace K.

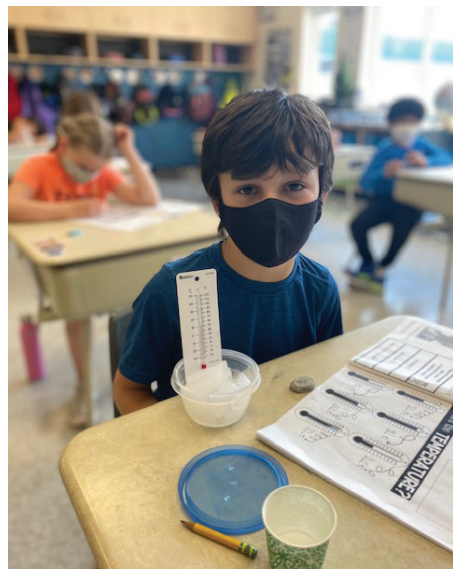
I think if we didn't have COVID-19 in our life, we would be dirtier because we don't sanitize as much as we do now.

—Noah D.

I got to know my family a lot more because I have been home more and I have played a lot of games with my family.

—Anonymous

Something good that came out of COVID-19 is I get to make a lot of crafts



with my sister and spend time with my family.

—Kate H.

The good thing about COVID-19 is that I'm reading the Bible more and I'm seeing more family.

—Julia R.

# School Counsellor Update

By Mrs. T. Schinkel RP, MC:AT

SINCE THIS pandemic started, not only has our physical health been impacted but the global impact on mental health has risen. Now that it has been over a year, research trends are starting to emerge and we are seeing the effects on mental health, especially in our children and youth.

## YOUTH ARE IN CRISIS

- Suicide attempt rates increased
- Eating disorders increased
- Use of Kids Help phone increased
- Rise in substance use/abuse
- Apathy, depression, low motivation, isolation
- Increased anxiety, heightened fear, health related anxiety
- School absences unrelated to COVID-19<sup>1</sup>

This may alarm you, or it may be something you are well aware of. In either case, awareness can help us, as long as we have accurate information and then steps to know what to do in response to this awareness. The following are some steps you can take:

### 1. UNDERSTANDING MENTAL HEALTH

| We all have mental health and having good mental health means that we experience a full range of emotions, even the uncomfortable ones. For children, some common emotions that have significantly increased this past year, for good reasons, are anxiety and depression. We all experience anxious and depressed moods at times. It is also natural for our children to feel these, especially with all the continued changes, lack of consistency, and the restrictions of this past year.

**2. GIVING OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPRESS AND VALIDATE ALL EMOTIONS** | So often we want to fix, correct, push away the negative emotions. When kids are supported in recognizing that all emotions are

okay to feel, then we can coach them on how to express them appropriately.

**3. KNOWING WHEN THE EMOTIONS ARE CONCERNING OR SIGNIFICANT** | Parents often ask "Is this behaviour or feeling concerning or normal?" First, consider where your child is at developmentally. Is this age appropriate? Next, consider if their emotions are overwhelming, persistent and/or are interfering with their daily functioning and if so, it may be helpful to seek out professional support.

- Are the emotions persistent? Do the feelings last all day/every day/constant?
- Are they prolonged? Do they last for weeks or months?
- Are they intrusive? Do they interfere with activities? Loss of interest, appetite, or energy?
- 

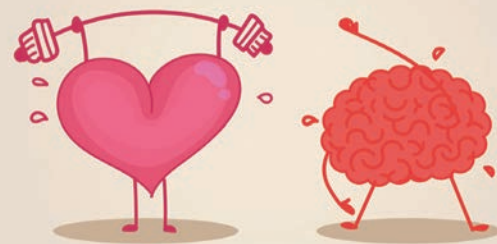
Some other red flags:

- School refusal/school avoidance
- Panic attacks
- Poor sleep at night, which can lead to distraction/lack of focus at school
- Health anxiety (focus on various somatic complaints; headaches, stomachaches, pains)
- Persistent low mood
- Lack of interest in things/Lack of motivation/Lack of energy
- Isolating self from peers
- Significant weight loss/gain
- Easily overwhelmed/stressed
- Emotionally numb

**4. REGULATING OURSELVES** | This can be the hardest thing! In Dr. Laura Markham's book *Peaceful Parent, Happy Kids*, three tips are identified for peaceful parenting: regulate yourself; foster connection; coaching, not controlling.

We are all weary, even adults, and we feel the effects on our mental health. It's okay to feel tired and burned out. We have experienced a very challenging year and it continues.

Take care of self, so you can take care of others. Implement boundaries, breaks, prioritize activities, show gratitude, pray, stay active and exercise, develop interests, connect.



*This past May 3-7, at CCS, we had a virtual school initiative to promote Mental Health Awareness Week. The student wellness team helped to promote this for the student body by creating daily activities, challenges, and mental health tips that were shared with teachers/classes.*

When we feel regulated and calm, we can regulate our kids. This is called co-regulation, and this is especially when children are young (ages 0-10) because they have not learned how to regulate themselves yet. This is tough work because that means, we need to check our emotions before responding to our kids.

We may not always get this right, in fact, it may feel like we stumble a lot through this! Admitting a mistake and correcting it can go a long way in modelling to our kids how to work through the difficult things.

In addition, routines and structure make a big difference and offer stability and predictability, which is so helpful to our overall mental health. Continue to offer comfort, stability, routine, care, and fun.

### 5. CONNECTING TO OUR FAITH AND OUR COMMUNITY

| We can lament together that our world is suffering, our children are suffering, we are suffering. This is hard. COVID-19 is not going away and we haven't yet seen all the effects. We have hope and when that hope is hard to see in our "fog," it is so important to reach out to family, friends, faith leaders, and mental health professionals.

We all have limits and when things are too much, it's okay to ask for help!

*When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset (Exodus 17:12).*

Let's hold each other's arms up! 🔥

1. "The other side of COVID-19: Mental health challenges prevalent in youth", Hamilton Health Sciences





## Home Workouts

By Mrs. R. VandenDool RP, MC:AT

WE ARE WELL into restrictions that limit what we are able to do, where we are able to go, and with whom. One thing these restrictions do not have to impact is your ability to move your body. All it takes is ten minutes of an elevated heart rate to start to reap the many benefits of exercise such as: the release of endorphins, the happy hormones, improved sleep, ease joint pain, ease anxiety, to name only a few. Movement is especially important to counter the increased time that some of us spend sitting while working from home.

1. **Get out for a walk, jog, or run at any pace.** You will burn calories and get your heart working at an increased capacity even at a slow saunter. Take your kids while they bike or scooter, or push your tiny ones in a stroller. Even ten minute intervals of exercise can have a positive impact on your body.
2. **Try a body weight workout.** This is an exercise routine done without any additional equipment. It may surprise you how much you can elevate your heart rate without any additional resistance. Think push ups, squats, side planks, wall sits. Do twelve repetitions of each movement three times.
3. **Do a weighted routine.** Fill a reusable shopping bag with some books, or fill an empty juice jug that has a handle with water. Think squats, deadlifts, biceps curls, shoulder presses. Do twelve repetitions of each movement three times.
4. **Spike your heart rate** with a high-intensity interval workout (HIIT). Pick 3-4 movements. Do each movement continuously for 40 seconds and take a 20 second rest. Repeat for as many rounds as you have time for. Think front planks, jump squats, skater lunges.

Do you have further questions about what exercises you should be doing or whether you have correct form? There are many personal trainers or physiotherapists who can help guide you through a safe routine. Many can do so via a virtual session, so you don't have to leave your home. There are also many great resources that can be found online or through social media platforms. It doesn't have to be complicated. Try something new or get back into something you know you enjoy to reap the countless benefits. 🔥

*Rachel VandenDool is a CCS parent, and works as a Registered Physiotherapist at Origin Physiotherapy.*



Sophia T., Gr. 1C



Ady V. Gr. 1C

# The Sacred Expression of Lament

By Wendy Groenewegen on behalf of CCS Racial Diversity and Belonging Committee

RECENTLY I HEARD the phrase, “the sacred expression of lament,” and it resonated with me. This past year, living in a pandemic has been tough for all of us. It has been painful and raw, full of losses, grief, and difficulties that many of us have not experienced before. We’ve been in isolation, holding our grief alone and distanced. We’ve also held fear and uncertainty. We have collectively felt the need to lament.

Last May, the world heard about George Floyd and the world rose up in response.

I remember hearing the news, and my response was personal and visceral. Something inside me broke. My youngest two children are Black, and so this tragedy hit me hard. I wept for the senseless loss, for the cruelty, and for the brokenness. I wept tears of repentance at my own complicity. What part did I have to play in this tragedy? How can I do more, and what can I learn? How had I stood by and tolerated words of intolerance? When should I have spoken up, and when should I have been paying better attention?

Over this past year, COVID-19 racism has been on the rise. Our Asian brothers and sisters have been reporting increased violence, aggression, and assault toward them. This is true in Canada as well. Canada has a higher number of anti-Asian racism reports per Asian capita than in the United States. This includes verbal abuse, harassment, racial slurs, threats and derogatory remarks. The Asian community is reporting targeted coughing, spitting, physical attacks and violence. ([project1907.org/reportingcentre/](https://project1907.org/reportingcentre/))

This is what the Calvin Christian School Racial Diversity and Belonging Committee is learning about, and the journey that we have been on. We have been in a posture of repentance and reflection.

The challenge is to move beyond our own feelings on hearing another’s pain. Learning about racism and inequities,

and our own privilege and unconscious bias, can invoke two initial responses. One response is a defensiveness; “It’s not me. I’m not intolerant. I have not hurt anyone.” The other response is dismissiveness, “But is that really true? How can we know for certain? Does it really happen at our school? Surely there is a reason for this behaviour. Let’s just see how the dust settles.”

The members of the Racial Diversity and Belonging Committee at CCS understand these responses and have worked through them ourselves. We have done a lot of learning, listening, and educating ourselves to get through this initial response. We had guests speak with our committee. Students of colour have shared with us what their experiences have been like as students at CCS and at other Christian schools. We had the privilege to host an educator and diversity leader in the Christian school community who has worked through these responses with us. Slowly, our team is diversifying, and as more parents in the school have joined us, we are starting to better reflect the population of our student body. We have learned from each other.

It is difficult to move past our initial defenses and to enter into the pain of another human being and then to sit and share their suffering, but this is what love looks like. Love is not passive, and it is more than just tolerance. It doesn’t wait and watch and ask, “prove to me this is your experience.” Love enters in. It is brave, it hurts, and it is humble. Love casts aside pride, sits in its own discomfort, and listens. Then love weeps with those who weep, and mourns with those who mourn. This is the sacred act of lament. \*\*

Jesus modelled for us the sacred act of lament. Jesus heard that his friend Lazarus was gravely ill. He was on his way to Lazarus, and told his disciples he was going to “wake him up.” Martha and then Mary both met him as he neared. They came toward him with anguish, with

a grief so heavy, and a pain too difficult to bear. Their world was broken. They said to Jesus, “if you were here, our brother would not have died.” Was it a faith statement or broken words of frustration? (John 11)

If Jesus was anything like us, he might have become defensive. He told them he was coming, but he took three days because Lazarus wasn’t the only life that mattered. Other people had needed Jesus too, and he healed them along the way. If Jesus was like us, he may have diminished their pain. Why were they weeping? Didn’t they know he was the Son of God? He was going to raise their brother in just a few moments.

Yet the Bible says that when Jesus saw Mary and all the family weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit. And then...

Jesus wept.

He was moved by their pain and he wept. The Son of God told the disciples that he was going to wake Lazarus up. He knew his plan and in his divinity saw into the future and the result was clear. And yet, He was moved by their pain and anguish, and...

He wept.

The sacred expression of lament. The world is not as it should be. The pain of others is so heavy to hold. The movement of the Spirit that prompts us to feel another’s anguish and weep.

Celebrating diversity and all of the unique and beautiful ways that God has created us is important. We know that we are all made in His image. We want to see the colour, race, culture and experiences of each other. This is the beautiful tapestry that God has created. We want our school to be a community that reflects the heaven we are told about in



Revelation, where “a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages stand before the throne and before the Lamb.” (Revelation 7:9)

And yet, celebrating isn't enough. We need to recognize that each person has a story, and an experience that we couldn't possibly understand from our own limited view. We need to start listening to each other, start putting aside our initial feelings of defensiveness, and examining ourselves to acknowledge that we all have unconscious bias. We need to see our own privilege and recognize inequities. We need to learn to listen. We need to build relationships, honour each other, and value each other's input. We need to amplify the voices of those who are feeling oppressed. It is good to weep together, yes, but then work to do better.

The broken world is all around us. Racism exists. We need to speak out against injustice, and as a good friend of mine once said to me, “And we need to call it that (unjust). And when the voices of those hurting break because it's all too hard, and because they can see the face of their loved one in each one who has suffered; they need their people, their church, family and friends and community to call it that for them.”

This is the work of the Racial Diversity and Belonging Committee. It is hard work, but it is good work. Would you join us? 🔥

*There are many Black Christian leaders who are publicly teaching and sharing and you can follow them on instagram and social media.*

*Osheta Moore teaches about entering into another person's suffering in her podcast, Shalom Sistas: [apple.co/3v6siw6](https://apple.co/3v6siw6)*

*Danielle Cook teaches about the good work of anti-racism and how love enters in: [ohhappydani.com](https://ohhappydani.com)*



Isabelle V., 6B



Rose G., 6B



Hayan K., 5B



Noah D., 5B



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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.



## Quotable Quotes

Overheard in a grade 1 classroom, while working on chromebooks, one student said to another, “**Did you know that even computers can get the virus?**”

Unintended pun of the week:  
Teacher: Why were you in the bathroom so long?  
Student: **I was stalling.**

Grade 2 student on a really nice day in March: “**I could live in this day forever.**”



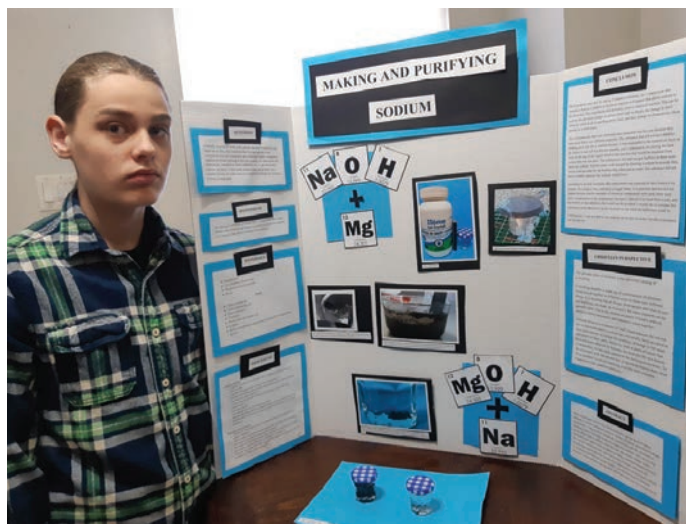
# Grade 7 and 8 Science Fair

By Mr. A. Boonstra

THE GRADE 7 AND 8 students worked hard on science fair projects in January and February. Several students submitted their projects to the Bay Area Science and Engineering Fair. A virtual awards ceremony was recently held, and several students from CCS were honoured by an award.

Congratulations to Adam B. from grade 8 for receiving the Chemical Institute of Canada Award, Sarah I. in grade 7 for receiving the Nelson Steel Award, Emily B. in grade 8 for receiving the Bronze Merit Award, and Lauren D. in grade 8 for receiving the Gold Merit Award. In addition to the Gold Merit Award, Lauren D. was also selected to be a part of a small team of winners who will be moving on to compete in the (virtual) all Canada science fair competition! Congratulations to all students and best of luck to Lauren as she continues to compete in this Canada-wide competition in May!

Additionally, Mr. Wensink was recognized as the Bay Area Science and Engineering Fair's Champion Teacher! This award is given to a teacher who has been nominated by their students, and a panel of BASEF organizing committee members and "recognizes a science teacher who displays a remarkable ability to empower and excite student interest in science." Along with the recognition comes a \$500 cheque to be used in the classroom. Congratulations Mr. Wensink, and thank you for all you do to support our students in science and engineering! 🔥



Adam B.



Emily B.



Sarah I.



Lauren D.

## Champion Teachers

Scott Mifsud



John William Boich Public School  
Halton District School Board



Nathan Wensink



Calvin Christian School  
Hamilton



## Grade 8 Ceiling Tiles

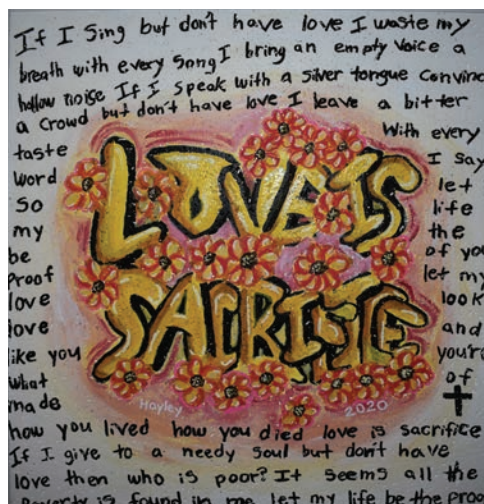
By Mrs. S. Wikkerink

WHEN YOU WALK through the upstairs halls of the CCS West Fifth campus, you can't help but notice the brightly painted ceiling tiles above you. Since 2001, small groups of students from every grade eight class have been selected to design and paint a ceiling tile to represent their class to the community for years to come. The first two tiles painted were done by the last grade eight classes in the original CCS building.

Last spring, because of the COVID-19 shutdowns, arranging a time for students to work together on the ceiling tiles became an impossible task. After some brainstorming and much coordination, six students from the graduating class of 2020 were able to pick up smaller tiles in September and paint them at their homes. When they were completed, they returned them to the school, where they will now be on display for many years to come.

Thank you to Claire, Hope, Eden, Kate, Hayley, and David for all of your hard work on your ceiling tiles! 🌹

Clockwise from top left: Claire E., Hope W., Eden W., Kate W., Hayley V., David I.



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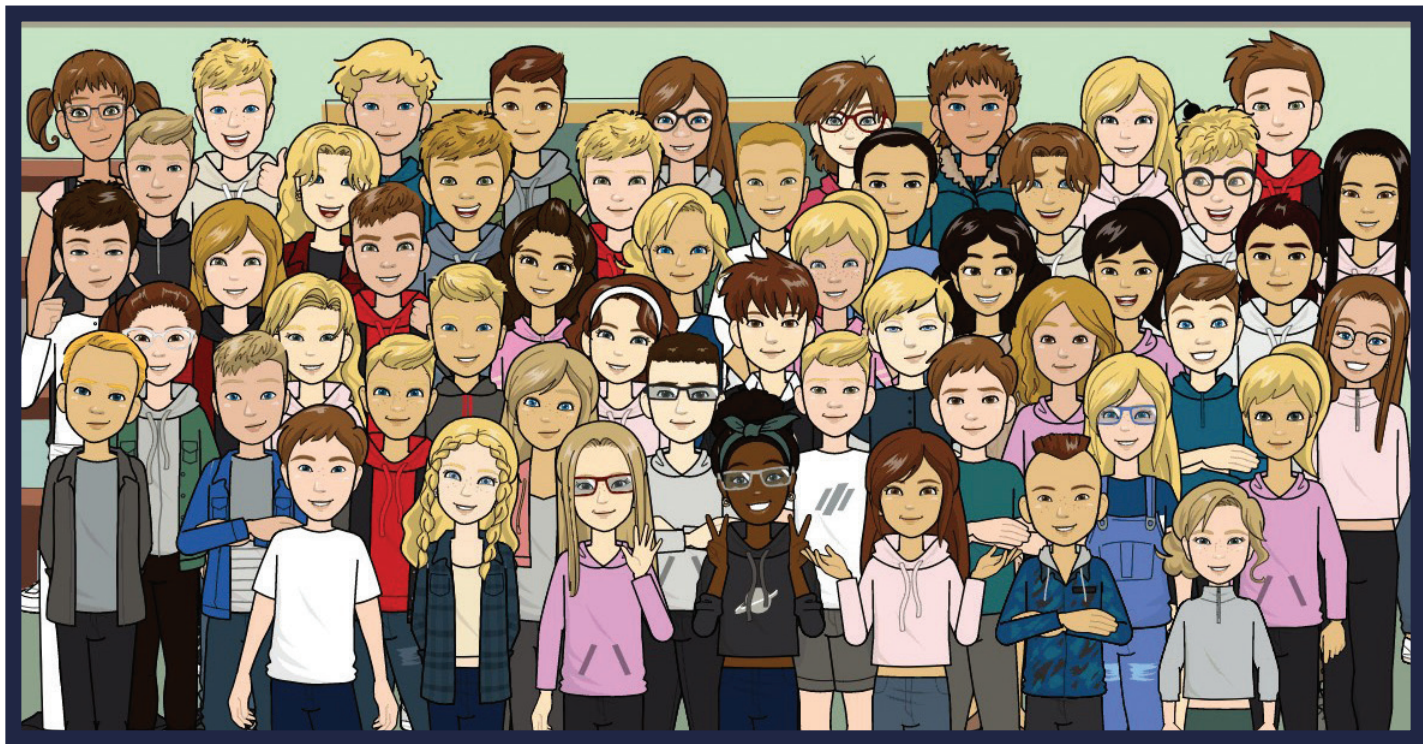
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## GRADUATE REFLECTIONS

**DARREN D.** I attended CCS since SK and made many great friends. My teachers were caring and patient. I really like Mr. Boonstra too. We had many great talks. I liked all gym and art classes, especially in grade 7 & 8. I learned new things, and have gone on many special class trips, like going to the water park! I will miss going to CCS, it was a safe, caring, and supportive school.

**DASOM J.** I was scared and nervous on my first day of CCS, but also kind of excited. People were welcoming and friendly. I made a lot of good friends at CCS. The teachers were kind. When I didn't understand something, they explained it to me really well. I am thankful that I could attend CCS for the last 4 years, it was an amazing experience, which I will always remember.

**ADAM B.** CCS is an amazing school, with caring and compassionate people. I started at CCS in kindergarten and then moved to another school and then moved back to CCS. As soon as I moved back Josh asked if I wanted to be friends. The teachers were helpful. One favorite memory is the spinning thing on the new playground. Thank you to everyone who made my school years so successful.

**BRAYDEN M.** I always felt welcomed at CCS by the incredible staff. I deeply value the great friends and strong relationships I made there. I love the school-wide events like field day, which bring us closer together. I also loved learning more about God and the Bible. I have grown in my faith in Christ. All in all, I couldn't have asked for a better school than CCS!

**ELIAS D.** I attended CCS for ten years, roughly 1,890 days of my life. I learned how to calculate that math problem. I enjoyed the many sports programs, specifically playing on the soccer team when we won a tournament. Although covid interrupted my seventh and eighth years and cut off those sporting events, my teacher organized various intramurals for just my grade, which was awesome. I've made many friends and had a great time at CCS.

**ELIZABETH P.** I joined CCS in grade 3 and immediately fit in. The teachers and staff are amazing and cared about me. I was never afraid to ask for help. People were there for me when I felt sad or lonely. I have so many awesome memories, from selling snow boulders, to burying my friends in goldfish crackers, to Wednesday piano lessons. Thank you CCS for changing my life, for all the fun adventures, for helping learn more about Jesus, and for the awesome friends.

**EMILY B.** I came to CCS in grade 2 and was nervous about starting a new school, but I have made many great friends. I learned a lot, academically and about how to be a more Christ-driven person. I appreciate the supportive and helpful staff. With all the skills that I have learned while at CCS, I know I will be ready to go into my future shining God's light. I am so thankful for these past six years and all the memories and experiences.

**EMMA L.** CCS helped me with my faith and understanding the Bible and God's world. The teachers told stories about how God has helped his people and why we need to trust in



him. Even though I go to church CCS has helped me learn more about it and discover more about the Bible that I never knew. I have learned how Christians should act even outside of the church.

**HALIE M.** CCS is an amazing school, full of life, and provides a great environment for learning. The friends I made in JK are still my close friends today. The teachers and staff are there to encourage you and help. The school has great activities and events which make learning fun and enjoyable for all. I have made so many great memories here and I could not ask for a better elementary school.

**HANA K.** I came to CCS in grade seven. It was my first school in Canada. I was really nervous because I could not speak English very well. I didn't know what people were saying. It's funny to think of it now. I feel my mind changed a lot after coming to CCS. The teachers here are so nice and friendly. CCS has many events or activities that I enjoyed. In the classroom we were always encouraged to share our ideas and to communicate with others. Even though it was a short time, I have many great memories at CCS.

**HUDSON D.** I enjoyed and will remember my time at CCS. The biggest factor for me about CCS was the community. Everyone, from the staff, my peers, and even the bus drivers were kind and full of love and joy from the bottom of their hearts. Bible based learning was also very important to me. The overall positivity and generosity around me was amazing! Even little things like when someone picked me up when I fell or smiled at me when I was having a tough time. This positive environment made CCS a one-in-a-million school for me. I loved my time at CCS so much, and I will deeply miss it.

**JAKOB V.** I started at CCS in Kindergarten, and was readily accepted by friends. Over the years, I was a part of many different friend groups, and I value them all. I've learned a lot here, from algebra to painting to playing the saxophone. I've had really great teachers, and will cherish all the memories I've made here. I'll really miss all the teachers and friends I won't see anymore as I move on.

**JAX S.** CCS is an amazing school with a great community. I was homeschooled up until I came in grade 5. At first I was nervous. I had never really been to school before, but everyone was so kind and welcoming, and I was able to build relationships that still last today. In addition to the community at CCS, the education is also great. The teachers always challenge you to work your hardest and try your best in every subject.

**JOSHUA R.** CCS is a Christian school that my mother attended before me. Despite a few bad memories, the majority of my time at school was enjoyed with my friends. The school has changed plenty since I started, mostly for the better. Nostalgia at its finest will be the first floor classrooms from now on. Most of my greatest memories involve a boat, my extended family, and CCS Hamilton.

**LEX V.B.** I've been at CCS since I was 4 years old, and every year has brought new experiences and exciting friendships. I've never felt unwanted or alone in this school. There is a great atmosphere and communication between students and staff. They don't just teach, but they also help you fully understand whatever they are showing you. CCS is a great school, and has taught me so many things over the course of my years here.

**MACKENZIE S.** CCS is an experience that I wouldn't trade for anything. I met so many amazing friends who helped me become who I am today. I learned things like how to work with others, how to be hard working and stay on task. Everyone was welcoming and kind. My favourite memory was playing hockey on the ice at Fair Glen. I will always remember the experiences I had while attending CCS.

**MATTHIAS C.** CCS is a wonderful school with opportunities for everyone. I came to CCS in grade 6 and instantly felt comfortable, like I was at home. I learned so much from the curriculum, but that's not where it ends. You can learn so much extra outside of CCS's classrooms, from recess to going on class field trips. Other advantages of attending this school are the awesome teachers and relationships you can make with them and the students. I am thankful for the memories.

**MEGAN Z.** From Jubilee to grade 8, the teachers and staff have been so kind in helping students grow in knowledge and faith. They helped to shape us to be the people we are today. At CCS you really feel the community of others all around you. I will never forget the friends I made during my time at CCS, because they are the best friends ever! Even though my final year was different than what I was expecting, my teachers tried to make it a fun year for us, so thank you.

**NAOMI C.** Since Kindergarten, all of my teachers were amazing. Some are funny, some are athletic, and some are musical, but all of them are caring and kind. My classmates are great too. I made lots of friendships that I'm sure will last for a long time. Some of my favourite subjects are math, composition, and art, but most of all P.E. because I love being active and playing sports. My experiences at CCS have been very meaningful and memorable.

**NELLA B.** CCS is a great school. I loved the field trips, assemblies, and recess. My favourite subjects were art, literature, and composition. P.E. was also pretty fun. I liked running around and playing games like dodgeball or capture the flag. All the teachers were really nice. I loved hanging out with my friends. I was very happy to go to Unity for grade 8 because I loved the amazing space with the broken fences and the garden. You could just step over the fence and escape from school! I enjoyed the freedom at Unity!

**TREVOR S.** Calvin Christian School is a great school, I have been at CCS for ten years and enjoyed every single year. One of my favorite memories is the Fair Glen field trip.

At Fair Glen we did all kinds of stuff like outdoor games, cross-country skiing, hockey, snowshoeing, and we had a mini church service, and many other activities. I really enjoyed going to CCS.

**JOSHUA R.** When I started at CCS, I knew no one. Then I made a lot of friends. I went to CCS so I can learn more about God. My friends and I can pray for each other when things are going wrong. I liked the Mars project because it was so fun to learn about Mars. I went to Fair Glen. I had a lot of fun with my friends and just hung out.

**SAM M.** CCS in 2021 was a year of many new things. Grade 8's went to a new school building, learned in new ways and had one new teacher. We were disappointed that we had to wear masks and couldn't be on sports teams or go on school trips but we made the best of it. We got used to taking the bus to and from West 5th every day. I'll miss the friends I made at CCS.

**ROSE H.** I came to CCS in kindergarten. When I first arrived, there was tape telling you where to sit, and I ended up sitting beside the two people that would become my friends. I continued to make a lot of different friends and met new people. I love CCS because the community is really nice, the teachers are pleasant, and I found that I learned so many different things about God and the world. I am so glad I was able to go to CCS and have the opportunity to learn.

**RACHEL C.** I love the amazing memories I made at CCS. I had fun going to sports tournaments, practicing for the musical, and making friends. I learned so much during my time at CCS. Although we weren't able to do as much in grades 7 and 8, the teachers did their best to make things awesome and fun for all of us!

**OLIVIA W.** Bible classes, morning meetings and Christian friends and teachers at CCS helped me grow in my walk with Christ since I started school in Jubilee. I learned the subjects like math and science, and also learned independence and compassion. Even though my grade eight year was not what I expected it to be, the teachers did their best to make it as enjoyable as possible.

**NOAH V.** I was happy to be at CCS for ten years. Each year was packed with learning, fun activities, great teachers, new friends, and awesome subjects. The teachers helped me get closer to God every day, through studying the Bible, prayer. An important part of my time at CCS was the community. Helping Neighbor-to-Neighbor, meeting new people, making new friends, and the bazaar, are only a few things that I've been a part of. CCS has shaped my future in a positive way.

**CHIUGO O.** When I came to CCS in grade two, I was new to the Christian school system, but through the years I learned so many new things about my faith in God. CCS has helped me to be a kind, generous, and courageous person. All of the teachers and staff were super caring and taught

me how to work towards, and eventually fulfill, my goals and dreams. I've made so many amazing friends and great memories at CCS, and I am so thankful for being able to come to such an amazing school.

**CALEB V.D.B.** I had 10 great years at CCS. I learned skills beyond the usual subjects like math, writing, and French. I learned patience, integrity, courtesy, hope, discipline, motivation, and how to have a good time. At CCS I learned more about Christianity and how to find faith in our world and in myself. The field trips and retreats at CCS were among my favorite memories. I will never forget CCS and will use the life lessons that I was taught.

**OWEN K.** I have been at CCS for six years. I knew some people before I came. Then I met my best friend, Joshua. I made other friends. My favourite subject is P.E. because I like sports. I also enjoy recess because I play with my friends. In class I like to be kind, helpful and funny to people.

**BRADLEY W.** CCS is many things to me: a workspace, a great place to experience Christian education, and a place to have lifelong memories. I made many good friends and enjoyed extracurricular activities like the spring musical and master field day. The textbook lessons are interesting enough, but what really makes it interesting and fun is what the teachers do, like making a game to experience the hardships of the fur traders or learning about probability by playing a class wide game of battleship. The CCS teachers know how to make learning more interactive and fun.

**CHARLYSSE M.** CCS is an amazing school and the teachers and staff are all kind. My favourite thing is seeing my friends. My favourite subject is Bible because I love learning more about God and how to be a good Christian. I enjoy class trips, but sadly, we couldn't do that in grade 8. When I came to CCS, I was nervous, but it helped to have my brother Kayden with me. I learned a lot of new things in CCS. I am thankful for this school and the wonderful teachers.

**JUSTIN P.** When I started in Jubilee, my parents thought I might cry when they left but I just said "Bye!" and went into the classroom. I attended CCS because my parents wanted me to learn in a Christian community. Some of my favourite memories are the class retreats. I liked my time at Fair Glen even though we missed a day due to a snow storm. I am sad that we didn't have any special trips for Grade 7 or 8. Thank you to my teachers who made learning and spending time together enjoyable.

**LILIANNA S.** I loved my SK teacher, Mrs. Wiebenga, my first year at CCS. When Rachel joined the class we became instant friends. I have made many friends at CCS, and learned a lot from my teachers. My favourite subjects were PE and French. I enjoyed school sports, especially Master Field Day, and missed these in grades 7 & 8.

**ANA V.** My time at CSS has been very memorable. Over my eight years here, I've deepened my understanding of the



Bible, learned about the different subjects I take, and become a more respectful and kind person. The teachers are wonderful and they've taught us both our curriculum and important life lessons. I love going out for recess with all the great friends I've made. I'm definitely going to miss this school when I graduate.

**AUSTIN A.** I loved my time at CCS. When I first came to Calvin in grade 6 I was really scared and nervous to meet new people, but when I got there everyone was really nice and welcoming. I was asked to play manhunt with everyone the first day I came which made me feel like I belonged. People helped me find my classroom and made it an overall great experience.

**AVA V.** I attended CCS in grades 1 & 2, and I loved going to school. I was very upset to leave when I moved to Memphis, Tennessee for two years. There, I attended a public school in a non-Christian environment, which was bad for my health and mind. My family returned to Hamilton when I was in grade 5, and I was warmly welcomed back by the principal, staff and students. At CCS, I learned more about God, grew in my faith, and had the opportunity to take interest in school sports. I am blessed to have attended CCS. It has been an eye-opening experience.

**BEN H.** I have been at CCS for ten years. My time at CCS has been pretty good. My favourite subject is gym. The class trips were pretty great, especially Fair Glen. Since the world was hit by the coronavirus pandemic we moved to a different

location in Caledonia. It was awesome because it is close to my house and I didn't have to take the bus.

**DANIEL K.** I came to CCS in grade six after moving to Hamilton from Korea. I was a little nervous to go to school because everyone was new to me and everything was a lot different than Korean school, but teachers were nice and welcoming. I was afraid of how to make friends but now I have a friend, Darren. I enjoyed Art class because I used to study Art in South Korea. When I came to CCS that was the first time going to a Christian school. Learning about God in class made me understand him more.

**GRACE T.** I have so many connections and relationships with the teachers and staff at CCS. I have been here since JK, and I am so glad I stayed until graduation. I have learned basic math skills, how to make friends, how to include others, and how to connect with and trust God. I am so thankful that CCS has shaped me into who I am today. I love seeing CCS expand so they can teach even more students.

**LAUREN D.** I started at Calvin Christian School in Kindergarten. I have learned much more than just math, reading and science. I have learned how to work hard, and how to be a good friend. I have learned so much about God and how to be a Christian, not only in Bible class, but through the caring teachers, staff, and the principal. I will never forget the community of CCS and everything that I have learned, academically, spiritually, physically, and personally.



**MICAH D.** During my time at CCS, I have been able to experience great opportunities such as sports teams, Battle of the Books and field day. Being part of the CCS community has allowed me to make new friendships and continue old ones. Thanks to CCS, I am graduating grade eight with an excellent education.

**NICHOLAS N.** I've loved each year of my ten years at CCS! I met some of my best friends in Jubilee. I enjoyed the many ways the teachers taught over the years - each unique and engaging. The learning I've experienced at CCS has expanded how I think about the world we live in. P.E. is my favorite subject, even more in grades 7 & 8 because we learned some new sports and activities. We also learned leadership as we taught our class a new activity or sport.

**NOAH H.** I came to CCS in grade 5. It was a tough year moving to a new school but the teachers and student community made me feel welcome. I learned not only math, science, Bible and other subjects but to be kind to others, to work hard, and especially to love God. Even though Covid limited the things we did we still made it fun and looked on the bright side. I want to thank CCS for blessing me with kindness and such a good time.

**TORI M.** I have gone to school at CCS for 10 years and I have gained many things during those years. I have made many friends over the years. One of my favourite things from CCS was the Canada studies unit in the primary grades. I really enjoyed all the different parts of Canada's history we were able to learn about.

**TRISTAN D.B.** I came to CCS in Jubilee where I was welcomed by very nice teachers. I soon became good friends with many other people, as I still have relationships with them today. My favourite class is P.E and in my grade eight year at Unity campus we played a lot of dodgeball.

**NATHAN Z.** CCS was good because it had great education and teachers. There were basketball nets, soccer nets, and at the Unity campus lots of space and an outdoor volleyball net. Another good part about CCS is that there were a lot of fun class trips such as Fair Glen and Binge-mans water park. I would recommend CCS as a good school to go to.

**JULIANNA H.** I liked going to CCS because I made some great friends. During school, other than learning, we were able play sports with our classmates outside. In grade 8, we got the opportunity to play volleyball intramurals, which was a lot of fun.


**GABRIELLA G.** I've been going to CCS since Jubilee and I have lots of fun memories. In grade four me and my best friend, Charlysse, did a Maud Lewis project. In grade seven we went on a ski trip. The bus ride was my favorite part. I really liked all the art projects I've done throughout the years and I liked that everytime I walked upstairs I saw paintings on the ceiling.

**TRISTAN S.** Even though I attended Calvin Christian School for many years, the thing that I remember most was working at home in front of a laptop for a big part of grades seven and eight. I also remember watching the tractors on the sod field behind the Unity campus, and building and playing in a fort made of twigs and branches.

**ELIJAH L.** CCS is pretty good. The teachers are awesome. The staff is always making sure it's a good school with a fun learning environment. I met my best friends there, who share loads of common interests with me. I'm glad I came to CCS for friends and for fun learning. There's something magical about sitting down surrounded by friends and classmates and also working with them on assignments and projects. I've had so much fun here and I'm going to miss CCS.

**SHANE K.** I attended CCS from Jubilee to Grade 8. It was a great time because there were so many welcoming teachers and people who were willing to help me when I needed it. The memories are so fun to think about. If we were bored we would figure something out to have fun. It was so easy to catch onto the learning lessons here at CCS. My favourite part of CCS was the class trips and the things we got to do as a grade. I can't say thank you enough.

**NICOLE M.** CCS is a great Christian environment. The teachers are always nice and encouraging. I have been at CCS since kindergarten. Everyone was nice and I have made many friends through the years. CCS has taught me that learning can be fun and interactive. To sum it up, CCS is a great school.



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