

i n T O U C H

2022/2023 | Issue 1

**RE-SOURCE
THRIFT SHOP
DONATES
\$1,000,000**

**MEET SYDNIE,
CCS'S ASSISTANT
THERAPY DOG**

**MRS. HEEG
RECEIVES THE
TEACHER
EXCELLENCE AWARD**



Arn Boonstra Connections

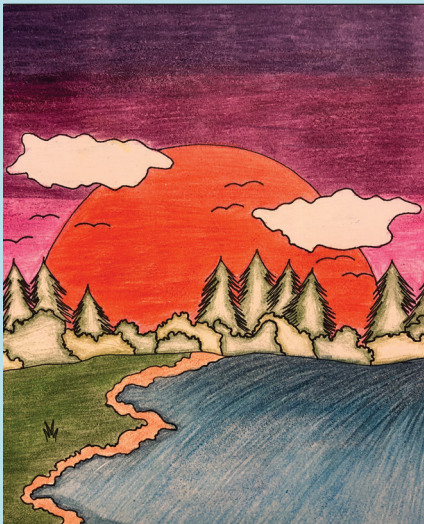
by Mr. A. Boonstra, Principal



WHILE DRIVING HOME FROM SCHOOL earlier this year, I was listening to the radio and heard an advertisement pertaining to students attending public educational institutions returning back to school. The ad referenced how our publicly funded institutions would be prepared to welcome students back to a full school experience, which included in person learning, extracurricular activities, and a focus on math, science and technology. A special emphasis was on preparing students for the workforce. The curricular focus is what caught my attention. While I agree with the importance of teaching the skills associated with math, tech, and science, I was puzzled by the lack of focus on teaching discernment, decision making, and collaboration. Whereas I value our public school system and I really see the importance of it, I was disappointed that there was no mention of what is also truly needed in our education system. In this complex and polarized society, why was there no mention of teaching students the importance of discernment and getting along with others? I know the importance of math, tech and science, but what about the important lessons found in English, history, social studies and fine arts? There is no doubt in my mind that STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) learning can provide the important answers as they pertain to dealing with the physical realities of life, but I'm not sure they help us as much in dealing with poverty, discrimination, caring for our neighbours, and other social justice issues—issues that God commands us to address.

The church I attend runs a girls program called GEMS (Girls Everywhere Meeting the Saviour), which has Micah 6:8 as the theme verse. The passage—"do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God" speaks very specifically to the importance of addressing some of the more pressing issues in our society, especially as it relates to loving our neighbours. I believe that Christian education, and Calvin Christian School in particular, strives to instill the need to love our neighbours, and the units and lessons we teach are tailored to doing that. Each morning teachers begin the day with scripture reading and devotions, with the intent of bringing purpose and direction to our day. We are blessed to be able to provide students with the rationale as to why we must address poverty, injustice, war, and other things that plague our world and communities.

I recently had the opportunity to engage in a couple of professional development opportunities. The first event I attended was the Christian Schools Canada Leadership Conference held in Winnipeg. The theme of the conference was "At the Table".



Jael P., Grade 8B

Four broad topics were covered:

- The table is a place of **Blessing**: together we give thanks to God and are eager for God's word of blessing and direction.
- The table is a place of **Brokenness**: family tables are often messy, with impassioned (and sometimes) heated discussion, where people share the hard things in life.
- The table is a place of **Connection**: we slow down, we listen, we share stories, we laugh and cry, and we are nourished.
- The table is a place of **Giving**: where we encourage, nurture and equip each other for life away from the table, where we embody in the world the love we experienced around the Table.

From the conversations at this conference, I was reassured that the work we do at CCS is Kingdom work, work that God has called us to do. The education at CCS is so much more than preparing students for a well paying job. We are called to sit around a table and address the messiness of life, and that messiness takes part in a caring community setting, where we seek to reflect God's love to those around us. Part of that calling includes relying on God's Holy Spirit, rather than on our own abilities.

At the conference we also had the privilege to listen to Danielle Strickland, who was one of the keynote speakers. Ms. Strickland referenced the concept of power and how God's power is different from our earthly concepts of power. The following points stood out for me:

- Access to God's power is found in intimacy with Jesus. Jesus created connections with people often inviting them to eat with him "at the table".
- God's power is unlimited.
- If we operate out of fear, we will be oppressed or we will be the oppressor.
- The power God gives to us allows us to lay down our lives for others.
- Power should be other-centered, not self-centered.

You can see that if we operate with even some of the above understanding of power, we will make this world a better place to live. This understanding of power is not related to well paying jobs and successful careers, although those things may be important. Rather, it is other focused, using our influence or power for the betterment of others, knowing that our true power lies in the strength of our local and global communities. At CCS, we call this "equipping to shine".

inTOUCH

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

2 Timothy 3:17

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

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

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



ABC Connections cont'd

The second conference I attended was the Edvance Annual Gathering held at the end of October at Redeemer University. The theme of this conference was "Flourishing Together" and included the broad themes of a shared purpose in our Christian schools where we "work toward a greater good to which we aspire together," and doing this work in authentic relationships, or in relationships that allow us to thrive and flourish, as was articulated by the keynote speakers. At CCS, there has been a concerted effort to be more intentional when it comes to authentic relationships and community building. Our Racial Diversity and Belonging Committee specifically reflects upon ways in which we can flourish together as a school community, and our teachers create lessons and opportunities for students to be mindful of the importance of belonging.

These efforts are done with an eye towards thriving and flourishing relationships in our broader community, which seem more important than ever in our polarized society.

There were lots of additional great learning opportunities at the two conferences, as our calling as educators is so much more than equipping students to acquire skills to get a good job or to make a lot of money. The work carried out in Christian schools is designed to make the world a better place to live, a place that reflects God's norms for living in community. Please pray for the mission of Calvin Christian School as we seek to equip our students to shine, to shine not for their own glory, but for the Glory of our Creator and God. ●



Unity Campus Corner

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

HAVING ONE SCHOOL YEAR BEHIND US, we entered into our second year at Unity campus with excitement as we welcomed 20 new students, spanning from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3. To see this growth in one year is a testament to God's faithfulness and the continual support of our community. I want to thank all those who have been praying for this new campus of Calvin Christian School. Witnessing the students growing together, developing skills, and learning about their Creator is a result of the many prayers and hours of planning that has gone into establishing Unity Campus.

With growing enrollment, we welcomed two new faculty members to join the Unity Team: Mrs. Amanda Steed (Part-time Kindergarten) and Mrs. Candice Louw (Grade 2/3). The addition of these two staff members has been a blessing to our school community.

The theme chosen for Unity Campus this year comes from 1 Thessalonians 5:11a: "Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up." While the staff works together to create a safe learning environment for our students that evokes wonder and curiosity, there is also the task of being intentional when establishing how each person at Unity campus works together to make everyone feel welcomed and loved. This is summarized in our theme's tagline, Build Each Other Up. So what does this look like in practice?

As the school body gathered for chapel in the first month of school, both staff and students generated a list of Unity





School Norms. These phrases, which are now common language at Unity Campus, are helpful reminders about how we care for one another as well as the rest of God's creation. The five Norms are:

- Better Together
- Kind Words
- Help Others
- Keep Learning
- Leave No Trace

Students this year have jumped back into edVenture learning, outdoor learning, and trips to the forest, where they have the opportunity to discover God's creation. They've been able to learn more about who God is, who they are as His children, and how we are called to serve. Celebrations of Learning has showcased student work like the Days of Creation and a seasonal art exhibit inspired by an Indigenous artist. Students also reached out to their community through a food drive for the Caledonia Food Bank, and at this Christmas season's gathering they'll be collecting supplies for the Haldimand Pregnancy Care and Family Centre.

We look forward with anticipation to what God has planned here at Unity Campus. 🟡



Teacher Excellence Award

IT IS ALWAYS A WONDERFUL TIME when we get to hear about and celebrate the excellence in Christian Schools across Canada. The Teacher Excellence Award, organized by Cardus, Christian School Foundation, EduDeo, and Christian School Canada, is a great example. This award recognizes educators at both the elementary and secondary levels who show ongoing investment in furthering Christian education.

This year, our very own Mrs. Diane Heeg was the recipient of the Teacher Excellence Award for the Kindergarten to Grade 4 category! Diane Heeg has taught at Calvin Christian School for many years, and most recently has been involved with both developing and implementing edVenture learning at the Grade 1 level at the CCS Unity Campus. Her love and passion is clearly evident through the rich Biblical themes that are woven into each lesson she has designed. In her teaching, Diane demonstrates a longing for students to know who God is—through discovery and wonder—and that they are deeply loved by Him. We congratulate Diane as the recipient of this well-deserved award.

To view more about Diane's work on edVenture learning check out teacherexcellenceaward.com





The Campaign has begun!

by Ms. H. Vreugdenhil, CCS Capital Campaign Administrator

BUILDING UNITY has gone from a concept to a reality in 2022, thanks to the wonderful blessing from God that has been visible through the generosity of so many people in the CCS community. As we work towards the goal of raising 5 million dollars in support of this project, all of us involved want to take a moment to say a heartfelt thank you to those who have already given of their time, abilities, and financial resources to the Building Unity Campaign.

Building Unity began as the answer to a challenge that CCS was facing. For seventy years God has blessed the school on West 5th as generations of children were educated there. We hope all of you who follow CCS on social media such as Instagram and Facebook have been enjoying the "Throwback Thursday" posts, weekly reminders of that history and those blessings (and fun glimpses at the kind of clothing, eyeglasses and hairstyles people use to wear!) The ongoing celebrations this year are a wonderful reminder of all that has happened on West 5th since Calvin Christian School's foundation in 1952.

So what is the challenge? Calvin Christian School at West 5th has reached its maximum capacity and families are being turned away. At a time when there is growing demand for Christian elementary school education in the Greater Hamilton and Caledonia area, there is no room for more children at West 5th. The city of Hamilton and surrounding towns like Caledonia are expanding, with many new houses being built, meaning there are more children to educate. Recent research tells us that more people are seeking alternatives for their children because, for various reasons, they are dissatisfied with the public options. Those factors add up to more families in this area looking for Christian education for their children. Calvin Christian School's vision is that all God's children are thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:17). Calvin Christian School must rise to this challenge, and it has.

The Building Unity Capital Campaign is raising 5 million dollars towards the goal of a complete JK to Grade 8 school building on a second campus. Property has been acquired and plans have been drawn up so that CCS Unity can educate some 180 students from JK to Grade 8, in parallel to CCS West 5th. With expansion at Unity, CCS can meet the needs of the coming generation of students in both its locations. There will be room on both campuses for more children to be equipped to shine.

Building Unity's goal of \$5 million towards the cost of construction at Unity, the largest Campaign in CCS's 70-year history, has been prayerfully considered and carefully planned by members of this community. A wonderful day of celebration in May marked the public launch, which rejoiced in the blessings already received from several major underwriting donors, who have given generously. Under the guidance of the Board and of Principal Arn Boonstra, two staff members and a team of volunteers have been raising funds by means of visits, phone calls, social media, and a mail appeal. The Campaign has been blessed with almost 1.5 million dollars to date and we look forward to further support from the CCS Community in the coming year.

As you know, the school at Unity has already begun. The property on Unity Road contained a small school building which created more capacity to accept students into CCS at both the West 5th and Unity campuses. In the fall of 2022, there are 459 students being educated at West 5th campus, in JK to Grade 8, while 55 students are enrolled at the Unity campus, in JK to Grade 3 -- combined, well over 500 students are receiving a Christian education at CCS! You've been reading great stories of all that God is doing at Unity campus through a dedicated staff who have begun this work, and there is more to read elsewhere in this issue of inTouch. When the building, projected to begin in 2025, is complete, CCS will have two campuses offering full JK to Grade 8 programs to meet the challenge of providing Christian education for all who are knocking at our doors.

Now is the time to give to the Building Unity Campaign with your donation or pledge. To learn more about the Campaign or to make a gift or pledge, visit ccshamilton.ca/buildingunity today. Your gift will make a difference! ●





Grade 8 & Grade 3 Reading Buddies!

by Lenie H., Jessica M., Chloe M.,
Julia N. and Miriam D.

THE GRADE EIGHT AND GRADE THREE classes have met twice so far this year. We had lots of fun playing outdoor games and making Christmas cards together! Getting to spend time with our reading buddies is a great way to build community and kindness within our school. This is a creative way to learn more about each other and have a lot of fun!



The first time we gathered together was in October. We met our buddies outside because the weather was perfect for outdoor games. The teachers called off our names one by one until we all had partners to be with. Next we each were told what game station to go to. Grade 8 buddies taught their grade 3 buddies how to play some of the fun games CCS has for outdoor play, like ladder ball, beanbag toss, giant Jenga, foursquare, Kubb, and many, many more! It was fun to get to know our buddies and their grade three friends. We rotated with small groups from station to station. It was fun watching our buddies interact with their classmates and play against our classmates as well.



Our second visit with our reading buddies happened in November. We helped create Christmas cards together for the bazaar. We met first in their classrooms and discussed the process while the grade three students were ready with all the supplies to make the cards. We first looked at a slideshow explaining the steps and then started making the cards. Both the grade eight and grade three students had a really fun time putting the cards together. We got to learn from our buddies and they also got to learn from us. Even through the funny mistakes, we had a lot of fun together! When we finished making the cards we got to read with our buddies. Picking out books from their library and reading stories was another fun part of our visit.

In conclusion, spending time with other students and grades is a fun and great way to build a caring community within our school, and it's fun for other grades (not just three and eight) to create community relationships whenever they get together. I hope we can meet with our reading buddies again soon! ●

To Be Blessed

by Maria Grootenboer

SERVING AS A MEMBER of the CCS Board over the past three years has provided an opportunity to connect with more families in the community, help shape the present and future of what our children's education looks like, and most importantly it has allowed me to both share in the joys and challenges of the school.

It has been a blessing in many ways, though sometimes in disguise. There have been many difficult conversations around the Board table surrounding COVID, a declining student count as a result of COVID, unstable economic conditions around the world, tight budgets, etc.. When I look back, however, I am continuing to see how real God's presence has been, even in the hard times.

At the Unity campus BBQ last summer, the back-to-school socials this fall and more recently the bazaar, parents, grandparents, kids, friends of friends and more, all joined together to celebrate the school and spend time in community. Maybe now we cherish it more? We are blessed.

The kids are excited to be able to participate in spelling bees, choirs, sports events, birthday parties and more. Maybe these sorts of extra-curricular activities were taken for granted before? We are blessed.

The Unity campus continues to grow and we see God's plans unfolding there. As the CCS community works at growing Christian education for the Hamilton and surrounding area, we can be confident that we are all helping to carry out His work. We are blessed.

The Thrift Store has provided significant donations over the past year. This amazing support has allowed for some projects to be completed around the school, including the beautiful new paved parking lot at the West 5th campus, which also has newly painted games on the asphalt for kids to enjoy at recess, a few upgrades to the new gym floor that were not covered under the insurance claim, and a new playground at the Unity campus. We are truly blessed!!

Psalm 106:1 "Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." ●



On Saturday, November 19, CCS opened up its doors to the broader community to once again host an in-person Bazaar and what an amazing day! Hundreds of people were roaming the halls looking for deals and connecting with friends, old and new. Delicious food was available, kids enjoyed fun games, including the ever popular Bottle Game, and lots of other great activities were scattered throughout the building. A special thank you to this year's Bazaar Committee as they basically had to reimagine an in-person Bazaar after a 3 year hiatus. This amazing group of dedicated volunteers worked around the clock to provide this important community event. We are thankful for their dedication. And by the way, an incredible **\$40,000** was raised! Thank you CCS community for supporting the CCS Bazaar.



\$1,000,000 Worth of Donation from the re-Source Thrift Shop

by Mr. A. Boonstra, Principal

I REMEMBER BACK in 2012, the CCS board was introduced to the fundraising concepts associated with thrift shops. I remember, then chairperson, Marcel deRegt, telling us about the success of thrift shops as they supported Christian schools across North America. He referenced what thrift shops could do and how they could be a blessing to Christian schools. I remember when he stated that there was a thrift shop that was actually contributing \$70,000 to a local Christian school. I kind of chuckled to myself and said, sure, but I bet everything goes exactly according to a plan that was laid out.

The CCS board at that time made the important decision to give it a try, recognizing that we would require the support of the local CCS community and beyond. In April of 2013, the re-Source Thrift Shop was opened on Greenhill Avenue in Stoney Creek. The early humble beginnings saw a lot of work and little pay back. From the very beginning there was a drive and desire to make things work, but the business model just didn't seem to work, at least not yet. Virtually everything, including shelving and a cash register, were donated to get the venture off the ground. Thankfully a private lender in the CCS community loaned the shop the first and last month's rent. Very modest income came in and a few thousand dollars were donated to CCS. Visions of \$70,000 were far off.

The shop laboured through its first few years of operations, but the commitment of the volunteers never wavered. However, in the year of 2015, the shop came to a crossroad. Either a new location be considered, or the shop might have to shut down. It was clear that the location of the thrift shop in Stoney Creek was far from ideal. It was around that time that the thrift shop board pitched a new location - 1050 Upper Gage Road on the Hamilton Mountain. It was decided that the move would be in the best interest of the shop and eventually the move was made.

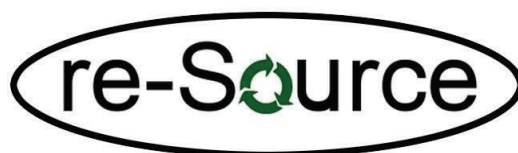
It was soon after this move that the shop began to take off. With far greater visibility and the continued dedication of the volunteers, sales began to increase. It wasn't long before \$70,000, and more, was being donated to CCS annually. The shop began to thrive so much that they found themselves in the position where they could tithe a portion of proceeds to local charities, in order to give back to the greater Hamilton community.



With its overall mission of supporting Christian education as a central focus, the re-Source Thrift Shop has blossomed into a thriving enterprise that is now donating over \$300,000 a year to CCS, well beyond the \$70,000 mark. I'm still chuckling about the donations, but now the laughter is one of joy and thankfulness. Just this past winter, the shop exceeded the \$1,000,000 mark in overall donations. This amazing support has allowed CCS to better carry out its mission of equipping our students to shine. The financial support has allowed us to fund capital projects that would normally result in additional costs to parents or increased tuition. Over the years funds donated to CCS have allowed us to purchase hundreds of chromebooks for our students, replace roof top units on our building, and repave significant sections of our parking lot - all big capital expenses.

Thank you re-Source Thrift Shop for the amazing support you have been to Calvin Christian School, but more importantly, thank you to the dedicated volunteers who are really the heart and soul of the re-Source thrift shop organization. We are tremendously blessed by your generosity. ●

100% not for profit
100% volunteer-run
100% donation supported



1050 Upper Gage Avenue
905-560-541
info@re-sourcethriftshop.ca

Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 10-5
Thurs 10-6, Sat 10-3



Music AT CCS

by Ms. C. Breukelman

CALVIN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL includes music education at every stage of learning, beginning with singing and rhythm instruments in kindergarten and grade one. In grades two and three, students participate in "2-3 Sing," where they meet weekly to learn and practice new songs, and they are introduced to music theory with their classroom teachers. Instrumental music instruction starts in grade four. With recorders in grades four and five, students have the opportunity to learn about music with an instrument that is accessible and easily managed at their young age. From there, students move on to the ukulele in grade six, where they are able to further develop their skills by focusing on rhythm, chord progressions, and more. By the time students enter grades seven and eight, they are able to choose their own instrument in their band classes. Here they learn more complex theoretical concepts and various techniques required for different instruments, including embouchures, fingerings, and clef-reading.

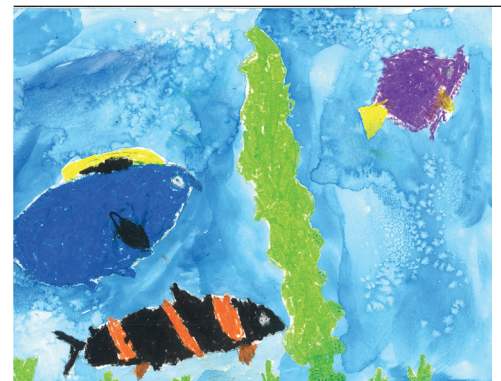
Ensembles at any age develop a child's aural, team building, problem solving, and critical thinking skills, which immediately transfer into their other coursework. CCS offers many extra-curricular ensembles, including Senior Choir, Concert Band and Praise Team. The school also offers private piano and vocal lessons for students who just can't get enough of music! ●



Jacob V., Grade 7B



Katelyn G., Grade 6A



Leah S., Grade 1B

SCHOOL *counselling* CORNER

by Mrs. T. Schinkel RP, MC:AT

ASSISTED THERAPY DOG PROGRAM

THE STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES TEAM at Calvin Christian School West 5th campus is very excited to share information about the new Assisted Therapy Dog program. We feel that this service will be an important and beneficial addition to the support of all students but especially students with social, emotional, behavioural, or neurodiverse needs.

Assisted Therapy Dogs are not service dogs. An Assisted Therapy Dog is an interactive dog trained to work for a handler to provide service and comfort to many people. Assisted Therapy Dogs join their handler/owner (typically educators, teachers, psychologists, counsellors, or doctors) at their workplace to help students, clients, customers, or patients. Service dogs are trained to perform tasks to ease an individual handlers' neurodiverse needs, helping them to attain safety and independence.

Research shows that therapy dogs can promote a positive school environment, improve psychological wellbeing in students, and reduce stress (VonLintel, J. and Bruneau, L.).

Interacting with animals naturally produces an increase in oxytocin, dopamine, and serotonin levels, which are linked to a positive emotional state. Petting a dog has the effect of lowering blood pressure, heart rate, and stress hormones, like cortisol. As most dog owners know, dogs are great companions and are good listeners who make no judgments. When a child has an opportunity to bond with a dog it can help them feel more connected and confident, which could also lead to a reduction in negative behavior and aggression. Just by having a dog in the building, to interact with staff and students, can improve the overall emotional climate and foster positive relationships.

Sydnie is a Certified Assisted Therapy Dog with Companion Paws and she has 3 years experience working at an elementary school. Sydnie will begin her work in January 2023. She has undergone training, annual health requirements, and is certified every year to maintain Assisted Therapy Dog status. To succeed as a Companion Paws Assisted Therapy Dog, along with the above, the dog must be well trained, friendly, gentle, calm, loving and show absolutely no aggression towards adults, children and other dogs.

The program will be coordinated by the school counsellor Mrs. Schinkel, Mrs. Kikkert from Student Support Services, and Mr. Stam, the Gr 6 teacher, owner, experienced program facilitator. Additionally, the dog therapy team consists of the following Educational Assistants: Mrs. Knevel, Mrs. Parr, and Mrs. Verhoeven. All of these individuals have completed their handler certification with the Companion Paws Assisted Therapy Dog program, through the LifeLine Canada Foundation. The team has been working diligently on their handler training and familiarizing Sydnie with the school environment.

Sydnie will be housed during the day in the Student Support Services area, either in a crate or with the handler, to monitor the program and maintain consistency. Sydnie will only be accessible for student support with the supervision of a trained handler. The Assisted Dog therapy team, in conjunction with staff, will make recommendations regarding how and for whom the dog may provide support for any given situation. Children at CCS may have the opportunity to participate in the program by interacting with Sydnie in a controlled setting supervised by one of our Certified Handlers.



This could happen in a number of different ways over the school year:

- Greeting students in the hallway
- Visits to classrooms or reading groups
- Sitting with students in the Student Support Services area or in the School Counselling office to reset when feeling overwhelmed
- Helping ease tension with a small group working on resolving conflict
- Providing a calming influence during stressful situations e.g. immunizations

Students will have an opportunity to learn about the program and be introduced to Sydnie in a whole student body assembly in January 2023, where students will learn how they can interact appropriately with Sydnie and how to follow consistent rules of conduct. ●

References and other resource links available by visiting ccshamilton.ca/schoolcounsellor

Lessons from Dr. Seuss

by Faye G., 4B

In composition we have been learning about Dr. Seuss and we watched some movie clips based on some of his stories. The first one that we watched was called The Lorax. The greedy Oncler kept on cutting down trees and then there were no more trees to cut down. But when the Oncler finally found out that he really made poor decisions, it was too late. He had polluted the land, sky, and water and all the animals who originally lived there.

The second story was called The Sneetches. The main problem of that story was that every time the sneetches without stars on their bellies would be excluded from the star-bellied sneetches from stuff like parties, campfires, games, and other fun or important things. However, the sneetches learned that it didn't matter in the end if they had stars or not, because everybody was the same and equal. I learned that we should spend more time getting to know each other deep down and that we should not be greedy but we need to take care of our earth. I enjoyed watching Dr. Seuss and I am amazed how he made up so many interesting creatures.





THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL OCCASIONS where I have had the opportunity to meet families who have expressed interest in attending CCS or are new to our school community. One of the responses that I often hear when they find out that the facility is over 20 years old is one that expresses surprise at how well the building looks for its age. This is due, in large part, to our current and past custodial teams as well as the dedicated volunteers serving on the Building Committee.

Every year, the Building Committee undertakes different projects for both the West 5th Campus and the Unity Campus with a desire to improve the services we strive to offer, as well as enhance student enjoyment while in attendance. This past summer the Building Committee focused on two significant items.

The most visible change is experienced as soon as you drive onto the West 5th campus. You will notice the new asphalt on the front parking lot as well as inside the compound (both south and north sides of the building). This project has been in the works for several years, but with the impact of Covid, it was decided that the resources we had at the time were best used to navigate the changes needed in order for us to continue with in person learning. With this delay well navigated, we were ready to commit to the project. The final part of this enhanced space happened in the middle of November when we were able to paint several spaces for asphalt games to be



played. This area, so capably designed by several of our EAs, has been well received by students and staff alike.

A second project that is currently underway is to enhance, and create new space for the Student Support Services. New flooring has been installed, and a new room created which allows for various professional services to have access to a dedicated space when they work with our students. This was also topped off with a fresh coat of paint to brighten the overall look of this beautiful space.

Finally, if you have been in attendance at one of the chapels, parent teacher conferences, or the bazaar, you may have noticed the new gymnasium floor. Back in January of 2022 the fire suppression system experienced a malfunction, leading to a flood throughout the gym.

Several tiles were damaged, and in a state of disrepair.

In seeking best steps to repair the existing tiles, we discovered that the tiled gym floor had already outlived its expected lifespan by several years. Our school insurance company indicated that the damage caused by the malfunction made us eligible to submit a claim. Through our work with the insurance company, we were approved to install the current floor and lines. We set a late summer date for replacement. Although it was not quite ready for full usage by the time school began in September, students were eager to use the gym and experience the cushioned enhancement of the new floor. They were not disappointed.

God has been faithful in His provisions for CCS. We have been blessed through the dedication of volunteers and staff who take pride in the building and the education held inside and outside of these walls! ●

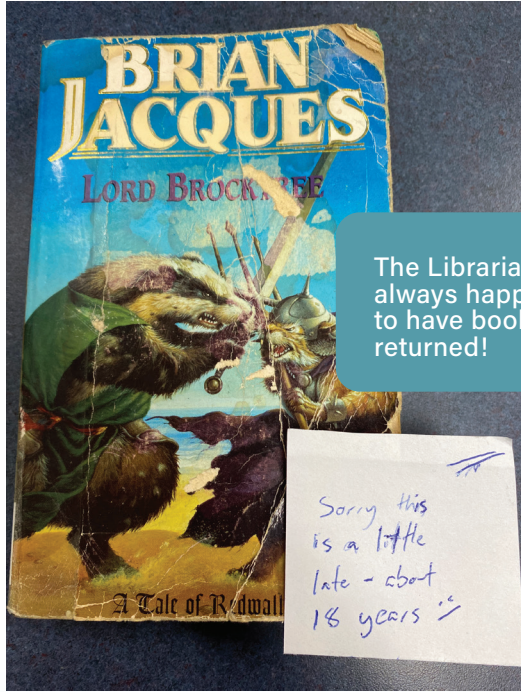




Recess FUN



“quatable QUOTES”



When discussing heaven, a primary teacher shared that she can't wait, and went on to share some reasons why. A student piped up, "I think my dad will be so happy to finally have hair again!"

Question in a science class: Can you think of two things that are about the same size, but their weights are very different? After several great examples, one of the students very sincerely responded with, "A baby elephant and a toddler." Some members of the class found this answer so outlandish that they began to shed tears of laughter.

Grade 1 Teacher: I love you all very much.

Students: What! You're not our mom!

Teacher: You're right, but all teachers love their students very much.

Students: **Ok, but you can't kiss us!**

Upon receiving his first cheque ever, a prize for an entry to the Ancaster Fair, the student asked where was the dollar he earned, because **all he got was a piece of paper saying he earned one dollar.**

My Grandparents migrate, hibernate, and then they come back from Florida!

Student asks his teacher, "Does your husband call you by your first name?"

Teacher, "Well, what does your dad call your mom?"

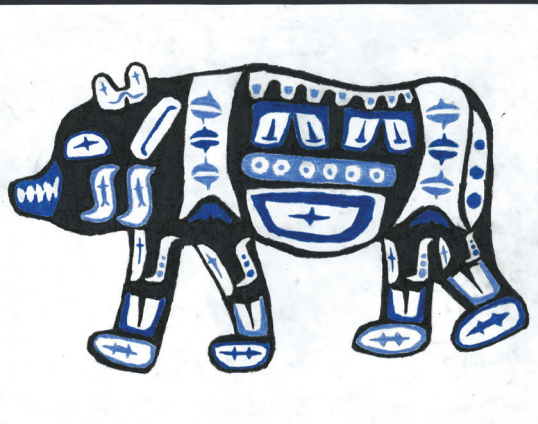
Student: "**Honey**"

Grade 2 students' conversation during a recent nutrition break - A positive conversation of learning progress?

1st student- "I am doing really well in grade 2. I am now one of the best students!"

2nd student- "Well I am so great that it's like I am in a high school class."

3rd student- "Wow, that's cool!" I have learned so much new stuff that now I could be in 'anniversary' school.



Lora V., Grade 7B



Rachael H., Grade 7B

Poems

by GRADE 3A

Pascal and Me

Pascal is my cat,
He likes to sleep on a mat.
My cat makes a lot of sounds,
Meowing, hissing, and purring around.
Pascal's fur is orange and white,
When he jumps he reaches quite a height.
I wonder what Pascal is thinking,
Is he drinking, winking, or blinking?
Pascal makes me feel merry,
I wish I'd named him Blackberry.
Pascal is my best friend,
We'll be together till the end.

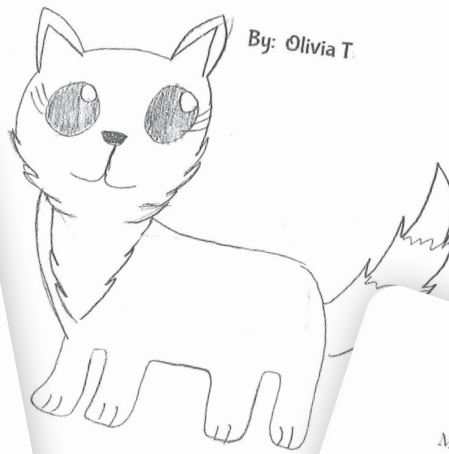
By: Kaydence C.



My Husky

My husky is white with a little bit of black,
He's very furry on his back,
He's very friendly, he likes to jump,
He'll snuggle with me when I'm a grump,
He'll make me feel better, when I'm sad,
He'll help me in math when I need to add,
I never want him to go,
And that is definitely so.

By: Olivia T



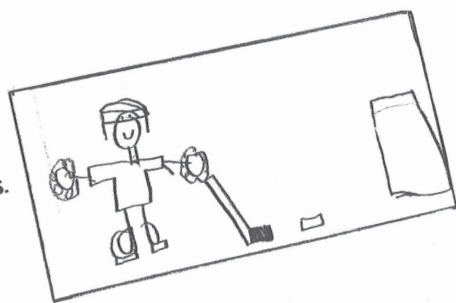
My Dog Rosey

I love my dog Rosey,
She is black like the night.
She is gentle and never causes a fight
When we come home from school,
She jumps up and down which is cool.
She always licks my face
and often curls up in one place
I feel happy when touching her fur
We get along just me and her
I love my dog Rosey

By Dorothy H.



I'm watching the Leafs game with my Dad.
 They are playing very bad.
 They have a goalie that can't stop the shots.
 The other team scores lots.
 We start to wonder if they'll ever score.
 I get so bored I start to snore.
 Finally I hear the ding.
 The goal comes in from left wing.
 Once again they won the game.
 The Toronto Maple Leafs are restored to fame.



By: Hezekiah H

Bubble gum!
 I love bubble gum
 I love bubble gum
 I love to blow bubble gum. Pink, orange, and blue.
 Pop pop pop the bubble gum got on my shoe.
 I feel really cool, energetic, and real.
 Bubble gum is fun
 I love bubble gum!
 I sometimes need to run
 Bubble gum, bubble gum, sticky and gooey.
 Bubble gum is a big part of life!



By: Nathaniel B

Poems

by GRADE 3B

Bacon by Nicholas T.

Bacon is yummy
Bacon smells delicious
Bacon is hot
Bacon is nutritious

Bacon means the world to me
Bacon is red
Bacon is made of pig
I could eat it in my bed

Bacon is salty and crunchy
Bacon is so very munchy
Crunch, crunch, crunch
Munch, munch, munch

My Dirtbike by Jase P.

My dirtbike
Is red and white
It is fast
It is bright

Into the wood
I like to go
Sometimes
There are lots of crows

Maybe
Sometime
I can ride
On the road

I dodge hill to hill
And hold on tight
And vroom up a ramp
And land on the other side

I go up a ramp
And do a backflip
And finally land
And finish the trip

Lego by Andrew S.

Lego
It snaps together
Red - Blue - Yellow - Green
Vibrant colours
Bright
Clicking of pieces
going together
Click - Click - Click - Click
They support each other.
I build all day.
Small - Medium - Big
Pieces of all sizes.
Sets of all sizes.
Lego!

The Underwater World by Anna M.

A seal sleeps on a rock,
An orca calf sees a hawk.
A clownfish swims into a shark
Because he was hiding in the dark.

A stingray finds a place to hide
From the whale that's on the other side.
A jellyfish jumps up and down,
And an octopus looks like a clown.

A starfish moves aside,
Letting a lobster decide
Whether to pass to the other side
Where there is a big, slippery slide.

A crab moves out of its old shell
Which has a really bad smell.
A squid wraps around its baby
Whom she's decided to name Sady

A manta ray swims gracefully.
A baby caiman snaps playfully.
These are the events of the underwater
world
Which is such a fabulous, magical world.

My Creed

by GRADE 8B

My Creed by K.S.

I believe in the mighty God, and His Son the Saviour Christ Jesus, who died a painful death to save all humanity.

I believe that the Lord of lords sent His powerful Child into the world to teach us Godly ways and to conquer death. Our Messiah went through blood, sweat, and tears to pay the costly price of our ugly, horrid sins. He had to bear hatred, weapons, and a painful passing to save us from an eternity without him.

I believe that He, our Yaweh, defeated death and came back to earth to prove to all those unconvinced minds that He was the promised Messiah. He went through a great deal of suffering to give human beings eternal life with the Father. He was crucified to give us a wonderful, everlasting life in Heaven. He taught the confused minds of His children that He really is the all powerful Son of the Creator. Our faithful Jireh did all of these unforgettable things to save our imperfect souls.

I believe that He loves all of His sons and daughters unconditionally, and He will continue to love and care for us for all eternity. His love and faithfulness will never end! Amen

My Creed by Brayden

I believe that God created everything on earth like the birds, fish, and land animals,

I believe that God also sent his son Jesus who was born in Bethlehem and died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins.

I believe that God knows what our future will be and that he is always looking over us.

I believe that God made us in his own image.

I believe that God keeps his promises.

I believe that God made the entire universe.

I believe that God will send his son to earth again.

I believe that God will give us eternal life.

I believe that when Jesus returns to earth he will save everyone who believes in him.

My Creed by Evan

I believe in the God of the Bible who created all things in heaven and on earth.

I believe that God loves me unconditionally.

I believe in the Holy Spirit.

I believe that the Holy Spirit works in me and will speak through me.

I believe that God will always protect me.

I believe in Jesus who died on the cross as a payment for our sins.

I believe that Jesus rose from the dead three days later and broke the power of death.

I believe in the Trinity.

I believe that Satan will tempt me, but I will follow God through it all.

I believe in the teachings of the Bible.

I believe that I will listen to God through everything

I believe that God will come back to earth and create a new heaven and a new earth.

I believe that He will reign forever.

Bio Poems

by GRADE 7A

SAMANTHA

Thoughtful, human, complicated
Sister of Anna, child of God.
Lover of music, the truth, and school.
Who feels anxious, hopeful, and confused.
Who fears failure, disappointing others, and losing faith.
Who needs time, family, and friends.
Who gives hugs, friendship, and love.
Who would like to see the stars at night and mountains.
Resident of Hamilton.
Daughter of the King

BRINLEY

Energetic, bright, creative
Sister of Ava, friend of twins, friend to others.
Who loves video games, singing, and holidays.
Who feels nauseous under pressure, thrilled when something important comes up, and silly when tired.
Who fears heights, darkness, fighting, and not being accepted.
Who needs to know what is happening, a close friend, and peace.
Who gives encouragement to friends, and help to family.
Who would like to see Paris and New York.
Resident of CCS and Hamilton.
Follower of Jesus

NOAH

Funny, active, short
Cat owner, friend to many.
Who loves Jesus, sports and the saxophone.
Who feels bored, has headaches and is sometimes sleepy.
Who fears heights, mashed potatoes and Satan.
Who needs PS5, food, and water.
Who gives used clothes, money, and carbon dioxide.
Who would like to see Florida, Montreal, and Calgary.
Resident of earth.
God-fearing

KRISTINA

Wild, incredible, funny
Christian, family member, dog owner.
Who loves God, candy, baking and art.
Who feels calm, excited and tired all at once.
Who fears missing out, injuries, and letting others down.
Who needs sugar, friends, and a soft bed and blanket.
Who gives smiles, waves, and encouragement.
Who would like to see the world, Jamaica and other tropical islands.
Resident of Hamilton, Ontario.
Child of God

SARA JAYNE

Confident, funny, courageous, and sassy.
Daughter of Joel and Katrina, friend of many, owner of Pic.
Who loves music, baseball, words, reading the Bible, her dog, and her people.
Who feels hyped up all the time, at home when writing and reading, and amazing when she is with people she loves and music is playing in the background.
Who fears losing friendships, failing tests, and being stuck inside.
Who needs reassurance sometimes, God's hand, and people around her.
Who gives encouragement to others, her everything all the time, and happiness to her family and friends.
Who would like to see the face of Machu Picchu and the new earth.
Resident of coziness and Gage Park.
Disciple of Christ

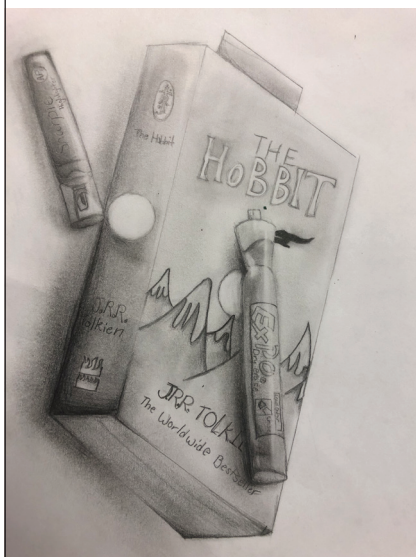
LUCY YE-EUN

Kind, Caring, Forgiving, Happy
Sister of Janice, owner of Harry.
Who loves Jesus Christ, books and her family.
Who feels calm when sleeping, relaxed when reading, and happy with family.
Who fears scary movies, disappointing herself, and nightmares.
Who needs more sleep, more reading time, and more calm.
Who gives happiness, courage, and strength.
Who would like to see Korea, and Canada's Wonderland.
Resident of Earth
Child of God.

E.B., Grade 3B



Rose G., Grade 8B



Samuel Z., Kindergarten



Eden K., Grade 6A



RACHEL VANDENDOOL

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Go to www.ccsamilton.ca/TRIP for more information today! ●

CCS Welcomes NEW STAFF



AMANDA STEED **TEACHER, KINDERGARTEN (UNITY)**

Mrs. Steed grew up in St. George on a chicken farm. She now lives in Brantford with her husband Adam and their one year old daughter Amelia. As a family, they love spending time outdoors, going for hikes and exploring. In the summers, they love to spend time camping and going to the cottage with their families. Mrs. Steed received her Bachelor of Education degree from Queen's University, as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Waterloo. Before becoming a teacher, she was an Education Assistant at Rehoboth Christian School in Copetown. Mrs. Steed is happy to be a part of the Calvin Christian School community. She is excited to watch the Unity campus grow and flourish. Mrs. Steed has felt very welcomed by students and staff and she looks forward to a wonderful year learning about God and his creation.



CANDACE LOUW **TEACHER, GRADES 2/3 (UNITY)**

Mrs. Louw is new to Calvin Christian School. She joined the staff at Unity where she teaches the grade 2/3 class. Mrs. Louw lives in Ancaster with her husband, dog and cat. They take a lot of back country camping trips as a family during the spring and summer months. She enjoys being outdoors in the warmer weather, enjoying God's creation. Mrs. Louw is very excited to join this wonderful and welcoming community. She enjoys meeting and getting to know everyone. She has been teaching for seven years at different Christian schools, in Kindergarten to grade 4. Mrs Louw is grateful for the opportunity to share her love for God and her creativity with her students, helping them to foster their relationships with God in all that they do.



DWAYNE LITTLE **TEACHER, GRADE 7**

Mr. Little worked for the Hamilton Public School Board for several years, before joining the staff at Calvin Christian School. Many years ago he attended a college weekend to check out Oral Roberts University in Oklahoma, and he had no idea that years later he would have the opportunity to teach in a Christian environment. Working with elementary students has always been his passion. Whether it be with the 'scary' grade 7 and 8 students or the youngest students in kindergarten, he has enjoyed working with them all! Mr. Little enjoys watching and playing volleyball, cheering on his NFL team, and listening to some good tunes in his free time. He looks forward to continuing to teach at CCS.



ERICA SCHUTTEN **PARAEDUCATOR**

Mrs. Schutten grew up in the greater Hamilton area and has continued to make Hamilton her home. She and her husband are parents to three children who attend Calvin Christian School. Mrs. Schutten loves to spend time outside with her family, enjoying nature and exploring, reading, listening to music and spending time with friends. She is an active member of her community and enjoys getting to know her neighbours better. She serves in local community organizations, and is involved at her church serving in various ministries. Mrs. Schutten is most excited about coming alongside parents and teachers as they seek to teach children about God and help them see Him at work in all things.



ERINE HAVEMAN **PARAEDUCATOR**

Mrs. Haveman is a new PSW here at CCS. Over the last 20 years, she has worked with Christian Horizons, as a personal support worker in the group homes. Then she and her husband worked with the Host Family program, supporting individuals with exceptional needs in their home. She also ran an in-home daycare while her children were small. Mrs. Haveman enjoys singing at her church, as well as with her family playing instruments and singing. She, her husband, and their four children, enjoy spending time going to historical places, and learning about the beautiful world that God made. Erine looks forward to this new part of her life, using her God-given skills and gifts in the classroom.



IVAN STAM **TEACHER, GRADE 6 & IT SUPPORT**

Mr. Stam is excited to join the staff at CCS. Ivan comes to CCS after thirteen years of teaching at a Christian school in Guelph, teaching both grades five and six. Coming to CCS, however, is a bit like a return trip since Ivan attended HDCH and Redeemer years ago. Mr. Stam grew up as a farmer, and from there he learned that when you love your job, it rarely feels like work. When he's not at school, he enjoys woodworking in his garage workshop. Mr. Stam also enjoys the work needed to train his certified therapy dog, Sydnie. Training requires consistency and commitment, and he hopes that those traits are evident during his time here at CCS.



JANELLE WENSINK **TEACHER, GRADE 1**

Mrs. Wensink grew up and lived in the Hagersville area for most of her life. She attended Jarvis Christian School, followed by HDCH, before attending Redeemer University to obtain a Bachelor of Arts degree with honours English and a Bachelor of Education. She is passionate about Responsive Classroom practices and recently obtained her RC certification. She met her husband, Nathan, while at Redeemer and they have two children who attend CCS. Four years ago they moved to Hamilton. Before coming to CCS, Mrs. Wensink worked as a supply teacher in various Christian schools and then taught grades three and four at Providence Christian School. Outside of school hours she enjoys spending time with family, gardening, going on long walks, and reading. She is excited to be a part of the CCS community now as both a parent and an educator, and is looking forward to growing in her role this year as a teacher in grade one.



KELLY TURKSTRA **FINANCE MANAGER**

Mrs. Turkstra grew up in Ancaster, and lives there with her husband and children. She attended McMaster University where she studied commerce. She enjoys spending time in nature, hiking, walking, running, and stand up paddle boarding with her French Water Dog Luna. One of her favorite spots to paddle is on the Grand River outside of Caledonia. She and her husband have participated in running and paddle boarding competitions in Ontario and the Netherlands. She is looking forward to her next challenge, which is to complete her first triathlon in the spring of 2023.

CCS Welcomes NEW STAFF



MANDY PARR **PARAEDUCATOR**

Mrs. Parr is delighted to have joined the incredible team of Paraeducators at CCS. She grew up in Hamilton and currently lives in Mount Hope with her husband of eighteen years, and their three children, one of whom is a student at the West 5th campus and two who attend HDCH. As a graduate of both the Social Service Worker program and Recreation Therapy program at Mohawk College, she has always felt God's call to work in a helping role. She loves music, enjoys playing the guitar and sings on the worship team at West Highland church, where she also spends time helping in the Star Kids and Kids club programs.



ZACHARY PUERTA **PARAEDUCATOR**

Miss Puerta grew up in Colombia, and speaks Spanish. She had the opportunity to come to Canada in 2017. Zachary likes to dance, play soccer, spend time with family and friends, and meet new people. She is an Early Childhood Education graduate of Seneca College. Miss Puerta serves as a youth mentor and teacher at her church. She is happy to work at CCS, because it is a school where the education aligns with God's principles, and provides a place for children, staff and families who live a God-honoring lifestyle.



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