



A Calvin Christian School Publication

i n T O U C H

2022/2023 | Issue 2

**CELEBRATING
70 YEARS**

**GRADUATE
REFLECTIONS**

**BUILDING UNITY
UPDATE**



Arn Boonstra Connections: Summer 2023

by Mr. A. Boonstra, Principal



OVER THE COURSE OF THE SCHOOL YEAR I have been asked how things are going now that we are back to “normal”, basically referring to the fact that we do not have to concern ourselves with the pandemic and specifically the complications associated with it, especially online learning. When I think back to those days, I’m surprised that it was only a little over a year ago that our students received lessons from their teachers via Google Meet. Sometimes that seems like a lifetime ago.

In my response to that question I basically relate that in many ways we are blessed to have returned to in-person learning and all the benefits associated with that, especially some of the extra-curricular activities. We have been able to offer our full complement of extracurricular sport activities, including soccer, volleyball, ice hockey, basketball and more. Our Concert Band and choirs have been meeting and performing regularly and our students have been able to participate in spelling bees as well as the annual Battle of the Books competition. More recently, our grade 7 and 8 students completed Science Fair projects and some of our students competed in the district Science Fair event. We also recently hosted our annual Open House and Grandparents day and we did all of the above without any restrictions. So what I tell folks who ask how things are going, I let them know that we have had a great year!

However, you may have also read in one of the Courier messages sent out earlier this year that I mentioned teachers have been struck by the significant learning gaps students are displaying. Gaps not only academically, but perhaps more concerning in their social/emotional development. Many students have had a difficult time adjusting to being back at school full time and interacting with their peers on a regular basis. Some of the foundational learning about how to get along with others has been missing, especially in our primary grades. For some reason recess play, and in particular playing the game of soccer has been especially problematic for many of our students. Students are simply not able to sort out some of their differences while playing the game and resort to confrontational behaviours.

In one of my most recent conversations with a veteran teacher, she mentioned that dealing with the learning gaps has not been nearly as difficult as addressing the social and emotional gaps exhibited by students. As a matter of fact, she felt that many of the gaps in learning



had already been bridged, but that a significant amount of time has been invested in supporting students with their emotional regulation. In all her years of teaching, this teacher mentioned that she had never seen such struggles socially and emotionally in her students before.

The impact of the pandemic on our older students is a little less clear, but even in our senior grades, we recognize that there are students who are dealing with some of the same concerns as it relates to peer interactions and emotional regulation. Clearly the pandemic has had an impact on our students and the fallout continues to be felt. In answering the question about how things are going, I wish I could say that everything is back to normal, but the reality is, there are still many students who are dealing with the repercussions of the pandemic and of learning online the past few years.

In the meantime, what are we doing about students who are struggling with anxiety, fear, problem solving and peer relations, specifically negotiating conflict. Well, first of all, I'm grateful that a few years ago we recognized the importance of adopting the Responsive Classroom practices where teachers are cognizant of the social and emotional skills needed to navigate life. We have adopted many of those practices that help students deal with the challenges that they face on a daily basis. In this sense, teachers are the front line of support for students who struggle to cope with the demands of school. More recently we introduced the Zones of Regulations where teachers help students identify their emotional state at any given time. With a student's emotional state identified, teachers provide coping mechanisms and strategies to help the child move forward. Oftentimes the process is conducted via trial and error and can take a very long time before progress is identified. Our school counselor is also instrumental in providing support to students and she does so on so many levels. She not only provides individual support for students who are struggling with peer conflict, emotional regulation and other challenges, she also works in the classrooms providing students with coping strategies for a variety of situations. Our school counselor also heads up our Student Wellness Team. Students in grades 7 and 8 join her on a regular basis to promote good mental health. I love the work that this team does, as it involves our students showing leadership as it relates to the promotion of good mental well being.

The beauty of the above, is that all the supports and strategies mentioned, are done through the lens of scripture. We know God wants us to be in a good space as it relates to our interactions with one another, as well as coping with the challenges of life. The pandemic has exacerbated some of the challenges, but by intentionally addressing them, we feel like we are indeed helping

i n TOUCH

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

2 Timothy 3:17

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

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

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



ABC Connections cont'd

our students to shine. Our Wellness Team has selected Philippians 4:8 as the passage to provide inspiration and guidance. "Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things." The passage nicely sums up how our thoughts can be focused on the things that God believes will serve us well. Furthermore, the Wellness Team has selected the phrase, "do not be led by feelings, be led by the Spirit" as an easy one liner to help us remember how to welcome God's presence into our lives. I'm proud of our Student Wellness Team, as their leadership shows how they care for one another, as well as the entire student body.

Overall, we are having a good year, maybe even a fantastic year. Like everyone else, we have our challenges, but we also have our God walking alongside us. We have an amazing student body and staff that is looking out for each other and together we navigate the highs and lows that life throws at us. By God's grace we see that our efforts are not in vain. ●

Kindergarten

INSECT UNIT

KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS are entomologists! We have been discovering what an insect is, its life cycle, the parts of its body, what it eats and more. Students have enjoyed watching life cycles happen right in the classroom with meal worms and caterpillars. Through investigation, wonder, books and more we are learning so much about some of God's smallest creatures in creation. What a creative God we have! ●



From the Board

by Sarah Van Hartingsveldt

WHAT A JOY it was earlier this year to celebrate 70 years of Calvin Christian School together as a community! Seven decades of God's faithful care to us as a school, and seven decades of proclaiming His word and exploring His world together, is no small thing.

As we began our 70th anniversary gala evening, I was asked to read our cornerstone verse, which frames all we do at CCS. "Your Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path." Psalm 119:10

This Word of God, which brings light to darkness and clarity out of confusion, has also been our guide as we navigated matters relating to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) in the last couple of years as a board. It is a relief to know that Jesus, who is called Faithful and True, who reigns as King, is also the merciful and loving One who ate and associated with the marginalized of society.

We rejoice that we can follow the clear teachings of Scripture on sexuality and love our neighbours well, without contradiction. As the Apostle John says, "now I ask you... — not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning - that we love one another. And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments;" 2 John 1:5-6b

As we teach our children that God created us male and female and gave us marriage as a sacred union only between one man and one woman and that we are to keep ourselves from sexual sin because our bodies matter to Him, we remember that our Creator made us and calls us to holy living.

As we teach our children that God came because we could never live up to His holy standards and that it would take a Saviour to free us from sin, we rejoice because His love and grace are abundant and lavish. We all come to the foot of the cross as fellow sinners, and out of the grace we have received, we offer it to one another and encourage each other to take up the cross in our Savior's footsteps.

Seventy years of proclaiming God's word and exploring God's world is something to celebrate. And with His faithfulness to us remembered, we look forward to seeing what God will do as we follow Him in the years to come at CCS! ●



Choir and Band Music Retreat

by Daniella I., Julia R., Sara Jayne H., and Sophia P.

THE RETREAT WE HAD on Saturday, April 22, with the choir and concert band was such a fun experience! First of all, a lovely lady named Mrs. Jagger came as the clinician for the concert band.

She started us off with a get-to-know you game with beanbags. She put us at ease right away.

She taught us how to work together as a band, to make sure our sounds blend, and how to understand a piece's flow. She got great results out of us as she taught us new techniques and tweaked things that made us sound so much better.

As a nice break in the middle, Ms. Breukelman kindly treated us all to pizza that was heartily enjoyed by all of the choir and concert band. We got to hang around on the stairs as we socialized with friends and classmates.

When it was time for the choir to start we were introduced to a conductor named Elise and an amazing accompanist named Anjanette. They were both so helpful in improving our skills and sound. She taught us to understand when we were singing melody or harmony and how to connect with our voices. We auditioned for a solo or soli and the space was filled with the sound of rich music.

The retreat was such a fantastic experience that led us to have many improvements in the way we work, sound and hear music. ●





Spring Update

by Ms. H. Vreugdenhil,
CCS Capital Campaign Administrator

The **BUILDING UNITY** campaign, launched in the summer of 2022, continues to be blessed by the generosity of supporters in the CCS community. Everyone involved, staff, volunteers, and leaders, want to express their gratitude to God and thanks to those who have already given. We also ask that all of you consider your ability to commit a sum of any amount to further the project of equipping future generations to shine the light of Christ in the Greater Hamilton and Caledonia area. You are always welcome to contact, school principal Arn Boonstra or visit the Building Unity page of Calvin Christian School website at ccshamilton.ca/buildingunity.

All year Calvin Christian School has been celebrating the blessing of being able to provide Christian education in this area for the past 70 years. In displays and articles, on the website and at the Gala dinner, our community has enjoyed reminders of what has happened since 1952, when the school was begun in a small building on what was then a rural road. Looking at those pictures and maps has reminded us, however, that Hamilton has grown and so has the demand for Christian elementary education.

The West 5 th campus has been operating at or near capacity for years, and only the opening of the Unity campus in 2021 has made it possible for Christian education to be available for the current number of children, now spread over two campuses. In the winter of 2023, there are 459 students being educated at West 5 th from JK to Grade 8, and there are 55 at Unity, from JK to Grade 3. When school begins again in the fall of this year, there will also be a Grade 4 class at Unity, and more than 70 students enrolled overall, based on current projections.

There have been challenges in furthering the plans, the most significant being the rising costs and increased interest rates that have been part of the global changes to the economy in the wake of the pandemic. Our community values stewardship of the gifts that God has given us, and that includes in our plans for expansion at Unity.

Following intentional prayerful discernment, the management team and the board have decided to move forward on a

focused and phased expansion of the Unity Road campus, which was communicated to the membership in a recent letter. Some adjustments have had to be made to the original vision so that building can begin in the summer of 2024. In this first phase we are now expecting to upgrade the existing building footprint to extend its lifespan, including air conditioning, create 4 new classrooms adjacent to the current building, to fully meet capacity needs through 2027-2028 projections for a JK to Grade 8 school; and create momentum toward a second phase in future years that will feature more new classrooms and common spaces and eventual retirement of today's existing footprint.

This project will be financed by the \$5 million being raised by the Building Unity Campaign, and a loan for the balance, expected to be about \$2 million. Under the guidance of the Board and administrative team, staff members and volunteers continue to raise these funds by means of visits, phone calls, and mailed appeals. The Campaign has been blessed with over \$1.5 million to date. We look forward to further support from the CCS community as the building project begins. ●





REFLECTIONS FROM A RACIAL DIVERSITY AND BELONGING COMMITTEE MEMBER: **Finding Belonging at Calvin Christian School**

WE MOVED TO HAMILTON in the middle of COVID in 2020. Prior to moving our son attended a Christian school and we were very keen on him continuing his education at a Christian school here. We had asked the principal at his previous school for suggestions for good Christian schools in the Hamilton area. Based on his recommendations we contacted Calvin Christian School. One of the reasons he recommended the school was because it was more diverse than other schools in the area and this was something that was important for us.

We attended an open day at CCS where our questions were addressed and we saw things for ourselves. Fast forward to 2021, our son started grade 7 at Calvin. Knowing him, I did not expect him to have any trouble settling in. After the first day he told me he didn't like the school, because he felt different. I reassured him that everything would be okay and told him to give it some time. By the end of his first week, his story had changed. He gradually started to integrate into the school community and quickly made friends. I didn't hear any more complaints about being different and he began to fit in well with his peers.


For me as a parent trying to integrate into the school community was a challenge. I was trying to get in but I couldn't find the door. I decided I needed a way to get involved so that I could support our son and have input into his education.

A great opportunity presented itself when the Racial Diversity and Belonging Committee requested volunteers. I was excited to see that a committee like this existed. I quickly jumped at it and that was one of the best decisions I made! To my surprise and delight the committee was a very diverse group of people from different backgrounds including those from within the school community.

It has been a wonderful journey working with the committee to help steer the school in the direction of diversity and inclusion. I love the fact that I am able to contribute to the ideas put forward to the leadership team and then see them come to life because it shows how committed CCS is to making the school as inclusive as possible for students and parents.

Most importantly, by getting involved and joining a committee, I was able to fulfill my goal of integrating into the school community. I got to know how things work, got involved in different activities and got to meet people with whom I have now built relationships that will hopefully outlive our time at CCS.

I also hope sharing my experience will encourage parents who might be in the same boat as I was, to find ways to get involved at CCS. ●

A portrait of Mrs. D. Heeg, a woman with blonde hair, smiling. The background of the entire page is a light blue with various school-related icons like pencils, rulers, and gears. A large, stylized graphic on the left side reads 'A VIEW FROM Retirement' in white text, with 'A VIEW FROM' in a smaller font and 'Retirement' in a very large, bold font.

Top 15 Things I Have Cherished Over the Years at Calvin Christian School (1992-2023)

Mrs. D. Heeg

The observant student: Every year there's someone in the class who can tell me exactly where I left my lesson plan, my chalk, or my scissors!

Snow Days: Honestly, the snow days in the early years of teaching were true gifts!

Staff Devotions: It was here that we were grounded again in God's love and faithfulness, supported in prayer, and uplifted by absolutely beautiful singing.

Hallway Talks: Meeting in the hall with colleagues after the dismissal bell rang to share a story, a phew "I made it through the day!" or a laugh always connected us.

Teaching the children of parents from my first grade 7 and 8 classes: It was then that I wondered if it was time to retire!

My teacher's cupboard: When I needed some patience or wisdom, I would simply open the cupboard door, pretending to look for something, while quietly asking God for help.

Awesome parents: The ones who would do anything to support me; including being willing to take over a Covid-time google meet with my grade one students whenever I lost my internet connection!

Practical jokes: Oh, the students think they are so funny when they place a whoopie cushion on your seat, put a rubber snake in your lunch bag, or a black plastic spider in your desk drawer! The fun part is actually pretending to be scared or alarmed!

Fabulous leadership: From Ben Harsevoort who would walk the hall to communicate "you aren't alone in this", to Ted Postma who could articulate my strengths better than I could, to Arn Boonstra who leads with such care and commitment.

Field Day: Being at the starting line of a dash and watching students run their hearts out down the track, while we cheer them on.

Christmas and Year-End Cards: A simple note of gratitude often encouraged me the most.

Teaching: Examples are seeing how students interpret art lesson objectives and create something so beautiful and unique. Teaching students to read and seeing the sparkle in their eye when they can! Hearing students say "Yay" when it's time for a Bible story.

Absolutely dedicated and creative colleagues: The Calvin staff has always been so hardworking and clever. They go above and beyond with joy.

Seeing students shine: Being up-close enough to witness a student's discovery of their God-given interests, skills, talents and gifts.

Writing and teaching edVenture Learning curriculum at Unity Campus: Helping students grow in their understanding of who God is, who they are, and how they can serve others while looking closely at God's incredible creation has been a beautiful experience. ●

Happy 10th Anniversary re-Source Thrift Shop!

By Mrs. R. Kaplan, Office Assistant

I RECENTLY JOINED the Board of Directors for the re-Source Thrift Shop as the CCS liaison, to keep our two organizations connected. It has been a special year for the store as they celebrate their 10th anniversary of opening. 10 years of being a volunteer-run organization, 10 years of donations to CCS totalling over 1 million dollars, 10 years of tithing to other local charitable organizations throughout Hamilton, and 10 years of dedicated volunteers whose constant acts of service have allowed our communities to flourish. God is good! In my short time being involved with the store I have been continuously reminded of God's love and faithfulness. The amazing group of volunteers have created an environment that is fun to be a part of, where friendships have grown and where team members are genuinely cared for. I am humbled by their consistent and dedicated efforts. Stepping into an organization in its 10th year makes me very hopeful for the future of the shop, and the many blessings it will continue to bestow on our community. I feel blessed to have the opportunity to be a part of it. Once again, congratulations thrift shop volunteers on this incredible accomplishment, and may God bless you all in the years to come!



As a staff member, I get to see firsthand how the generosity of the re-Source Thrift Shop benefits our school community. The newly painted lines on our school's blacktop have provided endless hours of recess games. The older grades have been able to engage in some fairly competitive basketball games on the new smooth surface. As a parent, I am thankful that the generosity of the thrift shop directly helps to keep tuition costs more affordable for families seeking Christ-centered education. The thrift shop also tithes a portion of profits to local organizations in Hamilton. Here's a list of organizations we supported this year:

- Hamilton Food Share
- 541 Eatery
- Men's Street Ministry
- Helping Hands
- Restoration House
- Liberty for Youth
- Food 4 Kids
- Eva Rothwell Centre
- National Service Dogs Hamilton
- Community Fridge (Immanuel Church location)

To ensure the re-Source Thrift Shop has many more years of operations, new volunteers are always needed and welcomed with open arms. CCS parents, grandparents, and friends are encouraged to become a part of this vibrant community through weekly volunteering and can contact the shop or the school to find out more about how to get involved. ●

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



Celebrate



Reflecting on 70 Years

by Mrs. E. DeWeerd

HOW WOULD YOU CELEBRATE a 70th Anniversary? It's kind of a big deal! Seventy years is a long time! Would you let it quietly slip by or would you invite as many people as possible to celebrate? CCS decided to celebrate this amazing milestone and blessing in style!

Calvin Christian School has been in existence for 70 years and has had an impact on literally thousands of families over the decades! From our humble beginnings in a two room schoolhouse in 1952, to our current building on West 5th and our second campus in Caledonia, we definitely have a lot to be thankful for!

On March 4th over 260 guests gathered at the Marquis Gardens in Hamilton to attend a Celebration Gala which focused on the past, present and future of Calvin Christian School. Our guests were a mix of staff, students and alumni who had either taught, worked, attended or supported our school over the decades. Delicious food, drink and entertainment were on the menu and enjoyed by all.

The theme of "Past, Present and Future" was woven throughout the evening as Amanda Breimer and Ted Postma, our MCs, took us on a walk down memory lane. Past valedictorians took the stage to share some great memories of their time spent at Calvin Christian School. A trivia game kept the guests both entertained and enlightened with facts about the school from the 1950s until present day. One of the highlights of the evening was a performance by our very own CCS junior choir led by Julie Van Eek.

A big thank you goes out to the staff and parents, behind the scenes, who helped to make the evening both enjoyable and possible. Thank you, as well, to the many guests who attended. Our deepest thanks and praise goes to our heavenly Father who has guided and upheld Calvin Christian School through the past 70 years. May the years ahead be filled with His continuous blessings! ●



Brooke



Claire



Liam



THANK YOU for your support of the TRIP program! Although this year has been a challenging one again, we are very grateful for the funds that were earned over the year by 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 toward their tuition or designated to another family's tuition, or to the Tuition Assistance Fund.

We continue with offering the FundScript program. We are encouraged by the support of over 100 registered participants in the FundScript program. FundScript 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. You will fund retailers such as Amazon, Fortinos, Cineplex, DoorDash, Hello Fresh, Home Depot and so many more! So if you haven't checked out FundScript lately, there is no time like the present to get started!

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

SCHOOL *counselling* CORNER

HOW DOES SOCIAL MEDIA AFFECT MENTAL HEALTH?

by Mrs. T. Schinkel RP, MC:AT

AS THE SCHOOL COUNSELLOR, I often get the opportunity to speak to students about mental health and wellness either in classroom visits, individual visits, or with our student wellness team. More recently the impact of social media on mental health and wellness has become increasingly more concerning.

As parents, we may ask ourselves: how do we protect our children from unhealthy online content, such as pornography, predators, bullying, exploitation? How much screen time should our kids have each day? Should we monitor all communications our child has, and if so, how? Is all social media bad? What about our own adult use of media - how are we modeling healthy behaviours on-line? From a faith perspective, God designed us to be social! We are wired for connection and for belonging. We are naturally driven to share stories and communicate with each other - so it is only natural that we are driven to do this virtually as well. In order to protect ourselves and our children, it is important to examine how social media is hurting or helping our mental health and how we can use media without it causing unnecessary stress.

On March 27, 2023, we had the opportunity to have guest speaker Brett Ullman come to share with us some great tips about "Media: Navigating everything". This was a good opportunity for us, as a community, to learn more and to support healthy use of social media through a faith based lens. Adults and students came out for this speaker and we hope that it encouraged some great conversations at home and school about healthy vs. unhealthy media use. Brett highlighted that the average person spends 7 hours a day using screens, that's nearly 50% of their waking hours. He also identified that our children are spending 2-3 hrs of this time on social media. Today's trends of anxiety, depression, suicidal thinking, low self-worth, FOMO (fear of missing out), loneliness, social isolation, sexting, sextortion, cyber bullying, misinformation, and phubbing are often related to media. Definition of phubbing: the practice of ignoring one's companion or companions in order to pay attention to one's phone or other mobile device.

In order to increase healthy on-line practices, Brett highlighted the following key points among many others:

- Decrease smartphone use 1-hour a day.
- Turn off as many notifications as possible.
- Follow content strategically, so your social media feeds are filled with helpful information.
- Use the screen time app on your iPhone.¹
- Digital Wellbeing on Android.²
- Phone off at night. Not charging beside you. Don't even bring it into the bedroom.
- Unsubscribe from email subscriptions you don't need. (Happy birthday from Dentist). You are in control.
- Keep your phone away from you (out of arms reach).
- Permit yourself not to follow what everyone else is doing.
- Where are tech-free zones in your life?³

1 support.apple.com/en-ca/HT208982

2 android.com/intl/en_ca/digital-wellbeing/

3 brettullman.com/media_navigating_everything/

Another point that was interesting from Brett's talk was about ways that fear impacts our parenting. Many of us have heard the term "helicopter parenting", which is an overprotective parenting style that is based in fear (ie. not let kids drive, not let kids date due to risks). During COVID and even now after the pandemic, our fear based parenting may have increased. Also, especially in our faith based communities, we can sometimes operate in a place of fear of the secular and sinful world when we parent.

This is not to suggest that we have NO fear and, as a parent myself, I also battle these fears. Due to my learning and research as a school counsellor and a person of faith, I am continually discovering ways to navigate this. I often explain to students that all our feelings come from God (even negative ones) and that when we have fear, we can acknowledge it, validate it, and find our way through it, so that it does not immobilize us. God doesn't tell us that we will never suffer or have negative emotions but he provides us hope, peace, and comfort during those times of suffering so that they don't consume us. May we live in faith, not fear, but when fear is great within us, may we be continually learning and may we find ways to reach out for support and connection, including from mental health professionals. We are not meant to do this alone! ●



Fairytales

by GRADE 2A

During our recent PBL, grade 2 worked hard to answer the driving question "How can we help people in our community enjoy fairy tales?" This led to the students listening to and reading many fairytales to find what elements a fairy tale has. Did you know they usually have; royalty, talking animals, something magical, 3s or 7s, both good and bad characters, but also a happy ending. This project also included meeting a resident author, Mrs. Langendoon, so grade 2 could better understand the story writing process. Once they knew what was needed they set to work and wrote and illustrated their own fairy tales, which they shared with parents during Open House, with grandparents during Grandparents Day and with kindergarten. Many community members really did enjoy fairy tales with us!



Daisy and the Golden Necklace by Danbi K.

Once upon a time in a small cottage beside a beautiful meadow with 7 magic plants there lived a kind and smart young girl named Daisy. Daisy had a special golden necklace which she got for her birthday. Raina the fox was Daisy's pet. Raina could talk. Raina also lived in the small cottage with Daisy. Raina loved playing with Daisy in the beautiful, pretty meadow beside the small cottage.

The sneaky dragon was so jealous about the golden necklace. He took it when everyone was sleeping! The dragon took the golden necklace to his grey cave. It was a real secret that he took it. He was going to keep it!

When Daisy woke up the golden necklace was gone. She felt so sad and surprised. Daisy said, "Where is my special necklace?"

She figured out that the dragon took the necklace. So she asked the 7 magic plants to make her fly. Raina also went with her. They went into the dragon's cave. Daisy talked to the dragon. So the dragon gave the necklace back.

He said, "I took the necklace because I was lonely and have no friends." Daisy said, "Do you want to be friends with us?"

The dragon said, "Really?"

"Yes," said Daisy.

So all of the 3 friends had a midnight party. After the party ended Daisy and Raina went back to the 7 magic plants. Daisy gave the plants their power back. After they did that, Daisy and Raina went home, brushed their teeth, and went to their cozy, soft bed. They lived happily ever after.

The Three Jewels by Jack B.

Once upon a time in a castle there lived a kind prince named Peter and 3 magic jewels. But suddenly an evil queen appeared and stole all the jewels. The guardian tried to stop her, but they blasted all the jewels away.

The castle was by the sea. Meanwhile on the beach the princess was on a walk. Her name was Maria. She was very beautiful. While she was taking a walk the Queen appeared and kidnapped her in secret. At the palace Peter, James, Heart and Jesse were preparing to find the 3 jewels. So the four friends went on a big boat. They crashed onto an island and they got off the boat.

They went into the mysterious forest and they found a bird's nest. Inside the nest was a silly bird named Blue. Blue is blue. Blue helped them look for the jewels. He bonked his head into a hard coconut and out came the water jewels! They put the jewel into their fluffy backpack and they said, "Thank you," to Blue and they continued on their exciting journey.

Next, they found an anthill, kind of shaped like a circle. Strangely the anthill exploded in a burst of ants! One of the embarrassed ants said, "Hello. What are you doing here?" Peter said, "We're looking for some jewels like this blue one." Ant said, "I might be able to show you where one of them is." And he showed them to a volcano and led them to a secret passage to the volcano. They picked up a jewel and put it in their backpack and the backpack glowed brighter.

The friends went back to find the last jewel. Peter met a cute cat. Peter said, "Hi, what's your name?" "I'm Stray. What are you looking for?" Peter said, "I'm Peter. This is Heart, Jesse and James. Guys this is Stray. We're looking for one more Jewel that looks like these two. They are just yellow."

So, Stray led them to a big temple where they found the electricity jewel. Peter said, "Thank you," and left. Peter put it in his backpack and it glowed even brighter.

So they left but they teleported to the queen's magic castle. Peter saw Maria but the queen froze him. But Blue, Ant and Stray jumped and saved him. Peter ran over and saved Maria and defeated the queen.

Peter said, "Good-bye," to his friends. Maria and Peter got married and they had cute twins; a girl and a boy. And they all lived happily ever after.

The Adventures of George and Carrie by Clark T.

Once upon a time, in the emerald green fields of Ireland, there was a tiny cottage with a thatch roof. An old, sweet, kind woman and an old, wise, kind man lived in the cottage with their grandchildren; George and Carrie. Now over a wide river was a small village where the other people lived and they were friendly and nice and always helped the people in the small cottage across the wide river. But far away there was a jealous, mean lady who didn't like children at all! She lived in the very rocky mountains far away.

One day the mean lady got an idea! "I know what to do!" cackled the mean lady. "I'll make the day so beautiful that their grandparents will send them out and they'll get lost, and I will be rid of them! Ha Ha Ha," she cackled.

The next day after the young children, George and Carrie, ate breakfast, the evil spell began. "It is a beautiful day outside today, why don't you go outside for a walk?" said Grandma.

"Okay!" cried the two children. Carrie quickly washed the breakfast dishes with Grandma and George tended the big garden with Grandpa. Then they went on their walk.

On their walk Carrie picked pretty flowers while George explored, then they went on. They kept on going until they walked into the big and dark woods!

"Oh no we are lost!" the two frightened children screamed.

"Yes!" cackled the mean lady, but she had forgotten that friendly fairies lived in the big and dark woods.

"Don't worry, we'll help you," screeched a tiny fairy.

"Indeed," said the beautiful Queen Fairy.

Then she explained that the mean jealous lady made it beautiful and she promised to help. She said some magic words.

"Red roses and white daisies, silver Christmas snow send these children all the way home!" Then everything went blank white. Suddenly, George and Carrie were back at home. Their grandparents came running.

"Where have you been?" Grandma panted.

"On a walk," the children answered.

"Yes," said Grandpa. "Now it's time for dinner. Come on."

After a nice dinner they went to bed, dreaming of what had happened.

Ruby and the Ogre by Annie K.

Once upon a time on a little mysterious island there lived a princess named Ruby. She was sweet, pretty, and Intelligent. Prince Fin was strong, kind and smart. The island was big and pretty. It had 7 pretty magical flowers. Ruby lived in a big castle. In a deep cave nearby lived a very ugly powerful Ogre.

One night the ogre snuck into the big castle and took Princess Ruby away to his deep, deep cave and put her in a cage. Ruby felt sad then she remembered that she had a little book to read.

One day the ugly ogre said, "I will rule the lovely world."

Then Fin snuck into the big cave and said, "Oh no you won't!" Then Fin tied the ogre up. Then Fin saw 3 magic keys on the table and he put the 3 keys in each hole. Then Fin lifted Ruby out of the cage. Then they went back to the castle.

Three wonderful years passed then Ruby and Prince Fin got married and they lived happily ever after the end.



The Three Amulets by Wyatt S.

Once upon a time on a magic island named Lighter-up there lived a fast boy and a smart girl named Luigi and Daisy. They were adopted by the handsome king and pretty queen. Far away lived 3 pink baby dragons named Bob, Frank, and Pippy. They lived in a big castle. They wanted to rule over the huge kingdom. First, they had to get the 3 epic magic amulets.

Meanwhile, at the castle Luigi and Daisy looked at the big treasure vault. The amulets were gone! "First, we should search the ugly ogre's cave," said Luigi.

Daisy said, "Good idea." So they went off fast to the cave.

Later, Luigi and Daisy reached the ogre's cave. The ugly ogre had no idea what they were talking about. But he said he saw three pink baby dragons with something in their mouths. So Luigi and Daisy left.

Daisy said, "Now we should go to the three pink baby dragon's red castle."

The next day, they were in the red castle. They found the three amulets and lots of treasure. So Luigi and Daisy brought the magic amulets to the big castle and put the amulets on the three magic statues. Then magic was back in Lighter-up.

They lived happily ever after.



Snowmen

AT NIGHT

by GRADE 2B

At night, my snowman drank cold-cocoa. It had snowmellows and whipped snow. He ate it on a bench in the park. It made him have chills down his spine! Next, my snowman ate ice cream with frosted flake snowflakes and snow cones! Last, my snowman made snow forts with big and wide sticks for shovels and lots and lots of snowballs on shelves!

- RB

At night, my snowman would go snowboarding on a snow covered mountain. They would use a piece of wood for a snowboard. There was a big race with 44 snowmen in it. Number ten won! Next, my snowman played a board game called Snowbite. In the game, you don't want to get hurt. Last, my snowman would decorate snow trees. There is one big snow tree that everyone can decorate. When it is time to go everyone says good-bye.

- Marcus L



Winter

HAIKU POETRY

by GRADE 3A

Beautiful winter
Stay with me a little while
Soon it will be spring!

Julia K.

The snakes are somewhere
In their underground chamber
Cuddled nice and warm

Anna M.

Building a snowman
Rolling the three big snowballs
Time to finish up!

Andrew S.

Sliding on the hill
Slithering down and doing tricks
Here comes the ski lift

Nicholas S.

The snow is shining
It is beautiful to see
I love the winter

Paige V.

Winter is now here
Skating, snowmen, hockey, snow
The fun of winter

A.V.

The snow is falling
My black boots crunch the crisp ice
The winter is fun

Judah H.

The wind is blowing
Cuddle up, it's getting cold
Sleep soundly hamsters

Ember G.

“quatable QUOTES”

Student in Grade 3 during the explanation of an assignment

Teacher: Does anyone have any questions?

Student: **Is a question a question if it's about a question?**

During Grade 7's chapel, a kindergarten student wanted to sit on my lap because she was feeling a bit sad. Mr. Little was sitting next to us. When he got up to direct his class to the stage, the student told me that **Mr. Little wasn't so little.**

Student comment about Sydnie the therapy dog: **"Is she going to teach us to do counseling?"**

I was doing an activity at a table in the kindergarten class. One boy slid into his seat, looked me straight in the eyes and said:

"Okay, let's get this done and over with!"

K student climbed to the top of a stump in the forest, **"I'm the king of the rascals and you're the dirty castle!"**

Grade 1 student thanked his teacher for teaching him how to read. Until now he always thought his underwear said the school name Calvin Christian School. Now that he can read he realized **it actually says Calvin Klein.**

When Grade 1 students were walking by the school counseling office, one student said to another: "Is Mrs. Schinkel in there?"

Another student replied: "Oh, is something wrong? Do you feel emotional?"

The first student replied: **"I just wanted to say hi!"**

A student in Grade 2 told their teacher:

**You cut your hair so short!
You are definitely going to regret that!**

After milk was delivered to the classroom a Grade 2 student said, **"It's okay if I don't get chocolate milk. It's just regular milk with fat and sugar added."**

Grade 2 was learning about probability in math and were asked to give an example of things that are "likely" or "unlikely". One student said **"It is unlikely that Mr. Boonstra will grow hair."**

Overheard between two boys - in a Grade 3 class:

Student A: "I'm sorry, my friend, but if we're going to be business partners, we're going to need to learn French."

Student B: "We do?"

Student A: "Yes! In Canada we do!"

Student B: "... **"Why don't we just use Google Translate?"**



Kayden



Hannah E.

Hibernation Stories

by GRADE 1 (UNITY)

As we entered into spring and saw nature begin to awaken, the students of Unity were reading several books about bears, learning about hibernation, and gathering research about what a bear might do after a long winter sleep. Students got creative and wrote their own stories.

One day, a bear woke up from her long, winter nap. First she came out of her cave. She scratched her back on a tree. She did a big yawn. Then she went to the river to hunt for fish. She is hungry for salmon. She walks to the river. Finally she goes up the mountain to enjoy God's creation. She smells the roses. She plays with the butterflies. She takes care of God's creation.

One day a bear woke up from her long winter nap. First she came out of her cave and smelled the tulips and enjoyed the fresh air. She ran to the river for a swim. While she was there she caught some salmon. She layed on her back and saw a rainbow. Then she saw some berries ^{good} to eat. She prayed to God. She had a quiet place to rest and felt a sleep for a little bit. She painted with berries! She saw butterflies. Finally she decided to take a walk in God's creation. She loved the sun and flowers. She ran down the mountain. The end.

One day, a bear woke up from his long winter nap. First Blue took a fresh breath of air. Blue looked at the sun. He woke his cubs. "Time to catch some fish." "Ok they said." Then Blue and his cubs went to the river to catch some fish. The fish are salmon. They take a swim. They scratch their backs on trees. Finally Blue and his cubs enjoyed God's creation. They layed in the grass. They let the sun shine on their faces.

One day, a bear woke up from her long winter nap. First Angel was hungry. She ran fast down to the river. Stiffly Angel caught the trout with her claws. They were sharp. Angel ran back to the cave to feed the cubs. Next she ran up the hill. Then she lays on the flowers and looks up at the sky. But then a wolf comes and they become friends. Finally she itches on a tree, and picks flowers. Angel climbs trees and she falls off the tree. She eats berries. She asks the wolf what his name is. His name is Wolvy. And they become friends.



GRADE 2 EdVenture

We're Glad You're Here!

How can we welcome Newcomers to Hamilton?

by Mrs. VanderWindt & Mrs. Harsevoort

The students had numerous opportunities at the beginning of our unit to experience what it feels like to be new: food, art, games. When they realized this could be a difficult experience they went to work to put together a welcome package for the current residents at Micah House.

The students made beautiful watercolor welcome cards filled with encouraging words in an acrostic poem along with a message and greetings in numerous languages. They made a book full of special places the residents might want to go to get to know and enjoy Hamilton.

Students learned about Zambian and Dominican cultures while unwrapping special ornaments from EduDeo. They also had an opportunity to share about our own culture.

After making our delivery we visited two of the places we had shared about in Hamilton: Gage Park and greenhouse. God has blessed us richly in this project and we celebrate the amazing multiculturalism in Hamilton!

What a wonderful culmination to our project! The students wanted the residents to experience a Canadian Christmas tradition so the classes baked gingerbread men and brought them a gingerbread house to build. To make the residents feel very welcome and loved they contributed to many wonderful Christmas gifts. The residents of Micah House were so touched. They joined us during our songs by ringing bells and some songs were even familiar so they sang along in their own languages. ●





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ART CRAWL

Reflective Writing by GRADE 3B

I loved the Art Crawl. We sang 'Shine Your Light' and Anna played the piano. It was so awesome. It was fun watching Rumpelstiltskin (gr. 2 play) and "My Tummy is Fat" (K song). When we went on the stage the people who were singing had real candles. It was so fun singing on the stage. At the end of the song we raised our fake candles in the air like the Statue of Liberty. And then we got applause from the parents and kids. And then we walked off the stage and went to our classroom.

- Caleb P

On the West Fifth Art Crawl I was one of the readers. One of my favorite two things that I liked the best was "My Tummy is Fat" and when my little sister climbed on the stage! I was a little nervous but it was fun! I ate two cupcakes, they were really good. I also wore fancy outfits at the Art Crawl. I liked the play of Rumpelstiltskin. People also made cool art. I liked our plasticine art. Also, Andrew and Zach did a good job as the MCs. My mom came and recorded me, my sister and my brother. It was very interesting for all the parents. Also, that was the school's very first Art Crawl ever, so that's what makes it special to me.

- Nicholas T

The Art Crawl was the best! When we got to school, everyone was dressed up. When we went to the gym all the parents were there. We sat on mats and benches. Kindergarten did some songs. They were cute. One of my favourite things was the play Rumpelstiltskin. After the boomwhackers, we were up. I was so excited. We went up to the stage. We were silent, and then we sang. We sang our hearts out "This little light of mine, I will let it shine." Everyone applauded. I had an amazing Art Crawl!

- Elisabeth B



Elianna



Brinley



Brenna



Ellie



Jonas



Mya



Andrew



Joella



Ember



GRADE 8 Reflections

I came to CCS in grade 3, immediately made great friends, loved my teachers and learned a ton. This year I enjoyed all the teams I was a part of, and it was fun to experience all the extra curricular activities CCS offered. I am thankful I attended CCS, and experienced Christian education and a great community.

- Jaidalyn S.

I enjoy going to school and seeing my friends. I also enjoy how nice the teachers are. I am happy to be in a Christian school because I am learning more about Jesus and I am with people who share my beliefs.

- Liam G.

What I enjoyed throughout the years in CCS were all the fun memories and the friendships I made. My favourite subjects were art and composition and I enjoyed going on field trips. The trip I remember the most was the African Lion Safari. My dad went with me and we saw all the animals and creatures. I will miss the fun times in choir. I'm really happy to be here at CCS and I hope God planned an excellent life ahead of me.

- Adelyn W.

I have been at CCS since JK and loved my time here. Being at this school and having a Christian education was such a blessing. I love all the time and effort that the teachers put into helping us with our work. I have many great memories like the play that we performed in grade 2 and all the fun field trips that the teachers specially planned for us.

- Jael P.

Ever since I was little I had the pleasure of going to CCS. Teachers here taught me so many things that I will use in life. Aside from classwork, we went on some amazing field trips that I enjoyed so much. My favourite one was when we went to Treetop Trekking in grade 7. The kids here are so nice and I made so many great friendships with my classmates. I love CCS.

- Joel B.

I have been at CCS for 10 years and it has been great. My favourite subject is gym because you get to be active and play sports like basketball, soccer, and volleyball. I made a lot of good friends here and I am very thankful for them. I enjoyed being on the basketball

team in grade 7 and 8. We did really well in the tournaments. CCS has been a great school for me and I am very thankful for it.

- Jude K.

I have many memorable and touching experiences throughout my time here. I enjoyed the opportunities we had in grade 8, especially being on sports teams. While playing soccer, volleyball and basketball I was able to learn skills, work hard as a team and use the talents God gave me.

- Julia N.

I have been at CCS for 3 years, but it feels like I've been here forever. It has been a wonderful experience: I made great friends, got closer to God, and had my fair share of fun. Field Day was a blast and I'm super excited for our Ottawa trip!. I've also had my fair share of ups and downs within the past few years, but the wonderful CCS community made my life so much better. It's really going to break my heart when it's time to leave this amazing school for good, because it's actually become a home away from home for me.

- Keyara S.

I came to CCS in grade 7, because my mother thought it was a good idea and she was right. I've learned a lot about God and strengthened my relationship with him. I met some nice people who stuck with me. I also enjoyed the sports we did. We went on some trips that were pretty fun like treetop trekking, and going to my teacher's house for the grade 7 retreat.

- Kiera D.

One of the things that I enjoyed most at CCS were all the fun field trips. Some of my favourites were going on lots of forest walks in the lower grades, the African Lion Safari, swimming at the Wayne Gretzky Centre, and Treetop trekking. I enjoyed field day and playing on sports teams in grades 7 and 8. I made many great friends and I am so happy I attended CCS!

- Miriam dJ.

I'm happy my parents chose to send me to CCS because it is a great community full of teachers who are kind and understanding, and students who are funny and hard-working. CCS has helped me grow my faith in God with the

in-depth Bible program and projects. My favourite field trip was treetop trekking in grade 7, where we climbed through the trees and overcame many obstacles placed in our path. I think CCS is an amazing school to attend.
- Rose G

In the younger grades, I went on field trips like the African Lion Safari, walks in the forest, and Bird kingdom. In grade 7 and 8 I enjoyed participating in extracurriculars like choir, volleyball and basketball. I enjoyed annual school events such as the bake sale and Field day. Over the 10 years I've been here I've made strong friendships, and deepened my faith.
- Ava P.

I have been at CCS since JK. In grade 7 we went on a retreat and to Treetop Trekking. In grade 8 we went to the Binbrook Conservation area for a fall retreat where a speaker spoke to us about the school theme. I enjoyed my work on the science fair project this spring.
- Brayden S.

I started attending CCS in JK because my parents wanted a good Christian education for me. My parents also thought I would be able to make good friends and strengthen my relationship with God. Some of my memories are online learning, treetop trekking, and other field trips. One of my favourite memories was field day, competing against the other teams and trying to achieve my best.
- Cole V.

I came to CCS ten years ago in JK. I remember that I felt scared because I didn't know anyone in my class. After a little bit of time, I made friends with my classmates. Some of those friends are still my friends today.
- Daimien M.

My favourite memories at CCS are of field day. I participated in field day six times and it has always been the best part of the year. My favourite part of field day is spending time with

friends, doing fun activities and playing games. CCS gave me a lot of memories that I will never forget.
- Deacon M.

When we were on a trip to the farm in grade four, I started wanting a bunny and four years later I got two, Sniffles and Swippy. If it wasn't for this field trip I would have never gotten a bunny. People at this school are nice. CCS is super caring for people with disabilities and the CCS staff never have strikes so school is always on. There are so many fun things you can sign up for at CCS. I'm super glad my parents chose to send me here.
- Evan W.

I joined CCS in grade 2 and since then have learned so much and made many friends. One of the things I remember best was being on the basketball team in grade eight. Since starting at this school it has become extremely important to my family and I to learn and follow God's word more than ever. CCS will always be a part of my heart.
- C.L.

I've been at this school for two years and I've accomplished a lot of things. My favourite subject has always been gym because I love being active. I won all my races at Master Field Day and my team won the Niagara District soccer tournament this year. When I first joined this school I didn't really have a lot of friends and was shy, but now I have so many friends here and I'm thankful that I could attend CCS.
- Jola A.

Being here has really been a blessing for me and my faith. When I was in grade 3 we did a play called "Swamped." We also had pioneer day when we got to make our own cornbread and went on a field trip to the farmers market. I love this school dearly. I now have amazing Christian friends. At this school we learn about God and his word every day. My time at CCS has given me the resources and ability to connect

with Jesus and strengthen my faith.
- Kailyn M.

I joined CCS in grade 7 and I soon found the best friends I've ever had and more memories than any other year has given me. One of my favourite memories from this year was the basketball team and how I had an opportunity to try something I never knew I loved. Before going to CCS I went to a public school then another Christian school and neither compare to Calvin!
- Olivia W.W.

My 6 years at CCS was great. I learned a lot of new things and have many memories. At first I was very nervous when my mom told me I was going to a new school. I struggled a lot with English but the teachers and some students were very kind and understanding. Thanks to them I am where I am now. My favourite time was when we won the soccer tournament. We worked hard and achieved victory.
- Ray K.

My favourite part of CCS was going on the Grade 5 swimming trip. I loved going on the big climbing wall at the pool and jumping all the way into the water. I have made so many friends at CCS. I loved being at the school because everyone cares about me. I am glad that I could go to school at CCS.
- Eric J.

CCS is a school that has blessed me throughout the years I have attended and taught me so much about the world. The teachers have shown me about God's creation and about caring for it, especially in grade 7 where we did the Team up to Clean Up at Captain Cornelius Park. I have been able to see the school develop through the construction of the new playground, the new gym floor and repaving of the parking lot this year. I loved participating in many things throughout my education here, especially the class trips at the end of the school year and

winning the soccer tournament in grade 8.
- Aiden V

Since I joined CCS in grade 7, I made lots of friends and have many memories. My favourite memory is when we went on the Grade 8 retreat and swam in the lake. I remember when kids in my class brought in money to have Mr. Schaefer shave off half of his mustache. He had to walk around like that for a whole day. I can't believe next year we will all be in Grade 9.
- Caylee M.

At CCS I like that we get to see Sydnie.
- Gloria Z.

I have been at CCS roughly 1800 days, about 257142857143 weeks, about 64. 2857142857 months, and 10 years. It is an awesome school with teachers who create an amazing learning environment. I made a lot of great friends and had lots of great school trips. Some of my fondest childhood memories are from my time at CCS: not only learning math, Bible, grammar and more but becoming stronger in my relationship with God.
- E.W.

CCS has been a part of my life for years! As a baby I would come here often when my siblings were getting picked up and dropped off. I vividly remember being so excited to start school in JK. I loved being in a play called Swamped! Another good memory was our trip to the African Lion Safari, when monkeys jumped on our car. CCS offered opportunities to join sports teams. CCS has been a blessing in my life and I will never forget the impact this school has had on me.
- Chichi U.A.

All of the teachers have been so wonderful here. When I used to get sick a lot, Mrs. Hendricks would always help in any way she could. I loved participating in Swamped, the musical. We got to sing and wear costumes. It was a great experience to be in a Christian school, to learn about God and to grow in my faith journey. My experience

at CCS was amazing and I will miss it very much, even though highschool will be awesome.

- *Chloe M.*

A Christian education is very important to me and my family, and that is one of the reasons I chose to go to CCS. My time at CCS has really been very beneficial as it allowed me to be surrounded by people who believe the same things I do. I really enjoy the unique learning environment, full of people always helping me to improve.

- *Judah Z.*

My final year at CCS was great. I made some more friends. It was important to me to be in this school for all these years because I'm a Christian. My favourite experiences in this school were going to the Wayne Gretzky Center, Treetop Trekking, the grade 8 ski trip, and all of the sports teams. My favourite experience was when my teacher, Mr. Schaefer, cut off half of his mustache and walked around the school like that for a day. I love this school and will be sad to leave it.

- *Destan S.*

Going to Calvin Christian School has been the best ride of my life. I made many new friends and have good memories of being with them. Some of my favourites are all the plays, class trips, and sports teams. Being at CCS helped me grow in my faith. Sometimes it is sad to think that I will never go to the school that I have gone to my entire life. Goodbye CCS, it's been good knowing you.

- *Eli W.*

I love the encouraging Christian environment that Calvin Christian School provides. Throughout the years I've had many wonderful teachers who helped me learn about Christianity, and taught me all I know today. I enjoyed playing on the sports teams, exploring on field trips, and creating life long friends. I'm sad to leave this community but I know I've been prepared for whatever comes my way.

- *Elijah B.*

I made many new friends and new sisters! In grade 7 my friends and I organized a party for our amazing EA. We got streamers and balloons and hung them everywhere in our classroom. We also got her gifts for her fairy garden. Being at CCS has helped my faith in Jesus grow. I learned many new concepts in math and every other subject. I love CCS!

- *Isabel V.*

In grade 7 we went to Treetop Trekking in Binbrook. It was really scary but so much fun. I got over my fear of heights that day. In grade 8 we went to the Binbrook conservation area for our retreat, and we got to go swimming. At CCS I found my two best friends forever. When I start highschool I will miss all my classmates who are going to different schools.

- *Jessica G.*

Throughout my 10 years at CCS, I have seen staff and classmates come and go. I've made new friends and lost some old ones. I've seen Mrs. Gallea turn into Mrs. Hendricks, Mr. Little replace Mr. Wensink and Mr. Schaefer lose his mustache. But no matter who came and went, I always felt welcomed by this loving community. Another part of my life at CCS was the Coronavirus. We had to miss out on field trips, wear masks, and at some points go into lockdown but it was all made up for by the neat art projects, cool subjects, extra-curricular activities, sports, drama club, and my personal favourite, concert band. Even though we missed lots of field trips, there were still so many fun ones including treetop trekking, hikes, and retreats. I feel very blessed to have had the opportunity to have a Christian education.

- *Jessica M.*

CCS has a beautiful community, full of wonderful staff members and students. It was wonderful to learn from a Christian perspective, strengthening my relationship with God. My favourite memories are the sports teams and class trips. I especially enjoyed going

treetop trekking at the end of grade 7 and practicing for Crazy For You in grade five. Thank you, CCS for a great experience!

- *Jieun-Grace P.*

I made really good friends at CCS. Christian education is important because we are Christian. My favourite memories are playing sports like soccer, volleyball, basketball, dodgeball and participating in field day, and master Field day.

- *Jihoo A.*

CCS is a great environment to learn in. The staff is always nice. My favourite part of CCS were the class trips, like the Grade 5 retreat, and treetop trekking trip. My favourite parts of Grade 8 were when Mr. Schaefer had his half mustache, and when we visited HDCH for excelsior.

- *Joseph T.*

CCS is more than a school, it's a place to build character and have unforgettable experiences. I never feel worried or insecure when coming to school. The best part about CCS is the friends and people you meet. Christian education is important to me because the teachers help us grow in Christ, and I can learn and ask questions to teachers who care and understand. I will deeply miss walking through the rusty gate by the parking lot in the mornings.

- *Josiah L.*

I enjoyed my time at CCS, especially the sports, like soccer, volleyball, and basketball. I made some really good friends here. Christian education is important to me and my family because we are Christian and the things taught here support our beliefs and values.

- *Keagan S.*

When I was in grade 8, I broke my finger on a field trip. For more than four months, I didn't have to do any writing or play my instrument in music class. I have to say, that was my favourite part of the year. During my years here, I've made really good friends. I learned more about the Bible here because

being at a Christian school meant starting each day with prayer and Bible class.

- *Landon V.G.*

I came to Calvin in grade 3 and have had a great experience. Although I moved in the midst of a difficult time, my teachers helped and supported me. I immediately made two kind, caring, and friendly friends that, amazingly, I still have today. They have supported me as long as I can remember and have always made me laugh. I made many fun memories, although I still regret missing Mr. Schaefer shaving off half his mustache, as I was sick. Being at a Christian school means that all the staff and faculty will help you grow in your faith and in understanding of the Bible. The best part is that Calvin teachers will teach about the Bible in a way that allows room for all kinds of different denominations. I will miss walking through the halls of Calvin.

- *Leah G/H*

During my time at CCS I was lucky enough to make so many great memories. One of my favourite class trips was when we went to Niagara falls for a day. What I love about Calvin Christian is that my friends and teachers share the same beliefs, so I can talk to them about it anytime.

- *Levi C.*

While I was at CCS some really fun things happened. In grade 7 it was really fun to go treetop trekking. I finished all the courses there, the coolest one was when we went on a zipline over a small lake. With my close friends, Levi and Elijah, we have made many memories and had a great time in grade school. Christian education is really great because I get to pray during class, read devotions in the morning, and learn so many things during Bible class.

- *Nathan B.*

When I first came to CCS in grade 3, it was tough for me to switch schools. I immediately felt welcomed by the kind and considerate staff and teachers.

Christian education helped me in my walk with Christ. I've learned a lot through various subjects and extracurricular activities, including sports and concert band. The teachers are always willing to help when I have questions. Some of my

favourite activities were treetop trekking and Field Day. I am going to miss this amazing community and will enjoy the fun memories we made, but I will never forget my experience at CCS.

- Lenie H.

Going to Calvin Christian School, I had the opportunity to experience a Christian education and community. The teachers and students at CCS are kind and supportive. I've made many friends, gone on many field trips, been on many

sports teams and achieved many things. The end of the year field trips were always a blast. Calvin helped me grow and become an independent Christian.

- Rachel W.

FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN GOLF TOURNAMENT | SPRING 2023

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"We are the clay, you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand." Isaiah 64:8

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