

WINTER
2011

Nine Years of Learning at GCCS! by Kirstin Hofstee



I have attended **John Calvin and Guelph Community Christian School** since SK. I am very thankful for this school, and I am sure that it will affect the rest of my life in a positive way. The teachers, the feeling of accepted-ness and welcome, as well as the love of God, are just a few of the things that make this

a wonderful environment to grow in.

One of the things that our school strives for and easily meets is the theme of *"Big kids help little kids"*. You could not walk around the school during recess time and not see an older student helping or talking to a younger student. When I was in grade 7 I had my hook across from the JK's. They would always talk to me and tell me what they were doing. I loved talking to them and I still like having little chats with them in the hallways or helping them learn to skate. We also have a reading buddy program that helps the older grades connect with other students through the gift of reading. The young students can look-up to the older students as great role models.

I have loved all my teachers at **GCCS**. They make every single student feel welcome, wanted and special. They care about more than just academics, also our hobbies and activities outside of school. One of the new teachers, *Mrs. Bojarski*, spends her time talking to me and some of the girls in my class during recess. She told me that she wanted to get to know us because she wouldn't have the chance next year. That really meant a lot to me because it shows that she cares and makes me feel special. I really enjoy talking to all the teachers. I am very thankful for all the teachers at this school who have helped me along, and nurtured me through my years.

Another great thing about **GCCS** is the level of parental involvement. Because parents are so involved, the school is how the parents want it to be. This makes it better for the students since the parents have their children's best interest at heart. I remember when my sisters and I were in the younger grades, my mom would help out with hot lunches. We would always argue about whose class she would come to, we loved it that my mom was so involved with the school. I believe that our school does a great job of recognizing everyone's unique gifts. This year *Mrs. Scheerer*

gave us a test to find out what kind of learners we were. Based on our answers Mrs. Scheerer has applied different learning techniques during the year. Also there are many different extracurricular programs, like sports teams, Battle of the Books, Chess club, Choir, Band, and drama productions.

In the early years at **GCCS** the students learn Bible stories. When you get older, Bible class starts to get deeper. We talk about what the Bible is really saying, not only in the stories. In grade 7, every day we would read one chapter of Proverbs, talk about what it was saying, and then choose a verse and write about what it means to us and how it applies to our world today. We have great deep thinking discussions, in grade 8, about how to live out our faith in this world, and what to do when our faith is put to the test. We talk about our Christian perspectives in our other subjects as well; we apply Christian living to every subject. Even in extracurricular activities we recognize that it doesn't matter whether we win or lose, we are doing it for the glory of God with the talents that He has given us. With this mindset we have received lots of compliments at various tournaments about our sportsmanship. Being in a Christian learning environment has surely taught me how to see God at work in every aspect of life.

We also try to help make this world a better place. A bunch of classes have volunteered at Feed the Children, an organization that helps bring food and other products to poor communities. We also clean-up around our neighbourhood and by the river on earth day. We bring some Christmas cheer to the neighbourhood, while keeping the CHRIST in Christmas, by going out carolling. Our school also sponsors a sister school called Juan Calvino. Last year when the earthquake hit Haiti, we decided to donate 10% of our skate-a-thon proceeds to help clean-up. God is amazing because even when we gave away 10% we still came out with enough to provide for our own school.

Next year I will be attending high school, as will all of my classmates. There is always a bit, okay a lot, of nervousness going into a totally new space, but I feel that I have a strong foundation academically and in my faith. This amazing school has prepared me and I am confident that I will not only survive, but soar through high school because of these first 9 years of learning. ■

inTouch FAMILY PROFILE

The Burkhart Family

Sandy, Sofia, Noah and Chris Burkhart

Chris and **Sandy Burkhart** were both born and raised in Guelph. They have been married since 2002 and have two children, **Noah** age 5 who is in SK and **Sofia** age 3 who has just begun attending **GCCS** in the *Ready, Set, Read* program. As a family they attend *Lakeside Church*.

In their free time the Burkharths can be found enjoying the outdoors playing sports, hiking, biking and entertaining friends. In the winter months, Chris and the kids love to snowmobile though Sandy would rather be poolside in Florida! In the warmer months they enjoy spending a lot of time at the beach in Southampton.

Chris works as a software sales consultant for the *Oracle Corporation* and Sandy runs a home based business, *Ciccio Bella*, making and selling baby and girls' accessories. Chris and Sandy are also very closely involved with our school's capital campaign. Chris is the chair of the finance committee and Sandy is part of the campaign cabinet.

Chris grew up going to *Crestwicke* and Sandy in the Catholic school system. They were very excited to learn about **GCCS** from Chris's cousin Jill Burton.

*"From the first time we walked through the school we had that feeling of family. We love the way the school teaches the children the importance of community. The older children are always interacting with the younger ones, whether it's tying skates, reading with them or just talking to them in the hallway- and they truly enjoy it! The teachers are wonderful and our music program is like none other. We couldn't have asked for a more caring and devoted principal than Bob Moore. You can definitely say we are happy with our choice to send our children to **Guelph Community Christian School!**"*

*"We feel so blessed to be a part of **GCCS** and our children's Christian education. We look forward to what the future holds for our children and the school and we take comfort in knowing that even though we are growing, we will still have the same sense of family and community."* ■



GCCS NOTABLES



- The **GCCS Eagles** have had many great tournaments this year, including soccer, volleyball, track and field and most recently hockey. The hockey team, which was led by *Scott Dickieson*, saw much success within their division. The team won four games, enough to win their division title. The coaches look forward to next year in which they will likely be facing new competition.



Components in the **GCCS Eagles** success, in any sport, is the support and willingness of the volunteers and the parent drivers. Without the parents, our sports teams would be limited to time at recess in the church's gym. The coaches of all the teams would like to say thank-you to all those who make **GCCS Eagles'** sports possible.

inTouch TEACHER PROFILE

Mr. Ivan Stam



Ivan Stam is now in his second year of teaching. He feels so blessed to have begun his teaching career at **GCCS** because the staff and administration not only nurture, inspire and educate their students, but also do the same for their new staff. Ivan teaches the combined 6/5 class and loves to watch the minds of his students develop. One of the best parts of teaching is the chance to watch inquisitive minds in their thirst for knowledge. The second most enjoyable part of teaching, not too far behind the first, is seeing the students smile and laugh at both their and their teacher's folly.

Before getting into teaching, Ivan spent several years after high school renovating and building houses in

and around the Jarvis area. He had several great years while learning the trade and had an amazing teacher. In the summer of 2010, Ivan left his home in Ancaster, where he received his B.A. and B.Ed., and purchased a house in the west end of Guelph, which he completely renovated and updated. He loves having his summers to get reacquainted with the building trade and hopes to find another home with which to share his TLC. Even though Ivan loves school and loves to learn, he has

learned that not all learning happens in workbooks or paper tests, but through experience, hard work and sometimes through failure.

Even after living in Guelph for several months, Ivan is still finding new streets and new attractions each day. He loves what the city has to offer, but more so, loves what the community has given. He has felt much support from the **GCCS** community and looks forward to seeing what the next several years hold, both for himself and the school. ■

GCCS Directory Quiz Bet You Didn't Know...



1. What is the most popular letter at the beginning of GCCS family last names?
2. Which letter is at the beginning of exactly one last name?
3. How many pairs of families share the same last name?
4. How many families have a last name that starts with Z?
5. How many families have a last name that starts with Van?
6. How many cities or towns does GCCS have students from?

Answers: 1. S (20 families). 2. A (1 family). 3. 2 (the Ensings and the Sommerfelds). 4. 2 (the Zantings and the Zevenbergs). 5. 4 (the Van Arragons, Van Dijk, Van Dykes, and Vander-Bergs). 6. 7 (Guelph, Cambridge, Rockwood, Puslinch, Fergus, Caledonia, and Ariss)

By Graham McKitrick, Grade 7

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Guelph Community
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

JCCS/GCCS 50th Anniversary
Saturday, April 16th

What's Coming Up

Arrowsmith Information Night, April 11, 7pm

50th Anniversary Events, April 16, 2011

Homecoming Soccer Game

Open House at the School

Celebration Service at First Christian Reformed Church

Dinner and Entertainment at Guelph Place

Visit us on Facebook:

jccs/gccs 50th Anniversary

or our Website at www.guelphccs.ca

Spring General Meeting, Tuesday, May 3

Grandparent & Friend Day, Friday, May 13



Guelph Community
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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