

SNAPSHOT

STORIES FROM OUR CLASSROOMS

ISSUE TWO

Welcome to the second edition of our school magazine, where each page offers an insightful glimpse into some of the enriching experiences, achievements, and memorable moments that have been at the heart of our educational journey this term.



Learning Together

**News and stories by our students from every grade.
PLUS: What we have achieved united as a school community.**

MAGAZINE BY
YOUNG REPORTERS CLUB
Grades 3 - 8

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GUELPH COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

EDITION
#02

OUR THEME

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

The Fruit of the Spirit is



Galatians 5:22-23

MEMORIES FROM OUR CHRISTMAS CONCERT: CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT



A NOTE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

At GCCS, we aspire to inspire our students to create beautiful work while helping them to recognize and, hopefully, always remember that they are God's beautiful work!

As Ephesians 2:10 says, "We are God's masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus to do the good things he planned for us."

Over the past few months there have been so many good things created - many of which are displayed in this issue of Snapshot.

We have continued to learn many things about our theme including:

- Patience means "long temper" and means being able to stay grounded and centred even when things around you are racing out of control
- Kindness is showing love, mercy, and generosity to others without the thought of reward.
- True goodness is not something we can produce or even experience without God. It is only through His spirit that goodness can be manifested in and through us.

Over the remaining months we will be exploring faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

- Justin DeMoor, *Principal*

THIS TERM WE HAVE STUDIED...

patience
(pey-shuh-nl) • noun
slow to speak, slow to anger
(Proverbs 15:1)

WHAT IT MEANS

It is when you don't hurry something that is out of your control. It can also mean taking more time to get something right. Waiting with peace, and not being afraid of doing something quicker than it's meant to be done.

- BY JESSIE, GR 6

kindness
(kin-dnss) • noun
merciful, gracious, & tender temperament
(Jeremiah 9:23-24)

WHAT IT MEANS

It means noticing when people aren't doing well, and lending a hand. It means giving a smile to someone walking by. It means holding open a door for someone who has their hands full. It's everyday acts of showing kindness that change people's lives.

- BY ELIANNA, GR 8

goodness
(good-nss) • noun
selfless desire to be generous to others
(Ephesians 5:8-10)

WHAT IT MEANS

It is something you have inside. Unlike kindness, it isn't something that is an outward act. It means being good on the inside and being a decent person.

- BY JESSIE, GR 6



KINDERGARTEN

Our Kindergarten students have had an eventful and busy winter. We have enjoyed the snow and the winter weather outside and have had many opportunities for indoor play both in the gym and in the classroom. Kinder B shared their class chapel with the school, through singing and storytelling, they shared the theme of Kindness and how at times coming alongside someone and listening is where kindness begins. During our winter months we participated in Black History Month, where Kinder P. learned about Rosa Parks and Jackie Robinson. We had deep discussions about who we are and how God made us. In February, we also celebrated Valentine's Day. This year the Kinder classes took on the role of creating and delivering the GCCS community Valentines. We celebrated an extra day in our year on February 29th where

we leapt like frogs through our learning. Kindergarten had many visitors in February who came to teach us about their role in our community. A firefighter, dental hygienist, and a nurse all explained their job for us and taught us how they are our helpers. Finally, a highlight for us, right before March Break, was indeed our Dr. Seuss week. From funky socks to crazy hair to wearing green, and finally dressing in blue and red, the Kinder students were immersed in the rhymes and creativity of Dr. Seuss.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT:
WE SANG AWAY IN A MANGER



VISITS AND VISITORS



WE HAVE
TRAVELLED



WE LOVE
MUSIC CLASS



HISTORY AND
CULTURE LEARNING



OUTDOOR FUN



WE LOVE BEING OUTDOORS



CHAPEL PERFORMANCE



APPLESAUCE
MAKING



COUNTING AND
CREATING

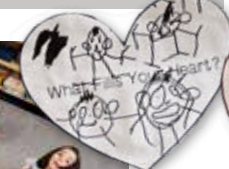


EXPERIMENTING



PUZZLE
SOLVING

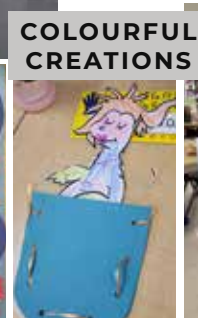
KINDER B FUN



IMAGINATION
SPACE



OUR DOOR
IS ALWAYS
ON THEM



COLOURFUL
CREATIONS



ALWAYS
ACTIVE

KINDER P ADVENTURES

A DAY IN OUR WORLD



GRADE 1

Welcome to Grade 1. Here are just some of the many highlights from our adventures this term!



OUR CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE:

'The First Noel' - We performed the story of Jesus' birth in full costume to a beautifully sung rendition of the First Noel.

THE MUSEUM TRIP

In February we had an unforgettable experience visiting The Museum in Kitchener, where we were immersed in a world of art and technology.

We took part in workshops at the studio Makerspace, delved into the realms of light and visuals in the digital immersive space and explored the innovative fusion of art and technology in the 'Playground.' We loved the 'Illusion Experience' in the 'Frame of Mind' section, where we interacted with amazing 3D painted scenes that played tricks on our perception. It was a day filled with excitement, creativity and wonder, leaving us with a newfound appreciation for the intersection of art and technology.



BUILDING COMMUNITY

We embarked on a collaborative journey to create a Community Map, highlighting the essential elements that contribute to a thriving community. Working together, we identified key features vital for a community's well-being. Through interviews with different community workers, including dentists, librarians, engineers, nurses, therapists and policemen, we gained insights into the diverse roles within a community. This project gave us a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of community members and the importance of their contributions. The Community Map shows our creativity, curiosity and learning journey as we built a vibrant environment for everyone.



GRADE 1 WENT 'BUGGY' WITH LINE DESIGN



CELEBRATING THE ART OF CLEMENTINE HUNTER



GEOMETRIC PEOPLE



KINDNESS AND GOODNESS

We embarked on inspiring projects focusing on kindness and goodness.

We created pink shirts with kindness messages, displayed them in the hallway and committed to practicing one idea during each recess. We also wrote heartfelt kindness notes for our peers to encourage them. Our "Bee Kind" writing project gave us an opportunity to write about how we could show kindness. These projects instilled values of compassion and encouraged us to bring meaningful contributions to our community.



BOOKS WE HAVE READ



CALMING CORNER

This space offers our students a brief pause from the classroom's busyness, enabling them to take time to breathe and collect their thoughts before returning to their tasks. This resource equips students with tools to manage their emotions effectively in a supportive learning environment.



MATH FUN



VALENTINES CARDS

OUR CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE:

'How Far is it to Bethlehem' -
We sang and waved colourful flags



GRADE 2

WE LOVE SINGING

Grade 2 students are always known for being passionate about singing, which often spills out beyond the confines of our classroom. We take every opportunity to spread joy throughout the school. Recently, we treated everyone in the school office to a heartfelt rendition of 'Holy, There Is No One Like You,' accompanied by our talented music teacher, Mrs. Wood, on the ukulele. We hoped, by sharing our passion for music, that we brought a moment of joy to their busy day.

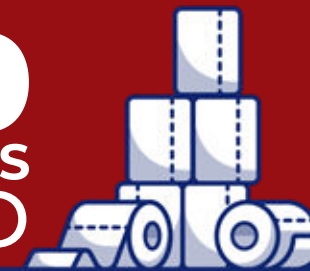


*Holy, there is no one like you / There is none besides you / Open up my eyes in wonder
And show me who you are and fill me / With your heart and lead me / In your love to those around me*

HOPE HOUSE UPDATE



9600 TOILET ROLLS PACKED



HEALTHY HABITS

We have really enjoyed our Healthy Living unit, exploring Canada's new Food Guide and its emphasis on the three main food groups: Fruits & Vegetables, Proteins and Whole Grains. We examined our lunches to identify these food groups and assess our dietary choices. As a creative project, we made food sculptures to demonstrate our understanding of the various food groups we have studied. We then presented and explained our creations to the whole class.



GROWTH MINDSET

In our ongoing journey of embracing a Growth Mindset, our latest endeavour has been an inspiring writing project. From the initial stages of planning through to the creation of rough drafts, numerous revisions and incorporating valuable feedback, we remained steadfast in our pursuit of excellence for our final copies. Taking inspiration from author Jan Brett's writing style, and modelled on her book 'The Mitten', we embarked on crafting our very own narratives, complete with captivating artwork and engaging storytelling. Each page of our final copies bears testament to the passion and dedication we poured into our projects. We eagerly shared our completed work with our reading buddies and fellow students. Their reactions and feedback have not only provided us with valuable insights but have also bolstered our confidence in the power of perseverance. Through this process, we've come to realize that with determination and resilience, there are no limits to what we can achieve.



CHINESE NEW YEAR

We celebrated Chinese New Year by embracing a cultural lesson in the art of using chopsticks, led by our classmate Colin. With a variety of foods to practice with, from grapes and marshmallows to chips and noodles, we attempted to master the skill. While it proved to be more challenging than we thought, we had fun and persevered through the learning process! We also had fun making paper lanterns. It gave our class an appreciation of Chinese traditions and a curiosity about different cultures.



CAT DAY ANTICS

We had a purr-fect "Cat Day" in class to honour Mrs. Klassen's cat's birthday, dressing up as cats and enjoying a day filled with cat-themed activities. We had a blast creating a range of words with "at," crafting our own "Cat in the Hat" style poems, and exploring various cat species through online research with Britannica. It was a fun celebration that combined learning and creativity!



HEART WORDS

We have been using "Heart Words" to serve as reminders to memorize irregular words that don't follow phonetical rules, including "her," "were," "once," "upon," "give," "live," "love," "little," "come," "some," "done," "none," "now," and "how."



POSITIVE & NEGATIVE SPACE

We created cut-out artwork to explore the concepts of positive and negative space, helping our understanding of visual composition. We practised this project a few times to get to our best version.



CANADIAN ARTIST: EMILY CARR

We have been exploring the captivating art of Emily Carr and created our own pieces inspired by her unique style and themes.



GRADE 3/4



OUR CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE:
'O Come, O Come Emmanuel' - performed with tone chimes

3D MUG CREATIONS



CANADA REGIONS

Our class have done a project about Canada's regions. These include the Arctic, the Appalachian regions, the Canadian Shield, the Cordillera and the Interior Plains. We were all given a region to research and we had to find out about the people, the cities and the resources in that area. I did the Interior Plains. One thing that I thought was cool was the farming. - *Theo Gr 3/4*

What do pigs relax in?
A Ham-mock! HAHA!
- Theo Gr 3/4



THE MUSEUM



In February, our class visited THE MUSEUM, where we experienced innovative art and technology through interactive exhibits. In the underground Studio MakerSpace, we enjoyed hands-on S.T.E.A.M learning activities. The 'Frame of Mind' exhibit, filled with optical illusions, provided playful moments of acting out funny reactions! Each of us left with a fun memory from our visit, highlighting the diverse and captivating aspects of THE MUSEUM.

SHOW AND TELL

One of our incentives from our Walkathon challenge last term was to have a Show and Tell time one afternoon this term. I bought my pet dog and Tyler brought his small dog in too. Theo brought 12 different eggs laid at his home farm. Ezra brought his pet bearded dragon. Osasogie brought a toy dinosaur. Easton brought a UV light. Marcus brought a hoverboard. Alexis brought in one of her special dolls. Brooke brought her pet bunny, Peep. Anna brought in her pet guinea pig. Bryanna brought her remote control car. London brought in his guitar and played it for us. I enjoyed this and I think we should do it again. - *James Gr 3/4*

Illustration - *Abram Gr 3/4*



What kind of reptile tells on his friends?
A tattlesnake! HAHA!
- Theo Gr 3/4

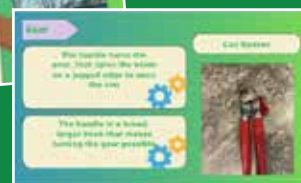
RIVER RUN CENTRE

In February Grades 3/4 and 4 took a trip to the River Run Centre to see "The Carnival of Animals" by Camille Saint-Saëns, a classical music composition that introduces children to classical music. Mime artist Trevor Copp animated the music with expressive movements. Each movement depicted various animals, from elephants to chickens and turtles, which we all found enchanting. It was a magical journey of music and imagination.



PULLEYS AND LEVERS

Our class has been learning about pulleys and gears. We have used the presentation software Canva to show all we have learned. Our task was to look around us at home and at school and see where we could find gears and pulleys being used and write about some of them. - *Abram Gr 3/4*



GRADE 11 EDITING

Once again, we embarked on a journey to hone our writing skills! Our mission this time was to craft imaginative stories - fairytales, fractured fairytales, or even sequels to beloved tales. Each of us were paired with a Grade 11 editor from Woodland High School to refine our narratives for publication. Our ultimate aim? To weave enchanting tales that bring joy to our audience through both our words and our illustrations! We are authors who brainstorm, write, seek feedback, refine and revise to bring our stories to life!



GRADE 4

Welcome to Grade 4. We have been up to so much over the past few months and we are excited to give you an insight into some of our highlights.



OUR CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE:
'O Come, All Ye Faithful' - performed with tone chimes

FAIRYTALES AND GRADE 11

Our class have been writing fairy tales which we are excited to share! Here is how we worked on them.

We started by just brainstorming on a piece of paper, then we started writing the story. When we were all done writing, we got together with Grade 11 students from Woodland High School who came and visited our classroom. They spent time helping us edit our stories and also write our 'About the Author' page. When we were done editing, our next step was to get on the Chromebooks and start doing a final draft. We worked on this over a couple of weeks and when we were finished typing we printed our stories. Next, we made pictures for our stories and title pages. We got cardstock and glued the title pages on it, we put all the pages together, laminated the covers and bound it to create our finished product. - by Elsa, Gr 4



WE ARE READING...

Hi I'm Abi and I'm going to tell you about a book that we're reading in Grade 4. It's called Fatty Legs, by Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret Olemaun Pokiak-Fenton. It is based on a true story of an Indigenous girl who lives on Banks Island in the Northwest Territories. But when she is 8 years old she leaves her family and goes to residential school in Aklavik. The girl's name is Olemaun Pokiak, but at residential school they make her change her name to Margaret. And she had a hard time. She had a cousin in residential school whose name is Agnes. Agnes stood up for Olemaun when the mean nun made her do extra chores. This mean nun was called The Raven. She was very mean. There was another nun whose name was Sister MacQuillan. She was nice. I enjoyed reading the book Fatty Legs because I learned about what children went through in residential schools, but reading about that made me feel sad, too. - by Abi, Gr 4



COZY DAY AND DRESS UP



Where do cats keep their things?
In there paw-cket!
- Nella, Gr 4

ARTWORK CREATIONS



OUR CHAPEL

PULLEYS AND GEARS

This term we have learned about the world of gears and pulleys. We looked into fixed, movable, and compound pulleys. Through lots of building activities in class, we have constructed different types of pulleys, which gave us insights into how they work and what they can be used for. Through our discussions, we explored the reasons for picking certain types of pulleys and gears for different tasks. Outside the classroom, we looked for pulleys and gears in our daily lives, particularly in our homes. We discovered just how these simple yet ingenious devices appear in our everyday activities.



TMMC VISIT

TMMC: TOYOTA MOTOR MANUFACTURING CANADA



In February we went to the Toyota Manufacturing place as part of our pulleys and gears learning. We saw how people and robots make cars. I thought it was great. We didn't even see a quarter of it. It was huge!!!! I wish I can go back there soon. - by Ava, Gr 4
TMMC is a car plant. My favourite part about it was the robots and all the machines that work there. There are also over 1,000 people who work to build Toyota cars. - by Alexis, Gr 3/4



In December our class chapel focused on the theme of patience. We took centre stage with a performance that explored the journey of a caterpillar's transformation into a butterfly. We sang the catchy song 'Patience' featuring the lovable Herbert the Snail! We hoped that we shared the beauty of patience in a way that made everyone there smile!



CANADA REGIONS

This term we have been learning about the regions of Canada. We were all assigned a region of Canada - for example the Interior Plains, Great Lakes St Lawrence Lowlands and the Appalachian regions. We worked on our own and spent time researching using books in our classroom. We had to make a poster to write facts and draw pictures of things that were interesting to us about our region. We all discovered interesting things about our area. I studied Great Lakes St Lawrence Lowlands, and did you know the area from Windsor to Barrie is sometimes called 'Tornado Ally', or that about 50 million people live in this region - that's over half the population of Canada! When we were finished we displayed them in our class to share with everyone. - by Aaron, Gr 4

Art class is the favourite subject of many. Mrs Bronsveld teaches art.. We learn lots of different techniques on how to draw or paint. Anything that has anything to do with art, Mrs Bronsveld will know about! The hardest project so far was the Radial Fabric project. The most fun was the Cozy Day Mugs. - by Aaron, Gr 4



GRADE 5

We are:
LEADERS OF OUR OWN LEARNING



OUR CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE:
'Heaven and Nature Sing' - performed with tone chimes



ART PROJECTS

| CHARTWELL VISITS

Our Grade 5 class continues to nurture relationships with the residents of Chartwell Retirement Home through monthly visits, engaging in activities such as games, drawing, and heartfelt conversations, all helping us to build meaningful connections and spreading joy. It is a special time our whole class looks forward to.



| DECK YOURSELF DAY



GET COZY DAY



WE ARE LEADERS OF OUR OWN LEARNING!



CHRISTMAS GIVING

| CLASS TALENT SHOW

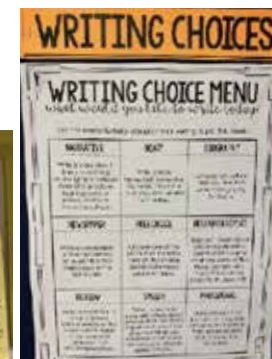
Our talent show, though optional, brought immense joy as many of our class bravely showcased our talents to the rest of the class.

The performances varied from a captivating play to a hilarious comic show and impressive gymnastics routines. Laughter and applause filled the room as each act took the stage, creating an atmosphere of excitement and support. It was an unforgettable event that celebrated the diverse talents and creativity within our class, leaving everyone with cherished memories of a truly enjoyable time. Hopefully we will do another one soon!



| FREE CHOICE WRITING

Teaching students the writing process and empowering them with choices in content and form fosters their creativity and critical thinking skills. By guiding them through the stages of brainstorming, drafting, revising, and editing, students learn the tools and processes to express themselves effectively. Allowing students to choose their topics and formats motivates students to write more and take ownership of their work. This approach cultivates an atmosphere where students want to write; they actually groan when it is time to pack up. - Mrs Burton, Gr 5 teacher



| PHYS ED

Phys Ed is a highlight in our class, where we enthusiastically participate in a diverse range of sports activities. From the intensity of soccer to the agility demanded by speedball, from the precision of pickleball to the coordination needed in badminton, we embrace every challenge. Whether spiking a volleyball, strategizing in American football, or dodging in dodgeball, each session is infused with energy and excitement. Through PE, we learn not only the value of physical fitness but also the importance of teamwork, perseverance and sportsmanship.



| WHITEBOARD LEARNING - WORKING TOGETHER

An update on how we are finding this way of working in class and how it is enabling us to become leaders of our own learning.

As a class we have embraced the whiteboard learning method with enthusiasm, finding it to be an effective and engaging way to absorb new information. This collaborative approach allows for the free exchange of thoughts and ideas, facilitating deeper understanding and developing a sense of community within the classroom. Through this method, we can articulate our thoughts and perspectives whilst also gaining insight into how our peers interpret the material. Particularly beneficial for subjects like Math and Language, the whiteboard method encourages active participation and ensures that every one of us feels heard and valued in the learning process. It's not just about individual understanding but also about appreciating diverse viewpoints and learning from one another's insights, making it a truly enriching educational experience for our whole class.





OUR CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE:
'Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence' - performed
through singing, tone chimes and ukuleles

GRADE 6

ART CREATIONS

Art is a highlight of the week for many students in our class. Art is a great way to express yourself and focus. But it can be a great way to socialize as well! People can spread joy with the art they create and display. We are always taking on new challenges in Mrs Bronsveld's class. Here are two recent examples of work we have completed.
- Jessie, Gr 6



PERSPECTIVE PROJECT: We had to do either an 'ant's eye view' or a 'bird's eye view' of a snowman doing whatever action or setting we decided on. We could use either oil pastels or chalk pastels. The variety of compositions that were created made a great display!

GLOCKENSPIEL COMPOSITIONS

Our class love listening to and composing music
- Jessie, Gr 6

The beginning of a chapel in January opened with the whole school listening to the music many in our class had been composing and rehearsing on glockenspiels in music class. Here is a list of the song titles we wrote and performed along with the students who created them:

- Broken Jee* by Henry & Jessie | *Bob* by Noah & Kameron | *The Sky's Happiness* by Marina and Daria | *Unexpected Drama* by Sooahn, Charlie, & Jackson | *It's Raining Candy* by Heidi & Corinne | *Water Ripples* by Carina & Isabelle | *Spring Rain* by Emily & Paige | *Shooting Stars* by Ye-An | *Opposing Rain* by Nolen & Logan | *Do Re Mi* by Taeyeon & Ayleen



MUSIC CLASS - Jessie, Gr 6

In Grade 6 we learn to play a number of instruments including the ukulele, glockenspiel, percussion and tone chimes. We also enjoy singing as a class and a few of us do flag routines. We love playing music and having fun.



CRACK THE CODE

We have had a very interesting Math unit this term. We have been learning lots about coding! Coding is a computer programming or coding composition of sequences and instructions. And oftentimes coding is used to allow programmers to build programs, such as websites and apps. Computer programmers can also tell computers how to process data in better, faster ways. We 'code' on a website called "Scratch" - a website that has a simple visual interface for school aged students to create digital stories, games, and animations which teachers monitor. We are also able to share our creations with our classmates to test our work. We have used Scratch to create our own probability games, solving some coding mistakes so that the sprites (or characters) can do the programming they were meant to do. Scratching is so fun. After we finish our assignments we can go to 'Freestyle Create' where we can create whatever we want on Scratch and animate it to represent who we are. - Ayleen, Gr 6



TREE COMPOSITION: Our brief was to make a picture with a tree as the focal point, and it had to have something going on around it. We could use any medium, or even more than one, and any technique to create our picture. It was so exciting to see what our class came up with. Every picture was different, with each of us having our own interpretation of the brief. - Jessie, Gr 6



CARD MAKING

Christmas card creations with our Grade 1 buddies.

Over Christmas our class worked with our reading buddies (Grade 1) to design and make Christmas cards for some of the residents living in Chartwell Retirement Home, for those who would not be able to see their families over the holidays. We coloured pictures, folded and glued together the cards. We enjoyed seeing our buddies' creative side, and getting to know them better while spreading joy to others. - Jessie, Gr 6



BOOK REVIEW

Our class have been reading "Bark of The Bog Owl" by Jonathan Rodgers, and it was amazing!

"Courage and a heart for adventure drive twelve-year-old shepherd boy Aidan Errolson. When the bark of the bog owl echoes from the forest across his father's well-tended pastures, Aidan dreams of wild places still untamed and quests not yet pursued."

The plot was really captivating because I could reference a lot of the events to stories in the Bible, which I liked. It also had a lot of events happening at once which was good because it didn't take a long time for it to get interesting. However, I feel the author did copy a lot from the Bible which is great to an extent, but I feel he could have added a little more of his own twist to the story. The author writes from different people's point of view which is clever. For example, Aidan has other siblings and in certain scenes the author includes a detailed perspective of each character's thoughts and feelings of the situation. I found this book very interesting because it gave me a new perspective on stories from the Bible. It helped me to understand the feelings and thoughts that people in the Bible might have thought. I would definitely recommend this book. - Ayleen, Gr 6



GRADE 7W/7P

WELCOME TO 7P



CHAPEL PERFORMANCE



7P worked hard to prepare for their chapel performance in February. This play was about God's goodness throughout history. Some historical characters we acted out were Mary Magdalene, Abraham, John Newton, Austen Carr (American football player) and many more. The play showed how God's goodness is 'present' throughout our lives, even in the hard times. We also played the song 'This is Amazing Grace' by Phil Wickham. It was an extraordinary play. - *Kiarah and Paige, Gr 7P*

PLAYTIME WITH PRESCHOOL

The Grade 7s are reading buddies with the little students in our preschool program. Sometimes we play together with hula hoops and bouncy balls in the gym, and other times the Grade 7 students read fun books to them. We have lots of fun and enjoy our time with the preschoolers. - *Kiarah, Gr 7P*



GRADE 7 ARTWORK

One of our art projects this term has been the Pop Art. Pop Art is when you take one object and make it BIC with vibrant colours. The object usually goes off the page. Our task was to select either a snack or food of our choice and create a Pop Art inspired piece of art. We did really well with them. - *Kiarah and Paige, Gr 7P*



OUR CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE: 'Jingle Bells' - performed as a band

RIVER RUN TRIP

This year the Grade 7 and 8 classes went to the River Run Centre to see 'Walking Through the Fire', an indigenous band/music group. It was very interesting to see the difference in music styles. The band performed lots of amazing songs, and used many different instruments which most of us thought were interesting. We all enjoyed this performance, to see the band perform and to listen to their amazing music!

- *by Paige, Kiarah and Selma, Gr 7P*



BAND GRADE 7

This year the Grade 7 classes have the privilege of learning a band instrument of our choice. We have been working hard to learn different notes and play songs together as a group. We have made great progress over the past few months. We are currently working on a beautiful piece for the Spring Concert in May. - *Kiarah, Gr 7P*



FOCUS TIMES



READING BUDDIES



PROJECT TIMES



PRESCHOOL PLAY

PIZZA LUNCHES





GRADE 8



OUR CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE:
"The Earle of Oxford's Marche" - performed as a band

SERVICE PROJECT: GLEANERS

In December our Grade 8 class spent a day at 'The Gleaners'. The Gleaners is an Interdenominational Christian organization based in Cambridge. They work with volunteers to collect, process and distribute millions of dried nutritious food products to help feed those in need worldwide.

We went to The Gleaners to participate in a day of service work and to be a part of this hands-on mission. The experience of helping dehydrate food that is donated, and become involved in the whole process, was an awe-inspiring experience for us all. We helped cut potatoes and sort produce, set up and clean up. It felt rewarding to experience the work involved and to participate in the community.

"It shows how we can all spend our time to help the community and help the less fortunate." - T. Peterson, Gr 8 student

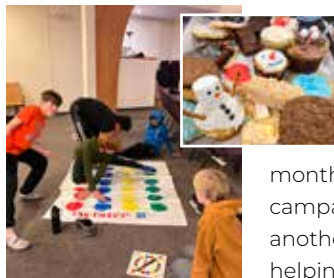
"I think it critical because it teaches my students how to do an act of service in a tangible way and helps us to honour others outside of our school community at an international level!" - Mrs Scheerer (Gr 8 teacher)

- by Naomi, Gr 8



FUNDRAISING

UPDATES



Our class has been working hard all year to raise funds for our year-end trip to Medeba, an outdoor adventure camp. We will be heading there for three days at the end of May. We have been very creative in our fundraising efforts, including holding

monthly bake sales, hosting cookie and chicken fundraising campaigns, and even hosting a games night! Be ready for another chicken fundraiser coming in May. Thank you for helping us raise money for our exciting trip!

HEROES OF THE FAITH

Did you know that Jim Elliot sacrificed himself evangelizing to the Basil tribe of the Aucas and that Martin Luther King Jr. was a social rights activist known for his speech 'I Had a Dream' as well as his non-violent campaign against racism? In Grade 8 we have focused on God and how he works through us and through many other people. One of the ways we did this was through our recent Bible project, 'Interviewing Modern Day Heroes of Faith'. In this project, partners picked a hero of faith either from the New Testament or after, researched their hero and then presented their hero to the class in the form of an interview. Through this project, we hoped to learn more about how people have worked for God's faith throughout history and teach our classmates about these people. - Elianna Gr 8

RIVER RUN CENTRE TRIP

In January we went to the River Run Centre to watch a performance of Indigenous, Metis and String music.

The music was a collaboration of the band Sultans of String, Metis musicians, and Indigenous musicians from across Canada. Every instrument played was a string instrument, from violin to base to viola to guitar, and much more. During their performance they played songs incorporating their cultures: Metis and Indigenous songs, powwows, and more. It was a really uplifting experience and gave the students a glimpse into the Indigenous and Metis culture.

- by Elianna, Gr 8

GRADE 8 CHAPEL PERFORMANCE



Our chapel performance at the beginning of March took the audience on an unforgettable journey through the stories of 'Heroes in the Bible', as seen through the lens of faithfulness. Our vision was to bring these timeless tales to life and give them a modern-day twist that would capture the emotions and thoughts of those watching. From the courage of David facing Goliath to the faith of Daniel standing firm in his beliefs, we wanted to remind people of the enduring power of faith and heroism. We really enjoyed the chance to portray such inspiring Biblical figures.



GRADE 8 ART PROJECTS

We have made two art pieces in Grade 8: **God's Magnificence and Movement of Line**. Our most recent piece is called 'Movement of Line', a zentangle where we lead the viewer through our piece, incorporating a clipping of a magazine. Our second piece is called 'God's Magnificence', which is choosing something in God's creation that the artist wants to portray. The art pieces are carefully thought out and formed, taking many weeks to complete. We build on all of the skills that we developed throughout our previous years of art so that the pieces we create present our full abilities. - Elianna Gr 8



PROJECT: GOD'S MAGNIFICENCE

PROJECT: MOVEMENT OF LINE

GR.8 VS TEACHERS

Yearly Volleyball battle

As a new tradition at GCCS, the Grade 8 students take on some of our teachers, including our volleyball coaches! Over a lunch recess, many Grade 8 students gathered in the gym to support their classmates in their endeavour to beat the teachers, something past Grade 8 classes haven't achieved yet. It was a tense time, but the record remains as the teachers won convincingly.



CLUBS

So much happens during our school day, including many clubs and activities outside class time hours. Here is an insight into some of them!

CHESS CLUB

Chess club runs from January until March and it is for students in Grade 4-8.

Chess club is for anyone who wants to play, even if you don't know how. We can learn how to play chess with other beginners. But if we already know how to play the game, then we spend our time playing matches. We find it a lot of fun because it is a chance to play with new friends and learn new tactics! - Emma and Elsa Gr 4

B.O.B.

Battle of the books (B.O.B. for short) is a way for students to read and have a friendly competition all together.

There is a junior (grades 4 – 6) and senior team (grades 7 and 8). Each team has eight different books that they have to read as much as possible from September to April. In April there is a competition against other Christian schools in Kitchener where we compete to see who knows the book best based on a series of questions. As a group, we meet once a week to discuss a different book and we run through some practice questions that might be in the competition. Once we've gone through all the books, we start to do practice competitions. This means that the group you are in will be split in half and told to go against each other answering questions. It's an enjoyable experience if you like reading and competition.

- Luisa, Gr 8

YRC

At the heart of our Young Reporters News Club is a passionate commitment to keeping our school community informed, connected, and inspired.

Our mission is simple yet powerful: to share the vibrant stories and happenings within our school, spanning different grades and age groups. We meet every Wednesday recess and have students from Grades 3 to 8 in our team.

Writing is not just ink on paper; it's our voice echoing across time. The pursuit of truth is sacred. Just as Jesus proclaimed, 'You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free,' so too does it guide our pens and inspire our words. In writing and in journalism, we are called to be beacons of honesty, revealing the world's realities with integrity and grace. Let truth be our guide, ensuring that your generation's story is told. We embrace the pen, for in our words lies the future's greatest adventures and most vital discoveries.

MUSIC MAKERS

The Music Makers is a new club this year at the school and it's been going really well.

With practices every Monday at lunch recess, the Music Makers have been using their musical talents to worship God. It includes students from Grades from 4 to 8, with Mrs Wood teaching us how to use our music gifts. In Music Makers we play instruments, sing and use flags.

Throughout the year we get the opportunity to perform in various places. We have performed in chapel a few times, at a school meeting, and at Christmas we went to a nearby government building. We got dressed up in Christmas gear and shared our Christmas spirit by playing Christmas songs with tone chimes. We really enjoyed bringing joy to the people working there. Music Makers is a club that the students at GCCS have really come to enjoy.

- by Brooke P, Gr 8

STUDENT COUNCIL CHECKING IN WITH OUR REPS

Student Council are a group of students excited to lead and are full of creativity. As a team we have been working hard to come up with fun school Spirit Days for all GCCS students to enjoy such as Dress Up Day, Get Cozy Day and Christmas 'Deck Yourself' Day.

We had a lot of fun leading the Fall Fun Day in October with lots of outdoor team games, and organizing a Pop Tab collection (which ran for a few months) as

part of the wheelchair fundraiser The Elora Legion organize. We are ready to do it again!

The Student Council has been eagerly brainstorming and preparing for the upcoming 'Minute to Win it' Day in May. This might be the biggest and most fun event of the year! As a group, we are overflowing with so many big ideas which we can't wait to share!

- Heidi, Gr 6 Student Council Representative

GCCS EVENTS

STAFF CHRISTMAS LUNCH



POP TAB COLLECTING



PINK SHIRT DAY



1 STONE ROAD



GET COZY



CHRISTMAS ART

GCCS SPORTS



HOCKEY



BASKETBALL



UPCOMING EVENTS

FOR ALL!

FUNDRAISING GALA AND AUCTION

Get ready for an unforgettable evening at our upcoming **Fundraising Gala and Auction!** Join us for a night of delectable food, captivating live entertainment, and thrilling live auctions. It's a wonderful opportunity for our entire community to come together and celebrate the successes of our school year, reflecting on how much God has blessed us. With each bid and every joyful moment shared, we strengthen our school community and continue to support our mission of providing quality education grounded in faith. Let's come together in gratitude and celebration, as we look forward to the blessings yet to come!



GOLF TOURNAMENT

Mark your calendars for the much-anticipated **5th Annual Golf Tournament at Springfield Golf and Country Club!** It's a day dedicated to camaraderie and friendly competition as friends gather to enjoy a round of golf amidst the stunning backdrop of a beautiful course. After an exhilarating afternoon on the greens, we'll come together to share a delightful dinner where we'll celebrate the day's victories and acknowledge outstanding performances. It's more than just a golf tournament—it's an opportunity to forge lasting memories and strengthen bonds within our community. Don't miss out on this memorable day of golf, fellowship, and fun! To find out more or to book your spot visit www.GCCSgolftournament.ca

YRC : ABOUT US

THIS MAGAZINE WAS WRITTEN BY STUDENTS AT GCCS WHO ATTEND THE YOUNG REPORTERS CLUB.

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Scan here to read more of our articles on our YRC page, or visit our school's blog page for more school insights.

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