

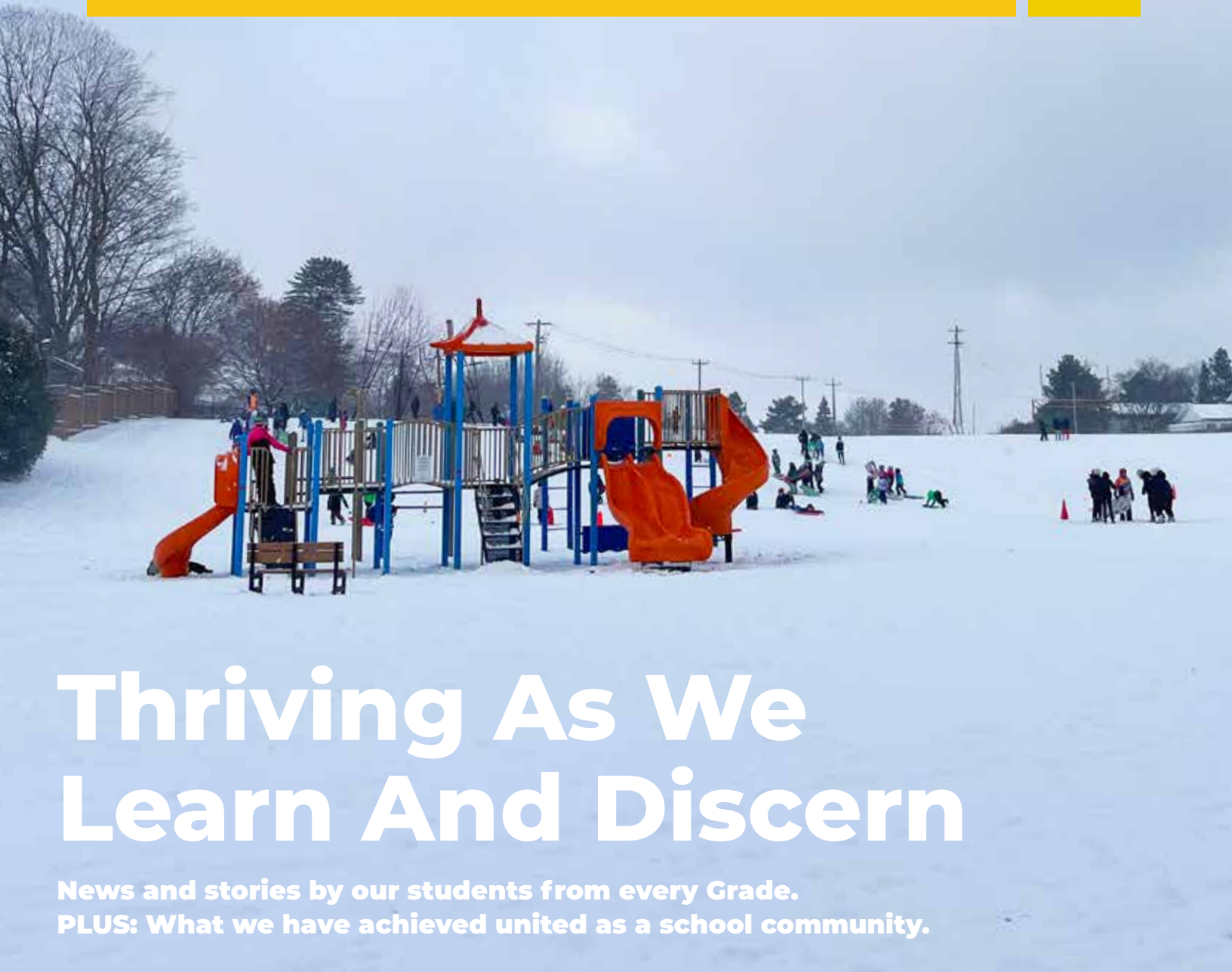
SNAPSHOT

STORIES FROM OUR CLASSROOMS

ISSUE FIVE

Welcome to the fifth 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.

GCCS
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Thriving As We Learn And Discern

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 4 - 8

PUBLISHED BY
GUELPH COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

EDITION
#05

DEC 2024 - MAR 2025

OUR THEME

A NOTE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

The past few months have been nothing short of eventful at our school! As you turn the pages of this magazine, you'll catch glimpses of the incredible moments that have shaped our winter season. From the joyful sounds of our **Christmas Celebration** to the fast-paced action of the **Ice Hockey Tournament**, the vibrant displays of culture on **International Day**, and the meaningful conversations during **Student-Led Conferences** — each event has left a lasting mark on our community.

We also stood together on **Pink Shirt Day**, advocating for kindness and respect, while our athletes gave it their all at the **Basketball Tournament**, displaying teamwork and school spirit. The creativity and generosity of our community shone through at the **Auction and Gala Dinner**, an evening filled with joy, connection, and support for our school. And who could forget our cozy celebration of **Jolabokaflod**, the Icelandic tradition of book-gifting, bringing stories to life and fostering a love for reading?

But the memories don't end there. **Weekly chapels** have continued to nurture our hearts and minds, reminding us of God's presence and purpose in our lives. **Snow days** brought the thrill of unexpected winter fun, while celebrations like **Valentine's Day** and **100 Days of School** added moments of joy and togetherness. Families took well-deserved time to rest and reconnect over **Family Day** and **March Break**, savouring precious moments with loved ones.

Through it all, we are reminded of God's unwavering provision and countless blessings. His grace has been evident in our friendships, our learning, and the joy we've shared. As the winter season gives way to the promise of spring, we eagerly anticipate the new adventures and opportunities that await.

Thank you for being a part of this vibrant community. We pray that the months ahead will continue to be filled with growth, joy, and a deepened sense of God's love.

Blessings,

Mr. Justin DeMoor, Principal



Throughlines:

SHAPING PURPOSEFUL LEARNERS

Throughlines provide our learners with opportunities to engage in “real work that meets real needs for real people.” These throughlines offer guidance on how to engage with the world—as worshippers of God, justice seekers, beauty creators, and more. By incorporating these throughlines into their learning, students are inspired to actively contribute to shaping culture. Rather than focusing solely on what students should know, throughlines encourage students to step into the place they are called to be in God's story; empowering them to live with purpose and intention.



04 God Worshipping

In December, our students embraced the true meaning of worship—celebrating who God is, what He has done and continues to do, and the beauty of His creation. Through their words, actions, and talents, they stood in awe and wonder of His promises, recognizing that worship is not just a moment but a way of life.



05 Idolatry Discerning

In January, our students explored the importance of keeping God at the centre of their lives, recognizing that anything we prioritize above our relationship with Him can become an idol. They were challenged to identify and understand the idols of our time and to respond with wisdom and faithfulness.



06 Servant Working

In February, our students embraced Christ's example of selfless love by practicing kindness, empathy, and compassion. They actively sought ways to heal brokenness and bring joy to others, making a meaningful impact in both their relationships and the broader community.

KINDERGARTEN

KINDER P GROWING TOGETHER

Kinder P enjoyed the winter months as we focused on God's animals and how different animals prepared for winter. We learned that Canadian Geese migrate, bears hibernate, and foxes adapt to winter conditions. During this learning experience we were able to be creative making these animals using paper towel rolls, forks, and paper plates. As well, we made snowy owls using cotton balls. These activities were a lot of fun and we enjoyed creating with different household materials.

In February, we began our month focused on preparing for our class chapel. We presented our chapel on Valentine's Day. The theme was, "With love in our hearts, we can do anything." This was based on the book, *The Love In My Heart* by Tim Bugbird and Nadine Wickenden. Following a short drama presentation, the Kinder P students recited a poem and then ended their chapel sharing one of their favourite songs. The Kinders invited the students, teachers, and parents to stand and join us in singing and doing the actions to *When I Look Up*.

The Kinder students also learned about Community Helpers. We had guests visit our classroom to explain their jobs. In our classroom we welcomed a firefighter, midwife (and a pregnant mommy), an airplane mechanic, and a barber. It was so much fun to see each of these occupations represented and to learn about the jobs these community helpers had. We also were able to visit the firehall and see firetrucks and firefighters at work.

In all, winter was a wonderful season where lots of learning and creativity shone through.



ANIMALS IN WINTER



COMMUNITY HELPERS



PE AND ART FUN TIMES



100 DAYS

INTERNATIONAL DAY



VISITING FIREFIGHTERS



CHAPEL



PINK SHIRT DAY



KINDER CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE

KINDER C THRIVING AS WE LEARN

As the snowflakes swirled around outside, Kinder C was swirling with activity throughout the winter months. Winter brought our preparations for Christmas and creativity flowed as we made Christmas cards to share with residents at a nearby retirement home. Our reading buddies were great helpers for this special job! Generosity also flowed as we donated

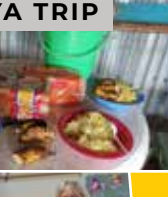
almost \$350 to a school in one of the slums in Kenya. With this money they purchased food for the students and their families, and even enjoyed some Christmas balloons as part of their celebration! What a blessing Kinder C has been to others!

The middle of February brought a flurry of activity! Valentine's Day, the 100th Day of School and a trip to the Guelph Fire Station

made this quite an exciting month! As we learned about special community helpers in our city, we also took time to share kindness and we delivered Community Valentines to some of our local helpers as a way of showing appreciation for all they do. Winter was very fulfilling, but we are looking forward to spring and all that these months will bring.



CARD MAKING WITH OUR READING BUDDIES



100 DAYS OF SCHOOL

VISITING OUR LOCAL FIRE STATION



PINK SHIRT DAY

GRADE 1

OUR CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE: Dressed in our best, we sung Silent Night



SHARING THE JOY OF SINGING

In the spirit of December's focus on God Worshipping, our Grade 6 and Grade 1 students came together to share the true meaning of Christmas through music and joy. As reading buddies, they extended their partnership by visiting Parkside Christian Village and the Kortright Seniors Group to sing heartfelt Christmas carols. The Grade 6 students added a special musical touch with their instruments, while the Grade 1 students brought the nativity story to life in their adorable costumes. Through their songs and smiles, they spread love, hope, and holiday cheer, creating a beautiful moment of worship and celebration that brought our school community and seniors together in God's presence.

THE MUSEUM TRIP

In January, Grade 1 students had an exciting trip to The Museum in Kitchener, where they participated in the 'Come to Your Senses' and 'A Healthy Start' programs, exploring the wonders of the human body and their five senses through hands-on experiments. From diving into the ball pit and camouflaging like animals to discovering how our bodies and senses work, the day was filled with curiosity and fun — so much so that some students eagerly returned with their families to keep the adventure going!



COMMUNITY BUILDING

Grade 1 students have been exploring what makes a community by stepping into the role of city planners! They began by discussing how a community meets our needs and then collaborated to decide which buildings and services to include on their map. Each student took on the role of a builder, contributing to their vibrant community display. To deepen their learning, they interviewed real-life community helpers, including a dairy farmer, librarian, mechanical engineer, pastor, firefighter, midwife, nurse, councillor, and teacher. Their colourful map now hangs proudly on their classroom wall, serving as a reminder of the many people who work together to make a community thrive.



"Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them." - Psalm 111:2



ARTWORK

PINK SHIRT DAY

On Pink Shirt Day, the Grade 1 class embraced the message that kindness should be shown every day. They designed their own pink shirts and each illustrated a mission they would take on during recess to spread kindness. Whether it was inviting others to play a game, playing with someone new, letting a friend go down the slide first, helping a friend who got hurt, or assisting others on the play structure, the students learned that kindness is not just for one day, but something they can live out every day.

FIRE TRUCK VISIT

In March, the Grade 1 class had an exciting visit from a fire truck, thanks to one of our student's grandma, who is a firefighter! She brought her team along, and the students had the opportunity to explore the inside of the fire truck. They learned all about the important work firefighters do and how they serve our city. It was a fun and educational experience that helped the students appreciate the bravery and dedication of those who keep our community safe.



OUR CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE:

Luke 2 Presentation and singing Joy to the World



GRADE 2

CHRISTMAS CRAFT

In December, Grade 2 had another opportunity to serve our community by packing toilet paper for Hope House. They also created beautiful blank Christmas cards for the Affordable Christmas Market, spreading joy to others. It was a meaningful experience that reminded the students how good it feels to do Real Work, to meet Real Needs, of Real People.



COLDEST NIGHT WALK



On a cold Saturday in February many Grade 2 students and families took part in the Coldest Night walk with Mrs. Klassen, and it was a privilege to support this important cause together!

LUNAR NEW YEAR

In January, Grade 2 had a wonderful time learning about Lunar New Year as part of their curriculum on Traditions and Celebrations around the World. They explored the customs and stories behind the celebration, enjoying activities that brought the festivities to life. Parents, did you give using chopsticks a try at home? It was a fun and meaningful way to learn about a special tradition celebrated by many around the world!



WINTER ART



Roman A.



Heldi B.



Remi L.



Camden G.

CAT DAY

In February, Grade 2 celebrated a "purrfect" Cat Day! Students dressed up like cats, brought their favourite cat stuffies, and enjoyed a day full of feline fun. They learned a valuable lesson from Pete the Cat, read lots of cat-themed books — with a special visit from Mr. DeMoor, who joined in the fun dressed as a cat — and even created a list of 100 words containing "at." They explored the world of wild cats through research and played an energetic cat-and-mouse chasing game in Phys. Ed. To top it all off, Mrs. Klassen's cat, Rosebuddy, made a special guest appearance before the big day. By the end, everyone was ready for a well-deserved "cat nap!"



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS



HOPE HOUSE PACKING



PRAYING FOR EACH OTHER



LEARNING TOGETHER



VALENTINE'S BLESSINGS



STUDENT LED CONFERENCES



February 26th, 2025
Dear Mrs. Klassen and grade 2 friends,
Thank you so much for the Valentine's letters! I loved all the pictures and all the interesting questions. I hope you all had a nice Valentine's day, too!
Thank you too, for sponsoring me! Because of your kindness, I have a safe place to live, a coat to keep me warm in the winter, lots of nutritious food, a vet who gives me medicine so I breath easier, and lots of donkey and human friends. So, to answer some of your questions:
In the winter I don't do anything special. Every day I like to go outside and enjoy the fresh air and sunshine. I spend my days with my donkey friends, Duke and Scout, and also with the volunteers and animal caretakers here at the Donkey Sanctuary. The staff and volunteers give me lots of pets and snuggles. They sometimes brush my hair so I look even more handsome. Sometimes I like to play with my ball. I like to pick it up and shake it up and down. That is my favourite game.
I don't eat anything special in the winter, just my regular straw and hay. It is delicious! I don't do anything special in the winter, or go away either. This is my home. I have my own stall here. It is right next to Duke's stall so I always have a friend nearby, even at night. My stall also has a heat lamp in it. No matter how cold and stormy it is outside, in my stall I'm always safe, cozy and warm.
Because of the medicine the vet gives me, I have been feeling much better! Yes, I am blind, and only have one ear, but I can hear and smell really well, so I always know what is going on.
Mrs. Klassen told me that you help with Hope House! That is wonderful! You see, even with my disabilities, I can bring joy to others and be a good friend. And even though you aren't grown ups yet, you make a difference by helping others, too! I hope I get to see you again soon. I've included a picture of me in my winter coat.
Your friend,
Oliver Twist
P.S. Did you know that I got my name because my ear is twisted? It's true!



ARTIST IN FOCUS: WASSILY KANDINSKY





OUR CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE:
- 'JINGLE BELLS' - performed on recorders

GRADE 3

CHAPEL PERFORMANCE

In December, the Grade 3 class put on a memorable chapel performance. One group of students performed a skit with two teams humourously arguing over which was better, Earth Day or Christmas, while another group showcased a heartfelt dance to the powerful song 'Creator' by Phil Wickham. The students choreographed the dance themselves, and their emotion and passion truly brought the song to life, making it a moving experience for everyone in the audience. It was a creative and inspiring way to celebrate the season!



OUR FAVOURITE VERSES

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-24 / PSALM 40:5 / ISAIAH 9:6 / PHIL 4:7-8 / GENESIS 50:20

CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS



FUN TIMES WITH
READING BUDDIES



QUIET READING
IN THE LIBRARY



CREATING AND
EXPERIMENTING



KEEPING FIT

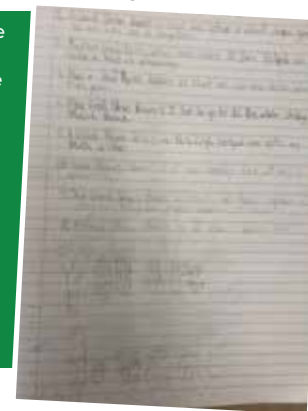


SHARING OUR
FAIRYTALE STORIES

GOOD NEWS BEARERS

Grade 3 students have been filling their journals with "Good News" stories they've either been a part of or observed, proudly earning the title of Good News Bearers as they spread positivity through their writing.

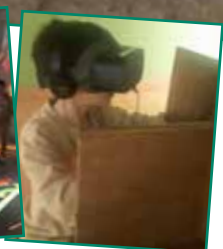
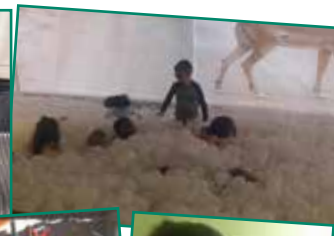
A good news is that our lettuce is almost done growing so we can eat it together.
Another good news was when Mr. Dan helped me untie a knot in weaving.
Also a good news is that we can raise chicks later this year.
One good news is I get to go to BC Big White skiing on March break.
A good news is Mrs Zeyl helped me with my Math a little.
Good news is that in four square I stay in king for a good amount of time.
A good news is I am doing this.
You are loved! - *Leo G, Gr 3*



Hi there, it's Good News Bearers. So first we will report about picking people up. So in Grade 3 we created a beautiful thing called SPOTTED where when somebody is getting picked on you stand up for them. Also say STOP, she/he does not like that. So it has been going well. Because we have been helped by, and helped, people. Also we have been doing earth keepers and we are doing good because we have been doing this for year now and we learnt a lot so that's how we've been doing. - *Elizabeth, Gr 3*

THE MUSEUM TRIP

Grade 3 had an amazing trip to The Museum in Kitchener in January, where they learned through hands-on experiences and interactive exhibits. Highlights included a teamwork game in a room filled with screens, exploring fascinating artifacts and machines, bravely laying on a bed of nails, relaxing in a ball pit surrounded by a virtual giraffe sanctuary, and trying out a thrilling VR simulation of falling off a cliff — a crazy and cool experience!



LEARNING IN ART

This term, Grade 3 explored two exciting art projects! They experimented with graffiti art, a bold and creative style that challenged them to try something new — one student proudly shared how they pushed through their doubts and succeeded! They also created beautiful fluid art, using black glue to set boundaries in the form of a tree structure and then blending watered-down colors to achieve stunning, vibrant effects.



GRADE 4/5

OUR CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE: 'JINGLE BELLS - performed with tone chimes



CHRISTMAS AT CHARTWELL

In December we went to Chartwell Retirement Home to spread some joy and Christmas cheer! We sang classic carols and made the residents happy. We wore crazy Christmas hats and clothes with the Gr 5 class. Mrs. Burton gave out Santa hats and reindeer antlers to the residents and they sang along. It was fun spreading Christmas cheer! - by Aaron, Gr 4/5



DECK YOURSELF DAY

On the last day of school before the holidays, we dressed in our best Christmas outfits. We got to share our Christmas concert piece with the school at a share assembly. It was a great, Christmas-y day! Each class dressed up a student council member to make them look super festive for the student council parade, which happened during the assembly. Student council members got covered in tinsel, Christmas stickers, and festive outfits. This year, Mr. Wylie didn't get dressed in a skirt. Good for him! Instead, our class Student Rep got covered in lights and stickers by the Gr.5s! - by Aaron, Gr 4/5



WALK-A-THON REWARD

In February, our class had a PJ/STUFFY/ MOVIE/SUNDAE Day. We watched *The One And Only Ivan* since we had finished reading the book. This was a Walk-A-Thon reward as we reached the goal of raising \$4,400 - our highest amount. People brought in toppings, like M&Ms, sprinkles, Haribo, and more. Someone also brought in cones. It was the best reward we've had so far, because it was multiple amazing things, all in one go! -by Aaron, Gr 4/5



ARTWORK



LEARNING TOGETHER

In Grade 4/5, we've been learning and growing together through some hands-on activities! One of our favourite challenges was the spaghetti and marshmallow tower-building activity. We experimented with different team styles — from having one leader making all the decisions, to working in pairs, to collaborating as a whole group with and without assigned roles. It was a great way to see how teamwork and leadership can shape our results. We've also been exploring the science of sound by learning how it's formed through vibrations. To bring this to life, we made our own instruments using large lollipop sticks and rubber bands, creating music and discovering the amazing ways sound travels. Learning is always more fun when we do it together!



WE ARE COMMUNITY

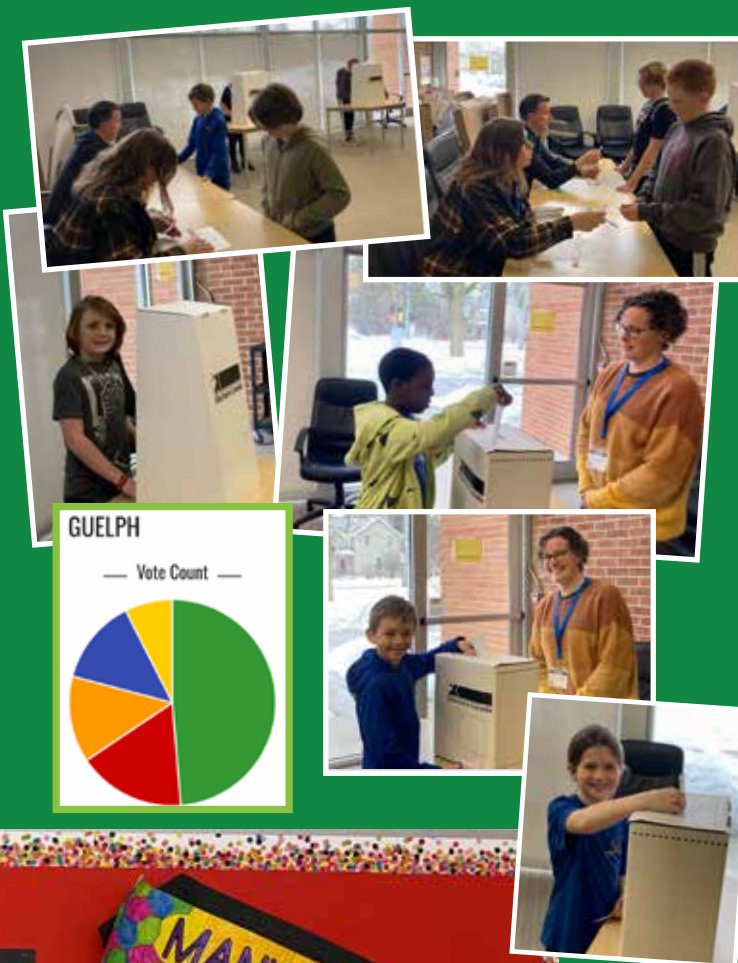


In Grade 4/5, we value our time together and are continually learning what it means to live in community. Whether we are solving problems, exploring Bible stories and discovering more about God, or strengthening our writing skills, we strive to encourage and support one another every step of the way.

STUDENT VOTING

On February 27th, our class took part in 'The Student Vote', a Province wide program that schools in Ontario could apply to take part in, which gave us the chance to vote for one of the candidates of Guelph in the Ontario Election. Although it didn't count in the long run, it was fun to see the results of who won and experience the voting process. The winner in Guelph was Robert Coole, but the overall winner was Doug Ford, just like in the real election.

We had spent time in class learning about the different parties and we made slideshows about them and presented them to the class. It was a fun experience. - by Aaron, Gr 4/5



GRADE 5

OUR CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE: 'Deck the Halls' - performed with tone chimes



CAROL SINGING @ CHARTWELL

In December, Grades 4 and 5 visited Chartwell Retirement Home to sing Christmas songs with the residents. We sang songs like Hark the Herald Angels Sing and Silent Night. We dressed up in festive outfits like Santa Claus, elves and reindeer. Mrs. Esuis played piano for us. It was a lot of fun. We also took with us Christmas cards we had made for the residents and we got to deliver them ourselves. When we were done singing some of us got to play piano and a few of us played songs like Jingle Bells and Deck The Halls. - by Nora, Gr 5



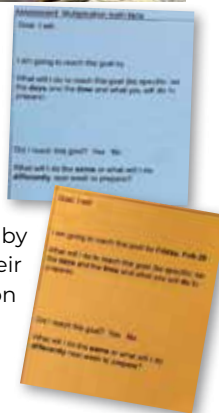
DECK YOURSELF DAY

On the last day of school, right before the Christmas break, we had Deck Yourself Day. Everyone had a wonderful Christmas outfit. There was also a fun twist to Deck Yourself Day. Each student council member was assigned to a different class and that class got to decorate that student council member. After, there was an assembly and the student council members got on the stage to represent the class that decorated them. Everyone had so much fun! - by Elsa, Gr 5



GOAL SETTING

Grade 5 students have been working on goal-setting pages for math fact learning and reading. Each week, they set new, achievable goals and tracked their progress over eight weeks. This experience showed how consistency and small steps can lead to big results. Students took ownership by deciding how they would work toward their goals, building confidence and motivation along the way.



BODY BREAK MOMENTS

Grade 5 has introduced a fun new in-class body break that gets everyone moving! To the rhythm of upbeat music, students practice coordinated side-to-side and forward movements, keeping the beat together. It's a great way to energize their minds and bodies, helping them stay focused and refreshed for the rest of the day!



ARTWORK CREATIONS



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS



STUDENT VOTING

Grade 5 students have been diving into the world of politics, learning about the political parties involved in the upcoming provincial election. Divided into small groups, they researched their assigned parties using guiding questions and presented their findings to their classmates. This assignment encouraged critical thinking — like being a detective, asking questions, considering different perspectives, and making informed decisions. To bring the experience to life, students participated in a student vote, a province-wide event where registered schools held their own elections on the same day as their parents were also voting in our Provincial Election.



COLDEST NIGHT WALK

Some Grade 5 students participated in the Coldest Night of the Year walk in February, continuing a long-standing tradition at our school of supporting those in need and walking in solidarity with our community.



GROUP PHOTO





OUR CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE:
"Go, Tell it on the Mountain" performed with ukuleles

GRADE 6

CAROL SINGING WITH GRADE 1

In December we went to retirement homes with our grade one buddies to sing some Christmas songs to the seniors with all kinds of different instruments. We sang songs like Joy to the World, Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Away in a Manger and We Wish you a Merry Christmas, with many more! We went from one big room to another spreading joy all around! - *Hana, Gr 6*

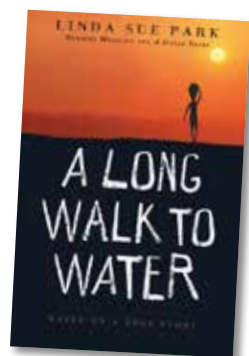


RESTORING MUSIC

In the corner of the music room sat a silent glockenspiel, its once-bright notes long forgotten. But two Grade 6 boys saw more than a broken instrument — they saw potential. With determination and care, they took on the challenge of restoring it, piece by piece. Tightening screws, cleaning dust, and adjusting bars, they brought the glockenspiel back to life. Its voice now rings clear once more, a testament to their perseverance. Their efforts remind us that even the quietest things can sing again with a little love and attention. Thank you to these boys for inspiring our community with your dedication!

BOOK REVIEW

A Long Walk to Water is a great book to read to a class. It is very exciting, sad and also happy all in one book! It is based on the true story of Salva Dut, a boy from South Sudan who grew up during their civil war. He had to travel many miles and lost friends and family on the way. He is now helping build schools and wells for South Sudan. There is also a fictional character in the book named Nya. She represents some of the girls in South Sudan who have to travel all day every day to get water, so they can't go to school. Reading this book helped our class learn about how we can help with access to clean water and how we can be responsible with water in our own lives. - *by Hana, Gr 6*



What does home mean to you?

WRITING COMPETITION

Our class participated in a writing competition to raise money for Habitat for Humanity. We had to write about what home means to us. For each entry we submitted Habitat for Humanity got \$10. If someone in our class wins the contest they will win a new iPad and our class will win a pizza party! More importantly, Habitat for Humanity will get \$250! We hope someone in our class will win! - *by Hana, Gr 6*



ART



UKULELE PLAYING

In Music class this year we are learning how to play ukulele. Ukulele is a hard instrument to learn because you sometimes have to use up to four fingers to play some of the chords. It's also a fun instrument to play. Sometimes Mrs. Wood makes a campfire with flags in the middle of the room and we go around with a microphone singing songs we want from our music book while the rest of the class plays their ukuleles. - *by Hana, Gr 6*



CHAPEL FUN



On March 6, our class led worship for chapel. We sang, danced and played the ukulele for the worship songs. For each song we sang, there were different singers and flags for the dancer. - *by Hana, Gr 6*



WOODLAND PERFORMANCE

In March the Grade 5, 6, 7, and 8 classes went to Woodland Christian High School to watch their production of "The Drowsy Chaperone, Jr." It was the story of a drowsy chaperone and about 5 people getting married on the same day. They had some really cool dance moves in one of the scenes. There was also tap dancing and singing. It was a comedy and it made us laugh. It was also cool to visit Woodland and see what it looks like. We saw some past graduates of GCCS there, too. - *by Hana, Gr 6*





OUR CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE:
'Creatures in the Attic' - performed as a band

GRADE 7

HISTORY COMES TO LIFE

Mrs. O. always works to make our history classes as fun, and memorable as possible. One of the ways she did this for our class, was giving each person in our class specific roles (King George, British soldier, drummer, French soldier) and took us to the gym, where she handed out marshmallows. Using the marshmallows, our class depicted the largest parts of the war between the French and the British in early Canada. It was a fun way to remember the battles fought, and although it took a while to clean up, it was worth it.

We also had tea and (leftover) marshmallows while reading about the Boston Tea party, to help us remember the beginning of the Patriot vs. Loyalist war. We then each got to make a project showing our learning from the Patriot and Loyalist war. Some people made a skit showing the divide between the two groups, someone else wrote and videoed a news report to do the same thing, many other people made comics and posters too. Mrs. O. also poured maple syrup on each of our arms with feathers on them, to demonstrate somewhat how it felt to be tarred and feathered. We tried keeping the dried maple syrup and feathers on for as long as possible, and the class smelt of maple syrup for days. But, now whenever we smell maple syrup, we remember the tarring and feathering of the Loyalists.

It is always fun when we get to do stuff like this in history class and it helps us remember what had happened in our past. - by Jessie, Gr 7



**10 BOYS
ON A COUCH**

ARTWORK



MONOCHROMATIC PAINTINGS

SOUNDSCAPE TRIP

Grade 7 went to the River Run Centre with Grade 8 to see a show, all based around atmospheric music. It was really cool to watch, and see how the two people on stage used lights to enhance their music. Personally, it gave me shivers, and was an amazing show to watch. It was refreshing to see how just lights and music could be used to create a sense of magic in the room. - by Jessie, Gr 7



GAMES WITH GRADE 3

Our Grade 7 reading buddies program with the Grade 3 class got a fun twist! We decided to play games instead of reading, and it was a blast. The 'bowl game' and charades were huge hits, sparking laughter and creative thinking. We also played other simple, interactive games that encouraged teamwork. Seeing the Grade 3s so engaged, and honestly, having so much fun ourselves, was wonderful. The energy was infectious, and we definitely felt a stronger connection between our classes. We're hoping to do it again soon, as it was a fantastic way to build camaraderie and make great memories. - by Ayleen, Gr 7



SECRET SANTA

In Grade 7, we did Secret Santa, where everyone (including Mrs. O.) were secretly assigned a person to buy a present for. We each had \$10 to spend on our assigned person. A few weeks later, on the day before Christmas break, everyone sat in a circle and watched as the Secret Santas revealed themselves. It was lots of fun, and helped us grow closer as a class. - by Jessie, Gr 7



BOOK CLUB

Our book club meetings for Chu Ju's House by Gloria Whelan have been intense and thought-provoking. Each week, we dove into a chapter, summarizing the events in two detailed paragraphs and crafting two discussion questions. The book's portrayal of life under Chinese communism was undeniably heartbreaking, but the underlying message of resilience and family was incredibly powerful. I'd give it a 3.5 out of 5 stars; while the story's emotional weight was significant and the writing compelling, the sheer sadness of the subject matter kept it from a higher rating. The discussions, held twice weekly, were just as crucial as the reading. Hearing everyone's perspectives on my questions, and grappling with theirs, gave me a much deeper understanding of the story. Over 12 chapters, we generated 24 paragraphs and a wealth of insightful questions, creating a rich tapestry of shared interpretations. - by Ayleen, Gr 7



STAINED GLASS



Mrs. O. asked everyone in our class to draw out something that depicts the Christian faith on a large piece of parchment paper and then colour it in, so she could put it up on the classroom window to create a stained glass effect. Some people did crosses, lions, doves, snakes, tombs, and a thorn of crowns, but all of them had amazing stained glass backgrounds and gave others a look into the Christian faith. - by Jessie, Gr 7

SONGWRITING CLUB

The Grade 7 songwriting group has been uplifting our school community by leading chapel with their heartfelt original song, inspired by our school theme verse, Micah 6:8, and our throughlines. Their music beautifully reflects this year's theme, encouraging us all to walk humbly, act justly, and love mercy.



GRADE 8S/8G

CHAPEL PERFORMANCES

In February, **Grade 8G** led a powerful chapel on 'Idolatry Discerning', part of our Throughlines learning. They encouraged us all to be wise and intentional about what captures our hearts and attention. Through three engaging skits, the class demonstrated real-life examples of how distractions can pull us away from God's story. Their presentation reminded us to stay rooted in faith and make choices that align with His truth, helping us stay focused on what truly matters.



OUR CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE:
'Harvest Song' - performed as a band

LEADING INTRAMURALS

Grade 8 have the privilege of leading the younger students in our school in Intramurals. Intramurals are a great way for Grade 8 students to practice their leadership skills and for the younger students to have fun doing sports and activities. The younger students get the option to participate in co-operative games, basketball, indoor sports and indoor hockey. There are separate groups for Grades 4-6 and Grades 1-3 and they run during the lunch recesses. Grade 8 put in lots of time planning for the sessions to ensure they are fun for all. The highlight for them is that they get to help younger students with sports and have fun with them as they share their common interest. - *by Kiarah R, Gr 8G*



In March, **Grade 8S** led chapel with a focus on the Throughline 'Servant Working'—what it means to put others first and serve with love and kindness, just as God calls us to do. They shared how Jesus set the ultimate example of leadership by humbly serving others, even washing His disciples' feet. The Grade 8S class encouraged everyone to follow His example by finding ways to help classmates, support teachers, and show kindness daily. Whether it's offering a helping hand, standing up for someone, or simply listening, we can reflect God's love in all that we do. Let's choose to lead with humility and serve with grace, making GCCS a place where God's love shines through us all!



SERVING AT GLEANERS

In January, both Grade 8 classes went to The Gleaners in Cambridge as part of their service work. The Gleaners take imperfect vegetables that don't go to the stores, and they cut, dehydrate, and package them in vegetable mixes. These are sent all over the world to people who need more food.

Grade 8 were first taken on a building tour where we learned about their projects. They were shown where the vegetables were washed, cut, diced, dehydrated, packaged, and transported. Then they spent a few hours helping: the boys cutting the defects and mould off the vegetables, and the girls doing the packaging. In the packaging room, the girls scooped the different dehydrated vegetable pieces into mixes and bagged and sealed them. They ended up packaging 800 bags in 3 hours, meaning that they packaged 80,000 servings for people all over the world.

The hard work of everyone in Grade 8 will help many others, and they are looking forward to going again in the spring! - *by Maiya, Paige, and Sydney, Gr 8S*



ARTWORK



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT: MRS. GUETTER

Mrs. Guetter is one of our amazing Grade 8 teachers this year. She has been teaching for about 30 years after going to Calvin University in Michigan and then McMaster University for her 5th year. She has taught at many different schools, starting in Port Perry, where she taught a combined grade 6, 7, and 8 class at a school that was just starting. Mrs. Guetter taught at JCCS for 2 years and then English and History at Woodland Christian High School for 15 years! She returned to teach grade 6 at GCCS in 2023, and now she is teaching one of the grade 8 classes. She especially enjoys teaching History and L.A. Mrs. Guetter enjoys doing anything active in her spare time, like kayaking at her cottage, biking, and swimming. She also enjoys reading, whether it's reading her favourite genre which is young adult historical fiction or doing novel studies with her classes. A fun fact about her is that she always makes carrot cakes for her family's birthdays and she enjoys celebrating them in that way. We are so grateful to have Mrs. Guetter in our school community! - *by Kiarah and Sydney, Gr 8G*



GCCS CHRISTMAS



GCCS SPORTS



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars for all that is still to come this school year!

SPRING CONCERT

30
APRIL

6.30PM

Spring concert celebration for parents and siblings

GRAND-PARENTS DAY

02
MAY

9AM & 12.30PM

Includes a concert performance, classroom visits and lunch

TRACK & FIELD DAY

15
MAY

ALL DAY EVENT

A day of friendly competition events for all students

SGM

20
MAY

7PM

Meeting held in the school gym. Arrive at 6.45pm for refreshments

END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS

14
JUNE

DAYTIME

An fun event for the whole community to enjoy together

GRADE 8 GRADUATION

17
JUNE

An evening to celebrate and bless our graduating class of 2025

YRC: ABOUT US

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



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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