SNAPSHOT

STORIES FROM OUR CLASSROOMS

ISSUE SIX

Welcome to the sixth 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.

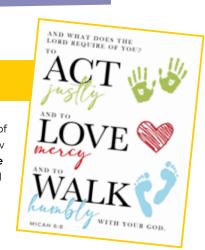
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OUR THEME

A NOTE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

As you look through the pages of this edition of Snapshot, you'll see the vibrant evidence of a spring season filled with blessings, learning, and joyful community moments. The past few months have been brimming with activity—highlights included the excitement of **Battle of the Books**, competitive **badminton and baseball tournaments**, our energetic track and field days, and the joy of our **Spring Concert**. We also welcomed many special guests into our building, including for **Grandparents and Grandfriends Day** which was a heartwarming celebration day, and Canadian author **Eric Walters**, whose visit inspired students with stories and wisdom.



Our school community also ventured beyond the classroom with a variety of field trips and service opportunities. Grade 7 students challenged themselves on their bike trip, and our Grade 8 class wrapped up their time at GCCS with an unforgettable three-day adventure at Medeba. Each event, each trip, and each gathering was a reminder of the growth, joy, and community we've experienced together this spring. We thank God from whom all blessings flow!

Blessings,

Mr. Justin DeMoor, Principal

MEMORIES FROM OUR SPRING CONCERT:

BLOSSOMS OF PRAISE



Throughlines:

SHAPING PURPOSEFUL LEARNERS





07 Beauty Creating

In March, students focused on being Beauty Creators—recognizing that, as image-bearers of a creative God, they are called to create things that reflect His beauty and goodness. Through art, music, writing, and hands-on projects, they explored how creativity can be a joyful way to praise God and enrich the world around them. They discovered that creating beauty isn't just a talent, but a meaningful way to reflect God's heart and glorify Him.



09 Order Discovering

In May, students focused on being Order Discovering—recognizing God's fingerprints in the beauty and design of the world around us. They explored how creation reflects God's intentionality and learned to appreciate the patterns, systems, and harmony that point to His purpose and care. This throughline helped students see how discovering order deepens their understanding of God's character and the world He made.



08 Earth Keeping

In April, students explored what it means to be Earth Keepers—stewards of God's creation both locally and globally. They learned that caring for the Earth is a way to honour God, and they took part in activities that encouraged them to practice responsibility, conservation, and respect for the natural world. Through hands-on experiences and thoughtful reflection, students were inspired to find new ways to protect and tend to God's beautiful creation.



10 Image Reflecting

In June, students explored what it means to be Image Bearing—understanding that we are all made in the image of God. They learned that each person reflects God's goodness through their actions, words, and relationships. This throughline reminded students to see themselves and others as valuable and uniquely created, and to live in a way that honours God's design in everyone.



KINDERGARTEN



KINDERGARTEN NEWS

KINDER P

Village of Arbour Trails. Here we were able to present a message our Kinder graduation and celebration.

this final term, we have focused on a unit called, **The Earth, God's** Kinder P student went out into the audience and gave a senior a

Kinder P had the great privilege of traveling by school bus to The time outside. We look forward to our end of year field trip and to





KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Our last few months of Grade 1 have been so much fun!

| CHAPEL: EARTH KEEPERS

Our Grade 1 students led a beautiful and creative chapel all about being Earth Keepers and caring for God's creation. Their performance began with a fun and thoughtful skit titled "Crayons Love Our Planet", where each crayon colour reminded us that everyone has a role to play in protecting the Earth. It was a joyful and meaningful way to begin, setting the tone for a message filled with care and responsibility for God's world.

Next, the students brought their Earthkeeper Acrostic to life, each one sharing simple but powerful actions we can all take to help care for the planet. The chapel ended with a lively and unique performance of the "Recycled Treasure Band Chant", based on Psalm 24:1–2. Using instruments they had made themselves from recycled materials, the students reminded us that the Earth belongs to the Lord—and we are called to care for it well.











I ART PROJECTS

Grade 1 has been a burst of creativity this year, constantly filling the school hallways with colour and joy through their incredible art projects. From exploring symmetry with bright and bold aliens to crafting detailed 3D farm drawings, their imagination has known no bounds. Student favourites included penguin collages, 2D shapeinspired robots, unique fish creations and insect line designs. Their artwork has not only brightened our walls but also showcased the amazing creativity and artistic growth of our young learners!







SPRING CONCERT PERFORMANCE: In the Hall of the Mountain King - with light sticks

GRANDPARENTS DAY











LIVING THINGS

A ROCHA TRIP

At school, Grade 1 explored the wonders of the natural world through their "It's Alive!" unit, where they learned all about the characteristics and needs of living things. They asked big questions like "What is a living thing?" and "What do living things need to survive?" The students explored how animals and plants grow, where they live, and how the different parts of a plant help it to thrive. They then took their exploring out of the classroom with a trip to A Rocha.



UPDATE: NGONG CHILDRENS HOME FUNDRAISING

Grade 1 showed big hearts and generous spirits this year by raising an impressive \$221.10 for the Ngong Children's Home in Kenya which we presented to Mrs Clarke. The students took on chores at home to earn money—sweeping floors, folding laundry, feeding pets, and more—and brought in their donations with smiles and pride. Their efforts showed how even the smallest hands



can make a big difference when serving others with love

Grade 1's trip to A Rocha at Cedar Haven was a wonderful day of hands-on learning and discovery, where students explored the world of birds—observing nests, eggs, and even birdhouses—while learning about their features, needs, and the important role birds play in our

ecosystems.



GRADE 1 NEWS

I DIORAMA HABITATS

Grade 2 students took on the role of young scientists and artists as they explored different habitats through an exciting diorama project! After researching their chosen environment—whether the savannah, arctic, forest, or ocean—they created incredibly detailed and imaginative dioramas to showcase what they had learned. From handmade animals to textured landscapes, each scene was a creative interpretation filled with clever touches. The students proudly shared their work with their reading buddies and later presented them to their grandparents and grandfriends during a special classroom visit, demonstrating both their knowledge and creativity in a truly meaningful way.



CONDUCTING SURVEYS

As part of their math unit on data management, Grade 2 students explored how survey results can vary between kids and adults. After learning how to conduct surveys and use tally marks, they predicted how their classmates and then adults would respond to questions about favourite foods and drinks. Students collected real data by surveying each

other and then asking 10 staff members around the school. Some results matched their predictions—others were surprising! This hands-on activity helped students strengthen their data collection and analysis skills while having fun connecting with others in the school. It also sparked great discussions about preferences.



MOTHER'S DAY CREATIONS

For Mother's Day, Grade 2 students created heartfelt gifts that were both beautiful and thoughtful! Each student painted a plant pot with care and creativity, then, with the help of Mrs. Patrick's own mother, Mrs. Warkentin, they planted flowers inside. The finished pots were carefully wrapped and ready just in time to be presented to their moms. It was a sweet and special way and appreciation.











GRADE 2 NEWS















GRADE 2 NEWS

RAISING FROGS

and all!

Over the past couple of months, Grade 2 has been patiently observing tadpoles in their classroom, learning all about the fascinating life cycle of a frog — and after what felt like a long wait, they're thrilled to finally see frogs starting to appear, legs



HATCHING CHICKS ADVENTURES

Grade 3 had an unforgettable experience this spring as they took on the exciting challenge of hatching and caring for baby chicks in their classroom. As part of a hands-on science unit, students learned about the full life cycle of a chicken—starting with fertilized eggs and carefully monitoring them through the incubation period. Each day, they took turns rotating the eggs, checking temperatures, and eagerly tracking development. Out of the 25 eggs they nurtured, 12 successfully hatched into fluffy chicks, some yellow and some black. Sadly, two of the chicks passed away a week later after a storm unsettled them—an emotional but meaningful moment that offered the students a deeper understanding of the fragility of life.

As part of their learning, the students also dissected several of the

unhatched eggs to investigate what had happened. They discovered that some embryos were only partially formed, while others had not been fertilized at all. This investigative process deepened their scientific thinking and curiosity. The class loved spending time with the chicks, gently handling them and even teaching other classes how to properly hold and care for them. What began as a science unit quickly became one of the most memorable and fascinating experiences of the year, sparking awe, empathy, and wonder in everyone involved.































OUR PERFORMANCE:

Heavy Metal 3s - performed on recorders

IGRANDPARENTS DAY







WESTFIELD HERITAGE VILLAGE

Grade 3 had an unforgettable adventure at Westfield Heritage Village, a living history museum with over 35 beautifully restored historical buildings. This immersive experience brought history to life as students explored old houses, rang the bell in an authentic schoolhouse, and even acted out a story on a real theatre stage. They loved stepping back in time and learning through play and hands-on experiences. It was a fun and memorable day that deepened their appreciation for the past in a truly engaging way!



GRADE 3 NEWS



THANK YOU MRS. ZEYL

To celebrate their incredible fundraising efforts, Grade 3 spent a joyful afternoon at Mrs. Zeyl's house for a backyard play date to remember! The afternoon was packed with fun — from enjoying pizza and ice cream to exploring a two-storey treehouse, crafting in cozy tents, and bouncing on a giant trampoline. Laughter and excitement filled the air as students made lasting memories together. A huge thank you to Mrs. Zeyl for sharing her garden and for giving the class such a special way to wrap up the year!



10 GRADE 3 NEWS

GRADE 4/5

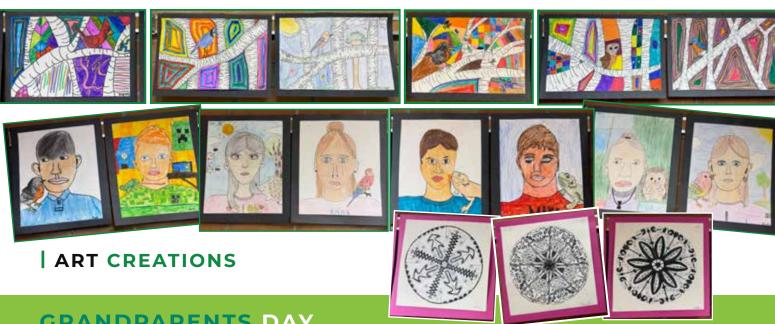
Welcome to Grade 4/5. We have been up to so much over the past few months and we are excited to give you an insight into some of our highlights.



In April, the Gr 5 and Gr 4/5 went to City Hall and met Cam Guthrie, the mayor of Guelph. This was all part of our Governmet unit in Socials. We did a reenactment of what a meeting would look like. (There were way too many cousellers, A.K.A everybody except Tomiwa, Ava, and Elsa). The civillians said an idea, (recreation centre), and the counsel asked questions, like "How would this benefit the community?" or "How much money would it cost?" It was a good experience and brought our studies to life. - Aaron, Gr 4/5



Together, we can close the education gap! Sadly, children living on Indigenous Reserves get approximately 30% less Government funding. Gr 5 and Gr 4/5 asked parents, cousins, grandparents, friends, anyone they could, to sign these cards, (picture above), to send to Mr. Mark Carney, so he can do something about it! -Aaron, Gr 4/5



GRANDPARENTS DAY









SPRING CONCERT







OUR PERFORMANCE:

There is a Happy Land - performed on tone chimes

LAST CHARTWELL VISITS

In May, Gr 4/5 went to Chartwell for our final visit and we PLAYED GAMES with the residents. We all took games we thought everyone would like to play. Some of us even taught the residents how to play new games. It was a fun visit but we were sad to leave knowing that it would be the last time we would go there. We have all really enjoyed our trips to Chartwell and getting to know the residents. They are all very kind and welcoming and we will miss spending time with them. - by Aaron, Gr 4/5





FORCES AND STRUCTURES

As part of learning about Forces and Structures we got into pairs and were set the challenge to

build a building with only tape and newspaper.









For our bridge building challenge we had to build a bridge that could hold up as many text books as possible. We used the same materials as the Forces and Structures experiment but this time we worked in bigger teams to see which team could build the strongest bridge.











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Our final months in Mrs Burton's class have been full of adventures!

FINAL CHARTWELL VISITS

Chartwell has been a lovely place to go to every month during our time in Grade 5. Throughout the months we have visited, we have done a whole assortment of activities like singing carols, playing games, colouring, and sitting talking with the residents and getting to know them more. On one of our last visits, we performed our Spring concert song, The Blue Danube, with our boomwhackers and balloons to a room full of residents. Afterwards, we showed some of the residents how to play the boomwhackers. That was fun and we all really enjoyed it!

All the residents are really sweet and kind and have been so happy to have us visit them. I have loved being with them, and I'm going to miss our visits. - by Ava, Gr 5





ERIC WALTERS

VISIT

In May, Eric Walters visited our school. He is one of the most famous Canadian authors in the world. He told us about his books, why he wrote them, and that his books are based on personal stories and experiences.

He told us about a few specific books and how each of the stories had worked out. These books included Hockey Night in Kenya, Elephant Secret and the first book he ever wrote: Stand Your Ground. He wrote this when he was still a school teacher. He was relly interesting to listen to as he has been on lots of adventures. He also shared with us that he is Christian. - by Ava, Gr 5



VISIT TO CITY HALL

In March, we went to City Hall in Downtown Guelph because in our Socials learning we were learning about the different levels of democracy. City Hall was a perfect example of the Municipal Government. We went and gave our thoughts of what could be done for our city of Guelph to make it a better place to live in. We had the chance to share our ideas with the mayor, Mayor Cam Guthrie in the main debating room where councillors would usually meet to discuss similar topics. It was really interesting. - by Ava, Gr 5







The Blue Danube performed on on boomwhackers























BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

to interact with me one on one. - by Abi, Gr 5

This year, many in our class took part in the Battle of the Books (BOB) which happened in April. We spent 6 months reading 8 different books and also met weekly with Mrs. Pinson and Ms. Seguin to practice answering different types of questions.

The day of the competition was fun and challenging. It was held in a church in Kitchener and there were lots of other Christian schools competing against us. As a junior group, we made up 2 teams along with the Grade 6's. There were some really tough questions, but we managed to answer many of them. We didn't win but It was a fun day and interesting to be a part of. - by Ava, Gr 5



















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GRADE 5 NEWS













In March, the Grade 6's did a chapel about being Beauty Creators. We split into little groups to explore what it means to be a beauty creator. Each group had a topic. For example, the baking group showed how we can be beauty creators with the food we make. Other groups included photography, fashion, dancing, singing, gardening and making music. We also sang "Cornerstone" to close the chapel. Some of us sang and some played instruments like ukuleles, tone chimes and an electric guitar. - by Hana, Gr 6









ART CREATIONS











In music class, Mrs. Wood had a great idea to write a song for the spring concert. We looked in the Bible for inspiration. We found a Psalm that we really liked and that we thought we could use to make a great song. Everyone got a sheet of paper with the Psalm attached to it and everyone wrote individual verses, choruses and bridges. Then we voted on the ones we liked. We used the verses from people and then the bridge and chorus from others. Then we printed the song out and split into small groups to add a melody to our song. We voted on it again, made some changes to the music and practiced it a lot! Then we performed it at the spring concert.

OUR SPRING CONCERT PERFORMANCE:

'Your Path Leads Me Through the Seas' - written by Grade 6



GRANDPARENTS DAY



- by Hana, Gr 6







BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

I enjoyed Battle of the Books because it combined my love of reading with the excitement of competition. The team practices were a great experience - we often laughed a lot but also worked hard. Competition day was both fun and suspenseful. I liked being part of a team and helping each other remember important details. It was an exciting day that gave us all a chance to test our memory and quick thinking. Having to read eight books several times in the leadup to the competition gave me a real sense of accomplishment. - by Esme, Gr. 6



A parent's persepective: It was incredible to see the kids working together under pressure, supporting one another and truly shining. As a parent, it's such a unique event to attend. The day is super 'QUIET' but intensely focused. It's a calm, fastpaced energy that's really exciting to witness. I'm so proud of the confidence and sense of accomplishment this experience gives the kids. Anything to promote the love of reading and books!

Ms. Seguin, you were a great teacher this year! You always had a positive attitude. We enjoyed your daily slideshows and the comic of the day. Experimenting with bridge-making in groups was a lot of fun. So was going caroling at Christmas. We are sad to see you go but we wish you the best at whatever school you go to this fall. - by Hana, Gr 6



GRADE 6 NEWS GRADE 6 NEWS

This year has honestly been the best year our class has ever had for so many reasons. We've had so much fun with Mrs. O, and we don't want this year to end. Thank you Mrs. O for everything. We will miss you but will make you proud as we go into Grade 8.

| HENRY BOX BROWN

In April we set off on another experiment to understand history better. This time each student tried to fit in a small cardboard box for as long as possible: very few people found this comfortable, and no one wanted to be in that box while being shipped (often upside down) for about 27 hours. Can you believe that was the only way for Henry Box Brown to get his well deserved freedom! This freed black slave became well known after his famous escape to Philadelphia from Virginia. Even though we only slightly experienced Henry's pain it helped us understand how much he went through for freedom, something each of us have. - by Heidi, Gr 7



EXPLORING ART



TREE PLANTING

In April, for Earth Day and our class service project, we worked with the Grade 8s to plant trees, shrubs and wildflowers to rebuild our mini-forest at the back of the school property. We learnt about how trees affect the ecosystems around them, and how to properly care for them as we were planting them. We got to choose out the kinds of trees we planted with our work partners. All of the trees were native to Canada and included three kinds of maple and four

> types of oak. We even got to name the trees we planted so we can watch them grow for years to come! Between both grades, we planted 155 trees and shrubs and 32 wildflowers for a grant total of 187 plants! It was fun planting the trees, and learning about how they affect the world around us. - by Jessie, Gr 7

GRADE 7 BIKE TRIP



Region and biked multiple kilometres to see historic sights that we had learnt about in history class. It was crazy passing buildings in Fort George, and touching cannons that we had only ever seen pictures of. At Fort George, staff walked around wearing clothes they would have worn in the 1800s, and they even shot a musket! The biking itself was fun too! We followed the Niagara River, and we saw many amazing views. We finished our day eating pizza and played manhunt

For the bike trip, we went to the Niagara

outside of Fort George. It was a long and tiring day, but it was worth it and it was a great experience to share as a class. - by Jessie, Gr 7



OUR SPRING CONCERT PERFORMANCE

'Jurassic Park' Band performance, conducted by Mr. Patrick





GRANDPARENTS DAY













Our chapel in June was about being 'Image Reflecting'. Our class performed three skits, all based on Max Lucado's children books. The aim was to show our school that being yourself is always the best thing to do, that God has purposely made each of us unique and that we are valued and loved by Him. - by Jessie, Gr 7





















GRADE 7 NEWS GRADE 7 NEWS

Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.))

- Hebrews 12:1b-2a



EARTH CARE TREE PLANTING

In April, Grade 7 and 8 spent half of the day tree planting in the back of our school. It was a lovely, sunny day. We started our tree planting by getting an introduction from Moritz, who works for Trees for Guelph. We already had an idea of how to do things as we did it last year. But it was good to get a refresh. Once we had finished, we started planting. I was in a group with Addie and Selma, and we started planting our first tree. We started up by digging a nice hole, putting our tree inside, covering up the

hole and putting wood chips on top, then we put water on the tree and named it. You could choose any name you wanted, and people got creative with this! We did this 4 more times. The other grade 8s also planted many trees. We are all very blessed that we got to have the opportunity to plant trees and to help make our community more environmentally friendly! - by Paige 8S

SERVING OUR SCHOOL

Both Grade 8 classes have worked very hard while serving our school. Some ways we did this were every Friday at lunch, we would go and help pass out pizza, Subway, or Pita Pit.

Another way we helped was by running monthly bake sales. We all contributed and picked something to bake, and on the Friday, we would visit every classroom just before first recess for students to pick

what they would like to buy. The money we raised went towards our recent Grad trip to Medeba.

We all gave a lot of our time to help our school and to serve God. By taking responsibility, the Grade 8 class has helped to set a good and positive example to the younger students. - by Addie, Gr 8S

















WE ARE MOVING FORWARD

Throughout all our years at GCCS, God has blessed us in many ways, whether we joined in JK, Grade 8, or anywhere in between. GCCS has been a positive environment where we spent our years experiencing hands-on Christian learning and getting a deeper understanding of God and his world. The field trips, teams, and service projects we have

done over the years have been a highlight for many of us and have taught us to serve others while recognizing our identity through Christ. Going to high school will be a big change in our academic, social, and faith lives. We may have mixed feelings about this, but God's guidance has led us exactly where we need to be. GCCS has been such a blessing, but we are moving forward, ready for the new chapter ahead. - by Sydney, Gr 8S



OUR SPRING CONCERT PERFORMANCE

'Avengers'

Band performance conducted by Mr. Patrick

the Big Five. The thumb had a good attitude, the index

to the activities. We zip lined and rock climbing, we did

very grateful to have had a fun and adventurous Grad trip.

() -Selma, Gr 8S

GRADE 8 NEWS

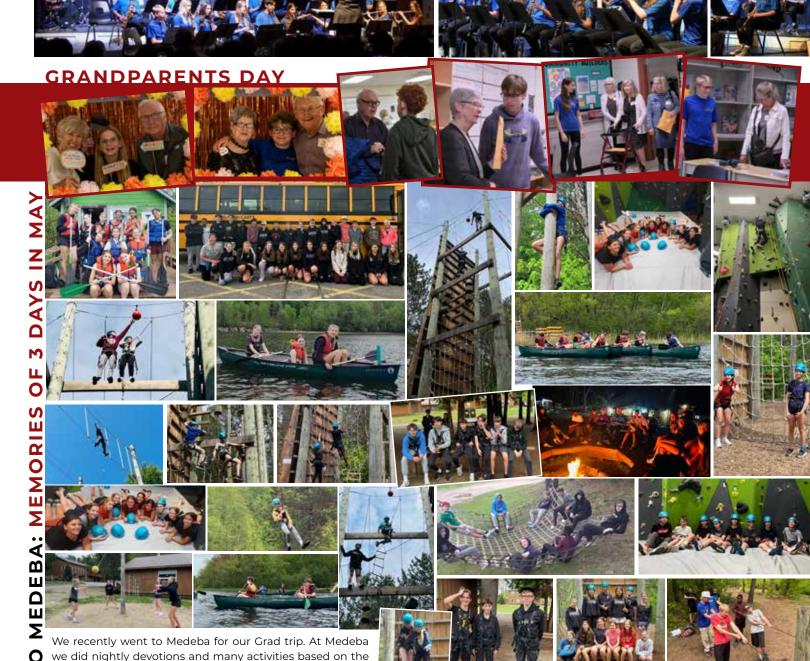
finger was responsible, the middle finger was respect, the

ring finger was commitment, and the pinky finger was watching out for the little guy. The big five was important

milk crate madness, Jacob's ladder, and many other fun

activities like canoeing. We grew closer with our friends **4** and also made new friendships within our grade. We are





GCCS EVENTS







It was a huge honour for our school to meet the Canadian Christian author Eric Walters. I remember when I was in Grade 6 and I picked up a book called 'Fly Boy'. After reading it, I wanted more. I started reading his Camp X series, and soon, I had read around 30 to 40 of his books. Before that, I didn't enjoy reading. Most of the books I read didn't grab my attention. But Eric Walters' books were different. His stories felt real, the characters were easy to relate to, and the action kept things moving. Even though there are other authors who write like this, Eric Walters was the first one who made me truly enjoy reading.

At first, I thought he would be a serious or strict man. But when he came to GCCS, I realized he was actually a really enthusiastic, funny man, and loved sports. He talked to our group about his new books and explained how many of his stories were based on real events from his life. One thing that really inspired me was how he became a writer. He told us that his grade 5 teacher once said, "You should be a writer," and he listened. That made me think. What if his teacher never said that? Would he still have become an author? It shows how much one small moment can change your life. The part that stuck with me the most was when he told us to stay on the right path and always follow our dreams. That made me realize that I need to be careful with the choices I make and to keep working hard toward my goals.

So thank you, Eric Walters, for inspiring me and helping me discover my love for reading. You made a big difference in my life. - by Roy, Gr 8





THANK YOU

As we close the chapter on another vibrant and meaningful school year at Guelph Community Christian School, our hearts are filled with gratitude. What a year it has been — full of learning, growth, laughter, challenges met, and milestones celebrated. None of it would have been possible without the unwavering support and dedication of our incredible school community.

To our devoted teachers and staff — thank you for pouring your time, talents, and love into each student. Your creativity, care, and faithfulness continue to shape young hearts and minds in extraordinary ways.

To our parents and grandparents — your partnership, encouragement, and countless hours of volunteering have helped bring our classrooms and events to life. From field trips and fundraisers to chapels and classroom moments, your presence has been such a blessing.

To our wider community — thank you for praying for us, showing up, and believing in the mission of Christian education.

And most importantly, we give thanks to God — for His provision, guidance, and grace every step of the way. He is truly at work in and through our school. As we look ahead to a new school year, we do so with hopeful hearts, trusting that the same faithful God who has brought us this far will continue to lead us forward.

"And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God."
- Micah 6:8

YRC: ABOUT US

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

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.