

# SNAPSHOT

STORIES FROM OUR CLASSROOMS

## ISSUE SEVEN

Welcome to the seventh 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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## First Term, Big Steps: Moments that Matter

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

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**#07**  
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## A note from Our Principal

The common idiom, “Time flies when you are having fun” has certainly proved to be true over these first three months of this school year.

From our Back to School BBQ and Meet the Teacher Evening, soccer tournament, and Orange Shirt Day in September, cross country meet and Walk-a-thon in October and Christmas Vendor Market, volleyball tournaments, Book Fair, Online Auction, and Around the World Dinner and Live Auction in November, there has been no shortage of exciting events. In addition, we’ve been blessed to have student council events, numerous service projects, class trips, guest speakers, and weekly chapels during which we have learned about the Lord’s Prayer.

Whew! It has been quite the ride already and we look forward to our upcoming Christmas concerts and then all that 2026 will bring us following the holidays.

Through it all we are filled with gratitude to God for His guidance and provision!

As you peruse the pages of this edition of Snapshot, I trust you will see evidence of that as you see many of the great things God is doing at GCCS!

## A note from Our Board Chair

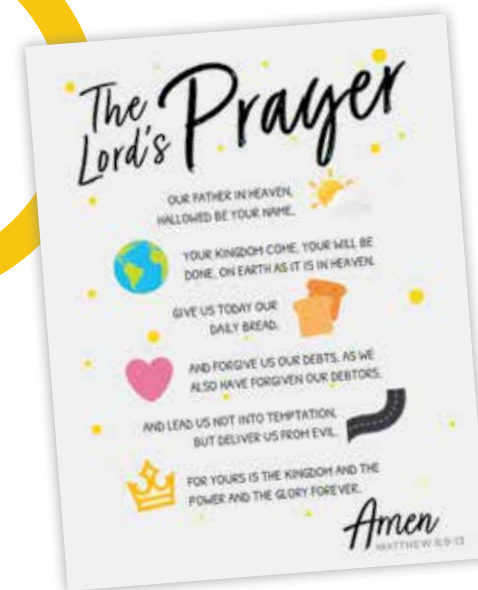
As we enter this Christmas season, the Board is grateful for God’s steady provision and the faithfulness of our GCCS community.

Our work this year has centred on strengthening governance and supporting the long-term health of the school. Since the Spring General Meeting in May 2025, we have focused on three key areas: Policy Review—updating and developing seven policies with administration and Edvance to support a safe, Christ-centred learning environment; **Financial Stewardship**—working toward a balanced budget through rental income, exploring non-tuition revenue, and continued generosity toward the Bursary Fund; and **Strategic Planning**—reviewing progress on our 2023–2026 Strategic Plan, with consideration of a one-year extension to complete remaining goals.

We extend our sincere thanks to GCCS administration, staff, families, and students. May God continue to guide our decisions and bless our school for generations to come.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we wish you a Merry Christmas. May the hope of Christ fill your homes with joy and peace.

Katherine Gibson, Chris Goodwin, Jeff Hubbard, Gina Jacklin, John Plunkett, Scott Stevens, Karlien Swanepoel, Mandy Wilson



## School Theme 2025/26 The Lord’s Prayer

This year, our school community is journeying through ‘The Lord’s Prayer’, discovering what it teaches us about who God is and how we can live as His children. Each month, we focus on a different line of the prayer, helping students understand its meaning in a real and personal way. Through stories, worship, and classroom discussions, we’re learning how Jesus’ words guide our hearts toward trust, gratitude, and love. Together, we are exploring how this prayer shapes our daily lives—reminding us to seek God’s kingdom, depend on His provision, and walk in forgiveness and grace.

### #1 SEPTEMBER



#### September Theme: Our Father in Heaven

This month, our school focused on the beautiful truth that God is our loving Father. Our memory verse, 1 John 3:1 — “*See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God*” — reminded us that we are deeply loved and cared for by Him. Through classroom discussions, prayers, and chapels, students explored what it means to have a close, personal relationship with God, one where we can come to Him with trust and honesty — just like a child talks to a loving parent. What a wonderful way to begin the school year, grounded in the love of our Heavenly Father!

### #2 OCTOBER

#### October Theme: Hallowed Be Your Name

In October, our focus was on the words “Hallowed be your name”—a reminder that God is holy and worthy of our praise. Our memory verse, Psalm 99:3 — “*Let them praise your great and awesome name—He is holy!*” — helped us reflect on the greatness and holiness of God. Throughout the month, students learned that God’s name is special and deserves our respect. In chapel and in classrooms, we talked about what it means to honour God not just in what we say, but in how we live each day. Our goal was to remember that everything we do can bring praise to His holy name!



### #3 NOVEMBER



#### November Theme: Your Kingdom Come

In November, our theme was “Your kingdom come”—a beautiful reminder that we want God’s ways to rule in our world. Our memory verse, Luke 17:21 — “*The kingdom of God is in your midst*” — encouraged us to see that God’s kingdom isn’t just somewhere far away, but alive and present in us today. Throughout the month, students explored what it means to live out God’s kingdom values of peace, love, and doing what is right. We learned that when we show kindness, seek justice, and care for others, we help bring God’s love into the world—right here, every day.





# GUELPH CAKES

AN INTERVIEW BY  
GRADE 8 STUDENTS  
PEYTON AND JESSIE



On Thursday, November 27th we interviewed April Del Monte, the owner of Guelph Cakes. When she walked into the room where we were doing the interview, the first thing we noticed was her kind smile and relaxed vibe, nothing like we imagined a 'business owner' would be. We began talking, and April explained to us how she originally got into making cakes. "I was not planning on this becoming my job, it was just something I was passionate about," April said. Her first time baking a cake was when she made a birthday cake for her little boy who was turning one. "It wasn't anything fancy, just a smash cake, but I was proud of it, and a few years later I decided to post it on social media," April explained, smiling. "Someone online saw it and sent me a picture of a vintage heart cake, and asked if I could make it for them. It continued from there." April went on to say that she did not particularly like baking, or the kitchen - it was decorating the cakes which she enjoyed. One thing she said that stood out most to us was: "I didn't choose it, it chose me."

We asked her how she learned to make such incredible cakes. "I'm actually self taught," she revealed. "I watched a few YouTube videos, and searched Pinterest for inspiration, but otherwise it was all experimenting, trial and error." She went into more detail about the icing she uses, and other little things which we did not realize affects how a cake looks. "It took me about half a year to nail it, but even now I am learning and improving." She showed us one of the cakes she had made, and it was amazing! Covered in little delicate swirls, intricate designs on all sides, and mini roses dotted on the smooth white icing. She mentioned how, due to her elaborate designs, she did not have many flavours of cake and stuck to one style. "If I could, I would accept all requests for my cakes, and it is hard to say no, especially because cakes are always for some kind of celebration, but I have to rest, and I want to spend time with my children." She teared up. "Being a mum is my number one priority." One thing we really wanted to know was what she thought about our school, and why she had chosen it

for her two children. "I love that it is such a close knit community, and the love we feel from everyone - teachers, students, parents..." she remarked. "Sometimes I see girls playing with my daughter, and calling out to her when they see her around. It is heartwarming to see so many people caring for her, and one another." She also told us that she loves the chapels that we have each week, and all the connections she sees around the school.

Later on, she mentioned her favourite cake that she had made. "I may not be able to remember names, but I can remember every cake that I have made," she insisted. She described a woodland fairy themed cake, with green icing, little purple flowers, and tiny mushrooms dispersed across the cake. It sounded enchanting, and magical, even though it was just a cake.

We developed a newly found appreciation, not only for the work that April does, but also the passion she has for it. Which made more sense when she gave

us some advice for anyone wanting to start their own business. "Make sure that whatever you do, it is something you are passionate about, because owning a business is hard, and your passion is what helps you through," she shared. "You also want it to be necessary, for there to be some kind of need for what you are offering, or else no one will use it. I guess there's a need for vintage cakes..."

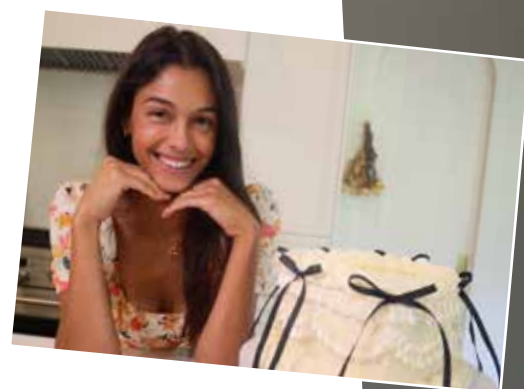
She went on to tell us her two favourite Bible verses, both of which hung heavy in her heart. Isaiah 1:17, "Learn to do right, seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow." and Psalm 34:18, "The Lord is near the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." April leaned forward as she told us about the "The Cake Box Collective" that she was doing with Michael House for Christmas. The point of this project was to fill cake boxes with gifts to mothers who were going through hard times. The goal is to turn this into an annual tradition.

As we were leaving, we were struck with how generously April gave to those around her, using her business to help others she didn't even know.

**Connect with April:**  
Instagram: @guelphcakes  
Website: www.guelphcakes.com



Thank you, April, for spending time with our students, sharing your thoughtful insights and wise words. We are so grateful for you.





# KINDERGARTEN



"My deep hope for Kinder P is that each student will experience the love of God through the wonder of His creation and will be inspired to show God's love to others and to His world." - Mrs. Pinson, Kinder P teacher

Kinder P has been off and running since September. We love playing outdoors in God's beautiful world and enjoy walking to the back of the school property and observing all the changes that occur with the changing seasons. We have some favourite indoor activities as well. Painting at the easel, playing in the sensory bin, building, playing with trucks and looking at books and puzzles are some of these. Many of these activities are built into our math and language learning. Using our body as we learn helps us to remember many new ideas. Walk-a-thon was a huge success, and the little legs of the Kinder students walked the entire walk. We have enjoyed spending time with our new friends, learning about our 5 Senses and have learned a lot about apples. We tasted

different kinds of apples, made apple charts, chose our favourite colour of apple and even made apple crisp in our classroom. The 50th day of school was a lot of fun. We counted to 50 many times, learned to dance the hand jive and the twist, and had so much fun bowling and playing with Hoola Hoops. Recently, we focused on the Forest Habitat and learned why animals live in the forest. This unit was filled with crafts and activities that allowed us to explore and discover the needs of foxes, squirrels, skunks and many more animals. Walks to our mini forest at the back of our property provided us with opportunities to discover a bat box, squirrel nest and so much more. The fall flew by but we are excited to continue to explore God's beautiful world as we enter into winter.

## CHAPEL: HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME



"My deep hope for Kinder C is that, as we discover new things about God's creation, we will be filled with wonder and awe at His handiwork."

- Mrs. Clarke, Kinder C teacher

Kinder C has been buzzing with excitement and learning this fall! We have enjoyed getting to know our new classmates and making new friends. The fall has been a time of reflecting on all that we are thankful for. As a class, we also enjoyed preparing for our school chapel and presented all about how God's name is hallowed through song, poetry and drawings. We were excited to present to a gymnasium full of students and parents.

We have enjoyed learning about apples and how they grow through their life cycle each year. We measured, tasted, and even baked apples! What a tasty thing to learn about! Quickly, the 50th day of school arrived and we celebrated with a 50's party. We especially enjoyed milkshakes and learning to do the twist and the hand jive. It was a fun day and we agreed that time flies when you're having fun!



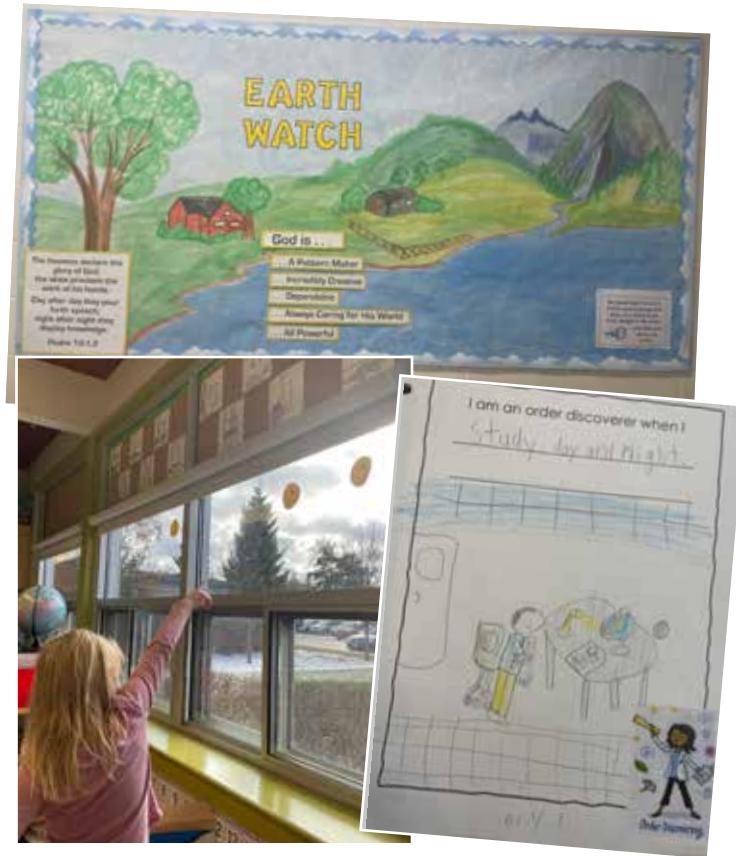


# GRADE 1

*My deep hope for you is that in your learning and play, you would know God, delight in His works, and offer your service as praise.* - Mrs. Jones, Grade 1 teacher

## EARTH WATCH

Grade 1 has been having so much fun learning about Earth and the Sun over the past three months! We've explored how the Sun moves across the sky, marking where and when it landed in our classroom—though we could only do this on sunny days, which made those moments extra exciting. We've learned about the Sun's movement and warmth, how it creates day and night, and how its journey around the Earth helps make the seasons. We've also discovered how the Earth spins on its axis and moves around the Sun, giving us the different times of day and the changing seasons. Watching and learning about these patterns has helped us appreciate the amazing design of God's creation. Every sunny day we observed reminded us just how incredible and carefully made our world is, and we are so thankful for the opportunity to explore and learn about it!

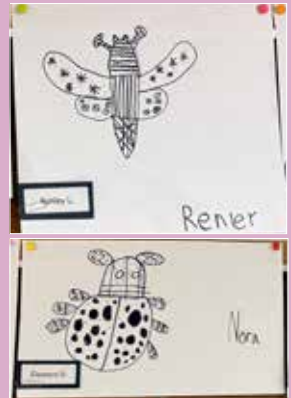


## READING BUDDIES

We love spending time with our Grade 5 reading buddies! While our reading sessions are always fun and help us grow as readers, we've also shared so many other special experiences together. We walked with them during our Terry Fox Walk, and for Thanksgiving, we got to show our appreciation for our teachers and staff by making thank-you cards for every staff member and leaving treats in the staff room. It was so exciting to see their reactions, and we hope it made everyone feel as special as they are to us. Spending time with our older buddies has been a wonderful way to build friendships, learn from them, and feel connected across the grades. We are so grateful for these moments together and can't wait for more fun times ahead!

## ARTWORK GALLERY

We have been busy creating artworks that have brightened our corridors throughout the year so far! From summer T-shirts sharing what we loved about our holidays, to line-drawn insects, colour spectrum dots, and shadow silhouette self-portraits reminding us that we are all special, our learning has truly been on display. Our favourites have to be our colourful fish and Thanksgiving turkeys—each one unique, vibrant, and wonderful in its own way. It has been a joy to see creativity and learning come together in big, bright ways!



## WALK-A-THON INCENTIVES

Grade 1 has been loving the Walkathon incentives this fall! To celebrate their hard work, students have enjoyed a series of special days—starting with Donut Day, where they got to enjoy delicious treats right at school. They also had a Gum/Candy Day, and an unforgettable Costume Day featuring firefighters, superheroes, princesses, Minnie Mouse, Messi the soccer player, a Transformer, and even a mermaid! Most recently, we cozied up for a PJ, stuffy, and movie day, watching Hermie together. Each incentive has brought so much joy, laughter, and excitement to our Grade 1 classroom!



## WALK-A-THON SCAVENGER HUNT

The Grade 1s had an unforgettable afternoon during our October Walkathon, filled with energy, teamwork, and adventure! Along the route, students took part in a creative scavenger hunt, working in groups to complete a long list of fun challenges. Some teams searched for specific house numbers and found a bench where they had to stop and do jumping jacks, while others collected colourful leaves and different types of bark. With certificates and stickers awarded at the finish line, the excitement grew as each group proudly checked off every item on their list. It truly was, as the students put it, an "infinity of fun!"



## THANK YOU SPONSORS

Grade 1 is celebrating an incredible achievement—we raised the most money of any grade in the entire school for the Walkathon! As a special reward, our class will be receiving matching hoodies (photo coming soon!), and we couldn't be more excited. A huge thank-you to everyone who sponsored us—your generosity means so much to our students and our school community. We appreciate you, and we celebrate this accomplishment together!

## FALL FUN DAY

We had a blast taking part in our first Fall Fun Day! Our favourite challenges were decorating balloons and throwing pumpkins down the hill, trying to knock down the pins. We loved being in teams with other grades and getting to know the older students who helped us so much. The excitement was high and teamwork was strong, and, of course, Mrs. Jones' Orange Colour Team won every challenge station!



## MRS LATAM

Grade 1 is especially thankful for our amazing EA, Mrs. Latam. There are so many wonderful things we could say about her, but our top highlights are how she helps every one of us, supports us with spelling during Reading Centre, and shows endless patience. She is always smiling, always encouraging, and always ready to lend a hand. We are so grateful for her!



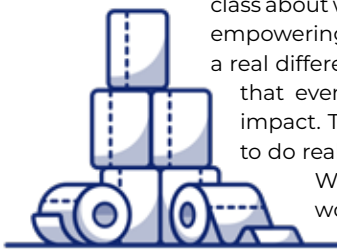
# GRADE 2

*My deep hope for Grade 2 is that we experience God's love and grace, and extend it to others in our learning and play.* - Mrs. Klassen, Grade 2 teacher

## SERVING HOPE HOUSE

Grade 2 has been excited to partner with Hope House for a meaningful service project! Each month we take large quantities of toilet paper and package them into bags of 2 or 4 rolls. These are then distributed at the Hope House Food Market to families in need. A representative from Hope House came to speak to our class about what Hope House does and who it serves, empowering us and showing how our work makes a real difference. As we packed the rolls, we learned that even small acts of service can have a big impact. This is a fantastic way for young children to do real work to meet real needs of real people.

We felt proud knowing that our efforts would help families in our community and show God's love in action!



## DONKEY SANCTUARY

Grade 2 had a memorable trip to the Donkey Sanctuary, where we learned important words like *neglect*, *sanctuary*, *synergy*, *empathy*, and *compassion*. We discovered that each donkey has its own story that brought it to the sanctuary, and that the seemingly "menial" tasks done by volunteers—cleaning pens, sweeping, and keeping things tidy—are essential for providing a safe home for the donkeys. We quickly saw the connection between the Donkey Sanctuary and Hope House. As one student reflected, "*The Donkey Sanctuary is a safe place for donkeys, and Hope House is a safe place for people.*" We realized that, just like the donkeys, every person has a story we may not know, and that our contributions, like packaging toilet paper for Hope House, make a real difference.

After the trip, each student had the chance to present a donkey to sponsor. While there were many great choices, the class voted to sponsor Peggy, a donkey with contracted tendons and mechanical laminitis who recently received innovative glue-on therapeutic shoes to ease her discomfort. Each student contributed \$2 toward Peggy's sponsorship, proudly sharing how they earned their donation. It was a wonderful experience that helped us connect compassion, empathy, and action in meaningful ways.



## BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!

Grade 2 has a special tradition for celebrating class birthdays! We place the birthday student in the middle of our circle and take turns sharing words of blessing and affirmation. Afterward, we pray for our birthday friend, thanking God for them and asking for His guidance and care in the year ahead. It's a meaningful and joyful way to celebrate each classmate!



## WE LOVE SCIENCE

Grade 2 has been learning all about water! During our sinking and floating experiments, we discovered that an orange will float only with its peel on—take the peel off, and it sinks! We've been exploring concepts like buoyancy, density, and displacement, as well as the properties of air and the states of matter. It's been so much fun experimenting, observing, and discovering how science works all around us!



## ART PROJECTS



## READING BUDDIES

Grade 2 has been loving their time with their Grade 6 reading buddies! Each week, our classroom fills with excitement as the older students join us to read stories, share conversations, and build meaningful friendships. The Grade 6s have been wonderful mentors—encouraging confident reading, modelling expression and fluency, and making each Grade 2 student feel valued and supported. These moments together have quickly become a highlight of our week, reminding us how special it is when our school community learns and grows side by side.



## INDOOR RECESS FUN

Here's a little insight into what Grade 2s get up to when we're "forced" to have indoor recess—because even rainy days can't stop us from having fun! While it may not always be the most relaxing time for teachers, our classroom fills with imagination and laughter and we make the most of our time inside!



## WALK-A-THON INCENTIVES

Grade 2 had a blast enjoying the Walk-a-thon incentive days! Our favourite was Pet Day, which was a huge success—we loved meeting special stuffies, seeing photos of pets at home, and even welcoming some real live animals outside. We were visited by several dogs, a few brave cats, and even a guinea pig! Another fun reward was our Treat & Gum Day, where everyone got to chew gum in the afternoon and enjoy a refreshing cold treat. We also celebrated with a Board Game and Cupcake Day, bringing in our favourite games to play together while munching on delicious cupcakes. These special days brought so much joy to our class and were a wonderful celebration of our Walk-a-thon efforts!



## WALK-A-THON FUN



## RIVER RUN TRIP

We had a fantastic time at the River Run Centre watching Billy Goats Gruff and Other Tales by the Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia. Using life-size puppets, the show mashed together three classic fairy tales—Goldilocks, The Three Little Pigs, and The Three Billy Goats Gruff. We loved following the brave raccoon and clever mouse on their adventure, helping the animals along the way. It was full of adventure, humour, and friendship, and a fun way to experience live theatre.





# GRADE 3

EXTEND: I hope we can extend ourselves to have bigger awareness and care-actions for God and His people. - Ms. Pennings, Grade 3 teacher



## EARTH KEEPER'S PROJECT

Grade 3 have been leading the way as Earthkeepers! As part of our project, we collect all the organics in the school and teach every class how to sort their rubbish, keeping everyone accountable and on track. We even remind our parents and extended family at home about the importance of recycling and sorting organics. We really enjoy teaching the older classes and visiting classrooms every day—it's also so interesting to see what other classes eat! We love knowing that we are helping make the world a better place and sharing what we've learned so others can do the same.



## CHAPEL: OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN

Grade 3 did the first class chapel of the school year and they led a beautiful chapel centred on the words, "Our Father in heaven." They reminded us of just how big God's love is, comparing it to the care animals show for their young—and showing that God's love for His children is even greater. The students brought joy and energy as they led the school in actions to their theme song, helping everyone worship together. It was a wonderful reminder of the depth of God's love through the voices and hearts of our Grade 3s!



## MOUNSTBERG ADVENTURES

Our Grade 3s enjoyed a beautiful, warm, and sunny day exploring the great outdoors at Mountsberg Conservation Area for their Green Thumbs program! Students dug right in—literally—as they discovered how plants and soils support life on our planet and learned ways we can care for God's creation. There were definitely some creepy crawlies and messy hands along the way, but that's all part of the fun when learning outdoors! It was a fantastic day full of hands-on exploration, curiosity, and discovery.



## CHARLOTTE'S WEB

This term, we loved reading Charlotte's Web! The story made us laugh, taught us about friendship and loyalty, and inspired us to be better friends. We celebrated Charlotte as a true hero—without her, Wilbur wouldn't have survived—and studying the story in depth, rewriting announcements, and choosing a Best Friend Award was so much fun. While it was sad when Charlotte died (and we had to have a moment of silence when we finished reading the book), we reflected on her courage and the special bond with Wilbur. It was an unforgettable read!



## KEITH HARING CREATIONS

In class, we have been exploring the vibrant world of Keith Haring's art! We have been learning how he captures movement and dancing in his iconic stick-like figures. Using our imagination, we started by drawing simple stick people and then transformed them into bold, graffiti-style art pieces. We experimented with bright colours like yellow, purple, and green, and finished each piece by outlining our figures in black, just like Haring. The results were amazing—each figure became distinct, unique, and full of energy, practically popping off the page!



## MATH SOLVING

Grade 3 has been having so much fun in Math this term! We've been exploring the four main operations—addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division—and putting our problem-solving skills to the test. One of our favourite activities has been writing stories to match math problems. For example, we might write: "Jonny has \$4 and gets \$24 more. How much money does he have?" We loved creating our own stories, solving the problems, and seeing how math connects to real-life situations. It's been exciting, challenging, and a lot of fun!

## CROSS COUNTRY FUN

Grade 3 was so excited to finally be old enough to take part in cross country this year! Many of us joined in and had an amazing time running against other schools while proudly representing GCCS. It was a thrill to compete alongside our older grade friends, and we also loved cheering them on as they raced. The day was full of energy, teamwork, and school spirit, and we can't wait for the next cross country event!



## WALK-A-THON INCENTIVES

We have been having so much fun with our Walk-a-thon Celebration Times—special incentive days to thank our generous sponsors! So far, we've enjoyed a snack buffet, a PJ and stuffy movie day where we cozied up on the carpet to watch IF, and an unforgettable Costume Day with outfits including pandas, a mermaid, a soccer player, Mario, a secret spy, an astronaut, a Viking, a dog, hockey player Auston Matthews, a deer, a princess, a clown, and even a bumblebee! Each celebration has been full of laughter and excitement, and we still have a few more to look forward to later in the year.

## CONCRETE PUMPKINS

Grade 3 has been having so much fun with our Grade 7 reading buddies! Of course, we enjoy our reading sessions, but we also got to do something extra special—making concrete pumpkins. One afternoon we spent forming the pumpkins in our pairs, shaping them carefully out of concrete, and another afternoon we had a blast painting them bright orange. It was messy, creative, and so much fun, and we loved sharing the experience with our reading buddies while learning and creating together!



## HIGHLIGHTS SO FAR

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Snack buffet – Roman                  | Charlotte's Web, Earthkeepers – Elizabeth                   |
| Devotions – Amiyah                    |   |
| Free time – Ben                       | Earthkeepers poster – Elena                                 |
| Gym, Volleyball, Cross Country – Arie | Art and gym – Heidi   |
| Bible – Jotham                        | Art, Cross Country, PE – Rory                               |
| Cross Country, PJ day – Camden        | Earthkeepers, Cross Country, coming back to school! – Maris |





# GRADE 4

## MOUNTSBERG CONSERVATION AREA FIELD TRIP

On October 7, Grade 4 went to Mountsberg Conservation Area to learn about habitats. While we were there, we played games to learn about food chains. The games were fun, but tiring. We went on a hike and saw lots of things including a black and yellow garter snake, a blue salamander, 2 brown toads, very colourful trees, and a stinky swamp. We also went fishing with a small but powerful net. Our goal was to catch fish, minnows, frogs, toads, and tadpoles. I am looking forward to going back to Mountsberg next year. - by Quinn, Gr 4



*My deep hope is that we will see others and ourselves as beloved children of God who reflect His image. We will strive to see the perspectives of others while continuing to show them love and respect.* - Mrs. Eshuis, Grade 4 teacher



## INSIGHTS INTO OUR CLASSROOM

In Grade 4 some of our favourite book series to read are: 'I Survived', 'Dog Man', 'Beverly Cleary' and 'And Then It Happened'.

In Grade 4 we have different voice levels. There is:  
AUDIENCE VOICE • LIBRARY VOICE  
RESTAURANT VOICE • STADIUM VOICE

- by Oore, Gr 4



## CHAPEL PERFORMANCE

In November we did a chapel about a book called 'One' by Kathryn Otoshi. Our chapel was about showing God's love to others. Our skit showed how one person can make a difference by standing up for others, and by showing kindness to others by doing what's right. Our skit showed that when people are mean it makes people sad, but when you show kindness you make people happy. The 'colour' characters stood up for themselves and for each other after one of them, 'white', stood up for the rest of the colours first. When our performance was over we were saying, 'Whoa did we just do that?'. We were very proud of ourselves and each other! - by Quinn, Gr 4



## READING BUDDIES

This year is our first as a 'reader' instead of being read to by an older grade. The grade we have been partnered with is Kindergarten. We have reading buddies every Friday during the last period.

I have two reading buddies in Kindergarten, Laurel and Leanne. We usually sit together in the back corner of their classroom. We are reading buddies to help them learn how to read, and it helps us, too. I pick a book and then I read it to them. These include Pete The Cat, The Berenstain Bears, The Pigeon books, and many more.

I enjoy reading to them because they are so calm, and it brings me so much joy. - by Quinn, Gr 4



## CHARTWELL VISIT

On Friday October 3rd, the Grade 4 class went to Chartwell Retirement Home (which is a home for elders) for the first time. Our visit was to bring the residents some joy. We played games with them and did some activities and asked questions from the books we had brought with us. The funniest thing one of the residents told me was that one of her favourite things to do is eat things she isn't supposed to eat. We saw that we made them happy and brought them joy. - by Oore, Gr 4



Chartwell was so much fun, and the walk wasn't even too bad. What we all enjoyed most was chatting with the residents and playing games with them. We are looking forward to getting to know them more this year. - by Leo and Sammy, Gr 4

## ARTWORK





# GRADE 5

My deep hope is for students to know they are loved by God and they are curious to uncover His wondrous works. - Mrs. Burton, Grade 5 teacher



## IN CLASS LEARNING

In Grade 5 our classroom has been buzzing with creativity and collaboration as we explore new ways to learn math and language. Students have been using a variety of methods—groupwork, role play, whiteboard planning, and interactive problem-solving—to deepen their understanding and make learning more engaging. We've discovered that working together not only helps us tackle challenging concepts but also strengthens our communication skills and builds a strong sense of community in our class.



## CHARTWELL VISITS

Our Grade 5s are back for another wonderful year of visiting the residents at Chartwell Retirement Home, and it has been such a joy to watch them reconnect after the summer break. Students have loved diving back into conversations, hearing stories from the residents' lives, and sharing plenty of laughter over board games and activities. These visits continue to be a highlight for both our students and the residents, building meaningful friendships across generations.



## TRIP TO MOUNTSBERG

Our class went to Mountsberg Conservation Area as part of our 'Habitats and Communities' science unit, and we had lots of fun. First, we did a scavenger hunt, focusing on habitats and how organisms adapt to survive. It was fun and a great way to remember our learning. Then we did some fishing with nets. We tried to catch minnows, tadpoles, frogs, and other tiny pond critters. After we were done, our leader told us more about what we had caught. Finally, we took part in a game called 'Instincts for Survival'. It helped us understand how natural communities function and how herbivores, omnivores, and carnivores fit into food chains. It was a hands-on discovery day that we won't forget! - by Alexis, Gr 5



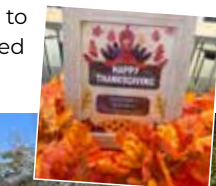
## WALK-A-THON FUN

In October we had our walk-a-thon. On the walk-a-thon the students walk a certain distance based on their age and class. We walk around 4km. This year our walk-a-thon was in the afternoon and we had pizza before we left school. In the weeks before the walk-a-thon every class tried to raise money for school activities and we had class incentives to aim for. Our incentives included Gum/Candy day, PJ/Stuffy/Movie/Sundae day, a walk for Slushies and walk to the Boathouse. - by Alexis, Gr 5



## READING BUDDIES

Our Grade 5 students have loved being reading buddies with Grade 1 this year! Each week, we look forward to spending time together, sharing stories, practicing reading skills, and building meaningful friendships. One of the highlights was doing the Terry Fox Walk together. We also took time over Thanksgiving to make cards for all the staff and left sweet treats in the staff room, which was especially nice to share with our younger friends. This special partnership has brought joy to both grades and helped create a caring, connected community of learners.



## QUIET MOMENTS





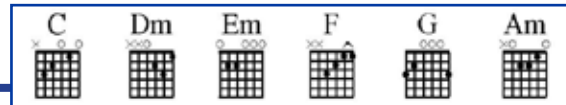
# GRADE 6

Follow Jesus, living upside down as He did,  
loving right side up as He did. - Mrs. Guetter,  
Grade 6 teacher



## CLASS TOGETHER

Grade 6 loves our class time! We are so grateful to have Mrs. Guetter as our teacher—she guides us in language and socials while helping us grow as individuals and become more dedicated learners. We enjoy helping each other and learning together every day. We are also excited to have Mr. Wylie teaching us math and science, sharing his knowledge on many topics, including space, which is one of both his and our favourites. Learning in Grade 6 has been challenging, fun, and inspiring!

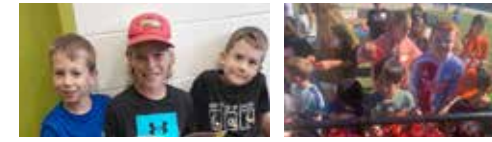


## RECESS TIMES



## LEARNING UKULELES

Our class has been learning to play the ukulele! We have always wanted to learn the ukulele. We started with learning the C chord and to strum. At first it was super difficult and we thought we would never learn. But after a few weeks, we started to get it! Then we got faster! Next was learning the A minor and F chords. Soon after that we learned the G chord which was exciting. We often practice in the halls, which is super fun! Now we are learning our song for the Christmas Concert (sshh!) - it is a bit hard, but I know we will get it! This has been really fun and we are excited for what we will learn next. - by Annelise, Emma and Nadia, Gr 6



## READING BUDDIES

Reading buddies in Grade 6 has been a blast! Our reading buddies this year are the Grade 2 class, and they are so sweet! Reading buddies is a program where you are paired up with a younger class, and you read with them, and get to know them a little more. In Grade 6, we have reading buddies on Day 4, and it's always so awesome to see your buddies! We usually have reading buddies in the school library. We do reading buddies because we help educate young people in reading and writing skills. We usually read picture books that our buddies choose. This is reading buddies. - by Ava, Gr 6



## COLOSSIANS PROJECT

In Bible, we have been learning about Paul's letter to the Colossians. After we had completed the unit, we each chose a verse from Colossians that we felt had meaning to us and turned it into a colouring page. Then we had to write a paragraph about why we chose it. One example is Colossians 3:15a - "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts". To me this teaches us to find true peace in Christ, live with love and respect toward others, and resist empty rules and temptations. I drew this with images of a dove, a cross, a peace symbol, a crown, and a heart. - by Aaron, Gr 6



## WALK-A-THON TIME

Grade 6 had an exciting and successful Walk-a-thon this year! After reaching all of their fundraising goals, the class was extra motivated as they set out on a hot afternoon walk around the local area. Their route took them down to the Speed River and up past Water Street Church—and they kept a quick pace the whole way. Back at school, much-needed freebies were waiting and enjoyed by all. A big thank you to our parent volunteers who joined Grade 6 on the walk and helped make the day both safe and fun!

## INCENTIVES FUN

In Grade 6 this year, our first Walk-a-thon incentive was Gum/Candy and Hat Day. This was a pretty good first incentive in my opinion. Getting to eat gum and candy and wear cool and funny hats all day was amazing. We had the best time ever. - by Nora, Ava, and Nadia, Gr 6

After this fun gum-chewing and hat wearing day, we had 20 minutes extra recess, a couple weeks later. Although that was fun the next two incentives were EVEN BETTER. We had an indoor camp-in, where we built tents in groups, using blankets, chairs, table and pillows in the community room. Once we were ready to go in our tents, we played games, and told stories around the 'campfire', aka a miniature trampoline. Then we had PJ / stuffy / movie / popcorn day. We watched Wonka, a film about a chocolatier whose life goal is to build the world's greatest chocolate emporium, with help from an orphan named Noodles. But, other rich and wealthy chocolate makers try to crush his dreams, worrying about losing customers. This musical was a good end to an already fun day!!!!!! - By Aaron, Gr 6





# GRADE 7

My deep hope is that we will **build community**, both within and beyond.

- Mrs. Oussoren, Grade 7 teacher

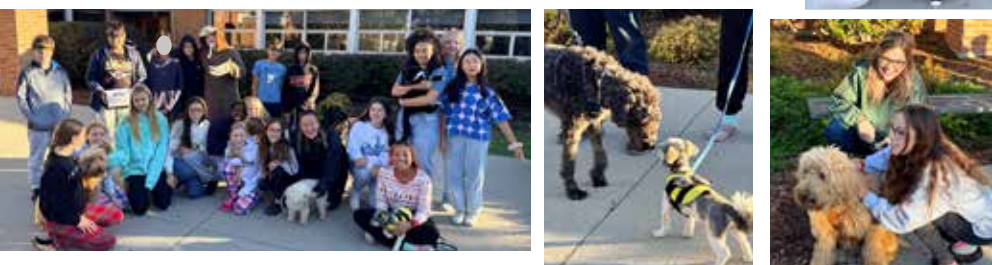


## FIRST DAY IN GRADE 7



## WALK-A-THON INCENTIVES

Grade 7 had a blast celebrating their sponsors with their Walk-a-thon incentives this year! From cozy Pajama & Stuff Day to Movie treats with popcorn and "The Incredibles," each goal brought lots of fun. The final rewards, which included gum, candy, Show 'N' Tell, and Pet Day, were especially entertaining—watching the dogs interact with each other outside school had everyone laughing (the cat kept her distance) and made for a memorable day!



## ARTWORK



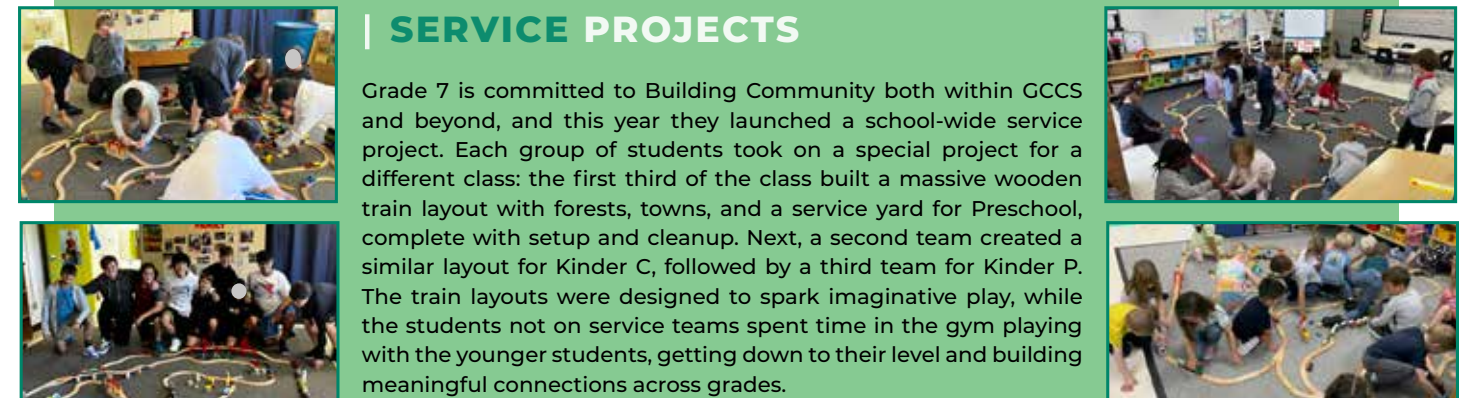
## READING BUDDIES

Grade 7 has loved being reading buddies with Grade 3 this year, but their time together is so much more than just reading! From creating concrete pumpkins and helping each other with schoolwork to walking side by side in the Terry Fox Walk, these moments are full of laughter, learning, and meaningful connections. It's a joy to see the students learning from one another and building friendships that brighten both classrooms.



## SERVICE PROJECTS

Grade 7 is committed to Building Community both within GCCS and beyond, and this year they launched a school-wide service project. Each group of students took on a special project for a different class: the first third of the class built a massive wooden train layout with forests, towns, and a service yard for Preschool, complete with setup and cleanup. Next, a second team created a similar layout for Kinder C, followed by a third team for Kinder P. The train layouts were designed to spark imaginative play, while the students not on service teams spent time in the gym playing with the younger students, getting down to their level and building meaningful connections across grades.



## ART TIME

Grade 7 art class with Mrs. B is always an adventure—full of learning, creativity, and just the right amount of mess along the way. Students are encouraged to explore new techniques, take risks, and express themselves through a variety of mediums. Each class is a lively mix of imagination and skill-building, leaving students inspired and excited for what they'll create next.



## RIVER RUN VISIT

Grade 7 and 8 students recently visited the River Run Centre to see DeeDee Austin, a 19-year-old Indigenous pop powerhouse from the Abegweit First Nation. Her high-energy blend of contemporary and traditional Indigenous music was refreshing to experience, and students found it both thought-provoking and inspiring, especially seeing someone so young sharing her voice with such confidence.



## WAR RE-ENACTMENT

Grade 7 recently brought history to life with an energetic re-enactment of the British–French conflict in North America. Students stepped into roles as British troops, French soldiers, and First Nations. They dramatized key British victories, including the captures of Fort Louisbourg, Fort Frontenac, and Fort Duquesne, before recreating the dramatic final battle: the British quietly sailing past French guards, climbing the cliffs, and winning the Battle of the Plains of Abraham. The activity ended with the fall of Quebec City and the deaths of both "General Wolfe" and "General Montcalm", making this hands-on lesson a fun and memorable way to experience history.





# I GRADE 8

*My Deep Hope is that we are fully alive in God's story by purposely honouring God, others, and His creation. - Mrs. Scheerer, Grade 8 teacher*

## I A YEAR OF LEADERSHIP

Throughout the year we get the chance to be leaders, not only in our school, but also in the community, through patrols, reading buddies, being colour leaders, serving bake sale and lunch orders, setting out chairs and tables for events, serving at our Vendor Market and showing love to the kids around us in our everyday school life. We also get to be leaders in different clubs, such as Young Reporters Club, Battle of the Books, sport teams and praise teams. We all enjoy being leaders inside and outside of our school. - by Jessie, Gr 8



## I WALK-A-THON WARM UP

To get the school excited and ready to raise money, we prepare silly walks and perform them at the walk-a-thon launch chapel! This has become a Grade 8 tradition. To choose ideas for our silly walks, we go in groups and go behind the stage and look for costumes. And then we practice our silly walks. On the day of the launch chapel, we present our walks to the school to get them hyped for the walk ahead of them - by Henry, Gr 8



## FUNDRAISING SUCCESS

As the Grade 8's, we do fundraisers for our graduation trip; a way to mark all of our hard work at the end of the year. One fundraiser we do is a monthly bake sale fundraiser, usually held on a Friday, for each grade to buy treats. Our class is divided into pairs and we are assigned a grade each. Sometimes, our bake sale items are themed, for example Fall or Christmas-themed. We bake lots of treats for our bake sales including cupcakes, brownies, cookies and rice crispie squares. Most people prefer to buy cupcakes and cookies. My personal favourites are the cupcakes and brownies! - by Daria, Gr 8



## I ARTWORK

## I TERRY FOX WALK



## I READING BUDDIES

In late September, we started reading buddies with the preschoolers. It took a couple of weeks for them to settle in, so once they had we started play sessions in the gym. After they got comfortable around us, we began to read with them. Reading buddies is a joyous time of connecting with younger students and learning as well. - by Corinne, Gr 8



## I STORY WRITING

Each Grade 8 student got the chance to write a children's book about how one person can make a big difference. There were a variety of takes on this assignment, with some people making their stories about animals showing kindness to each other, friends helping each other find lost objects, and other valuable lessons to go along with the creative stories. Once we had finished writing and editing our children's stories, we illustrated them, then shared them, not only to each other, but also our preschool reading buddies who loved them. - by Jessie, Gr 8



## WALK-A-THON FUN



The Grade 8s led the way for the other classes and also walked the furthest distance - a shocking 6.5km. We had a lot of fun sharing time as a class in the beautiful weather, even though it was hot and tiring. - by Jessie, Gr 8



*Thank you to all the parents who donated baked goods and came out for the Christmas Vendor Market. We are so thankful for your generosity and the kindness that you showed us. Without your support, we would not have been able to accomplish our sales goal for the Christmas Market bake sale. We appreciate all of the time and work you put in for us. Thank you so much! - by Carina, Gr 8*



This year we have the privilege of serving Lunchbox orders to the school. Lunchbox orders happen every Friday at the second nutrition break when we deliver food orders to the other Grades. We are grouped into teams of 2 for every class, and deliver lunchbox and bake sale orders together. The lunchbox orders consist of Pizza Pizza, Subway, and Pita Pit. We do this because we are fundraising for a Graduation trip to Medeba for our last year at GCCS. My lunchbox order preference is Pizza Pizza, but Subway and Pita Pit are also great. - by Henry, Gr. 8



# GCCS SPORTS

## SOCCER

## CROSS COUNTRY

## VOLLEYBALL

# IN THE HALLS

## PICTURE DAY

## BOOK FAIR 2025

# GCCS CHAPELS

## TRUTH & RECONCILIATION

## THANKSGIVING CHAPEL

## REMEMBRANCE DAY



# GCCS EVENTS

## BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ



## TERRY FOX WALK



## STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

I have had the wonderful opportunity to be one of our Grade 8 Student Council reps. Student Council plans and leads events to make sure it is fun for everyone. Recently, we organized the school's annual Fall Fun Day. It included fun games such as an autumn obstacle course, X's and O's, apple fishing, pumpkin decorating, and our traditional game, pumpkin bowling. We also helped our school show our Canadian pride by supporting the Blue Jays and wearing blue!

We are so excited to continue our planning to make this year the most special one yet! - by Corinne, Gr 8

**Our Student Council Reps:** Corinne and Kai (Gr 8), Hayley and Nikhil (Gr 7), Yoonah and Levi (Gr 6), Luke and Alexis (Gr 5)



## WALK-A-THON



## FALL FUN DAY





# OUR SPONSORS

# THANK YOU!

We are deeply grateful for the generous support of our two featured sponsors—one a cherished alumni family and the other a dedicated current parent. Their encouragement, partnership, and belief in our mission help strengthen our school community and inspire our students in their writing endeavours. Thank you for making a meaningful difference.

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A portion of proceeds from every cake order is donated to the humanitarian organization Heal Palestine, supporting the physical, emotional, and spiritual healing of children from Gaza.

## YRC: ABOUT US

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.

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