

SNAPSHOT

STORIES FROM OUR CLASSROOMS

ISSUE EIGHT

Welcome to the eighth 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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Snow Much Happening! Inspired Learning and Snowy Recesses

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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A note from Our Principal

As the past few months brought chilly and snowy weather outside, many of our highlights took place inside - in places including the school, museums, retirement homes, city hall, gymnasiums, and even a hockey arena. Learning happens everywhere!

As you'll see in the following pages, the months were busy with concerts, sports tournaments, dress up days, chapels and our Student-Led Conferences. Through it all, our students created beautiful work while enjoying guest speakers and engaging in service projects.

We give thanks to God for His continued provision throughout these months and we look forward to seeing all that He has in store for us over the coming spring months.

A note from Our Board Chair

The board has been working hard on a variety of items over the past couple of months.

In December, we welcomed 3 new board members to the table (Mandy Wilson, Karlien Swanepoel and Gina Jacklin). They have quickly integrated themselves in the board and have each brought a wonderful new perspective to our discussions, as well as a deep love for the school and Christian education.

Over the first three months of the year the board has been giving attention to budget planning for the 2026-2027 school year, as well as looking at our current Strategic Plan which is coming to a close this year. The board has also completed their annual self assessment and board practices assessments and will look at those results in April to ensure the board is operating efficiently.

Moving forward, the board will continue to work on the budget for the 2026-2027 school year as well as continuing to look at the Strategic plan. The board would also like to thank Chris Goodwin for his three years of service on the board in the vice chair and chair roles. Thank you to everyone for your continued support of the school.

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



School Theme 2025/26 The Lord's Prayer

This year, our school is exploring The Lord's Prayer, learning what it teaches us about God and how to live as His children. Each month, we focus on a different line, helping students understand its meaning and apply it in their daily lives through worship, stories, and reflection.

#4 DECEMBER



December Theme: Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

In December, our school community focused on the words of the Lord's Prayer, "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven," as we explored what it means to trust and follow God's plans. Anchored in Proverbs 3:5, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart," students were reminded that God's ways are always good—even when we don't fully understand them. Through learning, worship, and reflection, we were encouraged to say 'yes' to God's way, choosing trust and obedience, even when it feels difficult. This theme invited us to rest in the truth that God is faithful and His plans are always for our good.

#5 JANUARY

January Theme: Give us this day our daily bread

In January, our focus was on the Lord's Prayer words, "Give us this day our daily bread," reminding us that God provides for our needs each day. Anchored in Philippians 4:19, "And my God will supply every need of yours," students learned that we can trust God's care and faithfulness, even in the small details of daily life. This theme encouraged everyone to pause, reflect, and thank God each day for what we have, recognizing His goodness and provision in every moment.



#6 FEBRUARY



February Theme: Forgive us our debts

In February, our school focused on the words of the Lord's Prayer, "Forgive us our debts," learning that God forgives our sins when we turn to Him. Anchored in 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us," students were reminded that God's forgiveness is always available, no matter what we've done. This month, we were encouraged to ask God for forgiveness and trust that He hears us, growing in humility, honesty, and gratitude for His unfailing love.

#7 MARCH

March Theme: As we also have forgiven our debtors

In March, our focus was on the Lord's Prayer words, "As we also have forgiven our debtors," reminding us that God calls us to forgive others just as He has forgiven us. Anchored in Ephesians 4:32, "Be kind to one another... forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you," students learned that forgiveness is an act of love and obedience, even when it's difficult. This month, we were encouraged to choose to forgive, showing grace and kindness in our words and actions, reflecting God's heart to those around us.



ALUMNI IMPACT

AN INTERVIEW BY
GRADE 8 STUDENTS
EMILY AND AYLEEN

In February, we interviewed Richard Van Dyke, an alumni donor at our school. He is also a financial advisor at Co-Operators.

The moment that Richard walked into GCCS, it was clear that he was very familiar with the environment. The staff eagerly welcomed him and were excited to have him walking through our corridors again. The mood was heartwarming. As we spoke to Richard, we got to hear about his family's experience at the school. Even though his children graduated many years ago, he had a lot to tell us about his family's experience with GCCS.

Early School Connections

He shared that their family was originally drawn to the school because his wife attended it when she was younger. Richard shared that at that time, there weren't a lot of options when it came to Christian schooling. When they found GCCS once more, they were thrilled! He later told us that his children felt that they were well prepared for high school after attending GCCS. *"The environment was*

just so caring and attentive", said Richard. He also felt the community that is fostered at the school is really important. Examples of community around the school from his time were the reading buddies program, as well as older students helping younger students on the skating rink that the school built in the winter. His family really enjoyed the Christmas concert and getting to see the younger students, as well as the talent of the older grades.

The Impact of Christian Education

Throughout the interview, Richard made a point of how much the staff show love and care for the students. Richard has definitely seen GCCS at different points of its journey as a school, but said that it has always been an amazing environment to be in. Some staff have changed over the years, but one thing that has always stayed the same is the lasting effect that GCCS has on the students. Richard observed that life is not always easy, and having a solid Christian base is so important. This is something that you find at the core of GCCS where Christ-centred learning is

fundamental in teaching aspects such as how our faith will influence our lives for the better.

Richard also discussed his work at Co-Operators with us. As with any job, Christians need to be able to practice their faith actively within it. Richard has really been striving to practice this in his daily life, and has come to the conclusion that it is a journey (as with most things in faith). Lots of people that attend GCCS are familiar with Richard, whether it comes from his time at the school or at his church. Richard also made the point that it is helpful to get together with other Christians, and continue to reminisce about the old days. He said that when it comes to faith, he tries to think in a certain mindset. At GCCS, mindset has been a big learning target, so it was intriguing to see Richard's take on the topic. He said he tries to think that even though the Christian life can have its struggles, God is using all of us as one piece of a bigger puzzle. We thought this was a really great way to look at it, and it felt very raw and honest. Richard also added that there are a lot of negative impacts out there, and it is important for you to have good people to get support from. Some ideas that Richard mentioned are to find people at school, church, or even in day to day life. The most important part according to Richard is making sure you are being intentional

about your faith goals, and following through with them. *"It's not always easy to get involved, but keep asking tough questions, and keep on showing others the love Jesus has for us."* says Richard. *"But it is essential that we do show it, even when it feels hard."*

Moving Forward

We asked Richard if there was a reason why he chose to stay connected to the school, despite the fact that his children have all graduated and moved on. He reiterated about how important he thought Christian education was, and that a part of that is also supporting its continuation. Richard had briefly mentioned that at the time of his children's elementary school years, there weren't a lot of Christian schools. The fact that GCCS lives on, and carries a bigger legacy than ever, is important and inspiring to him. He also thought that it was really great to see students today thriving in the same environment that his family experienced

Throughout the whole interview, Richard clearly emphasized the importance of having a solid Christian foundation, and how he feels the school provides that. It was a privilege to hear a viewpoint of the school from a past family and the memories that they all still treasure and have built on.

Below: Richard, his wife Nadine and their three children; Jocelyn (centre), Megan and Andrew. This picture was taken at Jocelyn's Grade 8 Graduation



Above: Richard's son, Andrew, at a district track and field event with some of his friends from class

Right: Richard's eldest daughter Jocelyn in her Grade 8 costume for the school play, with Ms Pennings



Thank you, Richard, for spending time with our students, and for sharing your insights and memories of GCCS. We are grateful for your family and for all that you continue to contribute to our school community.

KINDERGARTEN

Our Kindergarten classes have been very busy these last few months. Our primary focus in **December** was celebrating the **Birth of Jesus Christ**. Kinder students eagerly participated in Bible lessons and activities as they delighted in learning of Jesus' birth.

As well, in December, we travelled around the world on 'Christmas Airlines.' In each of the countries we visited, we learned about and experienced the traditions that they enjoyed during the Christmas Season. A few of the traditions we participated in were: the breaking open of a Pinata, making Christmas Cards, opening Christmas Crackers, making stockings, and decorating gingerbread cookies. Following our Christmas Holidays, the Kinder students returned excited to see their classmates and to begin exploring the classroom and the beautiful winter weather.

During our **Let's Build** unit, the Kinder students demonstrated their creative sides and built numerous items using paper, cardboard, blocks, paper bags, plastic cups and so much more.



We had towers, castles, puppets, airplanes and even robots around our classrooms. It was amazing to see the students work together to build new items.

In February, the Kinder students chose to **give thanks to the many Community Helpers** that care for us and our city. Thanks to the Kinder families who helped us with this project. We were able to travel by school bus to visit Mayor Cam Guthrie at City Hall and presented him with 3 baskets full of goodies to share with the City Hall staff. We then drove to the Police Station and the Firehall where we were also able to deliver gift baskets full of treats.

In March, Kinder P performed their chapel about 'The Angry Bee' and the power of forgiveness for the school, and then visited Arbour Trails to share it with the residents. During **Spirit Week**, the whole Kindergarten became **superheroes**, proudly wearing the capes they had made themselves!

OUR WINTER MONTHS WERE FILLED WITH EXPLORING, CREATING AND MAKING MEMORIES.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: KINDER P
- HUSH! THERE'S A BABY!



CHRISTMAS CONCERT: KINDER C
- YOUR LOVE FOR ME



CHAPEL: AS WE ALSO HAVE
FORGIVEN OUR DEBTORS



GRADE 1

OUR CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE: The Story of Jesus Birth



CAROL SINGING

Grade 1, along with their Grade 5 reading buddies, shared the joy of Christmas with the older members of our community during a special visit to Parkview Church in December. Dressed in their nativity costumes, our enthusiastic Grade 1 singers brought the Christmas story to life, while Grade 5 students beautifully played tone chimes. Together they led everyone in singing Silent Night, Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, Joy to the World, and Go Tell It on the Mountain. Grade 1 especially loved every moment of singing and performing, and it was clear how much joy they felt knowing they had made those watching—and joining in—feel truly special.



COMMUNITY WORKERS

As part of their Community Studies unit, the Grade 1 students each interviewed a community worker they knew to learn more about the important roles people play in our neighbourhoods. These included farmers, police officers, a pilot, a doctor, nurses and a pharmacist. After gathering their information, each student presented what they had learned to the class, sharing interesting facts about the work these community helpers do. It was a wonderful way for students to practice their speaking skills while gaining a deeper appreciation for the people who serve and support our communities every day.

READING BUDDIES

Our Grade 1 and Grade 5 reading buddies worked together to create thoughtful cards filled with kind messages and colourful artwork. It was wonderful to see the older students guiding their younger buddies as they shared ideas and helped bring each card to life. Once finished, students stepped out into the community to deliver their creations, spreading encouragement and joy to neighbours around the school. It was a special way for students to serve together and share kindness beyond the classroom.



WALK-A-THON HOODIES

Our Hoodies arrived!! Thank you!!



TRIP TO THEMUSEUM

Grade 1 had an exciting trip to THEMUSEUM in Kitchener, where they explored the five senses through hands-on workshops filled with fun challenges like “guess the smell” and “guess the sound.” The students loved every moment, especially in the main areas of THEMUSEUM: from spinning dizzily in the Vortex to diving into the huge ball pit and climbing and jumping on the giant foam blocks. Around five brave students even tried the bed of nails! It was a day full of laughter, learning, and sensory adventures that the Grade 1s won't soon forget.

STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES

Grade 1 students had a wonderful time during their Student-Led Conferences, proudly sharing with their parents all that they have been learning and how much they have grown over the school year. It was a special moment that highlighted just how much they have achieved since making the big jump from Kindergarten to Grade 1. Students loved guiding their parents around the classroom, showing their work and the many fun tools and activities they use to help them learn each day.



PE: BOB SLEIGHING

Grade 1 embraced the Olympic spirit in PE by becoming bobsledders—using pool noodles in a clever twist on the classic sled! One student pulled their teammates as they held on tightly to the noodles, racing up and down the gym with lots of laughter and excitement. It was an energetic, playful way for students to get moving and have fun while celebrating teamwork and the thrill of the Olympics.



CHAFFING EXPERIMENT

Inspired by our Grade 1, Madison's, community interview with her Uncle Tony, a farmer, our students explored the process of harvesting seeds from grain heads in a hands-on chaffing experiment. Following his instructions, they rolled the grain heads between their hands and onto the table, then formed a square with their hands and gently blew over the pile. What remained were the seeds—an exciting and memorable way for students to connect with farming practices and see how food begins its journey from field to table.



SPIRIT WEEK THEME

Grade 1 had an absolute blast for their Spirit Week theme day, choosing 'Secret Agents' as their theme. With sunglasses provided by Mrs. Jones and plenty of walkie-talkies in the classroom, the students were ready for action! They even created their own secret agent code names by picking a colour and an animal, resulting in fun names like Pink Dog, Teal Horse, Pink Horse, and many more creative combinations. It was a day full of laughter, imagination, and playful teamwork that the students thoroughly enjoyed.



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



OUR CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE:
'The Nutcracker March',
accompanied on plastic plates



FAMILY CULTURE

Grade 2 did a wonderful job researching and presenting their Family Cultural Scrapbooks. Together, we celebrated the many countries of origin represented in our community and the traditions that are still practiced today, including the Netherlands, Germany, Canada, and Africa.

It was a meaningful opportunity for students to share their stories, learn from one another, and appreciate the rich diversity within our school family. Some even came in the outfits of their cultural country. We also tried a lot of different foods synonymous with many of these countries which was a bonus!



ARCHIVES TRIP

Grade 2 visited the Wellington Museum to explore traditions and celebrations from around the world. Through hands-on exhibits and engaging activities, students deepened their understanding of how different cultures celebrate important events, making their learning both fun and meaningful.



Each week, our 'Star of the Week' shares their passions—this week, Micah, our chief train engineer, taught us all about trains!

We are still regularly writing to Peggy, our sponsored donkey. And we always get a reply!



Grade 2 has been learning all about healthy eating and Canada's Food Guide. We have been busy helping pack our own lunches to represent all the food groups.

Grade 2 has been learning to measure using both non-standard and standard units, discovering that while non-standard units are more creative, standard units help us be more accurate.



We are learning about monochromatic colour!
We can even spell "monochromatic"!



We have four new friends in our classroom! These weighted stuffies help us feel calm, focused, and supported throughout the day.



So far this year
we have packed
9,108
toilet rolls
FOR HOPE HOUSE

STUDENT LED CONFERENCES

Our student-led conferences were a true joy, as our Grade 2 students confidently presented their work to their families. It was wonderful to see them take ownership of their learning, reflect on their growth, and proudly share the progress they've made throughout the year.



CHAPEL PERFORMANCE

In February, Grade 2 led chapel, centred on that month's theme: "Forgive us our debts." Through scripture, storytelling, music, and movement, they reminded us that forgiveness is at the heart of Jesus' teaching and something we are called to live out every day. The students shared a skit based on the Bible story of Jesus healing the paralyzed man, showing that before physical healing, Jesus forgave the man's sins—reminding us that forgiveness brings true restoration and freedom.

The class then led the school in one of their favourite worship songs, "Super Wonderful God!" With big smiles and enthusiastic actions, they invited everyone to praise God together. It was a wonderful reminder that forgiveness isn't just something we talk about—it's something we practice.



SPIRIT WEEK THEME: CATS

Our theme choice was inspired by Mrs. Klassen's cat, Rosebuddy, after she visited Grade 2s classroom.



ARTWORK



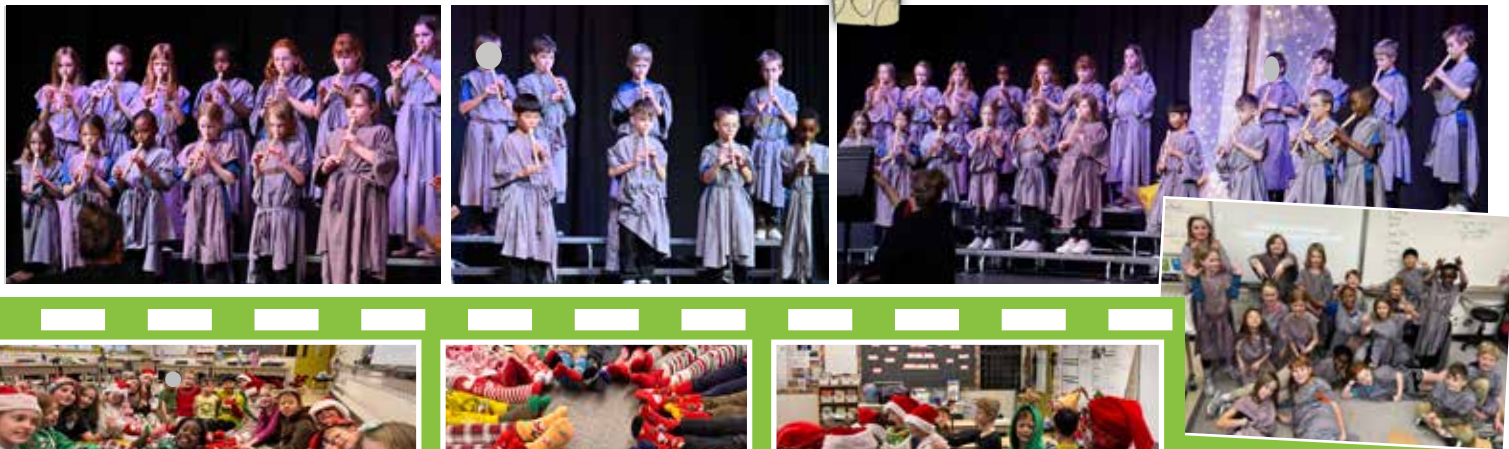
GRADE 3

EXTEND: I hope we can extend ourselves to have bigger awareness and care-actions for God and His people.

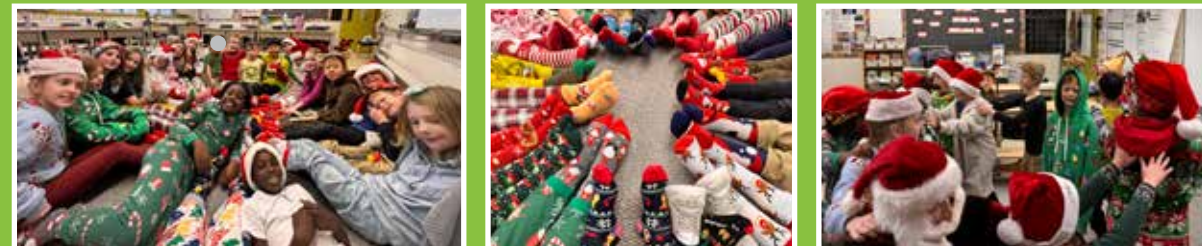
- Ms. Pennings, Grade 3 teacher



OUR CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE:
'Shepherd's Joy' on recorders

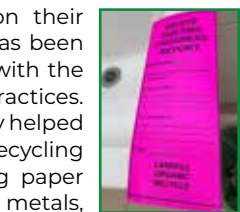


DECK YOURSELF DAY



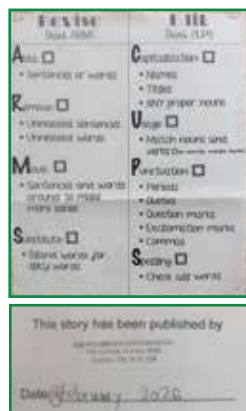
EARTHKEEPERS UPDATE

Grade 3 has been hard at work on their ongoing Earthkeepers project and has been excited to share important updates with the school about improved recycling practices. Through research and leadership, they helped introduce clearer guidelines for recycling a wide range of materials, including paper products, cardboard, cartons, plastics, metals, glass, and flexible packaging. They created a commercial that was shown to every class and also provided waste-sorting progress reports, celebrating what classes are doing well and offering suggestions for improvement—especially around reducing landfill waste. Their efforts have already made a big impact: Grade 3's own landfill bin contains only a few items each day, while many other classes are still working toward that goal. Their enthusiasm, teamwork, and commitment to caring for God's creation are inspiring positive change across the school.



FAIRYTALE JOURNEY

Grade 3 students embarked on an exciting Fairytale Journey, taking well-known fairytales and reimagining them into their own unique stories. Along the way, they explored their characters and story concepts, collaborated to edit using 'CUPS' and 'ARMS', created illustrations, and carefully worked on the flow of their narratives. The finished stories are now proudly available in the school library for everyone to enjoy, each marked with the official school stamp—a special touch that made the project feel extra authentic and a big moment of pride in class.



Titles include: Little Red Riding Hood and the Grandma Revenge; The 7 Pigs and The Fat Fat Granny; Rapunzel and the Beanstalk; The Story of the Bear and the Wolf You Didn't Know; Little Red Riding Hood and the Mean Pig.

AVID READERS

Grade 3 have become a group avid readers, regularly visiting library to check out new books. They love recommending their favourites to classmates and often spend time discussing what they've read and what they think about the stories. Their excitement for reading continues to grow with every book they finish.

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS THIS TERM:
Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Lunch Lady series, anything Robert Munsch, The Warrior series, Babysitters Club books



ARTWORK



THEMUSEUM TRIP

In January, Grade 3 had an unforgettable trip to THEMUSEUM, where they explored the wonders of pollination through hands-on workshops, including making their very own water feeders for bees. Beyond the workshops, the students enjoyed a host of fun and memorable activities: diving into the huge ball pit, spinning through the Vortex tunnel, lying on a bed of nails, and racing around the iPool—a room where vibrant graphics were projected on every wall. It was a day full of learning, laughter, and excitement that the students will remember for a long time!



FABULOUS FEBRUARY

VALENTINE'S TREATS

OUR ROYAL TEACHER

GYM TIME ANTICS



ICE CREAM IN THE SNOW

Grade 3 had a sweet surprise from Ms. Pennings as they made ice cream in the freshly fallen, sparkling snow! Using snow and sweetened milk, the students mixed up their own icy creations, turning the activity into a fun experiment to find the perfect balance of ingredients. Once their ice cream was ready, they topped it with colourful gummies and enjoyed their frosty treats.



SECRET SPIRIT WEEK



After watching the teachers get creative, Grade 3 decided to plan their own secret Spirit Week—without telling Ms. Pennings! They celebrated Moo Monday in full cow gear, swapped names on Tricks Tuesday, wore cozy onesies on Onesie Wednesday, and brought fairy tales to life on Fairytale Thursday with Little Red Riding Hoods, wolves, pigs, and princesses. The highlight? Ms. Pennings got her revenge on Tricks Tuesday, pranking the class not once, but twice—who knew spaghetti could grow on trees or that a flood drill could fool anyone? Grade 3 fell for it all, and it was brilliant!

STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES

Grade 3 shone during their Student-Led Conferences, eagerly guiding their parents around the classroom and sharing their learning. They enjoyed presenting their binders filled with projects—from Fairytale Journeys writing to reflections on Psalm 23 and artwork—taking pride in all they had accomplished. In the weeks beforehand, the class worked together to practice, give feedback, and build confidence for sharing their learning.



SPIRIT WEEK THEME

For 'Finale Friday' Grade 3s theme was 6/7, just because...



GRADE 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



OUR CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE:

'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel' on Tone Chimes



DECK YOURSELF DAY



CHARTWELL AT CHRISTMAS

SNOW FUN



SPIRIT WEEK by Quinn, Gr 4

Spirit week was February 23rd-27th. There was Mismatched Monday, Twin Tuesday, Western Wednesday, Thankful Thursday, and Finale Friday (each class picked their own theme for the last day). The whole school took part. It was planned by Student Council. The idea of the week was to bring some fun to a normal (boring) school week Each day we had to plan out what we were going to wear for the next day. We were the **Fabulous Fours** on Friday.



INTRAMURALS FUN

Intramurals are held in the gym. Grades 3 and 4 take part in them together during 2nd recess times once a week.

It is run by Grade 8 students and we have different leaders for different types of games. So far, we have played 'Cross Canada', and 'Out of my Backyard' as well as a noodle hockey. I really enjoy going to intramurals because it is fun. The Grade 8s have worked really hard to organize it and we are very happy they did! - by Quinn, Gr 4



6 / 7 DAY

On the 67th day of school, our Grade 4 class celebrated with a special "6/7 Day," enjoying a variety of creative and fun activities all centred around the numbers 6 and 7.

CLASS TRIP: RIVER RUN CENTRE

In October, we went to the River Run Centre to watch a show called 'Ventastic'. There we saw professional ventriloquist Michael Harrison perform. He taught us how to make a tennis ball puppet. Here's how you make one: (1) Cut a tennis ball on the line[not fully just about half] (2) Stick on two googly eyes [with velcros]. He had a lot of funny jokes; he even hypnotized a puppet named JJ. It was cool how he could talk with his mouth closed [that's what a ventriloquist is!]. - by Oore, Gr 4



STUDENT LED CONFERENCES

Grade 4 students enjoyed leading their Student-Led Conferences, sharing their learning with their parents in the classroom. Quinn and Hannah reflected on subjects like Math, Reading, and Writing, with their parents and proudly showed off their art portfolios. They said it was exciting to see their parents engaged and interested, sitting and listening carefully as they explained all the work they had been doing.



LEARNING ABOUT PULLEYS

In science, we have been learning about machines and their mechanisms and specifically about different types of pulleys. Then we made some. We experimented with different types of pulleys and here are some examples. There is a 'fixed', 'movable' and 'compound' pulley. It was fun to see how much weight a pulley can hold. We worked out that pulleys really do make things easier to lift. - by Oore, Gr 4



A BIT ABOUT MRS ESHUIS

- by Quinn, Gr 4

Favourite colour: *Blue*

Favourite book: *I like historical fiction book*

Favourite movie: *Anne Of Green Gables*

Favourite animal: *Dolphin*

Favourite hobby: *Reading, walking, and playing piano*

Best memorised verse: *Proverbs 3: 5-6*

Why do you teach Grade 4?: *9 and 10 year olds are a lot of fun. I love watching and helping students learn and grow*



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



OUR CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE:
'Christmas Carol Celebration' on Tone Chimes



DECK YOURSELF DAY



SECRET SANTA

For Secret Santa, each student brought and wrapped a small gift that anyone in the class could enjoy. The class then sat in a circle and played a fun dice game, where each number meant a different action, such as passing the gift or swapping with a classmate. After everyone had rolled the dice twice, students opened the gift that ended up in their lap, leading to lots of excitement and surprises.



SNOW DAYS



COOKIE DECORATING

Decorating cookie was so fun. We each got a cookie to decorate and we got to decorate them however we wanted. We covered them in icing and sprinkles. Every shape looked different. Once we were done, we ate our creations. They were so yummy. - by Frankie, Savannah and Alexis, Gr 5



CHAPEL PERFORMANCE

Grade 5 led a fun and creative presentation all about the human body. Through a lively skit, small groups explored different systems—circulatory, digestive, nervous, and muscular—sharing facts and even debating which was most important. As the skit showed, every system works together, reminding us of our monthly focus: "Give us this day our daily bread." Just as our bodies rely on each part to function, we rely on God for daily provision. The students also highlighted how movement helps release energy and refocus, showing the importance of caring for our physical health. Their performance was a wonderful mix of creativity, knowledge, and faith, inspiring the whole school to appreciate teamwork and trust in God.



CARD MAKING WITH GRADE 1

Grade 5 and Grade 1 reading buddies made cards filled with gratitude and care. Side by side, our older students guided little hands and big hearts as they created messages of encouragement for our local community. Their designs were individual and colourful and a wonderful representation of the sentiments behind them.



DELIVERING JOY

A few weeks later, the same students took their cards into the local community, delivering them alongside homemade, decorated cookies. It was such a joy to see them serving side by side, sharing kindness face to face, and blessing those who received them. The impact became clear when the school received heartfelt emails of thanks—a wonderful reminder of the difference a small act of love can make.



WORDS TO ENCOURAGE

Grade 5 spent time spreading encouragement by writing thoughtful messages for every classmate. The care they put into their words was heartwarming, and each student took home a piece of artwork covered in kind notes from their peers—a lovely reminder of how valued and loved they are. It was a wonderful celebration of friendship, kindness, and the power of words.



ARTWORK



SPIRIT WEEK THEME...

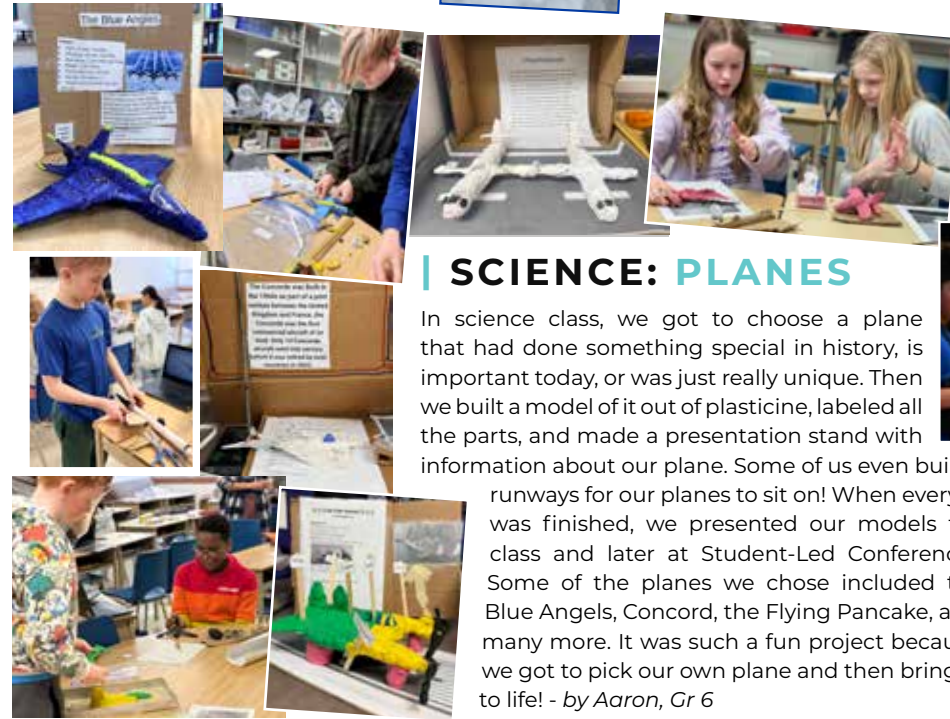


...SPIES!

GRADE 6

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

RECESS FUN



SCIENCE: PLANES

In science class, we got to choose a plane that had done something special in history, is important today, or was just really unique. Then we built a model of it out of plasticine, labeled all the parts, and made a presentation stand with information about our plane. Some of us even built mini runways for our planes to sit on! When everything was finished, we presented our models to the class and later at Student-Led Conferences. Some of the planes we chose included the Blue Angels, Concord, the Flying Pancake, and many more. It was such a fun project because we got to pick our own plane and then bring it to life! - by Aaron, Gr 6

SPEEDY HILLZ

This winter we have had a lot of snow and we wanted to make the most of it during our recess times. So the girls in our Grade 6 class had an idea and worked as a team to start 'Speedy Hillz'. Speedy Hillz is a super fun ice slide. We built it on the hill near the outdoor classroom by the treeline. The whole concept - just slide down on your butt. You do not need a sled. We did make one rule: you can't stand up and slide down it. We put up posters around the school telling people what it was all about and how it worked. Everyone who used it said they liked it! - by Ava, Yoona, Abigail, Gr 6



OUR CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE: Singing 'Joy to the World' with Ukuleles



SPREADING JOY

Grade 6 celebrated Valentine's Day with an afternoon of sweet treats, including handmade cookies and small goodies shared among classmates. Many also joined the fun by wearing Valentine's-themed clothing and accessories, filling the classroom with colour and excitement. It was a time spent celebrating friendship, kindness, and community together.



WE ROCKED SPIRIT WEEK

Spirit Week in Grade 6 was an absolute blast, and we definitely rocked it! Our theme options for Finale Friday were Minions, Time Era (wearing something from a different era), and Meme Day. Minions won the vote, and we fully embraced it—chasing our 'banana' friend around the classroom and randomly yelling "King Bob!" throughout the day. We were definitely the most colourful and loudest class in the school! My favourite day was Western Wednesday. Our outfits were easy to put together, and we all loved wearing our hats in class yeehaw! - by Aaron, Gr 6



ARTWORK



CREATING MUSIC

For our latest project in music class, we were divided into groups of 4-5 and given an exciting challenge: choose a song from our music books, rehearse it, maybe add a dance, and play any instruments we liked before presenting it to the class. Some of the songs we picked were You Are My Sunshine and Lord I Need You. It was so much fun because we got to work together, plan our music piece from start to finish, and really bring our ideas to life! - by Aaron, Gr 6



CLASS TIMES

GRADE 7

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

- Mrs. Oussoren, Grade 7 teacher



CATAN FUN Grade 7 students brought their learning to life by playing Settlers of Catan together as a class to learn about 'Land and Resources'. Through the game, they explored how natural resources are tied to land and how trading and managing those resources allows communities to grow—making historical concepts tangible and engaging.



TARRING & FEATHERING

During January, Grade 7 explored a challenging chapter of history: tarring and feathering, a form of public punishment used in the 1700s to shame and intimidate those who refused to join the Patriots. To help bring the lesson to life, students tried a safe, symbolic version—covering their arms in maple syrup and attaching feathers to see how long they could keep them on. This hands-on activity sparked lively discussions about justice, fairness, and how communities enforced rules in the past. While it was a fun and memorable exercise, it also served as a reminder of the serious consequences real people faced—and yes, the sweet smell of maple syrup lingered in the classroom for days!



MINDFUL EATING

As part of their Health unit, Grade 7s explored the concept of Mindful Eating. Each student contributed to a colourful spread of foods—crackers, cheese, pie, cold cuts, bananas, fruit cups, and more. Working in small groups, they tasted each item mindfully, noticing flavours, textures, and aromas, and reflecting on how different foods can trigger memories or even take us to different places. Through guided questions and thoughtful discussion, students discovered how slowing down and paying attention to what they eat can help them make choices that nourish both their bodies and overall well-being.



CLASS ANTICS

OUR CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE:

'Jingle Bells' Band Performance



BEHIND THE SCENES

BLACK & PINK

Our Grade 7s spent a day building community—and doing it in style! As a student-led initiative, they dressed head-to-toe in black with bright pink sunglasses, coming together as a united class with a united style. The running joke? They looked like the mafia... but with those pink shades, it was clear they were more fun than fearsome! The day was full of laughter, time together, and simply enjoying being a class community. It was a day of memories that will stick with them for years to come.



SPIRIT WEEK

Class spirit grew throughout the week as Grade 7 took part in the themed days. We started off slowly with Mismatch Monday and spotted many accidental twins on Twin Tuesday. By Western Wednesday, everyone was getting excited for the big finish. Thankful Thursday was full of kind compliments, but the highlight was Formal Friday, when the class arrived dressed in their finest, looking especially studious and scholarly. It was an easy and unanimous decision for Grade 7 to choose Formal Wear as their class theme.



ARTWORK

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



OUR CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE:
'Carol of the Bells' - Band performance

CHRISTMAS DANCING



OUR LAST CHAPEL

On December 5th, we opened our chapel with some of our class singing "That's Who I Praise" by Brandon Lake. We then shared four Bible stories through the eyes of a young person trying to learn about trusting God. The concept: she travels back into Bible times to learn the story of Daniel, David, Esther, and Noah and has a guide with a time travelling machine. A group of students ended chapel with a dance they had created to "I Trust in God" by Elevation Worship.

A lot went into planning our chapel. We worked together in groups and discussed ideas. This included: small skits, music and instruments, time travelling, Old Testament and Heroes of Faith. The songs and interpretive dance were put together by those who performed them. A few of us also wrote the scripts for their skits. The way our class organized and created the idea of this chapel was fascinating. Everyone had a role: from the song performance, to the skit writing and performing the interpretive dance, everything was planned carefully.

Something we noticed during our performance was how much everyone was enjoying it. Students laughed at the funny parts, and were engaged in the story.

I think our chapel will be a highlight from Grade 8 for many in my class, including me. - by Daria, Gr 8



GRADUATION HOODIES 2026



SNOW RECESS



Grade 8 visited the River Run Centre to experience an inspiring performance by Shaun Boothe, whose energetic rap storytelling highlighted the lives of influential leaders such as Malala Yousafzai, Terry Fox, and Martin Luther King Jr., encouraging students to reflect on their own strengths and pursue their goals with courage.

RIVER RUN

INTRAMURALS SEASON

As a class, we were given the challenge of making indoor games to share with the younger grades. We got into groups of around four people, and designed a group of games - each with a theme. There were cooperative games featuring pool noodles, basketball games, and hockey games. We are currently taking our recesses to lead grades in these games. We enjoy seeing the younger students enjoy the games that we prepared, and getting the chance to grow in our leadership skills in the process. - by Jessie, Gr 8



STUDENT LED CONFERENCES

As a class, we planned for Student-Led Conferences with guidance sheets Mrs. Scheerer gave us to help us select our favourite work from each of our subjects. Once we had figured out what we wanted to show our parents, we practiced in pairs, presenting our work to each other. It was interesting looking back on our school year so far and everything we've done. - by Jessie, Gr 8



SPIRIT WEEK THEME

Our chosen theme for 'Finale Friday' was Royalty and Knights.



ARTWORK



GCCS SPORTS



CHRISTMAS



GCCS EVENTS

SANTA PARADE



PRAISE & DANCE TEAMS



DECK YOURSELF DAY



WINTER RECESS FUN TIMES



FUN FAITH GUY



MISMATCHED MONDAY



SPIRIT WEEK



TWIN TUESDAY



WESTERN WEDNESDAY



THANKFUL THURSDAY



...SEE CLASS PAGES FOR FINALE FRIDAY!

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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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