

WINTER 2017

THE BEACON

John Knox Christian School



"Solus Christus - Christ Alone"

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth,
and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

John 14:6



JOHN KNOX

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Principal's Message

In the hurly-burly of everyday life, we often lose sight of where we fit into history, or more specifically, into God's story. Marking the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation has given staff and students an opportunity to reflect on the impact of those long ago events and how they have influenced the past five centuries. What impresses is that key beliefs foundational to our time - the importance of the Word, the centrality of Christ, the power of faith, the primacy of grace - were re-established in the Reformation era. It underlines the enduring quality of Christian faith.

We chose our theme, "Christ Alone", because it emerged as a central focus of the Reformation. It takes on more significance in this Christmas season. As we look around our world this year, we see so much brokenness both in our own nation and in so many places around the world.

The litany runs on through refugees, civil war, deep hatred, violence, government corruption, corporate abuses of influence, political correctness run wild, religious strife and persecution ... Others may see a hopeless end, but as Christians, we see an endless hope. Christ alone, the fulfillment of promises, the bearer of light, the wellspring of salvation - it is him we honour and we follow.

Our vision remains strong. Everything has meaning when we see Christ's presence among us and in us. Tell the story well.



Ymko Boersma, Principal

Edu Deo

As a school we sponsor EduDeo, a Canadian organization dedicated to supporting Christian schools in disadvantaged countries. Given the brokenness, crime, corruption, and inequality in many countries around the world, the work of EduDeo is challenging. Their goal is, "to provide education rooted in a Biblical worldview with the power to transform lives for eternity." During Theme Week, our whole school lunch raised funds for EduDeo. We'll do another one in the spring. As well, each month students place spare change in the classroom piggybank. This Christmas we offered special ornaments made in Haiti as another way to support EduDeo's work. It's more than teaching and materials, they also build and renew schools. A current project is to provide electricity via solar power to three schools in Zambia.

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Theme Week

During Theme Week, our students worked on bringing to life a key belief central to the Reformation: The statement “Every square inch of creation belongs to God” is actually from the early 20th Century and who served as Prime Minister a Christian university, and Christian perspective in political and social life. In essence of the Reformation Each student completed a pictures and words board centred around a statement mentioned above.



comes from Abraham Kuyper of the Netherlands, started provided a firm basis for education as well as that sense, it captures the very well.

small square board with reflecting some aspect of It was placed on a larger globe encircled by the The display has been placed

in our lobby and serves as a good reminder to staff, students, and guests that God’s sovereign presence is at the centre of what we learn and do.



Sports

With the completion of the volleyball season, there is a lot to reflect on. Our boys', girls', and junior teams represented John Knox well, both on the court and off. The coaching staff was impressed with the level of sportsmanship, that all three team ended the season taking place efforts, while the boys it to the quarterfinals. The made huge leaps in their game and can look forward to developing their skills further



competitiveness, as well as teams demonstrated. The girls' home the banner for their first gave a valiant effort and made junior volleyball team members knowledge and skills of the bringing their talents and on the senior team next year!



School Happenings



A tradition at JKCS continued this year as the students enjoyed a time of skating at the Watford Arena. Because of our student numbers, grades were divided into two different time slots. This allowed for more room on the ice for Grades 1-4 and Grades 5-8. Students enjoyed their time as did a number of parents and staff members. Thank you to the Helping Hands Committee who provided the funds that allowed the students to enjoy this great pastime.



Speechfest was held at the school in November. Each grade was represented by a student giving either a recitation (grades one to four) or a speech (grades 5-8).