

WINTER 2018

THE BEACON

John Knox Christian School



"Building With Care"

"According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 3:10-11



JOHN KNOX

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL • WYOMING

www.wyomingjkcs.com

4738 Confederation Line
Wyoming, NoN rTo
Phone: 519-845-3112
Fax: 519-845-1404
info@wyomingjkcs.com

Principal's Message

Gratitude and Materialism

As a Christian school, we take the Christmas story seriously as a world-changing event that offers true hope, joy, and peace. We do worry those meaning-laden words may at times disappear into the vacuum of presents, Santas, and sweets. Admittedly, it may be hard to keep a clear focus on the blessings and eternal power of Christ's birth amid the endless barrage of buying frenzies and "Jingle Bells".

But perhaps there is a solution in a practice we often employ throughout the year at school: Gratitude. Students are regularly reminded to say "thank you" for simple gifts; more than that we encourage them to write about being grateful. Sometimes that's in their journals and other times it forms part of class discussions.

It's interesting to note that recently an exercise conducted by the University of Illinois asked two groups of young people between the ages of 11 and 17 to keep journals for two weeks. One group tracked their daily activities while the other tracked what they were thankful for during that time period. The carryover results were

noticeable. When given money to spend as they saw fit, each group reacted differently. The second group gave away over two thirds of the cash while the first group kept more than half. It appears that once people begin to think about and be aware of who and what they have in their lives, they understand that being grateful matters. (The ideas are from the article: Dave McGinn, "How to Raise a Grateful Child", *Globe and Mail*, Monday, December 10).

This was not an overtly Christian exercise, but the point is clear. Emphasizing and "teaching" gratitude is powerful.

This is obvious to us as Christians. In Christ, we have so much to be thankful for that our lives can be lived as endless songs of praise. Even though the Christmas hymns are sung again and again, they sustain our need for something more than material gain. There's a reason we sing, "Hail! the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings..."



Ymko Boersma, Principal



Please be sure to visit our school Facebook and website page to stay up to date with what is happening with our building expansion and renovations.

wyomingjkcs.com/faith-mortar

**Open House - Wednesday,
January 23, 2019
9:30 - 11am/1:00-3:00pm**

Meet our staff and students, see classes in action, tour the facilities, look through curriculum. Information packages will be available.

**History Fair - February 21,
2019**

This year it's time for the history fair. Students in grades five through eight will work at becoming experts on an aspect of Canadian history. Please join us for this informative and enjoyable evening.

in this issue...

*Principals Message

*Sports

*Pioneer Days

*Time for Talents

*Trail Clean-up

Sports

Although many of us are approaching (or already operating at) full-fledged Christmas-mode, we must not yet forget about the valiant effort our volleyball teams put forward last month. On November 23 the John Knox Warriors took to the courts at London Christian High, eager to bump, set, and smash their way into victory. Both the girls' and boys' team played with verve and virtue and were able to apply their knowledge of the game to their playing. Both teams' consistency throughout the morning brought them each to their respective semi-finals game. The boys were edged out in the third set of the semi-finals and the girls fell to the same fate, resulting in two admirable third-place finishes. Great work to all the players who left it all out on the court and a big thank-you to our coaches and parent volunteers! Stay tuned, basketball is around the corner!



With the growth and success that our senior teams have had thus far, it may be easy to overlook the junior sports that have been taking place at John Knox. Not long after the senior volleyball tournament (just over a week later, in fact!) our Junior Volleyball (Tripleball) Team had the chance to showcase their talents at the Strathroy Tripleball Tournament. This development tournament was a great opportunity for our twelve young superstars-in-the-making to gain some exposure in playing against other teams before they join the senior team. Although there are no standings in this tournament, I could see blue banners in the students' eyes as they exited the gym, surely a sign of what's to come!



Community Involvement



On Monday, December 3rd, the grade 7 & 8 class of JKCS cleaned a significant part of the Wyoming trail from Jane Street up to Reece's Corners. It was a snowy afternoon when the class, at the direction of our promotion committee, took to the trail. The students gave a great account of themselves wading through some puddles and scaling ditches to pickup debris and fill garbage bags. Maintaining the trail provided the class with a great opportunity to give back to the community by acts of service. In the spring students will again hit the trails and also help clean up cemetery grounds in town. A special mention of thank you is due for our promotion committee for leading this event.

Time for Talents



November 22 was an evening for students to showcase their various talents. One student from each grade recited a poem (Grades 1-3) or performed a speech they had written (Grades 4-8). Our students displayed a love for comedy as each participant had us chuckling in our seats. In between these recitations the audience was charmed by various musical talents. Public performance is not easy, but our students showed confidence and skill. Not to be forgotten was the monster truck demo that had us oohing and aahing with their flips and jumps. Thanks to those students who made artwork at home to be displayed around the room.



A Pioneer Christmas

Grades One - Three headed off to the Lambton Heritage Museum on Thursday, December 6th to experience "A Pioneer Christmas." In small groups they were able to visit over 20 different stations full of hands-on activities and pioneer tools to touch and see. At the Tudhop home students learned how early pioneers celebrated Christmas and had only a small Christmas tree decorated with strings of popcorn and homemade gumdrops, wool fluff, and candles. Before they left they were treated to a delicious English wassail drink. The schoolhouse had two craft centres where the students made English Crackers and a paper dove. Many sang Christmas carols at church and viewed the different types of sleighs and cutters with jingle bells at the Agricultural Building. Inside the museum students helped make candles which need to be dipped 40 times, played with pioneer wooden toys, and made various crafts in their "Christmas Around the World" stations. Students went home with a bag full of activities to remind them of their special day at the museum.

