

WINTER 2020

THE BEACON

John Knox Christian School



"Growing in Gratitude"

Let them give thanks to the Lord for His faithful love and His wondrous works for all humanity.
Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and announce His works with shouts of joy.

Psalm 107, 21-22 (CSB)



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

Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19

Change. Some people enjoy it while, honestly, others fear it. Sometimes we want things to stay as they are. We know it can't be. Reflect on changes with a Bible in hand: Creation - God changed the void into an intricate world; Abram changes countries. Moses changes occupations. Ezekiel talks of a change of heart and a new spirit. Ecclesiastes shows us, in wonderful poetic form, the constancy of change. Isaiah, in the text above, reminds us about God's promises and the hope of change they will bring.

All of this is a prelude to the ongoing changes that mark this school year. A new principal takes the helm in August. Marnie Lisson brings her ten years of teaching experience, her dedication to Christian education, her "big picture" ideas, and her exemplary work ethic to the administrative leadership of Wyoming John Knox. New ideas and changes in focus bring new energy. It's an exciting time for our school and school community.

At the same time, we've implemented some staffing changes to cover maternity leaves. Mrs. Hoogland and Mrs. VanDenAssem have agreed to teach grade one. It's a calling with a big task on top of the work they already do at the school. Mrs. Noordam returns to John Knox to teach grades 5/6 two days a week. We've hired Mrs. Beaupre to help cover the resource program as Mrs. Hoogland spends more time in the classroom.

All changes. All changes calling for our gratitude to a staff willing to give.

Of course, through all of this, we are witness to the weekly changes in our building. The addition part of the project is now the focus. Walls are being painted, heating installed, ceilings put in place, plumbing and electrical fixtures arriving, and more. Many supporters touring the facility comment on the size and how different it is from the old gym. Indeed.

Let's be clear. These changes, as important as they are, reflect the surface of life. At the very heart of what students and teachers do at John Knox is a constant heartbeat animated by the presence of God and the love of Christ. The appearance and presentation of teaching and learning may change, but the purpose of honouring who God is and what he gives remains true to eternity.

We can face these changes without fear as we walk with God.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. James 1:17



Ymko Boersma, Principal

in this issue...

*Principals Message

*Music Wall

*MAP Assessments

*Volleyball

*Open House

Music Wall



Our outdoor classroom has a captivating new feature: an interactive music wall. This beautiful handmade installation includes steel drums, PVC tone tubes and an octave of metal chimes. We're excited about the endless possibilities the music wall provides for open-ended learning on the playground!

A music wall gives opportunity for social, emotional, and physical development, all while learning music skills. Collaboration is encouraged as students can work from both sides of the instrument to create a rhythm or song. Music provides an outlet for self-expression; the drums, chimes and tone tubes give students a place to play out their emotions at recess time. The upright design can encourage students to build physical strength and coordination while crossing the midline. Children can grow and develop in many ways while creating songs and practicing rhythm! Teachers use the outdoor classroom for various lessons, and the music wall is a wonderful centerpiece instrument for a fresh-air music class.

MAP Assessments

In the next month, Grades 3-6 will be taking part in Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Assessments. These assessments are done to help our teachers gain a better academic understanding of their students, and they will use the results when planning their lessons. These assessments are done online and include sections on reading, language, and math. They are not something our students will study for; rather, they will tell us how a student is doing at one particular time in their educational journey. These assessments are meant to measure academic growth over a period of time and will be done again in May. During these assessments, students in the same grade will all start with the same question but as they answer questions correctly they will get more difficult ones until they are unable to answer anymore right. In this way, the results will show teachers any gaps students have and what they already know. We look forward to learning more about our amazing students!

Volleyball

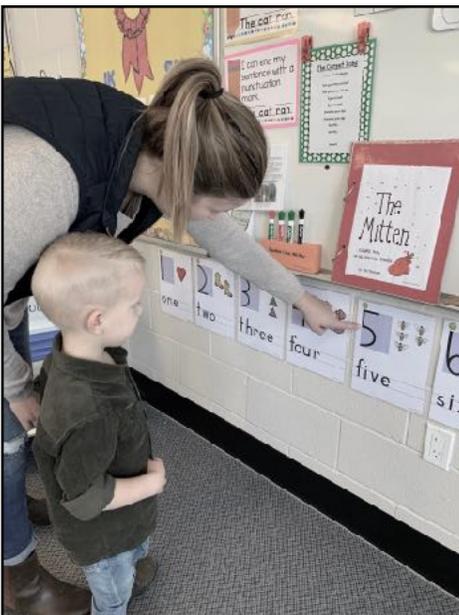


In a construction year, we were especially blessed to have a volleyball season. Thanks to our bus drivers, our excellent coaches, the use of Peoples Church gymnasium, and willing drivers; our Warriors were able to attend this year's BDCS volleyball tournament. The tournament took place Friday, November 29th and it proved a memorable event. After round robin play, both teams advanced to the knock-outs. The girls were eliminated in a close quarterfinal with Sarnia.

Our boys team defeated the Sarnia boys in the semifinals and advanced to the finals. In the finals, the boys gave a valiant effort but were outmatched by a strong Aylmer team. Both our boys and girls teams worked hard and displayed grit throughout the day. Powerful serving was a hallmark of each team. Congratulations to both teams and our boys who finished runner-up; way to go Warriors! Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Jackson for coaching and to our drivers as well.



Open House



The JKCS doors were open on January 22 to welcome visitors to our recently renovated and expanded school. Grade 7 and 8 students toured guests throughout the building and provided an “insiders” perspective on school life. Future KinderStart students eagerly explored the classroom while their parents had an opportunity to learn more about curriculum and have their questions answered by staff. We thank our Promotion Committee for organizing this annual event and we encourage interested families who were unable to attend to contact the school for more information and a tour of our facilities.