

IN·Touch

December 2022

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 9 - First day back to school
- January 14 - GCCS Euchre night
- January 24 - Potluck #2: Grades 3 - 6
- March 2023 - Celebration of Learning

IN THIS ISSUE

- Message from the Principal...1
- Board Update...2
- Life at GCCS...3-6
- Staff Updates...7
- Opportunities to support GCCS...8

Better Together: Many Parts, One Body

Justin DeMoor
Principal

This year during our chapels, in our class devotions, and within our staff and Board, we have been focused on and learning about our school theme, “We, in Christ, One Body, Many Parts.”

This theme comes from Romans 12:4-5 (NIV), “For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”

The Message paraphrases it beautifully in this way, “In this way we are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around. The body we’re talking about is Christ’s body of chosen people. Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his body.” As these verses testify, we each find our meaning and function in Christ not on our own as individuals.

In the same way, we have reflected on how this applies to the body that is GCCS. We are all members of the school community which will grow and flourish when we are well connected and functioning as a team with a clear sense of identity, purpose, and direction.

As this issue of In Touch clearly shows we have had many highlights this year and much beautiful work has resulted from our students, staff members, committees, and Board of Directors working together. More hopefully lies ahead as we are embarking on a Strategic Plan to share with the community this spring.

Yet, we know that all of our ambitions, hopes, and plans will only flourish if we stay well connected to Christ and committed to following Him.

To Nurture, Educate and Inspire in Christ-centred Learning and Serving



A Note From Our Board Chair

"So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life - your sleeping, eating, going-to-work (or school), and walking-around life - and place it before God as an offering."

The above words come from The Message: Romans 12:1 and they are foundational to our vision for GCCS as a community as well as for our theme for this 2022-23 school year: "We, in Christ, One Body, Many Parts" from Romans 12:4-5.

This fall we celebrated a sense of renewal with our children as they returned to regular activities inside and outside of the classroom after a couple of years with isolation and difficulty. We celebrated a sense of excitement in our parent and alumni committees and particularly our Project Legacy Fundraising committee that seeks to set the financial foundation for our community in the years to come. We have thanked God for an awesome 60th anniversary year last school year and we look forward to another 60 years here in Guelph. We pray for our children and for our community everyday - and we also pray for those who are considering GCCS as a Christ-centred education for their family. Lord Jesus, help GCCS to continue to be in Christ, as One Body with Many Parts.

Project Legacy

Over the past few months, the Project Legacy Committee has been busy meeting with past and current GCCS families, community members, and prospective donors with the aim to raise money to realize the \$500,000 matching offer which was very generously made by anonymous donors this past spring. That goal has now been reached and we can officially plan to move forward with the Legacy Classroom project this coming spring. The Legacy classroom will be a unique outdoor learning space which will have amphitheater seating. While we are excited about these developments there is much work still to do as the campaign will continue through the winter with the overall goal remaining to raise over \$1.5 million. More information about campaign, which will include an invitation for you to participate and potentially give, will also be included in the next newsletter.



GCCS Board of Directors 2022 - 2023



Board Retreat October 2022

Strategic Planning

As a parent-run school it is so important to stay connected with what the Board and our leadership are working on. The GCCS Board is working with Rebecca Sutherns of Sage Solutions on our visioning for the future. We are still in the process of putting together our Strategic Plan, to be shared with the community in the spring.

Weekly Chapels At GCCS



GCCS Eagles Sports Teams



The girls' soccer team defended their title and won every game to be champions again! Congratulations!



Volleyball team members



Our cross country runners ran with great perseverance and represented our school well. We were thankful to see so much positive encouragement, leadership, and joy filled attitudes in all of our runners.



Cross country team members

Class Trips



GCCS students learning about soil and plants at Mountsberg Conservation Area.



GCCS students at Country Heritage Park to learn about Canada's early settlers.



GCCS students at Mountsberg Conservation Area.

Service Projects



GCCS students working on a service project for Hope House.



GCCS students are packaging and donating soap bars to Hope House for its market program.

Besides packaging soap, the Grade 3/2 students have been putting together a book which focuses on the A to Z's of what the students have learned about vulnerable people within the community.

To order a copy, please email jan.klassen@guelphccs.ca. All profits from the book will go to Hope House.

Special Events



GCCS Community Potluck #1: Preschool - Grade 2: We had our first ever community potluck for families with kids in Preschool to Grade 2. It was a full gym with around 130 people attending. It's so great to be able to gather as a community and eat with each other again! We are looking forward to our next one with families in Grades 3 to 6, on Tuesday, January 24.



Guelph Santa Claus Parade



Singing "O Canada" at the Guelph Storm hockey game

New Staff Members

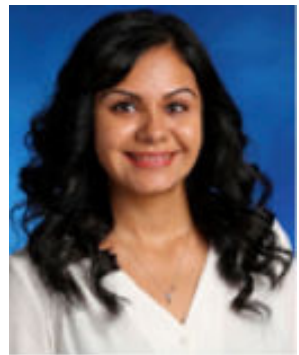
Mrs. Cristal Pilkey – Grade 8 Part Time

Cristal was very excited to be entering into a new role within the GCCS community this year. Over the years at GCCS, she has filled different roles, but has most often helped out as a supply teacher. Her three children attend GCCS as well. When Cristal is not in the classroom, she enjoys reading, baking, and hanging out at the cottage with her family. She continues to be excited to walk alongside, to encourage, and to teach the Grade 8 class part time this year as they finish their time at GCCS and prepare for high school.



Ms. Simron Sahota – Grade 6 Full Time

Simron completed the Concurrent Education program at Wilfrid Laurier University, in conjunction with Nipissing Schulich School of Education in 2019. For the past three years since graduating, she has taught at King's Christian Collegiate in Oakville, which she attended as a high school student. By the Grace of God she was able to achieve her dream, by completing a full time contract in the 2021-2022 school year. In her free time she enjoys reading, and spending quality time with family and friends. She is also a big advocate for mental health, and enjoys learning new things about the adolescent mind. She is enjoying the year and is excited to see what God has to show her next.



Mrs. Sheri DeGier - Financial Administrator

Sheri has been a bookkeeper for more than 20 years and has extensive experience in all areas of finance. Sheri and her family have been a part of the GCCS community for the past eight years and she currently has children in Grades 8, 6, and 4. During the years Sheri has volunteered in many aspects of the school including reading club, being a chaperone on class trips, mentoring, and being the co-chair of the Hospitality Committee for the past six years. In addition to her financial expertise and experience and her ongoing commitment to GCCS, Sheri brings to the position a passion for Christian education and a desire to see GCCS and its community flourish in the future. Sheri and her family attend New Life Christian Reformed Church in Guelph.



Mrs. Ann Sampson and Mrs. Susie Gerber

Mrs. Ann and Mrs. Susie are two new members of our Preschool staff. They will be featured in the next newsletter in a Preschool article.





GCCS Little Eagles Preschool launched in September 2021! This year we have 24 little ones in two groups, which is at capacity. There are spots available for September 2023. Please visit www.guelphccs.ca/preschool for more information.



Donate Today

Our school cannot thrive without prayer and financial contributions from donors like you! We value your partnership and involvement in our mission to nurture, educate and inspire our students in Christ-centred and community-focused learning.

Please consider a regular donation to keep our programs running! Visit www.guelphccs.ca/support to donate through CanadaHelps or contact our finance office (bookkeeper@guelphccs.ca) to set up regular monthly electronic contributions.

Support Us in Prayer

- We thank God for our staff and students.
- Praise and thanksgiving that our students can participate in extracurricular sports and clubs .
- We are so thankful for our volunteers and the opportunities that they have to serve at GCCS.
- Wisdom and discernment for our Board and Principal as they work together on our Strategic Plan.
- Gratitude for the continuous support of our community through prayer and financial contributions.

Coming in March!



Celebration of Learning:
Stay tuned for more information