

IN·Touch

60th Anniversary Edition

UPCOMING DATES

- April 5-6: Book Fair
- April 22:
Walk-a-thon
- May 19: Track &
Field Day
- May 27:
Grandparents &
Grandfriends Day

IN THIS ISSUE

- History of GCCS...2
- Principal's
Message...4
- Alumni Then and
Now...6-7
- Prayer & Praise...8
- Save the Date...8
- Opportunities to
support the
school...8

Message from the 60th Anniversary Committee

What a great time to be planning celebrations for our 60th Anniversary! God has been so good to us, and we want to mark the moment with thanksgiving. As we see signs of COVID restrictions being reduced, we are excited to be planning events that will be meaningful and celebratory, while still providing COVID-safe measures.

Open House & unveiling of our next 10-year photo panel

Please mark your calendars for Sat, May 28 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Come stroll through the school, reminisce, join us for refreshments, and see the next 10-year photo panel!

Stay tuned for exciting news about our 60th anniversary legacy project

We are working with our fundraising committee to prepare an exciting opportunity to contribute financially to our school. Stay tuned for more details!

We're excited to celebrate the Christ-centred legacy of the past 60 years while being excited for all the goodness God has in store for our future.

Sincerely,

Your 60th Anniversary Committee

Carroll Chapman, Celeste Donkersgoed, Jan Klassen (staff liaison), Jody Scheerer (Interim Principal), Paul Oussoren, Peter Schuurman, Ricki Lee Bristow, Ronda Eikelboom, and Sheri DeGier

*But those who hope
in the Lord will
renew their
strength, they will
soar on wings like
eagles; they will
run and not grow
weary, they will
walk and not be
faint.*

~ Isaiah 40:31



Celebrating 60 Years!

History of Guelph Community Christian School

We worship a God of small things that grow. Sixty years ago, a school began with just a few students and teachers, and today it remains a vibrant community passionate about teaching children that all learning and growing springs from a deep passion to know God and His love for His people and the rest of creation.



In the late 1950s a small group of people from First Christian Reformed Church in Guelph gathered to dream and pray about the possibility of a Christian school in their town, a school that put the Christian faith as the guiding philosophy for every part of school teaching and life. Many of these people were immigrants from the Netherlands, where they have a long tradition of government-funded Christian schools.

John Calvin Christian School was named after the 16th century Protestant Reformer. The school began meeting in the First CRC church basement on Water Street in 1961, moving into a new building they built across the street in 1964 with 52 students and Ray Klapwijk as principal.

This was an important moment, for the school was never governed by the local church. There is a significant Christian philosophy behind this principle, one that demands the spheres of church and school be interconnected but governed separately. Our school has never been a church-based school and neither has it ever been a “private” school. It’s an independent, not-for-profit, parent-run Christian school. It only exists because parents have given their prayers, time, energy, and finances to make the educational community flourish.

By God’s grace working through the intense, prayerful dedication of pastors, principals, staff, parents, and other Christian leaders, the school slowly grew in size and influence. Because the school receives no financial support from the government, all its resources are garnered through tuition funds and the generosity of donors.

We worship a God who lets things die in order to raise them up to new life. In 2008, under the leadership of principal Bob Moore, we changed the name from John Calvin to Guelph Community Christian School. The school has gone from being a mostly Dutch, Reformed, Christian institution to a more multi-denominational community with over 39 congregations represented in our student body in 2016. And through the leadership in recent years of Tanya Pennings, Mike Vanderboor, Marvin Bierling, and Jody Scheerer, we continued to educate, nurture and inspire many children.

In the fall of 2012 we left the school on Water Street and renovated this \$2.1 million building on College Avenue, with 37,000 square feet of rooms and 10 acres of land – three times the size of our previous building! And just last year we continued to expand as we launched our Little Eagles Preschool.

GCCS is a community project with much to celebrate. The central motivation and passion of GCCS remains Christ-centred teaching and learning. What that means for the next chapter of our history is largely decided by the board in concert with the principal, the staff, and the wider JCCS membership. We worship a God who holds the future in his hand, and we trust that His Spirit will continue to guide us that we may be a place where students and teachers flourish together for the sake of God’s kingdom in Guelph and far beyond.



Playground Then and Now



STILL USING THE SEESAWS AND BARS!



PREVIOUS PLAYGROUND



GAGA BALL PIT



NEW PLAYGROUND



KINDERGARTEN PEN

Classrooms Then and Now



MOBILE
CHROMEBOOK
LABS

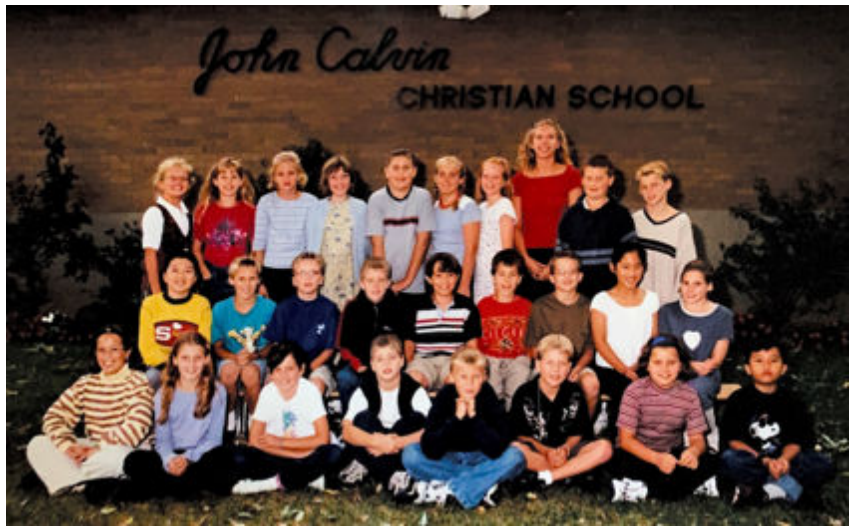


SMARTBOARDS

Establishing a Lasting Legacy

This year we are celebrating the legacy of Christian education for the past 60 years at Guelph Community Christian School. We rejoice in our long history of providing Christ-centred learning and God's faithfulness since we opened our doors in 1961.

I have had the blessing of working at GCCS since September 2000, when I started my teaching career at what was then known as John Calvin Christian School. It is hard to believe that my first class of grade 5's are now in their early 30's! Over the years since this picture was taken, I have enjoyed teaching in many of the classes at GCCS, but the highlight for me in the last decade, has been preparing the grade 8's for the next steps in their educational journey as they head to high school. I am thankful that I have been a part of this 60-year journey as a staff member. Every teacher at GCCS is dedicated to fulfilling our mission and vision. They care about each student as a person and create a place of belonging in our school community for everyone. The staff want to see each child flourish as a child of God both in our school and beyond.



When I reflect on my years as a staff member, I have many fond memories. My favourite day of the year is our annual track and field day. I remember being at our old school building on Water Street and enjoying track and field events in the morning and an afternoon focused on team challenges and the slow bike ride! Today, I am grateful for the amazing 10 acres of property that we have for track and field day. I love this day because it is all about community! I love seeing the students face challenges, apply grit, encourage each other, and laugh together. I love seeing the parents sharing stories together, helping with events, and supporting all students. There are many other great memories I have from my years at GCCS like the former bazaar, parking lot parties, musicals and plays, skate-a-thons, staff socials, sports events, class trips, and so much more! GCCS is a special school!



I have had the honour of sending my own children to GCCS. I have seen my son and daughter grow in their walk with their Lord, in their learning, and in their character because of the nurturing, educating, and inspiring that takes place at GCCS. We have been blessed to have caring teachers that have shared God's love with them in authentic ways. They have enjoyed strong friendships, grown spiritually through chapels and devotions, and



have been able to participate in a variety of extracurricular activities. God is at work in this amazing school!

I am grateful for the vision of Christian Education our founding members had when they opened the school doors in 1961. Since that time, we have been able to unite as

parents, church, and school to have a positive impact on students for 60 years. My prayer is that we continue to establish a lasting legacy for GCCS as we nurture, educate, and inspire students in Christ-centered learning and serving for another 60 years and beyond! To God be the glory!

Jody Scheerer
Interim Principal



DOWN BY THE CREEKBANK

Drama Over the Years



THE BFG



SHORT STOPS



THE STORY TELLING MAN



RESCUE IN THE NIGHT

Having Fun Together



"I attended GCCS (then JCCS) from 1993 until 2002 and have many fond memories of that time. Looking back, I greatly appreciate the education that I received, and the staff members that made sure to spend the extra time with us when we needed it. I am very excited that my kids get to go to the same wonderful school that I did!

My wife and I value Christian education and the foundation that it provides throughout life. We believe that God is part of every aspect of our world and the GCCS curriculum reflects this. We love the dedicated teachers at GCCS who go above and beyond the call of service. Our JK twins love their kindergarten teachers and often excitedly tell us what they learned at school that day."

- Paul Oussoren

Current parent and graduate of JCCS (Class of 2002)



Rob Pyper is a current parent and graduate of JCCS
(Class of 1989)

Melanie Van Arragon is a current parent and graduate of JCCS
(Class of 1993)

Continuing the Legacy

The legacy of Christian education that began 60 years ago is being passed along to the next generations.

A number of current parents at the school are graduates of this school and now send their children here as well.



"Wow...present and future is linked in the foundation built in the past."
-Pieter Roffel
Current parent and graduate of JCCS
(Class of 1984)

Save
THE
Date



May 28, 2022
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**60th Anniversary
Open House**

Come stroll through the school, reminisce, join us for refreshments, and see the next 10-year photo panel



Donate Today

Our school cannot thrive without prayerful 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 our website to donate through CanadaHelps or contact our finance office (bookkeeper@guelphccs.ca) to set up regular monthly electronic contributions.

Support Us in Prayer

- We met our goal of raising \$40 000 in our Fall Fund Drive. Thank you for praying and giving!
- We are excited as we prepare to welcome Justin DeMoor and his family to GCCS as he becomes our new principal
- Our students are preparing for their Walk-a-thon on April 22nd. Pray that we will be able to reach our fundraising goal of \$40 000.
- Pray for good health and safety for our families, students and staff.
- Pray for increased enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year.



Register now for GCCS Little Eagles Preschool.
Limited spots available for September 2022.

Visit www.guelphccs.ca/preschool for more info.

