

# JOHN KNOX CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STUDENTS HAVE BEEN BUSY “SPREADING THE LOVE” THIS CHRISTMAS

The students at Brampton’s John Knox Christian School (JKCS) have been busy baking cookies, preparing gift bags and sending cards to residents in long term care homes and more. “Every class had a *Blessing Project* this Christmas by finding a way to bless someone in the community,” says Principal Christine Soultanidis. “We held a Food Drive and made bookmarks for Regen, baked cookies and made ornaments for friends and parents, gave care packages and wrote messages of hope to residents in long term care homes, and served coffee to our parents in the kiss n’ ride. These are just a few of the ways we can spread God’s love to our friends and neighbours and be an important part of the community, here, and around the world.”

John Knox Christian School was founded in 1959, providing high-quality Christian education to families in Peel for 62 years. The



private Christian school offers classes from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8, with just under 200 students and 32 full and part time staff.

“JKCS seeks to nurture a learning mindset and a sense of belonging in a loving Christian environment so that every child flourishes to become a disciple of Christ in their community,” states Principal Soultanidis. “Our mission is: JKCS seeks to nurture a learning mindset and a sense of belonging in a loving Christian environment so that every child flourishes to become a disciple of Christ in their community. Our tagline is ‘Welcomed, Known and Flourishing.’ We are a Christian School for Christian families. We have caring, qualified teachers creating safe and welcoming spaces for students. What makes us most proud is that we have seen so many families come to John Knox over the years, and then years later, they return to send their own children to our school, remembering the great experience and education they received at John Knox.”

The private school is creating our leaders of tomorrow, and this involves so much more than just learning our A, B, C’s.

“We are creating World Changers—we are working to give the next generation a sense of responsibility in caring for others, in creating community and belonging, and learning about God’s world and the awesome and exciting plans He has for our lives,” says Principal Soultanidis. “Our approach to student learning encompasses characteristics from Differentiated Instruction, 21st Century Learning, Project-Based Learning and Expeditionary Learning. Through all aspects of school learning and living, it is our vision to equip students to learn, grow and live in the Light of Christ. Our exceptional staff, excellent programs and first-rate curriculum have earned us a reputation for turning out graduates who

are rooted in faith and growing in knowledge, and who are well prepared for high school.”

The JKCS Strategic Plan focuses on themes of Adaptive Learning, All Students Belong and Becoming Disciples.

“We desire to be a learning community that supports the development of the whole child,” explains Principal Soultanidis. “We are committed to providing progressive, exceptional Christian education and through our teaching, we target the traits of self-assessment, creativity, effective communication skills and critical thinking. We acknowledge that social, emotional, and spiritual well-being are essential to academic outcomes and that every child has their pace of development, and we work to adapt our learning accordingly to create an environment that supports the development of the whole child.”

JKCS embraces every child into a warm and welcoming environment. “Our place of learning is richer when we embrace diversity, welcome wonder and seek understanding. We are proud of our diverse, vibrant school community which comprises over 35 different Christian denominations! We are also proud of our caring and committed teachers, who encourage each child to explore his or her unique potential, both in and out of the classroom. Each subject, and every school activity is infused with the Light of God. We want to inspire Spirit-led wonder and discovery in all students. Our learning community should be a place where each child, parent, guardian, and staff person are encountering Jesus in ways that are personal, authentic, transformative, and leading to culturally-aware action in the world.”

The Christian school is dedicated to giving back to the community they serve. Recently JKCS became a sponsor partner of



the Brampton Guardian Virtual Santa Visit program. This innovative program allows children in Brampton to have a personal Zoom call visit with Santa and they can have their photo taken with Santa, thanks to the magic of photoshop! Each child also receives a letter from Santa after the visit. The program is free to Brampton residents thanks to the support of community partners such as JKCS.

“This is a special way to give families some joy at Christmas in a safe way,” explains Principal Soultanidis. “It’s a great way to join in the fun. Children do not always understand ‘why’ when things happen, but they can feel a sense of loss for the things they miss. Giving kids joy and happiness in their lives gives them a sense of security, knowing they are loved and cared for.”

For more information on JKCS please contact Principal Christine Soultanidis at 905-451-3236 or visit [www.bramptonjkcs.org](http://www.bramptonjkcs.org).

