

ROOTED



Rooted in Faith, Growing in Knowledge

God is Our Rock **WE WILL NOT BE SHAKEN**

PSALM 62:6

Like many other Canadians, this summer I travelled to Alberta with my family. For those of you who have also made this trip, you know the feeling as you drive from Calgary towards Canmore; you begin to see the mountain ranges—small at first and slowly growing larger until they loom massively before you. Once we were in the midst of the Rockies towering above us, I had an overwhelming sense of awe as I marvelled at the awesomeness of God’s creation. The sheer size of the mountains couldn’t help but lead me to reflect on God’s power and majesty. Thankfully, I’m also keenly aware of God’s love for me—and knowing that I belong to a Creator who is so powerful and majestic, yet cares deeply for his people, was a comfort to me.



In August, the staff considered our school verse for the coming year. Like last year, we wanted this year’s theme to provide students with images and messages that would teach them about who God is and how he speaks into their lives. How

appropriate then that we chose “God is Our Rock”, based on Psalm 62:6, “Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken”.

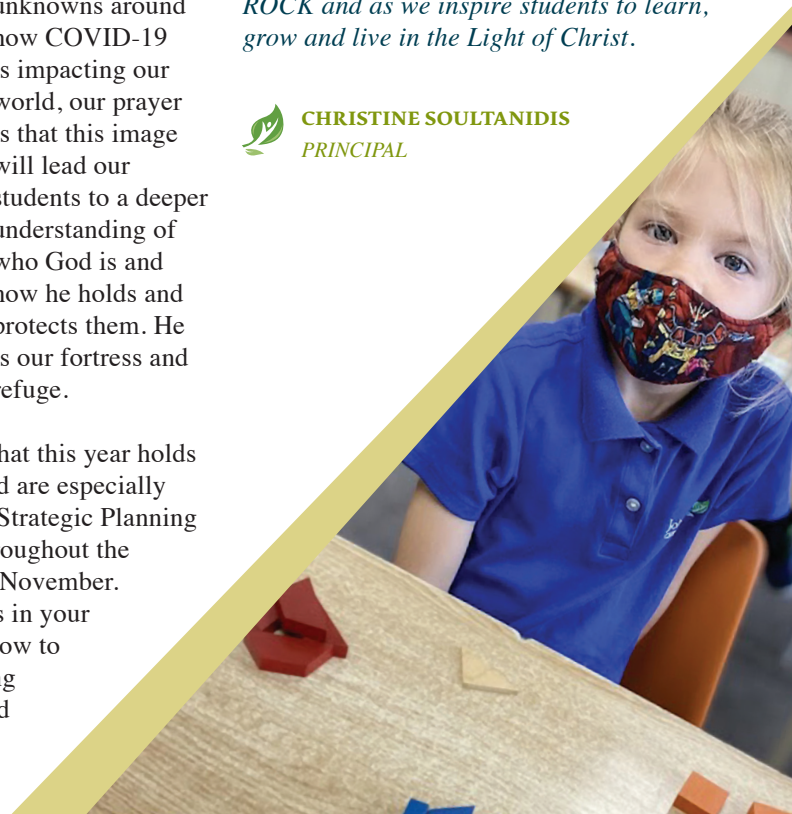
After having visited Alberta, the idea of ‘God as our ROCK’ immediately led me to my image of the mountains. Their strength, their stability and sheer size—what comfort we can draw from this image. While we are still in times of fear and so many unknowns around how COVID-19 is impacting our world, our prayer is that this image will lead our students to a deeper understanding of who God is and how he holds and protects them. He is our fortress and refuge.

We are excited about what this year holds for us at John Knox, and are especially looking forward to our Strategic Planning process taking place throughout the months of October and November. Please keep this process in your prayers as we explore how to keep John Knox growing and moving forward and

meeting the needs of the students who walk through our doors. We have an outstanding team of educators this year, fully committed to their calling and craft. We have had the pleasure of welcoming 30 Christian families to John Knox and sharing our mission and vision with them as they desire to provide quality Christian education for their children.

God has richly blessed John Knox and this year we are even more thankful for God’s assurance of faithfulness. Join me in lifting up our staff, students and parents in prayer this year, trusting in GOD our ROCK and as we inspire students to learn, grow and live in the Light of Christ.

 **CHRISTINE SOULTANIDIS**
PRINCIPAL



Living Out Truth and Reconciliation



On September 30, John Knox students participated in Orange Shirt Day to honour the Indigenous children who were sent away to residential schools in Canada. Through art, language, song and drama, students learned more about the history of those schools and how they impacted the Indigenous community.



In October, John Knox students were invited to live out the message of Truth and Reconciliation by donating school and art supplies, and winter hats, gloves, mitts and socks to a community in Eabametoong (Fort Hope) First Nation, a fly-in community, one hour north of Thunder Bay.

The Encore Thrift Store also pitched in and donated luggage to transport all of our gifts to Fort Hope, and REGEN Brampton donated a large bag of new hats and mitts from their Thrift store!

All of the items, along with books and bibles from the school, were brought to Eabametoong by John Knox parents, Andres and Claudia Quiroga as part of their ministry with 'The Gospel Changes' (CCA Maranatha Canada). This opportunity provided a tangible way to put our love into action and make a real connection with our brothers and sisters who live in this Indigenous community. Students also created a special video message to send along to the children of Eabametoong. Check our John Knox Facebook page to see part of this video message and more photos of our new friends in Eabametoong, Fort Hope.

Hope Garden Update

BY SHARON MULDER

The growing season is coming to a close and our first harvest is almost complete. Our tomato plants yielded a moderate amount of fruit and along with some kale and fresh basil, we were able to share our modest bounty with Regeneration to use in the daily meals they prepare for those who are at risk of not having enough to eat. There's a second crop of leaf lettuce that will be ready to pick in the next week or so, and I spied a few late season strawberries as well. We've been so blessed that temperatures are holding so we can extend our growing season a tiny bit.

We also installed a rain gauge and are now part of the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network that tracks precipitation globally! You can discover more about what they do at their website.

(www.cocorahs.org)

The future plans for the garden are to add teaching areas where classes can gather and learn more about sustainability and how things grow, make weather observations, and discover so many more natural surprises. We've also added two corner beds that will be the "experimental" gardens where students can really dig in and learn about soil or perhaps control the growing conditions to observe what happens to plants that receive more nutrients, or perhaps less water; the possibilities are endless!

The Grade 8 class will once again take on the role of designers and caretakers as we plan added features like semi-permanent benches, bird houses, finish the entrance area and prepare the garden for the winter months.

The garden is named "Hope Garden" for a reason. Our vision is to see our garden as a place where we cultivate not only flowers and food, but true stewardship and awareness of the blessings God gives us so we can also share those blessings with others.



We Welcome the Rico Family

SUBMITTED BY REBECCA PETERSON ON BEHALF OF THE RICO FAMILY.

The Rico family is a family of 5; Kristi (Mom), Rimo (Dad), Kristi Victoria (Daughter), Emilio (Grandfather or Granddy), and Teresita Lu (Grandmother or Grammy). Rimo and Kristi met and graduated together from law school. Kristi is a Corporate Counsel in the automotive industry, while Rimo is a Student-at-law in a tax law firm after having practiced as a litigation lawyer in the Philippines for over 7 years. The Rico family immigrated from the Philippines. Kristi and her side of the family moved to Ontario almost 11 years ago, while Rimo moved here in the summer of 2019.

They have been assisting Christ Commission



Fellowship Mississauga in the administration and Children's Ministry for a few years now before the local church had to close its doors due to the pandemic and have been meeting only virtually since the spring of 2020 with ministry work being limited.

Their daughter Kristi started Junior Kindergarten with us this year at John Knox. "We were looking for a good school where our daughter will learn in an environment where she will be rooted in God's love. It was such a blessing to learn of John Knox through our neighbours whose children are now John Knox alumni. Kristi is learning a great deal about how to socialize with her peers. She loves the playground and library days!"

We Welcome the Titus Family

SUBMITTED BY REBECCA PETERSON ON BEHALF OF THE TITUS FAMILY.

The Titus family is a family of 4; Ashly (Father), Nissy (Mother), Jairus (Son-Grade 6), Jairen (Son-Grade 2). They moved to Canada in 2018 from the Southern part of India. Ashly's grandfather (M.E Cherian, www.mgmministries.org/me-cherian) was a Missionary, who served the Lord for more than 60 years in Madurai (South India), which is a sacred pilgrimage place among the Hindu community. He has composed more than 350 Hymns in local language which are widely sung throughout the world by the Malayalam Christian Community. His burden to reach out to lost souls for Christ is being continued by his children and grandchildren for the glory of God.



Etobicoke). They are using their God-given talents in sharing the gospel through Music ministry and biblical art works, signboards, custom handmade gifts, etc.

Ever since they moved to Canada, it was their prayer that their Children would have a Christian education. God miraculously opened the doors at John Knox. There were many limitations and hindrances regarding how their kids would get to school since they reside outside of the school transportation boundary but God showed up and provided Ashly with a job right in front of John Knox campus just a week before the school started. Praise God! "

Both Ashly and Nissy are actively involved in Sunday School teaching and Events planning at their local church (Hilltop Bible Chapel,

Their boys are now privileged to grow and learn Biblical values at home, in church, as well as in their school. They believe that it's a great blessing to be a part of the John Knox family.

Did You Know...

- There are 120 families enrolled this school year compared to last year's 108.
- While JKCS was originally founded in 1959 by families of Dutch, Christian Reformed (CRC) backgrounds, these families now comprise less than 25% of our school population. The remaining 75% of families come from many other denominations.
- Students receive 12,000 hours of instructional time from Kindergarten to Grade 8!
- The Board of JKCS has initiated a Strategic Planning process. The Strategic Planning Committee, composed of staff, parents and community members, met together on Oct. 22 and 23.
- Since our new water bottle filling stations were installed in the spring of 2021, students have saved 3,212 plastic water bottles from landfill.





ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

Grace Sweetman
CLASS OF 2017

In early 2020, Grace was selected as one of 30 young people from around the world to be part of a youth panel for the United Nations Day of General Discussion on the Rights of the Child. and she began attending several virtual meetings in preparation for the BIG day. After several Covid delays and a shift from an in-person meeting in Geneva to a virtual meeting, in September of 2021, Grace addressed the UN (United Nations). As quoted from her address, 'Every child deserves to be listened to, respected, and taken seriously by adults.'

In 2019, Grace was selected as part of a panel of students to talk about Disabilities and Education at Ryerson University. She continues to advocate for children with special needs and on October 11, 2021, addressed WHO (World Health Organization) as they discussed developmental disabilities and mental health and how these issues are handled around the world.

Since 2014, Grace has also been a proud member of PCT Eternity, a Cheerleading organization who have been named as 'Team Canada—Special Abilities' every year since 2018.

Grace shared a few personal reflections about her time at JKCS.

JKCS has been so important in my learning and personal growth. Living with multiple disabilities is far from easy but JKCS taught me that even despite the struggles I may face, I can achieve great things. In Grade 6, Mrs. M. helped me to feel more included in track and field; instead of competing against my peers, I competed against myself. Although my personal athletic events might not bring my team to victory, and no records were broken, I proved to myself that I am capable of doing better. By persevering and putting in my best effort I accomplished something that I didn't think would have been possible—I completed the 1500 metre run! What a great lesson!

While this may not seem relevant, I think when you look at all the suffering going on in the world it's hard to see how we can ever overcome those issues. But just as I competed in track and field, we just have to take things one step at a time. If you work hard and believe in a better world, then you can achieve things that people never thought would be possible. My work requires a lot of faith and perseverance, sometimes I get discouraged but I feel this is what God wants me to do and how he is working through me, by changing the lives of individuals one step at a time.



Who Are We?

Encore Thrift Store is a voluntary, non-profit, non-denominational organization, operating a thrift shop to benefit the general public by providing used goods and other items for sale. Funds raised will support John Knox Christian School in Brampton.”

Encore welcomes volunteer drop-ins on any Tuesday evening from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

(please use the rear door).
No experience necessary!

Encore Thrift Store is open for donation drop-offs whenever the store is open:

Monday through Friday
from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Encore will gladly accept any good quality, re-sellable clothing and household goods.

Visit our website for more information:
www.encorethriftstore.ca/donate/

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