



*Welcomed, Known, and Flourishing*

## *Flourishing for a Purpose*

*As laid out in the JKCS Strategic Plan, we continue to be intentional about transforming John Knox into a place where ALL students are Welcomed, Known, and Flourishing!*

According to a study by *Cardus*, a Christian think tank ([www.Cardus.ca](http://www.Cardus.ca)), most Christian schools in Ontario are FLOURISHING. It is clear that families are looking for more options for their children: places where they will be more engaged socially, emotionally, and spiritually, and where the beliefs and values taught at home are reinforced through the curriculum and school culture. John Knox is also flourishing, and we have seen an increased amount of interest in our school.



While this is a positive situation for this year, or even next, we need to think strategically for the long term. How can we ensure that John Knox continues to flourish well into the future? This thought causes me to contemplate the founding families of John Knox and those of many other Christian Schools like ours. Over 60 years ago, they possessed a vision for providing Christian education - not only for their own children—but for generations to come. Many of these founding families continued to support Christian schools financially long after their children moved on, some also provided their support at the secondary and post-secondary Christian education level. Today, these generations continue to bless us with estate and legacy

gifts bestowed on John Knox by donors whose deep desire it is, and was, to see John Knox FLOURISH for a PURPOSE well into the future.

This past summer we stepped out in faith and initiated a facility improvement project that was necessary for a number of reasons, including safety. While we launched the PUZZLE CAMPAIGN in May, this work needed to begin in July, before all of the funds were in hand. The north wall of the building required structural repair and the parking lot pavement was coming up in chunks. These things could not have been left for another year. Providing a safe and functional building and grounds is a crucial part of ensuring that we remain sustainable and flourishing.

**Consider how YOU can be a part of the legacy of Christian Education.**

Contributing to our current facility improvement PUZZLE CAMPAIGN is one way that you can join in the collective vision of FLOURISHING for a PURPOSE—for the students within our walls now, and for those who will come in the future. We urge you to be a part of the next 60 years of Christian Education, ensuring Christian families will have a place to send

their children to learn about the world and its awesome Creator, equipping them to spread the light of God to their communities near and far.

The PUZZLE CAMPAIGN will continue to run throughout the upcoming year, and more facility updates and repairs will take place next summer. Watch for a letter coming to you in the next week providing an opportunity to contribute to the campaign to help us FLOURISH for a PURPOSE!

 **CHRISTINE SOULTANIDIS**  
PRINCIPAL



## Staff Updates



**Debika  
Thiruchelvam**  
GRADE 8

We are pleased to welcome Debika Thiruchelvam to the JKCS team.

Ms. T, as she is known to our students, comes to us with a wide range of teaching experience, covering students from the primary level all the way up to adults.

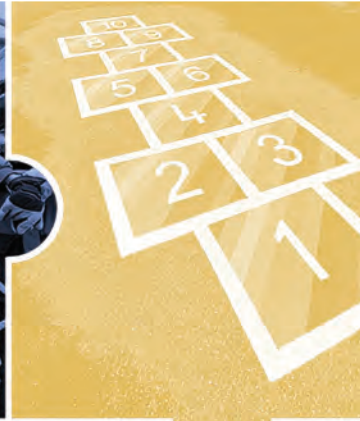
In her Staff Bio, which will soon appear on our school website, she writes, "I love being in a school where academic excellence is just as important as exalting and glorifying Christ. The diversity of the student body at John Knox doesn't just reflect society, but the multitude of nations that will worship God for all eternity (Rev. 7:9). JKCS is such a welcoming environment, and I am honoured to have the privilege of helping students make the transition to the next stage in their lives."



**Sharon Mulder**  
VICE-PRINCIPAL  
GRADE 7 & 8 ART  
& DRAMA

Mrs. Sharon Mulder is well known to us at JKCS having taught in the intermediate division for 20 years. Sharon has made the transition to the role of Vice Principal with a focus on curriculum development, and we look forward to the wisdom gained throughout her years of teaching, blessing us in her leadership role. Sharon will continue to teach Art and Drama, subject matter that holds a special place in her heart.

# Facility Improvement Project



**WE NEED YOUR HELP TO**  
Watch for more information coming soon;



# ement Update

**PROJECT GOAL:  
\$450,000.00**

**1,000 Puzzle Pieces  
at \$450 Each**



To date, 280 Puzzle Pieces have been sold = \$126,216

**TO REACH OUR GOAL!**

**720 Puzzle Pieces are still for sale!**



# ECO DAY

## *Our First Eco Day* AT JOHN KNOX

*Here are just a few of the things we accomplished:*

- Replaced some of the wood edging of the Hope Garden
- Cleared the weeds and regrowth of trees along our new retaining wall
- Our new trees received some care as well
- Moved the extra mulch we've been storing in the Hope Garden to our new Stone Circle Learning Area



## *Grades 6, 7 & 8 Tree Planting*

Grades 6, 7 & 8 had the opportunity to work with Ontario Streams to plant over 100 native species tree saplings as part of Ontario Stream's Habitat Rehabilitation Project along Fletcher's Creek, the same creek that flows through our property.

An Ontario Streams leader taught the students about the importance of planting trees near our waterways.



## *Bulbs to Blooms Day*

Grade 6 join with their Grade 3 partners to plant tulip bulbs in the Hope Garden and other areas of the school property.



# ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

**Mike DeGier**

CLASS OF 1989

I had the privilege of attending JKCS from 1980 (SK) until 1989 (grade 8), following in the footsteps of both my father (John) and mother (Diane) who are also JKCS alumni. I then attended TDChristian from 1989-94 before moving on to Wilfrid Laurier University where I completed an Honours Bachelor of Business Administration (Co-op) degree.

After completing two co-op terms with Oxford Properties Group, I joined the company full time and am now completing my 25th year with the organization. I currently serve as the Senior Vice President, Real Estate Finance & Capital Markets where I lead a team of financing professionals responsible for managing Oxford's global financing portfolio.

During my time at TDChristian, I met my wife Johanna Fernhout, and we were married in 2000. We have four children who have attended,

or are attending John Knox: Kate (class of 2016), Emma (2018), Abby (2020), and Nathan (2024). We currently reside in Brampton and attend CrossPoint Christian Reformed Church.

Thinking back to my time at JKCS I remember being provided the opportunity to participate in many different activities including the school play, track and field days, enrichment, and a variety of other programs. Looking back now, I see how these activities prepared me for high school and for life in general. Along the way there were challenges too, of course but the combined experiences of my JKCS school days most assuredly helped me grow as a person.

*I am thankful for JKCS and for its teachers, both past and present. It has been a privilege to be part of a community over the years where we felt at home, and where our family has and continues to flourish!*

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## Upcoming Events



Capital Campaign Update Letter Distribution  
**Late November**



2023-24 Enrollment Season Begins  
**December**



JKCS Christmas Cards Available to Purchase  
**December 1 (Limited Supply)**



JKCS Christmas Program  
**December 22**



Fall Membership Meeting  
**December 5**



JKCS Winter Walk  
**December 23**

## encore Thrift Store

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