



Welcomed, Known, and Flourishing

Flourishing in Faith

Our theme for the 2023-24 school year is, **Flourishing in Faith**, based on Colossians 2:6-7:

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

It was our intent that this theme tie into our Strategic Plan as we work to be a school where students are *Welcomed, Known, and Flourishing*.

WE ARE ESPECIALLY FOCUSED ON THEME 4: BECOMING DISCIPLES

We desire to put Jesus at the centre of all we do and who we are. Our learning community should be a place where each child, parent, guardian, and staff member are encountering Jesus in ways that are personal, authentic, transformative, and leading to culturally aware action in the world.

We hold regular chapels to keep this message at the forefront of our spiritual growth and faith formation initiatives, offering students and staff alike an opportunity to focus on the assurance of God's grace for each of us.

Initiatives like prayer rocks and the prayer tree emerged from the staff focus group working on Worship and Chapel initiatives, creating opportunities for our students to develop their spiritual

habits and gifts. Students also have the opportunity to participate in activities like the *Gloryseekers*. This is a group of students who present beautiful worship music to our student, parent, and broader communities. *They are such a blessing!*

We pray that our students will come to a deeper awareness of their place in God's kingdom and be strengthened by the assurance that their deep roots in Him will enable them to grow in their faith and be built up as an ambassador of Christ in their world.

Every year, as we welcome new families to our community, I am amazed anew by the people God sends to join us. The addition of families with new energy and excitement

about JKCS and Christian education energizes us all!

Working together with those who have a shared vision for educating children in the Light of God's word is such a gift. We see God's hand at work in our school, and we are humbled to be part of the greater plan of furthering His kingdom in our little corner on McLaughlin Road.

In His Service,

 **CHRISTINE SOULTANIDIS**
PRINCIPAL



Connections: Rooted and Built up in Him

Offering opportunities for our families to make connections with the JKCS school community is a key component of our Strategic Plan. Not only do we strive to ensure that our tagline, 'Welcomed, Known and Flourishing' is a reality for our students, we are always looking for ways to build community for our parents and supporting community. A strong and connected community is vital to ensuring that JKCS flourishes well into the future!

Back to School BBQ

In September we hosted our Back to School BBQ which offered lots of opportunity for service and connection for parents, staff, and students alike. It was a beautiful day and a wonderful time of fellowship and community to kick off the school year!



Grandparents Day

Many of the events we host offer connection on a variety of levels. Grandparents Day is a highlight on the school calendar. The school is a-buzz with excited children, proud grandparents and special guests. This event offers our students an opportunity to demonstrate hospitality to their guests, ensuring they feel welcome. Not only do grandparents have an opportunity to visit with their own grandchildren, but they are also witness to the wonderful Christian community to which their families belong – we hope that they feel a part of us and continue to seek ways to be connected.





Culture

We work hard to ensure that our students know they are part of a much bigger world than just the walls of their classroom or the school and look for ways to engage our students in the culture of our community. Classes are actively working on service projects that engage the community and contribute positively—examples include gift bags for Holland Christian Homes, Community Food Drives, and tree planting in the community. Students also participated in the Terry Fox walk in support of cancer research and the Terry Fox Foundation.



Student Connections

Student connections are fostered in a variety of ways throughout the school year. Each student in grade 1 through 8 is part of a 'JKCS Family' made up of a few students from each grade, with our grade 7 & 8 students serving as team leaders. Families meet regularly for activities aimed at strengthening student connections around the school and beyond their own classrooms. Many classes are also engaged in the Reading Buddy Program where older students mentor younger students by reading to, and with them. Most of these student connection activities also serve to provide our older students with valuable leadership opportunities.

Christmas Market

Events such as the Christmas Market, Brampton & District Ministerial Luncheon, and Family Winter Walk, are designed to connect us both internally as parent volunteers and externally by connecting with the broader Brampton community. We cherish the connections we have with Holland Christian Homes and Encore Thrift Store and appreciate the sense of community and connection these relationships create.





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Encore Overflowing with Thankfulness

On December 2, we had the privilege of hosting approximately 100 Encore volunteers for their Christmas party in our school gymnasium. Rodney dePeuter, Encore's Board Chair, surprised us with not just one cheque for \$100,000, but also a *second* cheque for \$60,000 specifically designated for debt reduction.

What a tremendous blessing!



Encore funds have been instrumental in keeping our tuition affordable, completing building projects, and supporting programs such as swimming, technology, and French, and now, debt reduction! We ask that you keep Encore in your prayers—may the volunteers continue to be blessed and may their mission to fund Christian Education extend beyond our walls. Encore also continues to be a blessing to the community they serve each day in the store, providing a warm, welcoming, and pleasant environment for all

those who come through their doors. If you have never been there, be sure to stop in to shop or just to extend a word of thanks to the faithful volunteers you will find there!

As you can imagine, many volunteers are needed to keep the store running smoothly. Encore is always looking for more volunteers to serve in a variety of ways. If you have some time and energy to contribute and an interest in serving at Encore, please connect with the Volunteer Coordinator at the email address noted in the side bar of this publication.

A BIG THANK YOU to those who came and helped with a 'Deep Clean' over the Christmas Break. It's wonderful to begin the new year with a fresh start and a clean and tidy store! It's important to demonstrate to Encore customers that the staff, volunteers, and all of us here at JKCS are proud of the store and want to provide them with a safe, healthy, and welcoming shopping environment. If you were not available to help this time, watch for the next opportunity to lend a hand!

Together, with students, staff, and parents, we thank God for His continued faithfulness and care that is expressed by the commitment of so many who work to support our school. We continue to overflow with thankfulness at these demonstrations of His faithfulness showered upon us by Encore Thrift Store!



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