

# ROOTED



*Rooted in Faith, Growing in Knowledge*

## Celebrating a Milestone

GRADUATION 2022



### WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU

It's an honour to have known you as a group of students during your time at John Knox and being a mom of one of you, I had the privilege of getting to know you not just as students in our school but also as each others' friends.

### *The Bible verse this class chose is* **Ephesians 4:13**

I loved this verse for you for many reasons — first, it speaks to the gifts God gives his people. Your class, though small, is packed to the brim with gifts of every shape and size - art, music, communication, party planning, debating, organization, fun, (shall we mention the shoe prank?), kindness and caring, and justice, and fairness, of acceptance and integrity. God has poured out his blessings on you; we have seen these gifts and they have been a blessing to all of us at John Knox.

The other thing I love about this verse is that it implies that you are on a journey - that learning about God, and living out his love in the world, is a journey. It says, "this will continue". It doesn't say you must be

holy and mature by now, doing everything perfectly. No. It says you will be equipped to do his work and build up the church, and this will continue until we all come to unity in our faith. This day is just one stage of your journey. Look around and see the people who are here with you; they are the people rooting for you, cheering you on as your journey continues.

We are sending you off from John Knox, but we know God's not finished with you yet; He has so many more amazing things planned for your life. However, keep in mind they won't all be amazing, great things — sometimes you will find that you learn the most through difficult times.

Sometimes, you won't get it right; sometimes life is going to be difficult, painful, and sad. But remember that you are on a journey; that there are people to help you along the way. Remember that we can learn from our mistakes and continue the path we're meant to be on, and that God is walking alongside you through all of it!

Having been through the last few years of craziness in the world, I'm sure you've seen how God has been at work at our school caring for us, lifting us up, being our Rock. We hope that from this experience you've learned that through good times and tough times He is always there for you. He puts people in your life to help you and give you strength, to lift you up when you need it, and to offer encouragement. Look for those people in your life — whether it's teachers, friends, or family. Or maybe it's through

songs or books, or even people you follow on social media. A colleague once said to me, if ever you're looking for inspiration to give to others to remind them of who God is, listen to praise and worship music. I want to end by reading just a few lines from some of my favourite songs that I feel carry a special message for you:

*May His favour be upon you, May His presence go before you and behind you, and beside you; All around you, and within you, He is with you;*

*The overwhelming, never-ending reckless love of God; There's no shadow he won't light up, no mountain he won't climb up coming after you;*

*You are a child of God.*

Congratulations Graduates! May you always feel a part of something bigger, and may you stay strong in the journey of faith and learning. 🌿

We would like to acknowledge several families who graduate their youngest child, ending their family's journey at JKCS:

Andrew Griffith and Shaleen Latchman, Julian Kerr and Courtney Richmond, Adrian and Karen Lewin, Brent and Jennifer Serson, and Jim and Christine Soultanidis.

# Graduates of 2022



**Corbin**  
Lobinowich



**Eden**  
Kerr



**Gordon**  
Fung



**Katelyn**  
Serson



**Keira**  
Klompmaker



**Makayla**  
McIntosh



**Nicky**  
Griffith



**Olivia**  
Atafo



**Petra**  
Soultanidis



**Shawna**  
Baarda



**Zarya**  
Lewin

## Valedictorian Speech

Shawna Baarda

I just want to say thanks for voting me your Valedictorian. I feel so honored to be placed in the position to represent the class. Now, I believe a few thanks are in order.

I want to say thanks to our parents for putting us in an environment where lots of relationships could grow. Both our relationships with our friends, and our relationship with God. Thanks for putting us in a place where our faith can grow while getting a good education.

I would also like to say thanks to all the teachers who have taught us throughout the years. We have good memories of all of you. Thanks for teaching us and for making it fun as you teach us.

It is important as we go on to the next stages of our lives that we remember that God is with us and can help us through any of the struggles we face. Whether it's hard homework, or giving into sins, temptations, or anything in between. As we go on to high school (and further), it is important to not forget God and all the things he has done for you. Because with all the bad things going on in the world right now, like COVID, riots, and wars it can be easy to forget that God is still in control and is looking over/after us, and still has so much planned for our lives.

For our class verse this year, we chose Ephesians 4:13. I also chose to include verse 14 because I think that it helps us to understand what the previous verse meant:

“This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's son that we will be mature in the Lord measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever, they sound like the truth.”

This verse talks about us growing into our faith so that as we get older, we don't just believe everything we are told, and we will become firm in the faith we have known for all of our lives. This is what our teachers and parents have hoped for; that we can become mature in our faith knowing right from wrong. It also talks about us measuring up to the standard of Christ. When we measure up to this standard we will then be fulfilled because we have a good and strong understanding of who he is.

I'd like to share a just few favorite memories of my years here:

1. Our grade 5 play, I loved playing Paco the penguin and I think that everyone else like playing their roles as well. Grade 5 was a good year in general.
2. Fair Glen, when we set monarchs free and accidentally killed one, when Makayla fell into the 'shark pit', and our glow in the dark Capture the Flag games.
3. 8<sup>th</sup> grade play, all the improv that was done, staying after school making sets, etc.

I have grown a lot in the past few years, but there are a few things that I want to say specifically that

JKCS has taught me; Friendship, how to love myself and how to love others, it has taught me a strong faith in Christ, and how to have confidence in my abilities. These are things that I might not have learned elsewhere so thank you to everyone here; teachers, parents, classmates, for being a part of my John Knox experience.

I think that we have an awesome class here, and we are really good friends with each other, and I think that's a really special thing to have.

Thanks for listening to my speech and I hope that we all have a good time in high school. I'm going to miss you guys, but I hope we have a good rest of our graduation. 🌿





# Parental Address

Brent and Jennifer Serson

## Key highlights from the Parental Address

On behalf of all of your parents who joined in celebrating and loving on you on your graduation day, we have a few words of encouragement for you.

To you 11 wonderful students who can make a huge difference in your world, here's what we most want you to remember:

**You are in God's hands.** We know that you have been told this many times growing up in Christian homes and going to a Christian school but don't ever let the wonder of this truth get away from you - you have a Creator, He loves you and He has good plans for your life. Make the decision to stick close to Him. Learn to lean into Him through all the ups and downs of life. And we as parents promise to hold you with open hands, knowing that God's got you in His.

**You have a purpose.** You have a calling. Stand up, speak up, step out as He leads you. Each one of you have done this with courage throughout your time at John Knox. Keep going and you will only grow stronger and more beautiful.

**You are never alone.** Not only do you have Jesus, you also have people in your life who love you. Keep talking to us and

holding onto the strength of family. Next year you will also have new people come alongside you — new teachers and new friends. Work and grow together with all the people God surrounds you with, and lean on them for help when you need it.

**You are more than your grades.** Don't get good grades just to please us. Instead, strive to do well now because it feels good to do well. Focus on your present success and the future will take care of itself ... and your parents will love you no matter what!

**You can make mistakes.** It's impossible to get everything right. You will mess up. Give yourself grace. Treat yourself with extraordinary kindness ... and treat your parents with kindness too, because we make mistakes as well.

**You were made to be kind.** High school is full of chances to be unkind; avoid the



Brent and Jennifer Serson

temptation. Be the kindest person you know instead. Think about how you want people to remember you. Maya Angelou, a very cool poet, said "People will forget what you said and what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

**You can be yourself.** You don't need to change who you are one bit when you go into your new schools next year. Spend time with the One who made you and get to know yourself as you get to know Him. And when new experiences come your way, ask yourself "Is this something I can do without compromising who I am?" Be true to yourself because you are amazing!

Now with all of who you are and with all of who God is, go and change your world 2022 grads! 🌱

**WE LOVE YOU AND WE THANK GOD FOR YOU!**



# AWARDS

## GLENN VAN ZEUMEREN VALEDICTORIAN AWARD

*Awarded to the student who has demonstrated mature Christian attitude, academic achievement, leadership, participation in extracurricular activities and is respected by their peers.*

**Shawna Baarda**

## JKCS LEADERSHIP AWARD

*For demonstrating a mature Christian attitude, academic achievement and a concern for others*

**Katelyn Serson**

## JKCS DISCIPLESHIP AWARD

*For faithful and dependable service, offered willingly and consistently*

**Keira Klompmaker**

## JKCS ACADEMIC AWARD

*For academic achievement and participation*

**Shawna Baarda**

## JKCS STAFF AWARD

*For perseverance and determination in overcoming obstacles to their learning*

**Corbin Lobinowich**

## MUSIC AWARD

*For musical ability, attitude and participation*

**Gordon Fung**

## ART AWARD

*For outstanding achievement in the Visual Arts*

**Petra Soutanidis**

## ATHLETIC AWARD

*For athletic ability, participation and sportsmanship*

**Male Athlete — Gordon Fung**

**Female Athletes — Olivia Atafo & Katelyn Serson**



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