

ROOTED



Rooted in Faith, Growing in Knowledge

Gratitude Report

Needless to say, 2020 was not the kind of year we ever imagined! However, as much as we faced challenges in 2020, I can still look back and find so much to be thankful for and much to be hopeful about as we look ahead to 2021.

We started the school year in the spirit of celebration with festivities in honour of John Knox's 60th Anniversary and the amazing blessing of Encore Thrift Store reaching a MILLION DOLLARS in donations since opening its doors in April 2015. With this momentum, we entered 2020, ready to springboard to new initiatives and increased passion for the next 60 years of Christ-centered learning.

January began as usual with excitement for the extra-curricular activities John Knox offers its students along with student-led conferences, planning for our Celebration of Learning and our Project-based Learning units. In March, everything changed. With the news of the pandemic looming closer, we had to shift to a new way of doing things, reinventing our learning, our environments, and our interactions.

Although it was difficult, through it all, we couldn't help but recognize the incredible opportunity we had as a Christian school to speak the message of God's HOPE. With the support of a wonderful community, our intent grew stronger each day as we found ways to stay connected, to remain healthy and share this HOPE with our families, our city, and the world. We created our *Project of Hope*, sent words of blessing designed by students to the elderly and those in long term care homes and our friends at Encore, and

brought joy through our community art projects, virtual chapels and Christmas Program. Our students shared unique opportunities and experiences that they may not have in a 'normal' year.

For the 20-21 school year, staff chose Romans 15:13 as our theme verse; "May the God of HOPE fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with HOPE by the power of the Holy Spirit." We wanted a verse of scripture that would keep bringing our students back to the truth that our HOPE is in the Lord. We trust that he continues to walk alongside us, filling us with his JOY and PEACE, despite the difficult times we are in.

There will continue to be difficult days ahead but as we hold tight to our faith, we must trust that God has plans for John Knox. We have seen him at work at our school in real ways — as staff we often share our GOD MOMENTS with each other and this year, more than ever we have been humbled by the way he is leading us through each day.

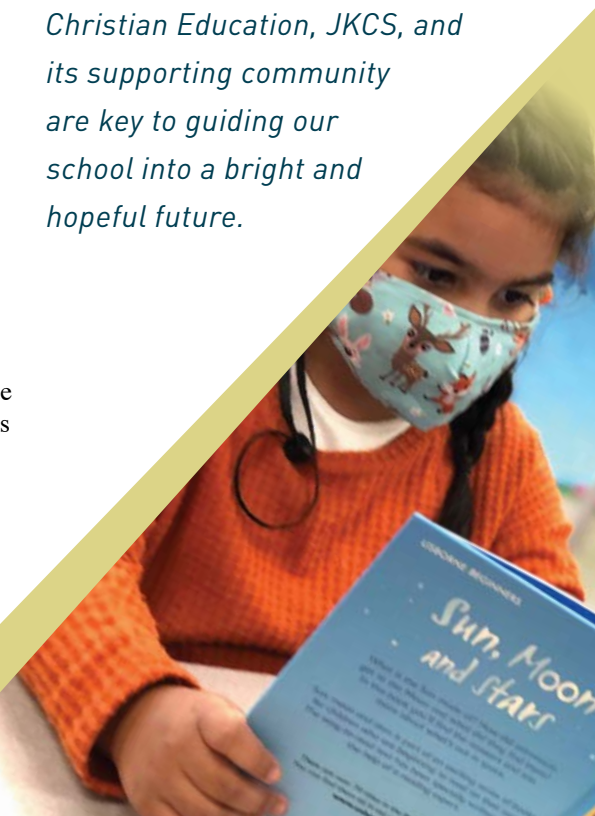
It is our mission as a Christian School to provide Christ-centered learning for our students, and each day it is our prayer that our students, past and present, will continue to see the world through the eyes of faith as they live, grow and learn in his light.

God has good things in store for John Knox, and we look forward to bringing you along on our journey of Making World Changers, for His Glory.

 **CHRISTINE SOULTANIDIS**
PRINCIPAL



Christine has been a part of JKCS Staff since 1996 as a teacher, Vice Principal, and now Principal. Her vision and commitment to Christian Education, JKCS, and its supporting community are key to guiding our school into a bright and hopeful future.



Gratitude for the Blessing

A Supporter's View

GratITUDE for the blessing of John Knox Christian School continues in the hearts and minds of our supporting community who have been faithful and committed to our school and the vision of Christian education for many years. Gary and Mary Maas are past parents of JKCS students and now the proud grandparents of several of our current students – I believe they required the biggest table for their Grandparent's Day lunch a few years ago! Gary and Mary have a rich, long-standing history here at JKCS and look forward to God's continued provision for the growth and development of the school for many generations to come.

Read on to learn a little more about their relationship with JKCS!



Gary, you started a Hockey Tournament fundraiser for JKCS in the early 90's. Tell us about that.

There was an opportunity to start a hockey tournament. There was a lot of interest from the surrounding community as well to play some hockey around Christmas time. A committee was formed with several other enthusiastic parents. We ran the tournament for 12 years and then it continued on with other volunteers for many more years until 2017. I continued to attend and help out however I could. The JKCS Boxing Day Hockey Tournament was a big part of my life for many years.

Tell us how you first got involved with JKCS and why?

We came to Brampton in 1977 so that our children could attend JKCS. We were expecting our 3rd child and were excited about raising our family in a community such as JKCS.

What's your first memory of JKCS?

My first membership meeting, shortly after that I became part of the board of JKCS. Mary recognized that there was a good community here and that people were really working together. There were a lot of volunteers and fundraising

efforts and events going on such as the Walkathon, delivering of Consumers Gas bills, Craft Sales and many others. It felt supportive and we knew we had made the right choice.

Are there other supporters, community members that have been inspiring for you?

Tom Riedstra, who was Chair of the Board at the time, was very passionate and enthusiastic about Christian Education; he lived it daily. It was always on his heart and mind.

Albert Buisman was the Treasurer for many years at

JKCS. Albert did a good job as treasurer; he was thorough and could describe the budget so clearly. People would come to the Membership Meetings and look forward to hearing his jokes at the start of the meeting; he would put everyone at ease. Albert was a kind man and was very dedicated to JKCS and the work he did. Sadly, Mr. Buisman passed away late in 2020. He will be fondly remembered by many in the Brampton and JKCS community. We thank God for such dedicated and faithful leaders of our school community.

What do you think will change about JKCS (or even Christian Education in general) over the next 5 years?

I believe that there is more potential and opportunity for Christian Education. There is so much going on right now, people are feeling like the world is upside down. Society needs Jesus and that means there is a need for Christian Education.

When you last volunteered or donated to JKCS, how did that make you feel? What does it do for you?

We feel good about contributing to JKCS and Christian Education in Brampton.

Mary has been volunteering at Encore as a cashier since it first opened. Volunteering at Encore has always been and continues to be something that she enjoys and looks forward to. It's a blessing to us every time we step into the JKCS school building and see our grandkids in their classrooms and at performances, etc. We feel blessed that we've been able to support this school and be part of it from very early on. There is a distinct happiness and love amongst students and teachers who obviously enjoy being at JKCS. The environment is fantastic.

How would (someone) describe you? Or how might you describe yourself?

(Gary) A type of person who has always been very involved in the community. I volunteered and took leadership roles; Mary also has always been involved and continues to be with JKCS. Proud grandparents. Passionate supporters of Christian Education. We seek to be followers of Christ.

What would you tell someone who is thinking about being part of and supporting JKCS?

It would be a blessing for you if you were to become a supporter, whether as a parent or grandparent, community member, or church member. Supporting JKCS is so worthwhile; to bless JKCS with our future generations with the gift of Christian Education is one of the greatest gifts you can give. I promise that you will feel the love of Jesus as you visit there; He is present in the lives of our students, staff and supporting community.

 **LEANNE FERNHOUT**

Did You Know ...

- Enrolment is 108 families in 2020/21, compared to 103 families in 2019/20.
- JKCS granted \$71,000 in Tuition Assistance 2020/21 school year compared to \$56,570 in 2019/20
- Online giving was launched on the JKCS website at the end of 2019. In 2020, \$55,651 was donated online to JKCS from 108 Donors.



“One of our three new Water Bottle Filling Stations made possible by the generous gifts received through our Year-End Appeal!”

Financial Update

The LORD has blessed JKCS Brampton with amazing financial results 2020 and the 2020-21 school year. The JKCS budget projected a deficit for 2019-20. When COVID-19 hit there was much concern that the deficit would grow. But God had some surprises in store; some special estate gifts, compensation from the Region of Peel for utility work on the school property, and federal employee wage subsidies all helped to turn the projected deficit into a sizable surplus!

The Challenges

COVID-19 has created many challenges for our finances in 2020-21, including rental revenue losses, hiring more staff to keep class sizes lower, higher janitorial, cleaning and busing expenses. Despite these challenges, this school year started on a positive note with a large estate gift, and once again, JKCS has qualified for the wage subsidy. As a result, we are now forecasting that our budgeted deficit of \$240,000 will be cut in half to \$120,000. With the prior year's surplus, this has created an opportunity for sustainability and growth for JKCS through the continued support and efforts of our JKCS community.

Ways to Donate to JKCS

Online at: www.bramptonjkcs.org/donate-now

Send an e-transfer to: finance@bramptonjkcs.org

Send in a cheque to: 82 McLaughlin Rd. S Brampton, ON L6Y 2C7

Questions? Contact Leanne Fernhout, Development Director lfernhout@jkcsbrampton.org

Estate Planning Clinic

MARCH, 24, 2021 @7PM

JKCS will be hosting a free virtual **Estate Planning Clinic** with Christian School Foundation and Christian Stewardship Services on **March, 24, 2021 @7pm.**

To register and receive a link to connect online, please contact Leanne Fernhout lfernhout@bramptonjkcs.org

2020 Gratitude Report

Monthly Highlights

Contact
Info

JAN

- Sharon Mulder transitions into a Vice Principal role.
- Mayra Munoz is hired as a part time Office Assistant allowing Astrid Straatsma to take on a greater role in Communications and Enrollment.

FEB

- Leanne Fernhout is hired as Development Director.



MAR

- Students switch to Remote Learning after March Break during the global pandemic.

APR

- The annual Spring Appeal raises over \$45K, an increase of \$20K from the prior year. God provides through our faithful and supportive community.
- 'Virtual Blessings' sent by video to Holland Christian Homes.

MAY



- The JKCS Annual Golf Tournament and Dinner Auction is cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Throughout the spring and our time of learning from home we developed many unexpected skills around virtual connection. Weekly Student activity videos were produced and served as an awesome connecting point for our staff, students, and families!

JUN

- Grade 8 graduates have their graduations postponed. The students received special deliveries from staff and teachers and a video celebration was created to honour the 2020 graduating class. Watch it here: bramptonjkcs.org/grad-celebration



JUL

- As the pandemic continues, the leadership and Board immediately begin the work of preparing for the many possible scenarios of the new school year beginning in Sept.
- New laminate flooring is installed in 2 classrooms.

AUG

- Christine Soultanidis officially begins her role as Principal of JKCS.



- The 2020/21 school year begins with the majority of students returning to the classroom and some families opting for Remote Learning.
- Despite the very different admissions process and limited in-person orientations which are vital to promoting our school, we were so blessed to welcome 27 new families to John Knox!

SEPT

- JKCS Board of Directors put the wheels in motion to begin the Strategic Planning process.

OCT

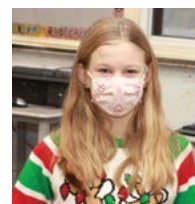
- A video Thanksgiving message was created and sent out to the John Knox community and friends at Holland Christian Homes.

NOV

- Our first issue of ROOTED was distributed to the JKCS community.
- MAP Growth results show John Knox students, on average, scored significantly higher than their counterparts in Math, Reading and Language Arts.

DEC

- We wrapped up the year with a Virtual Christmas Program involving all JKCS students. As we head into another uncertain season, it was great to turn our focus to the greatest gift of all!
- The second annual Year-End Appeal raises over \$35K for JKCS, 3x the amount raised with the first Year-End Appeal in 2019. Yet another display of the incredibly supportive community that surrounds the school.



John Knox
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

82 McLaughlin Road South
Brampton, ON L6Y 2C7

bramptonjkcs.org

office@bramptonjkcs.org
Telephone: 905-451-3236
Fax: 905-451-3448

EDITOR

Astrid Straatsma

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Leanne Fernhout



John Knox Christian
School (Brampton)



JKCSBrampton



jkcsbrampton

encore
Thrift Store

9446 McLaughlin Road North
Unit 2
Brampton, ON L6X 4H9

encorethriftstore.ca

encorebrampton@gmail.ca

VOLUNTEERING

encorebramptonvolunteer
@gmail.com

Telephone: 905-497-2765



Encore Thrift Store



encorebrampton