

# ROOTED



*Rooted in Faith, Growing in Knowledge*

## *Finding HOPE in a Difficult Year*



How can you find hope in a year of disappointment? You build a garden. When September 2020 rolled around, we all had hopes that the pandemic protocols would be a temporary inconvenience and our school year would flow into something resembling normalcy. ‘Hope’ was our chosen theme for the 2020-21 year. How could we create a lasting symbol of hope to lift our spirits during a very trying time? A garden is a perfect beacon of hope. After the long winter, the hope of plants springing up and growing would surely brighten our days. This garden would bless both the students and the community, and each student would have the opportunity to be involved. Grade 8 would design the layout and research the care of the plants and younger students would plant seeds and nurture the seedlings in preparation for planting. Ultimately, the plants and the produce from the garden would bless the community by providing some fresh vegetables to local organizations like Regeneration and Knights Table who serve members of our community who are at risk.

The planning and learning commenced, and we all looked forward to spring when the construction of the garden could begin. And then COVID shut us down, literally.

We returned to remote learning and connecting only with our own households. Our grade 8 students were totally discouraged; but God ALWAYS finds a way to change our perspective.

As I sat listening to the litany of what we were and were not allowed to do, it occurred to me that being with our own households might work! Over the next three weeks, teams made up of a grade eight student and members of their family signed up to spend at least an hour completing some aspect of the garden construction. Even though I was only able to watch from a distance, it brought me great joy and hope to see these students participate and bring this project to fruition. This is perhaps the first legacy project completed by a graduating class and I hope it is not the last. Our graduates should be extremely proud of what they accomplished in a year of uncertainty.


To say I was blessed with a class of achievers would be an understatement. Throughout the planning of the project and all we did this year, each of them displayed a determination to learn and persevered when faced with challenges. Moving things to a digital platform allowed me to recognize gifts that may not have emerged otherwise. Creating, editing, and presenting videos to demonstrate their learning became the new norm and several students demonstrated an impressive level of creativity and technical skill. The memories I will cherish most about this group are not of their academic prowess, but the little things like watching all twelve playing ‘Bump’ together at recess and the off-beat discussions that occurred over lunch. It was fun

to sit quietly at my desk and listen to their interactions. Topics were typically quite random and often from a unique perspective, but resulted in many thought-provoking discussions.

And now we celebrate their accomplishments as we send them off on the next phase of their academic journey. The class chose Deuteronomy 31:6 as their graduation verse; “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you”. It points them courageously forward, knowing that God is always right there beside them as they head off to new adventures and challenges.

Visit our school website, then ‘Hope Garden’ to view our fundraising progress and support this wonderful project.

[www.bramptonjkcs.org/hope-garden-fundraiser](http://www.bramptonjkcs.org/hope-garden-fundraiser)

 **SHARON MULDER**  
VICE PRINCIPAL  
AND GRADE 8  
TEACHER



# GRADUATION EDITION

Did You Know...



## Carol-Jane Amon-Kotey

*FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. —JOHN 3:16*

**BEST JKCS MEMORY:** No specific memory stands out above the rest as my favorite; there were so many good ones over the past eight years. Two highlights were our trips to Fair Glen and Saint Marie.

**DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE/CAREER:** I just don't want to be a janitor



## Daniel Lewis

*I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHO GIVES ME STRENGTH. — PHILIPPIANS 4:13*

**BEST JKCS MEMORY:** Winning an intense game of volleyball when I was in grade 7! At a tournament at Providence Christian School in Hamilton, we played many good games and made it to the semi-finals against the home team. They had many very good players and was overall outstanding. We each won a set, going to a third which we won by a hair. Even though we lost in the finals after this big win, it was a memorable match and a lot of fun.

**DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE/CAREER:** I don't really have an idea of what I want my future career to be. I am going to go with the flow, and hopefully gain an interest in something during high school.



## Benjamin Onyango

*SO WE DO NOT LOSE HEART. THOUGH OUR OUTER SELF IS WASTING AWAY, OUR INNER SELF IS BEING RENEWED DAY BY DAY. FOR THIS LIGHT MOMENTARY AFFLICTION IS PREPARING FOR US AN ETERNAL WEIGHT OF GLORY BEYOND ALL COMPARISON, AS WE LOOK NOT TO THE THINGS THAT ARE SEEN BUT TO THE THINGS THAT ARE UNSEEN. — 2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18*

**BEST JKCS MEMORY:** Probably a when our class was playing a Hide and Seek game on our grade 6 trip to Fair Glen.

**DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE/CAREER:** I would like to create my own clothing line and design my own shoes.



## Nicole Ayodele

*LET ENDURANCE DO ITS WORK, SO THAT WHEN IT IS FINISHED YOU'LL BE WHOLLY COMPLETE, LACKING NOTHING. — JAMES 1:4*

**BEST JKCS MEMORY:** When we went canoeing in Fair Glen and I was the only one paddling.

**DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE/CAREER:** Becoming a professor who teaches astronomy to adults.



## Rachel Maas

*LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH. — DEUTERONOMY 6:5*

**BEST JKCS MEMORY:** Our overnight trips to Fair Glen and St. Marie in grade 6 and 7. Both were fun but at St. Marie, we played hide and seek in the dark. We had heard scary stories from past classes about seeing people in windows. My friend and I were first to search for everyone, hunting in dark 'haunted' buildings with no light; it was so scary but also really fun because we managed to catch everyone. It was funny how scared everyone was.

**DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE/CAREER:** My dream is to go to the Olympics for hockey or track and field and would like to compete for a few years before going to university to become a veterinarian, a family doctor or a sports physician.



## Alinda Thomas

*HE WILL COVER YOU WITH HIS FEATHERS, AND UNDER HIS WINGS YOU WILL FIND REFUGE; HIS FAITHFULNESS WILL BE YOUR SHIELD AND RAMPART. — PSALM 91: 4*

**BEST JKCS MEMORY:** When we went to Fair Glen and played capture the flag in the dark.

**DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE/CAREER:** I'm hoping to pursue a career in the medical field.



## Josiah Lemuel Campbell

*YEA THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH, I WILL FEAR NO EVIL FOR GOD IS WITH US. — PSALMS 23:4*

**BEST JKCS MEMORY:** When I first came to the school and I met all of the friends I have in my class today. Although I couldn't share the same in-person class with them most of the year due to COVID, it was still an enjoyable highlight.

**DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE/CAREER:** I aspire to be an architect that designs and builds homes for people. I enjoy building and drawing, and this would let me use these skills which are my specialty. It would be a job I love and enjoy doing in the future. Even if it doesn't pay a lot, it's something I would enjoy getting up and going to work to do every morning.



## Calista Claire McCanna

*THEREFORE DO NOT BE ANXIOUS ABOUT TOMORROW, FOR TOMORROW WILL BE ANXIOUS FOR ITSELF. SUFFICIENT FOR THE DAY IS ITS OWN TROUBLE. — MATTHEW 6:34*

**BEST JKCS MEMORY:** When Anya fell down the stairs at St. Marie. I was looking at the side of the stairs because it was like a slope. I told Anya, "that looks fun to slide down". This crazy girl decided, "She must be right", and tried sliding down the slope. It was too narrow, and she fell off and continued to flop down the stairs like a fish as I sat on the floor laughing hysterically for the next 45 minutes; a day I'll never forget.

**DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE/CAREER:** I'm a little confused about what I want to become. I just wish to be successful, able to take care of myself and maybe a family. I hope to find something I'm passionate about but it's hard, especially with covid. I like looking beyond what we can see every day, so that may be something to think about for me.



## Anna VanderBerg

*THEREFORE I TELL YOU, DO NOT WORRY ABOUT YOUR LIFE, WHAT YOU WILL EAT OR DRINK; OR ABOUT YOUR BODY, WHAT YOU WILL WEAR. IS NOT LIFE MORE THAN FOOD, AND THE BODY MORE THAN CLOTHES? LOOK AT THE BIRDS OF THE AIR; THEY DO NOT SOW OR REAP OR STORE AWAY IN BARN, AND YET YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER FEEDS THEM. ARE YOU NOT MUCH MORE VALUABLE THAN THEY? CAN ANY ONE OF YOU BY WORRYING ADD A SINGLE HOUR TO YOUR LIFE? — MATTHEW 6:25-27*

**BEST JKCS MEMORY:** So many great ones but some of my favourites are of the field trips we went on. Whether it was to a farm or an overnight trip, we always had a great time. Others include the assembly where we taped the principal to the wall, the sporting events I've been part of, moments with friends, and inside jokes or debates my class has had throughout the years, like 'you cannot count bread'.

**DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE/CAREER:** I don't really know what career I will chose but a few things that I know I want to do are travel the world, meet new people, make many memories, and do whatever I dream!



## Dylan Cole Grootenboer

*WHEN I SAID, "MY FOOT IS SLIPPING, YOUR UNFAILING LOVE, LORD, SUPPORTED ME. WHEN ANXIETY WAS GREAT WITHIN ME, YOUR CONSOLATION BROUGHT ME JOY. —PSALM 94:18-19*

**BEST JKCS MEMORY:** When my class was at Fair Glen, I sleep-walked outside of my cabin and woke up on the basketball courts away from the cabins. The trip was great, but this is the one moment that I will never forget!

**DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE/CAREER:** I'm going to finish high school and hope that I find something that I really enjoy. I don't have a plan yet, but my dream job is any job that I enjoy doing.



## Aaron Seji Obalade

*GIVE ALL YOUR WORRIES AND CARES TO GOD, FOR HE CARES ABOUT YOU I — PETER 5:7*

**BEST JKCS MEMORY:** When we went to Fair Glen, no one could sleep because someone was making noises the whole time.

**DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE/CAREER:** I don't really know what I want in life yet.



## Anya VanEerden

*YOU ARE MY HIDING PLACE AND MY SHIELD; I HOPE IN YOUR WORD. — PSALM 119:114*

**BEST JKCS MEMORY:** While at St. Marie Among the Hurons, we saw that the stairs looked like a slide, so I tried it but ended up falling all the way down the stairs. It was pretty fun.

**DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE/CAREER:** I don't really know what I want to do in the future, but for right now I am trying to find something that I enjoy and am good at. I haven't found that something yet, but hopefully my life will lead me towards the direction of a good hobby and a great future.

- one or both parents of 21 of our currently enrolled families are JKCS graduates
- six of our current staff are JKCS graduates
- since 1959 and including the Class of 2021, 1634 students have graduated from JKCS
- as of June 1, 23 new families have enrolled for September 2021
- Enrolment is trending upward; 2021-22 currently at 113, 2020-21 - 108, 2019-20 - 103
- at the end of the 2020-21 school year, more than 2879 students will have passed through the doors of JKCS since it was founded in 1959; are you one of them?

We'd love to hear from you! Contact: [astraa@bramptonjkcs.org](mailto:astraa@bramptonjkcs.org) to be added to our information database.



# To our Graduating Students and Families



The end of the year is always bittersweet. We look ahead to summer and a well-deserved break but we realize it also comes with some difficult goodbyes for our graduating class. And this year, it is especially true. We are sad to not be able to send you off in the traditional John Knox fashion however we send you off nonetheless, to take what you have learned and to use the tools and training you have been equipped with to continue growing in all aspects of your life - your academics, your relationships, your faith.

We pray that you will have fond memories of your time at John Knox, and that you will continue to stay connected to the school and the friends you have made here.

In saying goodbye to our class of 2021, it also means we say goodbye to the following families

who are graduating their youngest child: Stephen and Juine Grootenboer, Bruce and Danielle Maas, Chris and Charmaine McCanna, Kenneth and Pauline Onyango, Benn and Saramma Thomas, and David and Kristen VanderBerg. May John Knox always hold a special place in your heart as parents. We have been blessed by each family who has come through our doors, whether for one year, or all ten. We are so grateful for a supportive and prayerful community, many of whom stay connected long after their children have graduated. God has blessed John Knox for 62 years, due in part to the longstanding relationships of a community that believes in the value of Christian education and desires to see it continue to bless children and their parents for many years to come.



**CHRISTINE SOULTANIDIS**  
PRINCIPAL

## Grad Awards



### **Glenn Van Zeumeren Valedictorian Award** / CAROL-JANE AMON-KOTEY

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

### **Leadership Award** / DANIEL LEWIS

For mature Christian leadership, participation and a concern for others.



### **Discipleship Award** / DYLAN GROOTENBOER

For faithful and dependable service offered willingly and consistently.

### **Academic Award** / ALINDA THOMAS & ANNA VANDERBERG

Academic achievement and participation.



### **Staff Award** / JOSIAH CAMPBELL

For perseverance and determination in overcoming obstacles to their learning.

### **Female Athlete of the Year** / RACHEL MAAS

For athletic ability, participation and sportsmanship.



### **Male Athlete of the Year** / DANIEL LEWIS

For athletic ability, participation and sportsmanship.

### **Music Award** / ALINDA THOMAS

For musical ability, attitude and participation.



### **Art Award** / ALINDA THOMAS

For outstanding achievement in the Visual Arts.



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