

ROOTED



Rooted in Faith, Growing in Knowledge

GRATITUDE REPORT

AS WE LOOK BACK ON THE YEAR 2021, HERE ARE THE TOP 10 THINGS I'M GRATEFUL FOR:



1. First of all, I'm grateful for a gracious and glorious God, in whom we trust — and for the countless times he has shown himself to us at John Knox in the past year.

2. I'm grateful for the staff, who have given their all and challenged themselves every day to show up for their students despite having to teach online from home or school.

3. I'm grateful for the JKCS Admin team Mayra, Astrid, Sharon, and our Finance team as they manage the ins and outs of what the pandemic has brought this past year. For helping to decipher the memos, guidance, bursaries, subsidies and countless forms that accompanied each one.

4. The JKCS Board of Directors who have taken time out of their days and nights to contribute to the governance of our school. For the thoughtfulness they put into their decision making and the prayerful support they have given to teachers and staff.

5. To ENCORE Thrift Store: how can

we express how grateful we are to the volunteers, and board of Encore, who hold Christian education close to their hearts, and, despite having had to close for months at a time, were still able to provide the school with over \$200,000 in funds in 2021.

6. The Donations and Gifts from our supporting community that remind us that our mission of Christian education is longstanding, reaching far beyond what's happening this week, this month, or even this year.

7. For our robust tuition assistance and bursary program which has allowed us to welcome families who deeply desire a Christian education for their children but for whom tuition is not manageable.

8. For the new students who I see becoming a part of the tapestry of John Knox and how quickly they have adjusted to John Knox, working hard to make friends, and make connections with their teachers.

9. To all of our students who are quick to welcome new students, who have struggled with learning from home; who have worn masks and tried to maintain safe distance from friends; who have had to give up so much of what school would

normally entail, and yet continue to come to school with a smile behind their masks, ready for whatever the day brings.

10. Lastly, I'm so very grateful for JKCS parents. I can't quite express how meaningful their support has been for us at the school, as time and time again throughout the year, we were sent messages of encouragement and prayers from our parent community just when we needed them most.

For all this and more, Lord, we give you thanks.

As we enter into 2022, may we go boldly, ready for what lies ahead, grateful for the lessons learned, and ever trusting in God our ROCK!



CHRISTINE SOULTANIDIS
PRINCIPAL



2021 Reflections



MANY OF OUR STUDENTS SHARED THEIR REFLECTIONS. WE COULDN'T POSSIBLY INCLUDE THEM ALL BUT HERE ARE JUST A FEW:

What was a 2021 highlight?



We did a lot of science which is my favorite subject.

JOSHUA M.



My highlight was the end-of-year picnic when we finally got to see each other again.

MARTIN S.



The art project a bug's eye view.

JOSIAH P.

What or who were you especially grateful for in 2021?



My parents for letting me and my sister go to a Christian School.

LOGAN V.



I am grateful for the new friends I made last year.

MICAH M.



I'm grateful for my family and that God has kept me safe in those hard times

IZABELLA S.

What are some interesting events or activities that you did at school in 2021?



I was thankful for the Food Drive. If people didn't get food, they could be hungry. I'm glad I could help.

ELLA V.



During Remote, I was thankful that I could do ABC math games.

MATTHEW V.



one of my favourite school memories of 2021 was doing our St. Patrick's Day scavenger hunt.

PETRA S.

MS. WYMENGA WRITES,

"Seeing the excitement of students as they returned to school in September was such a highlight! They were so excited to play with each other and to be learning AT school. It seemed they no longer took learning for granted — being at school was precious to them! In spite of a difficult year, there were so many things to be grateful for: my colleagues, supportive parents, my student teacher who taught me many new things, administrative staff who were so organized and up to date with COVID protocols, special event days that made our online learning days more fun. I really enjoyed our fun day at the end of June when the students could see and play with each other after been separated for so long!"

MS. LUTGENDORFF SHARED,

"A highlight for me was our year-end picnic lunch; it was wonderful! We were just so happy to see each other. I am so grateful for my students; they were happy to even have a chance to learn. It was good for them to see their friends and for me to be able to continue to teach online. I enjoyed being able to see their smiles too. All of us agree that SSN was a big hit — we are grateful for the dedicated team who put these together! A highlight for our class was watching the 'Tale of Desperaux' together after reading the book!"





ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

Adam Wiedemann / CLASS OF 2010

Since a very young age it has always been a dream of mine to play professional lacrosse in the National Lacrosse League.

In 2018 that dream came true when I was drafted in the first round, 8th overall to the Georgia Swarm. This day is really special to me because I got to experience it with my best friend, and John Knox alumnus, Luke VanSchepen, who was also drafted that day! We played together our whole lives, and even though we were chosen to different teams, it will forever be a moment I cherish.

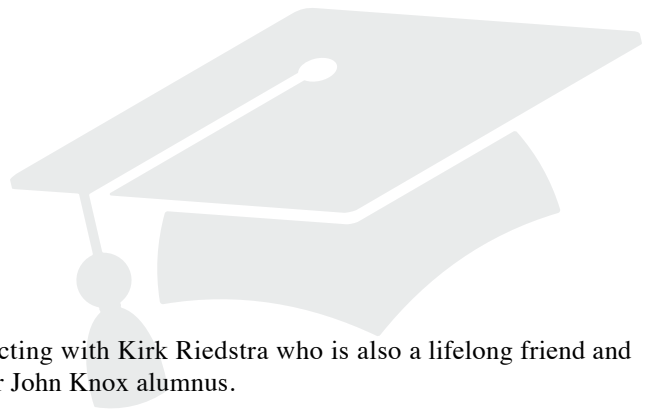
I am in my 3rd season with the Georgia Swarm. I live in Caledon, ON and fly out to games and practices every weekend from November to May. During the week I work for KR

Contracting with Kirk Riedstra who is also a lifelong friend and another John Knox alumnus.

Going to John Knox has blessed me with many life-long connections. Most of my current best buddies are all alumni from John Knox. The connections and friendships I made are genuine and true and have lasted throughout the years; that is special to me. The teachers and the whole atmosphere at John Knox allowed us to build these friendships that last. From great class trips to Reading Buddies program, to sports teams and track and field days; these are all great memories.

Having these connections and support, and the fact that God has given me a path that has allowed me to live my dream, a lot of that stemmed from JKCS and I am grateful for my time there.

I encourage everyone to make close connections and surround yourself with people who care about you and encourage you to always go after your dream. 🌱



We Welcome the Bennett Family

SUBMITTED BY REBECCA PETERSON ON BEHALF OF THE BENNETT FAMILY

The Bennett family is a family of 4; Ryan (Father), Jennifer (Mother), Jordan (Son-Grade 7) Michael (Son-Grade 5). Jennifer and Ryan were blessed with the boys 17 years after being married, they will soon celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary.

The boys are quite busy playing hockey and baseball, playing for the Brampton 45s in hockey and the Etobicoke Rangers in baseball. They are also appreciating the outdoors with a new love for downhill skiing. We are looking forward to visiting family in Alberta on March Break and enjoying the outdoors too.

They are actively involved in their church — St. Anthony's of Padua, where they have belonged since moving to Brampton 27 years ago, having both grown up in Etobicoke. Jennifer serves with the home visiting ministry. Jordan is busy preparing for his Sacrament of Confirmation this May.

The Bennett's came to JKCS looking for stability and consistency for the boys' education. "The hardest part of leaving our former school was the thought of leaving a school that was of our faith as this was important to us. But since we were disappointed with the education component, we needed to consider other options."

Perhaps it was divine intervention as Jennifer saw a posting for a Virtual Open House for JKCS — it was in March 2021.

She registered and is glad she did. 'In addition to the principal and teachers, there was a JKCS parent on the call offering her perspective of the school and school community...' it was exactly what we were looking for!



Both boys were interested in learning more about the school and community and wanted to visit the school. Once they came to see us, they were eager to make the change. "There have been so many positive things about coming to JKCS; first and foremost, a sense of belonging from the start. In the short time they've been at JKCS, the boys have made wonderful friends and have been eager to get involved. Jordan has been thrilled with the opportunity to participate in sports, Michael looks forward to that when his time comes. In the meantime, Michael loved the opportunity to be involved with the Student Council. From a parent's perspective, we can see the difference — they are *thriving* in school, not just *going* to school. On the academic side, the teachers have been engaging with the students and their learning and are very communicative with the family. Our only regret is that we didn't consider JKCS sooner especially since I used to drive by the school on my way to work!" 🌱

Celebrating 7 Years

IT IS IN GIVING THAT WE ARE RECEIVING!

Encore Thrift Store will be celebrating its 7th Birthday this year! The goal of Encore is to support Christian education at JKCS and while we may not all be scholars; we like to think that in some way we have contributed to its success.

I would like to give you a bit of an insight as to what goes on at Encore. Currently we have over 100 volunteers and a few paid staff; our oldest volunteer is a spritely 89-year-old! Our volunteers are a dedicated bunch who love coming in to work, rain, sun or snow. We are almost like one big happy family sharing our stories as we work alongside each other. Encore has become our social network and our volunteers feel blessed. It is in giving that we are receiving!

The presence of Encore in Brampton has also helped many in the community. Many of our customers who are new immigrants or on a limited income, find they can afford a little more comfortable lifestyle by shopping at Encore. Of course, we also have the 'Rich and Famous' making Encore their favorite haunt for their classic finds at bargain prices!



Encore has survived the pandemic and if anything, has come through even stronger. We are blessed with a good supply of donations and an incredibly loyal customer base, however, we cannot rest on our laurels and we need your support to grow; donations and volunteers are always welcome. We ask that you visit our store and give us some positive reviews on Google. You can also support us on social media and share our presence on Facebook and Instagram.

We would like to thank JKCS for your continued appreciation of Encore in the form of baked goodies, hosting events, volunteering and visits from the children which we particularly enjoy! We look forward to a renewed and energized partnership in our 8th year on the block! 🌱

Susan

Volunteer Coordinator
on behalf of the Encore Board,
Employees and Volunteers

Visit our website for more information:
www.encorethriftstore.ca/donate/

Financial Update and Challenges

FINANCIAL UPDATE

The LORD has continued to financially bless JKCS despite the ongoing challenges posed by COVID-19. 2021-22 started with 119 families enrolled, up from 113 in 2020-21. We budgeted for a large deficit, however, ended with a surplus of \$185,000 due to larger than expected federal wage subsidies, estate gifts, and Encore donations. God is good! He provides through our gracious and faithful community.

THE CHALLENGES

COVID-19 restrictions and public health measures continued to place pressure on the school's finances with higher than usual teaching staff levels, greater janitorial, cleaning, and busing expenses. The school's transportation costs are posing a particular challenge. Currently, the school recovers only 22% of the actual cost through busing fees charged to parents. A 'Transportation Task Force' was struck to study the issue of

this growing shortfall and recommend ways to improve cost recovery while maintaining current service levels. Transportation fees will be increased for the 2022-23 school year.

Increases in tuition revenues due to higher enrollment, greater recovery of transportation costs as well as the continued support and efforts of our JKCS community is expected to stabilize and strengthen the school's financial position in the coming year. Please join us in praying that the LORD will bless the school with strong enrollment and the continued support of our faithful donors. 🌱

GIANCARLO CRISTIANO
FINANCE CHAIR

QUESTIONS ABOUT GIVING TO JKCS?

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