

# The Beacon

Winter 2025

## Growing Roots, Bearing Fruit



### Top 5 ways we are caretakers of children:

1. We honour the unique gifts the students have as image bearers of God.
2. We care for their emotional well-being/growth and model appropriate relationships and strategies for conflict resolution and belonging.
3. We monitor their physical well-being [coats, mittens, shoes].
4. We encourage their cognitive development with academically appropriate challenges.
5. We pray for and with students and their families; we take the greatest care to foster their spiritual well-being.

### Living in Christian Community

At John Knox, our staff recognize the immense privilege and responsibility we have in shaping a learning community that lives as disciples of Jesus and honours the lordship of Christ over all creation. We strive to make our school a place where belonging, grace, gratitude, hospitality, and a dedication to mission shape every aspect of our community.

At a recent staff meeting, we took time to reflect on our role as "living stones"— meaning that we model for students what it means to be disciples of Christ, we share our faith stories, and we strive to have consistency between our words and deeds. One way we can strengthen our learning community is by creating a "Top Five" list that reflects the values, mission, and vision of our school.

This month, we focused on how we are caretakers of the children; living out this calling in our day-to-day work. By sharing this list with our community, we highlight that our Christian school is distinct not only in the content we teach but also in the context we provide. Together — home, church, and school — we are committed to raising up our students in the faith. – Mrs. Lisson, Principal

# News from JKCS

## Thank you!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to thank Mrs. Julie Tetreault and Mrs. Liz Raja for the outstanding work they have done in filling in as principals over the last year. Their dedication and leadership have ensured the smooth operation of our school. Thank you for your hard work, perseverance, and enthusiasm you both brought to your roles. Your commitment is very much appreciated!

## Math Buddies

Alternating with reading buddies, this year, students are working with math buddies through the winter term. Working in small groups, students build numeracy skills through games. Groups in the younger grades have student leaders from grade seven and eight. This time not only reinforces math concepts, it helps students to have fun with math and learn how to follow directions, take turns, and lose well.

– Mrs. Bouma



## Tap Dancing Club

The tap dancing club started in the fall for grades 3–7. Mr. Tueewen is instructing the students in this dance as they learn rhythm, timing, quality of sound, and musical concepts using tap shoes and wood boards as their instruments. They are learning how to play the melody of a song, and how to create a dance to accompany music. Through this club students are growing in musical appreciation and concepts that can be applied to any study of music. – Mr. Tueewen



# Forest Fridays



We have many beautiful parks and conservation areas in Lambton County, and SK-B has been hiking the trails and adventuring through the woods! We also take some elements of our classroom learning into the outdoors, such as making letters out of pinecones, and marching around "Jericho". With some structured play planned for each trip, students are engaged and thoughtfully considering the many uses of our God's creation. Free play and nature are the main components of these trips, both of which have numerous benefits!

- Mrs. Sipkens



## OPEN House

Come & see what Christian education at JKCS is all about!

**Thursday, January 30th**

**Sign up by calling the school office or using the link: [January Open House](#)**



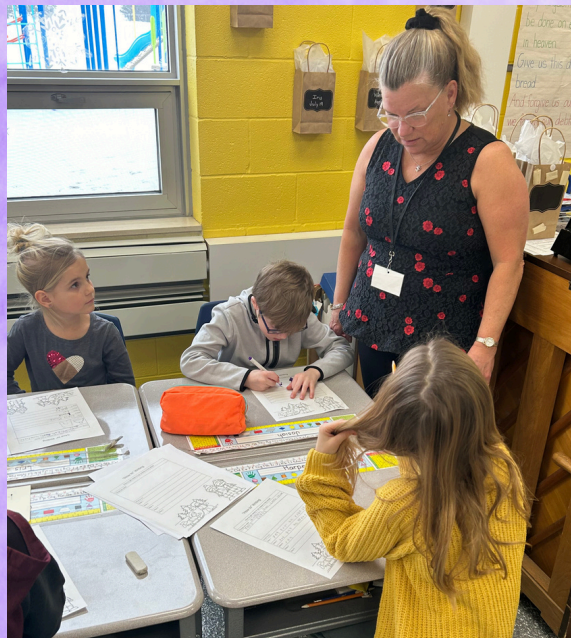


# Building Expansion: Capital Campaign Update

Plans are underway for the new expansion at JKCS. This building project will address three key areas:

- The **Learning Support Room:** This expanded space will enable us to better meet the needs of our students; providing space for group instruction and a quiet sensory area.
- **Classroom space:** Two new classrooms will address current space limitations and align with projected enrollment numbers.
- **The Staffroom:** By expanding the staffroom, we're creating a space where our educators can collaborate, plan, and recharge.

We are deeply grateful for the support from our community members. As we take on this new project, we ask that you prayerfully consider participating through a donation or pledge. To date we have collected over **\$375,000** in donations and pledges. We praise God for His abundant provision and the good gifts He has entrusted to us. The Board of JKCS is hoping that all pledges are received by **February 1, 2025**. Please reach out to the school office if you would like to learn more about this capital campaign.



We are thankful for all of our volunteers at JKCS!