

# The Beacon

Summer 2024

## Graduation Edition



Finally, be strong in the Lord  
and in the strength of his might.

Put on the whole armour of God, that you may  
be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

*Ephesians 6:10-11*







John Knox Christian School has impacted me for the better. It has taught me what a Christian community looks like and how we are in different walks with God. JKCS has taught me what a Christian school's goals are! They are not just about education, but about growing a student's faith. I like that John Knox did many things that helped me grow in my walk with God such as chapels, morning devotions, prayer, and Bible class. I am very thankful that I came to JKCS because of the great memories that it holds. My favourite John Knox memory was on the grad trip at Canada's Wonderland when a group of us went on all the big rides. My favourite ride was the Yukon Striker. We all tried to keep our hands in the air the whole time. I will miss JKCS and all the fun I had with my friends and I am grateful that I came to this school. I will miss coming here every day. John Knox Christian School has taught me many things about God that will stick with me.

Jenna Buurma

John Knox has shaped my life in a very positive way. It has helped me form a stronger knowledge base of my faith and bond with God. In the countless science classes that I thought the teacher couldn't fit faith into, the many teachers I had managed to teach me just a little more about God. The sporting events helped shape me by teaching me how to lose over and over and over again. Someday, I will grow old and might forget about this school, but the mark of its influence will show and last for the rest of my life.

Ben Leystra



John Knox Christian School community, where would I be without you? This place was like my second home. Although I'm leaving this school for good, there will be times that I may miss it and want to come back. Even though I haven't been here the full ten years like some of my friends have, there is still some part of me that feels like I have been here all my life. Winning the soccer tournament was one of the best things I have ever been a part of. Losing the hockey tournament is something I really do not want to talk about. Something that I will take from my time here is that teachers are not people to be scared of; they are people that you can look up to. Another important thing that I have realized is that to be a good person, you have to surround yourself with good people, good Christian people that you can look up to and grow of. Thank you, JKCS, for all you've done for my life, and I hope I continue to grow in Christ.

Travis Moesker

To me, JKCS is a safe place full of authority that can be trusted. My time here has been memorable and noteworthy. The teachers and other workers here are all kind, patient people and I am grateful to them for making my grade 8 year one with miniscule difficulty. Our class grad trip was a very unforgettable experience. We did several fun activities and had lots of recreation time together. On our way back from the grad trip we went to Canada's Wonderland. It was a very fun day, and I'm sure most of us would like to do it again. My experience at JKCS was a time of fellowship, learning and friendship. John Knox is a safe place, and one that any parent can feel comfortable sending their child to. Of course there's always the odd difficulty, but I can honestly say that my first and final year here went by smoothly. I have made many Christ-centered relationships in my grade eight year, and I will value the memories they made for my whole life.

Jocelyn Klassen





Looking back on the time I've had here at JKCS, I have realized that I have grown. I don't just mean that I've grown 3 feet, I mean that I've changed on the inside. JKCS has changed me for the better. One thing I loved was knowing that if I was worried or hurt, there are so many beautiful people here that were there for me. There were times where we would spend recess talking about how each person is doing, and how we have seen others blessing each other. Having the people in my class that I do has helped me to grow as a friend and a Christian. God has shown so much love through the teachers, principals, volunteers, parents, community members, and even fellow students with the kindness I've been shown through my journey at JKCS. I loved being able to do what I wanted to, from playing on the sports teams to acting in the school play, to joining or helping at the skipping club. I am so thankful to God that I've had the opportunity to come to JKCS.

Colten Anjema



John Knox has been the only school I have been taught at in my entire life. And many things have happened - from new principals, school renovations and of course, Covid, but besides all that this school has been great. I will share some of my favourite memories. I remember first getting to the school it was somewhat small with its big playgrounds and its big kids. And the gym, playing soccer and dodgeball. Those were the days. But the best part had to be how it was a Christian school, all the Bible lessons, and learning about God. I am thankful for going to a Christian school, because if I didn't go to a Christian school I wouldn't be the man I am today, like I'm not sure I would go to church every day. And I am not sure that I would even have the friends that I have today. But after ten years of Christian schooling it has led me up to high school. I can only look forward to what God holds for me.

Avan VanRooyen



John Knox is a place where I can learn not only math, literature, and art but also compassion, respect, love, and how to be like Christ. I am so blessed to be able to go to John Knox where I am able to see the world through a Christian lens. John Knox has taught me what it means to walk with God. I learned that as Christians and stewards of God's creation, we can give God a voice. My favourite memory at JKCS was District in the third grade. That day was spent with friends, playing frisbee and drinking Gatorade until our stomachs hurt. That morning, we read a few Bible verses and a devotional, and we were told to treat our competitors how God calls us to. JKCS has given me a strong faith foundation that I can take with me into high school. I believe I am a mosaic of the people who influence me - God, family, friends, my church, and, of course, John Knox. John Knox is a big part of my life that has given me the steps I need to grow in my faith. John Knox has taught me so many things about walking with God, and I am so blessed to take that with me in the future.

Lucy Tetreault





My years at JKCS have helped me to become a better person and a better Christian by learning more about God and Jesus Christ. The other thing that JKCS means to me is all the wonderful teachers I have. My favourite memories at JKCS are when I was in grade seven when I hung out with Lucas Friesen and Ben Strickler. Next was the car ride to Fair Glen and to Canada's Wonderland. When we got to Canada's Wonderland, all of us went on roller coasters. As I move on to high school, I will remember everything that I learned at JKCS because it will all be useful in what I am going to do with my life. I will also take with me all the memories that happened at this school and at Canada's Wonderland. John Knox has been a great school with a lot of good Christians.

Zach Sipkens

John Knox Christian School has been a blessing to me for the last ten years. It has helped me to improve as a person and as a Christian. It has changed me by helping me to become stronger in my faith and in my love for people I have met. I have so many great and wonderful memories, but I think that my favourite memory at John Knox Christian School is when I got to go to the sports events. The reason is that at all the sports events, we get to hang out with our friends and have a day off from school. It made it even more fun when our family members came and cheered us on. As I move on to the next chapter of my life and the challenges I will face, the life lessons I have learned at John Knox Christian School will help me face these problems in a Christian way. As I move on, I hope that I have left a good and positive impression for the future grade eight class. Thanks, John Knox Christian School, for the greatest years of my life so far.

Ryland Nutma



John Knox has formed me in such a positive way and has helped me to be the person I am today. The JKCS community has helped me to grow in my faith and create good friendships that are Christian-based. Being here at John Knox for the last ten years has given me lifelong memories. Some of my favourites include the time I got to be "Principal For A Day," and we got extra recess, or when we spent the day at Lakewood for a pool day. I will keep all the memory work and Bible lessons close to my heart. The encouragement and strength that this school has brought to me is great (Joshua 1:9), and I hope to keep this close to me as I start another chapter of my life in high school. I want to thank the teachers and the rest of the John Knox community for walking with me in my faith and helping me to be the best version of myself.

Andy Wierenga

John Knox is the best school. Attending John Knox Christian School helped me be a better Christian. In school, the teachers have taught me about being a Christian and how it shapes our lives. In the years that I've been at John Knox, the best things have been the field trips and playing in the tournaments. This is the best part of grade 8 because grade 8 gets to go automatically most of the time. This last year changed me by helping me to be a better person - even though we've had seven teachers in the grade 8 school year! I will take the Bible with me because I can teach people about God and Jesus Christ and that Jesus died on the cross for our sins.

Henry





I have been at John Knox for ten years and it has taught me that I am God's child, His masterpiece. The many different teachers I have had have shown me all I need to know for the next year, and mainly about the Christian view of everything in the sinful world around us. When I think of John Knox I think of all the exciting times I had with all my friends. When I think of leaving this school it makes me sad because this is where all my memories with my friends are. Even though it is a sad time for us it is also something that we can look forward to and be happy that we can expand our knowledge in different schools and make new friends. I also think of how grateful I am for all my teachers, whether they were full time or even substitutes. I feel very prepared for my years in highschool, and I know this is because of all my wonderful teachers. John Knox has taught me many very important skills, and has shown me how much God cares for me as his child.

Elianne Noorloos

John Knox Christian School has given me a better opportunity to grow in my faith. From the beginning to the end of the school year there have been non-stop conversations about God and what He has done for all of us. From the devotionals every morning to the sports outside, there were always great questions and conversations. Everybody at the school was always happy and enjoying life. The teachers always found a way to make school more enjoyable and have been so kind and generous by letting us stay inside from recess so that we could finish up long overdue projects. One of my favourite memories of John Knox was the baseball tournament. It was so fun and thrilling the whole day. The team was very supportive and they weren't quick to critique. It was just a great time for the two pitch team. JKCS is a place you can go without worrying about being bullied or made fun of. Instead, you get encouraged and are treated all equal. John Knox Christian School has helped me grow and learn about God, and has shaped me and formed me into a better person.

Bryson Wierenga



John Knox has taught me how important Christian education is. As I've come from a public to a private school, I've learned what a privilege it is to do morning devotions, pray at school, participate in chapels and even have a whole class dedicated to learning about the Bible. I feel very blessed to have spent my last two years developing Christian friendships. During my time here, I've been blessed with many memories of class trips, sports tournaments, and many other activities. My personal favourite John Knox memory is the sports tournaments. I love how they always began by reading a piece of scripture to all the schools. John Knox has done a great job of making Christ the centre of everything we do and learn. For example, in subjects like art, geography and science, Christianity is always incorporated into what we learn. Attending here, I am blessed to say I have grown in my faith. John Knox has taught me that Christ should be the centre of everything, and I will use this mindset as I start this next stage of my life.

Anna Zantingh



JKCS is an amazing Christian school that has helped me grow in my faith and learn a lot about God.. This past year, the school's theme was about being God's masterpiece. Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he has planned for us long ago." This has helped me remember that I am made by God and I am here for a purpose. I remember when I came here for a visitation day. Everyone at this school was very welcoming to me, and my sister and I made many new friends. I want to thank all of the teachers I've had over the years and everyone else at this school who has helped me learn many new things and grow in my faith. Leaving JKCS is going to be sad because I have made many great memories with my friends and classmates. Through all of the years I've been in this school, it has been a blessing to me and has helped me grow in my faith in many ways.

Cacey Hulshof

It's been good to be at John Knox because I have made great friendships. There has always been someone to help you and teach you more about God. I liked the teachers in this school because they were always kind to you and always helped you if you asked for something. I also liked how they were willing to supervise all the trips, like our grade 8 trips, and we all really liked that. My favourite memory I have was the soccer tournament because we won the tournament. I liked to play with my teammates, and it was a lot of fun. I learned that I can help others as I was helped here at John Knox Christian School. I can share with others about God as they have shared with me. I am happy that I came to John Knox Christian School.

Kostia Voronko



JKCS has meant a lot to me over the last ten years. I've been able to have fun and learn. But even with all the fun we had, we learned about God and memorized verses like Psalm 23. Also, in Bible class, I was able to learn more about who God is and how He works. I learned to be nice to people even when they're not nice back. Doing jobs like crushing the pizza boxes every Pizza Day has taught me to do work - to help people out and do a job without anyone asking me to do it, even when I didn't get anything out of it. I'll take that kindness into high school and out of school. Also, in my grade 7 & 8 years, I did the technology for the chapels and programs that the school has done, and that has taught me how to use the technology and how to work with others. I've learned to listen to the teacher and do what she asks of me. At the beginning of Grade 8, I really wouldn't do work at school, but over the year, I got better at focusing and getting my work done, especially when I had homework, and I got it done on time. Over the years, I've had a great time at JKCS, and I hope to send my kids there.

Derek Huizinga

