

The Beacon

Spring 2024

All I Need

"He is my song, for He has rescued me. Joy, now He has set me free. Praise, praise to my Father be, My God is all I need".

The children's voices ring clear, soulfully singing the poignant reminder to rely on Christ for strength, peace, and hope. Our theme for 2023/24 is from Ephesians 2:10: *"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

Our students, each uniquely designed with various gifts and abilities, have good works to do for God's glory. As educators, we know that teaching students literacy, mathematics, science, and history will help prepare them for the days ahead. But God's plan for them, and the good work he has prepared for each child, reaches beyond mastering academic skills.

Our school choir song for spring, *My God is All I Need*, reminds us of our more important job: guiding children toward the Lord and teaching them to rely on God for all their needs as they go forth to do the work that God has prepared in advance for them to do.



Pray

Please pray for our students, teachers & families.

Give

Please consider making a donation or supporting the school through our fundraisers.

Volunteer

We have many volunteer opportunities, from reading with children to serving and preparing food for fundraisers. Please contact the school if you'd like to volunteer!



We Are His Workmanship: Spotlight on Science



Engineers in Grade Three

Enthusiastic third-graders, equipped with popsicle sticks, cardboard and glue, collaborated with classmates to create bridges. The culminating task of their science engineering unit inspired students to build a structure for a specific purpose. The thematic statement from our curriculum provides a framework for teaching this unit from a Christian perspective: "As God's image bearers, he entrusts us with complex and creative minds to ponder possibilities, and to develop our marvelous designs for building. He commands us to construct with care in order to protect and respect our neighbours everywhere. God allows us to delight in our discoveries, to marvel in our amazing structures, as well as in all of our accomplishments. We must, however, be cautious not to boast in our own endeavours, but to acknowledge God in all things, and to give him the glory." (*God Made Us to Be Engineers: OACS, p. 2*)

God designed and built children with creativity, energy and brilliant minds; we give Him the glory!



Grade 2 students participate in a hands-on demonstration of pulleys in their simple machines science unit.

Growing Readers at JKCS

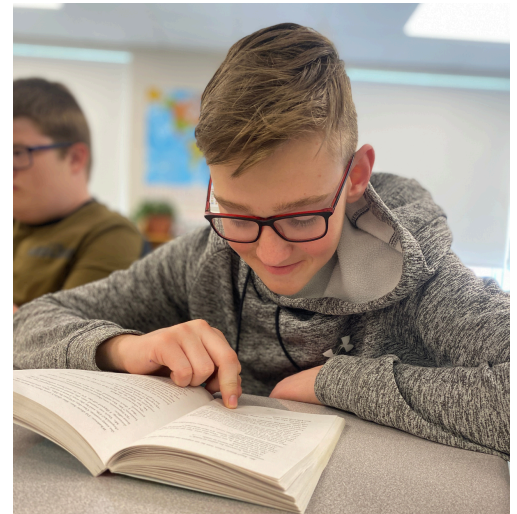


Reading

Reading is a lifelong skill, and the foundation for literacy is laid in the elementary school. Reading instruction at John Knox aligns with the Science of Reading research and Scarborough's reading rope. Students in JK-grade 2 engage in focused phonics lessons, including letter sound and spelling pattern review, rhyming, decoding, and sight word recognition.

We are grateful for volunteers who practice reading skills with our younger students, and who help select leveled reading books for at-home practice.

Throughout the grades, students build reading skills and language comprehension through background knowledge, vocabulary, literacy knowledge, and verbal reasoning. Most of all, we encourage students to grow in their love for reading through library visits, reading buddies, and time to enjoy reading independently.



Literature Circles

Students in grade 8 are exploring the theme of prejudice in literature class. Small groups have chosen a novel study from a curated list of books. Students will experience a new novel and develop vocabulary, writing and comprehension skills. Beyond that, our goal for the senior class is to become more aware of what prejudice looks like and what our Christian response should be.



Fourth-grade readers in the library



Art Club

Makayla Wilpstra, grade 12 student at Providence Reformed Collegiate and JKCS alum, is enjoying a co-op placement in KinderStart. Helping students with their daily work, preparing lesson materials, and aiding in recess supervision are some of Makayla's daily tasks. A gifted watercolour artist, Makayla has started an Art Club for our senior students, "Being able to share my love for art and seeing their creativity grow has been such a blessing!" We are grateful for the gifts she shares with our school community.

Vouchers

Vouchers are available in the JKCS lobby from 1:30-2:30 each Thursday. JKCS supporters can buy gift cards to Foodland, Superstore, No Frills, Independent, and Tim Horton's. A percentage of each gift card sale goes to the school, and some of that can be earmarked for tuition.



Sing Along!

A weekly highlight in our KinderStart room is a visit from Mrs. Deelstra! The acoustic guitar and tiny voices of praise ring through the school! Students love to sing, "For We Are His Masterpiece" by Slugs and Bugs, and "Don't Forget to Remember" by Ellie Holcomb.



A grade 1 student enjoys reading a Dr. Seuss classic.