



WINTER 2024

# THE BEACON

John Knox Christian School, Wyoming



## THANK YOU

With all glory and thankfulness to our heavenly Father, we're pleased to announce that the outstanding balance of our mortgage has been paid off! The Board of Directors, Faith and Mortar Committee, and Finance Committee would like to thank all those who supported this project over the past 6 years. This project has been a wonderful testament to God's faithfulness to His people and His kingdom service work that is done at JKCS. As the school continues to grow, we would like to thank you for your ongoing support of John Knox Christian School.

## From the Principal's Desk

To start off the month of December, the grade six class shared at chapel a presentation of the book *You are Special* by Max Lucado. The play takes place in Wemmickville where the citizens judge each other with dots and stars - dots for mistakes or qualities that are poor, and stars to celebrate successes. The story follows Punchinello, a clumsy downcast Wemmick, who is covered in dots. He meets Lucia who does not have any dots or stars and she points him to Eli the carpenter. In visiting Eli, the master carpenter, Punchinello learns that he is wonderfully made, he is well known, and he is made without mistakes. Eli also reminds the young Wemmick that if he visits Eli everyday that he will be reminded more and more how much the carpenter cares for his creation.



Owen as Eli and  
Gavin as  
Punchinello

This story of Punchinello, the Wemmicks, and Eli, fit beautifully into our learning for our school theme based on Ephesians 2:10. The focus for the month of January is to remind students that as members of a Christian community, the body of Christ, we are each created with a purpose and have a role and responsibility of contributing to that community. How wonderful it is that in our Christian school we can recognize each other as important members of the body of Christ, learning to see ourselves and others as masterfully designed with a purpose.

And if He has redeemed me, I am not my own  
The measure of my worth is His love alone  
He declares my standing, and He declares my state  
So I will know myself by the name He gave.

Verse 3 of "I am Not my Own" by the Gettys



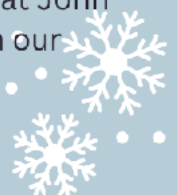
Mrs. Marnie Lisson  
Principal

# January Open House

John Knox Christian School invites all families who are interested in enrolment for the 2024/2025 school year to join us on Wednesday, January 31st for our Open House. We invite you to come for a tour of the building, to visit with classroom teachers, and to see the different elements of our curriculum and programming. Current families with JK/SK aged children are also invited to attend. Children are welcome to visit the KinderStart classroom, complete a craft, enjoy a snack, and meet some new friends! Parents can meet with the teacher and principals to learn more about curriculum, transportation, and tuition.

If you know of a family who may be interested in Christian education at John Knox, please invite them to join us! We have a sign-up available on our school's social media or via email.

January 31: 9 – 12 and 1 – 3





# New JKCS Clubs:

## Battle of the Books and Chess



JKCS is joining the Bluewater Battle of the Books tournament this April! We are sending two teams – a Junior team (for Grades 4-6) and a Senior team (for Grades 7-8). Starting in October, interested students signed up and were given a list of ten books to read. These books are a mixture of contemporary and older novels and aim to cover a large variety of genres. Till April, our teams will meet together regularly to discuss the novels they have read, quiz each other, and practice different tournament rounds of play to prepare for the Battle of the Books tournament day. We wish our teams well on their inaugural "Battle" day!



### Chess Club

The JKCS Chess Club is up and running! Every Tuesday at morning recess about 30 students from grades 2-8 meet to play chess. It is great to see the students helping each other learn how to play!

Thanks to an amazing donation we now have 12 more chess boards to add to the first 5 that were donated. We are so appreciative of donated chess boards!! In November and December, students have been choosing who to play against as many were learning the game and figuring out how each piece moves. In January, and the months to come, we will hopefully have the privilege of welcoming a chess expert to help us out as we prepare for the Bluewater Chess tournament at the beginning of April! We will also be creating our own in-school tournament in the months to come as well, to help us prepare.

Thanks again to all who donated chess boards!



## Student Spotlight : Ben Leystra

One of our grade eight students, Ben Leystra, is going on a mission trip with his grandfather and aunt to Nebaj, Guatemala. Ben will be working with Hospital of Life and Hope which is an organization that provides medical, dental, and optometry care to lower income people. The goal of this trip is to assist with an ongoing building project and establish a foot care clinic.



Ben is looking forward to travelling to another country experiencing the Guatemalan culture and way of life. When asked what he thinks will be the highlight of his trip he said it will likely be playing and interacting with the kids. Please keep Ben and the team in your prayers as he prepares to travel and serve.

Ben is looking to collect the following items to bring with him on his trip:

- empty and clean bigger pill bottles, new or used
- nitrile gloves
- ibuprofen, naproxen (Aleve)
- vitamins
- any expired medical supplies like round small "spot" bandages
- used eyeglasses and reading glasses
- dental supplies and tools
- footcare kits

If you have any of these items to donate, please send them to the school by January 31, 2024.

## VOUCHER ~ GIFTCARDS

The Voucher Program is a gift card purchasing program in which the school can raise money at no cost to yourself. The school purchases gift cards in bulk, and in return the school earns a percentage of the face value of the gift certificates. The school keeps 40% of this revenue and then gives the remainder back to the individual family in the form of a tuition reduction. Anyone in the community can participate in this program.

If every family at John Knox uses the program to purchase their groceries, the savings can accumulate to a significant amount. Remember that your friends and family can also participate in this program, making a bigger impact for the school. In the past years, funds from this program have been given to help purchase a bus, make classroom renovations, and upgrade the sound equipment in the gym.



Vouchers can currently be purchased from Loblaws, No Frills, Superstore (and can be redeemed at the gas bar), Tim Hortons, and Foodland.

If you would like to participate you can visit the voucher committee each Thursday in the school foyer from 1:30- 2:30pm to make an order or you can contact the school office.