



## BUSY BODIES; CARING HEARTS

*by Wilma Harris, Grade 1 Teacher*

Greetings! I would like to share a little snapshot of a couple of things that are happening in Grade One. If I were to give you a detailed outline of a normal day, the article might tire you out; we do A LOT in Grade One! Let me restrict myself to two things: Morning Meetings and our Project Based Learning unit

### Morning Meetings and Project Based Learning

Morning meetings are part of our Responsive Classrooms initiative. We are coming to terms with the fact that education in the 21st century requires a focus on certain skills that may not have been previously emphasized. Students need to be able to collaborate, to analyze, to synthesize, and to evaluate information from diverse information sources. Another aspect of 21st century instruction is the ability to function in community. One resource we are currently using is *The Morning Meeting Book*. The morning meetings structured in this book and now in regular practice in our classroom accomplish the following:

- They set tones for respectful and engaged learning in an environment of trust.
- They build and enhance connections within the classroom.
- They merge academic, social, and emotional learning.
- They give students a sense of significance and belonging.
- They train students through the repetition of many ordinary routines of respectful interaction.
- They are a fun way and memorable way to start the school day.



## Morning Meetings consist of four parts:

1. GREETINGS: Every day begins with a greeting. The children sit along the edge of the carpet and greet the person beside them. Looking that person in the eye, the student says their name and gives a high-five, a hand-shake, a pinky-shake or whatever the greeting is for that week.
2. SHARING: Each child is given the opportunity to bring in a specified item for sharing. They learn to speak clearly and confidently. The listeners are also learning to be engaged with and show respect to the speaker.
3. GROUP ACTIVITY: Though the whole-class activities appear to be just for fun, they actually help the students learn to listen, to follow directions, to exercise self-control, and to develop positive classroom community.
4. MORNING MESSAGE: A message on the board each morning culminates our morning meetings and reinforces our language arts, math and other academic skills. It always features a mystery component that students enjoying figuring out.

Morning meetings have become an integral part of our day, and if for some reason we are not able to have a meeting (e.g. early morning class trip), I get reminded approximately 21 times that we have skipped it!

Have you experienced our annual Project Based Learning Open House? As in the past two years, this March, the community will be invited to come to our *Throughlines in Action: Celebration of Learning* afternoon. This year, each class will focus on one of the school's *throughlines* in our PBL projects. Grade One was asked to highlight the *Servant-Working throughline*.

## Servant-Working: We will serve others in our classroom and in our community.

Our class brainstormed what we could do to help us focus on this throughline, and it was decided that we would partner with Habitat for Humanity to raise funds for enough nails to build one complete new home build. This is easy to say, but did you know it takes about 20,000 nails to build one house?! At five cents per nail, this means raising \$1,000.

Students decided that they could raise this money by doing a host of chores around the house for which they would be paid. This project has them all serving vigorously at home, which parents seem to appreciate. As the money comes in and we constantly adjust our revised goals, we are learning the value of currency and processes for adding and managing money. We are also learning writing and artistic skills through our frequent journal entries relating to the project.

It has been exciting to host two representatives from Habitat for Humanity in our classroom, and we were invited to a Habitat home dedication (which I personally had the chance to help build this past summer!) on December 15. We shared a song at this dedication and got paid for our services. MORE NAILS!

It is so enjoyable to find ways to connect meaningful learning with throughlines which point students to their participation in the kingdom of God. If you would like to donate to our nails project, please contact the school or ask someone from our Grade One class.



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# Building Community

*by Ralph Pot, Principal*

A school is a community. As you leaf through the pages of this Signal publication, I hope that you sense of the breadth and depth of the community our school serves. I have often heard people talk about the Beacon community. What is that? Community is difficult to define, but here are a few attempts.

## *Community at Beacon is:*

- the smiles on the students' faces when they enter
- cheerful teachers greeting students with a smile each day
- the trusted adult working alongside a child who is struggling
- bandaids, Kleenex and ice for the student who fell on the playground
- the primary students at Primary Sing
- the trusted volunteers who lighten the teachers' load and enrich the students' lives
- the Beacon Rewards ladies who efficiently run the gift card program
- the hundreds of people who quietly donate to our worthwhile cause
- supporters faithfully and regularly giving to Beacon decades after their children graduated
- the dedicated board members and committee members who work behind the scenes
- the students who go out of their way to cheer up a student who is having a rough time
- the parents who go out of their way to make new families feel welcome
- the teachers who love the students enough to push them to their best
- those same teachers who love the students enough to know that plans can change
- the stories told about God, His World, and our place in it
- the personal stories told about how God is at work in lives right here, right now
- the support staff who faithfully go about their work and keep this place running
- the teacher praying for students
- the parent who prays for his child's teacher
- Chapel – every Wednesday at 8:45 am
- parents connecting with each other by the playground at the end of each school day
- retired folk who regularly volunteer their time

This list is far from exhaustive. The list could go on and on. If you have any more suggestions, feel free to send them our way.

**It seems that community is created with many, many, seemingly ordinary things that create an extraordinary place. Faithfully, day by day, community has been, and continues to be created at Beacon Christian School.**





At **BEACON**  
we desire  
**our students**  
to be:

- Community Builders
- God Worshippers
- Justice Seekers
- Servant Workers
- Beauty Creators
- Creation Enjoys
- Earth Keepers
- Idol Discerners
- Image Reflectors
- Order Discoverers



## Korean Winter Camp @ BCS

*by Rachel Thiessen, Parent*

Our family was delighted to host two wonderful Korean students through the Winter Camp program. Gabriel and Raphael were brothers that shared the adventure of coming to Canada for an experience in a Christian English speaking school and home. For our family, this was also an adventure as we have never done something like this. How amazing!!! Not only did we gain two amazing sons, we learned how to share our lives, experiences, and faith with these boys. We gained a new appreciation for the many things we take for granted in our beautiful country: tobogganing, snowball fights, games around the table as a family, talking about our faith, and praying together each night. It can feel intimidating to have strangers in your home, but these kids are on an adventure and sleeping in a home of a stranger too.

We enjoyed our time and will be forever changed by this experience. We recommend taking four weeks of your life to host a child from another culture and speak into their lives, as they will most certainly speak into yours. Our kids enjoyed it so much; they are ready to jump on a plane to Korea to do the same!



# BEACON BY THE NUMBERS

by Ralph Pot, Principal

## Today:

- Number of Beacon Preschool students – **26**
- Number of JK - 8 students – **238**
- Number of families enrolled at Beacon JK-8 – **123**
- Amount of debt paid off in the last five years – over **\$2.6 million**
- Amount owing to the CRC Extension Fund – **\$2,356,000**
- Percentage of students receiving support from our Student Support Services Department – **12%**
- **Annual fundraising totals in Fall of 2017** (September 1 - December 31)
  - Golf Tournament – **\$27,252**
  - Applefest – **\$21,941**
  - Phone Drive – **\$97,462**
  - Beacon Rewards (gift cards) – **\$8,603**
  - Donations – **\$56,296**
  - Other – **\$35,000**
  - Capital – **\$45,000**
- Church congregations represented amongst present students – **32**
- Number of families receiving support from the Beacon Bursary – **24**
- Total Bursary Support Given to Beacon families annually – **\$100,000**
- Favourite number of Principal – **7**
- Donation receipts to be issued for 2017 – **471**
- Number of years Christian education has been available at 300 Scott Street in St. Catharines – **59**

## That means 2018-2019 is our 60th Anniversary!

Thank you Beacon Community for your ongoing support!

Stay tuned for 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration information.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Canada ceased the distribution of pennies as of February 4, 2013.

However, Beacon's Penny Ladies continued to work hard collecting pennies for Beacon until December 2017. The last cheque for \$495.55 was just given to Beacon by one of the last Penny Ladies, Mrs. Grace Bowman. THANK YOU to all who contributed to this Beacon fundraiser over the years and we especially thank all the Penny Ladies for the thousands of dollars they've raised for Christian education!



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MATT 5:16

# GRADE 6 LUNDY'S LANE MUSEUM TRIP



# GRADE 7 PBL PROJECTS in the works

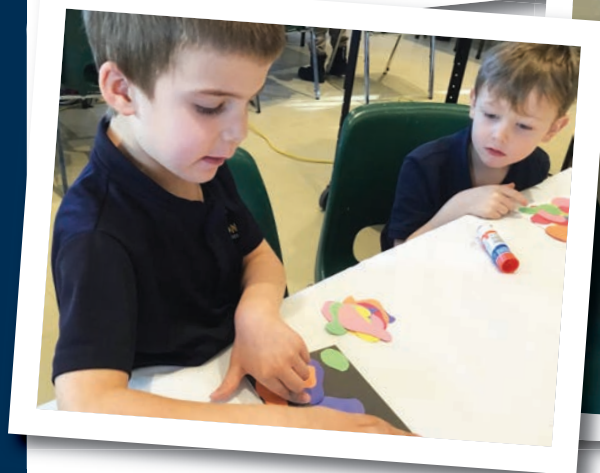


# SENIOR KINDERGARTEN CHECK-IN

by Mrs. Bootsma & Mrs. Wensink, SK Teachers

The senior kindergarten classes recently asked the question, "How can we use colour to create beauty?" To launch our study, we visited the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre in Niagara-on-the-Lake. While we were there, we learned about the colour wheel, and we were introduced to the art of Lee Krasner. Our instructor let us produce colourful abstract art pieces in the style of Krasner.

We had a wonderful time and we are now learning about how other famous artists used colour to produce beauty and invoke different emotions in the viewer. Come to our *Throughlines in Action: Celebration of Learning* art gallery on March 7 from 1 to 3 pm to see our final products!



# MEET THE TEACHER!

Mrs. Elizabeth Schultz – JK



I am thrilled to be one of the new faces you may have seen around Beacon this year! The following is a bit of my journey and how I came to be at Beacon.

I was born and raised for the first nine years of my life in a rural town in Virginia. That's right, I'm American, but the longest I have ever lived anywhere is in Niagara Falls, Ontario – for the past 12 years. When I was ten, my parents became missionaries and we spent seven years in Indonesia, where I graduated high school. After getting my education degree, I moved to Colorado and spent four years (two in Breckenridge and two in Denver) teaching grades 1 & 2. I loved living in the mountains and enjoyed spending my free time snowboarding, mountain biking and hiking.

My move to Niagara became imminent when I met Scott, a Niagara local, in the summer of '02. The long distance relationship thing got really old after a year, so I got a teaching job in Buffalo to be closer. We were married in '04 and are blessed to have two children who attend Beacon (Allie in Grade 5 and Josiah in SK).

In 2011, I started a preschool program at Central Community Church which I ran for six years. I always knew I wanted to return to teaching at some point, but wasn't sure of God's timing. My dream was always to teach at the school that my kids attended so I was very excited when the JK teaching position became available in the spring. I was blessed to be hired and love teaching JK at Beacon!

# LEARNING IN Mrs. Schultz' JK CLASS



# BEACON SPORTS REPORT







# SNOW MUCH TO LOVE AT BEACON CHRISTIAN



BEACONCHRISTIAN.CA

# 20/20 VISION

The Board of Directors that oversee Beacon Christian School recently worked through a strategic planning process with Ray Hendriks, Executive Director of the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools. The following Vision for Learning summarizes what our school's Board has committed to as we move forward as Beacon Christian School.

## Beacon Christian School will be a school known as:

### Distinctively Christian

First and foremost, Beacon is a school that acknowledges that Jesus Christ is Lord of all things. Jesus is Lord of the ten *throughlines* that suggest what it means to be a follower of Christ in every area of life. Jesus is at the centre of our weekly chapels and daily devotions. Christ-like principles and practices will guide our teaching, learning, and all relationships at school.

### Equipping. Engaging. Excelling.

Beacon trains its students to be lights in today's world, equipping our children with a highly academic, excellent education. Beacon is committed to educating the whole child, fully aware that educational research proves time and again that a well-rounded program, rich in the arts, serves all students well.

### A Community of Belonging

We recognize the diversity that exists amongst God's children. We desire Beacon to be a school for all, realizing that each child that comes through our doors is a unique creation of the one true God — made in His image — regardless of ability, ethnic background, or socio-economic status.

# BEYOND BEACON

## Hey...didn't Beacon used to have a secondary school?

- 50-60% of Beacon's graduates move on to independent Christian secondary schools in Niagara.
- A bus departs Beacon Christian School at 8:00 am each school day and transports students from NOTL, St. Catharines, Jordan, and Vineland to Smithville Christian High each day. The bus returns to Beacon by 4:00 pm.
- The former Beacon Secondary building is presently rented by a private international secondary school called Niagara Falls Collegiate Institute. They have signed a multi-year lease and will be occupying the building for the next number of years.

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# BEACON NEWS



## THE WIZARD OF OZ MUSICAL



Coming to a Gymnasium near you - May 2018

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### MOM2MOM SALE

Saturday, March 3rd  
9 am - 12 pm

#### THROUGHLINES IN ACTION: CELEBRATION OF LEARNING EXHIBIT

March 7, 2018  
1 pm to 3 pm

#### SPRING AUCTION

Saturday, April 14th, 2018  
Doors open @ 6:30 pm

#### GRANDPARENTS/ GRANDFRIENDS' DAY

Friday, May 4th, 2018

#### THE WIZARD OF OZ MUSICAL

First week of May 2018  
Details to follow



### Beacon Christian PRESCHOOL

Register NOW for our  
2, 3, or 5 day programs  
starting in September 2018  
Programs run from  
8:30-11:30 am and  
include a nutritious snack!

To register contact: Darlene Teeuwesen  
[advancement@beaconchristian.org](mailto:advancement@beaconchristian.org)



To request a confidential appointment:  
Henry Koornneef, CFP, CPCA -  
email [hkoornneef@christianschoolfoundation.ca](mailto:hkoornneef@christianschoolfoundation.ca)



For more information about  
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visit [www.CSservices.ca](http://www.CSservices.ca)

For a confidential appointment with  
Marinus Koole - [marinusk@CSservices.ca](mailto:marinusk@CSservices.ca)

# #LetYOUR Light SHINE!

[beaconchristian.org](http://beaconchristian.org) MATT 5:16

What a joy it is to know the incredible community of support that surrounds and upholds Beacon Christian School! Every prayer, gift and sacrifice, whether small or large, is vitally important. Thank you for your commitment as you invest in the exciting vision of Christian education here at Beacon.

**DONOR CARD**



300 Scott Street, St. Catharines, ON L2N 1J3  
 Phone: 905.937.7411 Email: finance@beaconchristian.org  
 Please make cheques payable to: **BEACON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

I/we \_\_\_\_\_

hereby donate the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

to **BEACON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL** payable as follows:

- A one time gift is enclosed. Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Monthly Pre-authorized Giving. Please attach a VOID cheque:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Payments will be withdrawn on the 15th day of the month  
 starting \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ until \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

**Please use my gift for the following:**

- Beacon General Fund
- Beacon Bursary (Tuition Assistance)
- Debt Reduction/Capital

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Receipts for income tax purposes will be issued for all funds received up to and including December 31 of each year, in accordance with current Revenue Canada tax regulations.



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