



## Beacon's Celebration of Learning

### Hydraulics, Planets, and Structures: How are they all related?

*by Hannah Woodland, Grade 7 Student*

On Thursday, March 9, the Celebration of Learning took place at Beacon Christian School. This event was an opportunity for the teachers, students, and community to learn something together. Every year, our celebration is focused on a different subject. Last year, we focused on health; this year, our focus was on science. As a result of changing the focus each year, the projects are always very unique.

This year, each class had something to share that was completely different from the others. Using the science behind building structures, Grades 1 and 2 designed a bench that is called the "Buddy Bench." If someone has nobody to play with, they would sit on the bench. The other children would hopefully notice the child on the bench and go invite him/her to play. In partners/groups, Grades 3 and 6 studied the planets and presented it in a creative way. Grade 4 shared with everyone what they had learned about snapping turtles by displaying models, information, and pictures about them. Grade 5 explored structures by making them out of straws and testing their strengths. Grade 7 made hydraulic devices with fluid power in order to have their device pick up a block, move it and put it down as many times as they could in a given time period. Grade 8 made an entire room into a model of the cell. They also had information about each part of the cell. This information could be accessed with the help of the iPads and QR codes.

All of the students worked very hard on their projects, and their presentations reflected great understanding of the various topics. Did all students enjoy it? This question was posed to the grade seven class. Out of the 27 students, 83% of students said that they either really enjoyed or enjoyed the process. When they were asked about their favourite part, the main responses were seeing the other projects and making the hydraulic device.

This event was not only a fun opportunity to see what everyone learned in science, but it also was a good learning experience for students. "I think that the work produced has great value for the students. They learn to produce and explain something, and they are also provided with an opportunity to show off and produce great work!" said Mr. Kok, Vice Principal and Grade 8 teacher.



# Reproducing the Cell

by Claire Buys, Grade 8 student

Trying to put together and present to others a visual representation of the cell is harder than you might think. It was one of the best projects our class did this year. Although it took lots of effort, time and patience, it was definitely worth it.

Cells are made up of specialized structures called organelles; organelles support the function of the cell. Our first step to creating the illustration of a cell was deciding on which organelle we each wanted to research and create. We voted on our choices, and we were put into pairs. We began our organelle research and eventually compiled all of the information into paragraphs. We shared this information by recording it in a video so that guests to our "cell" could easily take an iPad, scan a QR code and watch the short clip of information. We also typed out and eventually mounted even more information on black poster board near the organelle. Our last bit of information would be labeled onto the organelle itself.

After having compiling the information, we needed to begin brainstorming how we would present and show off the final product. A couple of ideas came to mind. Creating a room-sized display of the cell was one idea. Creating some sort of mobile presentation of the cell was another possibility.

"Have you ever given orders to the vacuole, or shown the mitochondria its place?"

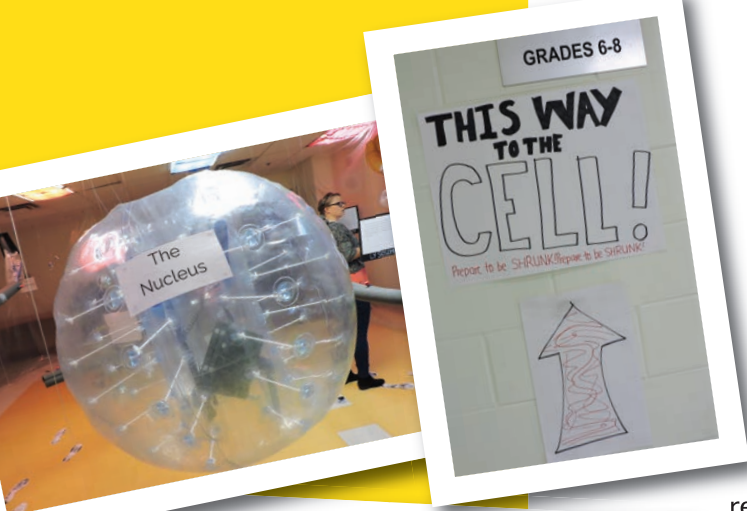
Although we had considered other options as well, we decided that the best option would be to create a room-sized display of the amazing cell. People would be able to walk around and observe the amazing cell within a room. How exciting! Our next decision to make was concerning the size of room that would work. This all took time.

We got together regularly with our partners and came up with all the materials that were essential for us to use to create our organelle. After deciding what we needed, we went on a class trip to Home Hardware and purchased our supplies and materials. We were then ready for the real fun to begin!

At this point, we started to create our organelles, a part of the process which took some time. Once each organelle of the cell was completed, we needed to decide what the entire room or cell would look like. We also needed a fascinating way for people to enter into the cell. We decided to set up a small space where people would, through the use a strobe light, "shrink" before they entered. The sound effects and lighting weren't all of the younger kids' favourite part of the adventure, yet this certainly added a fun aspect to the experience.

Once everyone was in the cell, they were given iPads so that they could scan the QR codes that were linked to the videos filled with information. Our guests ventured through the entire room, looking at and learning about each organelle of the cell.

Upon completing their journey through the cell, visitors "returned to their normal size." We knew by the looks on everyone's faces that they all loved the adventure! For our class, it was a thrilling project to put together, and our viewers were astounded with what they saw and learned. We believe that we gave everyone a breath-taking experience of God's amazing cell!



# Principal's Report

by Ralph Pot, Principal

I remember travelling to St. Catharines with my mom when I was nine years old in the summer of '82. It was near the end of the summer, and my mom was taking me on my annual August shopping trip. I hated shopping, but this particular trip was even more memorable/unbearable because of who we met in the big city. We stepped out of Bargain Harold's with my new wardrobe for the year ahead in hand, and my mom spotted my grade three teacher. For nine-year-old me, there could not be a more terrible situation. Shopping, my mom, and my teacher -all in one place, and there was nowhere for me to hide.

I do not remember much of my mom and teacher's conversation, or if I contributed anything to it. I do recall being amazed by the fact that my teacher was present somewhere other than school. What was she doing out in public? Shouldn't she be reading something in the staffroom at school?

Since that time, mostly because of my chosen profession, I have realized that teachers are people. They have lives outside of school. They come from families. They laugh, and they cry. They have personalities. They can be fun and happy as well as sad or angry. They eat, and they even go shopping. In short, teachers are a lot like the rest of us; they just find themselves as the topic of more dinnertime conversations than your typical plumber, lawyer, farmer or accountant.

Beacon is blessed with a wonderful teaching staff, and contrary to what some of our students might say or think, I am pretty sure they are all human. There is a wide range of ages, experience, interests, personality types and abilities on our staff. There are no two staff members alike.

Yet, with all their differences, the staff all have at least three things in common. Every staff member has an expressed and sincere faith in Jesus Christ. They love Jesus. Every staff member enjoys what they do (most of the time). They love teaching. Every staff member desires to have an impact on students' lives. They love kids.

## *Love Jesus – love teaching – love kids.*

As you think about Beacon Christian School when you leaf through this issue of *The Signal*, I request that you say a prayer for our teaching staff. We ask a lot of them over the course of a school year, and your prayers of encouragement as we begin a new year in September are important and make a difference.

In September 2017, over 200 image bearers will be walking or wheeling into our school.

As a school, we have been on a positive growth curve for the last number of years, and we are excited about the growing enthusiasm for quality Christian education that we see around us in Niagara.

Most families that find their way through Beacon's doors do so because of a positive recommendation from another person. The "word-of-mouth referral" is, by far, our best advertisement. We are thankful for the trust that you have in us as staff and administration. Keep spreading the word. We can always take a few more.

***See you at the mall in August!***



## Beacon Christian Preschool

has limited openings  
for September 2017.

All programs run from  
8:30-11:30 am and  
include a nutritious snack  
for your child!

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our great options:

**2 MORNING PROGRAM**  
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\$135 per month

**2 MORNING PROGRAM**  
(Tuesday & Friday)

\$135 per month

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(Add Wednesday to one of  
the programs above)

Additional \$70 per month

**For more information  
or a Registration Package  
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advancement@  
beaconchristian.org

# Grandparents' Day Reflections

by Grade 3

I liked that they could see us sing in the Jungle Book ~ *Cohen*

My grandparents love me, gave me candy  
and they make me laugh! ~ *Adriana*

I liked seeing other grandparents ~ *Daniel*

I'm happy that my Beppe could make it ~ *Claire*

I liked that they came! ~ *Aaron*

Most of all they love us and we love them too! ~ *Emily*

It was nice meeting my friends' grandparents ~ *Kailyn*

It was so fun and amazing and we got to  
see our Grandparents having fun! ~ *Seth*

The sad part was that they didn't stay all day! ~ *Chace*

I liked doing activities with them and

I liked it because they came ~ *David*

I liked Grandparents' Day because it was fun  
and my Grandma came ~ *Scott*

I liked giving gifts to our grandparents ~ *Alexa*

I liked spending time with my grandparents ~ *Elyse*

I liked it when they could see us sing in the Jungle Book ~ *Ben*

I liked showing my grandparents my art and giving them  
things when they left my classroom ~ *Bekah*



# Where it all began...

by Ralph Pot, Principal

*It was 1951...*

That was the year the idea of a distinctively Christian school in St. Catharines was first discussed at this location. A group of parents from Maranatha Christian Reformed Church decided to organize a school that readily combined the fourth "R" – Religion, with the other three R's of the day: Readin', Riting, and 'Rithmetic.

It took eight years for this to come into reality, but in 1959, this school, called Calvin Memorial Christian School at the time, officially opened its doors. In a St. Catharines Standard article from 1959, the secretary of this school's Board is quoted, "Our school is non-denominational, and its constitution is not connected with any church. We invite parents of any Christian faith who like their children to be taught the fourth "R" (religion), to register their children at our school."

Beacon has its roots in the reformed branch of Christianity, specifically among Dutch immigrants to the Niagara area. My own family shares in this larger story, as my parents immigrated from the Netherlands and eventually settled in the Niagara area. Many families at Beacon share in that immigrant story.

Recently, all of the students at Beacon were invited to fill out a brief survey. The students needed to list their country of birth, as well as the countries of birth of their parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents – if they could reasonably be determined.

In 1959, it was probably safe to say that this would have been a small list of countries. For my own children, the list only includes four countries: Canada, the United States, the Netherlands, and Germany. (Although there is some dispute about Germany; every family has its interesting stories.) I am sure that there are many present-day families at Beacon that have similar lists.

Today, in 2017, we celebrate a growing diversity at Beacon. There are still names and families that have multi-generational roots at Beacon – Teeuwsen, Dykstra, Hoogendam, Vahrmeyer – to name a few, yet we now also see names like Jeong, Ogunkeye, Elnazir, and Chiew!

At the time of this writing, it is Pentecost Sunday, the time when we recall God's Spirit at work in those early followers of Christ. They came as Parthians, Medes and Elamites, residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene. There were visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), as well as Cretans and Arabs. We hear all of them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues! (Acts 2:9-11)

It is a privilege to work at a school that is built on this idea of grand vision of Pentecost. We strive to be a school that is centered on the wonders of God through Jesus Christ -not on a particular denominational understanding of Christ nor a particular ethnicity but on the name of Jesus Christ. May we always let His light shine.

*Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.*

Philippians 2:9-11



If you are curious... here is the list of countries represented amongst our students and their families today. Let us know if we are missing one!

Argentina | Austria  
Brazil | Cambodia  
Canada | China  
Dominican Republic  
Egypt | England  
Eritrea | France  
Germany | Greece  
Haiti | Hong Kong  
India | Indonesia  
Iraq | Ireland  
Italy | Jamaica  
Kazakhstan | Lebanon  
Malaysia | Netherlands  
Nigeria | Paraguay  
Poland | Portugal  
Russia | Saudi Arabia  
Scotland | South Korea  
Spain | Sudan  
Sweden | Trinidad  
Ukraine | United States  
Vietnam

**#LetYOURLightSHINE!**  
beaconchristian.org MATT 5:16

# Congratulations Beacon Boys Basketball 2017 NDCS CHAMPS!



The 2017 Beacon Boys' Basketball team competed in the Niagara District Christian Schools Basketball Tournament. This tournament has been held every year since 1996. Beacon competes in soccer, volleyball, basketball, hockey, softball and track and field against other Niagara area Christian schools and has won many pennants over the years. But Beacon has not won the boys basketball tournament since 1999.

**That is, until Saturday,  
February 25, 2017.**

Our boys basketball team put in a dominating performance - they hustled, they defended, they played confidently, but unselfishly...in short, they put on a clinic of team basketball. They were a joy to coach.

## BEACON SPORTS REPORT TRACK & FIELD 2017

#LetYOUR  
Light  
SHINE!

beaconchristian.org MATT 5:16



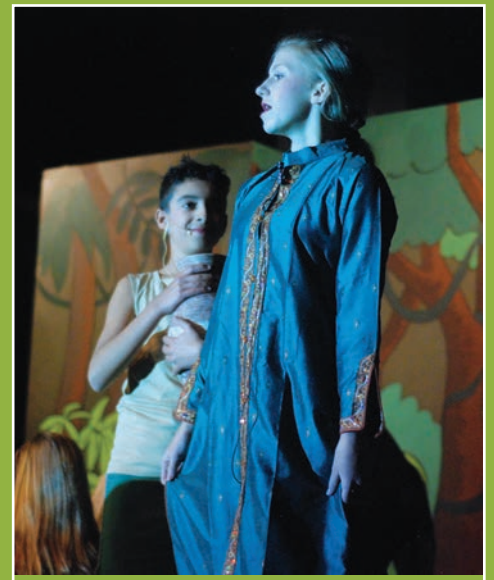


**GREAT EFFORTS  
STUDENTS!**

# the Jungle Book Musical







# GRADE 1&2

@HEARTLAND FOREST

# MEET THE TEACHER

Mrs. Kara Morris – Grade 2



Hello! Most of you know me as Mrs. Morris, but I'm commonly known as Kara. I have been working at Beacon for two years in a variety of roles; in the 2017/2018 school year, I will be teaching Grade 2. I started out my own education in two different Christian elementary schools, followed by four years of being homeschooled. I later attended public high school and Redeemer University College. I have been

happily married to my husband Kevin for three years. We met when I while I was attending Redeemer, and he was attending Mohawk College. God played a huge role in our love story. Ask me about it sometime! I come from a family of six; I have two brothers and a sister. My sister was recently married; I now feel as if I have three brothers. My parents are both God-fearing, heartfelt believers. As a pastor and father, my dad has been my role model and introduced me to the love of stories.

I love to tell stories. If you had a student in my class in the last two years, they may have told you a story that I have told them. In essence, I love to put what I know into a story, and I learned this from the greatest storyteller of all times, Jesus Christ. Jesus loved to tell stories to his followers to help create a deeper understanding of what it means to be a follower of Christ. In turn, I try to create a deeper understanding for my students of what Jesus was telling us. We know that all people learn differently, and yet many of us have the tendency to remember things that are in the story form. I try to tell a story each day as a way for kids to understand how much Jesus loves them; hopefully, they will remember some or all of these stories to shape their own. Did you know each one of your children is a natural born story teller? I love to listen to their stories and teach them about the Master Storyteller.



# MEET THE TEACHER

Mr. Jeff Brooks – Grade 4



Photo by Alastair Macpherson — Lake Ontario

As a young boy, I dreamed of riding waves and becoming a surfer. I have to admit, this was a bit of an odd dream coming from someone who lived in land-locked southern Alberta. However, when I was 16 years old, I had the opportunity to visit Hawaii with my high school concert band. It was on that trip where my dream was finally realized. During my time in Hawaii, I ended up taking a surf lesson on Waikiki beach. On the first wave I was pushed into, I stood up and rode the wave all the way to the sand! I still remember that exciting moment, and I also remember telling myself that this was something I wanted to do for the rest of my life.

Once I was bitten with the “surfing bug,” I took any and every opportunity to surf. I spent two summers working as a surf instructor in Tofino, British Columbia, and I even got the chance to volunteer at a Christian surf camp called Walking on Water, in California.

During my university years, I discovered that I didn’t need to head to the Pacific Ocean to surf; I learned I could surf on never-ending stationary waves in Alberta’s glacier fed rivers.

After I made my big move to Ontario, I found a new surfing arena on the Great Lakes. Most people probably don’t realize this, but the Great Lakes can produce amazing surf waves that can range from 2-20 feet tall. As of now, I have only surfed three of the five Great Lakes Lake Erie, Lake Huron and Lake Ontario. However, I look forward to surfing Lake Michigan and Lake Superior in the near future.

One of my favourite things about the sport of surfing is that it has given me the opportunity to meet new people and to see and experience God’s beautiful creation all over the world! When I am out in the water surfing, I am often thanking God for his many blessings one of which being surfing.

Below: Getting to represent the Great Lake surf community at the Canadian Surfing Championships.

Photo by: Jordan Fritz



“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.”

Romans 1:20

# GRADE 3 PIONEER DAY



# Beacon's 2017 SK Graduates



Juliana



Jordyn



Stacy



Parker



Tyler



Mason



Aria



Nathan



Vanessa



Luke



Jacob



Zoe



Claire



Carson



Asher



Braylon



Maya



Sawyer



Claire



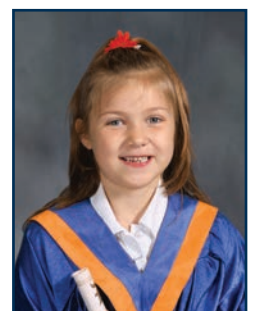
Isaac



Lena



Isabella

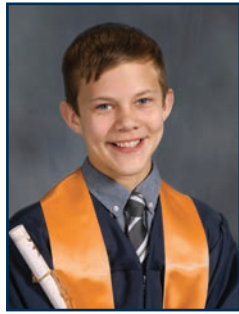


Ava

# Beacon's 2017 Grade 8 Graduates



Matthew



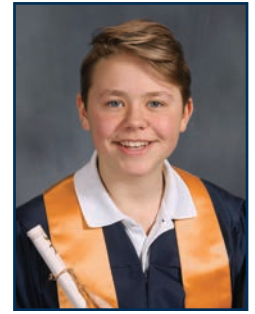
Nathaniel



Claire



Karysa



Kyle



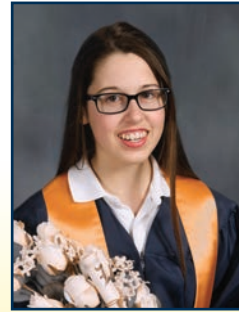
Finhas



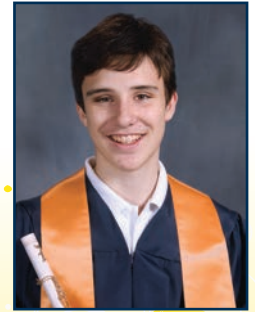
Jack



Tom



Esther



Kyle



Sophia



Alexandra



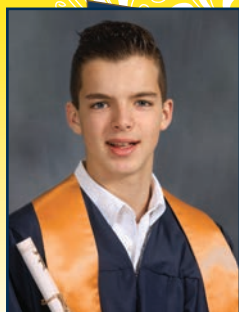
Joseph



Jacob



Nico



Nathaniel

This June, we honour our kindergarten and grade eight classes with graduation services. Our kindergarten students are ready to accept the responsibilities and challenges of the primary grades next year at Beacon Christian School and our grade eight students will be accepting new challenges in high school.

***God bless our graduates!***

# GRADE 5 FT. GEORGE



# CHRISTIAN SCHOOL FOUNDATION REPORT

By Tony Kamphuis

Executive Director, Christian School Foundation

Some years ago...you decided to remember in your will the Christian school your grandchildren attend. A few years later, the family moved, and your grandchildren now attend a different Christian school.

Changing your will is expensive and time consuming. Is there any way the Christian School Foundation could help avoid this challenge? YES!

There are two good reasons why you should consider working through the Christian School Foundation if you decide to bless your local Christian school with a bequest in your will.

If you name the Christian School Foundation in your will – and then complete a Gift Direction Form at the Foundation, you can decide which schools you want to bless. You can indicate how you would like the school to make use of your gift.

## HOW IS THIS HELPFUL?

First, if something changes in a couple of years, as in the example described above, you can simply make changes to your Gift Direction Form to accommodate the new situation. Are there different schools you'd like to support? Has the school developed a wonderful approach to professional development or a way to support students with special needs? Perhaps the band program has caught your interest. You could make a change to your Gift Direction Form to support a new initiative if that is your preference. Thankfully, you wouldn't need to worry about the expense or inconvenience of having to reopen your will.

The second reason to consider this approach concerns maintaining a level of privacy. Many people are unaware that every person or organization named as a beneficiary in a will receives a full copy of the will – and a complete accounting of the estate assets. That means the school leadership, or whoever is the treasurer of your local school at that time, will see how much is left to other individuals and organizations. If the gift for your local school is directed through the Foundation, the schools will simply receive notification that they have been named as a gift recipient, the amount of the gift, and what that gift is intended to support, but they won't see the other details that relate to others.

We want to see lots of people remember Christian schools in their estate planning. Making use of the Christian School Foundation can mean that their giving is more flexible in case situations change. It also means the donor can feel good about supporting the school while maintaining a comfortable level of privacy. At the Christian School Foundation, we connect the passion of donors to the excellent initiatives at our Christian schools.



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

# BEACON NEWS



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### REWARDS SUMMER PICKUP DATE

Arrive @ VandenDool Jewellers on Tuesday, August 1st @ 1:00 pm  
Please patiently pick them up anytime after this. Thank you!

### PRESCHOOL "MEET THE TEACHER"

Monday, August 26th, 2017  
5:00 - 6:30 pm

### SUMMER OPEN HOUSE

Monday, August 26th, 2017  
6:00 - 8:00 pm

### NEW PARENT ORIENTATION EVENING

Wednesday, August 30th, 2017  
7:30 pm in the Library

### BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ

Friday, September 8th, 2017  
6:00 pm ~ Details to follow

### BEACON GOLF CLASSIC

Saturday, September 9th, 2017  
Save-the-Date!

### APPLEFEST

Saturday, September 30th, 2017  
Save-the-Date and consider how your family can volunteer!

## BEACON'S MUSIC SCHOOL

Offers in-school lessons in voice, piano, guitar and violin. Classes start in September. For more information, please contact the school in September.



## Celebrating with the Rankin Cancer Run! \$1,000,000 raised in a single day...AGAIN!!!

Grateful Beacon could be part of this awesome community event to raise funds for cancer care in Niagara! Beacon placed 4th out of 56 schools for highest fundraising and Sarah Denee's artwork was featured on the Rankin Run T-shirts! Awesome job everyone!



## 5,460 Pounds of Food Collected!

**Community Care is Thrilled!**  
Awesome results from our Annual Spring Auction Community Care Food Drive. Thanks to our gracious community, our students, Ron Mulder and the Auction Committee for these amazing results!



## Beacon Students meet Mayor Sendzik

Mayor Sendzik and Litter Bug visited Beacon Christian School during Earth Week to thank us for helping to keep our city clean. We shared with him ways we are learning to be better Earth Keepers and learned a little about what St. Catharines' Mayor does.

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.



**#Let YOUR Light SHINE!**  
MATT 5:16  
beaconchristian.org



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