



THE SIGNAL

A PUBLICATION OF BEACON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Growing Intergenerational Relationships

by Heather Wiersma, Grade 7 Teacher

In the month of December in the 2014-2015 school year, my grade seven class was invited to come for a morning to help the residents of Tabor Manor, a local retirement and nursing home, to decorate gingerbread houses. This visit turned into what has become a special relationship between the grade seven students of Beacon and the residents at Tabor Manor. We have continued to visit Tabor regularly; each month, we plan different activities with them. We've planted tomatoes, hosted an egg drop contest, sang together and handed out Christmas cards. Each month is a different experience, and each month, both my students and the residents at Tabor are blessed by the interaction. These visits have now turned into what is called the "Intergenerational Programming" at Tabor.

One thing that is challenging for my students while we visit Tabor is that many of the residents we work with are non-verbal and/or very confused. My students have shared their stories with the residents, but the residents are not all able to reciprocate in the same way. With this potentially creating feelings of awkwardness for my class, I have been amazed at how my students shine as they are challenged out of their comfort zone during our visits.

in-ter-gen-er-a-tion-al

[in-ter-jen-uh-rey-shuh-nl]

adjective:

relating to, involving, or affecting several generations

The experiences that we started in 2014-2015 with Tabor Manor have inspired a variety of thoughts and ideas for me. In the summer of 2015, I had the opportunity to take a course on Project Based Learning at Hamilton Christian High School. During this week-long course, we were challenged to put together a project that we would implement into our teaching for the 2015-2016 school year. Inspired by our experiences with Tabor Manor, I developed a writing project for my students that involved learning about the stories of senior citizens in Niagara and compiling these stories in a book. These stories would be gifted back to those we interviewed and offered to their families.

continued on next page



JUNE 2016

www.beaconchristian.org



Welcome to our Senior Citizen Event

Here's what we'll be doing today
Welcome and Prayer (Sophia Pot)
Introduction to Project
Food and Drinks
Games and Fellowship
Question Period with Senior and Student
More Games (time permitting)
Closing and Prayer (Claire Buys)

Please feel free to have any refreshments or food at any time throughout the event
Thank You So Much For Attending



From Generation to Generation

A compilation of biographies written by the grade 7 students of Beacon Christian School

We began working on this project in April. My students were cautiously excited to choose a senior friend (not a grandparent) and invite them to join us for two separate afternoons. For both afternoons, half of the time was spent interviewing the seniors, and the other half was spent enjoying snacks and playing games. We had a wonderful time together! It was incredible for me to watch my students enjoy time spent with our guests and to learn from them about the experiences of their lives. Food always helps to get grade seven students involved, so that certainly added to the atmosphere! It was a wonderful time of fellowship and growth for all of us.

We have finished our visits, and we have prepared our writings for the book. We had different committees within our class working on various aspects of the book - cover, dedication page, and images and quotes. It slowly came together, and we look forward to seeing the final product. We are thankful to our senior friends for giving up two afternoons to "hang out" with us, and we look forward to blessing them with our finished product.



Reflections

by Ralph Pot, Principal

Yesterday's the past, tomorrow's the future,
but today is a gift.

That's why it is called the present.

- Bil Keane

June inevitably brings about reflections of the past year. It is my hope that this issue of *The Signal* gives you a snapshot of some of the incredible things going on at Beacon Christian. From sporting events, to community fundraisers, to medical research, to intergenerational relationship building; I love the fact that our staff seek opportunities to equip their students to impact our greater community, all in the name of Christ.

In this issue, you will also see the pictures of our most recent kindergarten and Grade 8 graduates. Several of the students in this year's Grade 8 graduation class started their schooling career as JK students in the basement of Maranatha Christian Reformed Church. During the 2006-2007 school year, the school building was under extensive renovations, temporarily relocating Beacon's JK and SK classes to the church basement across the street. In March of 2007, these students moved into the newly renovated kindergarten classrooms at 300 Scott Street. That means there are several graduates who moved through the entire school, JK to Grade 8, in the newly renovated Beacon Christian School. Which also means that none of our present students will describe our school building as new.

The end of a school year also brings about plans for the future. We are excitedly preparing for all the students who will be coming through our doors in September. Each new school year brings about new plans, new opportunities, new staff and new students. For some of us, next year cannot come soon enough!

Throughout the school year, the Board and I have spent considerable time and energy on a renewed vision for Beacon. We are finalizing the steps that need to be taken to realize such a vision. So what are we working towards?...

Characteristics of Beacon Christian School in 2020: An educational institution that is renowned for being

- Distinctively Christian in all aspects
- Modern and research-based
- Inclusive
- Beautiful, well-maintained and modern facilities and grounds
- High standards of professionalism amongst staff and faculty
- A place that is bustling with activity, seven days per week, twelve months of the year
- Debt free
- A school that has moved from "Maintenance" to "Mission"

Sometimes, being reflective about the past or envisioning the future, we can miss the gift right in front of us: the present. It is my hope that as you read these words, you will be encouraged by what our Lord is doing in and through Beacon Christian School – right now. May we be reminded that we serve a God who revealed himself long ago as Yahweh, meaning "I am," who is ever-present. As we go about our work and play this summer, may we rest in His presence and be reminded that each day is a gift.

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

MR. T's ORFFESTRA

The Grade One class
had a great year
perfecting their skills
playing the Orff
Instruments



To hear their performance of
"God is so Good" please go to:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=4fffX0uXmIU&feature=share



The CALIPER Project

by Ralph Pot, Principal

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

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



The CALIPER Project is a world-leading community health initiative run out of McMaster Children's Hospital and SickKids Hospital. The project helps determine what's healthy and normal when a child with a medical concern is screened for a disease. Information from children's blood about normal levels of hormones, vitamins and novel disease biomarkers is obtained from a small sample of blood. Healthy children between birth to 14 years of age can participate in this project.

It's all about KIDS HELPING KIDS!

For more information, visit the website: www.caliperproject.com

Over ninety students of Beacon Christian participated in the CALIPER Project on April 28th of this year. This was the second time that a CALIPER team has come to Beacon. Three years had passed since the first CALIPER team had visited, allowing some students to contribute a second time. A clinic was set up in our multi-purpose room, and students who indicated their consent and their parents' consent participated in this research by donating a small amount of their blood. All participating students were given a small gift as a token of appreciation for their participation.





Beacon Christian Preschool

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." *Mathew 19:14 NIV*

What a wonderful first morning it was to "let your little children come to me" and open the doors to Beacon Christian Preschool! It was beautiful to see the children explore this new environment and to observe children already speaking to and playing with one another during playtime. With each passing moment, I could see the children grow in their comfortability to explore all the areas of the playroom.

During our first morning, we spent some time having a "train tour" of the playroom with stops at all the different stations. We learned about the letter A in our play by pretending to take our stuffed animals to the doctor by ambulance, singing a Farmer Brown apple song, tracing a letter in applesauce, and making apple prints with red paint. We cut open an apple to smell and taste it at the snack table. We learned that apples float in the water table which makes for lots of fun to catch them with scoops! The children heard the story of Adam and Eve, and we spoke about how God created all of us. Some of our time was also spent learning about fire drills and practicing what we are do when one happens. The children said good-bye at the end of our morning together, yet they were ready to return for their next visit when we would explore the letter "B". We are excited to learn together!

*In His service, Ms. Marlena Masselink
Preschool Teacher*

Quote of the day:

"I really like coming to this preschool."



Beacon Christian Preschool

has limited openings
for September 2016.
All programs run from
8:30-11:30 am and
include a nutritious snack
for your child!

Please inquire about one of
our three great options:

2 MORNING PROGRAM
(Monday & Thursday)

\$17.00 per day

3 MORNING PROGRAM
(Tues./Wed./Friday)

\$16.50 per day

5 MORNING PROGRAM
\$16.00 per day

**For more information
or a Registration Package
please contact:**

Darlene Teeuwsen:
advancement@
beaconchristian.org

Christian Education Week

So much to Celebrate...

Open Houses, Parent Lunches,
Beauty Creating Art Shows,
Grandparents/Grandfriends Day!

We set aside a week each year to
celebrate Christian education, but
we are grateful each and every day
for the blessings that
Beacon Christian School provides!

#LetYOUR
Light
SHINE!

beaconchristian.org MAY 5-18





#LetYOURLightSHINE!
beaconchristian.org
MATT 5:16

GREAT EFFORTS TEAM BEACON!



BEACON SPORTS REPORT

TRACK & FIELD 2016



“But those who
hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.”

Isaiah 40:31



GRADE FIVE VISITS FT. GEORGE



GRADE FOUR

Bike Trip to Van Wagners Beach, Hamilton, ON

At the end of May, Mr. Brook's grade four class left the classroom and headed up to Hamilton for a day of Creation Enjoying. The grade four students biked and scooted along the beautiful waterfront trail, and they even had an opportunity to dip their toes into the lake. Despite the intense heat, it was a day enjoyed by all!





EYE ON ALUMNI

Darlene Teeuwesen (nee Miedema)



"I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out – plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for." Jer. 29:11 MSG

Thirty years ago this month, I graduated from Beacon Christian High School. I did not realize it had been thirty years until I sat down to write this article. Wow, how can that be?! Twelve years prior to my high school graduation, I started my journey in Christian education as a very shy student in Miss Koene's Grade 1 class at Calvin Memorial Christian School. Beacon has always been part of my life – a very close part. I grew up on the street beside the school – Bonavem Drive, and I would either walk or hop the fence to get to school. Growing up, the Beacon field was my playground. As time passed, I left the playground for Beacon High School, and during those years, I met my husband Dave!

Our plan always was to send our children to Beacon, and God blessed us with three incredible children: Nick, an Environmental Technician, who was in the last graduating class at Beacon Christian High School; Joel, a fourth year BioMedical student at Brock University, and Lauren, entering Brock University this September in the Public Health Co-op Program.

Even before our kids started school, we started to get involved with Beacon. Volunteering was always an adventure for me, never a hardship. I enjoyed learning many new things about Christian education. Time spent on the Auction Committee, Promotion Committee, Development Committee, Campaign Team and the Beacon Board all led to a growing passion for Christian education, especially as it related to Beacon Christian School. Many relationships started when I met new people through committee work have grown into long-lasting, treasured friendships. The Beacon community became a large extended family to our family.

Never would I have guessed that God would direct my path to work at Beacon. Never would I have imagined that His plans would lead to the role of Advancement Director at Beacon, but I'm glad they did! I missed the Beacon community during the years that followed after our children graduated, and I feel now even more passionate about reaching out and sharing how God is at work in this school. Beacon helped shape our children's lives by partnering with us, and our church, to help them be the strong Christian adults they are today.

Today, Beacon is an even better place than it was when our children attended. Beacon is alive with activity as children learn in new ways. Beacon is also growing as more and more families from over 30 churches partner together in the journey of Christian education. Alive and growing, Beacon continues to thrive as its generous supporting community continues to give! Most importantly, through all this growth and wonderful progress, Beacon has remain steadfast in its firm foundation, the Word of God. He is God of All Things! Praise be to God.

GRADE 3 PIONEER DAY



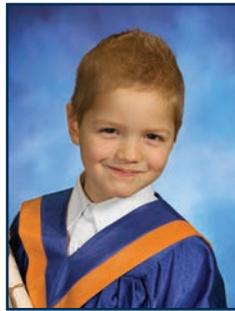
Beacon's 2016 SK Graduates



Gavin



Kenna



Noah M.



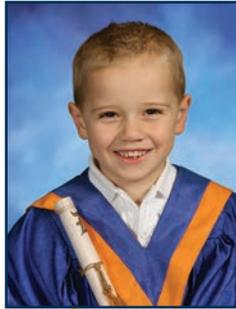
Daniel



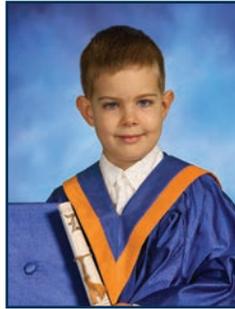
Madison



Avery



Peter



Joshua



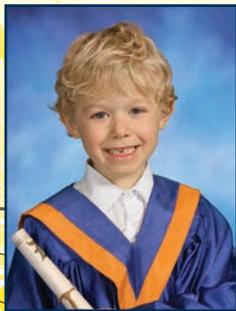
Iain



Job



Carter B.



Carter H.



Marah



Mclean



Kaitlyn



Eliana



Emma



Erin



Sophia

This June, we honour our kindergarten and grade eight class with graduation services. Our kindergarten students are ready to accept the responsibilities and challenges of the primary grades next year at Beacon Christian School!



Mekai



Noah J.



Jacob

Beacon's 2016 Grade 8 Graduates



Alaynah



Ashley



David



Allyson



Katrina



Patrick



Brin



Zion



Leah



Jacob



Ronnie



Paige



Josiah



Meagan



Samuel



Tayah



Connor

Our grade eight students will be accepting new challenges in high school. They are bidding farewell to 300 Scott Street, but we have told them that they are always welcome back for a visit!

May God bless our graduates!



FOUNDATION NEWS



To request a confidential appointment with Henry Koornneef, CFP, CPCA - email hkoornneef@christianschoolfoundation.ca



For more information about Christian Stewardship Services visit www.CSservices.ca.

For a confidential appointment with Marinus Koole - marinusk@CSservices.ca



Would you like to know how to not pay taxes?

Not in some shady, off-shore tax haven but in a way encouraged by our government?

By Marlene Bergsma

Communications Coordinator,
Christian School Foundation

"In Canadian tax law, you must do something for your community (when you die)," said Malcolm Burrows, a philanthropic advisor and charitable gift planner with Scotia Wealth Management, speaking recently to members of the Christian School Foundation board of directors.

As Canadians, we have two choices, Burrows said. "Would you like to give to your favourite charity, or to the government?"

Burrows, who grew up in a family that was heavily involved in church and community volunteering, has become a Canadian expert in charitable giving, and helping others do it well has become his passion and his life's work.

Burrows told the representatives of Foundation member schools and their guests that for the past 20 years, Canadian federal governments of all stripes have embedded similar charitable giving principles in successive tax laws. "I don't think it will be rolled back."

That's why the Beacon Christian School Foundation – part of the Christian School Foundation – is so important. "Most people don't realize" how important good planning can be, Burrows said. "It's a challenge to get the word out."

It's at our death "that the tax savings are the most significant, and you can literally chose not to pay taxes," Burrows said. This is true both for people of extreme wealth and for people of ordinary means, and people who have spent a lifetime giving to charitable causes out of their income pockets have an opportunity, at death, to give out of their asset pockets.

"It is more tax effective to give in Canada than in any other place in the world," Burrows said. "At death, you can eliminate taxes entirely (in many cases) by giving to charity."

To find out more how you can plan to pay no (or less) tax, contact Beacon's representative on the Christian School Foundation board of directors, Sylvan Gerritsma, at toolman@vaxxine.com or visit www.christianschoolfoundation.ca

Photo above: Malcolm Burrows, a philanthropic advisor and charitable gift planner with Scotia Wealth Management, speaking at a meeting of the Christian School Foundation board of directors.



BEACON NEWS



UPCOMING EVENTS:

REWARDS SUMMER PICKUP DATE

Tuesday, July 29th - 1:00 - 4:00pm
at VandenDool Jewellers
Grantham Plaza, St. Catharines

NEW FAMILY ORIENTATION EVENING

Wednesday, August 31st, 2016
7:30 pm in the Library

BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ

Friday, September 9th, 2016
Details to follow

BEACON GOLF CLASSIC

Saturday, September 10th, 2016
Save-the-Date! Details to follow.

APPLEFEST

Saturday, October 1st, 2016
Save-the-Date and consider
how your family can volunteer!

#LetYOUR Light SHINE!

beaconchristian.org MATT 5:16

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!!!

Grateful Beacon could be part of this awesome community event to raise funds for cancer care in Niagara! Beacon placed 7th out of 50 schools for highest fundraising and 2 of our students' artwork was featured on the Rankin Run T-shirts! Awesome job everyone!



4,300 Pounds of Food Collected!

Community Care is Ecstatic!
Awesome results from our Annual Spring Auction Community Care Food Drive. Thanks to our gracious community, our students, Nancy Denbak, and the Auction Committee for these amazing results!



What a joy it is to see 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



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 Phone: 905.937.7411 Email: finance@beaconchristian.org
 Please make cheques payable to: **BEACON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

#LetYOURLightSHINE!
 beaconchristian.org **MAY 5-16**

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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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