



SIGNAL

A PUBLICATION OF BEACON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



Great things are happening @ BEACON!

...and I believe that greater things are in store!

There are many reasons to be optimistic about our school's future; I created a list of ten reasons why the Beacon is bright at 300 Scott Street! The following list doesn't capture everything, but it does give us ten ideas to generate excitement about our school and where it is going.

#10 New Advancement Director - Beacon Christian School recently hired a new Advancement Director. Her name is Teresa Hoogendam. Teresa is a very involved parent, a successful businesswoman, a proud Beacon alumna and a driven leader who makes things happen. We are blessed to have her in the role of Advancement Director to advance the cause of Christian education here at Beacon Christian. She will be devoting her time in three areas: student recruitment, volunteer relations & fundraising.

#9 Christian School Foundation - Inside, you can read about how this foundation with its humble beginnings here in St. Catharines has become a province-wide movement. We have been and will continue to be blessed by the Christian School Foundation.

#8 Music and the Arts - Each year, I am amazed at the music, drama and visual arts that our students have the opportunity to create and perform. Throughout the year, there is beautiful student-created art on display in our halls, and we are still savouring the sweet sounds of the musical Annie Jr. (performed in early May). We look forward to our end of year Music Morning as students use their gifts of music to celebrate!

#7 Preschool - Beacon Christian hopes to launch a preschool during the winter of 2016. Look for more specific details next fall, but the Beacon Preschool is on its way!

continued on next page



SUMMER 2015
www.beaconchristian.org



#6 Throughlines - Our program of study is woven together by ten threads called Throughlines. Throughlines are big-picture ideas and are qualities that we desire students to develop as God is revealed to them in all things. They are discipleship concepts that guide our living. Throughlines answer the question, "How now shall I live?"

#5 21st Century Learning - Communicating, Collaborating, Creating, and perhaps most importantly in a Christian school. Critical thinking are the 4 C's of 21st Century Learning. Faculty continue to explore and implement the best research-based practices in teaching and learning. Students and staff also have the technology available to allow it to happen.

#4 Student Support Services - Beacon's Resource room has been renamed Student Support Services to reflect the wide array of support that students may receive. While at Beacon, supports could include:

- early reading intervention
- numeracy and literacy support
- counselling services
- behavioural support
- a range of therapists and support workers, as arranged through the local Community Care Access Centre

#3 Inclusive Education - Imagine a school where students treat others with respect, dignity, compassion, and empathy. Imagine a school that gives students actual opportunities to do that on a daily basis. Imagine a school where it is accepted, acknowledged and believed that all children are made in the image of God, regardless of ability, ethnic origin, or socio-economic status. We hope to become increasingly more inclusive, and we are making intentional steps with that vision. An important part of this goal includes the broadening and strengthening of our Student Support Services.

#2 Financial Stability - Since August 31, 2011, Beacon Christian School has quietly reduced over \$1.5 million of short term and long term liabilities. How has this been done?

- excellent annual fundraising
- conservative budgeting
- four years in a row of substantial operational surpluses
- generous and anonymous donors

All of this has translated into stable tuition rates for new and existing families and increased opportunities to offer assistance in the form of bursaries to those who need it.

#1 Supportive Community - None of the previous nine illustrations of optimism at Beacon Christian School would be possible without a very supportive community. Thank you for encouraging and supporting our school. We continue to seek your help in the following ways:

- prayer
- words of encouragement
- volunteerism
- financial support

Let Your Light Shine!

by Ralph Pot, Principal

Music @ BEACON

Page through the Book of Psalms, and it won't take you long to come across a myriad of references to music:

"I will sing the praises of the name of the Lord Most High." (Psalm 7:17)

"I will sing and music with all my soul." (Psalm 108:1b)

"Praise Him with the sounding of the trumpet with the strings and the pipe with the clash of cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." (Psalm 150: 3a, 4b, 5, 6a)

"Sing to Him a new song, play skillfully." (Psalm 33:3)

These verses are just a few of the many passages that speak of the importance of music for God's people. At Beacon Christian School, music has long been an important and integral part of the curriculum.

In Grades 1, 2 and 3, students make music on our class set of Orff instruments. With songs chosen in large part from the children's hymnal, *Songs for Life*, and harmonized by the teacher in two, three, or four parts for the Orffs, students simultaneously sing and play of God's grace. However, that's not as easy as it sounds. Quite often, students will spend many of their twice-weekly classes perfecting a song (cf. Psalm 33:3), so they can offer it as a sacrifice of praise at one of Beacon's weekly chapels.

In Grades 3, 4 and 5, students learn to play the recorder. For the past two years, Grade 5 has used some of the school's other recorders – alto, tenor, and a bass – to form a Recorder Consort, playing a variety of music in two and four parts.

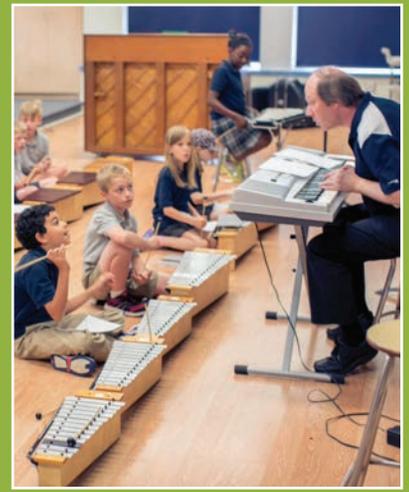
Those three years of recorder provide a solid foundation for students to begin Band in Grade 6. For many years now, the Grade 6 Band year has been divided into four terms. Students will try a different band instrument in each of the first three terms. In the final term, students, in consultation with the teacher, will choose an instrument on which they'll continue in Grades 7 and 8. There is some flexibility to switch instruments in those latter two grades. For a number of years now, the highlight for the Grade 8 Band class has been an end-of-the-year Band-Drama tour to various Christian schools in Ontario.

In addition to rehearsing chorus music for a major school production, class music sessions have also been devoted to the study of composers and the discernment of quality in musical works. Students in the junior grades learn music theory via the Music Ace computer program. The school's throughlines, such as Creation Enjoying, Beauty Creating and God Worshipping also come to the foreground when students compose pieces such as a sonata or a theme and variations using Music Ace's Doodlepad. Those same throughlines are also emphasized in the middle school grades. This year, students have created original podcasts, throughline songs, carols, and raps using the GarageBand program on the school's iPads.

Music instruction at Beacon is not a one-person tap dance; this is a collective effort of many staff members. Mrs. Brenda Boks leads the singing at our weekly chapels and has also formed a student praise team. Mrs. Kathryn Sinopoli has led an ad hoc girls' vocal ensemble, and she also directed the soloists in our recent production of *Annie, Jr.* The bi-monthly Primary Sings are accompanied at the piano by Mrs. Irene Bootsma. Outside-of-class lessons in voice, piano, strings, and guitar are available to students (at an extra cost) via on-site private teachers.

In all this, Beacon students are encouraged and empowered to make and enjoy music as delighted stewards of God's marvelous gift of the world of sound.

by Mr. Len Turnevicius (a.k.a. "Mr. T.")





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

On the following pages you will find details of how each class celebrated and put the throughlines into action for the 2014-15 school year!

Earth Keeping

by Mrs. Thiessen's JK class

In September, we began the year with the creation story where the students learned about how God made the world. The writer in Genesis says, "And God saw everything that he had made, and it was very good" (1:31). We learned about how Adam and Eve were to take care of the world, and it is also a responsibility that God gives to all of us today. We love the world that God made – he animals, birds, fish, insects, plants & flowers, forests and mountains, and grassy fields for playtime. His wonderful creations are many, and we have enjoyed learning about them throughout this year. In response to what we have learned and God's love for us, we want to be good earth keepers. When the students were asked how they could be earth keepers, here were some of the responses given:

- "Clean up garbage, pick up garbage so the wind doesn't blow it away."
- "Clean up oil and garbage in the water."
- "Recycle stuff; reuse my drink containers."
- "Put banana peels in the compost."
- "Pick the grapes and peaches and take care of them."
- "Plant flowers in the garden."
- "Take animals to the veterinarian, clean up after your pet, and don't pull the cat's tail."
- "Keep God's world clean!"

Students in the afternoon JK/SK program also talked about caring for God's earth. Each of them made promises about ways they could be earth keepers, and we displayed the ideas in our hallway for all to see and do. The students also talked about different ways to recycle, reuse and compost. We are now doing these things in our classroom each day! This year, we also had the opportunity to plant sunflowers seeds to grow in our school garden and to protect bunnies that were born in our playground.

**We all need to work together and care for
God's world; we all need to be good stewards
of His creation!**





Beauty Creating

by Mrs. Bootsma's SK class

In Senior Kindergarten, we are daily experiencing God's creation. It is particularly exciting to see God's creation through a child's eyes! As adults, we sometimes forget the beauty of creation that we see as we race through our days. In our kindergarten classroom, the students discover the world around them and will declare that God created everything. We laugh at the unique animals and marvel at the details that God used. In our chapel time this month, we were reminded that God took His time in creating and did not finish until it was good. Knowing that God created us with hands that can move and feel, eyes that can see, ears that can hear, and tongues that can taste, we explore the world in which He placed us.

Recently, we created butterflies using the style of illustrator Eric Carle. The students first explored the details and colours of the butterfly's wings before making their own art piece. Using Carle's style of handpainted papers in a layered effect, the students were able to study the small but important details of their butterfly. When we study the small things, we are reminded of our incredible Creator and His amazing creation.

During their purposeful play, the SK students are constantly creating. The interesting buildings in the block center, patterns in the math center, and written notes in the writing center are illustrations of developing minds and creative ideas. Two questions often asked in our classroom are, "Did you do your best?" and "What can you do to make it even better?" These questions encourage the students to reflect on their work and to create beautiful things to the best of their ability.

We offer praise to God by creating beautiful things.

Our creativity makes God smile!

Our creativity is a reflection of our Creator!



Justice Seeking

by Mrs. Harris' Grade 1 class

In our Grade One classroom, we know that justice means being fair and honest towards each other. Recently, our class explored what justice looks like beyond our classroom walls.

We started with a question: What could we do to help seek justice? After some discussion, we decided to work with an organization called Habitat for Humanity-Niagara. This organization helps families in Niagara who can't afford to own their home; Habitat for Humanity works to build families a place to live. In response to the idea of providing homes for others, our class said, "Well, we live in a house. It's really only fair if others could live in a house too!"

However, acknowledging that we are only in Grade One, we knew we couldn't build a house! As we learned more about Habitat for Humanity, we realized that all the people who help build these houses are volunteers and that all the materials are donated. We knew we could help by raising money to buy nails.

At five cents a piece and over 20,000 nails needed to build a house, that's quite a bit of money! Rather than commit to the enormous task of raising all the money for 20,000 nails, we decided raising some money would be a more realistic goal (and Mrs. Harris agreed). We started to work to earn money. We did all kinds of jobs around the house; washing dishes, shovelling snow, and cleaning up the playroom were just some of the jobs we did. Every day, we added up the money that was brought to school and figured out how many nails we could buy. This meant every day, we improved on our addition skills in math too!

We decided to get some help from others to earn even more money. We traveled to Smithville Christian High School, and we did a short presentation to the high school students. We shared a video we had made explaining our cause. We then sold Ring Pops and small bags of Chicago Mix. The students were amazing; many students gave us money without asking for the candy! We also sold the rest of the Ring Pops and Chicago mix here at Beacon; we were proud of how generous both schools were.

After all that work, we surprised everyone, including ourselves, by accomplishing what we thought was an enormous task. With everyone's help, our Grade One class raised more than enough money to buy nails for one house. Natalee Little, a coordinator from Habitat for Humanity-Niagara, was so excited. She came into our classroom to talk with us, and she came to our chapel where we presented her with a big cheque for \$1,146.00. That's enough money to buy 22,933 nails!

We were excited that even though we are young, we can still be justice-seekers. We can make a difference! As we continue to work for good in our community, we will pray for three things along the way: that we may "act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God."



Servant Working

*by Mrs. Vanderkuip &
Mrs. McFadden's Grade 2 class*

"Create in me a clean heart O God, that I might serve you" is a line from a song that our primary students enjoyed singing at Tabor Manor recently for a volunteer luncheon. This was a wonderful opportunity for our students to be a blessing in our local community through music.

Over the year, students are encouraged to contribute both inside and outside our school community in a way that serves others and brings glory to God rather than self. The students in Grade Two helped with the bi-weekly compost collection from each classroom in the fall; this is a servant-working experience that also ties in with earth-keeping. Simple jobs around the classroom allow everyone to participate in caring for and cleaning up our shared space.

In addition, students loved having the authentic experience of serving others by writing letters of encouragement to Canadian soldiers overseas on Remembrance Day. They also made cards for our mayor, as well as both incoming and outgoing members of the St. Catharines City Council at election time.

Together as a whole school, students are encouraged to serve in whatever ways they can with their time, talents and possessions. This year, our students participated in the MS Readathon to raise money and awareness for those living with Multiple Sclerosis, and we held a food drive for Community Care.

Often it's the simple things that have the biggest impact when done spontaneously with a servant's heart. That same spontaneity develops a culture where students see a need and respond in love. Students quickly jump up to help each other when a pencil case is spilled, a book is dropped or a hoodie is left on the playground. They run beside classmates as they encourage someone who's struggling to finish the 800 metre run.

Ultimately, a beautiful outcome of this servant-working culture is the sound of our students remembering and uplifting others in prayer.



Creation Enjoying

by Mrs. Dykstra's Grade 3 class

"You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; The mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands."

Isaiah 55:12

With these words, the students in Grade 3 began their study of The Trees of the Field. In our throughline of Creation Enjoying, we were delighted as we discovered the awesome gift of trees that God gave to us. Through this unit, we were struck with wonder how trees reach out in praise to their Creator.

When we discussed Creation Enjoying as a class, some of the comments that the students shared with the class included:

"I enjoyed going to Heartland Forest and exploring nature."

"I enjoyed God's creation by looking at all the things God made and saying, 'Wow! This is beautiful!'"

"I enjoy hearing the rain and thunder during class."

"I enjoyed God's beautiful creation by enjoying the warm weather and that it is becoming spring."

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands,
Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.
They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them,
Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world."

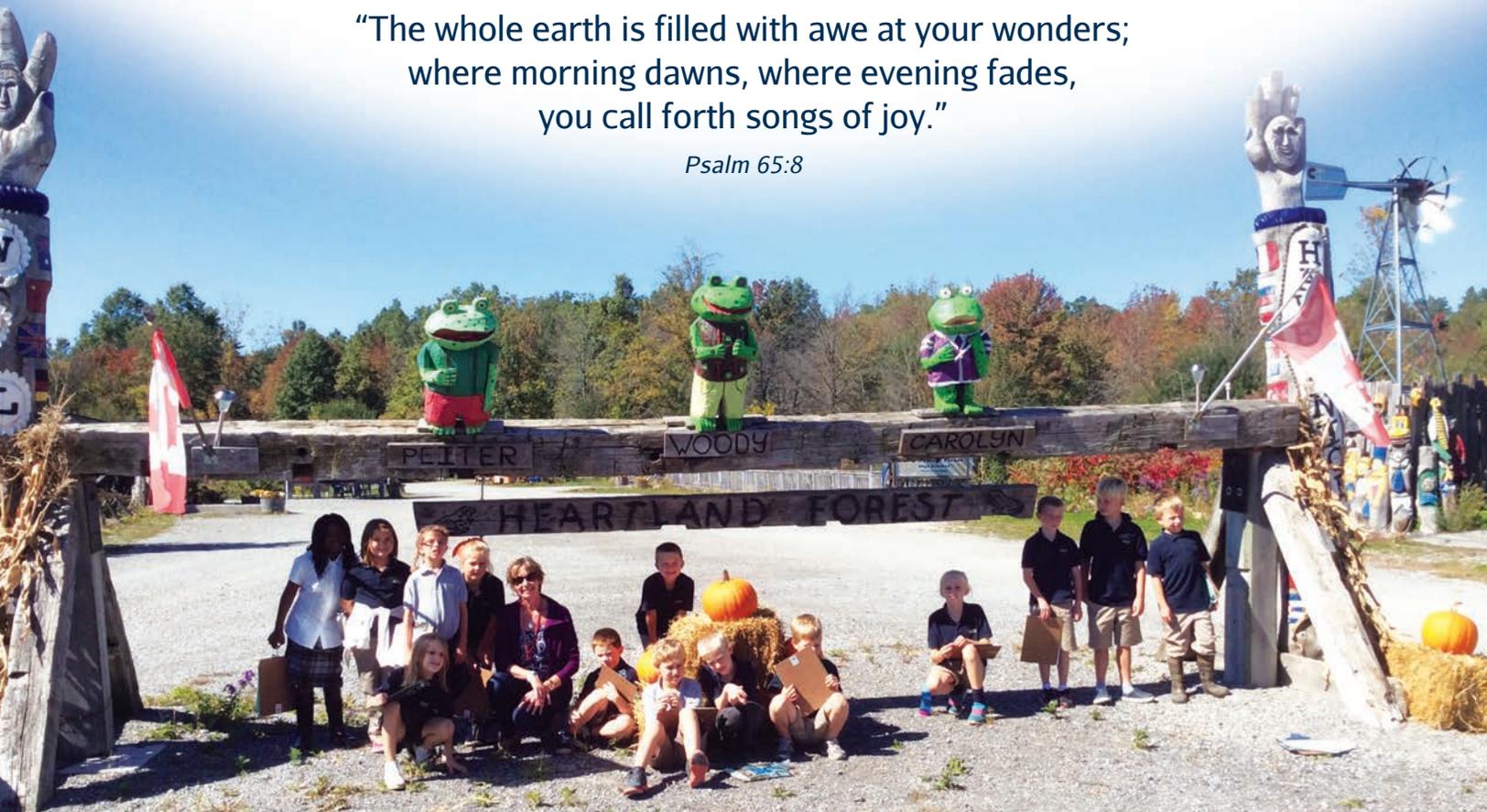
Psalm 19:1-4

In our Creation Studies unit, The Heavens Declare, we listened to God speak to us through the beauty of the heavens, and we enjoyed God's beautiful creation. We were also blessed to know that the Creator of the Universe loves us!

As we weave the throughlines into all our curricular areas, the students are responding with their own joy and amazement in Creation Enjoying. Creation is a gift from God! One of the students responded with, "When I was on the bus and I was looking at the fields, I saw how beautiful God's creation is!" Amen!

"The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders;
where morning dawns, where evening fades,
you call forth songs of joy."

Psalm 65:8





God Worshipping

A Grade 4 perspective by Mr. Brook's class

"When you worship God, you sing worship songs, pray and read the Bible. You worship God at church, in school and in many other places." **Mikayla**

"God Worshipping is praying, singing, dancing, playing music, learning about Him, respecting His rules, eating, drawing and doing your best. It is remembering the wonders that He has done and the miracles he has pronounced." **Charlize**

"God worshipping means to give God our time and to love people. God worshipping means to obey our parents. God worshipping means to have fun and not lie. God worshipping means to go to church and to please God in everything we do." **Tayler**

"God worshipping is loving God even more than you love your family. God worshipping is praising the Lord with gladness and praying to Jesus with loving hearts. God worshipping is loving Christ and believing he can heal." **Lauren**

"God worshipping is singing in church and reading the Bible. You can worship by doing your best in jobs, tests, school and sports. God worshipping is to have faith in Him, and to thank Him for everything that he gave us. God worshipping is to be Christ-like." **Reuben**

"God worshipping is living a life that is holy and pleasing to God. One of my favourite God-worshipping verses is Psalm 150:1 'Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens.'" **Zion**

"God worshipping means listening to your mom and dad at church, at home or even at shops or malls. God worshipping is going to church, singing and going to Sunday school. God worshipping is helping friends or family out if they are sick, hurt or sad." **Nicole**

"God worshipping is worshipping God anywhere you are. You can worship God in the park, church, home, school and in the car. You can worship God by singing praise to him, by reading the Bible before dinner, bed and lunch." **Mackenna**

"God worshipping is singing worship. God worshipping is obeying your parents and loving God for the rest of your life. God worshipping is loving your brother, sister and, of course, your friends and cousins." **Brianna D.**

"God worshipping means to worship and sing songs of praise. God worshipping means to enjoy His creation. God worshipping means to praise Him in every way. God worshipping means to love Him in every way. God worshipping means to be thankful for what you have. God worshipping means to help someone in need." **Willem**

"God worshipping means to go to church and to learn to honour God in everything we do. At school, we can honour God by completing our work and doing it properly. Why should we praise God? We should praise Him because he has protected us, saved us and sent his one and only Son to die for us." **Jackson**

"God worshipping means going to church, singing, praying, dancing, reading the Bible, and being alone with God. God worshipping is community building and respecting other people." **Brianna H.**

Image Reflecting

by Mrs. Ritzema's Grade 5 class

Every morning in Grade 5, we begin our day reflecting and sharing on how God wants us to be. Image reflecting – reflecting God's image – is what we are developing in our classroom through daily devotions, chapels, our daily studies, on the playground and with those we meet in our community.

Here are some thoughts on image-reflecting from the students:

"We image reflect in science by creating new things using matter, like God did and still does. We made plastic buttons from milk and made volcanoes."

John-Michael

"In music we learn to play an instruments like recorder and next year, band instruments. It is great because you get to make beautiful sounds to the earth. This reflects the glory of our Creator."

Derek & Samantha

"During Bible this year, we have read stories that reflect the image of God. Showing kindness like the Good Samaritan. Christ's love is for all the people of the world."

Victoria & Kayla

"In our Socials class, we learned about government. We can be image reflectors through government by trying to make things fair and make everybody feel like they have a voice and are being treated equally. Thank-you God for giving us the country of Canada."

Ella & Jacoba

"We can see image reflecting in the books we read. For example someone standing up for a friend who was being discriminated against because of their gender in *Bridge to Terabithia*, and because of their disabilities in *Summer of the Swans*."

Gideon & Steven S.

"We are image reflectors in music when we play or sing songs of praise, use musical instruments to learn about rhythm, beat, tempo, melody and much more. Our Creator loves music and we use it to glorify Him."

Sarah

"When we finish an art project, we look at it and are proud of the project we made; just like God was when He finished creating the universe, and said, 'This is good.'"

Lauren & Katarina

"We are reflecting God's image in technology when we use it to honour His name. We need to use it responsibly and appropriately. For instance we make charts, projects, stories, prezis, slide shows, cartoon and play games. Technology is another way of showing Him was we have learned about His world."

Connor & Steven G.

"We Image Reflect in Math by using numbers in God's creation to solve problems and educate us. Also many people like scientists, pharmacists, accountants use numbers to do their jobs and honour God."

Gabriel & David

"When using the French language we can communicate to more people, visit French speaking countries and be able to include more people into Christ's community."

Hannah

"We image reflect in gym by being a good sport and always trying our best."

Ogo, Willem, & Nathan

We believe He created us to know and love others in the same way He knows and loves us. Connecting with classmates and friends will not only help us grow confident with ourselves, but this time of connecting also helps our friendship grow with God.





Order Discovering

by Mrs. Sinopoli's Grade 6 class

The Order in Space

Recently, our Grade 6 class has been exploring God's amazing universe using the throughline of Order Discovering. We have been studying space and the vast order that is in place; this study of space is also understood in the context of our life here on Earth.

At the beginning of the unit, students compared the size of the moon with the size of the earth using common sports balls. Students determined that if the earth was the size of a basketball, then the moon would be the size of a tennis ball. Students mapped out the distance from the moon to the earth using the sports ball to help establish a scale. We discovered the moon is partially responsible for controlling tides because of its weight. We were amazed to think that if the moon was a little larger or a little smaller, our entire earthly environment would be different!

Throughout the unit, students were reminded that God's order can be seen in the location of the sun, the patterns in the stars and existence of other galaxies. To conclude our study, students chose a body in the universe to study and re-create, using an artistic model. Students were able to discuss with their peers how their body of the universe reminds us that God created everything. Without His order and design, we could not exist, and He has left us these clues to remind us that He is the ultimate Creator of Order.

Community Building

by Mrs. Wiersma's Grade 7 class



When we work on building community in our school and in our classrooms, it is our prayer that our students would learn to be active in all their various communities. In Grade 7 this year, we have worked on building community with our neighbours at Tabor Manor, a local retirement home. We have visited Tabor Manor twice and plan to visit again. Following each visit, the students have written responses to their experiences. The following was written by Brin Schat as a reflection of her experiences. Please note that the names have been changed for reasons of confidentiality.

Our class has gone to Tabor Manor and spent time with the residents twice now. The first time, we sat with one or two other students and two or three residents to make gingerbread houses. This was around Christmas time, so we also handed out Christmas cards. The second visit was in the spring. We brought a favourite childhood book and some things about ourselves to show the residents.

I really enjoy going to Tabor Manor. I think it is a good way to help us develop social and community building skills. For many of us, we might have jobs in the future that involve talking to and working with people of every age and ability.

I enjoyed every part of our first visit. My favourite part was seeing their faces, as we handed them the Christmas cards we had made. The looks of joy on their faces made us all smile. I also thought the displays outside the residents' rooms were really interesting. It was amazing to see the different things that had special meaning to them.

Tayah (my partner) and I had three people at our table where we were making gingerbread houses. We had Elsa, Mary and Edie. Elsa is unable to see. She sat with us while Edie worked with Tayah on one gingerbread house, and Mary worked with me. We also met a pair of twins while handing out Christmas cards. Breanne (the staff member who was helping us) introduced them as the "Twins of Tabor Manor."

On our second visit, we talked to three different people. We told them about ourselves, and then we asked them questions about their life stories. The people I

talked to were Katie, Lucy, and John. Katie didn't talk too much, but she liked to look at and read the things I wrote.

I learned that Katie's favourite colour is purple, and she likes any foods, especially pasta. When she was little, she would sometimes play sports. She used to live in Russia, and she really loved music. When Katie saw the word "music" on my paper, she kept repeating it. I talked to her about what kind of music she likes, and she said she used to play piano. Katie doesn't remember too much of growing up or any of her past, but music was one thing she remembered.

Of the three, Lucy talked the most. She told me a great deal about her past. She lived in Austria before she moved to Canada. She said that she had five siblings, and she was the oldest. She didn't have much time to play because she needed to help her parents. Her mother always needed help with cleaning and shopping and other chores. She also had to work in a field. Her father worked at a mill where they turned corn into flour. She would help him clean the machine and do other work there. She had to work at a factory to help buy groceries like milk and bread and pay bills. Lucy said her favourite colour is blue, like the sky, and her favourite food is bread. When she was younger, Lucy would play handball at school. She played a bit of piano, and she said her husband played the accordion. I asked her about her favourite book, and she said the Bible. I said that it is my favourite too. She was delighted to hear that, and she smiled one of the most beautiful smiles. It was amazing.

The third person I talked to was John. He usually answered my questions with "I don't know," but he did tell me a few things. He comes from England and loves soccer. He used to coach other people and play it a lot.

I have loved visiting Tabor Manor. The things Lucy said made me realize that we take the things we have for granted. It is amazing what we can learn from these people. These visits showed me how important community is. We can learn so much from each other, and we can help each other in so many ways. Through our visits, we have been a blessing to each other.



Idol Discerning

by Mr. Kok's Grade 8 class

Being a Christian takes work. We cannot simply be a sponge, absorbing whatever life (or Netflix) throws at us. We have to think critically about what we are learning and taking in. In our Grade 8 class conversations, I challenge the students to question the things that we do every day and line it up with the will of God. Given that challenge, Idol Discerning is one of my favourite throughlines to discuss with students. This through-line reminds us of the challenge to live **IN** the culture but not to be **OF** the culture. As a class, we spend time identifying what sort of things can take up more space in our hearts than God. Students are quick to identify technology, money, and popularity as idols; we worship these ideas and things by focusing on those things more than we do on God. We have also discussed that discerning means evaluating and figuring out what things we do follow the will of God.

Romans 12:1, 2, The Message Bible states, "So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you."

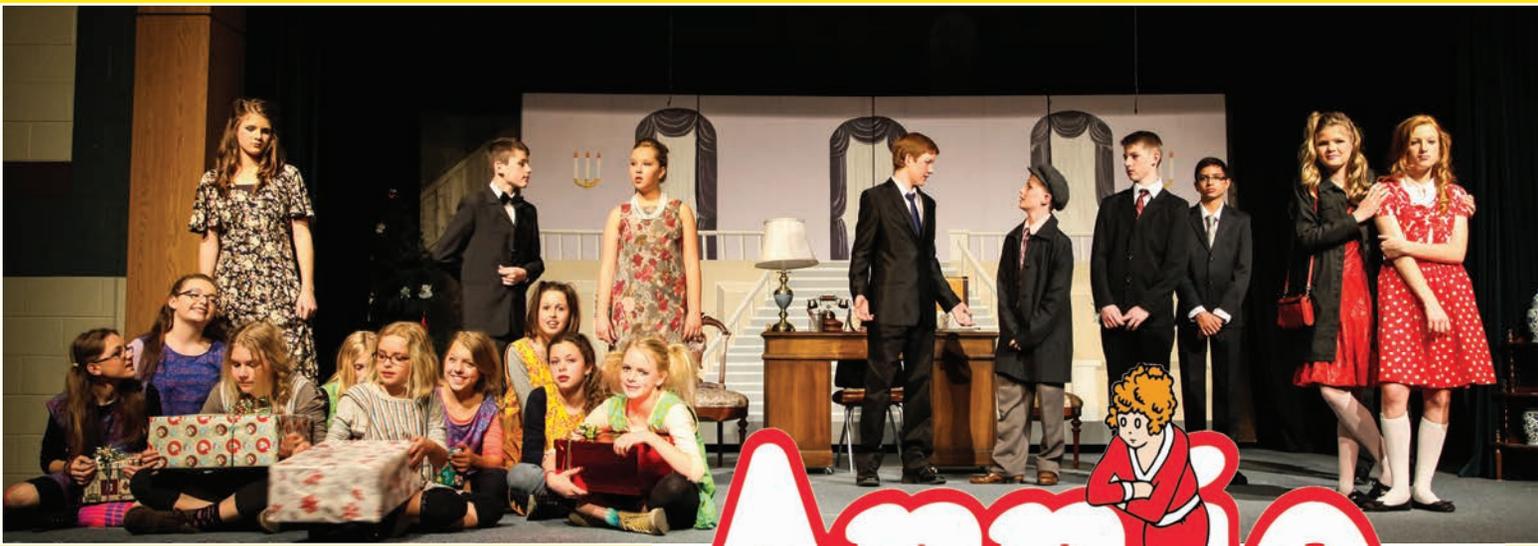
In our discussions about Idol Discerning, we spent time looking at church history; in particular, we looked at the Reformation. During the Reformation, church reformers such as Martin Luther, John Hus, and John Wycliffe examined the church and discerned many idols that had evolved from false teachings. We talked about the worship of relics and the unfounded purpose of indulgences. We examined how hard it was for the early church reformers to tell the church of their idols. We then evaluated what could be idols in our own churches today. The students agreed that this is a challenge; it is important but difficult to examine our own lives for idolatry and even more difficult to hold each other accountable. My hope is that through these discussions, we all become more conscious of the idols in our lives and better at discerning them.



New
**BEACON
WEBSITE
COMING
SOON!**



**BEACON
PRESCHOOL
COMING
SOON
STAY TUNED!**



Annie Jr.



After months of planning, preparation and practice, our school musical *Annie Jr.* was performed in front of four different audiences. The week of May 4th was filled with excitement and nervous energy as the whole school prepared for this production. We are thankful for the many helping hands that supported our musical and helped to create a great experience for the students and our audiences!

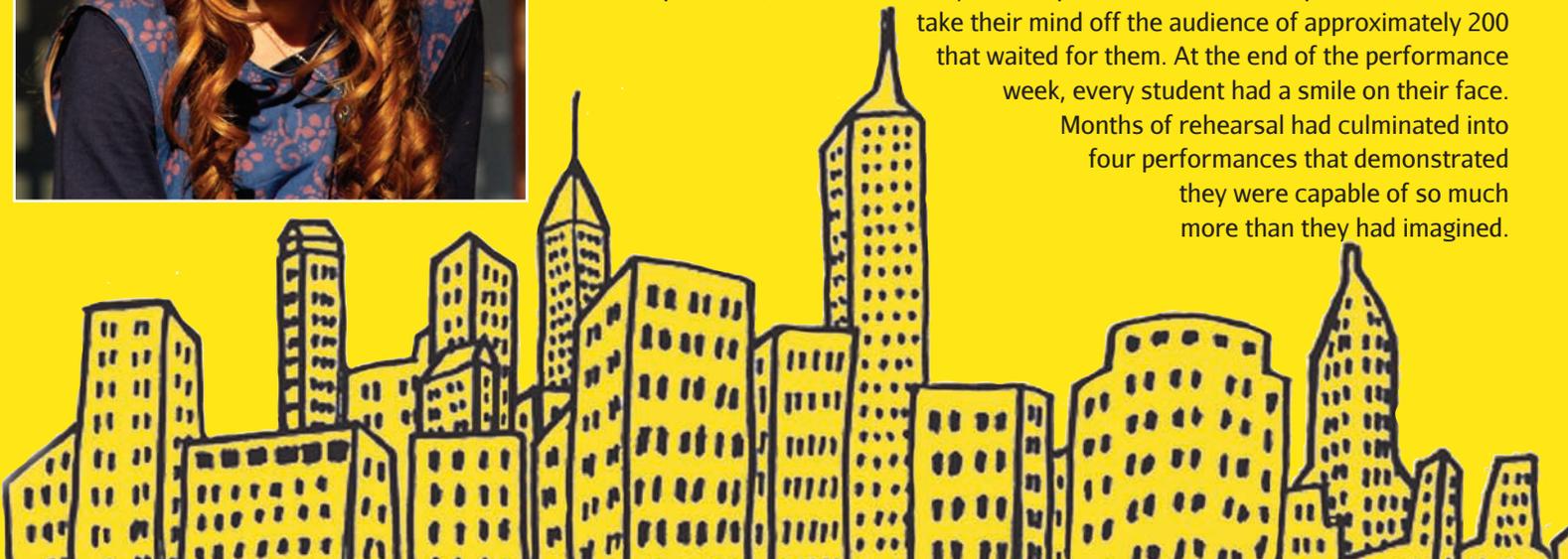
Students in Grades 6-8 had the opportunity to audition for a part in the production. All students who auditioned were given a role in the large cast. Auditions were not easy. Students had to prepare a monologue and a song of their choice to perform in front of three judges. At the end of their audition, many of them were asked to perform a music scale in order to develop a better understanding of their vocal range. These tasks were not easy, and many students were brave enough to step up to the challenge.

Practices began early November. Rehearsals provided space for mistakes, stretching comfort zones and a great deal of fun. Many rehearsals ended with students in fits of laughter. This energy was certainly felt throughout all four of the final performances.

Performing is a difficult task which requires energy and focus. Although students want to have fun, they also place a large amount of pressure on themselves to be excellent in their role. The hours before our *Annie Jr.* performances involved silly warm-up activities to loosen up the students and

take their mind off the audience of approximately 200 that waited for them. At the end of the performance week, every student had a smile on their face.

Months of rehearsal had culminated into four performances that demonstrated they were capable of so much more than they had imagined.





GRANDPARENTS/GRANDFRIENDS DAY AN AWESOME DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS & STUDENTS!





EYE ON **ALUMNI**

Kim Brown (nee Dykstra)



Hi! I was asked to submit a little something about myself, as a graduate from Beacon (Calvin Memorial) going back to 1989. It's neat to see the banner from our graduating class hanging in the halls of the school, with our theme verse from Proverbs 16:3, "Commit yourself to the Lord and your plans will succeed." After Calvin Memorial, I went to Laura Secord Secondary School, and then to the University of Toronto in Mississauga where I studied Art and Art History. It was in university that my love for hockey started, and I was the goalie for the intervarsity UTM team.

After graduation in 1998, I travelled to Europe on my own for a month, visiting family in Holland, art galleries, and so much more! Shortly after being back home, I got a great job at Hostelling International in Niagara Falls for a few years. I kept up hockey, playing for Stoney Creek Sabres and then St. Catharines Women's Recreational Hockey. I met my husband-to-be, James Brown, when I began playing ball hockey in the area and we were put on the same co-ed team, I as the netminder and he was my defence! James and I were married in September 2002, bought an old house that we gutted from top to bottom and renovated (and I don't think it has ever stopped!). That is a good test on a first year of marriage! By that time I was also working at the Niagara Falls Art Gallery, where I taught kid's art classes and visited schools, teaching art lessons for grades K-8. Our first child, Wilem, was born in 2004, followed by Thomas in 2006, and then we had Adriana in 2008. After two children, I decided to stay home, and began doing home daycare, which I am still currently doing.

We go to Jubilee Fellowship Christian Reformed Church where I am the Chair of the Visual Arts Ministry Team, which has done some pretty cool congregational art projects and installations. I am also on the Board of Directors at Beacon and am the Chair of the Development Committee which oversees the fundraising events and relations of the school. In my spare time I play ice hockey over the winter months and co-ed slo pitch takes me through spring and summer. I also enjoy being on the Applefest Committee and volunteering my time designing and painting the scenic back drops for the recent productions *Narnia*, *Rescue In The Night*, and *Annie Jr.* I look forward to many more years of being involved with the school I was able to attend and to also see the generational blessings continue as I witness this in my own children at Beacon.

If you would like to be featured in an upcoming "Eye on Alumni", please send an email to: advancement@beaconchristian.org.

BEACON CHAPEL!



Beacon's 2015 SK Graduates



Leah



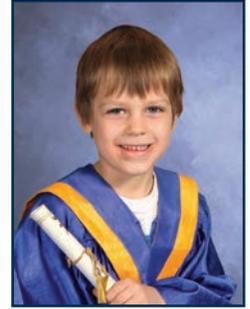
Tayah



Alexandria



Jack



Owen



Joyce



Kiley



Raegan



Lucy



Nosa



Aiden



Darian

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. We are excited with them as they continue their educational journey at Beacon Christian in the years to come!

May God bless our graduates!

Beacon's 2015 Grade 8 Graduates



Christine



Jake



Jeremy



Adam



Mayke



Leone



Lexi



Winsten



Evan



Chloe



Mark



Sam



Lauren



Marlee



Daphne



Colton



Emily

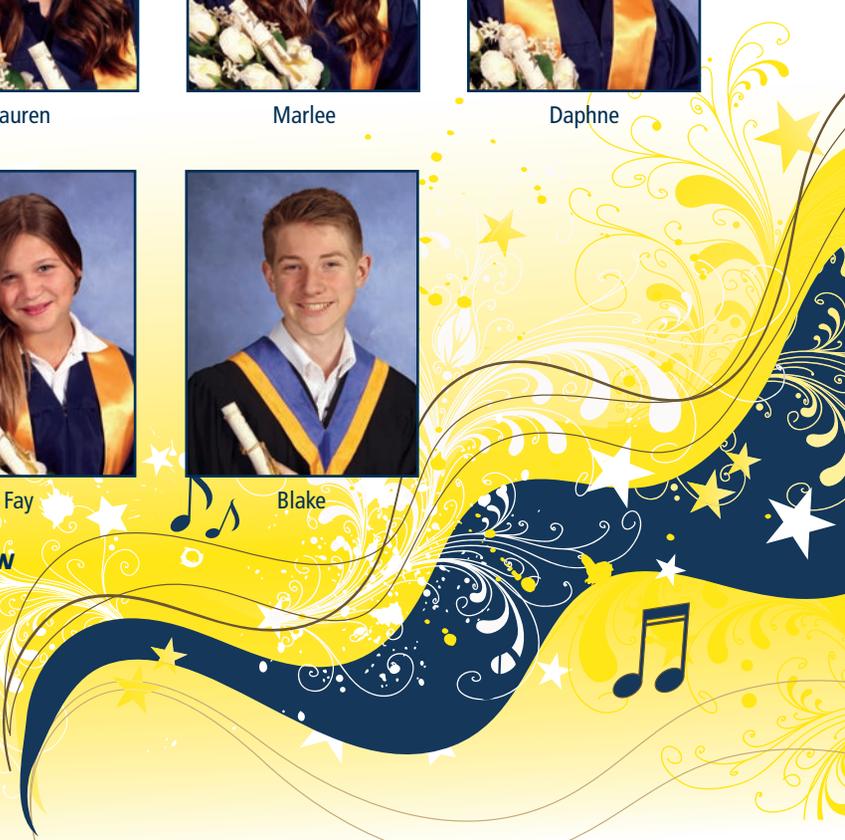


Fay



Blake

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!



BEACON SPORTS REPORT



Track and Field

Beacon students were treated to as many as three track and field days this year!

GIFT GROUP FIELD DAY

On Thursday, May 22, our students were involved in the First Annual Beacon Christian GIFT Group Field Day. GIFT stands for Growing In Faith Together, and these groups are cross-sections of students from grades 1-8 that have been meeting twice per month following chapels. For our annual field day, all of the students in grades 1-8 competed in their field day events alongside and with the encouragement of their GIFT group teammates. This day was a team event, culminating with a tug-of-war competition and relay race at the end of the day.

NIAGARA REGIONAL TRACK MEET

On Monday, June 1, all of our students travelled to Oakes Park in Niagara Falls to compete against a number of other private schools. Beacon students competed against students from Wheatley, Calvary, NCC and Eagle's Nest. It was a bit of a rainy day, but it was great to see all of our students compete for ribbons at this meet!

MASTER FIELD DAY

On Friday, June 5th, a select group of students in grades 4-8 competed in the Niagara District Christian School's Annual Master Field Day. Many personal bests were attained, and Beacon found themselves right in the mix for the team awards.





**GREAT EFFORTS
STUDENTS!**



FOUNDATION NEWS

FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF MARCH 31, 2015

Beacon Growth Fund.....	\$83,986.66
S. McLean and C. Osborne	
Memorial Fund	\$55,935.49
Beacon Alumni Fund	\$6,269.04

For more information about the Beacon Christian School Foundation and the Christian School Foundation visit www.christianschoolfoundation.ca or contact Beacon's foundation board member, Syl Gerritsma.



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 email - marinusk@CSservices.ca

Expect to live forever. Plan for your death.

By Marlene Bergsma
Communications coordinator, Christian School Foundation

It's a topic most people would rather not think about, but it turns out that talking about your death can actually end up making you enjoy your life more.

People who make a will and who make informed decisions about how to take care of their family or what should happen after they're gone actually end up feeling more confident and secure, said Marinus Koole, a Certified Financial Planner and stewardship consultant with Christian Stewardship Services, a Beacon Christian School partner agency as part of the Christian School Foundation.

Most people avoid taking care of their wills because it makes them feel like they are planning for their deaths, Koole said. But in his work with hundreds of individuals and families across the province, Koole has seen a huge burden lifted when people actually sit down and make a plan.

"It seems like a big process and people don't understand it and don't want to start. But if you don't decide, someone else is going to decide it for you," Koole said. "After I meet with them, most people say 'if I had known it was this easy, I would have done it sooner.'"

When your plan includes leaving a gift for a Christian school or another kingdom cause, people actually end up feeling very good about what the future holds, he said.

It's similar to the good feeling that generous people experience when they make a weekly, monthly or annual donation to a cause that is dear to them, said Henry Koornneef, executive vice-president of the Christian School Foundation, and a Certified Financial Planner. Planning ahead means you know that your life and your legacy will continue to be celebrated after you're gone. It's a powerful blessing that you can begin to enjoy today.

That's why Beacon wants to make sure that many more people take advantage of the services provided by the Christian School Foundation or by Christian Stewardship Services. With a trusted, certified advisor, you can get personalized answers to questions such as "How can I minimize estate taxes?" or "How can I make sure that I can continue to support the kingdom of God after I'm gone?"

Koole and Koornneef meet with people on a regular basis who decide to provide a gift within their will to benefit a local Christian school. These gifts will bless the education of children for generations to come, Koole said, and he sees the deep feeling of satisfaction that results when people plan ahead and plan well.

"You are secure in knowing that your resources are going to be used past your death. You have created a living statement of your faith that continues even after you're gone."



Right: Henry Koornneef speaks to participants at a Will Clinic at a local church.

BEACON REWARDS

Together we can make a DIFFERENCE and make Christian Education affordable for EVERYONE!

The Beacon Rewards Program is a fundraiser that doesn't cost you any extra money. All you have to do is buy gift certificates from Beacon and then use those gift certificates for the purchases you already make – for groceries, gas, clothes and restaurants. The money we raise comes directly from over 50 participating stores such as Zehrs, Canadian Tire, Old Navy and Tim Horton's (just to name a few), who are willing to give us a discount on their certificates to encourage us to shop in their stores.

We would like to ask you for your help with purchasing gift certificates to help raise funds to support Beacon Christian Schools and our families or a friend of yours. This is an exciting program that allows participants to raise money for Beacon with very little effort, and we would love to see it grow even larger.

It's time to get back into a regular routine of ordering gift certificates if you're not already – order forms and payments are due on Fridays and the gift certificates will be ready for pickup, sent home with your child, or someone can deliver it to you, on the following Tuesday. Certificates are also available for purchase at the school office from Judy during regular school hours.

Did you know you can place an order that we can process on a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly basis? Just fill in a form with post-dated cheques and send it into the school.



and many more!

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www.beaconchristian.org



UPCOMING EVENTS:

2015 GRADUATION

Monday, June 22nd at 7:30 pm
Covenant CRC

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Tuesday, September 8th

BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ

Friday, September 11th

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Saturday, September 12th

APPLEFEST

Saturday, October 3rd



Beacon is truly grateful for the support given through the **BEACON COVENANT** this year in aid of affordable tuition. Your continued support is vital to our mission of Christian Education.



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