



LINK

The COMMUNITY

JOHN • KNOX • CHRISTIAN • SCHOOL WINTER • 2012

ANNUAL BAZAAR

MARCH 31, 2012

We would like to invite you to our annual bazaar at the Oxford Auditorium in Woodstock on March 31, 2012 from 9 a.m. till 2 p.m.

- Games for young and old
- Shopping (wide selection of vendors),
- Eating delicious European & Canadian food
- Yard Sale Table and MORE!!!!

COME AND BRING A FRIEND FOR A DAY OF FUN!



- INTRODUCING -



Hi! We are Arnold and Heather De Boer. Esther is in Junior Kindergarten this year while Micah, 2 3/4 and Annelies, 18 months, are still at home. We operate a dairy farm in Mount Elgin. What school our children would go to was never a question for us. Arnold attended Christian schools in Holland until immigrating in 1986. Heather's only year of public education was kindergarten when it wasn't available in Christian schools yet. She also went onto Christian college and taught for 8 years in B.C. until marrying Arnold and moving to Ontario. She also subbed at JKCS. We are very happy with our experiences so far at JKCS. Esther loves going to school each day and feels very at home with Miss Linker. It is a warm and kind environment and we are glad our children can grow in their faith and develop their love for God in such a place.

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COMING EVENTS

- January 19, 2012
No School
- January 28, 2012
JKCS Dessert Social
- January 26, 2012
Junior & Senior Kindergarten Information Night
- February 1, 2012
Junior & Senior Kindergarten Registration
- February 9, 2012
School theme assembly 8:30 a.m.
- February 16, 2012
Pancake Breakfast
- February 20 & 21, 2012
No School
- February 26, 2012
Grade 4/5 Choir Singing at Calvary Pentecostal Church 10:30 a.m.

JK and SK Information Night
Thursday January 26 at 8:00 p.m.
at John Knox Christian School,
Juliana Drive, Woodstock

Welcome Wednesdays
Open House 9:00 a.m. - Noon
January and February 2012

John Knox Christian School is a prayerful, thriving, energetic school community, where a Christ-centred Education equips our students to lead a life of Christian service.



ASTRONAUT kingdom builder.

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FUTURE OF EDUCATION SERIES EVOKES TECHNOLOGY QUESTIONS

John Knox Christian School has been recognized for the their efforts to integrate technology into the classrooms. The article below was featured by the Ontario Alliance Of Christian School (OACS). Recently, OACS conducted an interview with Micheal Meinema, Principal and COO. Have a look to see what they have to say! www.oacs.org

A recent Globe and Mail series on the future of education is serving as an important discussion tool, says John Knox Christian School principal Michael Meinema.

Starting Nov. 28, the newspaper series explored ideas such as a "flipped classroom" where students learn through YouTube videos at home and do assignments during school hours, as well as openly learning through using devices like Twitter.

"I applaud the Globe and Mail for addressing this because I think it's going to start discussions," Meinema tells the OACS News.

He says using an article at a staff meeting allows people to talk about what they like and dislike about the ideas, and express what they are willing to try.

"It's amazing what professional growth you can get out of reading an article for five minutes," he says.

Reflecting on the articles, Meinema says he likes the approach to be thinking about being inventive and trying things out, but cautions that trying something new has to be with the aim to engage children in learning.

He notes the Woodstock school is trying to engage students in learning through integrating technology more at the school and supporting staff opportunities to be creative.

The thing at the heart of this activity, he says, is looking at how it is going to impact students' learning.

For example, flipped classrooms may not be something parents who are paying \$10,000 or more in independent Christian school tuition would go for, notes Meinema. There's also the practical question of what happens if the Internet goes down and a student can't access a lesson.

"I want to ensure technology is one of the many tools that are impacting kids' lives, it's not the tool," he says. John Knox Christian School has committed to bringing in resources to integrate technology into teaching. The Grade 2, 6, and 7 classrooms have portable interactive whiteboards called Mobi View that are like portable smart board. The junior kindergarten classroom just got equipped with BlackBerry Playbooks, and the children will use apps to practise spelling and counting.

During a recent PD day every staff member created a Wiki Space to provide better communication with staff and students, says Meinema.

Other technology initiatives include using Flip Cameras, a smart board in the resource centre, mounted projectors in all classrooms and in the staff room, and a portable half lab wireless laptop cart with 12 computers that can be wheeled into classrooms.

Meinema has started creating podcasts, which are available on the school website and YouTube, to better inform families about the school.

He notes children are comfortable with the technology, and many are using it at home as part of their life. "It promotes the opportunity for kids to be creative, for them to own learning, and it gives them a chance to take responsibility for what they're working on," he says.

If you have feedback on this article, contact Jennifer at: 800-294-0051 ext. 26 or Jennifer@axiomnews.ca.

During the week of November 11th the grade 6 class visited the Woodstock Legion to interview veterans about World War 2. Prior to the visit, student groups constructed 10 questions to ask the veterans, and planned out their visit. Questions like, "Who are you? What was your family like? At what age did you sign up for war? What were your training experiences? Where were you posted during the war? What was your daily routine during the war?" were asked. Students planned who was posing the question, and who was holding the camera for the duration of the answer. Grade 6 students became reporters interested in the life story of the four veterans. With camera and their script in hand, confident and excited students were ready for their interview session. Journal entries were written about their legion experience back at the school, and portions of their videos were used for the Remembrance Day assembly held at the school.



CROSS-CIRRICULAR LEARNING



FOREST COLLAGE

Forest Collage: Cross-curricular Learning in Grade 8. In our geography studies in grades 7 and 8, we learn about the various biomes that are part of creation. This year, eighth grade students began with the deciduous forest biome, which is our home biome in Southwestern Ontario. To help us understand and appreciate the intricacy and complexity that God has included in this biome, we went outside, took a hike, and did some research and exploration along the Thames River in Burgess Park, Woodstock.

Students took digital cameras in order to photograph and document various types of leaves, trees, vegetation and even wildlife! They made various stops along the way to photograph, sketch, examine, and to be still. Being 'still' turned out to be a very positive experience, as it was an opportunity to quiet down, listen to the sounds of creation, and to acknowledge and praise our Creator God.

Upon our return, students wrote a response, taking into account the interaction between humans and their environment, the importance of planning for green spaces in our communities, and considering how we as Christians interact with creation in our role as earth-keepers.

Mr. Hiemstra did further follow-up with the students using the Comic Life computer software installed in the computer lab. This was a great opportunity for cross-curricular learning – physical education, geography, and information technology all rolled into one assignment! Student Student manipulated their digital images as well as text to create a visual account of their hike. They added a title and Bible verse that captured what they had learned and experienced during their river walk in order to create a meaningful collage of their experience in the deciduous forest biome.

– Carol Verbeek & Greg Hiemstra –

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SATURDAY JANUARY 28, 2012
6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
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