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Wallaceburg Christian School
693 Albert Street – Wallaceburg, ON – N8A 1Y8
www.wallaceburgchristianschool.com

Fall 2011



Mr. Alblas introduces students, parents and supporters to this year's theme.



Bill and Christina Kloostra, parents and grandparents of alumni, and now volunteers at the school, help "pass the flame" to Russell and Mrs. Hoogstad.



*Founded on Faith,
Fanning the Flame*



Founding members, Herman and Joanne Kraayenbrink with their granddaughter, Jillian.



Mr. Alblas and Mr. Maris place our 50th anniversary commemorative rock in the new Prayer Garden.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Greetings, WCS Supporters,

Welcome to the first edition of Kingdom News in our 50th celebration year. We are blessed to have 79 students and 39 families attending our school this year. New families to our school are:

1. John and Selena Finley with their daughter Emily (JK)
2. Andrew and Suella MacDonald with their son A.J. (JK)
3. Derrek and Rachael Vandendool and their daughter Lilly (JK)
4. Tristan and Jodi Miller and their daughter Ali (SK)
5. John and Debora Moelker and their children: Erin (JK), Paige (Gr. 1), and Lexa (Gr. 3)
6. We also welcome the following new students into our JK program: Julia, Naysa, Simon, and Abby.

A lot has happened during the summer, and many upgrades have taken place at WCS. If you didn't get a chance to explore them all yet, please stop by and visit us. Here are some of the highlights:

1. A new Prayer Garden, thanks to 2 grants
2. Painting of the Gr. 7-8. JK/SK, and Resource rooms, thanks to a grant
3. LCD projectors for each classroom, thanks to a grant
4. New monitors for the computer room, thanks to a donation
5. A new 3-sided basketball hoop to our playground equipment, thanks to the Fundraising Committee
6. A new water heater
7. A piano in the JK/SK room, thanks to Wallaceburg CRC

Our school theme for this year is **"Founded on Faith, Fanning the Flame"** based upon 2 Timothy 1:5a, 6-7. In order to symbolize this, during our opening assembly each student was given a sparkler and asked to have it ignited by a few selected people involved in the history of the school, including founding members, long term members, volunteers and even a 3rd generation family. It was simply a delight to see how the passion for Christian education is being

passed from generation to generation. We then collected the used sparklers which we will use to create a piece of art to commemorate 50 years of God's faithfulness at Wallaceburg Christian School.

We are also blessed to have our school choir up and running again under the direction of Mrs. Matheson, our Grade 1-2 teacher. The choir has already performed for our local pastors at the Pastor's Appreciation lunch on October 12. Their next scheduled performance will be on November 19 at the Capitol Theatre in Chatham.

Celebrating 50 years of Christian Education is certainly something to find joy in, and I look forward to what the 50th Anniversary Committee has in store for us on June 30, 2012 – mark your calendars!

Shalom,
Andy Alblas

Our Purpose Statement

Wallaceburg Christian School exists to provide quality, Biblically-based Christian Education.

"...we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD..."
Psalm 78:4



BOARD REPORT

Amongst it's many responsibilities, the Board has determined that a more thorough understanding of the academic 'profile' of the school is in order to better plan for the future of WCS. It is comparatively easy to measure the fiscal 'health' of the school; one can look quickly at any number of financial documents to determine such. However, it is more of a challenge to measure the academic strengths and weaknesses of our school. In spite of this difficulty, it is imperative to develop some assessment. To this end the Board will empower various stakeholders in this activity, be it the Education Committee, administration, staff or parents to work out the metrics for this project. It is thought that developing a 'baseline' will provide a reasonable objective starting point to then plan in an informed manner to improve the learning at WCS for each individual child.

The Board would also like to congratulate the Planning Committee for the 50th Anniversary celebration for their progress. Another meeting will be held very soon. The committee presented a rough draft of the financial resources required to bring the weekend of proclaiming God's faithfulness to fruition. A sub bank account has been set up to process the income and expenditures associated with the event. Financial donations for this event can be sent to the school and targeted for such. We all look forward **to a splendid time on June 30, 2012.**

As well, a list has been drafted for the initial volunteer needs. If you would like to assist that weekend, please contact Brad Goodreau (519-683-6968) for more information. We would also encourage all reading this report to consider helping about the school in other ways. In class helpers are always welcome. There are crucial openings upcoming on the Fundraising Committee. There are still vacancies to fill for a full slate of Directors. Most of us are already well involved in family, church and community activities. However, it is a great privilege in this day and age to have the opportunity to invest time and effort in the Christian education of children. Most of what consumes my time and energy realistically has no eternal consequences. Pouring forth your talents into the training of children will have both a temporal and eternal reward for the nation of Canada and the Kingdom of God. In the least, we covet your prayers for the school. To quote Alfred, Lord Tennyson; "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of".

Thanks be to GOD for his faithfulness since the founding of the school societies in Wallaceburg and Dresden. May we be likewise faithful in fulfilling the duty set before us.

Dale Maris
Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Don't Miss Our Upcoming Events!

- November 12** – Unity Band Fundraising Concert at Wallaceburg CRC, 7 p.m.
- November 19** – School choir performance at Salvation Army Campaign Kickoff, Capitol Theatre in Chatham
- November 23** – Fall Membership Meeting at WCS, 7:30 p.m.
- November 25** – Volleyball Tournament at Chatham Christian School
- December 23** – School Skating at the Wallaceburg Arena, from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
– **All welcome!**

STUDENT LIFE – Grade 3 & 4

The 2011-2012 school year began on a beautiful day with teachers, students, family members, and supporters meeting outside by our new Prayer Garden. During this time, Mr. Alblas unwrapped WCS's theme for the year, "Founded on Faith, Fanning the Flame", based on 2 Timothy 1:5a, 6-7. In order for the students to visualize how the flame is passed on from generation to generation, we invited a few of the founding families of WCS to hold a candle, and from this candle, the students and other supporters lit sparklers to show how we keep the flame of faith alive. It was a delight to see families, friends and supporters come together to share in this time of celebration of 50 years of Christian Education in Wallaceburg!



Russell with his sparkler, surrounded by classmates and supporters.

Another very important activity that our school participates in is a bus safety demonstration from the Chatham-Kent Police. Constable Randy Hull came to our school to take all of the students through different areas of bus safety. Not only do a majority of our students ride the bus to and from school each day, but we also use the buses for gym classes as well as field trips.



Oliver being helped off the bus by Nicole and Ben. This was a mock emergency drill that the students participated in. This is how they would exit the bus if the regular door was blocked.

Another exciting and new routine that has been established here at WCS this year are all-school devotions every Thursday morning. We normally do devotions in our own classrooms each day of the week; however this year we have decided to meet all together once a week. It has been a wonderful time of worship and prayer that all students are able to participate in. It has been a delight to see the Grade 7 & 8 students take on leadership roles by sharing devotionals and assisting Mrs. Matheson in music choices.



Staff and students meet in Grade 7 & 8 for weekly devotions.

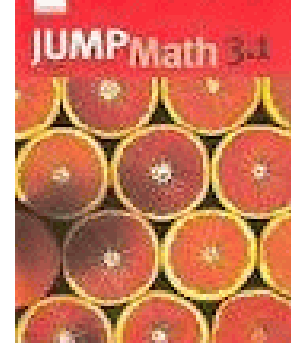
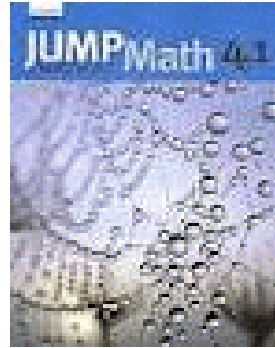
This past June, our school received a grant to pilot a new math program called Jump Math.

Jump Math's mission is "to enhance the potential in children by encouraging an understanding and a love of math in students and educators. Jump Math believes that all children can be led to think mathematically, and that with even a modest amount of attention, every child will flourish." (www.jumpmath1.org)

In Grade 3 & 4 we have completed the first unit on Patterning and Algebra with great success! This new program takes a large math concept and breaks it down into many small steps and together, the students and teacher work their way through the steps in order to understand how to reach the end goal.

The students in Grade 3 & 4 have also been working hard memorizing basic addition and subtraction facts already this year. We

enjoy learning these facts in many different ways. A few of our favourites are by completing Mad Minutes (seeing how many math facts we can complete in 2 minutes), by using a computer program called Performance Math 3 times a week for 15 minutes each time, and by playing Around the World with math fact cards. It is always a joy to see the students progress with these facts throughout the year.



You can check out this new program online at www.jumpmath1.org.



Dylan, Matthew and Robert having fun at the Grade 7-8 Class Retreat in September



Mr. Charron and the girls soccer team discuss strategy at this year's CDCS soccer tournament.

STUDENT LIFE— Grade 5 & 6

I cannot believe it is already October. September has flown by and it has been so great to be back. I have really enjoyed getting to know the students and seeing how much they are already growing.

One of the highlights for me so far this year has been teaching our first Science unit, Conservation of Energy and Resources. This unit was full particularly engaging and full of hands-on activities. It seemed there was something for everyone and students had a lot of opportunities to get creative. Below are a few photos of one particularly exciting activity in which students were to dissect a moving toy of their choice and observe the different energy transformations at work.



Timothy and Eric



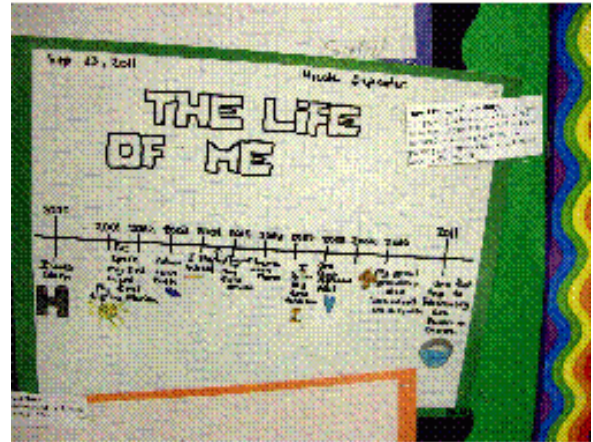
Celia and Sarah



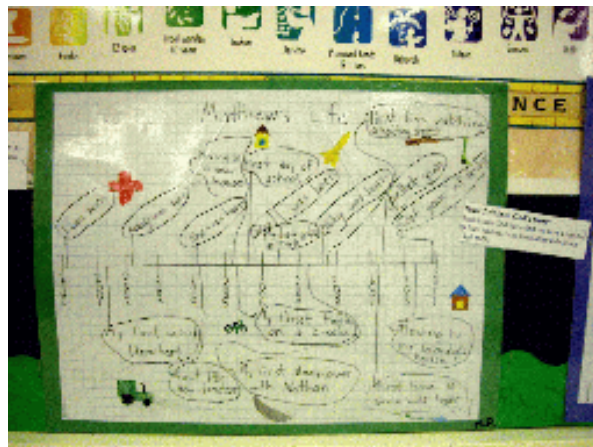
Ben, Sean and Brendan

In Bible, we have been looking at the time line of God's story and discussing His faithfulness, both to His people in the Bible and to us. This tied in nicely with this year's school theme, and it has been a great opportunity for students to reflect on their part in God's story. One assignment asked students to create a time line of their own lives, then reflect on how they feel they fit into God's story. Students did an excellent job on these and it was great to see the depth of their thinking about God's plan for their lives. Pictured

below are two of these time lines, one done by Nicole DePooter, and the other by Matthew Riedl.



Nicole's Timeline



Matthew's Timeline

Another area of study which I have really enjoyed teaching is Language, particularly when it comes to Creative Writing assignments. This class shines when they are given a bit of freedom in their writing. After learning about metaphors and similes, one assignment asked students to write a poem about themselves using either metaphors or similes. We had a great time writing and sharing these poems with one another. Following are two poems, written by students who chose to use similes.

I AM...

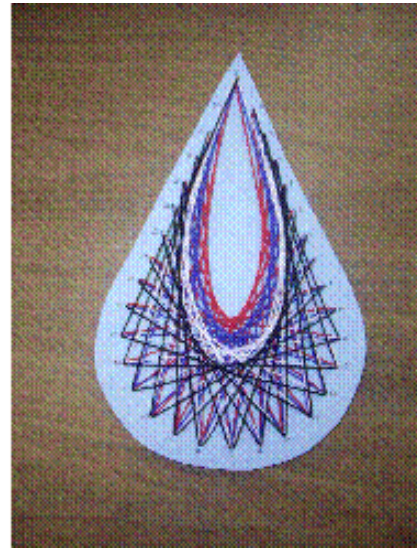
*I am as gentle as a golden horse in fall
I sound like a horse's **piercing** whinny calling
through the valley
I am like the gold and red leaves that fall down
from the sky like a feather
I am as sweet as the red candy canes that are
handed out on Christmas day
I am as sweet as chocolate
I am as graceful as a horse galloping through the
fresh white snow
I am as patient as a petunia*
By Jillian Lubbers

I AM...

*I am green like peridot
I am quiet like a mouse (when I want to be)
I am cheery like Christmas
I am as awesome as dessert
I am as fast as soccer
I am as majestic as a maple*
By Nathan Luth

Another subject I have really enjoyed teaching so far is Art. Our first project used Math concepts to introduce the idea of creating curves with geometrical lines. Students were able to choose their own difficulty level, and designed based on their own skills and preferences. The projects

came out looking great and the students put a lot of hard work into them. It was great to see them take so much pride in their work. Below is an example of the finished products.



By Sean Kraayenbrink

Now that we are into October, the workload is getting heavier, but so far I have been very impressed with the positive attitudes and good work ethic of this class. Already time is flying and I am looking forward to what the rest of this year has in store for us. I feel very blessed to have such great students and to be part of this school.



The Kindergarten classes show off the "Silver Sneaker Award", earned weekly by the classroom that keeps their hallway area the neatest. This size 17 shoe was donated by alumnus Dan Hooyer.

Thank you to our Christian Education supporters!

THANK YOU

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