



KING  
CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOL

1943 - 2018



Spring 2018 **NEWSLETTER**

*Sharing Our Story*



We **INVITE** all to participate in our learning community so that together we **IGNITE** passion to **IMPACT** the world in Jesus' name.

## Spring 2018 | NEWSLETTER



### *Blessing in the Leaving*

It's been several weeks since the announcement was made that I would be moving on to a new school community next year and it still doesn't seem quite real to me yet. I've been blessed by many people saying that I'll be missed and offering blessings on my new journey. It's been very emotionally difficult to make the separation in my mind about my life in this community for 27 years and

being excited about going to a new place. At first I didn't understand that I was beginning the process of grieving the leaving – navigating complex emotions and easily-watering eyes. My life has been invested in planting and watering seeds here at King Christian School for so many years that it's difficult to imagine that I could do this somewhere else, but I feel that God has called me at this time for just such an adventure.

Thank you for the privilege of allowing me to walk beside you for so many years as you raise(d) your children. I have been blessed to see a generation of children grow up and participate in Kingdom work and begin to raise their own families, some of whom send their children to this school. I have been honoured to work closely with former students on the Board of Directors and on committees. And I'm not sure if this supporting community can be duplicated anywhere as the emotional and financial investment in Christian education has carried on for over 75 years. It's also been an incredible blessing to share in the stories of the families who are new to Christian education. All these relationships and stories have been woven into who I am and in a smaller way into who you are as the supporting community. The ties we have in Jesus Christ and our commitment to Christian education cannot be broken even when our paths diverge.

I read a poem recently by Christian poet, Jan Richardson that ends this way:

*I promise you  
there is a blessing  
in the leaving,  
in the dust shed  
from your shoes  
as you walk toward home –  
not the one you left  
but the one that waits ahead,  
the one that already  
reaches out for you  
in welcome, in gladness  
for the gifts  
that none but you  
could bring.*

There is a blessing in the leaving for me and for the school community. Change provides new opportunities to trust that God has us all in the palm of his hands and that “*all the days ordained were written in God's book before one of them came to be*” (Psalm 139:16b). Change allows new leaders to shape and lead the vision of King Christian School as we head deeper into the 21st century. Our lives and history will always be connected, but God has new blessings and experiences in store for both of us!

Miss Sherry Bokma  
Principal



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## Letter From the Chairman

Dear KCS Friends  
and Family,

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank everyone involved in creating this newsletter. There is much work and effort that goes into preparing it and every season they do a great job. We also want to commend you on your choice of theme for this newsletter, as we honor of the 27 years of service that Sherry Bokma has provided this school. The Board is very thankful for Sherry and the hard work and dedication that she has shown to this school over her 27-year career and six years as principal. Sherry served as principal for the HMDCS Society through a very busy time of fundraising, planning and building a new school, moving, and was also at the forefront of our name change from HMDCS to King Christian School. Sherry poured countless hours of her time into making sure that our building was built and finished according to the way that best served our students and community, and for all of this we are truly grateful.

As always, we give God all the glory for all that he has done for this school, for his provision of the right people at the right time, for financial provision and for the blessings we receive through the existence of King Christian School.

Sincerely,  
Matthew Santorelli  
Chairman, KCS Board of Directors

At the last membership meeting, it was noted that Matthew Santorelli, Mark Smith and Ed Sikkema were completing their terms of service. Tim Ledlie, the school's caretaker, and Stephanie Robinson, one of the kindergarten teachers, were recognized for 20 years of service in the school. King Christian School wishes to thank these individuals for their contributions to our community and diligent service for the Lord.

On Saturday, February 17th, 2018, many gathered to rejoice in God's faithfulness and provision over the 75 year life of the HMDCS/KCS school community. Celebration was in the air as guests were treated to a family-friendly show by comedian Bob Cates and a time of storytelling by several alumni of the school. Special presentations were made by local dignitaries (Peter Van Loan, Avia Eek, Rob Keffer) and Ray Hendricks on behalf of the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools. The 75th Anniversary Committee members worked tirelessly to create rooms which showcased the 7 decades during which this school has been in existence. The grand finale was a delicious pulled pork dinner and fireworks that lit the night sky.

A big thank-you to those who organized and participated in this wonderful day of celebration.

*The board and staff of  
King Christian School would like to  
invite you to a special celebration*

*honouring the contributions  
over the past 27 years of  
Sherry Bokma*

*to the KCS/HMDCS community.*

*June 13, 2018 at 2 pm  
KCS gymnasium*



For 27 years, Miss Sherry Bokma has demonstrated a deep love for Christian education. She has taught grades 4-8 and served as school principal for the past 6 years. She was instrumental in the transition from Holland Marsh District Christian School to King Christian School. Earlier this spring, she announced that she sensed God's call to take on the role of principal at Immanuel Christian School in Aylmer.

*In honour of Sherry's 27-year-tenure at the school and the 75th anniversary of HMDCS/KCS, it seems an appropriate time to celebrate what makes this community an incredible place to be.*

Here are 27 of the more than 75 reasons to love the school:



## A All School Skate

Every year the school community gathers at the rec complex in Bradford to enjoy some fun together as they circle the arena. It is beautiful to see older students stepping into leadership roles and walking alongside the younger children.

## B Birthdays are celebrated

Miss Bokma's key connection with students at KCS is through her arrival at the classrooms of the children who have birthdays that week. The birthday song is sung and treats are chosen from a special box.



## C Christmas program

Months of preparation go into the spectacular performance each Christmas season as the children share the good news that Jesus was born. Every year the students garner rave reviews from the appreciative audience!



## D Donations by the Thrift Store

King Christian School is deeply appreciative of the monetary donations of the Re-Source Thrift Shop which helps the school on many levels, but primarily through supporting bursaries to help Christian parents afford Christian education. The store itself has amazing and committed volunteers who run the store. If you are interested in being a part of this incredible team of workers, even if you have a few hours to help with sorting donations, please contact Maria Wilcox at [brushdaily@yahoo.com](mailto:brushdaily@yahoo.com).



## E Eggs in Kindergarten

Every other year, JK and SK students enjoy the opportunity to experience the joy of new life that only God can bring. Children wait for 21 long days with eager anticipation to see the tiny chicks emerge from their eggs. The experience creates a beautiful life-long happy memory for the children.

## F Fireworks

75 years of Christian education means that God has provided much in the hills and valleys of those years. The school celebrated His faithful provision with a grand fireworks display on the anniversary weekend. The lights illuminated the dark winter night sky.



## G Golf Marathon

Every year, the Golf Marathon raises thousands of dollars for the school. We are truly thankful for those who come out for a long day of golf, food and fellowship. You are making valuable contributions to the school.

## H Healthy Living at School

On Friday, June 8th from 10-11 a.m. everyone, from the littlest cheetah cubs of JK to the sleek and streamlined prowess of the grade 8 lions, take to the playground to do as many laps as they can of a 5 km walk/run. KCS students are looking for your support. Ask them to find out how you can be a part of this.



## I Invite

We invite all to participate in our learning community. We have been blessed to have many incredible people join us in learning more about God, His story and His creation. One snowy day when the buses were cancelled, Mr. David Robinson, from TD Christian, offered students at the school a presentation on the beauty of God's creation, as seen in the different kinds of rocks that He has created.





## J My Jesus

Another group of interesting people that were a part of our learning experience this year were Alanna Story and Jodi Greenstreet. This team as part of the My Jesus event, which was to prepare our hearts for Easter as they led the school in worship and Jodi shared a dramatic monologue of the life of John.



## K Kindergarten Options – Joy School and Three Days A Week

The Kindergarten program at KCS offers two amazing learning experiences. Parents can choose between 3 and 5 day options. The regular program runs Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Joy School takes place on Tuesdays and Thursday for those who wish an every day program.

## L Learning is Celebrated

On Tuesday, May 8th the community was invited for a glimpse into the things that students are learning at KCS. The student presentations of learning were followed by the annual spring concert.

## M Music

The KCS music program is award-winning. It is beautiful to see how over the course of 6 years of recorder and band music, students become musically competent individuals that can work together as a beautiful team.





## N New Staff

This year, KCS welcomed two new staff members, Mrs. Grace Rumble and Mr. Kieran Hoult. We are thankful for their presence in the school. They have commented how much they enjoy being a part of this school community. They have been blessed by the leadership of the school, the staff and the families that are a part of it.



## O Overnight Trips

Learning goes outside the classroom walls, as students travel to Fair Glen, Ste Marie Among the Hurons and Ottawa, Montreal and Kingston. Team building and learning about our country and culture are curriculum highlights.

## P Partners/Bus Buddies/Learning Partners

Several classes have paired up as learning partners. Together they read, write, play number games, use Chromebooks and build strong relationships with one another. The connections made with bus buddies is also a joy to see!



## Q Quality Work

Students are encouraged to do their best for God and who he's created them to be—whether they are sitting in their desks, out on the playground or riding the bus to and from school.





# R *Robotics at TD*

In the last week of April, the JK and SK students ventured to TD Christian for a day of learning how to program robotic tractors with the Grade 12 Engineering Block class. The energy and enthusiasm for learning was high as students of all ages engaged in the tasks set before them.



# S *Sports Teams*

Students in grades 7 and 8 have competed successfully this year in badminton, volleyball, basketball, soccer and track & field day events. A highlight was bringing home the girls' and boys' trophies in the North Toronto Basketball tournament.



## T Talking through Speech Fest/Chapels

The hope for students at the school is to create an environment where they learn how to present their work with confidence and ease. Presenting speeches, collaboration within small groups and sharing during bi-weekly chapels helps to provide a safe atmosphere where students learn important life skills.



## U Understanding the World from a Biblical perspective

Our world belongs to God. From the first days of Junior Kindergarten to the graduation ceremony of grade eight, children are taught the message that God created the world and that it is our job to care for it. The story of God's redemptive work in history is shared in every class each and every day.

## V Volunteers that work hard

Our school would cease to exist without the countless hours of work contributed by the band of dedicated volunteers. From serving on the board, to cutting out pictures for centre time activities, to preparing hot dog lunches or feeding the crowd at the Pastors' Breakfast, our school runs on the hardworking people of this community. Our hearts are full of appreciation for all that you do!

## W Winter Carnival

Every year the school's birthday is celebrated with a Winter Carnival. Students from all of the grades are put into teams and compete against each other. This year, in honour of the Olympics, teams represented different nations.



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## X Exciting Experiences with Literacy

KCS boasts two quality Battle of the Books teams—one at the junior and the other at the senior level. Months of preparation go into being a Battle of the Books team member, as they are required to read 10 books and remember even the tiniest details from the stories that they have read. For the last several years, KCS has hosted a regional meet where a variety of schools from the surrounding area have come to battle their comprehension skills.



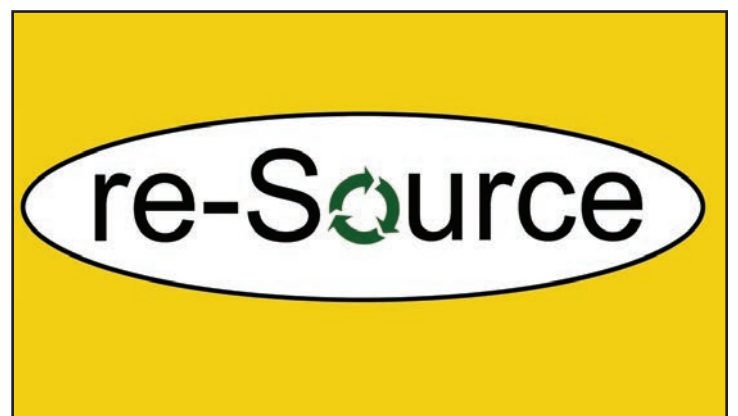
## Y Yearly testing

Each year students perform the MAP test as a standardized test. Results are used to guide instruction as to best meet the needs of the students in the class. Students at the school have scored well across the grade levels.



## Z Zillion

There are likely a zillion more reasons why KCS is a great place to be. Call the office today and book a tour of our beautiful facility, meet the staff and enjoy a cup of warm coffee as you discover the treasure of Christian education.





## Miss Bokma

Saving the best for last, we wish to thank Miss Bokma for her leadership, commitment to Christian education and steadfast presence in our school for 27 years. She has welcomed students every morning with a smile and friendly "Good morning". During the day, she has walked many kilometres supervising the playground, listened to almost three decades of students share their stories and helped them navigate their way through the challenges of growing up. Even after some long days at school, she has been the one to lock the school doors after a board or committee meeting. Through it all, she has strived to live a life worthy of the Lord. Thank you, Sherry Bokma, for all that you have contributed to KCS, to make it the beautiful place that it is.

## A Blessing to Our Community

Over the last few weeks, Mrs. McKinley's grade one class has watched caterpillars emerge from a chrysalis and take flight as beautiful painted lady butterflies. The butterflies grew up and spread their wings to fulfill their God-given purpose.

At the same time, Mr. Geertsema's grade eight students visited the Christian Gleaners in Cambridge as a follow-up to the gleaning experience in the fall. The grade eight students packaged 4000-5000 servings of soup so that healthy food can be sent to places in the world that need it most. They were doing their part to be the hands and feet of Christ and be a blessing to the world that they live in.

As the grade eight students end their time at KCS, we are thankful for the many ways that they have contributed to our school community. We pray that they have been given the tools to grow and flourish in a way that honours the Lord, so that they are able to do the things that God calls them to do, wherever He calls them to be. Please keep the graduating class of the 2017-2018 school year in your prayers as they move on to high school and beyond.

Bradley Biersteker  
Evan Bodini  
Austin Broad  
Angie Chung  
Mackenzie Dixon  
Emilie Loopstra

Katryna Martens  
Carmela Monaco  
Samantha Peters  
Nathan Reist  
Noah Schenk  
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# Looking Ahead

**June 13, 2018**

.... Community farewell  
for Miss Bokma, 2 pm

**June 15, 2018**

.... Graduation, 8 pm

**June 18–21, 2018**

.... Grade 8  
Ottawa/Montreal trip

**June 20, 2018**

.... SK graduation, 2 pm

**June 22, 2018**

.... Last day of school,  
report cards

**August 29, 2018**

.... Ice cream social, 6 pm

**September 4, 2018**

.... 1st day of school,  
11:00 am Assembly

**September 29, 2018**

.... HarvestFest, 10am – 2pm



## Thank you to our Generous Sponsors

Your commitment to Christian education is a blessing to King Christian School. Our advertising sponsors help fund our yearly traditions: Ice Cream Social, Grandparents' Day and the Pastor Appreciation Breakfast, the printing of this newsletter as well as provide the financial backing to spread the word about King Christian School in targeted local advertising.

Thank you for continuing to support King Christian School in all we do!  
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