

# The Knox News

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**BDCSS Board Chair** Paul Winkelhorst

**Principal/COO** Terry Van Leeuwen

**Vice Principal** Jane Hoogendam

## From the Principal's Desk

*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

Ephesians 4:32

It seems like a long time ago that we celebrated Christmas and the beginning of the new year. Now that we have settled back into the routines of school, it is easy to forget about the love, joy, and peace we celebrate in December. But that is part of human nature – out of sight, out of mind. As we focus on kindness for the month of January, it is important to keep kindness on our minds each and every day. As I interact with students, parents, and staff each day, I am amazed by the kindness shown by everyone. Knox Christian School is a special place and I know that God's presence is evident. Our students show kindness each day when they cooperate with staff, help a hurting friend, include each other in their games at recess, offer to help out around the school, and think about ways they can help others in need. We can all show kindness by praying for each other. As we walk daily in God's presence, may we take time each day to think about how our thoughts, words, and actions reflect God's kindness.

## Director of Communications

We are pleased to have Linda Wielinga join us as our Director of Communications. She has already been hard at work behind the scenes getting things in place for the new format for our weekly newsletter (to be unveiled next week), building relationships with local churches, and working on promotional material for all aspects of Bowmanville Christian Pre-school and Knox Christian School.

## Registration for 2012-2013

Yes! It is time to start thinking about registering for the 2012-2013 school year. Our Kindergarten registration will occur in February. If you have a child starting in Kindergarten in the fall, please contact the office for more information. Pre-enrolment forms will also go out in February to be returned by Friday, March 9. If you know of any families that may be interested in attending Knox, please have them contact the school office. We would love to answer any questions they may have and take them on a tour of the school.

## Lost and Found

Please consider checking out our lost and found box for misplaced items. We will be sending the lost and found to a local charity early in January!

## Speech Contest

Our local Speech Festival is coming up soon - February 10. Students have chosen topics and are now working on writing their speeches. Parents are encouraged to connect with their children on their speeches and encourage their child to write and memorize their speech! The gift of voice and speech is amazing, let's develop this gift to the best of our abilities!

## Bussing News

Please be patient as we try to fill all of our bus driver's seats. At the moment, we are running on a skeleton crew of bus drivers. Thank you.

## Spirit Day

It's Pajama Day next Wednesday, January 18! Come to school straight out of bed – bed head and slippers included! Enjoy a Spirit Day assembly and a pizza lunch.

## Battle of the Books

Please keep reading your books. Teams will be chosen later in January to represent our school at the Battle of the Books in Trenton.

## Christmas Concert

We are thankful for the wonderful Christmas Concert that was held just before the holidays. This year's offering of \$997.00 was shared equally between Bethesda House and the Dominican Republic Project.

## New Students

Two new students from Korea have started a seven week stay in grade 6. God bless you, SuhYoon (Yoona) Jung and Yae-Bin (Jenny) Han as you join us.

## The Inside Scoop

Three of our faculty members will be attending the Assessment Conference next Thursday at the King's Collegiate in Oakville. Thomas R. Guskey is the Featured Speaker who will focus on "Building Assessment Capacity: Roles of Assessment". It should be a great day of learning and connecting, also as we are focusing on "Assessment" in our program here at Knox.

We were surprised to find a caterpillar in the woods this week? What will it do when the snow flies?

## Parent Meeting

The Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region meets monthly in Ajax. This month, January 26, 2012, the topic is Self-Regulation Strategies. "A child's ability to regulate emotion and behaviour is a strong predictor of future success. In fact, research findings suggest that self-regulation is much more important to academic success than is IQ." If you wish to attend, please call Mrs. D. VandeMeent to arrange car pooling!

## Pastor's Day

We will be hosting our Pastor's Day on January 25, 2012. A form went home on Wednesday asking each family to confirm church affiliation as well as pastor's name, phone number and e-mail address as we don't want to forget any pastor with our invitations. Please return the form to the office as soon as possible so that the Development Committee can plan their day! Thanks for your help!

## **Bowmanville Pre-School – Mrs. Reid**

We are very excited to welcome three new friends this month! We are exploring winter weather this week and practicing the putting on and taking off of all our winter clothes. It's hard work, but we can do it!

## **JK/SK – Mrs. DeJong**

It's great to be back at school after so many enjoyable activities to participate in again! Did you know that Miniature Marshmallow Mathematics is so much fun? We can estimate, count, add, subtract, measure, build, and more. Okay, maybe just a few of them mysteriously disappeared! Finishing up some letter "Mm" activities this week is proving to be delicious! Even the characters in our Bible story have names beginning with letter "Mm." The monthly calendar has been distributed and we're looking forward to having a turn to bring special show-and-tell. Please look for extra special Scholastic Book order forms. Any orders are always appreciated and benefit our class. Thank you!

## **Grade 1/2 – Mrs. Crookall**

We're busy settling back into routine after the holidays. Our new Creation Studies unit is about Fish and Sharks. We are so excited to learn more about these creatures that God made! The grade 1 Word Wall Words for this week were: "can't", "there", "see", "with", and "thing". Grade 1 is learning about place value and numbers to 100 in Math. Grade 2 is learning how to subtract with regrouping. Don't forget to keep reading and recording it on the January Reading Logs that were sent home on Monday! Next week's Show & Tell theme is: "Sharks."

## **Grade 3 - Mrs. McDowell**

Happy New Year and welcome back to school! January's Word Wall lists and flyer were sent home on Monday. We are learning about data and graphs in math and have begun a reading theme called "Family Pictures." Students may bring in special family snapshots to post on our "Family Pictures" bulletin board. (Pictures will be returned at the end of the theme study.) Our word patterns this week are: "-art", "-ert", "-irt", "-ort", and "-urn". Thank you for all the Christmas gifts and goodies!

## **Grade 4 - Ms. Ullman**

We are completing our Multiplication Unit and will have a test on Thursday, January 19. We have been working on selecting main points out of the chapters we read in *Mr. Popper's Penguins* to create chapter summaries. Our next spelling quiz will be on Friday, January 27. Please return the spelling quiz notebooks if you have not already done so.

## **Grade 5 – Mrs. Bandstra & Mrs. Rozema**

We have "hit the ground running" this week as we dive into some excellent goal setting opportunities and projects! We have chosen speech topics and are working to elaborate our outlines before writing. We have set new Accelerated Reader goals and learned a method of double digit multiplication called the lattice method!

## **Grade 6 - Mrs. Fayer-Murphy**

We welcome two new students to our classroom: Jenny and Yoona, from Korea. They will be with us, doing whatever we do in class, for seven weeks. They know some English already, but aim to improve. Speeches, literature essays, and Ancient Greece projects are underway. Keep a close tab on due-dates. We will have a Bible test next Wednesday and 1 Cor. 13, entire chapter, is to be recited by Friday January 20. That is also the day

each student should have a small shoe box at school.

## **Grade 7 - Mrs. Feddema**

Welcome back, students! Our speech preparations are underway. Parents, please note the letter with important guidelines and expectations that was sent home on Tuesday. A copy can also be found on the website. Topics must be decided by Thursday. We have begun our new geography unit on the tundra biome. Watching "Ice Worlds" from the Planet Earth series was a great introduction to the amazing ways in which animals and plants not only survive, but thrive in the Arctic. Students will write an open book literature review later this week. French presentations will be next Tuesday and Wednesday. Lesson 13 of spelling is due Friday.

## **Grade 8 - Mr. Janssen**

Loyalty to Britain, or to the 13 colonies? Answers to that decision meant abandoning farm land, moving, and perhaps even life or death in 1775 in North America. In Bible we've continued to examine Ahab and Jezebel's actions as King and Queen of Israel, specifically with their neighbor, Naboth. A package that will guide grade eight students (including due dates) has been reviewed in class. With speeches less than a month away, managing time well with this task will be crucial. Welcome back to the New Year, grade eight!

## **Resource - Mrs. VandeMeent and Mrs. Hoogendam**

We are certainly glad to be back, and the students are eager to start fresh as well. Take the time to review your spelling words this month. We are also working on outlining and planning speeches.

## **Athletics At Knox:**

The final volleyball practice will be Tuesday, January 17 from 3:30 – 5:30. The tournament has been moved to Wednesday, January 18 during the school day.

The girls will be playing at Holy Trinity and the boys will be playing at St. Stephens.

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## **Prayer Items**

An answer to prayer for Hammy Vandergaast, mother of Sharon Payne and grandmother to Matthew Payne, whose health has improved greatly in the past month.

Please pray for Bowmanville Christian Pre-school, Knox Christian School, and Durham Christian High School, as we begin planning for the 2012-2013 school year, that God would bring new families to our schools.

Pray for our school this year as we continue to provide Christian education in the Clarington community: encouraging our students to develop their God-given gifts and to discover the joys and wonders of God's world.

If you have a Prayer item you would like included in the *Knox News*, please let the office know.

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## **Upcoming Dates**

**Monday, January 16** BDCSS Board meeting (7:30 pm)  
**Wednesday, January 18** Hot Lunch & Spirit Day  
**Tuesday, January 24** Finance Committee Meeting  
**Wednesday, January 25** Pastors' Day  
**Tuesday, January 31** Program Committee Meeting  
**Wednesday, February 8** Hot Lunch & Spirit Day  
**Friday, February 10** Knox Speech Festival