

# THE CAIRN COMPASS

Inspiring students to love, learn, and lead together in God's world.

Summer 2021

Curiosity **2-3**

**4** Compassion

Perseverance **5**

**6-7** A Very Canadian  
Collaboration

How do we govern  
with Integrity **8**

**9-11** A Joyful Finish

Sponsors **12**

## A Year Forged in Character

by Kevin Huinink, Executive Director

You've likely done some big things in your life - whether you're 10 or 30 or 50 or 80 years old, you can look back and say 'Wow, that was tough work!' When you look back on that project, that experience, that accomplishment, and review what was hard and what was good about that time, what do you recall?

As a school staff, as a board, as a leadership team, and as students, we each took some time to look back and reflect on what this past year was like. We could all agree that it was difficult! When we recounted what went well, though, we were often struck by how often people's beautiful character traits shone even more brightly.

Being connected in Christ is a big deal at Cairn Christian School, and we teach, model, and encourage one another to grow especially in our six identified traits of curiosity, compassion, collaboration, integrity, perseverance, and joy. This edition of the Cairn Compass will unpack each of these for you as we saw them reflected in our work.

In 2020-21, we found out that in Christ, we CAN do hard things, and that our character grows as a result! We hope you enjoy sharing these experiences with us here!



CAIRN COMPASS:  
Published by  
Cairn Christian School

**Cairn Christian School,  
Stoney Creek**  
795 Hamilton Reg. Rd 8,  
Stoney Creek, ON  
L8E 5J3

☎ 905.643.2460  
✉ stoneycreek@  
cairnchristianschool.ca

**Editor:**  
Kevin Huinink

**Consultant  
Members:**  
Wendy Colyn  
Bonnie Desjardins  
Joyce Koornneef  
Doreen Van de Ban

**Cairn Christian School,  
Smithville**  
6470 Niagara Reg. Rd. 14,  
Smithville, ON  
L0R 2A0

☎ 905.9577796  
✉ smithville@  
cairnchristianschool.ca



# Curiosity: An SK Backyard Bird Adventure

*by Mrs. Stacy Kok - SK teacher in Stoney Creek*

Every spring we wait for their arrival. We keep our eyes peeled, looking to our lawns and neighbourhood greens hoping to see one. Our ears listen, anticipating their song...backyard birds announce the onset of spring and we feel a sense of hope and new life. We see them and we are thankful, but how much do we actually know about these beautiful creations of God?

This is the question that I posed to our Senior Kindergarten class in late March. With their curiosity piqued, we began an intensive study of birds that was narrowed down to Southern Ontario backyard birds...birds that we see in and around our neighbourhoods. We discovered the different attributes that belong to birds and investigated a bird's life cycle. We learned about their habitats and even designed and created our own bird nests. Our excitement over this project was growing and it was driven by our sense of curiosity about the birds we see every day.

As we pivoted to at-home learning, our curiosity continued to drive our learning. The SK students watched for and counted birds over spring break in April, using tally marks and their math skills to count the number of each type of bird that was seen. These results will be given to Cornell Lab as a bird count for the region. Each child began to research, with the help of their parents, their selected bird. Through our online Zoom meetings, we did experiments that helped us to learn more about bird bones and how they are able to fly, as well as the different types of bird beaks. Our curiosity led us to discover that God gave different types of birds different styles of beaks, depending upon where they lived and what type of food that bird ate.

As we continued to learn about our neighbourhood birds, we realized that other people might also be curious about their own backyard birds. Our class began the process of putting together a field guide so that we could share all that we had learned. Each student began the hard work of drawing a scientific illustration of their bird. This consisted of multiple drafts, critiques and revisions. They also wrote field guide entries for each bird, sharing the information that they learned from their research.

Mr. Jack De Roos, a volunteer at 'New Again' (New Again Construction Essentials) in Beamsville, built birdhouses for each student. These birdhouses were delivered to the school by another New Again volunteer, Mr. John Kok and his wife, Mary Ann. The SK class will be gifting these birdhouses along with a copy of their Backyard Birds Field Guide to different long-term care facilities and senior friends in July. Knowing that their work would help others to learn more about God's beautiful birds gave them a reason to persevere even when the work was hard and their hands were tired.

Being curious about the world around us provides so many opportunities to be amazed at God's creation. We learned that our God is a God of detail - all the way down to the hollow bones of birds, that allow them to fill with air, enabling flight. God's creation will always point back to Him - our sense of curiosity allows us to see God in all of His creation. What are you curious about?

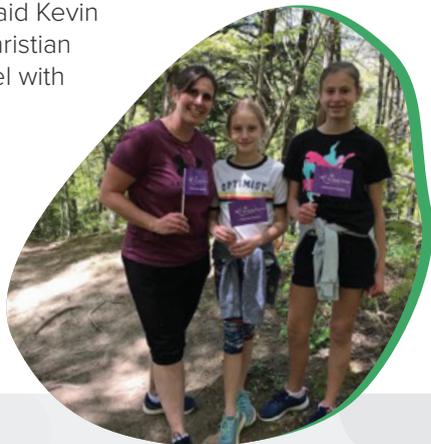


# Compassion: Hike for Hospice

The students and staff of Cairn Christian School's Stoney Creek campus recently held a virtual Hike for Hospice in support of McNally House Hospice in Grimsby. The school has been 'Hiking for Hospice' annually for three years, and usually holds the event around and in front of McNally Hospice followed by a picnic lunch at a nearby park. This year they needed to be more creative in their approach, and embarked on a virtual hike and fundraiser with the assistance of online tools.

Under the direction of Jacqueline Scholman, the Grade 8 teacher, they set a target of \$10,000, which at the time seemed like quite an audacious goal. Surprising even themselves, the students, staff, and families raised a grand total was \$22,586!

"We work diligently as a learning community to inspire our students to love, learn and lead together in God's world, and this event is evidence that our students are embracing that mission and growing in compassion, perseverance and integrity", said Kevin Huinink, the Executive Director of Cairn Christian School. "The connection our students feel with the vision and mission of McNally House through this event is something they will carry far beyond their school years as they become increasingly responsible for supporting important causes in our community such as this."



# Perseverance: Mentally stronger together

by Mrs. Marge Kloet - Child and Youth Care Practitioner

Thank You for listening! I have found myself saying this to others who have taken the time to hear me out when I'm trying to sort out the next steps to a decision. I have received these very same words from others who over the past few months have been grateful for the listening ear.

While remote learning took place, there were many mental health supports shared. The role of the school counsellor allowed for zoom sessions, phone calls, community referrals, connecting students with added support, being available for teachers or offering encouragement and resources in the weekly newsletter. Remote learning allowed for new and versatile ways to support the Cairn Christian School Community as we moved through this part of the school year. We can see that this versatility, while it came with hardship at times, has taught us new ways to be 'stronger together'. Looking ahead with optimism, I anticipate that this positive outcome will be seen in the school communities and in the mental health programs at

each school campus for the 2021/22 school year. "Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken". Ecclesiastes 4:12



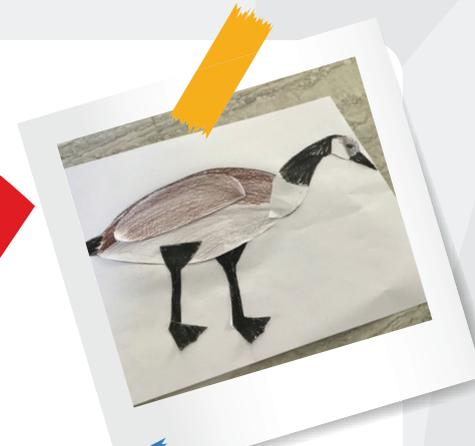
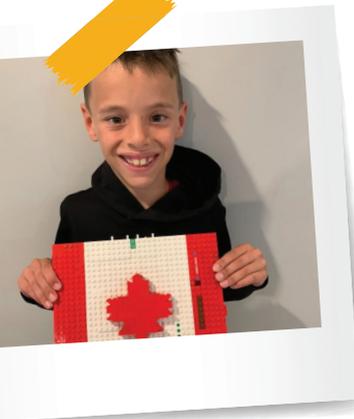
# A Very Canadian Collaboration

by Mrs. Carla Teeuwsen, Grade Two teacher in Smithville

As we got closer to the month of June and the realization that we would continue with online learning, Mrs. Deboer, Mr. Lee, Mr. Kingma, and I thought we needed to keep things interesting for students. We decided that since we often ask our students to collaborate with each other that we should work together on this to make it a Grades 1-3/4 project. We met for part of an afternoon to discuss what we would like our students to learn and how we would deliver the lessons. We had to overcome a few technological challenges since not all grades used Seesaw. This was more challenging for some than others!

What better way to keep things interesting than to study our country! We have been blessed to live in an amazing country with so much beautiful scenery, unique animals, and interesting history. The difficult part was to narrow down our country into two weeks worth of lessons. Each teacher chose topics close to their heart and the lessons were meant for all the grades. This allowed the families to work together to complete the daily activities.

It was wonderful to see the creativity of the students. They definitely rose to the challenge! It was also wonderful to see siblings collaborating!



# How do we govern with Integrity?

by Nigel Harnanan, Board Chairperson



What does it really mean to be a governing board? How does the Board do this, and what exactly do members of the Board do? These were all questions that were running through my mind as I nervously walked into the library at the Smithville campus for my first meeting after being elected to sit on the Board of Directors.

Over my four years on the Board, I learned that being a Board member is not a position to be taken lightly. It is a significant responsibility, holding ourselves and the leadership team accountable for ensuring that our schools are financially sound and operate according to the governing policies; for our future success by regularly reviewing, evaluating and debating the initiatives on our strategic plan, and, most importantly; for ensuring that the actions and activities undertaken are in the best interest of the Society and its members. In a word, we implicitly ask ourselves frequently: How do we govern with *integrity*?

Fulfilling these accountabilities meant that many of our meetings stretched late into the night with the Board debating, sometimes spiritedly, the merits and challenges of almost every activity and recommendation as we all brought different perspectives to the table. The goal is that we, as a Board, helped to ensure that the right things were done for the Society and members and continue to work towards achieving our vision, based on the information available. In some cases that meant taking a leap of faith as we tackled issues related to the pandemic. In other cases, it meant making decisions that we knew would be difficult in the near term but would set our schools up for continued success longer term.

It was a privilege being part of a group that continues to ensure we fulfill our mission to love, learn, and lead together in God's world today and for many years to come.



# Joyful Finish



by the Leadership Team: Mr. Huinink, Mrs. Desjardins, and Mrs. Koornneef

What better way to finish a school year than with our graduates and their parents?!! With a perfectly timed lifting of restrictions, we were able to safely gather in person outdoors with both of our graduating classes, sharing a meal, and celebrating their journey through elementary school. Complete with an outdoor stage, live streaming for siblings, family and friends who could not be there, and the regular 'pomp and circumstance' of a graduation ceremony, we found out about each graduate - what made them special and how they've grown 'Connected in Christ' through their years as a student at a Christian School.

Each valedictorian highlighted that although this was a difficult year, there were also things that made it special despite the circumstances, and the mission and vision of the school lived through their instruction and relationships, their learning and development. As a staff, we marvelled that while we have been working hard inspiring these students TO love, learn, and lead together in God's world, they have become inspiring students WHO love learn, and lead together in God's world.

We praise God for His faithfulness, and are thankful for the gift of Joy in graduation ceremonies!



The Cairn Compass is a quarterly newsletter distributed to the Cairn Christian School supporting community.

**Our Mission** *Inspiring students to love, learn, and lead together in God's world.*

**Our Vision** *To be the leaders in education by inspiring a diverse and unified student body to love, learn, and lead with God's grace, bringing Christ's love to the world.*



Philip Dekker [www.dekkersauto.ca](http://www.dekkersauto.ca)

74029 Regional Road 27, Wellandport, ON L0R 2J0  
T: 905-386-6253 F: 905-386-0265 E: dekkersauto@gmail.com

**MATTHEW DEVRIES**

289.686.0317  
DEEPBLUEWATERSDELIVERY@GMAIL.COM

Building Quality Since 1983

Tim VanderWier Call: 289-241-5684  
tim@vanderwierconstruction.ca

Nathaniel VanderWier Call: 289-241-5173  
nathaniel@vanderwierconstruction.ca

5612 ELCHO RD., WELLANDPORT, ON L0R 2J0

**Cole's Florist & Garden Centre**

147 Main St. East, Grimsby  
905-945-2219

**CabinetWorks<sup>Plus</sup>**  
*Kitchen and Bath Design Studio*

Come home to a world all your own™

Tel: 905-641-1848 Fax: 905-641-4721

**Roy Wielhouwer**  
DESIGNER/OWNER

210 Bunting Road St. Catharines, Ontario L2M 3Y1  
royw@cabinetworksplus.com  
www.cabinetworksplus.com

**Bert Vis Flooring** *Since 1978*

FREE ESTIMATES

Tel: 905-957-7779  
Email: sales@bertvis.com  
[www.bertvis.com](http://www.bertvis.com)

P.O. Box 598  
214 St. Catharine St.  
Smithville, ON L0R 2A0

houzz.com/pro/bertvisflooring  
facebook.com/BertVisFlooring

CARPET • CERAMIC • LUXURY VINYL • LAMINATE  
HARDWOOD • CORK • PAINT

**ABINGDON HEIGHTS**  
LANDSCAPES

ABINGDONHEIGHTS.CA

# SIXTEEN METALWORKS

Metal Designs - Welding & Fabricating - CNC Plasma Cutting

Joseph Zantingh

C: (905) 746-2644 Smithville, ON  
E: 16metalworks@gmail.com www.16metalworks.com

RE/MAX Wayne Schilstra TEAM 905.957.1188



Wesley Schilstra SALES REP  
Wayne Hildebrand BROKER  
David Schilstra SALES REP  
Steven Schilstra BROKER

RE/MAX ESCARPMENT REALTY INC., BROKERAGE  
INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED

wayneschilstra.com



Matt Dam Hon. BA. Bus. Advisor  
matt.dam@sunlife.com  
www.sunlife.ca/mattdamfinancial

Matt Dam Financial Services Inc.  
165 Hwy 20 West, Suite 3  
Fonthill, ON L0S 1E5  
Tel: 905-892-5993  
Toll free: 1-888-889-4742

Sun Life  
Life's brighter under the sun

\*Mutual funds distributed by Sun Life Financial Investment Services (Canada) Inc. Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada is a member of the Sun Life Financial group of companies.  
© Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, 2019.

Van Hoorn's  
*inspired by you...created by us*

Quality Cabinetry & Custom Woodworking  
steve@vanhoorns.ca www.vanhoorns.ca Phone: 905.562.8886  
Steve & Elaine



905-945-8008

Shutters • Blinds  
Draperies • Shades

William Bezemer/Owner  
11 Livingston Avenue  
Grimsby, Ontario

villageinteriorsgrimsby@gmail.com  
villageinteriorsonline.com

Dwight teBrake CPA  
Professional Corporation

Tel: 905-899-2424  
Fax: 905-899-2426  
dwight@tebrake.ca  
www.tebrake.ca

- Accounting
  - Consulting
  - Personal & Corporate Taxation
  - Succession Planning
  - Agri-Business Programs, Accounting & Tax
- 42126 Hwy #3  
Wainfleet, Ontario  
L0S 1V0

Schilstra BUILDERS

We build it like it's our own!

Custom Homes - Additions - Agricultural Structures  
905-902-7393 | info@schilstrabuilders.com  
www.schilstrabuilders.com



Merritt Funeral Home Inc.

287 Station Street, Smithville, Ontario  
Tel. 905-957-7031

E-mail: merrittfuneralhome@sympatico.ca  
www.merritt-fh.com

Thomas C. Merritt - Managing Funeral Director  
M. Andrew Gauthier - Funeral Director



Licensed by BAO

Serving our community since 1921



Meester Insurance Centre



T: 905.957.2333 www.meesterinsurance.com  
800.465.8256  
F: 905.957.2599 The Village Square  
E: info@meesterinsurance.com Reg. Rd. 20, P.O. Box 299  
Smithville, ON L0R 2A0

With So Much on the Line, You Can't AFFORD to Compromise

Jerry's AUTO BODY

5529 King St. West, Beamsville  
905-563-7702 | jerrysautobody.ca

Serving the community since 1969 for all your collision & restoration needs!

Your FENCING Pro!

Commercial, Residential, Farm Fence

905.658.2557  
Post@PostTimeServices.Com

Post Time

4073 Canborough Rd., Wellandport



FRANS IPEMA HOME RENOVATIONS

905-931-9499

Specializing in Interior Home Renovations  
SERVING THE NIAGARA REGION

Referrals available • Licenced Carpenter • Over 20 Years Experience

- INTERIOR RENOVATIONS • DRYWALL • DOORS • WINDOWS • DECKS
- BASEMENTS • TRIM WORK • HANDYMAN WORK

ANGIE DJURDJEVIC INSURANCE

Life, Disability, Critical Illness, and Travel Insurance as well as Group/Health, RRSPs, RRIFs, Segregated Investments, Guaranteed Investment Certificates, and Annuities.

for individuals & families and business owners  
35 years experience, 800+ satisfied clients!

Contact me for a  
no charge insurance needs consultation!

angiedjurdjevicinsurance.ca  
905 570 4779  
info@angiedjurdjevicinsurance.ca

MORE THAN JUST A ROOF OVER YOUR HEAD

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL ROOFING & SIDING  
Free estimates • Fully insured • Limited lifetime guarantee

DYKSTRA BROTHERS

Serving the Niagara Region, Burlington & Hamilton

905.563.7374  
Visit us at: dykstrabrothers.com