

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

OPPORTUNITY PROFILE - SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

A STORY OF GOD'S BLESSINGS AND FAITHFULNESS

Cairn Christian School was formed in 1999 when John Knox Christian School in Stoney Creek and Covenant Christian School in Smithville joined together to more effectively provide Christian day school education to Christian families in the Greater Niagara and East Hamilton areas.

John Knox Christian School opened its doors in 1961 to 99 pupils, with three dedicated staff members who taught grades one through eight. Since that time, it has seen numerous periods of growth and expansion, both as a facility and in terms of the people who have become involved in its strong approach to Christian education. Now known as Cairn Christian School Stoney Creek, it has approximately 246 students from JK to grade eight who come from a wide variety of denominational backgrounds.

Covenant Christian School began in 1988 as an offshoot of an overcrowded Wellandport Christian School. A group of Christian families had a vision for providing Christian education in the Smithville area, and Covenant was born. It has provided a vibrant setting for students to explore God's world in the light of God's Word since its inception. Now known as Cairn Christian School Smithville, it has approximately 308 students from JK to grade eight.

Recognizing God's faithfulness throughout their early years, acknowledging the commitment and sacrifice of the schools' founders, and anticipating God's continued blessing, the two schools joined together under the Niagara Association for Christian Education (NACE). In 2010, Wellandport Christian School amalgamated with the Niagara Association for Christian Education, and its students and staff joined Covenant Christian School. In 2017, as a strategic initiative to build clarity within our schools, they were rebranded together as Cairn Christian School. Our Christian Schools have enjoyed the unique strengths and contributions of each of its founding communities, and we look forward in hope and expectation to being able to endow the next generation with a vital, Christ-centred education.

IDEALLY SITUATED

The Niagara Association for Christian Education's two campuses are located within a region which is known for its agricultural base. Vineyards and other tender fruits continue to be visible and an important part of the local economy. The Region offers outstanding Christian secondary and postsecondary education facilities and excellent health care. The Region also offers a range of facilities and amenities, including those for the performing arts, sports teams,

museums, recreational facilities, parks and conservation areas.

Another distinct feature of this region is its location within a larger area known as the Golden Horseshoe. At one end of the Golden Horseshoe, access to the United States can be found via Niagara Falls. At the other end is the large metropolitan area known as the Greater Hamilton Area. A bit further around the bay is Toronto, which is the largest city in Canada and is the provincial capital of Ontario. As one might expect, proximity to these large urban markets affords families and singles, young and old, an abundance of opportunities and experiences.

A PRINCIPAL EQUIPPED FOR OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

We are seeking a school principal to begin August 1, 2025, following the retirement of our current principal effective on that date. Our objective is to find the best match between the needs of Cairn Christian School at this time in its history and the personal experience and attributes of the candidate to complement the current leadership team. The successful candidate will have the appropriate combination of vision, leadership, relationship skills, and experience in education.

The next principal will bring at least two characteristics to the task. One is a deep-seated personal faith in and commitment to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, and another is a strong and thoughtful commitment to the Vision, Mission and Goals of Cairn Christian School. The candidate's qualifications should include membership in good standing of the Ontario College of Teachers (or having the ability to obtain the OTC certification) and having undertaken advanced study beyond the required Bachelor of Education. The candidate should have a solid grounding in [Restorative Practices in Education](#), [Communities of Belonging](#), and [Teaching for Transformation](#).

It is important to note that the principal functions within a policy governance framework. Cairn has a leadership team that is made up of an Executive Director and two Principals who work to fulfill the vision and mission of the organization. This could be a particularly attractive position for either someone who would be new to this role or an experienced principal who has a good sense of his or her areas of strength. The next principal will demonstrate a leadership style through which they inspire a flourishing leadership team. Finally, they will have well-developed interpersonal and communication skills, which permit effective engagement and promotion to a more denominationally diverse membership. Together the leadership team and professional staff will be responsible for ensuring that Cairn Christian School delivers an excellent Christ-centered education in the most effective, efficient and safe manner possible.

THE SEARCH AND SELECTION PROCESS

A Search Committee comprised of representatives from various segments of the Cairn Christian School constituency will be appointed to review candidates for the principal position. When appropriate, permission to check candidate references will be sought. Candidates reaching the final stages of the process will be interviewed by the Search Committee. Strict

confidentiality will be maintained until the preferred candidate is selected. The Search Committee will make a recommendation to the Board of Directors, and the Executive Director will make the final decision.

NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

Nominations for the position should address the candidate's suitability. Applications for the position are to include a letter of interest, philosophy of Christian School leadership, and curriculum vitae.

Kindly direct questions, or submit nominations and applications in confidence before or until October 31, 2024 to:

Mr. Kevin Huinink - Principal Search Committee
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