

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:

For our final newsletter this year, I've decided to share an excerpt from the message I gave at the grade 8 graduation banquet. As you read this message, take some time to consider the questions I pose.

The verse for this year's graduating class is from Matthew 5:16, which says: ***"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."***

In his Sermon on the Mount teaching, Jesus spoke this verse to his disciples. Jesus loved to teach using images and stories. The image of light is first used in the Book of Matthew to describe Jesus as the light of the world who has come into the darkness. In this passage, Jesus is transferring this image of light to his disciples, encouraging them to share and spread His light to everyone around them.

***To understand what it means to let your light shine, consider the purpose of light.***



## LIGHT BRIGHTENS

Light can brighten a dull place. The absence of light is complete darkness. When people are discouraged, anxious, or disheartened, life can feel pretty dark. As Christians, our light can bring HOPE to a dark situation. We know that darkness does not have the final word because Jesus came to bring hope and light to the world.

- ***Is a place more hopeful when you are there?***
- ***Do your words lift up and encourage or discourage the people you are around?***



## LIGHT WARMS

When people are cold they are drawn to light for its warmth. God's light warms us up because it is full of His love. God has an all-consuming, never-ending love for all of his creation.

- ***When people are around you do they feel LOVED?***
- ***Do your words and actions remind them of God's incredible love for them?***
- ***Do you show compassion and love towards all people, even those different from you?***



## LIGHT REVEALS

When people are looking for something, one of the first things they will do is reach for a light. God's light reveals the TRUTH—the truth of who He is and who He says we are.

- ***Do you speak the truth?***
- ***Do people around you know that they can trust you?***
- ***Do your contributions to a discussion move people toward all that is good, true, and holy?***

This verse says that when we shine our light of Hope, Love, and Truth through our good deeds, people will glorify God in heaven.

- ***Do your actions bring Glory to God?***
- ***Do your actions point others to God?***

I hope that each of you will continue looking for opportunities to be God's light to the world. Choose to let the good that is in each of you be spread and shared instead of the not-so-good. By doing this, you will bring glory to God.

I encourage you to take this verse to heart and remember to let your light shine because when you do, your light will bring:

- **HOPE** to those who are discouraged
- **LOVE** to those who feel lost and alone
- **TRUTH** to those who are uncertain

It's been a fantastic year, and I feel privileged to lead such a tremendous group of staff, students, and parents. Have a great summer!

# STAFFING FOR NEXT YEAR

There are a few changes to our staffing for next year.

- **Adrian Burkhardt** will be moving to Bancroft to work at Joy Bible Camp and will also be on the local public school board's supply list.
- **Candice Duimering** will join us as the grade 5/6 homeroom teacher and will also teach French to this class.
- **Emily Latam** will join Dee Butler in the grade 1/2 classroom and will work as an Educational Assistant on Fridays.
- **Alissa Gibson** will teach French to grades 1 to 4, continue teaching in the grade 3/4 classroom, and help out as an EA.
- **Arden Reinhart** will return to ERCS in November and work as an EA on Thursdays.

## ERCS Staff 2024-2025

**JK/SK:** Annette de Vries

**Grade 1/2:** Dee Butler & Emily Latam

**Grade 3/4:** Leslie Bauman & Alissa Gibson

**Grade 5/6:** Candice Duimering

**Grade 7/8:** Pam Tuck

**Music:** Jen Mullett

**Director of Student Support Services:** Valerie Duimering

**Educational Assistant:** Arden Reinhart (starting in November)

**School Administration:** Alicia Sellers

**Principal:** Cindy Westendorp

## Kindergarten Graduation





# CHOCOLATE BAR FUNDRAISER

Thank you to everyone who participated in our chocolate bar fundraiser. The grade 8's used the money they raised towards their grad trip to Quebec City, and the rest of the students combined raised \$2,360. The top seller was Hazen Mousseau. Honourable mention goes to the Vanveens, the Vremans, the Masseys, and the Longes.

## UPCOMING DATES

**First Day of School** - Tues. September 3  
**Parent Council Mtg.** - Wed. Sept. 4, 9:00 am  
**School BBQ** - Wed. Sept. 11, 3:30 - 6:00 pm  
**Gr. 7/8 trip to Medeba** - Sept. 18 - 20  
**Silent Auction** - Sat. November 16



## COMMUNITY FUN DAY

Thank you to our parent council for putting on our Community Fun Day! The weather didn't cooperate for outdoor fun, but we moved indoors and still had a great time.





# ERCS LIONS UPDATE

## Track & Field

We had a great day at our track and field meet on Friday, May 10th. Thank you to all the parents and alumni who helped out! We're proud of the sportsmanship our students displayed. They competed hard but also cheered for and encouraged their classmates.



Our team also represented us well at the CAASO track and field meet in London. Some students even set new school records (NSR). Congratulations to the following students who placed in the top 8 in London:

### **NOVICE GIRLS**

**Malia Gordon-** 3rd 1500m, 7th 800m, **6th Overall**

### **NOVICE BOYS**

**Victory Oruchukwu-** 1st 400m **NSR**, 4th 200m, **5th Overall**

### **JUNIOR BOYS**

**Samuel Oruchukwu-** 2nd 400m **NSR**, 2nd Ball Throw, 2nd Shot Put, 3rd 100m, 5th Long Jump- **2nd Overall**

**Cade Martin-** 2nd 1500m

**Reuben van de Pol-** 3rd Triple Jump

**Reuben van de Pol, Cade Martin, Zachary Fehr, Samuel Oruchukwu-** 6th 4x100 Relay

### **SENIOR BOYS**

**Dennis Fehr:** 2nd Shot Put **NSR**, 6th Ball Throw

**Jeremy Sellers:** 2nd Long Jump, 5th Triple Jump





## CORE VALUES - SERVE OTHERS

Our classes were challenged to find opportunities to serve others.

Our grade 3 & 4 students spent an afternoon tending to the gardens at the front of the church/school. Thank you to Grace Bouwman for supervising the gardening.

After learning about Compassion Canada, our grade 1 & 2 students held a bake sale to raise money for Compassion. The \$138.05 will go towards an academic scholarship in Tanzania.

The grade 5/6 class worked with the JK/SK class to prepare cards for some ERCF seniors.





# Grad Trip to Quebec City



## Year End Awards

### Principal's Award - Claire van de Pol

*This award may be given to a deserving senior student who has exemplified diligence in their studies and consistently displayed Christian character in their conduct.*

### Academic Award of Excellence - Vicky Tawadrous

*This award may be given to a deserving senior student who has demonstrated academic excellence in effort, achievement and homework, and who actively engages in the learning process.*

### Friendship Award - Jeremy Sellers

*This award may be given to a deserving senior student who best exemplifies the character traits that define friendship such as honesty, respect, selflessness, kindness and integrity*

### Athletic Excellence Award - Bo Martin

*This award may be given to a deserving student who consistently demonstrates excellent athletic skill across many different sports. They are hard-working, dedicated, and participate in most, if not all, CAASO tournaments.*

### Performing Arts Award - Music - Claire van de Pol

*This award may be given to a deserving student who has displayed a consistent willingness to learn, has made good progress and has made a positive contribution to the performing arts program.*

### Core Values Award - Julianna Venne

*This award may be given to a deserving senior student who has consistently demonstrated the ERCS Core Values; Act respectfully, Accept Responsibility, Pursue Growth, Serve Others.*



# A Few Words from Our Grads

A memorable experience I had was the volleyball tournament this year. Our team worked together and we had a lot of really good games. A Bible verse that means a lot to me is 1 Timothy 4:12 "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love and in purity."

-Bo M.

The Thanksgiving lunches have always been a highlight for me. Another highlight for me has been doing all the performances and the plays that we have done over the years. I love being on stage and being able to participate in these performances has brought me tremendous joy.

-Adelaide S.

A couple memorable experiences are probably the grad trip, Medeba, and Canada's Wonderland a couple years ago. But overall I think Mrs. Tuck has made this such a memorable year and a year I will definitely never forget. A Bible verse that means a lot to me is Jeremiah 29:11 which says "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

-Vicky T.

One memorable experience that I have at ERCS and will take with me for a lifetime is when I was in Kindergarten and there was an EA that in order to make me feel safe and comfortable on my hardest days, would take me to the kitchen and give me orange juice. I would like to thank all the teachers that taught me something and helped me throughout the years but most importantly I would like to thank my parents for the unconditional support and sacrifice that they made in order for me to be able to attend ERCS.

-Bella M.

I feel like this past school year has really prepared me for this upcoming year in high school. The Bible verse that I picked is Psalm 73:26 which says, "My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."

-Dennis F.



It has been a long hard struggle to get through elementary school, but when I look back and see what I have accomplished, I am looking forward to whatever comes next. I have learned that it takes hard work to succeed in life and that doesn't stop at grade 8. So I will just have to keep working.

-Austin M.

I want to share a word of advice. Don't get behind in your work. It takes a lot of time and effort to get back on track. A Bible verse I really like is Jeremiah 29:11, which says, "I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for."

-Jeremy S.

A Bible verse that means a lot to me is John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." And the reason this means a lot to me because we are sinners and he gave his life for us, and that gives me comfort.

-Oliver V.

During my time at ERCS, I've learned the importance of serving others without expecting anything in return. One of my favorite quotes is "Focus on the step in front of you, not the whole staircase." I've chosen to share this quote with my current and future peers because it has helped me move forward without feeling overwhelmed.

-Ayaan A.

A memorable experience at ERCS was going to Medeba and on the grad trip because the activities we did were so fun and I got to know everybody a whole lot more. A Bible verse that has meant a lot to me is Isaiah 41:10 which says, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." I like this verse because it tells us we don't have to fear because God is with us all the time and is always helping us.

-Claire vdp.





## Water Fun Day



## Farm Animal Visit



## French Plays







## African Lion Safari



## Camp Brebeuf

