

## ARE YOU RAISING YOUR KIDS FOR CHARACTER OR COMFORT?

~ Principal Cindy Westendorp

As parents, one of the hardest things to do is watch our children struggle. Our natural instinct is to jump in and fix their problems. But when we constantly shield our children from life's challenges, we **unintentionally deny them the chance to grow**. Struggles are opportunities to develop essential skills that lead to confidence, resilience, and strong character.

Children need to learn how to resolve conflicts, respond appropriately when their feelings are hurt, and be a good friend. They also need practice navigating emotions such as sadness, disappointment, anger, and frustration. These skills are built through experience, trial and error, and yes—mistakes. Allowing our children to work through difficulties (with support, not rescue) helps them develop problem-solving abilities, emotional regulation, and empathy.


***“These skills are built through experience, trial and error, and yes — mistakes.”***



At ERCS, we're committed to educating the whole child—spiritually, academically, and socially. Your child's teacher is actively coaching students through everyday challenges and giving them tools to:

- ***Communicate clearly when something bothers them***
- ***Listen to others' perspectives***
- ***Practice patience and kindness***
- ***Solve problems together and ask for help when needed***

Our students are learning how to navigate relationships. They're figuring out how to share, use kind words when frustrated, and work through disagreements. They're going to get it wrong—often—but they can only grow when given real opportunities to face challenges and learn from them.



## ARE YOU RAISING YOUR KIDS FOR COMFORT OR CHARACTER? (CONT'D)

This Christmas season, we have also challenged our students to commit to shining for Jesus. This means being kind, patient, loving, and respectful, setting a good example, and approaching each day with a positive attitude. Students who have taken on this challenge have signed their name on a star displayed on our hallway bulletin board—a reminder to reflect Christ's love.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, may we all shine His love brightly to everyone around us. Together, we can guide our children to grow in character, compassion, and Christ-like love.



## Christmas at ERCS

Please join us for a special Christmas program on Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. Admission is free, but you are welcome to bring a donation for our Christmas food drive, and the grade 7/8 class will be selling baked goods to raise money for their grad trip. The evening will feature our choir, band, and special class presentations, all celebrating Jesus' birth.

We were thrilled to be able to participate as a school this year in the Elora and Fergus Santa Claus Parades. Thank you to Miss Annette for making this happen, and to all of our families who helped out!







## CAASO Soccer

~ Coach Leslie Bauman

We had a beautiful, sunshine filled day for our soccer tournament this year. Our co-ed soccer team competed in Breslau on Sept. 24th.

The kids played hard and won several games. We scored 7 goals in 6 games, this is the most we've ever scored in all my years of coaching. The athletes showed great sportsmanship on and off the field. It was a pleasure to spend the day with them. Congratulations to Aiden who received the sportsmanship award!



## CAASO Cross Country

~ Coach Leslie Bauman

We are thankful for the many volunteers who helped out at the cross country meet to make it such a success! We had amazing helpers at the finish line, around the course and under the pavilion. We received numerous compliments from other schools on how well the day went despite light rain at times. Our students ran with courage and determination and were an excellent representation of our school both while running and after while cheering others on. What a great team we have!!

Congratulations to the following students who placed in the top 15 in their division. Overall, ERCS placed 7<sup>th</sup> out of 13 schools.

**Leila Garcia Medina** - 12<sup>th</sup> Novice Girls

**Gabe Williams** - 8<sup>th</sup> Novice Boys

**Wesley Vreman** - 9<sup>th</sup> Novice Boys

**Samuel Oruchukwu** - 5<sup>th</sup> Senior Boys

**Cade Martin** - 6<sup>th</sup> Senior Boys





# CAASO Volleyball

On Thursday, November 20, 22 ERCS students headed to Burlington for the CAASO Volleyball Tournament, ready to show off their skills and teamwork. Both our girls' and boys' teams played with energy, determination, and school spirit, finishing second in their pools after the round-robin games. Unfortunately, both teams were defeated in the quarterfinals.

Special recognition goes to Hudson Williams and Brianna van de Pol, who received the sportsmanship awards. Both students worked hard to develop their skills throughout the season and consistently demonstrated positive attitudes. Brianna encouraged her teammates throughout the tournament, regardless of the outcome of the games, while Hudson diligently helped to set up the volleyball nets each day so that we could practice.



We are grateful to our drivers, David May, Erica Martin, and Heather Clinch, and to our coaches, Candice Duimering and Cindy Westendorp, for supporting our teams and making the tournament experience possible.

After the tournament our teams had a chance to demonstrate their skills at the staff vs. student volleyball tournament. Although the students played well, the staff was victorious and kept their four year winning streak!

## Upcoming Events

- Dec. 22 to Jan. 2 - Christmas Break
- Jan. 5 - Classes Resume
- Jan. 7 - Parent Council
- Jan. 9 - Hot Dog Day
- Jan. 16 - Skating Day
- Jan. 22 - Parent's Night
- Jan. 22 - CAASO Badminton
- Jan. 22 - Pizza Day
- Jan. 23 - PD Day (End of Term 1)
- Jan. 26 to 29 - MAP Testing
- Feb. 5 - Hockley Ski Trip, Winter Fun Day
- Feb. 6 - New Family Info Session





# Family Night & Silent Auction

Thank you to our parent council for putting on a wonderful Family Night and Silent Auction. This year was bigger and better than ever, with expanded games for the kids (thanks Rob & Sara van de Pol!) and more auction and raffle items. We hope you all had a great time of fun, games, connection and dessert!

As well as a fun night out, this is also our biggest fundraiser of the year. We are excited to announce that through sponsorships, donors, the silent auction (which was matched by an anonymous donor), **we raised just over \$50,000!** We are so thankful for everyone who contributed to make this happen - community businesses who sponsored us or donated auction and raffle items, families who donated items and helped organize, set up, run and clean up, and everyone who came out and played games or bid in the auction. We are blessed to be surrounded by such a supportive community!



## Christian School Foundation

If you are considering a gift to ERCS, or to another charitable organization, Christian School Foundation can help with information on how taxes can be minimized to maximize the effectiveness of your gift. They can advise best practices for leaving a donation through your will, donating cash versus giving securities (stocks/bonds), and more. If you have any tax or legal questions on giving effectively, contact Kevin TeBrake at [ktebrake@christianschoolfoundation.ca](mailto:ktebrake@christianschoolfoundation.ca)

### Donating Your Securities

**Increases your gift and multiplies your impact!**

You can eliminate the capital gains tax, receive a full donation receipt, and you maximize your support for Christian education!

Contact Kevin to get started!  
[ktebrake@christianschoolfoundation.ca](mailto:ktebrake@christianschoolfoundation.ca)

 Christian School Foundation





## Grade 3-6 Green Legacy Trip



## Thanksgiving Lunch and Scavenger Hunt





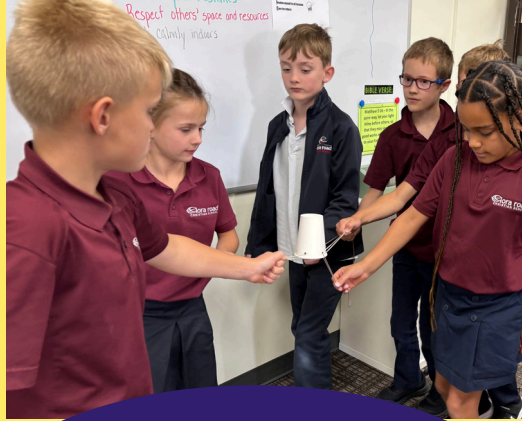
# Grade 7&8 Medeba Trip



## Skating Day







## Learning Is Fun at ERCS!

