



inside look

NOVEMBER 2021



From the Principal's Desk

Our recent Christian Teacher's Conference was entitled "Created to Flourish." I have always been drawn to the word "flourish" and some of its synonyms: grow, thrive, prosper, develop, bloom. I especially like that we have two of those words in our tagline "Discover, Grow, Thrive."

In one of my very first master level classes, Dan Beerens, a Christian Education consultant shared with us a "**Flourishing Index**" that he had created. It was his premise that schools should be more concerned that their students were flourishing than with the amount of A's on a report card. That "**flourishing index**" made a great impact on me, as it put into words what I so firmly believe to be true.

Since then, the BC Ministry of Education has included the Core Competencies in its curriculum. Although not Christian in their intent, these competencies also align with our desire to develop children as image

bearers of God, who are flourishing in every area of their lives.

This month at school, we have focused on the Core Competency of Critical Thinking. According to our curriculum:

"People who think critically and reflectively are analytical and investigative, willing to question and challenge their own thoughts, ideas, and assumptions and challenge those of others. A critical thinker uses their ideas, experiences, and reflections to set goals, make judgments, and refine their thinking."

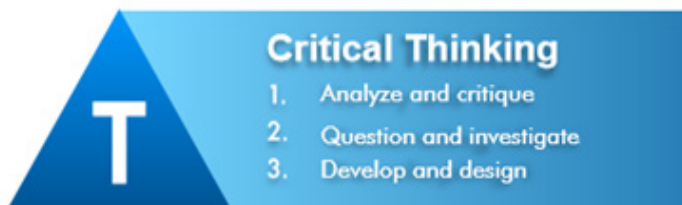
According to Dan Beerens' **Flourishing Index**, students who display critical thinking have, "An ability to think divergently and creatively about problems and solutions. Beerens notes that with information 'at our fingertips' today via the



Internet, the greater need is for higher level, critical and analytical thinking."

Report Cards are coming out soon, and I am thrilled that we have been leaders in removing letter grades from our report cards. Our assessments are still not perfect, but it is exciting to see less emphasis on "what did you get?" and more emphasis on "who are you becoming?" and "what are the gifts and strengths that are evident in your daily life?" Of course, our students' ability to read, write and solve math equations are also life skills, but just as important is their ability to think critically and make connections about the world that God has placed them in.

So, in your conversations and interactions with the students of Agassiz Christian (and when you look at their report card), remember the underlying goal of developing **flourishing** students who "Discover, Grow and Thrive" in so many different ways. ♦



An **inside**look ...into our K/ 1 class

Kindergarten and grade one students have loved participating in Science this year! As a class we have used scientific exploration to answer many questions that we've had throughout the year so far. One of our questions about pumpkins and apples was "do they sink or float?" We used our problem-solving skills to find that even the biggest pumpkins do float! We worked collaboratively and found out that we can stack apples up to 3 or 4 high, depending on what the shape of the apples are. A student in our class asked how many seeds are in a pumpkin, and we worked together to find out that average pumpkins have 100-200 seeds, but some have more than 400!

Science in K/1 is fun, hands-on and inspires curiosity. Most young children love physical exploration especially when it gets messy. It becomes so easy to have students interested in Science when stuff explodes or you get to touch the ooey-gooey inside of a pumpkin! Although it is really valuable for children to gain some scientific understanding, finding the 'right' answer isn't always our goal. The goal of Science in K/1 is to have students channel their curiosity and sense of wonder about the world.

Our students also learn a variety of communication, collaboration and problem-solving skills. It is so much fun to be a part of the joy and excitement that shines through during Science time in K/1. ●



Bottle Drive:

Thank you to all the people who have been helping with the ACS grad bottle drive. We have raised **\$85.90** so far and have a goal of **\$1000**.

If you would like to help, you can get a pre-labeled bag from the office, no sorting or counting required (limit 12 glass bottles per bag.)

Funds raised go towards the Grade 7 Grad and Annual Camp-out

The procedure is simple:

- Fill your bag so it can still be tied up (with a maximum of 12 glass bottles)
- Take it to any bottle depot and use the "Express" bin
- All bags must be clear

Any further questions can be sent to Simon Braun at sbraun@agassizchristianschool.com

Thanks for your support! ●



An **inside**look ...our students' perspective



K/1 Jayden – I wonder about some tractors. I want to know about all the parts inside of them.



K/1 Jacob– I wonder how my body works.



2/3 Kezaira– I wonder why some people don't believe in dragons. Is it because dragons sound like a myth or because people don't believe in magic. Perhaps they think dragons are a fairy tale. I just don't know – do you?



2/3 Eli– I wonder why you get turkey at Thanksgiving. It is silly, because you don't usually eat turkey.

Question of the Month

What is something you wonder about? Why are you curious about this? What do you want to know?

4/5 David – I wonder why icebergs are bigger under the water than above. I am curious about this because normally ice will float above water.



6/7 Paige – I wonder what other solar systems are like. Are there other living things in other solar systems?



4/5 Colby– I wonder what happens when you are sick. I wonder about this because I am learning about how the body works. I think the body is so cool.

6/7 Zeplyhn– I wonder about the world and the parts that we haven't explored yet. I wonder what is still out there.



Our C.A.R.E. Campaign...

We have launched our second annual C.A.R.E campaign, which once again is going to be a virtual event.

Two ways to give this year:

1. By Cheque: please make cheques payable to Agassiz Christian School. Drop-off by Dec. 03
2. Online Giving: donations may be made through www.canadahelps.org.

This year we are raising money towards:

1. **Exterior Rejuvenation** - the building could use a fresh coat of paint, and the field and some of the playground equipment needs some attention
2. **Chapel Media System** - A projection system that is permanently mounted would enhance our chapels, and also be a great tool for the broader Agassiz Community to use
3. **New Hallway Cubbies** – with the new paint and new flooring, our hallways are looking so much better. It would be wonderful to have new cubbies to match.



Important Dates to Remember

- November 26 - Report Card Writing - (no school P - 7)
- November 29 - Fall AGM
- December 3 - Report Card - Term 1
- December 18 - Jan 3 - Christmas Break
- January 4 - School Re-opens for P-7
- February 21 - Family Day - (no school P-7)
- March 12- 27- Spring Break
- March 28 - School Re-opens for P-7



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