



DECEMBER 2023

From the Principal's Desk

Shepherds and Christmas

“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.” (Luke 2:8-9)

The shepherds in Biblical times were not considered to be stellar citizens. They were despised by many, considered dishonest, and labelled sinners. They were often rejected by the rest of society, and not allowed into many of the social circles of the day.

And yet, God chose lowly shepherds as the first recipients of His heavenly birth announcement. “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord.” (Luke 2:11)

Theologians the world over will emphasize the message that God was giving that night. God was shouting loudly and clearly that Jesus was born, but He was also giving the message that Jesus was born for everyone, even the lowliest of society, which, at the time, were the shepherds.

But the part of the story that always catches my eye, is God’s message of JOY. “But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.’” (Luke 2:10)

Joy is the great gift that God offered to the shepherds – a gift that is still being offered to us today. It is my prayer that this Christmas we may recognize the Joy of our Saviour, in so many of the little ways that God is evident in our lives. I don’t anticipate a sky filled with angels singing, but I will choose to see the joy in a meal shared, a grandchild’s laugh and my children bantering together. It is my prayer that you, too, will receive the message of JOY, the message for all of us, that was given to the shepherds so many years ago.



An **inside**look ... into the Grade 2/3 classroom.

The 2/3 class loves to explore, create and imagine. We are currently in the midst of doing animal research, in which every student chooses an animal for their in-depth research project. Students research habitat, food, predators, appearance, interesting facts and our responsibility towards the animal. The research projects are a great way for the students to practice their abilities in finding important information, taking notes, creating a rough copy, editing their work, making a final draft and illustrating their report. The processes and stages of research are important skills to acquire and refine, and will continue to be used and developed year after year. Our 2/3 researchers are learning about pandas, lions, tigers, polar bears, wolves, frogs, snakes, hedgehogs, sea otters and many more of the amazing animals that God has created. Stop by some time to read their interesting reports.



The students in 2/3 also enjoy spending time outside and learning in our outdoor classroom. In our outdoor learning, we have worked on STEM challenges and marveled at the beauty of seasons as we observed the changes from summer to autumn and now to winter. Creating art from nature, some of our favourite projects were our fall trees made from real leaves, our animals made out of only natural objects found around the garden, and our nature bookmarks and bracelets. We also created a sidewalk art gallery with a combination of chalk and things found in the garden. A special (and secret) Christmas craft will be coming home soon!



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



"I would bring Him a plastic milk bottle, so He could drink milk without it breaking. If it was glass, it would break."

- Lucas M.



"I would bring Jesus a puppy, because when He grows up, He would like to play with it."

-Keira B.



"If I was with the wisemen, I would bring Him gold, because He is a king."

- Finnley R.



"I would bring Jesus a nice, warm blanket."

- Judah T.



"If I was a wisegirl, I would bring Jesus diamonds, peace and joy!"

- Marja C.



"If I was a wiseman, I would bring Jesus a gold Pokemon card that is worth a million dollars, so He could use the money to help people."

- Cohen R.

Question of the Month

"If you were with the wisemen who followed the star to Jesus, what gifts would you bring?"



"If I was with the wisemen, I would bring Jesus some baby clothes and money, and some diapers."

- Joelle V.



"If I was a wiseman who followed the star, I would bring them a baby camel so it could carry baby Jesus."

- Ethan L.



"I would bring Jesus some rare ores, like gold and diamonds."

- Emmett B.



"If I was with the wisemen, I would bring a little blanket, because it would probably be cold in some places on the way home. I would also give Him a soother, so He would not cry."

- Summer W.



"If I was with the wisemen, I would bring Jesus:

- a key to a nice house,
- a robe of red silk,
- a 5-carat red diamond,
- a pot of honey,
- three cows and two horses, and
- a bag of emeralds."

- Kale T.



"If I was with the wisemen who visited Jesus, I would bring Him:

- honey, because it is rich and sweet just like Him,
- a new donkey for Him to learn to ride,
- a robe made of silk, and
- a blanket to lay on so He can have a good sleep."

- Zac N.

An **inside**look into ... what's happening.

The PAC

- Join our "Agassiz Christian School Parents" Facebook group for reminders and calls for volunteers.

- The PAC will be providing cookies to be served at both performances of the Christmas Program, as well as goodie bags for students, which will be given out after the evening performance.

- The next PAC meeting will be held January 16 at 7:30 p.m. All parents are welcome to attend!

- If you would like to help out at all throughout the year, please contact Kristin Te Brinke at 604-217-2126.



Board Update

On behalf of the board, we would like to thank you all for your continued support through our CARE campaign, and know that we value your financial contributions and prayers as we start our portable expansion.

We are so excited to celebrate 60 years this upcoming spring with all of you at our anniversary event, which will be held on May 31st. Stay tuned for updates on event planning. God has truly blessed our school community and we pray that our families feel God's continued faithfulness as well.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and continued blessings throughout 2024.

Tanya Pranger, Board Chair



Important Dates to Remember

- December 22 - Dress in Red/Green/Christmas theme, Chapel
- December 25 - January 5 - School Closed
- January 8 - School re-opens
- January 24 - Cozy PJs theme dress-up day
- January 26 - Pro-D day, No School for students
- February 16 - Skating field trip for K-7
- February 23 - Presentation of Learning



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