



CHRIST THE KING SCHOOL

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A school in the Catholic tradition since 1955

CHRIST THE KING SCHOOL

Vision Statement:

To create a Catholic educational environment which adapts and grows to meet the changing needs of the students, staff and community members.

Mission Statement:

Christ the King School is a Catholic school community committed to Jesus Christ and to the holistic development of each child. Collaborating in the Church's mission of education, Christ the King School complements the educational efforts of the family, who are the primary educators of their children. Christ the King Students are empowered to recognize their giftedness and their responsibility to use these gifts in the service of others.

Core values:

As a Catholic community committed to Jesus Christ and the holistic development of each child we live the values of the Catholic Church. As a community interacting with each other we will do so always being mindful of all the values of the Catholic Church especially the following:

- love
- compassion
- friendship
- prayer
- unity
- service
- kindness
- tolerance



The logo is the official symbol of Christ the King Parish and School. This logo is fashioned after the scepter carried by European monarchs as a symbol of their authority. A scepter is carried in procession at the opening ceremonies of Parliament to represent the authority of the reigning monarch who is our Head of State. This scepter consists of an orb, representing the earth; waves and suspended crown, representing the rest of the universe. The crown is topped by a cross, the sign of Jesus' victory over sin and death. This symbol therefore speaks of Christ's kingship over the universe and all it contains.

The Kingship of Christ Jesus has been celebrated by the Universal Church since her very beginning. The inscription on the cross carried the legal charge against Jesus and the reason for his crucifixion: "This is the King of the Jews." The title and feast of Christ the King is relatively recent in the life of the Church, and is celebrated on the last Sunday before Advent.

BRIEF HISTORY

On **September 6, 1955**, Christ the King School began in a building which was the former Municipal Hall at the corner of Lennox and St. Mary's Road. This was to relieve the overcrowded situation of Holy Cross School and to accommodate the pupils who had to travel a great distance everyday. When classes opened in September 1955 there were 135 students from Grades 1 to 8 (in 1955, 1961-64, 1967-69 Christ the King School included grades seven and eight classes.)



*"The learned will
shine as brightly
as the vault of
heaven, and those
who have
instructed many in
virtue, as bright
as stars for all
eternity"
(Daniel 12:3)*

The first principal was Sister Theresa Eleanore, a member of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary.



Four years later, in **1959**, the school was built on its current site. In February 2, 1959 the school/chapel was blessed by His Grace Archbishop Maurice Baudoux and Father Robert Baxter, appointed pastor of Christ the King Parish. Father Baxter was instrumental in overcoming many obstacles locating a site and completing the building in time for the 1959 school term.

The new two-storey school housed four classrooms and the main entrance, the teacher's room, washrooms and a furnace room on the first floor. The second floor housed the chapel, the auditorium, a meeting room, sacristy and office.



The church had not yet been constructed and the parish masses were celebrated on the second floor. The sacristy was located in what is now the catechetical office.

The Municipal Hall was demolished and the new church was completed in November of 1965.

In 1965 when the church was completed, the second floor of the school was expanded to add classrooms.



There were still houses where the gym and playground are now. Over the years the Lennox Club bought these houses and demolished them to make room to build the gym and playground area.



Christ the King enrolment was always high enough to justify its existence, fluctuating around the 180 mark. At first it offered classes in Grades 1 to 6, (then in 1971-72 it added a Kindergarten. By 1980 it had seven full-time teachers (two Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, and 5 lay teachers). Grade one to six was available until 1971 when Kindergarten registrations were accepted. In 1989 Pre-Kindergarten opened for three afternoons a week .

HERE WE GROW!

The new addition to the school in **1989** included a gym, two classrooms, a Resource room, a storage room and two smaller workrooms.



Finished with official height basketball nets, a proper gym floor, equipment and mats the gym was a huge improvement where students now had the room to really get into sports, moving from Lennox Hall in the basement of the church.



It also was the space for the Lennox Social Club, through the operation of the Shamrock Maple Leaf Bingo and



Shamrock Club, to hold bingo with proceeds providing much needed additional funds for the school. Although the structure of the Shamrock Club has changed over time, Bingo continues to this day and remains an important source of revenue for the school.

The gym has served many functions over the years, from hosting games with other schools, Christmas Concerts, Band Concerts, Hop, Skip, Jump,



Sock Hops, Special lunches, the Family Fun Nite, School Open Houses, movie night—just to name a few.



In 1996 the staff room was relocated to the newer part of the school, the open area on the second floor was turned into a classroom for the computer lab and the library became the library/resource room.



In the summer of 1998 the old house was demolished on the vacant lot next to the school that would become our soccer field. Special thanks to the Lennox Club for seeing to the clearing of the property.



The playground has been very meager over the years and in the summer of 1999, the Parent Association began playground development.



The school has always been richly blessed with parent volunteers over the years to help with a variety of upgrades—the painting of the gym, new shelving, flooring, etc. and the improvements were always ongoing.



In 2000, the school celebrated it's 45th Anniversary. A variety of activities were planned featuring dunk tanks, bouncy castle and BBQ.



In May 2005, Christ the King School celebrated its 50th Anniversary.



Thanks to the Lennox Club, 50th anniversary pins were purchased and were given to the staff and students during Catholic Schools week. The Parent Association sponsored a 50th Anniversary Cookbook.

The weekend opened on Saturday April 30th with registration 9:30am—12pm, 12pm was the Opening Ceremony, 1-5pm the Knights of Columbus and Catholic Womens' League put on a BBQ and the Parent Association provided activities and games. A social followed from 8pm—1am.

On Sunday, May 1 everyone was invited for a pancake brunch at 12pm with a formal closure at 1:30pm.

The 50th Anniversary also marked 50 years of involvement of the

Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary in the school, their presence ending with the retirement of Sr. Patricia Atkins, Principal, in June of 2005.

In June 2009, the first Grade 8 class in many years graduated from Christ the King.

On April 20th, 2016 the school celebrated its 60th Anniversary with a Pasta Dinner.

In the Spring of 2017, more improvements were beginning to be made. Facelifts to the school included fresh paint and the purchase of a TV for the front lobby and renovations and paint for the upstairs.

The Fall brought the launch of a brand new website and marketing campaign. The School Board began integrating technology into the school with the purchase of 10 iPads and implemented a complete change in the phone system integrating a speaker and paging system and a 'core network' infrastructure. The Parent Advisory Council also provided additional iPads.

We were blessed with a hydration system on the main floor by the gym thanks to the Lennox Club. This station promoted the use of reusable water bottles.



2018 brought the renovation of the Library/Music Room. The new shelving provided the much needed organization of our library books and better use of space for our Band curriculum. New paint and staff workstations completed the project.



2018 also saw the continuation of playground redevelopment and the much needed addition of new playground equipment.





With interest growing in the newly created full-time Junior Kindergarten program, **2019** saw the creation of a dedicated Junior



Kindergarten room on the second floor of the school in what was once the staffroom and the **2020** school year also saw the start of a full-time Kindergarten program.

In **March of 2020** and the 65th year of the operation of Christ the King School, we experienced the beginning of an unprecedented time in our history with the advent of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

This serious flu-like illness, akin to the Spanish Flu of 1920, affected the world on a global scale. This resulted in a variety of public health orders—limited shopping, some business closures, people required to work from home.

Hospital ICUs were filled to capacity and there were many thousands of deaths. Within schools it sparked a variety of precautions and restrictions with staff and students screened each day before entering the building, staying

in cohorts, wearing masks as well as physically distancing 2 metres creating the need and expense of the purchase of desk shields, additional handwashing stations and the building of an 'isolation room' on the main floor for any children who presented with symptoms throughout the day.

The use of personal protective equipment (PPE) became part of normal school life with antimicrobial cleaning products used many



times per day in the classrooms, washrooms and hallways to wipe down desks, chairs, doorknobs and handrails—even the seats on the school bus—to help prevent the spread of the disease.



During this time teachers were also required to provide education 'remotely' and students to study at home via computer programs such as 'Zoom' or 'Microsoft Teams'. This continued on and off throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

The much anticipated Grade 8 Graduation in June of 2020 was limited to 100 people able to gather outdoors to celebrate. However, in June 2021 celebrations were even more restricted and group gatherings of this size were not even permitted by the province.

Through it all, Christ the King administration, staff, students and parents pulled together to cover the curriculum while keeping everyone as safe as possible.





The traditional gemstone of a 65th Anniversary is Blue Sapphire, symbolizing trust, peace, loyalty and integrity—all gifts that are also inspired by God and are only a few of the virtues that have become the cornerstone of the teachings of Christ the King School.

We may not be able to hold formal celebrations during this very precarious time, but we are still able to celebrate the past of Christ the King School, and each day in the present, in the glory of God with gratitude for all that He has given. Over the years, the school has provided quality curriculum-based education combined with the values of family life by the teachings of our faith and the day to day love of the children in our care.

We look forward to the next milestone and hope that, by then, we can celebrate fully with our whole community of parents, grandparents and friends of Christ the King!



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