



KINGSTON  
Christian School

*Believing. Achieving. Together.*



*Your place to belong!*

INTRODUCTION

## Greetings from our Principal

A statistics Canada study released in December 2008 has determined that the early reading skills of a child are significantly linked to their achievement and ability to understand printed material in later life. That is why **KINDERGARTEN MATTERS!**

Research conducted by the Barna Research Foundation has found that a child's moral foundation is predominantly set by the age of 9.

That is why **CHRISTIAN SCHOOL MATTERS!**

We are delighted that you are considering joining our KCS family! Ours is a warm community where families enjoy a unique sense of belonging and fellowship. KCS values its partnership with parents as together we explore the question, what difference would it make to educate children to see the world as God sees it? To teach children not just to count the number of seeds in an apple, but to count the number of apples in a seed as God might! KCS sees this as both its mission, and its distinctive.

Jesus had an intimate knowledge of the potential and opportunity in the heart of a child, and told the adults of his generation to "Let the little children come to me..." It was a rebellion against the wisdom of the day, but Jesus yearned to pour his Spirit into the little soldiers who would carry the light of Hope to the world.

Christian school is often mistakenly seen as a shelter, but a more accurate metaphor would be a green house. Young plants are not put in green houses to make them weak, but rather the safe and stable environments make for an ideal place to get firmly rooted, grow right and true, and ultimately reach for the sky. All too quickly, acorns become seedlings, and seedlings must leave the green house and become the oaks they are called and destined to become. Where do you want your children to spend these crucial years and in what ways do you want them challenged?

Children spend almost a thousand hours each school year in classroom instruction. Imagine the difference a Christian school would make to the faith nurture and worldview development of its students with such a vast timetable. KCS offers a quality Christian education based on a solid academic program. The school culture and student life additionally provide a safe and happy place where your children can enjoy a deep sense of belonging as they cultivate significant and supportive peer relationships that could last a lifetime.

I hope this booklet will answer many of the questions you have about Christian schools, and more specifically, Kingston Christian School. When you are ready, we hope you will contact our office to arrange for a tour or a full day school experience for your child.



**Developing A Biblical  
WORLDVIEW**

Jennifer Shoniker, Principal





Although the current facility was built in 1992, KCS was established in 1963 by a congregation of predominantly Dutch believers desiring a Christian Education for their children. Despite its birth in the Christian Reformed tradition, the mission of KCS has been to partner with and serve families of diverse denominational backgrounds.

Christian schools in local communities across Ontario have provided an opportunity for Christian parents to give their children a Christ-centered, Biblically based education. These schools, spawned out of local churches 50 years ago, have grown into dynamic, interdenominational Christian centres of learning and discipleship. Christian families are attracted from the spectrum of Christian denominations and most Southern Ontario cities have at least one Christian elementary school. These schools are labeled as independent. Independence means that the school, united in an Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools, are not funded nor controlled by any level of government. Christian schools are owned and operated by legally formed local societies of Christian parents and supporters. The societies are not-for-profit corporations and registered charities. The Kingston Christian School Society members, often parents of current students, elect a Board of Directors, and twice yearly meet to review and approve the school's annual budget and receive reports from the various parent-run committees.

### **KCS TODAY**

Walking through the hallways, you'll find students happily learning in nine full-size classrooms plus a double-sized Kindergarten room. For several years, KCS has offered families the benefit and convenience of full time Kindergarten, inclusive special education, and a very popular before and after school care program. The school also features a visual arts classroom, a regulation-sized gymnasium, a full kitchen, mobile iPad and Chromebook Learning Labs, and a gallery of student art work. KCS is surrounded by Woodbine Park, a city-owned green space with additional playground structures, baseball diamonds and soccer fields.

## Why Christian School?

Firstly, **we are all created to connect and be shaped by our circumstances.** That is why the scriptures call us everything from sheep to seeds, from branches to clay. Christian kids (and even adults, too!) require consistent leading back toward truth and the principles that shape our perceptions of it. When a quarterback enters a stadium to play the big game, he has reliable access to the play book and the coaches who are up to speed on the game plan. Are God's kids less worthy of such support as they go to school each morning?

Secondly, the **Lordship of a Sovereign God is unpacked daily in each subject area:** Do not underestimate the potential impact of this activity on a student, and ultimately in his or her realm of influence as an adult. Giving children spiritual eyes through which to view the world equips them with the ability to see the world as God sees it – as His! Every inch of curriculum is used to uncover His nature and purpose, and every graduate becomes equipped with the knowledge they need to enter the world as an agent of change and bring redemptive vision to the fields of business, science, technology, the Arts, and so much more.

Thirdly, **students are trained for meaningful ministry.** Every child will enter full-time ministry as an adult, whether that be as a pastor, a teacher, a salesperson, or a crane operator. As members of the body of Christ, we are uniquely equipped for service in God's kingdom. A Christian school is a safe place for a child to flex spiritual muscles and grow in their abilities to lead in discipleship, evangelism, and worship. Where churches help parents nurture the faith of children, Christian schools help parents equip their children for service and ministry in which ever occupation they choose as adults, and allows them to see that vocation has a Godly purpose.

And most importantly, **a community of *shalom* breeds hope and confidence within the heart of a child.** Aware of it or not, Christian kids have a sense of spiritual security as well, and when they are expected to check their Christianity at the door (or bus stop), how will they ever be able to view their faith as a unifying and foundational principle on which to build a community? Christian schools are an extension of the Christian home, and as partners, they provide a consistent and secure environment that instills a hope for the future and a confidence in a spiritual identity.

Do you have a school aged child in need of this enriched, loving, and stable learning environment? Consider Kingston Christian School by arranging for a tour. For more information, check out <http://www.whychristianschools.ca/>

## Admission Policies and Procedures

For an application for admission to be supported, parents will meet with the principal, and gain a general understanding of the Christian basis of the School's goals. The registration form will provide parents with the opportunity to demonstrate agreement with the operating policies of the School, and Statement of Faith.

The safety and well-being of all students is of the utmost concern. Where students have identified special needs, the School will admit the students only if it can meet their social, emotional, academic and spiritual needs. In cases where needs exceed the capacity of school resources, students are not admitted. In rare cases, the School can seek supports from local agencies such as the CCAC, but costs for services are the responsibility of the family.

The Administrator ensures that each student is placed in the most appropriate learning environment. The exceptionalities and needs of students are assessed as they receive their education. If special programming in specific subjects is warranted and feasible, it will be implemented. However, our emphasis is on meeting individual needs in an age appropriate classroom setting.

No child shall be denied admission on grounds of ethnicity, sex, race, colour or national origin.

Children will ideally be accepted into the School only at the beginning of a new term, namely September and immediately after the Christmas holidays or March Break provided there is room in the class(es). There are occasions, however, where students are admitted mid-term in consultation with the principal. The child can begin school in September of the calendar year that the child has his/her 4th (JK) or 5th (SK) birthday.

KCS provides additional opportunities for prospective families to explore Christian education as they determine what the best fit is for them. Students enrolling in Kindergarten in September, can enroll in Ready, Set, Read!, a Kindergarten Readiness program that serves to introduce students and their families to the routines, expectations, and faith nurturing experiences that are distinctive of KCS. The program runs for four Friday mornings each spring. Families who miss this opportunity, may visit and sit in for a morning. Parents can observe, and kindergarteners can join in the lessons and activities. Students who are entering the older grades at KCS, may enroll as a full and unaccompanied "Student for a Day." Call the school office for more information or to book your visit.

### **Important Dates:**

Families who are new to KCS and register **by May 31<sup>st</sup>** are admitted at the tuition rate for the existing year. This generally offers a 2-3% discount. New and current families who wish to apply for a tuition bursary must do so yearly and **by March 31<sup>st</sup>**. Bursaries are dispersed based on the availability of funds and need, and can provide up to 40% of relief.

## Admission & Tuition

An initial meeting with the Principal is an essential step in the process of familiarization with the School's philosophy and program. Once that is done, an application for admission must be completed and submitted by the parent/guardians with a deposit of \$500. Accompanying the application is the signed Statement of Support, and copies of each new student's Birth Certificate and Immunization Record. If admission cannot be accommodated because the classrooms are at capacity, those on the waiting list will have their deposit refunded. Admission can be denied by the Board at any time for financial, educational or disciplinary reasons.

### **Tuition Policies**

The full-time tuition for the current school year should be attached. New families enrolling by May 31st will pay this rate for their first year.

For those choosing a monthly payment plan, automatic withdrawals begin in early July with the final yearly tuition payment (less the registration deposit) usually being withdrawn in April. Alternate schedules are at the discretion of the bookkeeper and/or Finance Committee.

### **Tuition rate**

The tuition at Kingston Christian School is charged at a per family rate. The tuition rate for each school year is set annually by the Board, and is approved at the Spring Society Membership Meeting.

### **Tuition for first-time families enrolling for September**

Families who register at KCS for the first time are required to pay a non-refundable deposit in the amount of \$500, which will be applied to their last month's tuition. Families registering after July 1 are required to provide, in addition to their deposit, one month's tuition. Families registering after the starting date of the current school year will have their tuition pro-rated for the portion of the school year remaining, and set a payment schedule that ensures the year's tuition is paid in full by June 15th.

### **Payment schedule**

The Tuition Pre-Authorized Payment Registration Form is completed by each family and lays out the intended manner to satisfy tuition obligations for the next school year. It is submitted to the office by the last day of school in June, with the first installments being withdrawn in early July. Usually families opt for 10 monthly payments, but some choose to pay in full or arrange for an alternate schedule that must be approved by the Finance Committee. Late payment will be handled by the school office/administration per the Protocol for Delinquent Tuition Payments. Returning families submit a non-refundable deposit of \$250 in the early spring along with their intention form to register for the following school year. As with the deposit for new registrations, it will be applied to the last month's tuition of the following school year.



### **Early Withdrawal**

Tuition payment is non-refundable. In the event of Early Withdrawal, tuition for the services rendered must be paid in full, and the account will be charged a cancellation fee equivalent to two months of service (20% of the yearly tuition rate). Families relocating 50 or more km from the school are exempted of the cancellation fee if they provide the school with a minimum of 60 days notice. Families who encounter unexpected financial hardships during a school year are encouraged to apply for tuition assistance.

### **What is Membership?**

KCS is operated on behalf of a society of school members who share core values around faith and the purpose of Christian education. Families who share these values are encouraged to become society members after being enrolled at the school for one year, but may or may not choose to do so. Society members take an active role in the governance and administration of the school. They join committees that set the vision, mission, budget, and policies that direct the administrative and teaching staff. Active committee members, must be members of the society as well. Families who have been members in a Christian school society previously or at another OACS school, may apply for membership at the time of enrolment. Applications are available from the office and require a pastoral reference indicating involvement in a local congregation.



## **Our Philosophy of Christian Education**

### **Purpose**

Having pledged fidelity to Christ Jesus, Kingston Christian School exists to offer an excellent education founded on and consistent with God's Word.

### **Vision**

We envision students who become persons who live all of life for God, consider all aspects of life from a Christian perspective, respect and follow the teachings and principles of the Bible while respecting those who differ, value and pursue all branches of knowledge, and relate to all people in a manner pleasing to God.

### **Mission**

In order to realize this vision the mission of Kingston Christian School is: To engage in vibrant Christian education that equips for the lifelong service of God; To strive for educational excellence while respecting diversity of gifts and abilities; To cooperate in all tasks as a diverse Christian educational community.

### **Goals for the Education of All Students**

- To develop a deeper commitment to love God.
- To mature as a Christian person in relation to self, others and the environment.
- To discover and develop particular gifts and talents.
- To develop abilities of perception and judgment in moral and ethical matters.
- To follow the norms for good health and physical fitness.
- To develop the knowledge and understanding necessary to fulfill a God-given calling effectively in modern society.
- To develop awareness as a learner able to adapt knowledge, skills and attitudes to the ordinary tasks of life.
- To acquire competencies for responsible living as an adult, especially the sensitivity and skill necessary for effective communication.
- To train and discipline those skills and attitudes necessary for satisfaction and productivity in the world of work and/or advanced levels of schooling.
- To acquire appreciation for the customs, habits, and beliefs of other faith communities, ethnic groups, and cultures.



## Statement of Faith

Believing that God, by graciously giving to man the Scriptures, has revealed ordering principles which are intensely relevant to the education of our children, we confess:

### CREATION

...That in their education children should be taught that the world, man's calling in the world, can rightly be understood only in their relationship to the triune God, Who through His creation and providence directs all things to the coming of His Kingdom and the glorification of His name.

### MAN

...That man was created in God's image to enjoy fellowship with His creator and to reflect in his person and works the excellencies of his Maker. Man was instructed to exercise dominion over the world in strict and loving obedience to God and to interpret all reality in accordance with God's design and law.

### SIN

...That sin is disobedience to God. In sinning this office and calling were denied, thus estranging himself from God and his neighbour. As a result of disobedience, we became corrupt in heart and blind to the true meaning of life.

### CHRIST

...That Jesus Christ, our living Lord, is God's provision for reconciliation and restoration. Through Him there is renewal of our life, our educational enterprise, we are guided in the truth and recommitted to our original calling.

### BIBLE

...That the Bible as the written Word of God is the truth by which the Holy Spirit enlightens our understanding of God, of ourselves and of the world. It is the infallible authority by which He directs our life and actions, including the education of our children.

### PARENTS

...That the primary responsibility for education rests with the parents to whom the children are entrusted by God. While government and society at large have an important stake in schools and education, the Christian school is principally an extension of the home and a function of the Christian community. Therefore, parents are responsible for the operation of the Christian school and determine its educational philosophy.

### THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

...That the school must take into account the variety of abilities, needs, and responsibilities of all its pupils. In determining its pedagogical goals and educational aims, the school will deal with the whole child in the realization that every child is an image-bearer of God. Christian teachers, in obedience to God and in cooperation with the parents, have a unique pedagogical responsibility in their dealings with every child in the school.

## Volunteer Service: Stronger Together

Significant parental involvement is one of the most valuable and cherished features of Kingston Christian School. The Volunteer Plan is designed to encourage volunteer contributions with the ultimate goals of:

- ✓ building community among KCS families and staff,
- ✓ harnessing the diverse talents and resources of the KCS community for the benefit of our children, and
- ✓ lowering the tuition rate by reducing operating costs and raising funds.

KCS tuition rates are based on every family's volunteer contributions, which have a real dollar value. If parents are unable or unwilling to participate, they are asked to compensate for the decrease in volunteer contributions with the dollar equivalent of \$10/hour.

It is recognized and very much appreciated that many families give much more than their allotted requirement, and others would like to do more but cannot. The Volunteer Plan is simply intended to minimize inequities and, most importantly, to maximize our school's extraordinary potential.

Please be aware that to accompany your child on a class trip, work with students in the classroom, or volunteer for yard duty, you will need to have an up-to-date criminal background and vulnerable sector screening check, also known as a CRC/VSS, dated within the last two years. You will also be asked in alternate years to sign an offence declaration form indicating any changes to your criminal record status.

1. Volunteer requirements are as follows:
  - Returning Family: 50 hours/year
  - New family: 30 hours/year
  - Single Parent Family: 50% of above
2. New KCS families will be contacted within the first few weeks of their arrival to ensure that they are comfortable with the plan.
3. Within the first few weeks of school, each family is asked to fill out the Volunteer Option Form, which allows them to fully or partially commit or opt out of the plan.
4. Each family records their completed volunteer hours in the Volunteer Binder, which is located in the office hallway.
5. Hours will be tallied on Nov. 30, Feb. 28, and May 31 of each year. Families are asked to update their hours in the Volunteer Binder prior to these dates.
6. Volunteer opportunities range from recess and class trip supervision to committee work to coaching extra-curricular activities. Many are posted in the Informer and in the front of the Volunteer Binder.

7. Parents can also contact the Volunteer Committee, their child's teacher, or committee chairs for ideas.
8. School Trips and Sports Meets:
  - a. Designated Chaperones: Teachers will request a set number of volunteers to chaperone each event, and may require specific criteria (e.g., equal number of male and female volunteers for an overnight trip). The request must be outlined on the Trip Info/Permission form sent to parents, and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.
  - b. Designated chaperones are responsible for assisting staff with implementing the planned schedule and ensuring the safety and well-being of all students.
  - c. Designated chaperones may earn points for their time, as outlined in e. below.
  - d. Parents who are not designated chaperones may not earn points for their attendance; any help they provide will be deemed as good will.
  - e. Hours for Designated Chaperones:
    - i. Day trips: Hours include travel time to and from Destination
    - ii. Overnight trips: Up to a maximum of 12 hours per day.
9. Given the ease with which most families meet their volunteer requirements by spring, the cutoff date for Volunteer Hours is May 31st. Any points earned above and beyond the requirements will be deemed as good-will towards the school, and cannot be carried over to the next school year.
10. If a family has not met their Volunteer Hours by May 31st, but expects to do so in June, a plan may be worked out with a member of the Volunteer Committee.
11. If a family is unable to meet their Volunteer Hours due to serious circumstances, they can apply for Volunteer Hours relief with a written request to the Volunteer Committee on or before May 31st.
12. Any Volunteer Hours that are not met are invoiced at \$10/hour. Invoices are issued in June and must be paid in full before or on the last day of school.



While it may seem somewhat bewildering at first, the Volunteer Plan is designed to be simple, fair and achievable. There are many volunteer opportunities available at KCS, so finding something that suits your interests, skills and schedule is easy.



## Dress Code Policy

### Policy:

The Kingston Christian School (KCS) dress code is a **Unified Dress Code**, promoting the identity of KCS, consisting of **solid Navy Blue** and **White** clothing.

### Procedures:

1. Tops must be **solid white or navy blue** and bottoms (pants, skirts, shorts, tights, hose, etc.) must be **solid navy blue**. Denim is NOT part of the acceptable dress code.
2. KCS does not have a specific supplier, but recommends clothing be purchased from uniform clothing lines available at most major retailers (Zellers, Old Navy, The Children's Place, The GAP, Sears, Walmart).
3. Clothing should be attractive, comfortable and allow for ease of movement. Athletic pants are generally acceptable, but cannot be faded or ill fitting.
4. Clothing must be clean, non-transparent, size appropriate and in good repair.
5. Shorts may be worn, but must be modest in length.
6. T-shirts (long or short-sleeved) may be worn but they must be neat and presentable.
7. No undershirts are to be worn as outer-garments.
8. Tops must meet bottoms when the arms are lifted. Tank tops may be worn provided the straps are three fingers wide. Necklines on all tops must be modest.
9. No undergarments may be showing.
10. Hats are not to be worn inside the school except on dress up fun days.
11. Students are expected to be in **Navy** and **White** for all school days and activities unless specific notice has been given.
12. On special occasions (programs, assemblies, concerts), students may be required to wear a **white collared shirt**). Skirts and dresses must be a modest length when worn for any school program or activity.
13. Students should refrain from using excessive make-up.
14. All items of clothing should be clearly labeled with the student's name.
15. Manufacture trademarks, if any, should be no larger than about 1 inch.
16. Generally, non-uniform days are held the last Friday of the month. All Dress Code rules apply, save the ones pertaining to colour and logo size.
17. The administration reserves the right to make final decisions concerning appropriate dress.

