

WINTER 2021

UMEI ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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Autumn Campaign Update

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."
- Helen Keller

We are so fortunate and blessed to live in such a caring and compassionate community. Fortunate, too, that there is a deep understanding of and commitment to the mission of UMEI and Christian education.

Together, our community raised \$91,596 for our annual Autumn Campaign; that's nearly \$14,000 over our goal!

The Lord loves a cheerful giver and so do we! Simply put, if it wasn't for faithful supporters like you, we wouldn't exist.

**THANK YOU!
From the Board, Staff, and Students of UMEI**



A Note From The Principal

BY MRS. BEDAL

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Philippians 2: 3 -4

Paul begins Philippians Chapter 2 by saying if anyone has any comfort, encouragement, or tenderness from the love of Christ, they should make his joy complete by acting in a way that would be pleasing to Jesus: 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

As a school community, we must not let our guard down in these uncertain times. We are all part of the larger community, and we must continue to protect each other, our school community and our loved ones.

The staff and students have worked hard, while on campus, to do just that. We have all followed the appropriate safety procedures and protocols. Consequently, we can thankfully say that we have had no COVID cases in our school community since the start of the school year.

As we once again transition to online learning, our teachers and students are fully prepared and again it has been a seamless changeover. Classes continue with the regular schedule, where students engage with their teachers and peers daily. Teachers have found creative ways to continue active class participation despite the challenges of a virtual world.

The support we have received from the supporting community during the pandemic has been overwhelming and greatly appreciated. Please continue to pray for our school community as we look towards the second half of the school year.

Yours in Christian Education,
Sonya Bedal

JOIN THE UMEI COFFEE CLUB

AND WE'LL SEND YOU A GIFT!



In order to attend and get the education they deserve while growing in their faith, our students are required to pay tuition.

We want Coffee Club to be all about them. Help us bring down student tuition by signing up to donate monthly, it'll only cost you a coffee a day!

Send us your coffee change every month so that we can help deserving families give their children a Christian education. To say thanks, we'll send you a gift!

For more information head to www.umei.ca and click on the "Coffee Club" link which can be found under "Partner With Us"!

HUGS Campaign

BY MRS. HILLNER

Students from the Mental Wellness Club at UMEI Christian High School organized a collection campaign for the Windsor Youth Centre (WYC) before the Christmas break. The club felt it was important to help youth in need during a time in which we have many reasons to celebrate, while others are not as fortunate.

The campaign was a drive for each grade to collect and contribute as many of the HUGS items as possible. The WYC is frequently in need of HUGS (Hoodies/Hygiene items, undergarments, gloves/gift cards, snacks) and the students of UMEI demonstrated a deep level of care and compassion by filling four large bins for donation.

We are proud of our student body for stepping up and giving of themselves to ensure others are safe and have access to items in need!



Pictured Above:

The 2020-21 Mental Wellness Club

Mrs. Hillner, Oliva Coppola, Jessica Martens, Raelyn Derbyshire, Maddie Enns, Raylene Schartner, Shea Bailey, Isabel Neufeld



Pictured Above:

Mr. Jaarsma with Mr. Fittler and our 2020-21 Robotics Class!

Never Too Old To Start Something New

BY MR. FITTLER

At age 88, Ray Jaarsma admits he never dreamt in his wildest imagination that he would be a major partner with UMEI's Robotics Program. "The success of UMEI's Robotics Course in large can be attributed to Ray's incredible carpentry skill," says retired UMEI science teacher, John Fittler. "Instead of just laying out lines on the floor for our robots to follow, our students have challenges built by Ray that simulate tasks and functions in industry," commented Fittler.

If you ask Ray how many different challenges he has built over the years, he will tell you he has lost count. Each of the projects require a different robot design, from ones that master moving obstacles, or getting across broken bridges, to ones that put balls into slots and hoops. "It is easy to understand why our students would literally run to class to get started on a new project that was just delivered," suggested Fittler.

Ray's love for carpentry is visible in his impeccable constructions. His story of becoming a carpenter is like many of our skilled immigrants that have come to Canada. Growing up in Holland, he explained that a student had to choose which stream they would attend at an early age in high school. He chose Trade School at 14 years of age. No easy task for a youngster. He came to Canada in his early 20's with only \$100 in his pocket and unable to speak the English language. His tools unfortunately got lost in transit and finally arrived 3 months later. "Those were the days when you had to be sponsored to come to Canada. A Dutch family in Windsor sponsored me and I got \$60/month for farm labour plus room and board," said Ray. "It was frustrating not being able to communicate but I took English classes at night until I could speak the language," he stated.

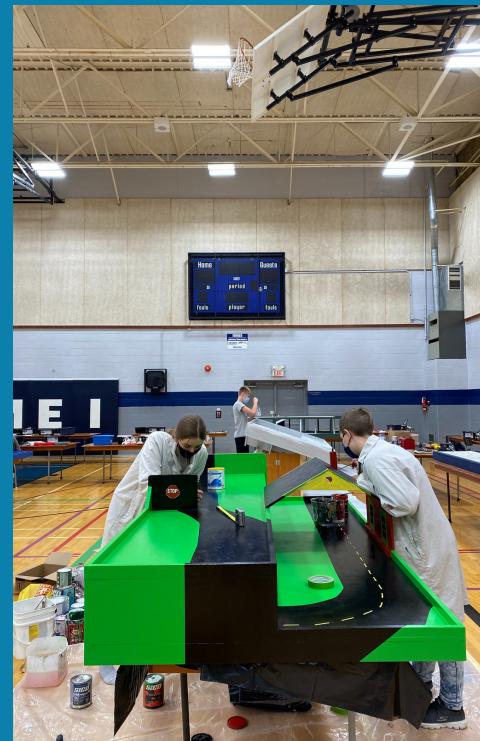
Continued....

BY MR. FITTLER

He also worked for a car wash to earn extra money and got an opportunity to demonstrate his masonry skills to the owner when a driver accidentally drove through the block wall of the garage. Ray convinced the owner that he could fix the wall and save him some money.

He finally got his break to practice his trade school skills when he was hired by Essex Cabinet and later joined the Carpenters Union when he was in his 40's. This allowed opportunities to work on big projects like the University of Windsor and Devonshire Mall. He met the love of his life Ursula of 59 years when a co-worker invited him home for dinner to meet his daughter. The two resided in Leamington raising their family and Ray continued to work for Woodall Construction until his retirement at age 60.

"Ray is an incredible humble man. He has been a mentor to me and my students over the years and a true witness that passion is important in our work," explained Fittler. "I love seeing the twinkle in his eyes when our students have mastered the challenge that he constructed. But, most of all, I love the comment he made to our students on one of his visits: If you like what you do, it is not a job. It is just your life. Enjoy what you do and take pride in your work."



Pictured Above:

Students from our Robotics class working on the challenges built by Mr. Jaarsma.

Grade 11 Audio Drama: "The 39 Steps"

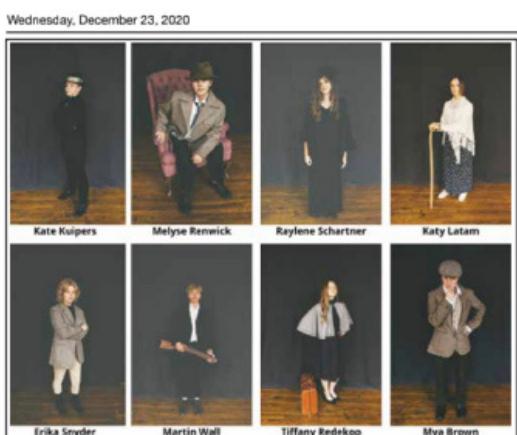
BY MRS. WIENS

You may have many words for the year 2020, but for UMEI students, the key word that comes to mind is “adaptability.” When the Covid-19 pandemic meant we could not perform the traditional Grade 11 play, we were still determined to make this tradition a reality. Enter The 39 Steps, an audio drama which our students could record safely and you can enjoy from the comfort of your own cellphone or computer!

Our play, The 39 Steps, is a radio play adapted by Joe Landry based on the 1935 movie directed by Alfred Hitchcock. Hitchcock is perhaps still the best known and most influential filmmaker in the world, but The 39 Steps was from his pre-American days and helped establish his reputation as the master of thrillers. The story is a masterful blend of horror, comedy and romance, and Landry’s adaptation keeps the listener on the edge of their seat! Our protagonist, Richard Hannay, must save England from its enemies, all while navigating a tense but spirited relationship with Pamela, whom he meets by chance on his travels. Pamela instantly dislikes and distrusts Hannay, yet fate would have it that it takes a couple to save England! Many have tried but few have succeeded in doing what Hitchcock accomplishes in The 39 Steps: infusing a story of a world on the brink of disaster with the wit, romance, and playful seriousness of a screwball comedy.

As audio dramas and podcasts have risen in popularity, we hope you enjoy this offering entirely acted, edited, and produced by the Grade 11 class of UMEI. The genre and advertisements reflect the style of old time radio plays, so we hope these recordings bring you a sense of nostalgia while entertaining you and your family! Until we can gather again, we present to you The 39 Steps!

If you would like to listen to this production, go to www.umei.ca and click on the link "Grade 11 AudioDrama" which can be located on our home page!



UMEI performs and records
old-time radio play

