

W E E K L Y N E W S L E T T E R

December 18, 2017

**JOY**

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."*

During the Christmas season one of our favourite songs to sing in SK is "Joy to the World". We all know the words well, "Joy to the World the Lord has come..." But what exactly is the joy of Christmas all about? Many people confuse joy and happiness. Happiness is based on your circumstances, but joy is a deeper emotion that lasts through good and bad times.

Sometimes joy can feel like an explosion of hope and excitement and at other times it is a strong sense of peace and a feeling that all is as it should be. During advent, we remember with joy the gift of Jesus, we enjoy His blessings now and we delight in the promise of His coming again.

Galatians 5:22-25 tells us that joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit. This means that God is the source of joy, but the Holy Spirit helps us to see it, practice it and give it away. The Spirit draws our attention to beautiful things and helps us remember God's faithfulness in the stories of the Bible and in our lives.

In our Social Justice Leadership Team, we have had discussions on how we as Christians at WCS can promote joy and peace. We decided that we must always be praying for opportunities to "have our eyes opened" to those in need in our families, school, greater community and beyond.

The Spirit also helps us see people who are in need of God's joy, so that we can share it with them. When we are filled with joy, we know how to give it away. Christmas is a perfect time to remind others of good times and stories of God's faithfulness. We can show them examples of God's goodness and beauty all around us. We can share God's promises from the Bible and we can also bring joy to others doing simple acts of kindness and service. What a JOY to share God's good gifts! We pray that all of the WCS community will experience this joy this Christmas and into 2018! (pieces taken from [http://kidscorner.reframemedia.com/media/pdf/KC-Advent-Calendar-2017-1\\_%284%29.pdf](http://kidscorner.reframemedia.com/media/pdf/KC-Advent-Calendar-2017-1_%284%29.pdf))

Linda Westerveld and Jesse Duizer ( Social Justice LT)



- Monday - Elliot Y., Gr.7
- Wednesday - Eric S., Gr.7
- Sophie K., Gr.8
- Thursday - Ellyse M., Gr.1A
- Dec. 26 - Mrs. Verbeek, Principal
- Dec. 27 - Alana S., SK
- Dec. 29 - Emily B., Gr.1B
- Jan. 2 - Mrs. Koopman, Secretary
- Jan. 3 - Julia K., Gr.5
- Jan. 4 - Jeremy B., Gr.4
- Jan. 5 - Lydia F., Gr.2B
- Jacklyn G., Gr.7
- Jan. 6 - Peter S., Gr.1B
- Markus F., Gr.1A

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

**Prayer Corner:** We pray that our families will experience blessings as we celebrate Jesus' coming into the world this Christmas break. May you enjoy time to worship with your church families, and time for laughter and sharing with your friends and families as well. Our condolences to Mrs. Koopman and her family as they mourn the loss of her mother-in-law who died this weekend. Holidays and celebration times can be a time when we experience the pain of grief in a particular way as we gather and feel the absence of those who have died or are otherwise absent from our lives. May all who are hurting experience God's comfort and grace.

**Christmas Break:** The countdown is on... just a few more days and 2017 at WCS will be over! Come sing and celebrate with us this Thursday for our Christmas chapel and school skating. Friday will be a regular school day. Students will be away from school for two weeks and we will see everyone back to school on Monday January 8th, 2018. May God bless you as you rest and refresh and may you continue to experience His goodness and grace in the new year.

**Carol Singing:** Please join us for our Christmas carol sing-a-long Assembly on Thursday at 8:30, hosted by grades 5 and SK.

**Skating:** Our entire school will be going skating on Thursday, and you are invited to join us! For insurance purposes, there are additional guidelines for 'on ice' participation that we must honour. Everyone - meaning all students and all adults - must wear helmets (bicycle, hockey, other), gloves/mittens and skates while on the ice. Boots, strollers, helmetless heads, and gloveless hands will not be permitted on the ice. Our buses will transport the students. The first group of students - Kindergarten to grade 3 - will skate from 1:15 pm - 2:10 pm. The second group of students - grades 4 through 8 - will skate from 2:15 pm to 3:10 pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

**From the Library:** Thank-you again for your recent support at Book Fair 2017! With the profit of the purchases you made, our library has received about \$340.00 in free books. We greatly appreciate that. Every dollar counts to make our collection even better. Overdue notices are being sent out again today. It would be great if we could get a lot of these overdue accounts settled before the new year 2018. Please look for the books, even if you are sure they have been returned. Please e-mail me about any inconsistencies you see if you receive the overdue notice. Our student body has been doing very well in maintaining a low overdue rate and that is of course with your help and support, parents!

A very blessed Christmas to you all! Sincerely, Mrs. Dieleman, WCS Librarian [m.dieleman@woodstockchristian.ca](mailto:m.dieleman@woodstockchristian.ca)

**Lost & Found:** Is your child missing some clothing items? Are you wondering where that hoodie might be? Please check the lost and found table and coat rack area for missing clothing items, water bottles, and lunch box items. Any items left next week will be brought to a local thrift store. Lost eye glasses are brought to the office.

**Staffing Updates:** As 2017 ends, we are experiencing several staffing changes at WCS. A warm welcome to Joleen Mulder who will be starting in the position of WCS's Advancement & Communications Director in January 2018. Helena Barnes will be leaving at the end of this week to take on full-time employment at her other job. Marjanne Scheltema will be moving into the PSW/EA role that Mrs. Barnes is leaving. Lucille Koopman will be working Tuesday-Friday each week in the new year, and Dawn Streutker will be taking her place in the main office as our Monday Administrative Assistant for January through June 2018. Dawn will also be available as a resource to the new Advancement & Communications Director. We will miss those who are leaving and are excited for those who are taking on new responsibilities.

**Busing Update:** The REMIND system worked well last week for our snow day! We are thankful for this quick and efficient communication system. A reminder that on days where roads may be snow-covered, buses may be travelling slower and the route may take a little longer. Thank you to our bus drivers for their work, and thank you for your patience as we enter the winter season. A note that from time to time we may need to cancel a run due to shortage of spare bus drivers.

**Sr. Girls Basketball:** Thank you to all those who have signed up to join our team. I am looking forward to a great season! As we start immediately upon our return from Christmas holidays, there is a mandatory practice on Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 - 11:30 am to help develop skills and team spirit. At this time, a schedule of dates and games will also be passed out. If you are unable to make it for any reason, please let me know as soon as possible. Thank you. Mrs. Schuster

**WCS Electives:** We hope to begin elective activities for our junior and intermediate students in the new year beginning Wednesday, February 7, and running for five weeks until March 7, 2018 from approximately 2:10 to 3:30. In the past, we have had various sessions like baking, origami, crafts, hairdressing, board games, chess etc. In order for the elective sessions to be successful we need your help. Please email [g.hiemstra@woodstockchristian.ca](mailto:g.hiemstra@woodstockchristian.ca) if you have an idea that you can lead or help with as we like to offer numerous activities for our electives.

**Mark Your Calendars!** On Saturday, February 24, Beginnings Woodstock is hosting their annual family fun event, sponsored by WCS! Circo Comedia, a comedic circus duo out of Montreal, will be performing daring stunts and acrobatic tricks with their eccentric, family-friendly comedy! Concession available, and all proceeds go directly to the Beginnings Family Services Centre right here in

Woodstock, serving all of Oxford County. Tickets will be available at the WCS office in the New Year! Please contact Megan Booy with any questions.

**Junior Kindergarten:** Wow - it is the last week of school for 2017. We continue to focus on the story of Christmas and how many symbols we see help remind us of Christ in Christmas. Thursday this week the whole school is going skating! JK will skate from 1:15-2:15 please be sure your child has skates, a helmet and mittens in order to be allowed on the ice. We will have grade 8 helpers but, we do encourage parents to join us at the arena for this fun event. After skating we will have some hot chocolate and treats back in our classroom. I wish you all a very blessed Christmas and may God continue to walk with you in 2018! May you have an enjoyable break and see you all in January!

Wednesday - Library

**Senior Kindergarten:** Welcome to the last week of school for 2017. We thank God for all his blessings to us in 2017. I pray that you have a joy filled vacation as you celebrate the birth of Christ. We will do our star show and share this week. Please ensure that message bags come back to school daily as we have lots going home this week. We will be skating on Thursday. Everyone on the ice needs gloves, a helmet and skates. Please join us. SK and grade 5 will be hosting the Christmas carol Sing a long assembly on Thursday at 8:30. Have a great week!

Wednesday - Library

Thursday - skating  
- Christmas Chapel

**Grade 1A:** Welcome to our last week before Christmas! This week we not only will be celebrating the birth of Jesus, but also Ellyse who has her birthday this week. We pray that God will continue to bless and keep you always! Please watch for an email from me with regards to some happenings this week.

Monday - See VIP Folders  
Tuesday - Reading folders due  
Wednesday - Show and Share  
Thursday - School Skating  
Friday - Class Christmas Party

**Grade 1B/2B:** Welcome to the final week before Christmas! We have another five-day week ahead of us! We have a class party this Friday!! Check your email for an update on what is happening in our class!

Monday - Christmas Around the World Day 2  
Tuesday - Gym  
- Library  
- Christmas Around the World Day 3  
Wednesday - Show & Share: Lydia W. & Maylina  
- Christmas Around the World Day 4 (last day!)  
Thursday - Skating! (\*bring skates, helmet & mittens)  
Friday - Class Party!!! (Treats, Games & Fun!)  
- Gym  
- Spelling Quiz

**Grade 2A:** Wow! It is the last week before Christmas Break. How the time has flown by so far this year. This week we look forward to special Christmas type celebrations such as our Christmas Chapel, a carol sing with the primary grades, skating,

class party, and learning more about the Christmas Story during Bible lessons. We will continue in our math unit on "Exploring Addition and Subtraction" and do a short book study on the story "The Velveteen Rabbit".

Monday - Gym  
Tuesday - Library  
Wednesday - Gym  
Thursday - Christmas Chapel @ 8:30  
- skating @1:15 (bring helmets, mitts, skates)  
Friday - Christmas Party  
- Enjoy your break as you celebrate Jesus' birth with your friends and family

**Grade 3:** Welcome to the last week of school in 2017. We will continue Christmas Around the World. Have a wonderful Christmas celebrating Jesus' birth.

Wednesday - Library  
- Phys. Ed.  
Thursday - Christmas Chapel (8:30)  
- Skating at 1:15 at the Woodstock Skating Complex (helmets, gloves)  
Friday - Spelling Test: List 11

**Grade 4:** Welcome to the last week of school in 2017. We have to say goodbye to Hyun this week. We will miss the Kim family. Remember your skates, helmets, and gloves for skating on Thursday. You need all three to be allowed on the ice. I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and that God blesses you all richly in 2018.

Monday - Alexis  
- Music  
Tuesday - Anthony  
- Phys. Ed.  
- Library: remember your books  
Wednesday - Cole  
- Music  
Thursday - Derek  
- Christmas chapel at 8:30  
- Skating - 2:15 to 3:15  
Friday - Dev  
- Spelling test  
- Buddies  
January 8 - Emily D

**Grade 5:** Welcome to the last week before Christmas Holidays! A reminder that we have a Christmas chapel on Thursday morning in the gym that you are welcome to come to and on Thursday there is a school skating event at the community complex which you are also welcome to come to. On Friday we'll be having our class gift exchange - if possible, please try to bring the gift in on Wednesday or Thursday this week. If you could put the gift in a plastic grocery bag to conceal it, that would help keep it more of a secret. On Friday we'll be celebrating Christmas with an extra gym period, then watching a Christmas movie while enjoying some popcorn, hot chocolate, and perhaps some other snacks too. It is definitely a fun Thursday and Friday for the kids! One mistake I noticed on the memory work sheet: it says that

memory work for this week is due for Thursday, December 21st, but it is supposed to be Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. I hope you all enjoy some relaxing family time and have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Here's our week in terms of homework:

- Monday - Bible Quiz: Jesus Birth and Early Life - study highlighted notes
- Tuesday - Phys Ed: bring gym clothes  
- Music: bring recorder
- Wednesday - Bible: If possible, please bring costumes for our skit: costumes for Mary, Joseph, Anna, Simeon, and other generic New Testament character costumes.
- Thursday - Christmas Chapel, 8:30 am  
- Phys Ed: bring gym clothes  
- School Skating at community complex in starting at 2:15. Helmet is required to skate.  
- Music: bring recorder
- Friday - Science Quiz: Respiratory System (see highlighted notes)  
- Spelling Workbook and test based on Lesson 16 due  
- Memory Work: Joshua 1:9 (NIV)  
- L.A. Skills Pack #9 (Metaphors) due  
- Math Quiz based on JM pages 75-90

**Grade 6:** I wish everyone a blessed Christmas and New Year! Students need to bring skates, gloves and helmets for skating on Thursday.

- Tuesday - Require a protractor
- Wednesday - Bible Quiz  
- Health: Disease Presentation due
- Thursday - Math Quiz: work this week  
- Skating: helmet, skates, gloves
- Friday - Spelling: Unit 15 test and book due  
- Class party at end of day: bring nut free snacks

**Grade 7:** I would like to wish your family a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! May God bless you with His peace and love! Mrs. Racicot

- Wednesday - chapter #10 math test
- Thursday - Christmas party and skating
- Friday - December reading assignment

**Grade 8:** Welcome to the last week of school for 2017. As you prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth, may you and your family be blessed over this Christmas season! Information about the Grade 8 Class Christmas Celebration went home last week, if you have any questions feel free to contact either myself or Mrs. Swanson.

- Tuesday - Geography Quiz (Chapter 2)  
- Phys. Ed. (bring gym clothes)  
- Music (bring instruments)
- Wednesday - Math Quiz (Number Sense unit)
- Thursday - Phys. Ed. (bring gym clothes)  
- Music (bring instruments)
- Friday - Grade 8 Class Christmas Celebration - bring \$10 gift for gift exchange.

**CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- December 19 Board Meeting
- 20 Prayer Group
- 21 Christmas Chapel Skating
- 23 - Jan.7 Christmas Break
- 8 New Year's Chapel 8:30
- 10 Staff Meeting
- 11 Sub Day
- 16 Board Meeting
- 17 Prayer Group 8:30

**SONG OF THE MONTH:** Brave

No I won't be afraid - You are with me  
You are right beside me every day  
Even when it feels like everything is going wrong  
I can look up to You God and find my strength

Chorus: Oh! Oh! Oh! Your love has lifted me  
Oh! Oh! Oh! Above the raging sea  
Oh! Oh! Oh! And I just gotta say  
Oh! Oh! Oh! Your love makes me brave  
and I won't be afraid, Your love makes me brave.  
I can face anything, Your love makes me brave.

I was lost and afraid til You found me  
You lifted me up and gave me strength  
Anywhere that I go You go with me, Oh!  
Lord, You give me the courage to live each day. Chorus

And I won't be afraid, Your love makes me brave  
I can face anything - Your love makes me brave.

Your word will light my way, Your word will help me stand  
I know I'm safe with You, I know I'm held in Your hands  
Your word will light my way, Your word will help me stand  
I know I'm safe with You, I know I'm held in Your hands

Your love makes me brave and I won't be afraid  
Your love makes me brave, I can face anything.  
Your love makes me brave, and I won't be afraid  
Your love makes me brave, I can face anything.  
Your love makes me brave, Your love makes me brave,  
Your love makes me brave.

Title: Brave      Words & Music by: Saddleback Kids  
C.C.L.I. #400245