

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

November 28, 2016

**15 Minutes Each Day**

In honour of Reading and of the Book Fair being offered this week, I am sharing an article Posted Oct 24, 2016 / by Robert Bruinsma in By the Way, published in the Christian Courier. Dr. Bruinsma has a doctorate in reading education.

C. Verbeek.

*Being able to read is a great gift from God. ... Reading has many uses, not the least of which is being able to access the Bible, God's love letter to us. Then there is the immense enjoyment and enlightenment that comes from reading non-biblical literature. Finally, there is the usefulness of being able to read more functional print such as reports, memos, manuals, recipes, medicine bottles and road signs. Parents understand the importance of reading. "What can I do to help my child be a better reader?" was one of the most frequent questions I heard during my long career as a teacher and reading educator. My answer? "Read with each of your children for 15 minutes each day." That's it.*

*"That's it?" many ask. "Surely there's more to it than that!"*

*"Nope. That's it."*

*Find a quiet spot and take an unhurried and uninterrupted 15 minutes each day with your children, preferably one-on-one, and share a good book (or even a not so good book if your child isn't interested in the classics). Read to your child and talk about what you've read. Have the child read a few words or sentences, or just point at a familiar letter or a picture that goes with what you've read. Make this a special time so that reading becomes associated with your love for each other. For what a child (or any one of us) experiences as a loving, enjoyable, special time is the greatest motivator for wanting to continue with that activity, whatever it is."*

*Canadian literacy expert, Dr. Frank Smith, has said that learning any worthwhile skill is largely a function of the company we keep, whether that's learning to play hockey, fly fish, bake a cake or read. Our children emulate those whom they love and respect, both real and virtual people.*

*.... Having your kids seeing you read often and avidly, will be a great incentive for them to be like you and become readers too.*

*Does this sound too easy? Well, it's not. Finding 15 dedicated minutes a day of reading time with each of your kids is probably one of the hardest things you can do. It's hard to make this much unhurried, dedicated time available in the midst of a busy life of work, household chores, errands, meetings, phone calls, emails, Facebook, Twitter, dog walking, nose wiping, homework helping, TV watching and all the other seemingly endless things that take our attention as parents.*

*Your kids' teachers will do many wonderful things at school to help them unlock the intricate code of written language. The best thing you can do is read with each of them 15 minutes per day.*



Saturday

- Jaron M., Gr.3

- Annika J., Gr.1A

Sunday

- Seth Y., K-B

**Straw & Order** is a children's drama with a twist on the original Christmas story.

In a courtroom in the middle of Bethlehem...

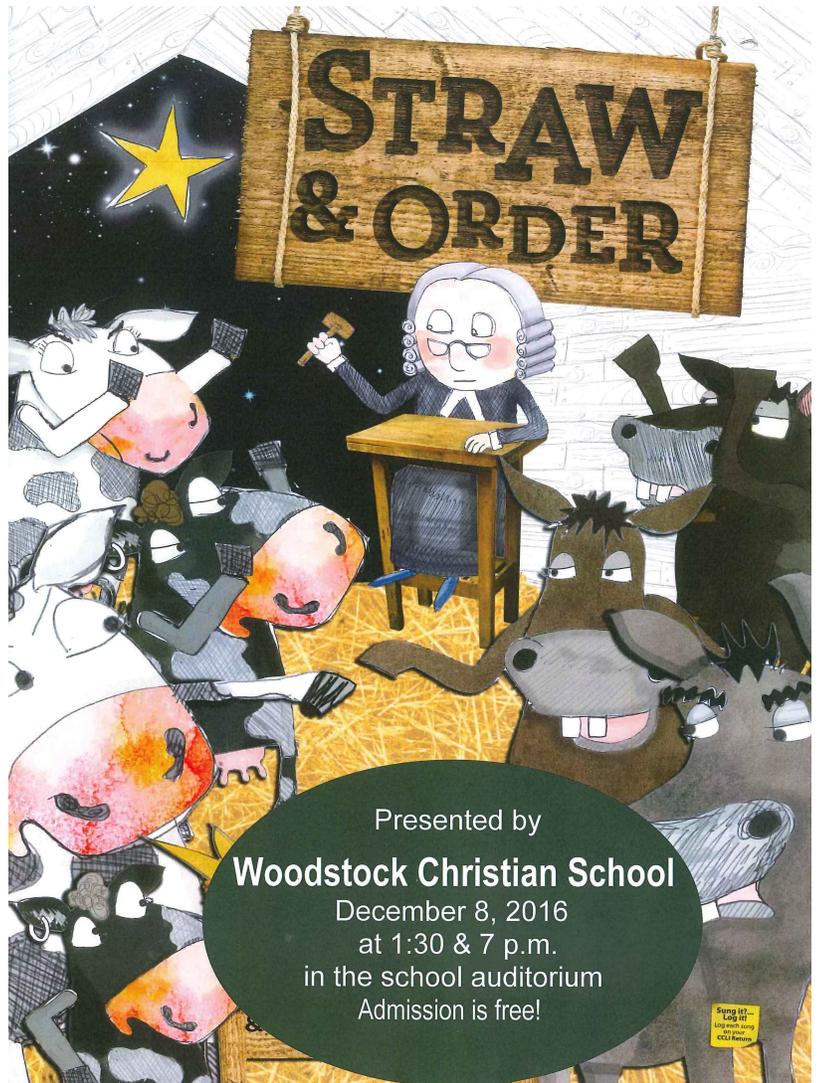
The cows feel pushed out of their stable and they want it back! The donkeys, accused of having invited over a whole host of people, including a baby, deny all charges.

Fed up by their petty squabbles and confused by the nature of the case, Judge Grumps is far from happy. Seeing this, the narrator offers to take him out of the courtroom to witness the night's events firsthand.

As the judge encounters bickering innkeepers, self-important wise men, cool shepherds, dancing sheep and a spectacular angel choir, things become clear. Rushing to the stable, the judge is humbled by the sight of Jesus. What will the judge's verdict be?

Come and watch grades Kindergarten to Four sing and perform this drama on Thursday, December 8th. Students will be performing at our Christmas Tea and again in the evening of December 8th at 7pm. Please come join us!

**Costumes for Straw and Order:** A huge THANK YOU for all your help with gathering costumes for our upcoming Christmas program. If your child's costume is not at school yet, please send it in tomorrow. If you need help locating items, please contact Mrs. Bulthuis at [t.bulthuis@woodstockchristian.ca](mailto:t.bulthuis@woodstockchristian.ca). Students with traditional Christmas story characters will have their costume provided (eg. wise men, shepherds, innkeepers, Mary, Joseph, star). Thanks again!



Presented by  
**Woodstock Christian School**  
December 8, 2016  
at 1:30 & 7 p.m.  
in the school auditorium  
Admission is free!

### **FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

**Chicken:** Please return your order forms to the school, accompanied with payment, by next Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. Orders without payment will not be placed. Orders will be available for pickup on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, between 3 and 4 pm. Please make arrangements to have your orders picked up during that time frame. Please keep in mind that the school no longer has a deep freezer so it is very important to make arrangements to have your orders picked up. Please note that we will not be responsible for orders that are not picked up without prior arrangements. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Sol at 519-539-7839 or [jmsol@rogers.com](mailto:jmsol@rogers.com).

**Book Fair 2016:** This is the week of the Woodstock Christian School Book Fair! It is an excellent opportunity to purchase books for your children, yourself and for gifts! The following merchants will be there at the sale: Christian Supplier, Scholastic, and Usborne Books. Profits made from the Book Fair go in support of the WCS library. This is a win-win for everyone! You can shop during the Parent-Teacher interview time slots. Remember that students will be able to look at the books and make purchasing suggestions to their parents but only parents will be able to purchase from the Book Fair tables. Also, on the flyer coming home today, please take note that there is a ballot to fill in for each student. Each student can enter the draw and one student will win a \$25.00 value of books and their teacher will also be able to choose a value of \$25.00 of books. Please note that the Scholastic Book Company has excellent quality books for a reasonable price. At times there are also books of lesser quality content. The staff of WCS carefully pays attention what will be for sale during this time. It may happen that some titles that are listed on the flyer may not be, in our judgement, the best quality content. It may be a possibility that not all book choices listed may be for sale on the table. Again, the dates for the Book Fair are this Wednesday afternoon and evening during PTI times and Thursday late afternoon and evening. See you there!

**Parent-Teacher Conferences:** Parents and teachers at WCS are partners in providing learning for our children. The Parent-Teacher Conferences are an excellent way to stay connected to the classroom and for you to celebrate your child's learning. This is also an opportunity to share concerns. If you have not already, please contact Mrs. Koopman in the office to book a conference time. An updated conference schedule will be sent today by email.

**Senior Girls Volleyball:** Congratulations to the girls on placing second at the Bluewater District Christian School tournament! Very well done! It has been a pleasure to coach you this season. A big thanks to Bob Takacs for his help this season, and to Brandon Kiers for refereeing our home games.

**Boys Volleyball:** Friday was our final tournament for the year; our season is now over. Last Wednesday we had a close match to St. Mark's, and a similar close match on Friday in the semifinal round to Strathroy. Great improvement over the season, boys! Thanks to all those who drove this season, including those that drove on Wednesday and Friday. Now the boys can concentrate on the next sport season of basketball. Thanks again for all your efforts.

**Triple Ball:** 12 students from grade 5 and 6 will be participating in a Triple Ball (variation of volleyball) tournament at Strathroy Christian School on Mon. Dec. 5th. Mrs. Hickey will be choosing the team by Tuesday. Information will be sent home at that time.

**Library:** Just a quick reminder for parents. From time to time you may receive an e-mail from WCS indicating that your child(ren) has an overdue book from our library. Sometimes mishaps happen and the book is not properly checked in and we do find it on the shelf! Sometimes it legitimately cannot be found. Please respond to this reminder very quickly and we will do our best to locate the book, if you are sure that it has been returned. If we can try to solve the problem quickly, then your child(ren) can continue to take the two books out on a regular basis. Thank-you very much. If you have concerns please contact [m.dieleman@woodstockchristian.ca](mailto:m.dieleman@woodstockchristian.ca)

**J.K. / S.K. - A:** It is beginning to look and sound a lot like Christmas in our room! Our tree is up and the kids are enjoying decorating it and singing Christmas songs already! This week words for SK are in and was. JK is going to be learning the letters T and I. Keep practising our previous letters too (L,F,E,H) Watch for our December calendar coming home this week. Please remember to sign and return the report card envelopes as soon as possible.

**J.K. / S.K. - B:** Welcome to a new week. I am looking forward to meeting you at parent teacher interviews this week. Please watch for the December letter coming home with details about next week's performances. This week's show and share is free choice. Have a great week!

**Grade 1A:** Welcome to the last week in November! Cole celebrated his birthday on Saturday!! We hope he enjoyed a fabulous day with friends and family. Check your email for a look at what we will be doing this week in Grade One.

Tuesday - Library  
- Gym  
Wednesday - Memory Work (Gen. 12:1-3)  
- Show & Share: Mrs. VanderPloeg & Mrs. VanderSpek  
- Parent Teacher Conferences in the evening  
Thursday - Parent Teacher Conferences in the evening  
Friday - No School (P.A. Day)

**Grade 1B:** Welcome to a new week of school. Thank you to all those who returned the pink pre-conference form, as well as the report card envelopes. If you have not yet done so, please return them tomorrow. I am looking forward to

meeting with all of you either on Wednesday or Thursday night. We will be visiting the book fair as a class Thursday afternoon. Please note that students will not be allowed to purchase anything, but will be working on completing a wish list that will be brought home that night.

Monday - See VIP Folder  
- Return pre-conference form & report card envelope  
Tuesday - Library  
Wednesday - Gym  
- PTIs 4-6; 7-9pm  
Thursday - Sub Day  
- Class visit to book fair  
- PTIs 4-6; 7-9pm  
Friday - No School

**Grade 2:** One more short week to finish off November! This week we will have a chance to do a full practice of our musical, as we are nearing our debut next week! We will be wrapping up our unit on time and money and will continue learning about mapping, and Jesus' preaching. I look forward to meeting with you all this week at Parent-Teacher Interviews.

Monday - Gym  
Tuesday - Library  
Wednesday - Gym  
- Memory Work due  
Thursday - Spelling Test  
- Return Reading Calendar

**Grade 3:** Welcome to a new week. Please make sure your food order form for French Activity Day is in by Tuesday. Thank you! Please sign and return the report card envelope this

week. Swim to Survive begins this Wednesday. We have been busy writing our own "Nate the Great" story. Soon we will be typing and illustrating our story.

Monday - Phys. Ed.  
 Tuesday - French test on Le journée d'activites  
 Wednesday - Swim to Survive  
 - Library  
 Thursday - Mem. Work: Gen. 17:7-8  
 - French Activity Day  
 - Spelling Test - List 8  
 - Sub Lunch

**Grade 4:** Welcome to the last week of November grade 4! We are going to be practicing the play several times this week. Make sure you know your lines. The play "Straw and Order" is next week. I am looking forward to meeting with you all this week. The Book Fair is being held this week at school.

Monday - Julie  
 - Music  
 - Buddies  
 Tuesday - Katelyn B.  
 - Phys. Ed.  
 - Library: remember your books  
 Wednesday - Katelyn M.  
 - Bible test - Samuel  
 - Music  
 - PTI's after school and evening  
 Thursday - Liam  
 - Spelling test  
 - Sub Lunch  
 - PTI's after school and evening  
 Friday - no school  
 next Monday - Naomi  
 - Music

**Grade 5:** Welcome to the last week of November. Essays were due last week: please help your child finish up his/her essay if he/she hasn't yet completed it.

Tuesday - Music: bring recorder  
 Wednesday - Phys Ed: bring gym strip  
 Thursday - Spelling: Workbook Lesson 11, and test.  
 Friday - PA day, no school

**Grade 6:** Thanks to Mr. Streutker, Mrs. Butler, and Mrs. Meijer for coming with us to the museum on Thursday. We had a good day of learning.

Tuesday - Kite flying (if the weather/wind is suitable)  
 Thursday - Math Quiz (work this week)  
 - Spelling Test: Unit 11 (book due and test)  
 Next Tues. - Science Test: Flight

**Grade 7:** Students are preparing for Parent Teacher Interviews and so they will not have bible memory work this week. Spelling is review lesson #12. November book reports are due on Wednesday November 30. Students will have a math quiz on Thursday. The math quiz will be on material from lessons 3.1 to 3.5. We are in the process of choosing a

Christmas gift for an international family in need through World Renew. This will replace gift giving in grade 7. As a class, we will celebrate Christmas with a party (because we do enjoy having fun together!). We will inform you of our World Renew choice next week.

**Grade 8:** Welcome to a shorter week. I am looking forward to the Student-Led Conferences being held this week. If you haven't signed up yet, please make sure this happens. Conferences are on Wednesday and Thursday Evening.

Monday - Science Energy Log Due  
 Tuesday - Phys Ed (Bring Gym clothes)  
 - Music (Bring Instrument)  
 Wednesday - Weekly Math Quiz  
 Thursday - Phys Ed (Bring Gym clothes)  
 - Music (Bring Instrument)  
 Friday - PA DAY

#### **CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS:**

November	30	Book Fair; P.T.C.'s 4-6, 7-9
December	1	Sub Day Book Fair; P.T.C.'s 4-6, 7-9
	2	P.A. Day
	7	Staff Meeting Prayer Group
	8	Christmas Tea Straw & Order Musical - 1:30 & 7 p.m.
	9	Early Dismissal (1:30) Staff Meeting Chix with Stix
	15	Pizza Day
	20	Board Meeting
	21	Prayer Group
	22	Christmas Chapel Skating
	Dec. 23 - Jan. 8	Christmas Break
January	9	New Year's Chapel (8:30)

#### **SONG OF THE MONTH:** Our God

1. Water You turned into wine; opened the eyes of the blind  
 There's no one like You, None like You

2. Into the darkness You shine; out of the ashes we rise  
 There's no one like You, None like You

Chorus Our God is greater, Our God is stronger  
 God You are higher than any other  
 Our God is healer  
 Awesome in power our God our God

Bridge And if our God is for us then who could ever stop us  
 And if our God is with us then what could stand against

Title: Our God Words & Music by: Chris Tomlin Jesse Reeves Jonas Myrin Matt Redman © 2010 Atlas Mountain Songs C.C.L.I. #400245
---