

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

September 5, 2017

It's a brand new year! Welcome to our new students and staff. Welcome back previous students, teachers and support staff and drivers. A special welcome to parents, relatives, friends, neighbours of WCS. We are happy to have your support and share your excitement for another school year. This summer, WCS was a construction zone. There were wooden rooms around the office door, and the washrooms near the staffroom. There was wood and mortar and gravel in the halls. Contractors, plumbers, electricians, and volunteers were in and out. It was noisy and messy and really interesting to see the changes taking place. Classrooms were emptied and cleaned and filled again. As renovations wrapped up, this place began to feel like a school again. But not quite because there were no students yet. Without students, it's not really a school. Today, we are ready to roll. The energy is back and we praise God for a new year and new beginnings! I am excited to explore our new theme: FAITH IN ACTION - HEROES FOR GOD. Stay tuned for future chapels, assemblies, and editorials exploring how God used and uses ordinary people for his purposes. Blessings for the new school year.

Carol Verbeek



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| Wednesday | - Elise P., Gr.1A |
| Friday | - Katelyn B., Gr.5 |
| | - Mrs. VanderSpek, E.A. |
| Sunday | - Cole S., Gr.4 |
| | - Emily W., Gr.4 |
| | - Mrs. VanderPloeg, Gr.1/2 Teacher |

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Prayer Requests: Please pray that God will continue to keep all of our students and staff in his hand through this new school year.

Scholastic Book Orders came in this summer. If you have an order that has not been filled please see Mrs. Westerveld and get your books. Happy reading!

Mobile Text Messages: A letter has been emailed to all parents of Woodstock Christian School. The letter explains how to join the REMIND system, the same system that was well received last year. It is an efficient means of one-way communication to parents in the event of bus delays or cancellations or other unusual events. Please look for the email and follow the steps to receive text messages delivered directly to your mobile phone. Please note that notices will continue to be posted on the website.

Foster Child: Last year we began to support a new child from Mission to Haiti. Djinylove just turned 4 on Aug. 29th. We are very excited to be continuing to collect money to support her this year. Collections will take place Fridays and any amount is appreciated.

Leadership Teams: At an assembly next week, students will be introduced to WCS LEADERSHIP TEAMS. Each student is asked to prayerfully fill out a questionnaire which helps them uncover/share their leadership qualities and strengths. They are also asked which team(s) they would like to participate in based on the gifts God has given them to serve the school community while developing new personal skills. Growing in becoming Christian servers, students discover God's ultimate truth, their unique gifts, and their purpose in life. At WCS we offer over twenty leadership teams ranging from technology to morning announcement teams. These leadership teams also act as enrichment vehicles for every student in our school, giving them the opportunity to lead and excel beyond the scope of academics and their classroom responsibilities. Parents please discuss these opportunities with your child(ren) and help them fill out their questionnaires.

Phys Ed Kit: Students in grades 5 and up will be required to wear proper clothing for their physical education classes beginning this week. The kit consists of a WCS t-shirt and gray shorts (those purchased in previous years are allowed). The uniform is available in the school office at a cost of \$20.00/set. Please make sure that your child's name or initials are placed in the shirt and shorts since there will be many similar outfits in the school. Students should keep their phys ed kit in their backpack.

Early Dismissal Days: As you receive the September paperwork from the WCS office, and as you read through the calendar, you will notice that there are three (3) Early Dismissal days listed. On these days, our end-of-day buses will run early and students will leave WCS at 1:30 pm. (These are not school days for LDCSS students, so they will not be affected.) Teachers will stay at school and work in their Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). These afternoons are set aside for teachers to go deeper with some of the learning initiatives that we have started at WCS, such as differentiated instruction, project-based learning, application of growth mindset strategies and more. These blocks of time allow for more focussed application and planning for our staff and are intended to enhance the learning environment in the classroom. The dates for these are September 30th, December 9th, and January 27th. There will be more information as each of these dates approaches.

From the Library: A warm welcome from the WCS Library. We are geared up once again to give the students great reading material and community in our library. Library officially begins next week for all students. Along with the regular book exchanges there will also be opportunities for students to use and enjoy the library. Students will be notified about these opportunities regularly through the announcements they listen to in the morning. We are especially blessed to have a wonderful group of volunteers who are helping run our library. Keep reading regular updates regarding library news in this Parent Link!



MMMM... CHICKEN!!! We are once again selling chicken from Elmira Poultry this year as a fundraiser for WCS. For every box sold, the school makes \$5! Last year we raised over \$4200! We are simply asking you to consider purchasing through W.C.S. what you would normally purchase at the grocery store. If you do feel like getting a few extra orders, that would be a bonus! Accompanying today's mail, please find the order form from Elmira. Please return your order forms to the school, accompanied with payment no later than next Tuesday, September 12. Orders received without payment will not be placed. Orders will be available for pickup on Thursday, September 28th between 3 and 4 pm. Please make arrangements to have your orders picked up at that time, as we will not be storing any orders at the school. Questions, please contact Michelle Sol at 519-539-7839 or jmsol@rogers.com.

Room Parents: We are revamping the Room Parent program this year. We are looking for one parent from each class to support the teacher with by prayer and encouragement. Your duties won't include much more than that. We are also looking to form a team that would organize a party for each classroom teacher. We realize that not everyone has gifts in both of those areas, so we are hoping that by separating some of the duties that it might be more attainable for people to take on one of these tasks. We look forward to working with you to bless our teachers. If you are interested in blessing our teachers or would like more information email Nicole VanderHoek nvhoek@hotmail.com! Dawn Streutker

Milk Bags: We are continuing to collect milk bags this year. Please send your clean outer milk bags to the Grade 1 classroom and we will be turn these into mats to send to those who are in need. Questions - please don't hesitate to ask Mrs. Schuster.

Woodstock Christian School and the Buses are NUT FREE (not just peanut-free)! We have students enrolled who have allergies to more than just peanuts, so we need to be a NUT FREE FACILITY for the safety of all students here at WCS! Please make sure that when you are packing lunches, treating our staff with goodies (which we love and so appreciate by the way!), or sending birthday treats, no nuts of any kind are included.

Cancellations: For FOG DAYS, when driving conditions are too dangerous for the buses to run, our WCS school buses will be cancelled. It is expected that parents will drive their children into WCS when they feel that it is safe to do so. All classes will

begin at normal time (8:25 am). The busses will run as usual after school to bring the students home. For students traveling to LDCSS, you can expect there to be a bus that will leave WCS at 8:10 (or when that bus driver believes that it is safe to drive to London). Please bring your high-school students to WCS for 8:10, providing you believe the roads are safe. The London bus will drive students home (as usual) at the end of the school day. For bad weather such as SNOW or ICE DAYS, school will be cancelled, and classes will not run for the day. Please sign up for the REMIND instant messaging system. You may also consult the school's web site at www.woodstockchristian.ca to see if buses are running. See elsewhere in the Parent Link about signing up for REMIND to receive notices via texts on your cell phone.

Dress Code: Please make sure that your children have two pairs of shoes at school. One pair is to be worn outdoors and one pair is for indoor use. Students must wear shoes at all times to avoid injury or infection. Our students must always wear socks and so flip flops are not acceptable footwear at WCS. Please note: all tops worn by our students in grades four and up must have sleeves and must comfortably reach the top of the pants, trousers, shorts, skirt, etc.

Morning Arrival of Students: When the students arrive at school in the morning they should immediately proceed to the play areas until it is time to enter the building at 8:20. Only kindergarten (junior and senior) students and SON Beams are allowed to enter the school before this time. Parents who bring their children to school are asked to bring them to the front entrance of the school to avoid our buses all together; we feel this will be safer for all students. Students dropped off at the front of the school may enter the school and then head right outside to the playground. When the weather is too wet for the students to be outside they are all welcome to enter the school as soon as they arrive, using their normal entrances from the playground.

Departure: At the end of the day, parents who are picking up their children must enter the school and check with the teacher on duty before children are released.

Transportation:

- Students need to be at their stops 8-10 minutes early for the first week. There will be some flex in the pick up times given as drivers get to know their routes. Once we are up and running, students should be at their stops 5 minutes early.
- Communicate with your route captain if you have questions or need clarification. Concerns for the transportation committee must be made in writing and will be dealt with at their September meeting.
- Routes will run as is for the first two weeks. We expect there to be some changes as some families are moving and as we get the bumps out of the system. Your patience is much appreciated!
- Your bus drivers are terrific people who are trying to do difficult jobs. Please do your best to work with them and the rules and procedures that they have set up on the bus. Good, clear communication is really important between bus drivers and bus riders to ensure a safe, enjoyable year on the bus. Thanks!
- We do not yet have a spare bus - but it's coming! For the interim, when we have a breakdown, a route may be cancelled. Please bear with us - and thanks for your cooperation.
- We need bus drivers! If you would like to drive or know someone who would be interested in driving or training to drive, please contact the office asap.

Head Lice Checks at WCS: This week, we will conduct our annual Head Lice Check for all the students from JK to 8. If your child is found to have either the live bugs or nits, you will be contacted by phone. We appreciate your taking prompt action to get rid of these pests. Though lice are a nuisance, they do not transmit disease. They are not in any way related to the cleanliness of your child or your home. Anyone can become infested with them! We do want to get rid of them as quickly as possible, and we want to avoid other children from getting them. We ask you all to help. Head lice is transmitted mainly through head to head contact. They can also be transmitted through sharing of combs and hats. If your child is persistently itching his/her head, particularly around the ears, he/she may have head lice. You can also detect head lice by examining the head for nits. If you don't know what to look for, yet suspect your child may have head lice, please contact the school, your doctor or your pharmacist and someone will check your child's head. There are many different types of treatments your pharmacist can assist you in choosing the best one. Because the nits are encased in a hard, cement-like substance, it is very possible that not all of them will be killed in the first application. It is recommended that a second treatment be applied 7-10 days later to kill any newly hatched nymphs. You may also choose to treat your child's head with a natural substance- tea tree oil and Molkosan. Visit a Health Supplement Store, and they will help you select the best treatment for your child. They also have a formula you can use on your children to prevent head lice. Here at JKCS we have information for both treatments - the pharmaceutical treatment and the natural substance treatment. Call the office for information.

Welcome Dessert Social: Another school year is beginning! We are celebrating the return to another school year with our Welcome Dessert Social planned for Friday, September 15, 2017. We will begin the evening with classroom visits 6:30-7:15 pm. A time of prayer in the classrooms will follow at 7:25 pm. Dessert will be served at 7:30 pm. Each WCS family is asked to bring

a dessert to share, PEANUT/NUT FREE. We are also looking for help in the kitchen at 6:00 to prep desserts and set up in the gym and after the evening is completed to clean up, both in the kitchen and putting away chairs and tables in the gym. If you would be willing to help out in some way, please contact Andrea VanRooyen at 226-377-1011 or speak with Dawn Streutker at the school. We look forward to fellowshiping together!

Prayer Group: Thank you to all those that attended the Prayer Walk this morning! What a blessing to bring this school and many aspects before the Lord in prayer. Prayer Group continues September 20th at 8:30 am. All are welcome to attend. If you have questions please contact Dawn Streutker at admissions@woodstockchristian.ca. This year we will be praying over every family at WCS (thank you to Kristen VanderPloeg for creating a prayer chart!). Looking forward to a new year!

Chix with Sticks: A new season is upon us! Chix with Sticks is a fun, light event for the ladies in our community. There is no need to be a parent at WCS, so invite your friends and neighbours. We play a game of ball hockey in the school gym. The schedule will be every other Friday night, starting Sept. 29th. Cost is \$5 per game. The only equipment you require is non-marking running shoes! If you are interested in playing please contact Dawn Streutker at admissions@woodstockchristian.ca.

Junior Kindergarten: Wow - what a great first day of school for everyone! Please check your child's backpack for a green message bag. For some there may be lot of papers coming home the first day please take time to read them and return things to school in a timely manner. On Thursday I will send home a package of information specifically about JK and our class, along with a September calendar. Enjoy your home day Wednesday and see you again on Thursday

Senior Kindergarten: Welcome to a new year! We are ready to start the new year following in the footsteps of those heroes who went before us. Please pray for our class as we learn and grow together this year. We welcome Ms. Body who will be working in SK this year. Happy Birthday to Maiya who celebrated her birthday on Sunday. May God bless you in the coming year, Maiya. Please watch for important paper work coming home today. Have a great week!

Grade 1A: Welcome to Grade 1!! I am super excited to be your teacher this year and am excited to get to know you a little bit better. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. Look for my Parent Survival Guide today in your child's VIP Folder. This contains some important information.

Tuesday - See VIP Folder
- Welcome Back Chapel 9:00am
Wednesday - Return VIP Folder
- Gym Day

Grade 1B/2B: I have been praying for you! Welcome to a new school year!! We are so excited to begin this year as a class. We have a fun-filled week ahead of us as we get to know each other and discover how God has given us gifts and abilities that we will use to bless our classmates (and teachers) this year! We appreciate your prayers as we settle into routines and establish our class community. Be sure to check your child's Grey folder this week as it will be full of important information! We will be reading the book "How to Get Your Teacher Ready..." (by Jean Reagan) - be sure to ask your child what they learned about what teachers need to do to be ready for school!

Tuesday - Welcome to school!

Friday - First day of Gym
- Happy Birthday Mrs. Vanderspek!

Grade 2: Welcome to Grade 2! I am so excited to start this school year with you. Please look for your child's VIP folder this evening (Tuesday) as this folder will hold very important papers, a number of which will need to be returned to school filled in, also included will be a Grade 2 Parent Survival Guide. This week we will be learning many of our daily routines and build classroom community as we learn more about each other.

Wednesday - Gym
- Return VIP folders

Grade 3: Welcome to a new school year. A special welcome to our new classmate Daniel who comes from South Korea. Please check your child's courier folder for a number of important forms to be signed and returned as well as information about the coming year.

Wednesday - Phys. Ed. (wear appropriate footwear for outdoors)

Grade 4: Welcome to school! I pray that you all had a relaxing and fun-filled summer. Thanks for coming in last week to meet with me. It was great to make contact with you. We want to welcome to our class this year Emily W. and Emily D. I pray that they will soon feel at home with us and that we will all settle into the routines of school quickly and seamlessly. Please check your child's mail tonight for important letters and forms. Have a great week!

Tuesday - Welcome back!
Wednesday - Music
Thursday - Phys. Ed.
Friday - Buddies

Grade 5: Welcome back to school! I hope you've all enjoyed the summer months (I know I have). I have been looking forward to this school year, and I pray that your child has a great year at WCS. Please read this Parent-Link paragraph each week. We have a field trip on Thursday September 8th already! Please contact me if you'd like to come. The more

parent chaperons, the better! My email:

a.hiemstra@woodstockchristian.ca. We'll be heading to Caren and Willem Duizer's farm at about 1 pm on Thursday to learn about modern farming practices. This links well with our social studies unit which is all about ancient farming communities. We'll eventually compare and contrast ancient farming practices to current farming. We'll return to WCS at 3:20 or so for students to catch the bus home.

There will be many papers coming home this week. Please read through each one, and sign-off on each so that all the paper work is in order for your child right away.

We also have a neat service learning project which will run the course of the entire school year: We'll be learning about poverty in Haiti and specifically how we can help out Lagosette Christian School. Already in the first week students will learn about Haiti and Lagosette, and begin brainstorming ways in which we can help them out by fundraising or collecting books and supplies for them.

Regarding the agenda/day planner system: At the end of each school day, I will check to see that they've written down their homework tasks in their agenda. They will be excused if they did indeed write their homework down and have their homework in their hands. I ask that your child approaches you each evening after his/her homework is finished to get their agenda signed by you, signifying that you have checked to see that the homework is finished. I will look for that signature in the morning. If your child receives a signature for each day of the week, he/she will be rewarded with a piece of candy/chocolate! My goals for this system are to foster planning/organizational skills and provide another form of communication between myself and you with regards to homework. Typically, I don't assign a lot of homework, but each Friday memory work is due, and there is a spelling test and a spelling lesson due. Sometimes an additional quiz as well. This means students need to be studying for quizzes throughout the week so that they aren't waiting until Thursday evening. If there is a large unit test or project due date coming up, you will be informed through this parent link or in a separate email.

If you have any questions, always feel free to email me at a.hiemstra@woodstockchristian.ca

Tuesday - First day of school! Welcome back everyone!

Thursday - Phys Ed: bring gym clothes

Friday - Memory Work: memorize Hebrews 11:1 New International Version

Grade 6: Welcome back to a new school year. I trust that everyone had a restful summer. May God bless us as we learn together this year. We welcome everybody to our grade six class. This week we will become familiar with our teachers and classroom procedures, and will be starting our various units. A letter will be emailed tomorrow regarding our first day and other information.

Wednesday - Letter emailed home

Grade 7: Welcome to a new school year Grade 7 families! Students are coming home each day with agendas that require

your signature. Gym clothes (t-shirt and shorts) are required for phys ed class and can be purchased from the office.

Grade 8: Greetings from Grade 8. It was so wonderful to launch into a new school year today! Lots of information came home today regarding Sub/Pizza Day Lunches, Picture Day Forms, Computer Forms, Information Use Waivers, etc. Please be sure to read through all of the documents and get them back to school ASAP! I am looking forward to this school year as we partner together to complete your child's education at WCS. We will be using Google Classroom, to communicate homework assignments each day, so please check in with your son or daughter about homework they should be working on. There is a student agenda that is available for home/school communication, but you can also send me an email to communicate as well.

Wednesday - French

Thursday - Gym

- Music Class (Instrument Agreement forms due)

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS:

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| September | 6 | Staff Meeting |
| | 14 | School Pictures |
| | 15 | Welcome Dessert Evening |
| | 19 | Board Meeting |
| | 20 | Prayer Group |
| | 21 | Pizza Day |
| | 28 | Terry Fox Run |
| | 29 | Early Dismissal 1:30 |
| | | Staff PCL - 2 p.m. |

SONG OF THE MONTH: Big Word

A huge cloud of witnesses is all around us, all around us
So let us throw off everything that stands in our way,
stands in our way
and let us throw off any sin that holds onto us so tightly

and let us keep on running, keep on running,
keep on running the race marked out

let us keep on running, keep on running, keep on running
the race marked out for us

A huge cloud of witnesses is all around us, all around us
So let us throw off everything that stands in our way,
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Title: Big Word
C.C.L.I. #400245

Words & Music by: Hillsong Kids