

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

September 6, 2016

Welcome to WCS!

Welcome to a brand new year at Woodstock Christian School. Yesterday the school was quiet and shiny and tidy, but too quiet - poised and waiting for our children to return. Today it is bustling with activity. The vitality is back and we praise God for new beginnings! For those of you new to the school, we are so glad you have joined us. For those who are back to school, we are glad to see you again. We look forward to partnering with all of you to help educate your child in a school where God is acknowledged as Creator and sustainer, Jesus is our Lord and Saviour, and the Holy Spirit is our guide. Our goal is that your child will develop in faith, in learning, and understand what it means to be a part of the Christian community. Banners, bulletin boards, and Bible stories throughout the school declare GOD IS GREATER: He is over all, through all, and in all (Ephesians 4:6). We will explore this theme together this year - united in our love for God and in his love for us. Welcome!

Carol Verbeek



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| Tuesday | - Elise P., SK |
| Thursday | - Katelyn B., Gr.4 |
| | - Mrs. VanderSpek, E.A. |
| Saturday | - Cole S., Gr.3 |
| | - Mrs. VanderPloeg, Gr.1A 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

Foster Child: Grade 1 is continuing to collect money every Friday to help support our Foster Child Lusca. Lusca is a little girl who we have been supporting for a few years now to ensure that she can go to school, and that her and her family has enough food to eat. Please remember to bring in your loonies, toonies, quarters, nickles, and dimes on Friday and grade 1 will come around and collect from you on Friday morning.

Phys Ed Uniform: Students in grades 5 and up will be required to wear proper clothing for their physical education classes. The uniform 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 uniform in their backpack. The uniforms will be required for class beginning this week.

Prayer Group: Thank you to all those that attended our prayer walk this morning. It is a blessing to pray together. Please continue to pray for our school throughout the school year. Everyone is welcome to attend our Prayer Group meetings! Next meeting date is September 21st at 8:30am in Dawn Streutker's office.

SONBeams: We are excited by the success of the SonBeams program! At this time there are only a few spaces left until we reach capacity. If you are considering Tuesday or Friday school days for your Kindergarten aged child please speak to Dawn Streutker (admissions@woodstockchristian.ca).

Golf Team: Once again this year there is an opportunity to have a 4 member golf team. Please sign up on the senior end bulletin board if you are interested. A team will be chosen in the middle of September. More information will be emailed to parents once I know who would like to try out for the golf team.
Mr. G. Hiemstra

Mobile Text Messages: A letter has been emailed to all parents of Woodstock Christian School. The letter explains a new and more 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.

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 8:25 (or when that bus driver believes that it is safe to drive to London). Please bring your high-school students to WCS for 8:20, 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. Radio stations 104.7 FM will broadcast that the Woodstock Christian School buses have been cancelled. You may also consult the school's web site at www.woodstockchristian.ca to see if the buses are running, or you can call the school for a recorded message on that topic. 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. One final 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.

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.

Head Lice Checks at WCS: This week, we will conduct our annual Head Lice Check and all the students from JK to 8 will be checked. 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.

Pianists Needed: Are you looking for a way to get involved at WCS? Would you be able to spare a few hours a semester? Do you play piano? If you answered yes to any of these questions consider becoming an accompanist for either our Junior or Senior choirs. Please contact me for more information. Elizabeth Martin, Music Teacher



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 \$3700! We are simply asking you to consider purchasing through Woodstock Christian School 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 13**. Orders received without payment will not be placed. Orders will be available for pickup on **Thursday,**

September 29th 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. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Sol at 519-539-7839 or jmsol@rogers.com.

Piano Lessons: Mrs. Elizabeth Buckrell is pleased to offer a few more openings to WCS students seeking private piano lessons. Mrs. Buckrell will be in our school on Monday's this year. Please contact Elizabeth directly for further information regarding her studio policy and fees. You may reach Mrs. Buckrell at elizabethslessons@gmail.com or text her at 519-808-2877.

MUSIC INFORMATION: Attention Parents:

- Choir information letter went home today with your student. Please read it with them carefully.
- GR 6-8 Instrument agreement form must be signed and returned along with band deposit before instrument will be allowed to go home. Please return it asap.
- A band deposit of \$40.00 is required of all students in grades 6, 7 and 8 even if your student will be using their own personal instrument. This deposit insures all music materials are cared for during the year and returned in reasonable condition in June. This deposit will remain at the school for the year and will be returned in June. This deposit will remain at the school for the year and will be returned in June.
- I am at the school every day this year. Please call to speak with me or email me if you have any concerns.

J.K. / S.K. - A: I am so excited to see everyone tomorrow morning! You will receive various pieces of mail tomorrow in your child's message bag - please be sure to check it when they arrive home. There will be a September calendar that would be good to post at the house, as well as an ABC's of Kindergarten package that will explain many of the basics of our class. Sleep well tonight! P.S. The Kindergarten Classes will be officially welcomed at the Thanksgiving Assembly on Thursday, October 6th. Parents and families are invited to come and welcome them with us.

J.K. / S.K. - B: Welcome to the School year 2016-2017. Wednesday is the day that our newest students will join the rest of the school. Miss H and Mrs. Westerveld look forward to greeting you when you get off the bus! We pray that together God will bless our new start as we explore and discover how God truly is over all, through all and in all. Please watch for lots of information coming home this week! Have a great beginning! P.S. The Kindergarten Classes will be officially welcomed at the Thanksgiving Assembly on Thursday, October 6th. Parents and families are invited to come and welcome them with us.

Grade 1A: Welcome to Grade One! I am so excited to begin this year. Please check the Grey Important Folder that will be sent home with your child for back-to-school forms and activities that can be done at home. Also, I will be sending emails regularly to keep you up to date with what is happening in our class!

Grade 1B: Welcome to a brand new year! This year we are very excited to welcome Josiah and his family to our class. We hope and pray that you all soon feel a part of our school community. Please look for our Grade 1 Parent Survival Guide that should be in your child's orange folder. This contains some important information about our school year. Please don't hesitate to ask any questions. As you complete the required forms, please return them to the school this week. All forms are due by Friday.

Monday - Labour Day (no school)
Tuesday - WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!!
Wednesday - Gym
Friday - All forms and money are due

Grade 2: Welcome to Grade 2! This week is going to be full of routines, getting to know each other, and getting back into the groove of being in school! I hope that you had wonderful and blessed summers and I'm excited to start our new adventure here in grade 2. Please be sure to return all forms as soon as possible.

Tuesday - See VIP folder
- Library

Wednesday - Gym

Grade 3: Welcome to a new school year. Please check your child's courier bag for all the paper work was sent home.

Wednesday - Phys. Ed.
- Library

Grade 4: Welcome back to school! Welcome to grade 4! A special welcome goes out to Danika, Zachary, and Naomi who are all new to WCS this year. We hope you will feel at home with us right away! Look for a letter coming home today.

Tuesday - Welcome back Assembly
- Phys. Ed.
- Library
- Happy birthday Conner!!!

Wednesday - Music
Thursday - Happy birthday Katelyn!!!!
- Phys. Ed.

Friday - Buddy Activity
Monday - Music

Grade 5: Welcome back to school! I'm very excited for the year. There is so much information to give you this week. One of your children (whether he/she is in Gr. 5 or not) should be coming home with a stack of papers with information about picture day, chicken orders, bus rules, etc. This evening, I'll be sending an email with an important letter attached, that letter will also come to you as a hard-copy if you prefer that. If you haven't already brought in 3 kleenex boxes, please do so. Also, students need paper for their binders (lined paper).

Tuesday - First day of school
Wednesday - Physical Education: Students need to purchase gym strips from the front office (\$20 per gym strip)
- Science: Bring 2 cups of sugar to school for experiment later this week
Thursday - Music class (bring anything you might need for music)
Friday - Science Quiz: Rocks and Minerals Unit so far
- Math: Quiz on 'Number Sense' Unit so far

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 our new learning community in Grade 7! We will spend this week getting reacquainted with one another and learning class routines. We welcome Sarah & Wesley to our class! Parents, please read and sign the many forms that came home with students today.

Grade 8: I am so thankful and excited to join the staff at WCS, and I am looking forward to a great school year together. It is such an honour to have the opportunity to teach Grade 8 this year! I am looking forward to getting to know each of you as we journey through Grade 8. Please pray for our classroom, as we adjust to new schedules and routines and as we develop friendships. May God Bless all of us during this school year. Here are a couple of things to remember:

- Tuesday - Opening Chapel 9 am in the Gym
- Gym with Mr. H. (Gym Clothes required)
- Wednesday - French with Mrs. Beshara
- Library
- Thursday - Gym with Mr. H. (Gym Clothes required)
- Friday - 12:00-3:00 Box Project Showcase, parents are invited to attend.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS:

- September 6 First day of school
Prayer Group 8:30 a.m.
Welcome Assembly 9 a.m.
- 7 Staff Meeting - Business 7:15 a.m.
- 15 School Pictures - Gr. JK - 8
- 16 Welcome Evening & Dessert Social
- 20 Board of Directors Meeting
- 21 Prayer Group 8:30 a.m.
- 22 Pizza Day
- 28 Terry Fox Run
Student Golf Tournament
- 29 Cross Country Run
- 30 Early Dismissal - 1:30
Staff PLC - 2 p.m.

SONG OF THE MONTH: God Is For Us

1. You work together for our good; You are loving
You give us more than we deserve
You are unfailing

Pre-Chorus: and we are more than conquerors; Savior
In you our future is secure by your power

Chorus: We will not be shaken, we will not be silent
Sin is powerless - Our God is for us
We will not be broken, He won't be defeated
Death is powerless - Our God is for us

2. Consider all that He has done, our sin he carried
By His wounds we've overcome,
now we stand redeemed

Bridge We will sing; sing out
Sing for the hope found in His love
We will sing; sing out - Sing to our God;
We will sing; sing out
Sing for the hope found in His love
sing; sing out - sing to our God

Chorus 2x

Title: God Is For Us
Words & Music by: Chris Cauley
C.C.L.I. #400245