

December 14, 2020

*O Holy Night* was originally a French Christmas carol written in 1847. It's rumoured that a French soldier in the trenches of the First World War began singing *O Holy Night* (along with several other carols) and kicked off the [Christmas Eve Armistice](#) of World War I. Historians to this day debate exactly what happened, but the story goes that French, British, and Belgian troops lay down their weapons and mingled with their German counterparts for a short time on Christmas Eve, and may have even played a friendly game of soccer!

During the Christmas season, no matter where you go, shoppers, travellers and listeners are subjected to relentless Christmas music and at the same time, reminded of the coming Messiah! Maybe the song "O Holy Night" has crossed your airwaves recently. Did you ever stop to consider the words? One line, in particular, stands out to me: "a weary world rejoices."

Many feel weary this Christmas.

2020 has been a difficult year. It's been a year of loss for all of us, whether that was a job, a loved one, a relationship, or our sense of peace and security. As we head into the Christmas season, it can be difficult to muster up feelings of holiday joy. And you know what? That's okay. We don't have to have it all together, or even feel particularly festive, to feel that thrill of joy and hope at our Savior's birth. In fact, these moments of pain make the miracle of Jesus' life and death feel all the more relevant and important. For what else could make us feel such awe and wonder, even in the midst of trouble?

What a beautiful reminder of the splendour of our Savior's birth. That after the world lay in sin and darkness, it was struck with a "thrill of hope." This event was the fulfilment of many prophecies and reason for rejoicing. The birth of Christ brought and continues to bring about a "new and glorious" day (reference: [biblestudytools.com](http://biblestudytools.com)). As you go about your Christmas celebrations this year, keep your eyes on Jesus, God's gift of hope and salvation for our weary world. Blessings to all for the Christmas break. Looking forward to seeing what God has in store for us in 2021!



**Tuesday** Kole M., SK

**Sunday** Margaret S., SK

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

**Prayer Corner:** Thank you for your prayers for our community! We are celebrating the season of Advent and the promise and coming of Jesus into the world. Please remember to pray for all in our WCS family. We think especially of Rob Vandenburg as he is having surgery to remove the tumour in his leg. Please pray for healing and strength for him and peace for the whole family. Also pray for Mr. G. Hiemstra who is away on a medical leave. As we head into the Christmas season, there are expectations for joy and celebration, but some feel loss and brokenness keenly at this time of year as well. Reach out to support and bless one another. Please continue to pray for healing, strength and good health for all those in our families with wellness needs

**PM Pickup:** Thanks, parents for your patience when picking up students at the end of the day. Due to the shape of our parking/driveway area, we have a less than ideal traffic flow through the area to the front of our school. With students waiting on the front sidewalk for parent pick up, it may be faster if children cross the parking lot to parent vehicles. However, we are not allowing that. Our students range in age from 3 to 13 years of age and in order for staff to supervise students as closely as possible and to ensure their safety, students will be picked up, in turn, from the front waiting area. When there are greater numbers of parent vehicles, I urge patience and caution. Follow the procedures we have in place for children's safety. An encouragement, also, to stay in your vehicles. If you need to exit or wish to speak to teachers or students, please wear your mask.

**WCS Celebrates Christmas!** Our Celebration program will be released on Wednesday, December 16th.

**Christmas Break:** The school Christmas break is approaching quickly! Thank you, parents, for entrusting your children to us at WCS this year, and for all of your love and support for WCS throughout 2020. A note that our Christmas break is from Monday, December 21-Friday, January 1. School is scheduled to resume on Monday, January 4th, 2021. Our New Year chapel will be hosted by grade 7 and held on Monday, January 4th. May God bless you at Christmas and be your strength and guide in the New Year.

In order to keep WCS healthy and be able to continue with in-class instruction to the greatest extent possible in January, I am asking that you seriously consider how to have a careful and healthy Christmas break. If you have visited extensively or travelled, please consider keeping your children home for an additional week and monitoring your family closely for signs and symptoms. If you have travelled out of the country, Southwestern Public Health continues to require that all household members isolate for a full 14-day period following the date of return to Canada.

**Friday** Students will be taking home essential learning materials on Friday. If Southwestern Public Health or provincial Public Health officials determine that schools in our region need to close for a week or two in January, students will have all that they need for learning at home. Should we have to go that route for a short period of time, students will be ready. More details about WCS's remote learning plan will be shared this week. Note that it is not our plan to move to remote, but we will be ready, just in case it is necessary.

**Fundraiser Event-** The Grade 5 class has been working hard on our service-learning project. They have been learning about Haiti and an organization called Children of the Promise (COTP). We are running an online fundraiser, selling stroopwafels and authentic Haitian merchandise, from Wednesday (9:00AM) until Friday (11:00AM)! A link to an online order form will be sent out to our community on Wednesday morning. In the online order, choose what you'd like to buy, then send in a cheque or cash to the school with your first and last name on it. (You can also watch a video which will be shared on the school's Facebook page today).

**December @ WCS:** We are in the final month of 2020. A memorable year, for certain! This week, we are in the third week of Advent. Our all-school-devotions this Wednesday morning will be viewing the WCS Celebrates Christmas program with a study of the Nativity story and the themes of Christmas, along with music and a recitation of Luke 2. Check the Facebook post to see our door decorating contest for a Bible themed Christmas. Our kindergarten classes will be leading our Christmas chapel on December 18th. On the 18th also, students and staff will be dressing in Christmas colours!

**WCS School Life Christmas Colours Day:** Staff and students are invited to wear festive and Christmas coloured clothing Friday December 18th. Let's celebrate our Christmas holidays in style wearing our "ugly Christmas sweaters", sparkly clothes and red and green! Thank you for your participation, WCS School Life Team.

**CoViD-19 Screening Tool Updated December 2020:** Southwestern Public Health has updated their information for parents in regards to the screening checklist and screening procedure for school age children. See [COVID-19 DECISION TOOL FOR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS](#)

**Student Support:** Joy the World! The Lord has come! Praying you will have a joyous and blessed Christmas break. Please continue to let me know before 8:00 a.m. if your child is away from school and would like the daily assignments and/or to join the Learning Place via Zoom or Google Meet from home.

Wednesday: Return book bags (gr. 1-3)

Friday: Spelling test (gr. 1)

**JK:** Welcome to the last week of school for 2020! This week we continue celebrating Christmas. Watch for a link coming home for our Christmas chapel on Friday. Wear red and green on Friday. We will have a class party on Friday. You may bring in a treat to share but please individually wrap each item. I pray that you all have a great time celebrating the birth of our saviour.

**Wednesday** - Library

**Friday** - Wear red and Green,  
-Christmas Chapel

**SK:** Welcome to a new week of learning and fun! This is our last week before Christmas break. I am so thankful that we have been able to remain at school; PRAISE GOD!

What's happening in SK?

**Theme:** Christmas

**Tuesday:** Happy Birthday Kole

**Wednesday:** Library  
All school Christmas presentation  
Sub sandwich lunch

**Friday:** Christmas Chapel hosted by JK/SK  
Dress in red, green and white

**Dec. 20th:** Happy Birthday Margaret.

**Grade 1/2A (Mrs. Schuster):** Please see Seesaw CLASS for some very important information regarding happenings this week.

**Grade 1/2B (Mrs. Horinga):** Welcome to your last week of school before Christmas break. God has been so good to us in keeping us healthy so far this year. Please check SeeSaw for this week's announcements. Please also watch for another message coming home later this week.

**Grade 3:** Welcome to our last week before the Christmas break! Don't worry we will still have some learning going on this week in class. For math, we are beginning a new unit on measurement. Students will be using parts of the metric system to determine length and perimeter. We are also starting "mad minutes" every day to keep up our skills of addition and subtraction. In literature, we are continuing our novel study of Chocolate Fever. The students are really enjoying it, so feel free to ask them about it. In grammar, we are focusing on adjectives. Students have had to describe a "monster" that another classmate had to draw just by reading their description of it. It has been eye-opening to see how details are so important. We will be having a class party on Friday. It would be wonderful if treats can be brought in and shared with classmates as we will be having a fun kind of afternoon. Remember that any treats or food that come to

school must be prepackaged. It can come on any day so and I will save it for Friday. We will be dressing in Christmas clothes, playing some games and watching a movie. Feel free to email me with any questions about the details at [r.sikma@woodstockchristian.ca](mailto:r.sikma@woodstockchristian.ca).

**Grade 4:** Welcome to a new week. We are excited about Christmas and the holidays coming up. Remember to finish the chapter book and take the AR test by Friday. Dress in red, green, and white on Friday. No memory work this week. Students may bring individually wrapped snacks, treats, and drinks for a Christmas party on Friday. Have a wonderful holiday!

**Monday** - Library exchange

**Tuesday** - Phys.Ed.

**Wednesday** - COTP fundraiser

**Thursday** - Bible Test - Unit 5- Ruth (see study sheet)

- COTP fundraiser continues

**Friday** - Spelling Test - Lesson 13

- December AR due

- Wear red, green, white

- Phys.Ed.

**Grade 5:** Welcome to a new week of school. Students are getting excited for Christmas Holidays. We are excited to show you our part in WCS's Christmas Concert video, as well as our online fundraiser project (raising money for Children of the Promise in Haiti). On Friday we are going to have a Christmas Party and it would be great if students could bring in a small snack or treat or drink, each individually wrapped (packaged). Blessings on your week and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Grade5/6:** Welcome to the last week of school in 2020! This has been a year with many changes in it! I am so grateful that through everything God was walking right beside us! I pray that you will all have a wonderful Christmas with your family. I look forward to seeing you all again on January 4.

**Monday** Music with Mrs. Martin

**Tuesday** French with Miss Pasma

Bible test on Unit 4

**Wednesday** December's Graphic Novel book talk is due

Library - remember your books

French with Miss Pasma

Sub lunch

Christmas program is released

Gym

**Thursday** Music with Mrs. Martin

**Friday** Christmas Chapel lead by JK and SK

Happy Birthday Rachel!!! on Dec. 23.

Happy Birthday Will!!! on Dec. 23.

Gym

Secret Gift exchange

**Grade 7:** On Monday, students begin writing their December book reports. Students will have 2 math quizzes this week: Proportion (ME11-17) on Tuesday and Probability and Data Management (PDM1-5) on Thursday. On Friday, students are celebrating Christmas together with a Secret Santa gift exchange, food and a Christmas movie. Throughout the week, students will be working on a New Year's Chapel for our January return to school. Merry Christmas!

**Grade 8:** Welcome to the last week of school for 2020! I hope you and your family have a very joyful Christmas season! This week in Grade 8 a couple of key assignments are due: NIGHT Theme Media Presentation (Due Thursday), Tis the Season Gift Wrap Project (Due Wednesday). Also, on Wednesday morning, the WCS 2020 Christmas Production will be released. I encourage you to watch this at home as well, the Grade 8 students wrote their own scripts for our portion of the production and they have done an excellent job. On Friday we will have a Grade 8 Class Christmas Celebration, this will involve a Gift Exchange (thank-you for getting all gifts to school), some snacks (a list of snacks students have signed up to bring is posted in Google Classroom), a movie (I will be selecting a school appropriate movie to watch), and dressing in Christmas colours or a Christmas sweater. Have a great week!

## **Upcoming Events**

### **December**

- 9 Staff Meeting 7:30am  
Whole School Devotions
- 15 Board of Directors Meeting
- 16 Sub Sandwich Lunch  
Staff PLC Session 3:30pm
- 18 Christmas Chapel hosted by JK & SK
- 21-Jan.1 Christmas Break (no classes)

### **January**

- 4 New Year Chapel hosted by Grade 7
- 6 Staff Meeting 730am  
Prayer Circle 9:15am  
Burger Lunch
- 13 Staff PLC session 3:30pm
- 19 Board of Directors Meeting
- 20 Whole School Devotions  
Sub Sandwich Lunch