

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

December 7, 2020

Once again, our WCS community came together, for 2 evenings last week, in our shared mission to nurture faith, engage learning, and grow in community ... to the glory of God.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing. Parents and teachers share a commitment to nurturing the faith development of our students. Parent-teacher conferences are an opportunity for us to speak honestly about the progression of this development. The “Living in Community” section of the progress report offers a window for parents to understand how their child is responding to and contributing in Christian community.

Proverbs 4:13 Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life. Learning at WCS occurs through a biblical world-view that requires the learner to question, gather information, and reflect on God’s design of His world and all things contained in it. Progress reports give parents an understanding of how and what their child is learning through a biblical world-view. All subject areas can be considered ‘bible class’.

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them. The parents and teacher experience a close sense of community during a year of teaching a student. God is present in that close community. His presence during conferences allows parents and the teacher to develop a Godly vision of learning progress, goal setting, and support for the student.

Once again, God has demonstrated his love for and faithfulness to WCS. During a time of social distancing and uncertainty, God provided a way for our community to meet and discuss the training up of His children. God has blessed us with the technology, flexibility, and adaptability to fulfill the mission of WCS. Once again, God has demonstrated his love for and faithfulness to WCS!

Then you, being rooted and grounded in love, will have power, together with all the saints, to comprehend the length and width and height and depth of the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Eph 3:17-19

Mrs. Racicot



Monday	Jace S., SK
Thursday	Steven B., Grade 2B
Saturday	Hailey T., Grade 2b

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. 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.

Parent-teacher conferences were very well attended! The virtual format was new, and we are so thankful for the technology that allows us to continue connecting with families despite the pandemic situation. Thank you, parents, for partnering with us at WCS in the Christ-centred education of your children. Though December is our only formal whole-school scheduled conference event, you are welcome to reach out to teachers and ask for meetings at other times of the year if you want to discuss growth or matters around your children's development. Such a blessing to partner with you as our students grow in all areas.

December @ WCS: We are in the final month of 2020. A memorable year, for certain! This week, we are in the second week of Advent. Our all-school-devotions on Wednesday mornings will be focusing on Advent themes: hope, joy, peace, prophecy fulfilment, coming of the Light. This week we are excited to brainstorm and begin the process for each class to decorate their door for a 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 Celebrates Christmas! Our Celebration program will be pre-recorded with each class participating. Classes are planning and preparing for their part in this celebration of Jesus' birth. We are excited to see this program come together! The program will be released on Wednesday, December 16th.

Support for Learners Program: Last spring, many families took advantage of the support the government was offering for students. Recently, the Ontario government announced that, **once again this year**, all parents could apply for direct financial support as part of the new [Support for Learners program](#).

Under the program, eligible parents or guardians will receive a one-time payment of \$200 for each child up to age 12 and \$250 for each child or youth up to age 21 with special needs.

For the purposes of this program, a child with special needs means the following:

- any student reported to be receiving special education programs and/or services by his or her school board (which includes students receiving Student Support Services from Mrs. deVries, Mrs. Bulthuis, and/or PSW, Speech and Language Therapy, or Occupational Therapy services through LHIN.)
- or any child identified as having a special need (as indicated on his/her Individual Education Plan).
- If you apply for this program, consider using these funds to help purchase an iPad (grades JK-2) or Chromebook (grades 3-8) for educational purposes. With the changes we have made to our delivery and instructional methods at WCS over the past few years, and with this year's introduction of Blended Learning, iPads and Chromebooks are becoming essential tools for learning. Our goal is to eventually move to a one-to-one ratio at WCS, as in one tech device per student.

Click [here](#) to apply. **Applications will be accepted until January 15th.** If you have any questions about if your child qualifies for the special needs amount, please contact Tracy Bulthuis (t.bulthuis@woodstockchristian.ca).

Chicken Orders: Thanks to the many of you who placed chicken orders this month! Just a reminder that your orders will be ready for pick up THIS FRIDAY, December 11th between 2:50 and 3:10 and the second is between 3:30 and 4 pm. This way we will not be interfering with busses. Please make arrangements to have your orders picked up during these time frames. Please come to exterior gym door (the one in the parking lot) where we will greet you and deliver your order to your car. Just a reminder that we cannot store your orders at school. Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Sol at 519-532-4904 or thesols@yahoo.com

Pizza Order Pick Up: What a great response for pizza orders! Thank you for ordering. They will be available for pick up at the same time as chicken this Friday, December 11 between 2:40 and 3:10 and between 3:30 and 4pm. **If you would like to have your pizza order sent home on the bus, please send an email to the office and let us know**

A reminder re school cancellations: On FOG DAYS, when driving conditions are too dangerous for the buses to run, our morning run WCS school buses will be cancelled. Parents may drive their children into WCS when they feel that it is safe to do so. As our transportation service covers a large geographic area, there may be some parts of the county that experience very different conditions than other areas. Parents will use their discretion in determining if/when to bring children to school. Classrooms will be open and as much as possible will begin at the normal time (8:40 am). The buses will run as usual after school to bring the students home. On SNOW DAYS, school will be cancelled, and classes will not run for the day. If at any point on any day you prefer your children not to take the bus, that decision is yours. Please inform your driver. Cancellations and updates will also be posted on the school's web site at www.woodstockchristian.ca, on Facebook, on HeartFM and HopeFM. If no SNOW DAY notice is posted, the school is open.

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 reopens on Monday, January 4th, 2021. Our New Year chapel will be hosted by grade 7. 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 will have visited extensively or travelled, please consider keeping your children home for an additional week and monitoring your family closely for signs and symptoms.

Gr. 5 Service Learning Project Fundraiser for Children of the Promise - The grade 5 has been learning a lot about Haiti and an organization called Children of the Promise (COTP) which is . Our class will be sharing an informational video with the school community this week and putting on an online fundraiser from Wednesday, December 16 until Friday, December 18th. We have a lot of authentic Haitian merchandise for sale, plus stroopwafels! We are trying to sell all of the merchandise and cookies. Once the video and online fundraiser links have been sent out, please check them out and consider purchasing!

Student Support: It was a blessing to see many of you over Zoom last week during our Parent-Teacher conferences! It is a great pleasure partnering with you as we are able to serve your child(ren) most effectively when all parties are communicating and working towards the same goals. There were a few conferences that were affected by technical issues, so please let me know if you would like to schedule a follow-up meeting.

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

Friday: Spelling test (gr. 1)

JK: Welcome to a new week. It was great meeting with you all last week. We continue learning about Christmas this week. Watch for the December calendar coming home. Please dress in your Christmas best for Wednesday's video session. Show and share on Friday is free choice. Please pray for our friend Owen Sider who broke his leg on Saturday. Owen is wearing a very long cast and will be immobile for a while. We will miss him at school.

Wednesday - Dress up, Library

Friday - Show and share - free choice.

SK: Welcome to a new week of learning and fun. It was great connecting with you last Wednesday and Thursday. Please return number books on Tuesday. We will be recording our Green and Red poem on Wednesday (more details will follow in an email).

What's happening in SK?

Theme: Christmas

Monday: Happy Birthday Jace S

Tuesday: Door decorating

Wednesday: Library

Poem recording

Grade 1/2A (Mrs. Schuster): Please check Seesaw for a look at our week and information about some things going on in the classroom this week.

Grade 1/2B (Mrs. Horinga): This week our phonics/spelling focus is long o with "magic e." We continue to work on writing sentences.

We are enjoying travelling around the world ... this week we are looking at landmarks we find around the world.

Please check Seesaw for more announcements.

Monday - Library

Tuesday - We will be recording our part for the Christmas program

Friday - Spelling test

Monday - Library (an extra one so we have new books for Christmas break)

Grade 3: Welcome to another full week in Grade 3! This is the week we will be putting our Christmas program together so that it can be shared with you. On Wednesday, our class will be filming our part in the program, so please have your child dress nicely. The song we will be singing is in our Google classroom. It would be good to have your child listen to it as it is relatively new to them.

In our class, we like to keep learning fun! As part of our current science unit on Structures, we will be practicing our science skills and reviewing our learning by completing science tasks in a fun way with the help of some of our favourite board games.

If possible, we would love it if you could send in any of the following board games for us to use in class. Please label the games and any pieces that you can. We want to take good care of the games and return them to you in perfect condition!

•Jenga™ •Candy Land™ •Scrabble™ •Connect Four™

Grade 4: Welcome to a new week. It was great to connect with the parents last week. Remember to read your chapter book for the AR test to be completed before holidays. We are starting a new unit in Social Studies called "Expedition Canada".

Monday - Library exchange

Tuesday - Math Test - Unit 5: Patterns and Algebra (study 3 quizzes)
- Phys. Ed.

Thursday - Music Test on Handel

Friday - Mem. Work - Isaiah 9:6
- Spelling Test - Lesson 11
- Phys. Ed.

Grade 5: Welcome to another week of school. Can you believe we're only 2 weeks away from Christmas break already? We praise God for each day at school. Students have been working hard on our 2 remaining projects and now we are making final touches to our service learning fundraiser project and Christmas concert project. We hope you enjoy them. Please see the school announcement (above) about our fundraiser project.

Grade5/6: Welcome to a new week of learning grades 5 and 6! Belated HAPPY BIRTHDAY to ANNIKA!

Tuesday Math test grade 6 (rescheduled from last week)

French with Miss Pasma

Wednesday French with Miss Pasma

Gym - dress for the weather

Thursday Music with Mrs. Martin

Friday Spelling test - lesson 11

Begin Breadwinner presentations

Gym - dress for the weather

Grade 7: Students are busy putting the final touches on their portion of the WCS Christmas Program. Students are planning and organizing Christmas design ideas for our classroom door. A December Parent Letter was sent to parent emails today. The letter outlines the December learning schedule and Christmas events for classroom celebrations.

Grade 8: Welcome to a new week of school. This week we will be finishing off our portion of the 2020 WCS Online Christmas Program. We are also going to be working on a school life 'Door Decorating' event. Last week our class decided to do a class Christmas gift exchange on Friday, December 18th, please ensure all gifts (\$15 limit) are at school by this Friday to allow for a time of quarantine. Students will be working on their NIGHT Novel Study culminating activity over the next two weeks. Please keep checking Google Classroom for all other assignments and homework.

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