

What's Your Story?

It's recruitment season at Woodstock Christian School. Last Thursday evening, we held our annual kindergarten information session.

Representatives of the Community Relations Team prepared and set out refreshments. Chairs were set up, screens and projectors and presentations were ready to go. Our 7th graders who were telling about their school experiences arrived, spruced up, with cue cards in hand. Board and committee reps

were present to be able to answer questions about governance, finance, transportation and membership. As more and more new and potential families arrived, more and more chairs were set up! Various staff members spoke about the everyday happenings at WCS, and the bigger picture, who we are, what we strive for, and how we offer a different kind of education - a school that sees God in everything we do. Education that sees each other as people uniquely made and as image-bearers of God, sinful - yes - but forgiven and forgiving as we experience God's tremendous grace. It is exciting to be able to share who we are, our mission and vision and our school's distinctive perspective with a brand-new crew of parents. A WCS parent told the story of the nurture her children have experienced here and the growth and learning she has seen. She knows that God is in this place. It made me wonder about the story each of us is telling. We are partners. WCS is our school and we are on this educational journey together. How has your family been blessed? What's your story?



C. Verbeek



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|-----------|---------------------------------|
| Monday | - Mrs. Hickey, Grade 4B Teacher |
| Wednesday | - Kyle Bentym, Gr. 4 |
| Thursday | - Clayton Renkema, Gr. 1 |
| Sunday | - Asher Boersma, Gr. 2 |

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

School Health- We are experiencing an upswing in the number of flu and colds at WCS. I encourage you to keep your children at home if they are feverish and ill. Oxford County Health and Emergency Services recommends keeping students home for at least 24 hours following sickness and fever to ensure that they are not infectious and are well enough to participate in classroom activities. We are stressing effective handwashing and germ prevention at WCS - be sure to encourage the same at home. Thank you for your help in keeping our students and staff well!

Prayer Corner- We thank God for his overflowing blessings and love. We continue to pray for our families and our community. Mrs Dam is on medical leave. Pray for her to be well! Keep praying for baby Brooks who is recovering from surgery. Pray for all those who are under the weather with seasonal illnesses. If you have specific prayer requests, be sure to pass those along to our prayer team through j.mulder@woodstockchristian.ca. Also pray for families with kindergarten age students who are considering registration at WCS and those who are considering re-enrolment and educational choices for the next school year.

Prayer Group- Please join us for prayer group Wednesday morning at 8:30am.

Welcome- to Mrs. Bigham who will be teaching grade 6 for several weeks this month while Mrs. Dam is on medical leave. Mrs. Bigham lives just south of Woodstock, and loves horses, family time, and teaching! She is a former Christian school teacher (London, Toronto) who also provides occasional guest teaching services for WCS. Welcome!

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)- The winter session of MAP testing continues.

Senior Boys basketball- Boys will have a Monday practice @ 2nd break, and Tuesday after school this week. Please note that the Bluewater Christian Schools basketball tournament is on Friday February 14th, which is also a PD day for WCS. A team letter and a form to be signed has been sent home. Please complete & return to Mrs. Verbeek as soon as possible. Our regular season with the Separate Schools is to begin February 18th, and the most recent communications (Feb 2) indicate that the season is going to happen. We will stay flexible with schedules, due to the ongoing teacher's strike/work to rule conditions. We will keep you updated as we receive information.

Long weekend- Please note that Friday, February 14th is a PD day and that there will be no regular school. The one event that is happening that Friday for WCS senior students and basketball coaches is the Bluewater Christian Schools basketball tournament. Teachers will be meeting to discuss curriculum matters and to make plans for our spring Celebration of Learning. Monday is FAMILY DAY in Ontario. Blessings for this holiday and the opportunity to celebrate God's blessing of family!

Lost & Found- Please check our lost and found zone. It is filling up with gloves, mittens, hats, sweaters, and other items.

Grad Photos- Grade 8 students will have their formal graduation photos taken on Monday March 2nd. There will also be a photographer present on graduation day in June.

Pancake Breakfast- Students, wear your pajamas and bring your appetite and your favourite 'stuff' to our annual pancake breakfast on Wednesday February 19th. The cost is \$5 per person or \$20 per family. Donations will be gladly received for the work of World Renew. World Renew Ministries is a Christian, mission organization serving many needs including community development, disaster response, and education. Education is one of the most powerful tools for reducing poverty. Get comfy, get ready for pancakes, and help us support World Renew's community education programs!

Springfest plans are well underway and we are starting to look for vendors for our Marketplace. If you are interested in being a vendor please email Cara Renkema for an application form. We have room for 25 vendor spots. The vendor spots will be open to school community for the first week and then will be open to the greater community come February 10. First come, first serve and only one vendor per type of product sold. Any questions please call Cara 519-535-8969 or email crenkema@hotmail.com

Pop Bottles- Please save your 2L pop bottles and bring them in the office.

Needed - aluminum pie plates and empty soda cracker boxes. Please bring to the JK classroom.

Transition to High School- Are you considering secondary school options for your family? On February 13, 2020 at 7pm, London Christian High will have an Information Night which will provide a great opportunity to meet with teachers, learn about student services, extra-curriculars, tuition framework, and hear about their program of learning. Students and their parents are most welcome to attend for more information about high school choices.

Electives begin this Wednesday, February 5, and run for four weeks until March 4, 2020 from approximately 2:10 to 3:30 for our junior and intermediate students. Students will need to ensure they are prepared for their elective. Hockey players need to have stick, skates, helmet, gloves; swimmers need to have swimsuit and towel; skiers need to have warm clothes and skis if they aren't renting skis. Those students in badminton, Open Sky, and dance need to ensure they have indoor shoes and proper attire for their activity. It looks like the temperature on Wednesday will have a high of -3 C which will be good weather for the slopes. This week, group A students will be attending Open Sky, and thus group B students will go to their

alternate activity as Mrs. Verbeek announced this morning. Group B students will need to ensure they have what they require for their alternate activity. A reminder to Open Sky students that waivers are needed and to be given to Mr. Schaafsma. If we have any snow days on Wednesdays, please note that the elective program will be cancelled for that day, and there will be no make-up day. Any questions, let me know. (g.hiemstra@woodstockchristian.ca)

Monthly Mingle: Save the date for Wednesday February 26 @ 9:00am. We are going to be hosting our monthly mingle. Bring your children for some fun in the gym, and enjoy some snacks, refreshments and a chance to get to know different parents in our community.

Registration Day is on Wednesday. If you know of someone who would like to send their child to WCS or if you have a child ready for JK in September email j.mulder@woodstockchristian.ca to book your appointment and to register for K is for Kindergarten.

The Property and Building Committee is pursuing at this time if there is interest in the WCS community for anyone who may desire to clean WCS every day after school, wax the floors three times a year, clean the school during the summer months, and open and close the school for rentals during some week nights, weekends, and holidays. If you are interested please email Greg Hiemstra (g.hiemstra@woodstockchristian.ca) requesting more information by February 14, 2020.

Chicken- Thank you to those of you who continue to support WCS through chicken sales. For every box sold, our school earns \$5. This is a simple way to support the school while making purchases you would normally be making at the grocery store. Last week the order form was sent home with the parent link. Please return your order forms to the school, accompanied with payment, no later than TOMORROW, February 4. Orders will be available for pickup on Thursday, February 20 between 3 and 4 pm. Please make arrangements to have your orders picked up during that time frame, 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.

Learning Place: Mrs. Bulthuis: This is always an exciting time of year as many new skills are being solidified and much new learning is happening. At home, I hope you are noticing some exciting gains in your child's reading abilities. When you are reading with your child, there are some ways you can help your child when they come across a difficult word. First, don't jump in right away and give them the word. Rather, provide time to figure it out. Encourage him/her to use a variety of word solving strategies: Sound out the word. Look at the pictures. Divide the word into smaller parts. Skip the word and then go back and reread the sentence. Ask for help if you're stuck. Happy reading this week!

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

Friday: Spelling tests

Junior Kindergarten: Welcome to a new week. We want to wish Abby and Kate a very Happy Birthday. (Sunday) May God bless you both in the coming year. Please watch for calendar and upcoming class trips coming home today and tomorrow. Please send in form ASAP. Please remember to send in message bags daily as they protect books and work from wet clothing. Our show and share this week is free choice. Please bring in tin foil pie plates if you have any. Have a great week!

Wednesday - Sub Lunch, Library

Friday - Show and share - free choice.

Senior Kindergarten: Mrs. Poort: The students predicted if the groundhog would see his shadow. Ask them if they got it correct. This is the week before valentines. For our service learning we will be making cards and baked goods

that will go to the Refuge at Trumpet of Truth. These will be handed out to the homeless in Woodstock by the refuge. Let me know if you are able to come wed 12:10-2 to help with baking. We have a field trip coming up on Feb 11 to the London Children's Museum. More information will come soon.

Sounds of the week: ue, er, ar

Sight words: you, see, for

Tuesday -Library

Wednesday -Sub lunch, baking

Friday -both SK classes together 11:35-1:15

Senior Kindergarten: Ms. Body

Welcome to our first week in February. Will we have an early spring? Truly, time will tell. Connecting question: What was in the sensory bin in Mrs Poorts room on Friday?

Letters: w con't, ng, v Sight words: three & review of previous words.

Tuesday: Library

Wednesday: Sub lunch

Grade 1: Welcome to February! Thank you to those who joined us at our chapel on Friday! Be on the lookout for February calendars coming home today. Check your emails for a peek at our week!

Monday - Phys. Ed

Tuesday - Library

Wednesday - Sub Lunch

- Exploration Activities begin

- Prayer Group @ 8:30

Thursday - Happy Birthday to Clayton!

- Phys. Ed

- MAP testing

- Friday**
- Spelling Test
 - Flashlight Friday
 - MAP testing

Grade 2: Our February calendar and newsletter came home last week which gives some more details of what is happening this month. Our spelling focus this week is homophones, so it is important to spell these words but also know which context to use them in. Our math drills this week will focus on +6. This is the last week we will be working on our poems.

We will also be participating in a special combined unit about structures with our Grade 1-3 classes. This will take place on Wednesday afternoons - so we are switching library to Tuesday

- Tuesday** - Library (note change of day!)
Wednesday - Sub Lunch
Friday - Spelling test

Grade 3: Students should now know their entire poem for MW. We will continue our multiplication unit this week and will be working on a daily drill. We will be covering 2, 5, 10, 3's and 4's this week. We also will continue with our map testing this week. Watch for an emailed letter about strong and stable structures.

Wednesday: "Strong and Stable Structures" - see letter

Thursday: Bible test & have entire poem memorized

Friday: Spelling test

Save the date: Sunday, March 1: primary choir visit to Tillsonburg CRC

Grade 4A:

- Monday** Devotions: Leah
Music
- Tuesday** Bring gym clothes
- Wednesday** Devotions: Natalie
Sub lunch
Electives - week 1
- Thursday** Devotions: Sunwoo
Bible test on King Saul
Bring gym clothes
- Friday** Spelling test
Whole poem is due
Math test - Division
Music - bring recorders

Grade 4B: Welcome to a new week. It will be a busy one. We will start MAP testing this week. Poems will be presented in front of the class on Friday. February's chapter book requirement is taking the AR test at the end of the month.

- Tuesday** - Phys.Ed. (gym strip)
Wednesday - Sub Lunch
- Library
- Elective #1
Thursday - Phys.Ed. (gym strip)
- Bible Test - Unit 7 - King Saul's Reign
Friday - Math Test - Unit 7 - Division (study quizzes)
- Spelling Test - Lesson 20

- Mem. Work - Entire poem

- Next Monday**
- Music (recorders)
 - Scientists in School Sound Workshop

Grade 5: Welcome to the 1st week of February! An exciting and fun week ahead with to work on our PBL/service-learning project, go to swimming lessons, begin electives, etc. We are continuing our MAP testing sessions and are also working toward mastering our geometry skills as we wrap up that unit in math class. It was a smooth week last week, although there were quite a few absences due to illness. We are praying for quick recoveries for our sick classmates. I will try to send homework home with a sibling or an email home if your child continues to be absent.

- Monday** - Bring a swimsuit, towel, and P.E. clothes.
- Tuesday** - Spelling: Lesson 21 list due.
- Wednesday** - Music: bring recorder.
- Thursday** - Music: bring recorder. Spelling: Lesson 21 of workbook due. Spelling Quiz based on lesson 21. Memory Work quiz: Daniel 4:2-3. Math quiz: Angles, polygons, and lines.

Grade 6: Welcome to a new week. We are starting a number of new units/ topics this week.

- Wednesday** - Spelling Unit 14 Test
- Friday** - Officer Jackson's visit
- Looking Ahead** - Dodecahedron Book Report Due
- February 13** -Bible: Quiz on Thursday based on notes from Unit 4: Triumphal Entry through Passover. Memory work quiz on Friday: Luke 10:13 (NIV).

Grade 7: Please refer to google classrooms for updated assignments and communication.

Grade 8: Grade 8 - Welcome to a new week! We will continue with our Science projects and wrap them up this week. On Friday we will be heading to Caressant Care for our monthly visit. Keep checking Google classroom for homework updates

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 6	Staff Meeting 7:15am Prayer Group 8:30am Electives Begin Kindergarten Registration Day Sub Day
14	Sr. Basketball Tournament P.D. Curriculum Review Day (no classes)
17	Family Day*
18	Board of Directors Meeting
19	Pancake Breakfast
21	Poetry Meet (Gr. 1-4)
26	Pizza Lunch
March 1	Choir Visit at Tillsonburg CRC