

# forward drive 2020

## – From the WCS Board of Directors –

October is our kick-off month for the WCS Forward Drive. This year has been filled with challenges and we need the help of our community more than ever! God is good and we have been able to provide continuity of education for our students despite all the changes due to pandemic circumstances. Thankfully, we have been able to access some government funds, but with the cancellation of regular WCS fundraisers, decreased enrolment due to the uncertainty of the education delivery system, increased costs

due to additional staffing requirements and expenses of COVID-19 prevention, we are reaching out to our community to ask for your financial support for this upcoming year.

Please use the donation envelope enclosed to forward your contribution to the school by mail, e-transfer or contribute online through the WCS website at [woodstockchristian.ca](http://woodstockchristian.ca).

Thank you for partnering with us in the past and for coming onboard now to support, bless, and pray for Woodstock Christian School.

## Help us reach our goal of \$90,000



Practicing sight words



Students are so happy to be back together

– *faith. learning. community.* –

## - From the Principal's Desk -

**Stand Firm** is our spiritual theme at Woodstock Christian School this year. What does it mean to live within our theme and provide education at WCS during a pandemic? I cannot help but think back to the history of WCS/JKCS to know that there is a long story of God's faithfulness, of strong community support for this school through times of abundance and times of need. Psalm 33:11 tells us "But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations." We know this! Generations ago, the idea of this school became a reality because of the hard work and dedication of a community who wanted to provide Christian education.

Planning and preparing for continuity of learning during the spring of 2020 and for school re-entry this September required much thought, effort, and financial investment. Technology, on-line programs, reading inventories, learning tools, face coverings, outdoor learning spaces, cleaning supplies, smaller class sizes, personal protective equipment, new schedules,

buses at lower capacity, symptoms screening, limited visitor access, additional cleaning hours and more. These are all pieces of our new reality.

As we rethink and redesign education at WCS, we are finding abundant blessings! As you read through the FORWARD DRIVE information, consider how you can continue to partner with us, even though we can't physically invite you into our building and share food, performance, and have fun with you. We thank you for thinking and praying for us, for supporting us, for joining us (virtually for now) in this joyous, challenging, crazy journey.

From 1 Corinthians 15:58 (MSG) "With all this going for us, my dear, dear friends, stand your ground. And don't hold back. Throw yourselves into the work of the Master, confident that nothing you do for him is a waste of time or effort." The story of Woodstock Christian School continues because of God's love and faithfulness and because of the generous contributions of our supporting community.

**Carol Verbeek** – Principal



*Grades 1-8 completed their MAP testing for the fall term*



*Students wearing face coverings while in the classroom busy at work!*



*Students enjoying the playground*

### Ways we are embracing opportunities

- Applied for government wage subsidy
- Applied for \$40,000 CEBA business loan
- Due to gathering limitations we have moved to an online auction, Winterfest will take place November 13-16
- Rethinking how we deliver education
- Outdoor learning for all students and an outdoor classroom
- Providing smaller class sizes, averaging 20 students

### Connecting kids into the classroom from home

- Zooming morning devotions, circles, and responsive classroom meetings, Webcams for all classrooms
- Zooming key instructional times
- Lessons posted via our learning management systems: Google Classroom or Seesaw
- If students are absent, they can access learning from home and interact online with their teacher and classmates
- Live streaming into the classroom for chapels and assemblies

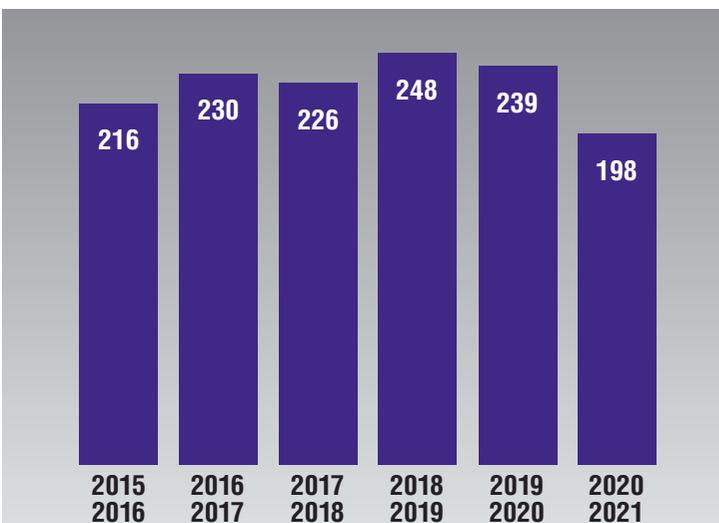


**We have introduced blended learning which gives absent students the opportunity to stay connected with the class**

## - Consider Donating -

Monthly Donation	Yearly Contribution	Estimated Tax Refund	Actual Cost of Donation
\$ 25.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 220.00
\$ 50.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 400.00
\$ 100.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 440.00	\$ 760.00
\$ 250.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,160.00	\$ 1,840.00
\$ 500.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 2,320.00	\$ 3,680.00
1x Donation	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 600.00
1x Donation	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,976.00	\$ 3,024.00
1x Donation	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 3,975.00	\$ 6,025.00

*Donation credit is based on current government legislation and is a non-refundable tax credit. 'Non-refundable' means you need to pay tax in order to reduce the taxes owing.*



## - Student Population -

On March 12th we received the news that schools would be closed and learning was to move online. Shortly after March break, we were excited to be ready to provide learning for all of our students, focusing on core subjects. It was a steep learning curve for staff, students, and parents to move to emergency remote learning, but we did it with more than 90% of students participating. We are thankful for the tools of technology, Chromebooks and iPads for families to borrow, with education and learning support being offered via Google Classroom, Seesaw, Zoom meetings, videos, and discussion groups. We ended the year by celebrating our graduates with personal ceremonies at their own homes.

This pandemic has had its challenges and we as a school have learned to adapt and adjust. We are excited about many of the changes that have occurred and are using our new knowledge and expertise to move forward. The pandemic situation has affected our school financially this year. We have had to think 'outside the box' and find creative ways to use resources and opportunities. Our in-school and transportation staff were thrilled to be back to school and physically present in the building and in our buses. Students settled into the new normal of school very quickly and were so pleased to be back together, in-person!

When asked, in the first weeks of school, about what at school made them happy, student responses included:

- ▶ "I'm happy to be back at school because I want to get smarter." - *Grade 4 student*
- ▶ "School is fun and my teacher is the best!"  
*Grade 2 student*
- ▶ "I like riding the bus." - *JK student*
- ▶ "It's more fun to learn at school." - *Grade 4 student*
- ▶ "I get to have my own desk!" - *Grade 2 student*
- ▶ "I love playing in a new outside zone every recess with my friends because everybody is included."  
*Grade 4 student*
- ▶ "I like how we get to do school work outside."  
*Grade 4 student*
- ▶ "I'm happy to be at school because I can see my friends again." - *SK student*



**Thank you for your continued support, prayers and encouragement for WCS**



*We upgraded our pavement games which gives students more options when in the different recess zones outside*

### New Protocols

- Staff and students are wearing masks indoors
- Frequent handwashing and sanitizing
- Teachers sanitizing desks and high touch surfaces
- Day time custodial cleaning for common spaces
- Separate schedules, staggered outdoor breaks, assigned playground zones and class cohorts
- Sanitizing buses between runs

### And we are still...

- Loving the students more than ever
- Attending to the whole child
- Focusing on academics and ensuring distinctive education
- MAP testing
- Providing time to engage with friends
- Moving forward with a firm foundation



*Students have been enjoying music class outside*



*An outdoor classroom provides students mask-free breaks and the opportunity to learn outdoors*

### – Our Mission –

Woodstock Christian School exists to nurture faith, engage learning and grow in community ... to the glory of God.



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### – Our Vision –

We respond in faith to God's call of love for self, others and creation by inspiring, empowering, and equipping through distinctive Christ-centered education.



To keep up to date on WCS please follow us on twitter, facebook or instagram or email us at office@woodstockchristian.ca to see our updated e-newsletter "A closer look"