

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

May 25, 2020

This past week, we celebrated Ascension Day (a day that is often forgotten, but yet a very important day for Christians). I came across this blog about Ascension Day and I want to share it with you.

Ascension Day: The most hopeful promise for all of us!

Ascension Day, 40 days after Easter Sunday, has been celebrated by the church from the early centuries AD – with good reason. According to Luke, Jesus had presented Himself alive from the dead *“by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.”* [Acts 1:3](#). They would have been unforgettable experiences for the disciples, seeing and hearing Jesus in His resurrection body, unmistakable proof that He had completely conquered sin and Satan, and death itself. Just like the two disciples who walked with Him on the road to Emmaus ([Luke 24:13-32](#)), their hearts must have burned with excitement and wonder. He appeared to them in the upper room on the first Easter Sunday, and a week later, Thomas had the opportunity to touch the resurrection body of Jesus that bore the marks of His crucifixion, evidence that He had died to sin, once for all.

A disciple is another word for a follower of Christ, one who is learning to be like his Master. As a disciple you follow Jesus Christ, who is the Master and by living like Him you become more Like Him. ([Matthew 16:24](#); [1Peter 2:21-22](#)) Seeing and hearing Jesus in His resurrection body, unmistakable proof that He had completely conquered sin and Satan, and death itself. Just like the two disciples who walked with Him on the road to Emmaus ([Luke 24:13-32](#)), their hearts must have burned with excitement and wonder. He appeared to them in the upper room on the first Easter Sunday, and a week later, Thomas had the opportunity to touch the resurrection body of Jesus that bore the marks of His crucifixion, evidence that He had died to sin, once for all. ([John 20:19-29](#)) Moreover, He encouraged them to stay in Jerusalem because very soon they would also receive power to overcome and be His witnesses through the Holy Spirit, whom He would send them from heaven.

There was no doubt whatsoever. Jesus Christ was arisen from the dead. Everything He had prophesied about Himself was true. For 33 years He had been on earth as a human being with a nature like ours, had been tempted in every way just like us and, by dying to sin and His own will, He had overcome Satan who had the power of death, completed a way through the flesh which we can follow, and presented Himself as a spotless sacrifice to God – a perfect atonement for the sins of mankind. Satan could no longer accuse anybody to God, because the debt was paid in full. ([Colossians 2:13-14](#)) Moreover, He encouraged them to stay in Jerusalem because very soon they would also receive power to overcome and be His witnesses through the Holy Spirit, whom He would send them from heaven.

But to do that He first had to return to heaven and take His rightful place at the right hand of the Father. That took place near Bethany on the Mount of Olives. ([Luke 24:50](#)) That was a glorious open-air meeting. With the farewell promise that He would not leave His disciples alone, but through the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, the Helper, the Teacher of Righteousness, He would be with them always, even to the end of the age. ([John 16:7](#), [Matthew 28: 18-20](#)) Jesus was taken up before their eyes *“and a cloud received Him out of their sight.”*

I think had we been there on Ascension Day, we might also have stood there in silent farewell, gazing steadfastly up into heaven. But God has work for us to do, and He sent two angels to give the disciples their marching orders, *“This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”* Then they returned to Jerusalem ... and all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.” [Acts 1:9-14](#). These 120 people were the first fruits of the church, and it was given to them to lay the foundations of God’s temple on earth, made from living stones who follow Jesus on the way that He made for us.

Yes, Ascension Day is a day worth celebrating. At one time it was a public holiday when people could go to church and worship God and Jesus, even though they may not have understood fully its significance. But the spirit of antichrist is working to replace religious holidays by secular holidays, intending to change times ([Daniel 7:25](#)), and for many people Ascension Day is just another day. May as many as possible gain understanding about its special significance in God’s glorious plan of salvation for mankind.

Next Sunday we will celebrate Pentecost, when Jesus sent his promised Holy Spirit.

Natalie VanAndel



Monday: Desiree W., Gr. 2
Tuesday: Annelies D., Gr. 4
Wednesday: Collins Perea Melendez., JK
Friday: Keziah Westerhof., Gr. 1
Jace Markus., JK

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Parent Survey- Premier Ford, in one of his announcements said, “Parents, you are champions! Your care does not go unnoticed.” WCS parents are indeed champions and your plates are so full! Thanks for all that you are doing. Thanks to those who have participated in the parent survey. If you have not yet had opportunity to complete it, you can still access. Survey closes at the end of the day on Tuesday, May 26th. General findings will be shared next week. Thank you for your feedback!

Summer & WCS Dress Code- Now that the warm weather is with us, it’s a good time to brush up on remote classroom etiquette. Parents, please remind students to wear appropriate apparel to their class ZOOM or GOOGLE meetings. Meeting time = school time. The WCS dress code in regard to shirts, length of shorts, no swimwear, is in effect. Put on a t-shirt for class time.

Prayer corner- We thank God for His many blessings, including the seasons. It suddenly feels like summer! Our families and extended families are all impacted by our new realities. One of the slogans I’ve seen is “apart but not alone”. That’s a great message, but nonetheless, some are feeling alone. Watch out for each other and connect with those who are anxious, lonely, and distressed. I am so thankful to be part of a faith community and to know that not only can we bring our own concerns to God, but we can also bring before Him others who are in need. Keep safely connecting with one another. Maybe reach out to a family that you don’t know as well and keep all of us connected to our WCS family. The WCS **Prayer Team** meets regularly via Zoom (link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71598270332> with password: prayer). If you have specific prayer requests, be sure to pass those along to our prayer team through j.mulder@woodstockchristian.ca.

Kindergarten & Sonbeams for 2020-2021- Kindergarten students will attend school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays next school year (same schedule as this year). The Sonbeams program will be available on Mondays and Thursdays. Please connect with Joleen in Admissions admissions@woodstockchristian.ca if you would like your child to join one or both of the Sonbeams classes in the fall.

Early dismissal: Students will be released from their learning time by 130pm on Wednesday afternoon. This week, May 27th, grades JK through to grade 8 will have Early Dismissal with teacher meetings focused on final learning reports and June plans.

Ontario Schools- Last week, the Government of Ontario announced that publicly funded schools in Ontario will remain closed for the remainder of this school year. ([announcement here](#)). WCS will continue with Connected Learning @ WCS for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

Parent update from the Board of Directors- Last week, a Board update was shared with parents. The Board recognizes that WCS families are feeling the effects of economic and employment changes and may need support as this year closes. The WCS bursary (Tuition Assistance Fund) program has been expanded to take into account the new realities of families’ financial situations. Connect with our finance department finance@woodstockchristian.ca if you are experiencing financial hardship. The finance team is able to come alongside families to discuss options and provide support.

WCS Membership meeting details for a June meeting are coming.

Calendar- The PA day scheduled for June 12th has been moved to Friday June 5th.

Other noteworthy dates:

Wednesday June 3: *Pizza-rona ‘20 day*, brought to you by the Kindergarten & Learning Place teachers

Tuesday, June 16th is *Graduation Day!*

Thursday, June 18th is WCS *‘Exchange Day’* during which families return chromebooks, library books, musical instruments to WCS and pick up student items such as binders, shoes, writing/drawing tools. Stay tuned for scheduling details.

Friday June 19th is *“We made it to the Finish Day!”* with a chapel and wrap-up activities. Noon dismissal.

Learning Place: Learning Place Zoom sessions will continue this week. Please continue to encourage your child to read every day, review his/her sight words, and practice spelling words. Thanks for all your support at home!

Junior Kindergarten: Welcome to a new beautiful summery week! A very Happy Birthday to Collins who celebrates turning 5 today. May the Lord bless you with joy and heart in the coming year! This week we continue learning about all things Spring. We will be playing Bingo tomorrow at our zoom. Make a grid with 16 squares and put letters in them. See you at 9:00 tomorrow!

SK- Miss Body: Welcome to the last week of May. I hope you were all able to enjoy the beautiful weather this weekend. Sight word and letter review.
Tuesday: Sport jersey day. Can't wait to see your jersey at zoom.
Wednesday: Early dismissal JK-8 (1:30-3:00)
Friday: Spirit Day. Get your purple on.

SK: Mrs. Poort: Welcome to a nice warm week. Tuesday is wear your jersey day to zoom. Thursday would have been "share the music day" a music playlist will be sent to you. Enjoy spending time worshipping and appreciating music. Friday is purple spirit wear day. Second step activities will be sent again this week. Along with mathematics measurement and literacy activities.

Grade 1: Welcome to a new week! Happy Birthday to Keziah who celebrates on Friday!! May God bless you in the year ahead, Keziah. Check over the "Just a note" section in today's email – there's a sneak peek at a few days coming up this week. Let me know if you have questions or concerns! Have a wonder-filled week.

Grade 2: Welcome to the last week of May! What beautiful weather we have been blessed with - I hope you were able to enjoy it on the weekend.
This week we will continue reading the adventure of Flat Stanley. We will also keep working on our animal research project.
In math we will work through our unit on fractions.
Tuesday - jersey day - wear your favourite sports jersey
Wednesday - no Zoom meeting
Friday - Purple day - wear your purple and/or WCS spirit wear

Grade 3: Welcome to another week! Tomorrow students will come to our "meet" wearing a sports jersey if they have one. This week we are continuing our division unit, though we will continue to practice our multiplication for the duration of the unit. Our spelling test will occur on Friday during our meet. We are focusing on the "le" combination which is similar sound to al or el words. We have just started our new book which is Sarah, Plain and Tall. Have a great week!

Grade 4A: Welcome to a new week! I can't believe that it is the last week in May already! Devotions today are about doing your best and getting your learning done on time! Ask God to help you with this, this week!
Tuesday- Jersey Day - wear a team jersey
Wednesday Scavenger Hunt during Morning meeting
Thursday Spelling lesson is due today
Bible story during Morning meeting
Friday Spelling test
Wear your WCS shirts today - purple or grey!

Grade 4B: Welcome to a new week. Wear your favourite team jersey tomorrow and on Friday it is school spirit day. Wear your purple! In math we will practice telling time this week. We are working on a natives project for the next few weeks. Have fun researching a First Nations group of your choice. Check google classroom for all the details. Remember to "turn in" your assignments each day
Tuesday - Wear a team jersey
Wednesday - Early dismissal (1:30 pm)
Friday - Spelling test - Lesson 33

Grade 5: This week we are finishing up 2 units: our *Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* novel study and our fractions Khan Academy unit. Next week we'll begin learning how to grapple with non-fiction and patterns and algebra. Within our non-fictional readings, students will learn different science and social studies concepts/facts. I look forward to this refreshing change and I think students appreciate it as well. Tomorrow is "Sports Jersey Day" - students wear their favourite jersey. Wednesday is another early dismissal (1:30pm). Friday = school spirit wear day! See Google Classroom for assignments and due dates.

Grade 6: Grade Six is flying high this week! So much dedication and perseverance! BIG NEWS no spelling or grammar this week!! We are going to complete our collages for Voyage of the Dawn Treader, work on our contribution to our graduation celebration as well as algebra in math. Looking forward to another fantabulous week in grade 6 distance learning!

Grade 7: Please refer to google classroom for upcoming assignments and announcements. Have a great week!

Grade 8: Welcome to a new week of Remote Learning. This week our Grade 8s will continue learning about Geometry using Nimbus Math, they will also be working on their outlines and rough drafts for their History Research Essay. In Science we are learning about Buoyancy and Compressibility. Tomorrow is 'Jersey Day', I look forward to seeing your jersey's during our Zoom meeting. Have a great week!