

November 23, 2020

One of the topics that we've discussed recently as teachers in regards to cultivating student success is 'grit'. Biblical words for grit might be 'steadfastness', 'firm', 'endurance'.

What is grit? Grit is not about talent or intelligence. Grit is about passion and determination. It is the ability to persist at achieving goals and persevere when there are obstacles, or a situation becomes difficult.

According to a leading researcher, Angela Duckworth, grit can probably be taught both in the home and at school. "Kids may have the wrong beliefs and have misunderstandings about skill development...beliefs that stand in the way of tapping into performance traits. When students struggle with a task, they may believe that they lack the ability to solve the problem and, therefore, give up. It is important for students to understand that it is ok to feel confused when learning something new, and actually, it is expected. We can teach students that making mistakes or taking a long time to complete an assignment is a normal part of learning, not a sign of failure." With a focus on character development, community and belonging, WCS strives to create classrooms that are safe places to be curious, to explore, and learn. There will always be mistakes and failures along the way, but those too, are learning opportunities.

Resources: [TedTalk A.Duckworth on grit & resilience](#) [Developing Grit In Our Students:](#)



Carol Verbeek



Wednesday Neel P., Grade 3

Thursday Cole M., Grade 5

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Thank you WCS parents: Thanks, parents, for your diligence in screening your children every morning and for keeping them home if they seem to be unwell. I have regular communication with our Public Health Nurse and have had good things to report about the support in our WCS community! We are continuing with our cleaning protocols, handwashing, sanitizing and face-covering requirements at school. To move around the school and see our very little and our very big students doing their best to care for others by following guidelines is great! Thanks for your cooperation and efforts in keeping our school community as healthy as possible. If you have any questions about symptoms, check this resource [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) school screening](#) or check in with public health or your medical practitioner.

Prayer Corner: Thank you for your prayers for our community! For families that are experiencing pain or stress around illness, grief, uncertainty in employment, we are praying for you! Prayers of thanksgiving for the recent safe arrival of baby Nora, new daughter for Mrs. VanderPloeg and her husband. Congratulations!

December @ WCS: We are looking forward to the final month of 2020! Next week the season of Advent begins. Our all-school-devotions on Wednesday mornings will be focusing on Advent themes. In December, also, each class will be decorating their doors for a door decorating contest.

Parent teacher conferences will be held on December 2nd and 3rd from 4-6pm and 7-9pm. Save the date! These will be remote conferences and teachers will provide links to meeting platforms. We are looking forward to discussing your child(ren)'s learning journey with you! Again this year we will have parents sign up online for the parent teacher conferences.

Friday December 4th will be a PA day, with no classes for students.

Bus Drivers: Woodstock Christian School has opportunities for full-time, part-time and spare drivers. Do you have a B license and are you looking for a way to work with students and serve the school? Are you interested in training as a bus driver? Do you know an experienced bus driver, or someone who is interested in training or joining our team of drivers at WCS? Send them our way! We are able to assist in the process of becoming a licensed bus driver. If interested, call the school at 519-539-1492 or email principal@woodstockchristian.ca

WCS Christmas 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.

Winterfest Auction: Thank you to all of our volunteers, sponsors, donators, and community for your help in making the Winterfest Auction a success. We made over **\$62,500** and we are so thankful. Thank you again, we could not have done this without all of your support.

Chicken Orders: Thank you to those of you who have supported WCS through chicken sales. For every box sold, the school makes \$5 and over the past number of years, your purchases have raised over \$25,000 for our school! We are not asking you to collect orders necessarily, (though you may of course) but we are simply asking you to purchase through the school what you would normally purchase at the grocery store. There is a pdf copy of the order form attached to this email. Please return your order forms to the school, **ACCOMPANIED WITH PAYMENT**, by tomorrow, November 24th. We are only able to accept cash, cheque or debit payments. Orders without payment will not be placed. Order pick up will look a little different this year. We will have two pick up times. The first will be 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

London Christian High - Parent Information Night: If you are considering London Christian High for your child's secondary education, please join us for our Virtual Parent Information Night on Tuesday, November 24th, from 7 - 8 pm via Zoom. In this 1 hour session, you'll learn about the mission of the school, program of learning, learning support for students, courses and extracurriculars, transportation services, and admissions. For families interested in a school tour of LCH, please be in touch with Gabriella Hoogstra at ghoogstra@lchonline.ca

You'll also hear from a panel of current students as they talk with our Principal about their experiences at LCH. From classroom work to extracurricular activities, our program is designed for students to be seen, known, and loved. Register for our Parent Information Night and learn more about what makes London Christian High a good choice for your child. Please register here: <https://events.londonchristianhigh.ca/parentnight/>

Student Support: Hello parents! Mrs. deVries have prepared Student Support progress reports, and you'll find these inserted in your child(ren)'s report cards that are being sent home on Friday. We are excited to share with you the progress that has been made this term and are looking forward to connecting with many of you next week. We are so thankful for your encouragement and ongoing support at home. Have a wonderful week.

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

Friday: Spelling test (gr. 1)

Junior Kindergarten: Welcome to a new snowy week. Our auction LEGO basket was a huge success. Thank you for your donations! Please watch for email about Christmas activities. This week we will learn about bears. Please bring something brown for show and share on Friday. Have a great week!

Wednesday - Library

Friday - Show and share something brown

SK- Miss Body: Welcome to a snowy new week. WOW! What an amazing and successful online auction. Please continue to practice our Green and Red poem, we will be recording next week. What's happening in SK this week?

Letters: o, u Sight words: review list 1

Colours: Pink, purple Theme: Squirrels

Wednesday: -All school devotions
-Library

Friday: -First term reports go home

Grade 1/2A (Mrs. Schuster): What a beautiful weekend! I hope you were all able to get out and enjoy the snow and some family time. Now that the snow has arrived, I would encourage you to put an extra pair of socks or two, as well as extra hats and mitts in your child's bag. Be on the watch for report cards Friday afternoon.

Monday - See VIP Folder

Tuesday - Return VIP Folder

Wednesday - Library Day

Friday - Spelling Test Week 6
- First Term Report Cards Come

Home

Next Monday - Memory Work Due

Grade 1/2B (Mrs. Horinga): We have finished our focus on short vowels and this week we begin with our first long vowel - long a. In Creation Studies we are getting ready to travel the world exploring Global communities. Please check Seesaw for other announcements.

Monday - Library

Friday - Spelling test
- Report cards go home

Grade 3: What a beautiful sight to see all of the snow out on the schoolyard today! Grade 3 has definitely been building and working together on their snow people, forts, and sculptures. This will be a five day week once again so students have a new list of spelling words with a test on Friday. Memory work is the same as last week, 1 Peter 2:10,11. I always put memory work in the google classroom where they can listen to it and practice. In science, students have been testing the strength of shapes. They have been using paper to create shapes like arches, triangles, rectangles, and then seeing how many dried beans that shape can hold until the shape collapses. This week we will be testing the best form that gives strength to beams and posts. In phys-ed, the focused skill is throwing and catching. Students will be doing activities that test and improve eye to hand coordination, as well as team-building skills.

If your child is absent, I will try to have activities to be found in the google classroom. I will, going forward, have our google meets open so that students can join virtually as they need to during the day to include them into the fellowship of our class. When they do try to join, it helps to have an email to know the time I might expect them.

Grade 4: Welcome to a new week. We are making good progress on our bird projects. Students are encouraged to read chapter books each month. Starting in December every student will be required to do the AR test on a chapter book. It will be due at the end of each month. A picture of your pet must be printed by Wednesday. Send it to Mrs. Sikma and she will print it.

Tuesday - Phys. Ed.

Wednesday - Library exchange, Pet picture due

Friday - Mem. Work - Luke 2:10-12
- Spelling Test - Lesson 9
- Phys .Ed.
- Report Cards

Grade 5: Welcome to the last week of November already! I hope you had a great weekend. Here's a little update on the exciting projects happening in Grade 5 lately:

- 1) The Portfolio Project: each student is creating a website (using Google Sites) to showcase their life and learning at WCS during term 1. This will be presented to you, by your child, on Parent-Teacher-Conference night.
- 2) School Christmas Concert Video: Gr. 5 is tasked with reciting a section of the Christmas story (Luke 2) and creating a visual representation of the star symbol and what it means within the Christmas story.
- 3) Service Learning Project - Fundraising for Children of the Promise: through the creation of eye-catching posters, Gr. 5 has been informing other grades about Haiti, what COTP does, and how we can help. There

will be an online sale, designed by Gr. 5ers, happening from December 16-18! Blessings to you this week. Enjoy the snow!

Grade5/6: Welcome to a new week of learning grades 5 and 6! Lots of great learning is planned for this week. I hope you all had a great Long weekend. On Friday, reports will be coming home. Keep reading for your book report book. Fill in your book report form. It is due on Monday, November 30.

- Monday** -Music with Mrs. Martin
-French
- Tuesday** -French with Mrs. Sikma
- Wednesday** -Phys.Ed. - dress for the weather
- Thursday** -Music with Mrs. Martin
- Friday** -Memory work - 1 Corinthians 11: 25,26
-Spelling test - lesson 9
-French
-Phys. Ed.
-Report cards come home
- next Monday** -November's book report is due

Grade 7: Term 2 has begun! Students are required to bring a ukulele to school each Monday and Wednesday for music class. On Wednesday students will have a math quiz on ME7.1-7. On Friday, Students will have an Ecology science quiz on lessons 1-3.

Grade 8: Welcome to a new week of school! Thank you again for all of the donations to the BBQ Basket for the Winterfest Auction. Continue to check Google classroom for all assignments and homework tasks, it is updated throughout the day for students who are away from the classroom. First term report cards will be coming home on Friday, be sure to sign up for a time-slot for Online Parent-Teacher Conferences.

Upcoming Events

November

- 17 Board of Directors meeting
- 18 Sub sandwich lunch
- 20 Professional activity Day (no classes)
Winterfest auction and delivery
- 25 Whole School Devotions
- 27 1st Term Learning Reports

December

- 2 Prayer Circle- 9:15am
Burger Lunch Day
- 2/3 Parent Teacher Conferences 4-6, 7-9
- 4 PA Day (no classes)
- 9 Staff Meeting 7:30am
Whole School Devotions
- 15 Board of Directors Meeting