

It's a brand new year and it's our 60th year of Christian education in Oxford County! Welcome back to school families, students, and staff. A special welcome to our new students and staff. This morning, we were blessed to spend some time together as WCS community in our New School Year Chapel. We were welcomed parents, relatives, friends, and neighbours. We are happy to have your support and share your excitement for another school year. We are welcoming many new students and some new staff this year. Welcome to Mrs. Rebecca Dam in grade 6 and welcome back to Mrs. Jessica VanLeeuwen as an educational assistant in JK. At our opening assembly this morning, we welcomed so many new students to Woodstock Christian School! We hope you will soon feel 'at home' in this community.

This summer, five classrooms were painted, repairs were made, and a new Movement Maze was added to the east-west hall. Take a stroll through the school and check out it out. Better yet, try it out! We are so blessed to have three kindergarten classes again this year. The excitement and energy in our kindergarten/primary wing is tremendous! We praise God for a new year and new beginnings! I am excited to explore our new theme: **OVERFLOWING WITH THANKFULNESS**. Stay tuned for future chapels, assemblies, and editorials exploring how we can live for God and respond to his great love for us. Blessings for the new school year.

Carol Verbeek



Monday (Sept. 2)	- Hendrik Bonestroo., Gr. 8 -Conner Duizer., Gr. 7 -Nathaniel Heidbuurt., Gr. 1
Tuesday	-Jaden Buruma., Gr. 1 -Alexander Schmitt., Gr. 1 -Maiya VanRooyen., Gr. 2 -Mrs. Benjamins., Bus Driver
Wednesday	-Jhenia Clifford., SK2 -Kaliyah Jones., Gr. 3
Friday	- Elise Pelleboer., Gr. 3
Sunday	-Katelyn Bigham., Gr. 7 -Mrs. VanderSpek., Ed Assistant

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

**Welcome:** We are so pleased to introduce several new individuals and families to our community. Mrs. Rebecca Dam has joined our staff as the sixth grade teacher. Mrs. Jessica VanLeeuwen is back as an educational assistant after a year away. Welcome to several new families! Look for their photos and profiles in our display case in the front hall. Welcome to the following families: Engel, Pastoor, Jones, Gower, Crossett, Camboia, Minshall, VanderSpek, and Pippel families. We pray that the transition to WCS will be a good one and that you will soon feel 'at home' here.

**Prayer Link:** You, as WCS community, are encouraged to pray for each other. This morning, a large prayer team moved about the school, praying for our students, our staff, our volunteers - board & committees, and our spaces. We feel very blessed knowing that our needs are being held up to God in prayer. Condolences to Mrs. Koopman who is mourning the death, earlier this summer of a sister, and to Mrs. Horinga and her family with the recent loss of Jeff's dad. We rejoice with Mrs. and Mr. Schuster with the birth of Isla. We praise God for the recovery Jon (gr2) made after his summer illness and are glad to have him back. Please pray for healing and strength for the Lorissa VandenHeuvel (a parent) who had brain surgery last week. We are blessed to be able to share and pray as a community.

**WCS Leadership Teams:** Next week, students will be introduced to WCS LEADERSHIP TEAMS. Students are asked to prayerfully fill out a questionnaire that helps them identify their leadership qualities and strengths. They will be asked which team(s) they would like to participate in based on the gifts God has given them to serve the school community while developing new personal skills. In becoming servants, students discover God's ultimate truth, their unique gifts, and their purpose in life. At WCS we offer over twenty leadership teams, ranging from technology to snow shoveling to morning announcement teams. Leadership opportunities act as enrichment vehicles for every student in our school, giving them the opportunity to lead and excel beyond the scope of academics and classroom responsibilities. Parents, please discuss these opportunities with your child(ren) and help them fill out their questionnaires.

**Late slips, sign outs, sign ins:** A reminder to call or email the office if your child(ren) will be late or absent from school. Students who arrive late must stop by the office to pick up a late slip. During school hours all parents and visitors must stop by the office to sign in. If you are picking up a student for an appointment or earlier than end-of-day pickup time, check in with the office to sign out your child. If a relative or friend is picking up your child, please ensure the office is made aware of this change and let the friend/relative know to sign out your child. Thank you!

**Nut free:** Woodstock Christian School and the Buses are **NUT FREE** (not just peanut-free)! We have students enrolled who have allergies to more than just peanuts, so we need to be a NUT FREE FACILITY for the safety of all students here at WCS! Please make sure that when you are packing lunches, treating our staff with goodies (which we love and appreciate!), or sending birthday treats, no nuts of any kind are included.

**Trading cards:** Many of our students come to school with packets or binder of trading cards, both the sport and the Pokemon variety. They are keen collectors and have lively discussions about the merits of one player/character vs another. As much as we enjoy these trades and discussions, WCS is now limiting the card exchange to sport cards. Pokemon cards, toys, and characters will not be permitted. There is a dark side to these "pocket monsters", as reading the descriptions and qualities of some of the characters a little more closely will reveal. Teachers will be reminding students to keep their Pokemon activities at home.

**Phys Ed Gear:** Students in grades 4 and up will be required to wear proper clothing for their physical education classes beginning this week. The kit consists of a WCS t-shirt and gray shorts (those purchased in previous years are allowed). Phys ed gear is available in the school office at a cost of \$23.00/set. Please make sure that your child's name or initials are placed in the shirt and shorts since there will be many similar outfits in the school. Students should keep their phys ed gear in their backpack.

**TRANSPORTATION 2019:** The transportation committee has been at work during the summer planning and designing routes for the upcoming year. With families graduating and new families joining come challenges in regards to transportation routes. We have created routes that we feel will work well and in most cases are able to provide most families with at least door service once per day. There are some families that we are asking to come to a stop for both AM and PM service and we thank you for working with us to make these routes work. A couple of notes to remember regarding transportation:

- Your bus drivers are terrific people who are trying to do difficult jobs. Please do your best to work with them and the rules and procedures that they have set up on the bus. Good, clear communication is really important between bus drivers and bus riders to ensure a safe, enjoyable year on the bus. Thanks!

- It is a privilege to ride a school bus. Behaviour that is unacceptable may result in this privilege being taken away. Bus drivers have a big responsibility driving these buses on the road. Students must respect their drivers and fellow riders. Parents please remind students of bus rules regularly.
- There will be some flex in the pickup times given as drivers get to know their routes. Be at your stops extra early this week. Once we are up and running, students should continue to be at their stops 5 minutes early.
- Communicate with your route captain if you have questions or need clarification. Your bus captains are also terrific people trying to provide the best transportation system for us!
- Routes will run as is for the first two weeks. We expect there to be some changes as some families are moving and as we get the bumps out of the system. Your patience is much appreciated! We will make any adjustments needed after that point. If you have any concerns or would like to address the transportation committee, please submit your concerns in writing to the Board rep for transportation, Wim Duizer, via email at [w.duizer@woodstockchristian.ca](mailto:w.duizer@woodstockchristian.ca) by September 14th.
- Our drivers carry cell phones on the bus, but these are for emergency purposes only. We ask that you do not text or call the drivers while they are driving. If your child(ren) will not be using the bus, please notify your driver before 6:30am, otherwise please call the family before you on the bus list.
- We have retired two of our oldest buses and have recently purchased a previously owned bus to use as a spare. It is in the process of being updated and inspected and will be on the road shortly. In the meantime, we do not have a spare and may need to cancel a route, should there be any bus breakdowns. Thanks for your patience! We appreciate it.

**Bus Cancellations:** For FOG DAYS, when driving conditions are too dangerous for the buses to run, our WCS morning school bus routes will be cancelled. Parents will drive their children into WCS when they feel that it is safe to do so. All classes will begin at normal time (8:25 am). The buses will run as usual after school to bring the students home. For students traveling to LCH, you can expect there to be a bus that will leave WCS at 8:10 (or when that bus driver believes that it is safe to drive to London). Please bring your high-school students to WCS for 8:10, provided you believe the roads are safe. The London bus will drive students home (as usual) at the end of the school day. For serious weather or road conditions, a SNOW DAY will be announced, school and all bus routes will be cancelled, and classes will not run for the day. Please sign up for the REMIND instant messaging system. You may also consult the school's web site at [www.woodstockchristian.ca](http://www.woodstockchristian.ca) to see if buses are running.

**Mobile Text Messages-** A letter has been emailed to all parents of Woodstock Christian School. The letter explains how to join the REMIND system, the same system that was well received the last three years. It is an efficient means of communicating to parents in the event of bus delays or cancellations or other unusual events. Please look for the email and follow the steps to receive text messages delivered directly to your mobile phone, or messages through the app if your mobile service is affiliated with Rogers. Please note that notices will continue to be posted on the website.

**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, (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 today's parent link and paper copies will come home today as well. Please return your order forms to the school, ACCOMPANIED WITH PAYMENT, by next Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. We are only able to accept cash, cheque or debit payments. Orders without payment will not be placed. Orders will be available for pickup on Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup> between 3 and 4 pm. Please make arrangements to have your orders picked up during that time frame. Please note that we will not be responsible for orders that are not picked up without prior arrangements. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Sol at 519-539-7839 or [jmsol@rogers.com](mailto:jmsol@rogers.com)

**Wee Creations Christian School Update:** We are looking for an administrative assistant to work with Mrs. Scheele on the business aspect of our program. Responsibilities include processing the paperwork for new registrants, submitting quarterly and annual reports to the County of Oxford, managing fee subsidies, submitting payroll to the bookkeeper, submitting annual reports to the Board of Health and revising the policy binder to

include new requirements. Experience with Excel spreadsheets, Microsoft Office and WordPress is an asset. This is a part time position (approx. 8 hours per month) with flexible hours and the rate of pay is \$17/hour. Please submit a cover letter, resume and a list of references via email to [janet@weecreations.ca](mailto:janet@weecreations.ca). Although we thank all applicants for their interest, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Successful candidate must provide a clear police reference check, adhere to confidentiality and school policies and demonstrate a commitment to the school's mission and vision. Deadline for applications is Friday, September, 20, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

**Student Support - Mrs. Bulthuis:** Welcome back to school! I am excited to connect with you and the students during these next few weeks. Look for a letter coming home later this week with more details about our student support services program. Math groups will be starting tomorrow and all literacy intervention groups will be up and running next week. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns ([t.bulthuis@woodstockchristian.ca](mailto:t.bulthuis@woodstockchristian.ca)).

**Junior Kindergarten:** Welcome to a new school year. It is my prayer that we will overflow with thanksgiving as a class. There is a lot of information coming home today. Join seesaw soon to see your children's day. Have a great week.

**Senior Kindergarten A:** Welcome to our new SK class. We have started off our year well. Students will become familiar with our new classroom routines this week. We will be having separate recess time for now as our SK students become more comfortable at school. Thank you for sharing your hopes and dreams for our class or your child. I was excited by what you wrote and look forward to seeing each child grow this year. The students will be creating their own hopes and dreams this week for kindergarten. Library is on Tuesdays for our class. There will be many administrative papers coming home this week.

**Senior Kindergarten B:** Welcome back to school. I am excited for the 2019/20 year. As we celebrate 60 years of Christian Education we have so much to be thankful for. We live in a land of plenty and it is easy to overflow with thankfulness. I do pray that even in seasons of difficulty you will be able to lift your eyes up to the Lord in thanksgiving.

There will be a lot of information coming home in your child's message back this week. Please take the time to go through it.

**Tuesday:** First day of school

**Wednesday:** Continuing to learn routines.

**Friday:** We will be spending some our day with Mirs Poort's SK class

**Grade 1:** Welcome to the first week of school! I have been praying for you and your family. I am very excited to begin this year with the Grade 1 class – I hope you are excited, too. We have a fun-filled week ahead of us as we get to know each other and discover how God has given us gifts and abilities that we will use to bless our classmates (and teachers!) this year! Our theme is Overflowing with Thankfulness – I look forward to diving into this theme throughout this year. We appreciate your prayers as we settle into routines and establish our class community. Be sure to look through your child's message bag this week as it will contain important information & papers for you to complete & return – thanks in advance! Also, please check your emails throughout the week for updates from me – and, as always, feel free to contact me with any questions you may have!!

**Tuesday** – Welcome to school! Welcome Back Assembly @9:00am

- a belated Happy Birthday to Nathaniel H! – who celebrated on Sept. 2

- Happy Birthday to Jaden!

- Happy Birthday to Alexander!

**Thursday** – Phys. Ed.

Looking ahead:

**Monday** – Picture Day!!

**Grade 2:** Welcome to a new school year. I pray that this year will be a blessing for you all. There are LOTS of papers coming home today so please take time to fill out and return the necessary ones to school as soon as possible.

I have also sent home a September calendar as well as a Grade 2 parent handbook for you which contains information specific to our class.

**Grade 3:** Welcome back to a new school year. I trust that everyone had a restful summer. May God bless us as we learn together this year. We welcome everybody to our grade three class! This week we will become familiar with our teachers, classmates, and classroom procedures, and will be starting our various units. A letter is being emailed this evening about our first day and other pertinent information including a link to a class schedule.

**Tuesday** Welcome to school  
Letter emailed home

**Grade 4A:** Welcome back to school and learning grade 4! I hope you all had a great summer! I pray that we will quickly settle into the routines of school. Let's enjoy our grade 4 adventure!

**Tuesday** Welcome back Assembly  
Phys. Ed.  
**Thursday** Phys. Ed.  
**Friday** Music  
**next Mon.** Picture Day

**Grade 4B:** Welcome to a new school year. Check your email for a first day letter with news about the classroom routines etc. Please return all paperwork this week. We are studying birds in Science. If you have any books, feathers, nests, etc. that we can use please send to school.

**Tuesday-** Phys. Ed.  
**Wednesday-** Library  
**Thursday-** Phys. Ed.

**Grade 5:** Welcome to the very first week of school! I pray that your children will adjust well to the new school year and that getting back into routine goes well! No homework this week, other than a spelling test on Friday based on lesson 01 of their spelling workbooks. An email will be sent tonight regarding gym clothes, and other details. Blessings!

Wednesday - no homework  
Thursday - no homework  
Friday - bring gym clothes or money for gym clothes.  
Spelling test based on Lesson 01 of spelling workbook.  
Yellow list will come home on Wednesday to practice.

**Grade 6:** We are off to a wonderful start in grade 6. God is good! I'm so pleased to be a part of this community. Students will be coming home with some forms and a new agenda. Parents, please check and initial the agenda daily to stay informed about what is going on in grade 6.

**Math:** we will be doing a pretest tomorrow before starting our first unit on patterning and algebra.

**Language:** we have chosen good fit books and will be building our reading and writing stamina in the next couple of weeks.

**Creation Studies:** We will be learning about God's gift of flight in the coming weeks. More details to come soon.

**Grade 7:** Students are bringing home a September Parent letter today. This letter comes home each month to inform you of learning themes and classroom events. Students are reminded to pack their gym strip for gym class. We have not logged into Google Classroom yet. Our goal to be logged in by Thursday.

**Grade 8:** Welcome to a brand new school year! I am looking forward to an excellent year of learning in Grade 8. Please pray for our class as we settle in to new routines and get adjusted to a new normal. A letter will be coming home later this week highlighting some of the routines and expectations for this year. Here is an overview of some of the things happening in our classroom this week:

**Tuesday -** Intro to Box Project  
**Wednesday -** Box Project, French  
**Thursday -** Box Project, Music  
**Friday -** Box Project Showcase (Parents invited to attend) Phys. Ed.  
**Monday -** Phys. Ed.

**CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS:**

September	11	School Photos for Gr. 1-8
	13	Welcome Evening & Dessert Social
	17	Soccer Tournament (Rain date Sept. 18)
	18	Prayer Group 8:30am Pizza Lunch Staff PLC Session @ 3:45pm
	23	Map Testing Session 1 begins
	26	Cross Country Meet (Rain date 30 <sup>th</sup> )
	27	Terry Fox Run