

W E E K L Y N E W S L E T T E R

September 14, 2020

As I reflect on the first week of school, I'm amazed at how flexible and adaptable kids are! In order to help prevent the spread of Covid-19 there are of course many new routines and rules in place this year. From my perspective (in the Gr. 5 classroom), students have handled it extremely well. I'm sure some of it has to do with how you, the parents, have instilled confidence in your child (thank you!), and how teachers are trying to make this as much of a positive or normalized experience as possible - but still - I'm impressed with how students have adapted to our "new normal", so quickly.

Another thought that keeps resurfacing in my mind is: the importance of putting our complaints into perspective. A month or so after March Break, I had a conversation with my grandfather about Covid-19. I asked him how he was doing, and if he was staying busy. He replied: "Yes, I've been reading a lot, keeping up with the news, working on projects around the house, etc." He was quite chipper. The conversation evolved, and we both began stating what we were missing out on due to all the shut-downs, and isolation. There was a pause, and then he quickly brought it all back into perspective by mentioning that "yes it's a tough time, but not nearly as bad as the millions of people living in war zones and concentration camps with no shelter or even food." I wasn't expecting that. I was a bit stunned. Partly because the conversation took a sharp turn, but also because there was so much truth to it. I have had conversations like this before, but it had been awhile. This one stuck with me - perhaps because of who said it, and how it was said. I was reminded of what I do have, and that is: a massive amount compared to many.

Over the course of these pandemic months, I have been grateful for the conversation I had with my grandfather, as well as last year's school theme, "Overflowing with Thankfulness (from Colossians 2) because it keeps me grounded, it makes me think about others, it steers me away from negativity and ungratefulness. Furthermore, and more so than ever before in my teaching career, I'm grateful for the adaptability/flexibility inherent in kids!

I pray that as a school community, we'll be thankful, flexible, and adaptable, all the while keeping things in perspective, as we navigate these 'uncharted waters'.

Axel Hiemstra- Gr. 5 Teacher



Wednesday

Owen G.- Grade 4

Rebecca W. - JK

Thursday

Victoria P.- JK

Amaya R.- Grade 4

Friday

Mrs. A. Reyneveld- Bus Driver

Sunday

Esther DeBoer- Grade 8

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

**Prayer Link:** As WCS community, we are to pray for each other. It is so good to be able to share and pray together. To be one of our prayer warriors, check out our calendar to see when our next virtual prayer circle is taking place. We request that you pray for Abby V in grade 8 who is going for eye surgery Tuesday at 130pm. Please pray for the surgeon, for effective correction of her vision, and for Abby as she prepares for the surgery and as she recovers in the next week. Continue to pray for our families and their various needs, for deep and rich learning for students throughout the year.

**Prayer group:** Prayer group will be starting on Wednesday morning at 9:30am, please join us! This week we will be walking around the outside of our school praying for each classroom and end our prayer at the outside classroom. If you have any prayer requests, please email them to [j.mulder@woodstockchristian.ca](mailto:j.mulder@woodstockchristian.ca).

**School Photographs:** Please note the date changes for our school photographer's visit to WCS. Photo sessions have been rescheduled to Tuesday September 29th. Retakes are scheduled for Tuesday October 27th.

**Daily Screening:** We have had a good first week of school! The successful return to school and remaining open will require diligence by all parents, guardians, staff, and visitors. We require that you check your child for symptoms **prior to arrival** at School each day. If there are signs or symptoms, use the form to report. Each Monday, a check-in via the parentlink with a link to a Google form will remind parents of their responsibility to screen their child(ren). Complete that form each week. In addition to daily active screening, please note that all students will be monitored at school for possible signs or symptoms of illness. Please click [here](#) to fill out the form for this week.

**Symptomatic students:** When a child is exhibiting symptoms, they will be removed from regular activities and parents will be required to pick them up from school. The Wolf Den is our isolation room for waiting students. Students will need to be symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to school.

About sanitizing and face coverings - **some tips from Public Health**

- Handwashing with soap and water is our first 'go to' at WCS. For the occasions when handwashing is not possible, a dime-size squirt of hand sanitizer is good for a quick clean of the hands on or after riding the bus, touching a surface they're unsure of, or before adjusting their mask
- If your child wears a reusable fabric mask, it's a good idea to wash it right after they get home from school.
- Experts are recommending that children bring at least one extra mask with them to school. You know your kids best. If they tend to lose things or get messy, throw a couple of spare masks in their backpack if you think you need to.

**Professional Development Day September 25th.** Our first WCS PD day will be held on Friday September 25th. There will be no classes for students, but teachers will be at school learning and planning throughout the day. For three weeks in August, teachers participated in various Bootcamp workshops provided by Edvance. We will be unpacking what we learned in Bootcamp sessions, collaborate about plans for Community Project-based learning, and firming up our plans to ensure that if/when we may need to pivot to remote learning, that we are ready.

**Scholastic News (Miss Body):** Reading is a great and fun way to interact with your children. We are continuing to offer scholastic at WCS. This year it will all be online (paper flyers will not be handed out). Each family has received a letter with a code; this code is the same for everyone. You will receive free shipping with orders over \$35 and the school will receive 20% of your order in scholastic dollars. With this money we have and can continue to purchase classroom supplies, resources and teaching aids. If you have any questions about scholastic please contact me at [v.body@woodstockchristian.ca](mailto:v.body@woodstockchristian.ca). Thank you for your continued support.

**Mobile Text Messages:** If you haven't yet signed up for Remind, please check the parent letter emailed last week for more information about this.

**Chicken orders are back!** Thank you to those of you who have supported WCS through chicken sales in past years. For every box sold, the school makes \$5. 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 22 nd. 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 Friday, October 9 th .

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 519-539-7839 or [jmsol@rogers.com](mailto:jmsol@rogers.com).

**Student Support:** This week, all math and literacy groups will be up and running! All groups will focus on learning new routines and work on becoming more familiar with Google classroom or SeeSaw. Be looking for an email this week outlining information about the support your child(ren) will be receiving this year. Our at-home "Book Bag" reading program will be starting next week. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns ([t.bulthuis@woodstockchristian.ca](mailto:t.bulthuis@woodstockchristian.ca)). Have a blessed week!

**Junior Kindergarten:** Welcome to a new week. We had a great start last week. Please return your child's message bag every JK day. Tuesday is International Dot Day. Wear dots if you can. This week we will focus on the creation story. Please see SeeSaw for songs and activities. Our first show and share was very interesting. If you have not sent in "getting ready for Kindergarten" and hopes and dreams, please do so this week. We want to wish Rebbeca and Victoria a very Happy Birthday this week. May God bless you both in the coming year. Please label your child's items. Have a great week

**SK- Miss Body:** Welcome to our second week of school. We had a great first week. It is so nice being back in the classroom and sharing in the student's excitement. Letters: s, a Sight words: I, the  
Wednesday: Music

**Grade 1/2A(Mrs. Schuster):** Welcome to a brand new week, and our first full week of school! Today in your child's VIP (very important papers) Folder you will find a flipbook with some more information about our class and schedules, our September calendar, and log in information for Seesaw - our learning platform which will be used in various ways throughout the school year. Please empty the folders and return them as soon as possible so they can be used the following week. Also, be on the lookout for an email from me this evening with some more detailed information about what's happening in our classroom.  
Monday - Library & Phys. Ed.  
Tuesday - Return VIP Folders  
Thursday - Phys. Ed.

**Grade 1/2B (Mrs. Horinga):** We had a great first week together! This week we will be jumping into reviewing our letters and their sounds. Each day we will review 2 new letters... check in with your child each day to see if they can remember the letters we learned. Check your child's message bag for some important information today.

**Monday** - Library, message bags go home  
**Tuesday** - return grey message bags, gym  
**Thursday** - gym

**Grade 3:** It has been a good first week! As we now are in the second week of school, we are working on mastering our routines. Good fit spelling words will be sent home today for our Friday test. This week students will be invited into Google Classroom, and will be familiarizing themselves with this.

We began our first science unit studying trees. Our focus has been on the difference between coniferous and deciduous trees and also the function of roots. This week we will learn about the trunk of the tree and God's design for making all of the parts of a tree work together. Please take a picture of your child beside or in their favourite tree at home, or in your neighbourhood. Send them in to me developed or via email so I can print them out.

In Bible class, we are starting at the beginning of God's word, Genesis. Students are making a mobile with each part dedicated to a different day of creation. Memory work will begin this week, which is Genesis 1:27.

**Friday:** Spelling Test: assigned words

**Grade 4:** Welcome to a new week. We are off to a great start. We are becoming more comfortable and learning new routines. We are practicing how to use Google classroom. We will memorize the school theme verse this week. It is posted in Google classroom. Make sure headphones are at school.

**Monday** - Library  
**Tuesday** - Phys. Ed. (proper outdoor footwear)  
**Friday** - Mem. Work - 1 Corinthians 16:13-14  
- Phys. Ed. (proper outdoor footwear)

**Grade 5:** Welcome to the 2nd week of school! I hope you and your family are settling into a solid school routine. We had a smooth first week, despite the many new Covid-related rules and routines. Students seem to be adapting well.

To keep you more in the loop, I am looking into how to allow you to have access to Google Classroom's Homeroom section, so that you can see homework tasks with just a few clicks on your mouse or taps on your phone. I'll send an email with instructions as soon as I have that figured out.

Students should be checking Google Classroom each evening to view homework updates.

Monday: Physical Education: proper outdoor clothing and footwear needed.

Wednesday: Physical Education: proper outdoor clothing and footwear needed.

- Whole School Devotions (video format) - I will send a link to you in case you wish to watch.

**Grade 5/6:** Welcome to the second week of learning grades 5 and 6. We had a great start last week getting to know each other and starting to build a learning community. This week we will continue to get better and more used to wearing our masks! Keep smiling!

**Monday :** Music  
**Tuesday :** French  
**Wednesday:** Phys. Ed.  
**Thursday :** Music  
**Friday :** Memory work - 1 Corinthians 16: 13,14  
Phys. Ed., French

**Grade 7:** We enjoyed a positive week of community building and being reacquainted with our peers and WCS! Please provide subject dividers for grade 7 students. I'm sorry they were not listed in the August letter. Families have been sent an email that contains the September Parent letter and a grade 7 daily schedule. Please ask your son/daughter to share access to Google Classroom with you. Inside the classroom are postings of grade 7 assignments.

**Grade 8:** Welcome to week 2 of school! Parent/Guardian invites for Google Classroom were sent out today via email, please ensure you confirm the invitation and set-up the frequency to which you would like to receive email updates on what your son or daughter is working on in Grade 8 (this can be daily, weekly or monthly). Continue to check-in with your child regarding homework assignments. If you haven't returned school forms and information to the school office, please do so ASAP. Have a great week!

## Upcoming Events

### September

15 Board of Directors Meeting  
16 Prayer Circle Outside at 9:30am  
Sub Sandwich Lunch  
25 PD Day (no school)  
28 MAP testing begins  
29 School Photos

### October

7 Prayer Circle- 9:30am  
Burger Lunch Day  
9 Thanksgiving Chapel- Hosted by Grade 3  
12 Thanksgiving Day (no classes)  
14 Staff PLC session at 3:30pm  
16 Interim Reports  
20 Board of Directors Meeting