

September 21, 2020

**WCS is Community**

Woodstock Christian School has come alive with the students and staff back in this place! Each morning, buses pull into the parking area and I get to greet and welcome students back to school for the day. As they walk and run through the gate into the school playground, Mrs. Bulthuis is there to greet them, ready to listen to any exciting news and to pass students along to classroom teachers who are waiting in the halls and at classroom doors to greet them. This is actually one of the highlights of my day, seeing the students' smiles (behind their masks, but still, their eyes are smiling) eager and ready for school and being with their classmates. Parents, we miss seeing you, and want you to know that when you entrust your children to us, they are in good hands. There is joy in this place! Classrooms buzz with student conversations, morning circles and devotions are taking place, with students sharing news, concerns, reasons for praise, and praying together. There is so much learning happening! Outdoors, students are making extremely good use of the playground - now divided into six zones to provide everyone access to age-appropriate activity areas. Did you catch last week's Facebook post? Students are happy to be back at school, so they can learn, be with friends, get better at math, art, science, be with teachers and be busy together. The words of I Chronicles 16: 25, 27 are reassuring: *For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise... the Lord made the heavens. Splendour and majesty are before him; strength and joy are in his dwelling place.* In the face of uncertainty, the strangeness of new normals, anxieties about health and wellbeing, God is constant - he provides strength and joy.

-Carol Verbeek



Tuesday	Hailey B. – Senior Kindergarten
Wednesday	Cameron M. – Grade 4
Friday	Lucas B. - Grade 4
Saturday	Luke M. - Grade 3
Sunday	Ren V.- Senior Kindergarten

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

**Measures of Academic Progress (MAP):** One of the many ways that we measure student learning at WCS is through the use of the MAP test. MAP is an acronym for Measures of Academic Progress. The MAP is an adaptive on-line test that will adapt the level and complexity of the questions to be appropriate for each student's level of learning. As a school, and as Christian schools in Ontario, we receive detailed, accurate information about student growth. We are now into our sixth year of testing using Northwest Evaluation Association's (NWEA) MAP test. The test is designed not only to compare students' scores to norms but also to measure individual student progress over time in reading, language usage, and math. We also use the test as a means to evaluate how we are doing as a school with our teaching and learning over time, using the results to determine areas where we need to improve our curriculum and teaching. Over the past years, NWEA has done some terrific work in building assistive technology supports. Students will start the testing next week. If you are interested in learning more about MAP, check out the [Family Toolkit](#) . See Michael's story and Lyla's story about test taking and how results are used. During parent-teacher conferences, there will be opportunity to ask questions about MAP testing and results. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to speak to our staff. The fall MAP test period is September 28-October 23

**Google Classroom & SeeSaw:** This year, we are making extensive use of Google classroom (grades 3-8) and SeeSaw (JK-grade 2) as our learning management systems and classroom communication tools. Parents, if you are not currently receiving notifications from your child's Google classroom or SeeSaw classroom about assignments and events, connect with your child's teacher to make that happen. You have been invited to receive updates - daily, weekly, monthly, from the Classroom. This year, as a school we decided not to use paper agendas and to maximize the use of these versatile learning platforms to stay connected to families. So, if your child is absent from school, check the SeeSaw or Google classroom notifications, but also encourage students to be as independent as possible in using the tools provided. Teachers are ready to support you and answer any questions you may have.

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

**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 about 2020 learning plans 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.

**Daily Screening-** We have had two great weeks of school! Thanks, parents, for your diligence in completing the symptoms screening check prior to school arrival for your children. An important piece to consider when you are doing the symptoms check, is if the symptoms are unusual for your child. Southwestern Public Health has provided this resource - [Symptoms & return to school 'decision tree'](#) - for parents when trying to determine the best decision for a child who is showing symptoms. A check-in with your health care provider or a COVID test are recommended for anyone with multiple symptoms. Your questions can also be answered via the Covid-19 call centre through SWPH 1-800-922-0096 X 9. SWPH also has a page on their website for parents and caregivers with current information and support. Check it out: [COVID-19 School Support for Parents & Caregivers](#) .

Each Monday, a check-in via the parent link with a link to a Google form will remind parents of their responsibility to screen their child(ren). Take a minute to 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.

**Mobile Text Messages-** Have you signed up for Remind? Are you in the correct group? We have utilized Remind a couple of times already, so if you haven't yet signed up for Remind, please check the parent letter emailed the first week for more information about this.

**Terry Fox School Run** *This year is the 40th Anniversary of Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope and Woodstock Christian School is proud to be continuing the legacy of one of our greatest heroes. Please join us and support this wonderful cause by donating to: <http://www.terryfox.ca/WoodstockCSWoodstock>. Together, we can all make a difference! Students can set up their own fundraising page under our school name and share their link with friends and family. Students can go to: <https://terryfox.org/schoolrun/students/> and follow the prompts to get going.*

All students will participate on September 30th. It will look a little different this year. Each class will come up with a "What's Your 40?" challenge. For example, each raise \$40, run 40 km as a class, 40 laps around the baseball diamond, read 40 new words, shoot 40 baskets etc. As a school we are being challenged to raise **\$4000!** As an incentive we will bring in Boa Constrictors and Ball Pythons and Mrs. VerBeek and other willing teachers will wear/carry them to each class. Students will have the opportunity to touch the snakes. If you have any questions, contact Mrs. Hickey.

**Student Support:** All Barton, Dynaread, literacy, and math groups are now up and running with Mrs. deVries and me. IEPs are being reviewed and will be sent home in the coming weeks. Students in grades 1 and 2 literacy groups will be taking home Book Bags this week Wednesday with "good fit" books and a list of sight words to review. Instructions are similar to last year and can be found inside the Book Bags. Let me know if you have any questions!

**Wednesday:** Book Bags sent home (gr 1 & 2)

**Junior Kindergarten:** Welcome to week 3! We have been enjoying our time together. This week we continue learning about the Creation story. Please bring in something about light for Wednesday. There will be no school on Friday. Have a great week.

**Wednesday** - Library Day, Show and Share about light

**Friday** - PD day - no school

**SK- Miss Body:** Welcome to a new week and what looks like a beautiful one. This week, as a school, we will be remembering and celebrating the Terry Fox run as it turns 40. What a legacy our brave Canadian left behind.

Letters: t, i Sight words: away, look

**Tuesday:** Hailey celebrates her birthday!

**Wednesday:** Library (return library books in order to take out a new one)

**Friday:** PD Day \*\* NO CLASSES

**Sunday:** Ren celebrates his birthday!

**Grade 1/2A(Mrs. Schuster):** Welcome to a brand new week of school. We have begun working on so many exciting things and are looking forward to so many more! Be sure to check out the email that will come out later today for more details on what we're doing in class and how you can help challenge me to face one of my greatest fears.

**Monday-** VIP Folder Comes Home

- Terry Fox Run Kick-Off

**Tuesday** - Return VIP Folder to School

**Friday** - PA Day (No School)

**Grade 1/2B (Mrs. Horinga):** We have been working hard to build our stamina for Read to self.. this past week we made it to 5 minutes.... I wonder if we can get to 10 minutes this week? We will continue to review our letters and sounds this week.

**Tuesday** - gym outdoors

**Thursday** - gym outdoors

**Friday** - PD day - no school

**Next Monday** - Library (return your books so you can get new ones)

**Grade 3:** We are in our third week of school. This morning students will be introduced to the Terry Fox campaign, and information will be coming home. We will be participating in the event next Wednesday though it will look significantly different this 40th year of the Terry Fox campaign. Spelling words will not be coming home this week as they are now posted at Google classroom.

Students will be practicing these words throughout the week with the test on Thursday since students will not be at school on Friday.

**Today:** Terry Fox assembly: campaign begins

**Thursday:** Spelling Test 2

**Grade 4:** Welcome to a new week. Today we had a Terry Fox Run assembly and were encouraged to raise money for cancer research. Ask your child if they know what the school challenge goal is.

**Tuesday** - Phys. Ed. (wear proper footwear)

**Thursday** - Memory Work - Books of the Old Testament (check Google classroom for link to the song to help us memorize them)

**Friday** - PD Day

**Next Monday** - Library books due

**Grade 5:** I hope you've had a great weekend! Gr. 5 is certainly in a good routine now. I'm pleased with how it has all gone, considering the amount of changes to our regular school procedures due to the pandemic. Your prayers and encouragement for our staff have been much appreciated! An exciting activity for this week will be planning for our Terry Fox event happening on September 30th. Each class will choose and pledge to do physical activities relating to the number 40 because it has been 40 years since the Marathon of Hope ended. We are setting a school goal of raising \$4,000 and hoping for each family to raise 40 dollars or more for cancer research. More details will be sent home this week. A reminder to have your child check Google Classroom for homework updates. Have a great week!

**Monday** - Bring outdoor P.E. clothes. Terry Fox activity kick-off (virtual assembly) and choosing our Gr. 5 activity.

**Tuesday** - Every Tuesday, from now on, a red folder will come home with marked quizzes, tests, or assignments. Students must obtain their parent's signature on anything with a score below 65%.

**Wednesday** - Bring outdoor P.E. clothes.

**Friday** - P.D. Day - No school.

**Grade 5/6:** Welcome to the third week of learning at school grades 5 and 6! I hope you all had a wonderful weekend! What gorgeous weather we had! It is a short week this week so practice your spelling words and memory work every night.

**Monday** Music

**Tuesday** French with Mrs. Sikma

**Wednesday** Library - remember your books so you can take out new ones

Phys. Ed.

**Thursday** Music

Spelling test - lesson 1

Memory work - 2 Timothy 3:16-17

**Friday** PD Day - no school

**next Monday** Kathryn's birthday

**Grade 7:** The Terry Fox Run is scheduled for Sept. 30th. Students have been challenged to raise \$40 per family for the 40th year of this event. Map Testing (math, reading, and grammar) will begin on Sept. 28th. Library services are available to students. They are currently reading a novel that they will write a book report on for Sept 30th. Please continue to check Google Classroom for all learning assignments and tests.

**Grade 8:** Welcome to our third week of school! Please continue to stay connected to Google Classroom for homework and assignment updates. Since this Friday is a PD Day our weekly spelling work is due Thursday and our quiz will be on Thursday as well. Have a great week!

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **September**

- 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 sessionat 3:30pm
- 16 Interim Reports
- 20 Board of Directors Meeting