

# THE WEEKLY

Tuesday, April 8, 2025



## *Thoughts from our Principal ...*

A couple Sundays ago, I was in church, sitting in our family's "regular pew" – second row from the back, left side facing the pulpit. The music team had started to play probably their third song by this time, most people settling in and some rushing in the last minute. Typical Sunday morning.

I noticed the row of people sitting near the front, was mostly filled up already with a family – looked like two grandparents, their daughter, her husband, three young kids, likely grade 1 to grade 7, I am guessing. I think on the other end of the pew there might have been a friend of the grandmother, a sister, maybe a niece and her baby, cute baby. The pew was getting pretty full and it was 15 minutes into the service by now. Then came another person, and his wife with another little baby, cute, but a bit squeaky. Everyone looked over at the three of them, shuffled over, and then looked back again at the latest additions to their cozy seating situation. I counted maybe 12 or 13 people by this time, maybe more. I think I lost count. I was supposed to be paying attention to the pastor who was about to start the message.

Simple observation. What struck me about this little event was the shuffling over. In a church pew, we can get possessive about where we sit and how much room we get. But the act of "shuffling over" was a natural response by a group of "sitters" for a bunch of "standers." And the "standers" could have picked somewhere else to sit, but they chose this pew. The sitters and standers knew they belonged together. They adjusted for each other, looked out for each other, probably felt a bit squished for each other. But here they were, all 13 of them in one pew, no complaints. In fact, they seemed pretty content, at least from looking at the backs of their heads.

It made me think that as "sitters" and "standers" here at WCS, we shuffle over, adjusting and looking out for each other, finding ways to show people they belong.

When a new face joins our class...we shuffle over.

When someone joins our soccer game or lunch time discussion ... we shuffle over.

When a visitor comes to WCS...we shuffle over.

When we "shuffle over" we are treating others with kindness and respect:

- We speak kindly to each other, saying our "Please, Thank you's, and Pardon me" when we don't listen well.
- We put others ahead of us – opening the door for them or letting them choose what they want to do or play.
- We look at them in the eyes when we talk and listen to what they say.
- We greet them with a "Hello," and say "Good bye" when we leave.
- We forgive and/or ask for forgiveness when we have hurt them, trying better next time.

Here at WCS, we need to keep working on a culture of kindness and respect. We belong to the same family and love the same Lord and Saviour, the one whose death and resurrection we are celebrating during this time of Lent and Easter.

The act of "shuffling over" – as "sitters" or "standers" – is the act of showing love. We love because HE loved us first.

**This calendar lists upcoming HIGHLIGHTS only. Refer to 2024/25 School Calendar for ALL events.**

DATE	TIME	EVENT	TAKE NOTE
Wed/Apr/09	LUNCH	PASTA LUNCH	For those that have ordered.
Fri/Apr/11	—	SPORTS DAY	Details on next page.
Fri/Apr/11	LUNCH	PIZZA LUNCH	For those that have ordered.
Tue/Apr/15	7:00PM	WCS OPEN HOUSE	Referrals are best!
Wed/Apr/16	8:35AM	GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP on WEDNESDAY	All are welcome!
Thurs/Apr/17	10:15AM	GRANDPARENTS & SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY	Invitation Attached
Fri/Apr/18 & Mon/Apr/21		GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER MONDAY	No School!

**Mrs. Patty Schuurman (Principal) - [pschuurman@willowdalechristianschool.org](mailto:pschuurman@willowdalechristianschool.org)**

**Mrs. Elisa Santiago (Office Administrator) - [office@willowdalechristianschool.org](mailto:office@willowdalechristianschool.org)**

# **PRAYER @ WCS**

## **Weekly Parents Prayer Zoom Meeting: Tuesdays @ 8:00 pm**

- Wednesday Worship ~ Prayer and Praise will be lead by Patty Schuurman
- Staff of the Week: Mr. Wong (Grade 3 Teacher)
- Families of the Week: *Nam (Gr.1), Ng (Gr.7), Ng (Gr.5), Pai (Gr.2), Park (Gr.3/1/SK), Park (Gr.1/JK)*
- Contact Person ~ Claudia & Cissy (WCS Parents) [wcpayerbox@yahoo.com](mailto:wcsprayerbox@yahoo.com).
- *Please feel free to email your prayer requests throughout the year.*

## **THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW**

**WELCOME!** Welcome to Raina in Grade 1 and Robyn in Grade 4, as well as their parents, Chi and Robert from Calgary. We hope you feel at home at WCS very, very soon!

**COMING TO SCHOOL LATE** – Please keep in mind to be on time for your classes. In this way, you are showing respect for your teachers' and classmates' time. Interrupting the classroom when you arrive late numerous times is disruptive to all. Thank you so much for making an effort to improve. We appreciate it more than you know!

**PARKING LOT** – If you drove to school this morning, Tuesday, April 8, you will notice that we are making small changes to help improve the flow of traffic and the safety of all. We have removed parking along the church (directly across the school) so that oncoming traffic can flow straight through the parking lot without trying to avoid any parked vehicles. Our specific requests to help with this current initiative are:

- 1) Please be aware of the pylons and do not park along the side of the church,
- 2) Continue to park along the fence with a 1 meter distance, entering and exiting carefully,
- 3) Where possible, do not park in the flow of traffic; please fill parking spots along the fence before parking in the middle (opposite to where the staff are now parking). Thank you for your cooperation!

### **SPORTS DAY—FRIDAY, APRIL 11**

Calling all dancers, soccer players, gymnasts, or hockey stars - grab your jerseys or other sportswear because Friday is Sports Day! Dress up in your favourite team attire or items related to your favourite sport (school appropriate). Dress code applies for those who choose not to participate.

### **WCS OPEN HOUSE—TUESDAY, APRIL 15**

Please invite friends to our Open House that is taking place on Tuesday, April 15 starting at 7:00 pm. This is a great way to tell others about our wonderful school.

### **GRANDPARENTS DAY—THURSDAY, APRIL 17—*Invitations attached to forward.***

This special day is a beautiful opportunity for our students to celebrate and honour their grandparents/special friends. Be sure to invite them!

- **Showcase Your Talents Together:** We encourage grandparents and grandchildren to team up and showcase their talents. Whether it's singing, dancing, storytelling, or any other talent, we would love to see their performances! Please note that each performance should be no more than 1 minute in length.
  - ◇ **Family Photographs:** We invite students' families to share a photograph that includes their grandparents. These photos will be displayed during the event to celebrate the special bond between grandparents and grandchildren.
  - ◇ **Tributes and Thank-You Notes:** Students are encouraged to write short tributes or thank-you notes to their grandparents. Selected students will have the opportunity to read their heartfelt messages aloud during the event.
- Please note that the **deadline for all submissions is Thursday, April 10th**. Submissions can be sent to [mwiseman@willowdalechristianschool.org](mailto:mwiseman@willowdalechristianschool.org)

We look forward to seeing the wonderful talents and heartfelt messages from our students and their families. Thank you for your support in making this Grandparents Day a memorable event for everyone!

### **PRINCIPAL FOR THE DAY—FRIDAY, APRIL 25,**

The Stuart family (Gr. 5/4/1/JK) will be the principals for the day! This day includes lots of fun events which they have planned already with their family. It's going to be AMAZING!

### **FUN FAIR COMMITTEE**

We're looking for parent volunteers to join the planning committee for the end of year Fun Fair on Fri, Jun 13! This is a great opportunity to get involved, share ideas, and help organize a fun-filled event. If you're interested, please email Candy at [candy.lanois@gmail.com](mailto:candy.lanois@gmail.com). Note that we will be recruiting for parent volunteers for the day-of event.

# COMMUNITY BOARD

## PARENTING WORKSHOP ON BEHAVIOUR & LEARNING

Thank you to everyone who came out to last Friday's Movie Hangout event! For those who are interested in the parenting workshop on Behaviour & Learning but couldn't attend, please see attached for the video recording which will be available until April 22.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1h48RkS1taG5qbWlQsSFO1hCVybrP62Hw/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1h48RkS1taG5qbWlQsSFO1hCVybrP62Hw/view?usp=drive_link)

## YOUTH UNLIMITED (YOUTH FOR CHRIST TORONTO) GAINING GROUND SPRING 5K WALK-A-THON

- Saturday, April 12, 2025.
- <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/youthunlimitedgta/p2p/gainground/team/i-love-walk-n-roll>

## 2025 NATIONAL MINISTRY MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT — May 20-22, 2025

Join Christians from across Canada at the 2025 NATIONAL MINISTRY MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT where we will be gathering to equip those in our community impacted by mental illness, allowing them to experience belonging. You will leave equipped, encouraged, inspired.

Hosted at Tyndale University, 3377 Bayview Ave, North York, ON M2M 3S4

REGISTER FOR 1, 2 or all 3 days!

More info here: [ministrymentalhealthsummit.com](http://ministrymentalhealthsummit.com) or [shalemnetwork.org](http://shalemnetwork.org)



## WCS 65th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: FORWARD TOGETHER—SATURDAY, MAY 3 at 2pm

You are invited to our 65th Anniversary Celebration: Forward Together. There will be a beautiful high tea, speeches, performances, silent & live auctions, and memorabilia for everyone to see and reminisce. You will also get the chance to hear alumni stories, share your own experiences of WCS, and help shape our future aspirations.

This is an adult only event. However, childcare (JK–Grade 8) is available and should be reserved in advance. Please see the RSVP link below. While there is no cost to the event, there will be an opportunity to give a freewill offering.

**Please RSVP today, latest by April 18th, to help prepare the food: [RSVP Link](#).**

We are seeking donations for our silent and live auctions, with items or services valued at \$40 or more if possible. Proceeds from the auction will directly support the school's programs and initiatives.

**If you are able to contribute, please fill out the form and drop off the items to the school office: [Donation Form](#).**

**We need 5-6 outdoor canopies/ marquees to provide shade during the event.** If you're able to lend us one (or some!), please email [lala.betty@gmail.com](mailto:lala.betty@gmail.com). Thanks for your support!

Please contact Betty ([lala.betty@gmail.com](mailto:lala.betty@gmail.com)) for any questions.

P.S. If you did not receive our previous invites, please check your spam/promotions folder. It was sent through the E2F email ([e2f@willowdalechristianschool.org](mailto:e2f@willowdalechristianschool.org)).



Blessings,

**Forward Together Organizing Committee**

## FROM THE BOARD

From our meeting on April 1, 2025:

- The solar panel loan is now completely paid off
- The "Gender and Identity" clarification documents will be presented at the May membership meeting
- A presentation was prepared to show ideas for how to improve the use of the parking lot