

THE WEEKLY

Monday, January 6, 2024



Thoughts from our Principal ...

Many, many thanks for the warm Christmas wishes, cards, gifts and words of encouragement to all of our staff. We have been overwhelmed by your generosity and thoughtfulness. From all of us, a very, very big THANK YOU for spoiling us and overwhelming us with kindness.

At the same time, we also want to wish each of YOU a Happy New Year! It is 2025! It is hard to believe, but here we are in a brand new year with a fresh start. It is picture perfect. Speaking of pictures...

How many of you like taking pictures, snapshots and/or photographs? I really like taking pics and have a long appreciation for photography. I'm nowhere near professional or very good at it, but I have enjoyed taking pictures ever since I was in grade school. I bought my first SLR with a "fancy lens" when I was in Grade 12 – a Minolta. I have taken so many pictures in my life that when I was cleaning my closet and drawers, I had boxes and boxes of prints from year's past. Before the digital age, I had to wait to see if my roll of 24 pictures were any good. I would go to Black's Photography and hope for the best – ready in one week. But if I paid extra (because I was especially impatient to see the pictures turn out) I could pick them up in 24 hours!

Perhaps some of you took family pictures over the Christmas holidays as you opened presents together. Maybe some of you went on vacation and took action shots or landscape pics, or better yet, a snapshot of your delicious dinner that night. I take pictures for mainly two reasons: first, I take pictures to help me notice things, or people, or places. Observation of the ordinary and the extraordinary can be seen through a lens, sometimes calculating how much light enters and how fast the shutter opens and closes. Although I have an untrained eye, it's an interesting hobby to frame something fascinating (or boring) and pay attention to the photograph's composure. Second, I take pictures to capture a moment so that I can go back to this memory. I'm afraid I will forget that I feel the urge to document an activity, or people, or a significant thing in my life. Sometimes, a series of pictures help me tell a story of what is happening that day or week, reminding me of a special holiday with the family or a simple get-together with a friend. Whatever it is, pictures can provide a narrative with joys and wonder.

As we look ahead to 2025, we might need to pause and "frame a picture" or two to help us pay attention to a particular moment or event. Taking time to observe or notice things gives us pause for reflection so that 2025 does not speed right past us. In addition to noticing big and small moments, let us also make an effort to share a series of pictures so that we can tell stories to each other. Show and tell about who people are in our life, what we did in school, what we did outside of school, a flower we passed by, a fast car that we saw on the road, a bug, a pet, a mountain, a grandparent, the rooftop of a building, a sunset on the horizon, a youth retreat, or a hockey team. Whatever lies ahead in 2025, enjoy people and places, moments and memories that remind us God is present, that He is always near, and that He wants us to share our stories about Him. May we honour him this year and remember that even when we don't know all the details, God has the big picture. To Him be all glory and praise this year and always.



Mrs. Patty Schuurman (Principal) - pschuurman@willowdalechristianschool.org

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PRAYER @ WCS

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

- Wednesday Worship ~ New Year Worship will be led by Mrs. Paula Wells
- Staff of the Week: Mr. Glen Eyre (Grade 6)
- Families of the Week: *Coulter (Gr.6), Dankworth (Gr.3), Der (Gr.8), DiLuciano (Gr.6), Edwards/Battison (Gr.6/SK)*
- Contact Person ~ Claudia & Cissy (WCS Parents) wcsprayerbox@yahoo.com.
- *Please feel free to email your prayer requests throughout the year.*

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

NEW STAFF

We would like to give a special welcome to new staff at WCS: Ms. Rosalie Tsang will be teaching KB for the next three months, then KA for three months after that. We are so glad to have her here at WCS!

Also, we want to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Ramon Gomes who will be teaching our Grade 4 class. In addition to Mr. Gomes in the classroom, Ms. Jenina DeVries (Fridays) will also be joining our team of EA's, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Janzen.

Thank the Lord for providing all these wonderful new staff members to WCS this January!

SKATES: If you borrowed skates but have not returned them, please do so this week. We will be skating again before March Break, and skates can be reborrowed then.

WCS NEIGHBOURHOOD LINK FOOD DRIVE

Neighbourhood Link and the school wishes to thank all the families who participated in the food drive this Christmas season. The organization was quite surprised at the quantity of food collected in the time frame given. We pray that God will bless the people that are in need of the services through this organization.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Thank you to Mrs. Eugenie Leung for all the time and energy placed in putting together a memorable Christmas Concert for all the families. Great job to all the students on your performances!

SAVE THE DATE!

PAJAMA DAYS: Yes! So fun, right? The next 3 Mondays in January will be Pajama Day! Please see the announcement in your child(ren)'s weekly for guidelines for their classroom. If not wearing pajamas, students must wear regular dress-code. Please make sure your child(ren) is dressed warm enough for recess.

PA DAY: FRIDAY, JANUARY 17: Next Friday is a PA Day for teachers to start working on term 1 report cards. There is no school for students. Please remember the teachers as they start this very large task.

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

DATE	TIME	EVENT	TAKE NOTE
Mon/Jan/06		FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL 2025	Happy New (School) Year!
Mon/Jan/06	LUNCH	E2F LUNCH	For those that have ordered.
Fri/Dec/10	LUNCH	PIZZA LUNCH	For those that have ordered.
Mon/Jan/13	—	PAJAMA & BED HEAD DAY	Dress Down Day
Fri/Jan/17	—	P.A.DAY	SCHOOL CLOSED
Mon/Jan/22	—	PAJAMA & BED HEAD DAY	Dress Down Day