

THE WEEKLY

Monday, December 9, 2024



Thoughts from our Principal ...

If you were around in the 80's, you may have received a friendship safety pin with colourful beads on them. Back then, elementary school students would wear these safety pins on their shoelaces. If you are a "Swiftie," you might have made friendship bracelets, also with various colours but also different shapes and sizes. The bracelets would be passed along to friends but sometimes to strangers as well. As an adult, there are times when I buy the same clothes as my friend because we want to be "twinning." I want to look like my friend. It worked! It worked so well because sometimes they call me by my friend's name instead of my own.



Friends are important to us. Friendships take time to nurture. Whether four years old, 14 years old, 40 or 140 years old, we all desire good friends to know us and love us, especially when we have a bad day or a fantastic day. I love reading Romans 12 when it says in verses 14-16, "Laugh with your happy friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down. Get along with each other; don't be stuck up."

This week, we have organized for Shauna Barnes and Sarah Bruce to come to our classes on December 11. They will give a seminar to each grade on the topic of "What makes a friendship healthy?" "What role does each person play in a friendship?" As part of the seminar, and for each class in age-appropriate ways, Ms. Barnes and Ms. Bruce will be asking students what/how they add to healthy friendships so that what happens between two people will grow positively in a classroom setting, then to the whole WCS school community.

As we have noticed in our culture, loneliness is a really tough thing. Jesus reminds us that he is always with us, that He is our friend through thick and thin. He also teaches us how to care for others, how to be friendly, kind and respectful. We might not be best friends after this seminar, but we do need to know how to treat each other in this school and outside WCS. How does He want us to love others since He is the One who loved us first. May we emulate Christ's love to those closest to us AND to those who are different and, on the margins, so that they will know that care and hope live during and beyond this Advent season.

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

DATE	TIME	EVENT	TAKE NOTE
Wed/Dec/11		WORKSHOP: "WHAT MAKES A HEALTHY FRIENDSHIP"	Visit to each classroom.
Wed/Dec/11—Fri/15 ~ WCS NEIGHBOURLINK FOOD DRIVE			
Fri/Dec/13	LUNCH	PIZZA LUNCH	For those that have ordered.
Wed/Dec/18	8:40AM & 7PM	WCS CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION	In the Gym
Thu/Dec/19		RED & GREEN DAY	Dress down Day
Fri/Dec/20		SKATING @GOULDING ARENA	More details to follow from teachers
Mon/Dec/25-Fri/Jan/03 ~ CHRISTMAS BREAK			

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

Mrs. Elisa Santiago (Office Administrator) - office@willowdalechristianschool.org

PRAYER @ WCS

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

- Wednesday Worship ~ Advent of Joy & Peace will be led by Mrs. Schuurman & Mrs. Santiago
- Staff of the Week: Miss Ross (Grade 4)
- Families of the Week: *Chan (Gr.1), Chen (SK-A/SK-B), Chen (Gr.7/2), Chen (Gr.7), Cheong (Gr.4/SK-A)*
- Contact Person ~ Claudia & Cissy (WCS Parents) wcsprayerbox@yahoo.com.
- *Please feel free to email your prayer requests throughout the year.*

SAVE THE DATE!

FRIENDSHIP SEMINAR—DECEMBER 11, 2024

Speakers, Shauna Barnes and Sarah Bruce, will be coming in on December 11 to give a seminar to each grade on the topic of "What makes a friendship healthy" and the role that each person plays in a friendship. They will be asking each child to consider what they contribute to a healthy friendship and how they are part of what creates healthy friendships in a class and school community.

WCS NEIGHBOURHOOD LINK FOOD DRIVE — DECEMBER 11-18, 2024

For our service event for the winter we will be hosting a Food Drive for Neighbourhood Link. They are an organization in our immediate community who provides services for the vulnerable. Please see the attachment for the list of requested items.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION—Wednesday, December 18 @8:40AM & 7PM



Come and join us for a celebration of Christ's birth. ALL STUDENTS will be part of the presentation of singing and band playing. Grade 4-8 need to wear white tops and black or navy-blue bottoms and JK-Grade 5 need to wear Sunday best. **K-5 students need to arrive at 6:45. Grades 6-8 students need to arrive at 6:40. All students need to go directly to their classrooms.** Bring an item for our Food Drive as your entrance "fee"!

SKATING—Friday, December 20

JK-Grade 3 will be skating from **12:30-1:30** and Grades 4-8 will skate from **2:00-3:00**. We need volunteers to walk with classes and help tie skates (VSS required- please sign up with your child's classroom teacher) as well as 2 volunteers to help transport skates and other materials to Goulding Arena (VSS NOT required—contact office). NOTE that all K-4 students must wear gloves, snowpants and a helmet. ALL SKATERS must wear gloves on the ice. If you do not have skates, you can borrow from the school's limited supply. They will be set up, by size order, on the stage starting Monday, Dec. 16. This is a non dress-code day but must dress appropriately for this event.

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

WCS GIFT CARDS PROGRAM

Thank you to those that have helped support the school through the Gift Card Program. The cards will be distributed by Friday, December 13. Merry Christmas!

SEEKING PARENTS HELP!

The school wishes to refresh the stage with a new coat of paint before the Christmas Concert as well as reupholster the two stage stair cases and to replace the bleacher cover with new material. We are asking for parent volunteers to help us in any of these areas, thank you! Office@willowdalechristianschool.org

TUTORING AT WCS

We are pleased to announce that we are offering tutoring on Monday through Thursday after school for students in Grade 4-8. This is coordinated by Eric Pai who has plenty of experience in this area. A number of former WCS students are sharing their academic gifts and time to support our students with extra practice or homework support. We have a limited number of spaces available, but if you are interested in more information about the subjects, times, and cost please contact Mrs. Wells pwells@willowdalechristianschool.org