

THE WEEKLY

Monday, February 24, 2025



Thoughts from our Principal ...

How do we make room for each other?

I've been thinking about something over the years: "Space for Grace" – making room to show grace to others, being kind and welcoming so that everyone has a place of not only being included but belonging. It means that when someone is not present, that we miss them because they belong – they are on the "in" not the "out." We live in a lonely world. For our students, they may be surrounded by their peers in a classroom, but sometimes they feel alone. This is true for us as adults as well. Can we make space – literally and figuratively – to provide grace so that our children do not feel alone?

Then I thought, I don't have the will or strength on my own to create the space for grace. I don't feel like it sometimes. I am hurt by people. I have my own biases and thoughts that are not kind or helpful. I don't love as I wish I could or should.

BUT, it is by Grace that we make space – it is only by God's Grace – His presence and His goodness – that we can learn and grow and have the desire and will to make space for others so that they do belong, that they feel God's love and kindness. This is God. This is Grace. The order is switched. Grace comes first.

Grace for space.

As staff, we had our devotions together during our PD Day on February 14 – Valentine's Day. Each of us had a cut-out of a heart – either pink, purple or red. As a visual (teachers need visuals as well!), the heart reminds us of the deep love of our Father. All of us are loved by God, belong to Him. He knows our hearts, our strengths, our failures, our passions, fears and thoughts. And yet He loves us infinitely. On the back of this cut-out heart that I gave each staff are the words, "Grace for space." Because of His love for us, can we make room for others – for His children in our care? We think of each and every student's name and ask God for His Grace so that we can make space for all of them, each with their own strengths and weaknesses, personalities and thoughts.

Will you continue to take time to think of all our students regularly and continue to pray that they belong, that they know God's love and care for each of them. He loves us more than we can every imagine.

We love because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19

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

DATE	TIME	EVENT	TAKE NOTE
Mon/Feb/24	LUNCH	E2F LUNCH	For those that have ordered.
Tue/Feb/25	LUNCH	PIZZA LUNCH	Postponed from Feb. 13
Wed/Feb/26	—	ANTI-BULLYING PINK SHIRT DAY	More info on next page.
Thu/Feb/27	LUNCH	PIZZA LUNCH	For those that have ordered.
Fri/Feb/28	—	HEAT WAVE DAY	See next page.
Fri/Mar/07	AM & PM	SKATING @ GOULDING ARENA	Dress Down Day
March 10—21		MARCH BREAK	See everyone March 24th

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 ~ Armor of God: Shield of Faith will be led by Mrs. Lee
- Staff of the Week: Ms. Chow (Grade 8 Teacher)
- Families of the Week: Lanois (Gr.2/SK), Lee (JK-A), Lee (JK-B), Lee (Gr.1), Lee (Gr. 2), Lee (Gr.6)
- 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

ANTI-BULLYING PINK SHIRT DAY: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

This coming February 26 is the last Wednesday in February, which is called, "Pink Shirt Day." It is also known as "Anti-Bullying Day," which originated in Nova Scotia and has now spread across the world. Please click on the link below to watch the video and learn more about the significance of the day and how we can participate. We invite students and staff to wear a pink top (does not need to be collared shirt) or socks along with their uniform pants/skirts, or an item that shows their support this Wednesday (this is not a dress down day). Thank you!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZUU1FOzkDk>

HEAT WAVE DAY: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Get ready for some fun in the sun! Wear/bring your summer clothes (dress down day) and get ready for some fun on our "tropical island" (in the gym). Students should wear proper footwear with socks as they will be playing various activities (during their designated time) including bouncing on a tropical inflatable.

WCS SKATING DAY: FRIDAY, MARCH 7 @ GOULDING PARK ARENA

JK-Grade 3 will be skating from **12:30-1:30PM** and Grades 4-8 will skate from **2:00-3:00PM**.

Please see your child(ren)'s Weeklies to see if their class needs volunteers. The office is seeking 2-3 volunteers to take skates and skate helpers over to the rink. VSS is not required. Please email Mrs. Santiago (office@willowdalechristianschool.org).

NOTE that all K-4 students must wear a helmet (mandatory), gloves, and snowpants to participate. ALL SKATERS must wear gloves on the ice. This is a dress down day but must dress warmly for this event. If you need to borrow skates from the school, they will be set up on the stage starting Monday, March 3. Borrowed skates need to be returned by end of day on Friday, March 7th.

MARCH BREAK: Just a reminder that March Break is only 2 weeks away! The school will be closed from March 10 to March 21 and excited to welcome the students back on Monday, March 24th.

SAVE THE DATE!

FUNDRAISER—FORWARD TOGETHER WCS 65th ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION:

Please save the date: SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025 (afternoon event)

The Fundraising Committee is asking for volunteers to help with the planning:

Helpers needed for Team Space subcommittee:

- ⇒ **Helpers Coordinator:** Create "volunteers sign-up forms" (e.g., Signup.com), coordinate with volunteers on their tasks before and during the event, and ensure their hours are properly logged.
- ⇒ **Audio Video Lead:** Set up AV equipment and projector (including the gym stage). Recruit help for audio/video management on the day of the event.

Helper needed for Team Auction subcommittee:

- ⇒ Join the auction team to dream up fun, exciting, and must-have auction items to keep everyone energized and entertained!

Please email WCSfundraisingdinner@gmail.com, thank you.