

THE WEEKLY

Monday, January 29, 2024



A Few Thoughts from our Principal ...

Did you know that WCS belongs to an Ontario wide association of Christian Schools called Edvance? Edvance is an excellent association that includes close to 100 Christian schools in Ontario. Their mission is to “foster excellence in Christian elementary and secondary schools. And we believe that excellence in education depends on excellence in leadership.” Furthermore, their aspiration states “As a leading voice in education, Edvance will know, unite, equip, and uplift a growing, diverse, relational network of leaders and their teams who understand their own school’s identity, who are attentive to this cultural moment, and who seek to expand the impact of Christ-centered education.”

Edvance has many services for their members including:

- professional development opportunities (the 2-day convention in October, other PD, and Peer Support Networks for all the teachers)
- leadership training and support (I have been a huge recipient of this. It includes a leadership training cohort, formal training ELDI (Emerging Leaders Development Institute, conferences, and a Principals’ cohort that hosts meetings and events)
- Board governance models and support (there are excellent videos for Boards; our Board is meeting with an Edvance representative tonight to learn more about Board governance)
- Policies (they write many policy templates that a lawyer has vetted. We use many of these.)
- Financial (they, along with Vocate, produce the yearly salary grids that we use to pay our employees; they also help us determine religious and regular teaching allocations which are used to help determine tax receipts)
- Advocacy (the president of Edvance, Deani Van Pelt, advocates for all Edvance schools within private school circles and with the government; she was instrumental in getting government money during Covid)
- Job Board (they had a job board where member and other Christian schools can post available jobs; they are our primary advertisement when we need staff)

Thus, Edvance is an excellent support for WCS. We are so blessed to be a part of them and benefit greatly from their resources. As a Christian school in Ontario, we are not actually recognized by the government. Thus, being a part of a rich association like Edvance also legitimizes our school. If you have any questions about Edvance, check out their website www.edvance.ca.

This calendar lists upcoming HIGHLIGHTS only. Refer to 2023/24 School Calendar for ALL events.

DATE	TIME	EVENT	TAKE NOTE
Mon/Jan/29	—	PAJAMA & BED HEAD DAY	Dress Down Day
Tue/Jan/30	—	GIRLS & BOYS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT	Off-Site
Wed/Jan/31	7:00 pm	WCS OPEN HOUSE	Come check us out!
Fri/Feb/02	3:30 pm	1st TERM REPORT CARDS DISTRIBUTED	Check those backpacks!
Wed/Feb/07	6:00 pm	BOARD HERITAGE POTLUCK DINNER	Come join us in the gym!
Fri/Feb/09	—	ENROLMENT INTENTION FORMS DUE	Hand-in to teacher or office
Fri/Feb/09	2:00 pm	WCS TALENT SHOW	Hosted in the gym

Mrs. Donna Miles (Principal) - dmiles@willowdalechristianschool.org

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

PRAYER @ WCS

Join our **Weekly Parents Prayer Meeting** (via Zoom) every Tuesdays @8:00pm!

Contact Person ~ Suan Fong (WCS Parent) wcsprayerbox@yahoo.com.

If you have items to include in our PRAYER section, please send an email to:

office@willowdalechristianschool.org

- Wednesday Worship ~ Pray for Mr. Baldesarra as he continues to lead on "Letting God Control Me".
- Staff of the Week ~ Ms. Kim (Grade 5)
- Families of the Week ~ Levchuk (4); Li (3); Li (1/JK); Lim (3/SK); Lin (1); Lloyd (7).

THINGS TO NOTE

BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT: (Tomorrow) **Tuesday, January 30, 2024**. The girls' team will be travelling to TDChristian with Mr. Thiessen and the boys' team will be going to Burlington with Coach Dave and Mrs. Miles. Thank you to all our volunteer drivers! A reminder to the **boys' team** that we are LEAVING at 7:50. Please be on time so that you don't get left behind!

TALENT SHOW PREPARATION: **Friday, February 9** at 2:00pm is the talent show! Parents are welcome to attend and watch their child(ren) present their talents to the school.

PIANO MOVER NEEDED: A free piano has been found to replace one of our older ones. If you know a piano mover, please let the office know. Thanks!

CALIPER PROJECT: The information session last week was very informative! If you are still interested but didn't attend, please check out this link <https://caliperproject.ca/>. To participate on Tuesday, February 6 you will need to fill in all the forms found on this link. <https://redcapexternal.research.sickkids.ca/surveys/?s=T94J4KKYJKWEMPR9> The information session taught us that children are allowed to take a friend with them for comfort, and that a numbing spray can be used for the blood draw. Mrs. Miles will also be in the room the whole time with the students to help and support students. This is a great opportunity to teach our children about give to others.

PARKING LOT REMINDER: Thank you to everyone who so quickly responded to the parking lot reminder email last week. Remember to leave space by the fence so that ALL students and parents can walk along it, instead of behind cars. Safety is our greatest concern!

INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK: Let's celebrate the cultural diversity of our school! The WCS Board is organizing a potluck for the WCS community on **Wednesday, February 7, at 6 pm** in the school gym. Each family is invited to bring a dish from their cultural background. Consider dressing in traditional cultural clothing! More information to come. Contact Person: Krystal Plaxton krystal.lee.d@gmail.com



E2F MESSAGE: Thank you very much for your generous donations to the E2F project.

Are you interested in contributing to the transformation of WCS' future? Do you have great ideas, experience in building/project management, fundraising, or promotion through social media? Then joining the Equip to Flourish (E2F) committee is a great opportunity for you! Committee members meet once a month and receive Fundraising Volunteer Hours. For more information about E2F and the Committee, please email Oksana at e2f@willowdalechristianschool.org.

2023

**WISHING WILLOWDALE CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

2024