

THE WEEKLY

Monday, October 2, 2023



A Few Thoughts from our Principal ...

Last week was a very busy week! Monday, the teachers enjoyed some excellent time of professional development. Tuesday, we had Alex from the NED Project here (thanks to all those who bought yo-yo's to support their presentation). Thursday, the boys' and girls' soccer teams participated in their tournament (thanks to all the parents who drove, Mr. Thiessen and Mr. Eyre for coaching and the students who did their best!). Finally, Friday we observed Truth and Reconciliation Day.

I was away Thursday and Friday at the Fall Edvance Leadership Conference. It was entitled "Unity in Christ: Leading Diversity Conversations in Christian Schools." Our main speaker was Dr. Esau McCaulley, a pastor, professor, and writer. We struggled with what it means to be united in Christ and what it means to be schools that welcome diversity. We listened to stories from people of colour about their experiences in mostly white Christian Schools. We sat in the discomfort, while still reaching out to the Spirit for guidance, forgiveness, and unity. The conference got me thinking a lot about our school. WCS is quite different from many Christian Schools, especially the rural ones. We are ethnically and denominationally very diverse. Yet, are we truly welcoming? Is everyone who wants to be at our table there? One thing that really resonated with me was the topic of the questions we ask others. Dr. McCaulley mentioned that in southern Alabama, where he is from, people often greet with "Where are you from?" However, for many others, that question gives the message that the person you are asking is a foreigner that doesn't belong. For someone who is white, that wouldn't offend me at all. However, for others, it may make them feel unwelcome or an outsider.

So, what were my main take aways from this conference? First, I need to be very careful what words I use. Second, I need to recognize my white privilege and biases and how they might affect a school that is so wonderfully diverse. Third, I need to welcome and be open to criticism. If I have ever said something that made you feel marginalized or uncomfortable, please tell me! I want to lean into the discomfort so that I can continue to grow. And finally, I was reminded that we are ALL fearfully and wonderfully made in God's image! Our God is a diverse God! He meets each of us where we are at any point of our own journeys! Let's praise His mighty name!

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

DATE	TIME	EVENT	TAKE NOTE
Mon/Oct/2	3:30-4:45pm	Ultimate Frisbee Tryout (Boys & Girls Gr. 6-8)	Contact Mrs. Miles
Thu/Oct/5	—	Photo Day (See Attachment)	DRESS CODE CLOTHES ONLY!
Fri/Oct/6	Lunch	Pizza Day	For students that have pre-ordered
Mon/Oct/9		Thanksgiving Day	NO SCHOOL!
Wed/Oct/11	Lunch	Pasta Day	For students that have pre-ordered
Fri/Oct/13		Chocolate Sale Ends	Money must be received
Wed/Oct/18	—	Pastor's Day	See Attachment
Fri/Oct/20	—	Backwards Day	Dress down day

Thu/Oct/26 & Fri/Oct/27 ~ Professional Development Days for Staff ~ NO SCHOOL!

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) tonight @8:00pm!**
The Parents Prayer Meeting is held every Tuesday evening at the same time.
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. Eyre as he leads worship and focuses on **THANKSGIVING**.
- Staff of the Week ~ Ms. Jackie Kim (Gr. 5)
- Families of the Week ~ *Bell (3); Bezsmertny (returning family:1/4/7); Bouwma (6/8); Cha (3).*

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

GRADE 4 TEACHER: We say good-bye to Mr. Mountney this week. He has been a wonderful addition to our staff. He will continue to do some 1 day supply teaching for WCS, so it is not good-bye! We are excited to welcome Mr. Rick Baldeserra to Grade 4, starting on Tuesday, October 10. Mr. Baldeserra did lots of supply teaching for WCS last year, so he is very familiar with our school and students. He visited the class last week, and will again this week, to get to know the students and shadow Mr. Mountney. Mr. Baldeserra will be reaching out to Grade 4 parents next week! Let's make him feel welcome!

ULTIMATE FRISBEE SEASON: Today (Monday) after school will be the one and only tryout. The Co-Ed team will be posted tomorrow afternoon and students who make the team will receive a letter with all the practice dates. There is another practice THIS week on Wednesday from 3:30-4:45. The coaches are Ms. Kay and Mr. Cheung. Staff contacts are Mrs. Kim and Mrs. Miles.

MESSAGE FROM MS. LIM: Ms. Lim wrote a card to the WCS family (it is on the FYI board outside the office if you would like to read it). In part she wrote, "Thank you so much for the kind notes, messages and well wishes...Something I've learned in this past month especially, is that I'm not alone. You are also in my heart and prayers when I'm on my walks." Please keep the messages coming. Mrs. Wells visits Ms. Lim every couple of weeks to drop off anything left in the box in the office.

BAM ACADEMY SOCCER: Last week's flyer had an incorrect email. The updated flyer is attached to the weekly. The contact email is info.bamacademy@gmail.com. (NOTE: WCS does not endorse or support Bam Academy in any way, we are only the facility they rent from).

FOR YOUR CALENDAR



PASTOR'S DAY ~ Wednesday, October 18 @ 8:35 am

We are hosting Pastor's Day and we would love to have your pastor/s join us! They are warmly invited to a time of worship, followed by light refreshments. There will be an opportunity for them to visit the classroom/s to see your child/ren in their daily learning environment. The hard copy invitation was given to the ELDEST to bring home on Friday. We are also attaching a soft copy to this email in case you would like to email your pastor instead.

WCS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR ~ Saturday, November 18, 2023

Plans are already underway for this wonderful event! This is a great opportunity to receive FUNDRAISING VOLUNTEER Hours and to meet new people. Please see the Attachments for the following: (1) WCS Information (README); (2) Community Save-the-Date Invitation; (3) Sign-Up Form/Link; and (4) Volunteers Job Description.

We want to fill our gym with different shopping opportunities for our community so we are looking for vendors for that day. Vendor Fee = \$55 + insurance (\$45 for WCS families).

Please note - all questions should be emailed to the Bazaar Committee (not the office.) Contact Helen Kapetanios and Cissy Ho at - wcsbazaar@yahoo.ca.

