

WILLOWDALE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

OCTOBER 6, 2025

PRINCIPAL'S BLURB



WHAT DO WE NOTICE?

This year, as you may know, our theme is, "Serve others." As mentioned in our earlier Weekly, serving others is simple and yet at times, we find it hard to put the needs of others before our own. There are three things to keep in mind. If we keep telling each other these three actions, then hopefully it will be in our heads and we will think, say, and act on them automatically:

- Offer a helping hand
- Offer a listening ear
- Offer a kind word

But *when* do we offer a helping hand, a listening ear and a kind word? *How do we train our children as well as ourselves, to see the need(s) even before someone highlights it for us?* Can we consider actively looking because we don't always notice things right away?

During last week's Wednesday Worship, Mr. Tam was our guest speaker. He challenged us to think about seeing beyond the surface. He reminded us not to judge a book by its cover because we never know what gift lies beyond what we think we see. When we see someone, look at them as God would – a holy child, a creation of the King, an image-bearer with dignity and talents.

Do you notice an image-bearer having a hard day?

Do we pay attention and see people or things that sometimes others do not? Do we/our children notice the Kindy student who tripped at the playscape? Or the quiet student walking on his own at recess, wishing she could play soccer with the players on the field? Or the frustrated student who is finding the math problem an on-going challenge? Or the teacher who needs a pause or a cup of coffee? Or maybe the garbage that needs picking up? Or a meal? Or...the list is extensive.

Let's commit to train ourselves to see the needs AND then to act on it. Paying attention takes discipline and intentionality. Acting on it takes courage and the time to do it. Let's all keep practicing, together.

This calendar lists upcoming HIGHLIGHTS only. Refer to 2025/26 School Calendar for ALL events.

DATE	TIME	EVENT	TAKE NOTE
Mon/Oct/06	LUNCH	SUBWAY SANDWICH LUNCH	For those that have ordered.
Tue/Oct/07	8:00PM	WCS PARENT PRAYER	wcsprayerbox@yahoo.com
Wed/Oct/08	LUNCH	PASTA LUNCH	For those that have ordered.
Fri/Oct/10	LUNCH	[CHEESE] PIZZA LUNCH	For those that have ordered.
Mon/Oct/13	--	THANKSGIVING DAY	No school!
Tue/Oct/14	LUNCH	SUBWAY SANDWICH LUNCH	For those that have ordered.

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

WCS THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE: TODAY until OCTOBER 17

Please donate to our food drive, that is sponsored by Neighbourhood Link. They are asking for healthy, non-perishable food items for neighbours who need it in the Willowdale and Finch areas. We will be collecting for the next two weeks. Let's get a ton of food to help others, WCS!

MILK & POPCORN SALE has started! Milk (Chocolate/White) is available to purchase at the beginning of lunch each day. Various flavoured popcorn packages are also available to purchase in classrooms through the homeroom teacher. It is **\$12 for 10 tickets or \$1.50 purchase per item**. We ask that the students bring in cash or a cheque. E-transfers are not accepted for this program.

GROCERY GIFT CARDS – Year Long Fundraiser

Fundraising is very important to help defray the tuition costs for all WCS families. A practical way to support the school in this initiative is to purchase Grocery Gift Cards from the office. These cards can be used at Valu-Mart, Loblaws, No Frills, etc. For each dollar that we sell, we receive 5% back. Annually we hope to raise \$8,000 - \$10,000. Gift Cards are available at the office year round (office@willowdalechristianschool.org).



WCS HANDBELL CHOIR: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8 from 3:40-5:15pm

There will be another tryout for this Wednesday, October 8 from 3:40pm-5:15pm in Kindergarten A classroom. New members are still welcome to join!

WCS LUNCH PROGRAM: Reminder that the Lunch program will run until the end of the year (October-December). Term 2 lunch order (January-June) purchase will come out late November. Please see the attachment for the lunch calendar.



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ...cont'd

WCS SPELLING BEE FUNDRAISER:

Friendly reminder for our in-class dictation is TOMORROW, Tue, Oct 7th. Having a big celebration over Thanksgiving? Bring your test results and ask your friends/relatives to sponsor you for each word spelled correctly.

Next steps: Spelling Bee results and online pledge forms are available on Friday, Oct 10 before Thanksgiving weekend where you'll have the opportunity to present your test results to your family and friends. Please also note that the tie-breaker (if needed) is on Thu, Oct 16.

Here's a sample script:

Hi everyone!

I hope you're having the best Thanksgiving ever. I wanted to tell you about something cool I did at school —we are having a Spelling Bee Fundraiser to help raise money for field trips. The best part? The money raised goes toward making sure every single student can go so that no one gets left behind. I already took my spelling test—and guess what? I spelled [insert number] words correctly! 🐝📖 You can help by giving money for each word I spelled right, \$1 or \$2 per word! Thank you for helping my classmates and I go on amazing field trips!

SPELLING BEE CONTEST @ WCS
Let's fundraise for free field trips for everyone!

Key dates

- Fri Sep 26 - Word list sent home
- Tue Oct 7 - In-class dictation
- Fri Oct 10 - Results sent home + pledging begins
- Thu Oct 16 - Tie-breaker (if needed)
- Wed Oct 22 - Zeffy Pledge forms due
- Fri Oct 24 - Spelling Bee - Live Event (School gym @ 8:45 - parents welcomed!)

Prizes

- Top 3 Fundraisers: E-reader, Squishmallows mystery box, and stationary bundle
- Top Senior Speller (gr6-8): Wireless headphones, movie bundle, and Starbucks gift cards

School wide target fundraising goal: \$10K
Extra dress down day

Winning Team: Surprise team lunch party

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

SERVICE SATURDAY: OCTOBER 18 @ 9:30am-12:30pm

We are asking for a few more parent volunteers to help with the maintenance of the outdoor landscaping and cleaning as well as painting. Some specific requests are those with a rototiller, a chainsaw, pruners and a truck/trailer to take large items off site - please let the office know if you can lend or bring these items for this service day of cleaning at the school. Contact: office@willowdalechristianschool.org

WCS CHRISTMAS BAZAAR COMMITTEE

We're forming a Planning Committee for this year's Christmas Bazaar (Sat Nov 22) and would love your help! If you enjoy organizing or bringing festive ideas to life, join us!

👉 Note: Day-of volunteer sign-ups will open closer to the event. Right now, we're recruiting planners. If you're interested, please contact bazaar.wcs@gmail.com and we'll be in touch with next steps.

COMMUNITY BOARD



A Message from: TORONTO DISTRICT CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL (TDCH)

As we look ahead to the next school year, we're excited to share a few important dates for your calendars. We hope many families will have a chance to connect with TDCH through the following events:

- 📅 **Fall Open House: Thursday, October 16, 2025 | 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

An opportunity for families to explore our school, meet staff and students, and learn about our programs and community. Official invitation to be released in the fall.

- ❤️ **Grade 7/8 Day: Friday, November 21, 2025**

· A full-day, hands-on experience for students to try out high school at TDChristian!
More details to come in the fall.

- 🍷 **Our Town – Student Production Matinees: Thursday, December 11 & Friday, December 12, 2025**

We are thrilled to present Our Town, a classic American play by Thornton Wilder that explores everyday life, love, and loss in a small town. Recommended for students in Grades 7 and up.

Matinee performances are specially designed for school groups—more info and booking details will be shared in September.

We look forward to welcoming you and your students during the 2025/26 school year!

Marissa Straatsma

Admissions & Transportation | Toronto District Christian High School

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Compassionate Hearts Donation Drive – Until Nov 15

We're collecting donations for Compassionate Hearts, a charity I founded to equip vulnerable families in Northern Uganda with Christ's hope, seeds, tools, and training to break the cycle of hunger. Bring items to Spring Garden Baptist Church (112 Spring Garden Ave, Toronto) on Nov 15, 9am–1pm, or arrange alternative drop-off with Alice Ng Bouwma

(partner@compassionateheartscharity.org). You can also give directly at thegc.org/ca/projects/compassionate-hearts. Every gift helps plant seeds of hope and lasting change. ❤️

