

Listowel Weekly Messenger

December 2, 2024

Educating children while nurturing faith in Christ to interpret and impact God's world

From the Principal's Desk...

I hope you are like me and when you read a good article, you can't help but want to share it. The following is an excerpt of an article written by Lonneke Brown, principal at Heritage Christian School in Lindsay.

I don't know if you feel the same way, but I'm becoming increasingly concerned about a troubling trend in today's society: the rise of polarization and the growing emphasis on individualism. Sadly, the impact of this trend is noticeable within my own school community. It may not always be obvious or overt, but it shows up in subtle ways—through comments, judgments, the friendships formed, and the way people interact with others. It's troubling to witness and it makes me wonder: how can I work to reverse this trend in my own community? And how can our community shine as a beacon to the broader world, offering a better way of living in a culture that often puts self above others? After all, our responsibility goes beyond academic instruction—we are shaping the next generation of Christ-followers.

Our schools have always endeavoured to be communities of grace and love—places where students, staff, and families can experience the love of Christ in a divided world. I wonder if it's even more important now to be intentional about this, as polarization and individualism threaten to pull people further apart. Social media, political partisanship, and various societal movements often divide us instead of uniting us. Our students are growing up in a culture that encourages them to live by their own "truth" and put themselves first. This mindset discourages empathy, grace, and community, often resulting in isolation. These challenges inevitably affect our school environments, seeping into relationships—whether among students, families, or staff—where differing opinions can create tension.

Sounds heavy, right? But let's pause for a moment and remember who we serve. Remember who holds all things in His hands. Remember where our hope truly comes from—Jesus.

I believe that instead of mirroring the fractured state of the world, our schools can—and should reflect the body of Christ. Each of us has the opportunity to go against the current. Paul's words in Romans 12:2 remind us: "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Jesus also gave us this command: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:34-35).

The work of building communities of grace and love is not easy. It's tempting to dream of a perfect, harmonious school, but true community is found in the messy, everyday task of loving imperfect people, just as Christ loves us. As Christians ... let's lean into this messy work. Let's resist the pull of individualism and division, and instead, model Christ-centered community. By doing so, we may not just transform our schools but also serve as a light in a divided world.

And all I can say is a resounding "AMEN."

Calendar of Events

December

- 2 -**Board Executive Meeting**
- 4 -Pizza Day - New Orleans
- 4 -Student vs. Teacher volleyball game
- 5 -Grade 8 Day at Woodland Christian High School
- 6 -Theme Chapel - Servant Working -9:30am
- Grinch Stealing Game Team Event
- 9 -Membership Meeting - 7:30pm -Rescheduled
- 11 -**Board Meeting**
- 17 -Christmas Program - 1pm & 7pm
- 18 -Pizza Day - Dominos
- 19 -Cindy Lou Who Festive Hair Day
- 20 -Christmas Assembly - 9:30am
- 20 -School skating - afternoon
- 20 -Last day of school before Christmas **Break**
- 20 -**CHRISTMAS BREAK**

Jan 6 -

Servant Working



THEME VERSE

This is how we know what love is: lesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

1 John 3:16



Please keep the following items in your prayers over the next week

- A number of students and staff struggling with pneumonia and respiratory infections;
- For the Board of Directors, the School Drive and the upcoming Membership Meeting
- Safety on the road ways for everyone as the winter weather has arrived;

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Goodies for the **Christmas Program**

With the Christmas Program quickly approaching, we're asking that each FAMILY please provide one dozen, peanut free baked goods. Please have these to the school kitchen no later than the morning of

Tuesday, December 17th, 2024.

If you have any questions, please contact the office.

SPORTS

NEWS

Volleyball Intramurals

The students in grades 6-8 had the opportunity to participate in volleyball intramurals.

All four teams won at least one game but Team Cohen (Cohen, Ryder, Logan, Zac, Reid, Carson, Dannie and Alexa) came out the victors.

They will have the opportunity to play the teachers and coaches on

Wednesday at 12:30PM.

This game will be followed by a teacher/Grade Eight game.

REMEMBRANCE DAY SUBMISSIONS

We are excited to announce that we were the **top** school for the Legion awards for poetry, writing, and art and participation at the cenotaph. We received \$100 for our effort! A larger number of students received a second or third prize and received \$20 or \$10 for their work. We have seven students who received a first place award with \$30 and their work moves on to the regional competition. Congratulations to all our students for their work.



AUCTION QUESTIONNAIRE

The auction committee is looking for your help in developing a new list of local businesses that we as a school community have connections with. Your input is

greatly appreciated.

Please complete this quick, three question survey.

Questions? Teresa Rastorfer 519-272-4837

Complete Auction Questionnaire Here

lean Event

Stay up to date with upcoming Team **Events and Spirit Days here!**

Dec 6 - Grinch (Stealing Game)

Dec 19 - Cindy Lou Who Festive Hair Day Jan 14 - Jersey Day - Wear a Team Jersey

Jan 21 - Team Event - TBD

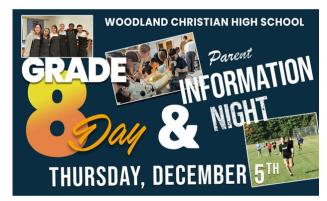




ANNOUNCEMENTS









Grade 8 Day at LDSS

If your Grade 8 student is interested in attending LDSS next year, Grade 8 Day is scheduled for

Please let the office know if your child will be absent from school that day.

Grade 8 Open House will take place on **December 12 from 5:30pm - 7:00pm**.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The **Membership Meeting Package** and Financials were sent home via email vesterday.

The Membership Meeting will be held

Monday, December 9th at 7:30pm in the school gym.

Please plan to attend.

JR Kindergarten

Junior Kindergarten A - Mrs. Baarda

It is December and we will be focusing on Christmas in JKA this month as we learn about Christ's birth and prepare to celebrate with our family and friends.

We will be making handprint angels as our art project this week.

In **language** we will continue to rhyme, blend and segment words, and listen for initial sounds in words.

In our **Handwriting Without Tears** workbook we will learn to print the letter **A**, and **M** and practice tracing shapes.

Our mystery letter last week was letter **K**. We learned that letter K makes the same sound as letter C. We learned that kite, kangaroo, koala and king all begin with the letter K. What will our mystery letter be this week?

In **math** we will begin to learn about patterns. We will learn to recognize that patterns are all around us and that there are different types of patterns.

Our new focus colour for December is **green**, our focus shape is a triangle and our focus number is 4.

In **Bible** we will read about the angels who visited the shepherds to give them good news of great joy! We will continue to practice the song "Away in a Manger" for the Christmas program as well as **Luke 2:6-7** "While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

In **health** we will learn more about families and what types of things families do together. If you have a family picture, it would be great if you could send in a copy for us to display during our unit. I will return them when we complete our unit.

Tuesday is **library day**, please remember to send back books in the plastic bag so students can reuse the bags for their new books.

Friday morning there will be an **assembly** to introduce our school theme for December, it will begin at 9:30.

Friday we will also have our team event for December. Students really enjoyed last month's event!

<u>Junior Kindergarten B- Mrs. Casadio:</u>

Our student helpers this week were Peter, Daxton and Abby!

In **language**, we have started splitting up words into how many syllables they have, our letter of the week was L.

In our "Learning without Tears" handwriting books we learned how to trace and write the letters S, J and also learned the prestroke for D,P,B and R.

In **math** we did a "Sink or Float" activity where we guessed what items are more likely to sink and what ones are more likely to float. We also graphed a variety of different items to see which ones were liked the most and which ones were liked the least.

In **health** we have started our unit on the zones of regulation. The first two zones we are focusing on are green (happy) and red (angry).

In **Bible** we learned about David's psalms of thanksgiving. We focused on Psalm 136 and we talked about all the different ways we can praise and thank God in our everyday life.

In **art** we got to do Christmas tree sponge painting.

In **science** we took what we had learned in math and did "Sink or Float" activity with the items we had discussed together during our math lesson.

On **Thursday** we had show & tell, everyone did a great job at sharing the item they brought to show the class.

Remember to please bring your library books back to school on **Tuesday**, and please send them back in the Ziploc bags as well!

Have a great week:)

Senior Kindergarten

Senior Kindergarten - Mrs. Heida

How can it be December already?! SK is preparing for Christmas by practicing songs and verse and completing many Christmas crafts. Even our classroom windows are being decorated.

This week we will focus on the heart word "a" and review the sounds of the letters that we have been learning. SK will bring home their very first decodable reading sentences. Please take a moment to read these sentences with your child, sign or comment on the bottom right corner and send them back on Monday December 9, 2024.

In **math** we will finish looking at flat shapes by decomposing shapes to make new shapes and looking for symmetry in shapes. On Thursday we will begin learning ordinal numbers which are first, second and third etc.

In **Handwriting**, we will learn how to print the uppercase S and A. The letter "s" is one that is often made backwards. We start in the middle of our printing square and print a small curve, turn and a small curve. This is always a good letter to practice at home.

We are working on printing our name using an uppercase letter as the first letter and lowercase for all the other letters.

We are learning about Christmas by using the candy cane. First we will learn that Jesus is our Rock, just like a candy cane is rock candy. Then Jesus is our strength by using the parable of the wise and foolish builders. We will see that when we believe Jesus is always by our side.

The December calendar has been sent home. Please take a moment to look at it. On the last day of school and in January, the students will be going skating. Your child will need skates, snow pants, a helmet (a bike or hockey helmet) and mittens or gloves to protect their hands while we skate. All parents are welcome to join us to help get skates on and off as well as assisting those who have difficulty skating. It is a great time for community building.

Have a great week~

Grade 1

Grade 1 - Ms. Denhartog:

Bible: This week in Bible we have created a background and characters to help tell and retell our story of Isaac and his wife.

Math: In math we have been working on the words length and height. The song and actions that go along with Deep and Wide have been helping us remember the difference. This week we will be practicing finding length and height on different objects.

Language: In our UFLI program this week we will be learning the digraph sh. Keep practicing reading your decodable stories at home.

Heart words (words we learn by heart): she, we (keep practicing these heart words).

Science: In science this week we will finish off the end of our unit of Daily and seasonal changes. We will begin our new unit of Everyday Materials and Structures.

Show and Tell: For the month of December our show and tell theme is either: An item that reminds you of Jesus' birth OR a holiday decoration that is special to you

Friday Dec 6: Olivia, Addison, Aria, Adalie, Rayah, Henri

Library on Wednesday- please return books in the Ziploc bags!



Grade 2

Grade 2 - Mrs. Grundlingh:

Here is an outline of Grade 2's work with me for this week:

Math - Number sense: We are still working on addition and subtraction on a number line with numbers to 100.

Phonics, spelling and reading: This week we will be looking at long vowel sounds in the words with silent E. Please see the homework practice sheets and spelling words going home today to help the students practice these phonics. They write their spelling words in their agendas, but please check their spelling words on Mrs. Kuipers' weekly message as well.

Social studies: This week we continue looking at the traditions and holidays celebrated in Canada.

Bible: We continue our unit on Jesus' birth and childhood. Our verse for the month of December is: "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters" - 1 John 3:16-

Library: We have library day tomorrow. Please encourage your children to develop the habit of bringing their books to school every *Tuesday*, even if they would just like to renew it. Please remember to send their library books back in their Ziplock bag to keep our library books from getting wet.

Health: In health we continue our unit on safety.

Printing: This week we will be practising the letters **P** & **R**.

Grade 2

Grade 2 - Mrs. Kuipers:

Math - We wrapped up sorting last week and are learning about symmetry this week.

Science - We started a new unit on Solids and Liquids. This unit is full of really fun experiments and hands-on learning! To complete these, I have a small list of requests. Please let me know if you have any of these items that you can send in.

- multi-pack of food colouring
- 2 3 boxes of cornstarch
- bag of frozen fruit
- tub of any flavour yogurt

Parent Volunteers - we would love to incorporate the help of parents or grandparents into our language block (reading, writing, spelling). Please reach out if you have any availability to come work with individuals or small groups of students.

Christmas Program - We will be learning the following poem and verse for Christmas. It would be great if you could practice saying it at home as well.

Poem: Come all my friends, come one and all . . . let's gather together, and let our praise fall.

Verse: Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!"

Spelling Words. Long Vowel sounds ending with silent e

Red/Yellow: gave time hope use made like rope cute these eve Heart Words: who by my one

Blue: skate white broke use chase like wrote June these eve

Heart Words: who by once one

Congrats to Seth and Hailey who won the draw this past week for practicing their spelling words, phonics, and reading this week!

Keep it up everyone!

Grade 3

Grade 3 - Mrs. Claus

Well, yesterday was quite the gift! It was beautiful on my drive this morning. The snow, aka sky barf, was glistening in the sun. It reminds me of how Jesus wipes us cleaner than the freshly fallen snow.

Bible: Test on Friday.

Math: Test on Wednesday.

Language: We are working on vowel teams this week.

Social Studies: We are finishing up with the indigenous and moving on to the settlers.

Mrs. Claus



Grade 4 - Mrs. Delleman:

I Know It / Memory Work - NO assignments or memory work for this week.

Math - We have finished our unit on multiplication and will have a test on THURSDAY. Students will need to know their multiplication tables (up to 12), how to do 3-digit by 1-digit multiplication, estimating multiplication, and answering word problems. Smartboard notes will be sent home WEDNESDAY night to help students study.

Spelling - Below are the spelling team lists. They are also available to practice with online at www.spellingcity.com/tdelleman. Dictation will be NEXT FRIDAY.

- *The Spellers* smell, spool, skateboard, ski, smock, skull, spoon, spear, skirt, skeleton, spill, skip, sponge, skunk, smoke
- Dynamite Rulers kick, take, took, bike, sick, tock, shook, shake, duck, flake, spoke, pack, strike, cook, lick, sock, smoke, look, struck, like, book
- Perfect Pencils wife, wives, sheep, foot, feet, loaf, lives, women, leaves, leaf, geese, women, mouse, loaves, life, wolves, mice, goose, knives, knife, wolf, tooth, deer, teeth
- **Team ACMD** braver, bravest, happier, happiest, calmer, easier, calmest, prettiest, closer, closest, easiest, craziest, stronger, strongest, cooler, crazier, hotter, prettiest, coolest, weakest, hottest, dirtier, weaker, dirtiest

Grade 5

Grade 5 - Mrs. Tenorio:

We had a busy week last week with quizzes in Bible and Grammar and celebrating Purim on Wednesday but it was great to witness the students' progress in their learning and to have fun together on Wednesday.

Bible - We are starting a new unit on Jesus' birth and early life - just in time for Christmas! We will be working on our memory work, due **December 18, 2024**. Please also continue to practice the memory work at home.

Memory Work: 8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in clothes and lying in a manger." Luke 2:8-12

Language - We are doing our final copy of our letter responses to our penpals in Mexico. We are also working on reading comprehension in class and I encourage you to keep working on reading comprehension at home. We have new words for spelling and the next Spelling Test will be December 5th, with the last one on December 16, 2024. Please remember your plastic bag for your library books when you take them home, as there has been book damage due to leaking water bottles, etc. Library days are on Wednesdays.

Spelling Squad - nail, day, glass, snail, play, slave, may, taste, shape, grain, grave, they, gray, fail, past, trade, stay, brave, stand, tray, gain, say, trash

Spelling Melon Bombs - sleep, slept, keep, kept, sweep, swept, know, knew, bleed, bled, freeze, froze, say, said, drive, drove, throw, threw, draw, drew, shine, shone, slide, slid

Mexican Spellers - safe, safety, active, activity, festive, special, novelty, tranquil, festivity, specialty, novel, loyal, casual, loyalty, tranquility, humid, minor, humidity, certain, casualty, sensitive, minority, sensitivity, certainty

Creation Studies - We are wrapping up our unit on Indigenous cultures and Interactions before 1713 and will have a study day on Monday, December 2 for our quiz on Tuesday, December 3rd. We will also start working on our final projects for this unit in class. The students will have 4-5 class periods to complete the project, along with any additional time needed at home. Presentation day will be **Tuesday, December 10th**. I will send the document for information on their final project this week. <u>Interactions before 1713 Project choices</u>

Grade 5 - Math - Mr. Tenorio:

This week, we will review key concepts in preparation for our test on Thursday. Following the test, we will begin our next unit on decimals.



<u>4e Niveau: Madame Van Kampen:</u>

*Unit: La Météo (The Weather) Plans: *Thursday: a second assessment on the 12 weather descriptors that we have been using. *Unit: La Salle de Classe (The Classroom) and its objects and school spaces. Plans: *introduction to the basic vocabulary with activity pages/worksheets to support learning object names.

<u>5e Niveau: Madame Van Kampen:</u>

*Unit: La Salle de Classe (The Classroom) and its objects and school spaces. Plans: *prepositions of place [and identifying the location of a classroom object or a particular student] as well as expressing possession using de. Both situations will require review and use of the verbs Être (=to be) and Avoir (=to have).

<u>6e/7e Niveaux: Madame Van Kampen:</u>

*Unit: Les Vêtements (Clothing) Plans: *due by end-of-class Thursday: final copy of the full-page [coloured and with written phrases] 'ad' for a specialty store/shop focussing on the clothing & accessories sold there.

*pronunciation focus: part 1 of liaison avec "s" (i.e words that end in "s" followed by a word starting with a vowel).

7e/8e Niveaux: Madame Van Kampen:

*Unit: Les Vêtements (Clothing) Plans *snow day revision: due Wednesday for Grade 8: translation [to English] of the style summaries for Emma and Armand as begun in class last Thursday. *each student will be sharing/reading his/her personal style ["Mon Style"] summary with/to the class.

*pronunciation focus: part 2 of liaison avec "s" (i.e words that end in "s" followed by a word starting with a vowel)

*for oral and reading practice, reading and presenting school-themed dialogues [requiring 2, 3, or 4 participants].

PARENTS: a reminder to please return signed assessments to school. These serve as a record of keeping you abreast of your child's progress.



Grade 6 & 7

Grade 6 & 7 - Mrs. O'Boyle:

Last Week's Weekly Highlights -

- 1. Wrapping Up Homelessness Slide Shows This week, we completed our slide show projects on homelessness and focused on preparing to present them to different classes. It's been a meaningful experience learning how to communicate this important topic effectively to different age groups.
- 2. Exploring Perspective Drawing We dove into the art of perspective, learning how to draw in one-point and two-point perspective. Students practised techniques to create depth and realism in their artwork, unlocking new creative possibilities.
- 3. Testing Bernoulli's Principle Hands-on experiments brought Bernoulli's principle to life as we explored its applications in science and everyday life. It was an engaging way to connect theory to real-world scenarios.

Here's to another week of learning and growth!

Language - In reading, we will be looking at predicting and inferencing. In writing we will work on descriptive writing. We will learn to create vivid and engaging narratives by mastering sensory details. In grammar, we will be working on editing. In fluency, we will continue reading a text on Acorns. In phonics, we will use a series of games and activities to continue to strengthen our skills and set ourselves up to be better readers. We will continue our novel study on Anne of Green Gables. In spelling, our next test will be on Dec. 9th. Please watch your child's agenda for nightly spelling practice activities for at home review.

The Big Macs - Sort 29 - ear, fear, hear, rear, near, dear, year, beard, spear, clear, tear, heart, hearth, heard, earth, learn, search, yearn, earn, bear, pear, wear, swear, tear

The Spelling Champs - Sort 44 - scent, cease, cell, cent, gem, germ, city, gist, card, cart, calf, gave, code, golf, goose, cough, cub, guess, guest, guide, guilt, gym

The Spelling Bulldozers - Sort 17 - hoping, quoted, joking, racing, skated, pasted, chatted, greeted, shouting, floated, leaking, needed, hopping, skipped, plotting, wrapping, telling, winning, hunted, dusted, panting

The Sam-a-llama-ding-dongs - Sort 52 - sunny, slowly, happily, quickly, rainy, clearly, snowy, easily, foggy, misty, safely, quietly, stormy, loudly, angrily, closely, chilly, cloudy, windy, noisily, breezy, roughly, lazily, smoothly

Cursive Snack - Remember to practice your letter and bring your snack on the following dates.

K - Jenna - Dec. 4th L - Taylor - Dec. 11th M - Jadon - Jan. 8th



Grade 6 & 7

Grade 6 & 7 - Mrs. O'Boyle:

Bible - We're continuing to learn about Journey Two, but we'll also dedicate part of our Bible lessons to our new mission of being Justice Seekers. We hope to deliver our sorted clothing from the clothing drive to It Takes a Village at some point this week. Thank you for your contributions. We will also be presenting our research projects about homelessness this week.

Our memory work for this month is: This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 1 John 3:16 Due: Dec. 20th

Science - This week we will continue our unit on Flight. We will be discussing the aerodynamics of flying discs. Ask questions like "What makes a frisbee fly?" and "How does the shape of the disc contribute to its flight?" We will also complete a STEM challenge with a frisbee. We will also compare and contrast the principles of flight between hot air balloons and airplanes. Asking questions like "What are the main differences in how these two types of aircraft achieve lift?" and "How is control maintained in each?"

Health - We will continue to learn about bullying.

Art – Sketches Dec. 1-7 are due Dec. 19th. Dec. art vocabulary and art history quiz will be on Dec. 19th. We will continue to learn about space. **Grade 6** will be looking at one-point perspective, whereas, **Grade 7** will look at two-point perspective as we create cityscapes and modern houses.

Library - We will have library every week on **Wednesdays**. Please remind your child to pack their books.

Grade 6 & 7 - Mr. Tenorio:

We will review angles and areas in preparation for our test on Thursday. After the test, we will start our next unit on fractions and decimals.

Grade 6 & 7 - Mrs. Vogel:

History: We are continuing to work through the communities that shape Canada throughout history and today. There are sheets that will periodically need to be finished at home if they are not complete in class.

Band: We are working on getting some songs ready for the Christmas concert in a couple weeks. Keep encouraging practice at home, 10 min. 3 times a week or more.



Grade 7/8 - Mrs. Vogel:

Writing: We are starting a project with grade 6/7 for the month of December where we will be writing letters back and forth and learning how to use Al to edit and change the voice of the letter. Look for a letter to come home with more information.

W.W.W.: All groups have their work due and will have a test on their words on Friday, Dec. 6.

Guided Reading: We are working on writing an article on the Syrian Civil War so that we better understand the conflict that one of the main characters is fleeing and why he would need to leave that conflict. Students should finish drafting the article by this Thursday so it is ready to peer edit. We will also continue reading Refugee chapter 4 this week.

History: Look to have a test in the next weeks.

Band: We are working on getting some songs ready for the Christmas concert in a few weeks. Keep encouraging practice at home - 10 min. 3 times a week or more.

Grade 7 & 8 - Mr. Tenorio:

Math: This week, we will review key concepts to prepare for our upcoming unit on fractions and decimals.

Science: On Monday, we will conduct a short experiment, and on Tuesday, we will have a test on substances and mixtures.

Bible: We have started a new unit on prayer. I encourage all students to pray daily at home and begin applying what we learn in class to their personal lives.

Grade 7 & 8 - Mrs. O'Boyle:

Health - We will be learning about bullying this week. We will be looking specifically at recognizing bullying behaviour and the psychological impacts of bullying.

Art - Sketches Dec. 1-7 are due Dec. 19th. Dec. art vocabulary and art history quiz will be on Dec. 19th. We will continue to learn about space. **Grade 7** will look at two-point perspective as we create modern houses. **Grade 8** will look at three-point perspectives in cityscapes.

