

# KNOX TALKS



Weekly Newsletter of  
John Knox Christian School

December 19, 2011

*"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 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 guest room available for them." Luke 2: 1-7*

If you continue reading the second chapter of Luke, you will read about the angels and the shepherds offering up praise and glory to God as they worship the newborn King! We too have this opportunity to praise God for His gift of Jesus, as He is worthy of all the praise we can offer! This week, at John Knox Christian School, we will be praising God with our Christmas program, but we will also offer praise to God in our classrooms, in our school work, in our play, when we go skating, and much more! We can offer our lives to God so that all we do may be worship and praise to our King, who so deserves our praise, our love, our dedication, our thoughts, and our deeds! Please join us in worshipping our Lord as we celebrate the gift of Jesus! On behalf of John Knox Christian School, I would like to wish you and your family a blessed and joy-filled Christmas season. May the peace and love that Jesus brings impact your lives now, and in the coming year!

Sincerely, Michael J. Meinema: Principal and COO



Monday	- Westley deVries, Gr.8; - Adam Hickey, Gr.8
Tuesday	- Eric Streutker, Gr.1
Wednesday	- Cameron Lang, SK; - Leah VanderSpek, Gr.8
Friday	- Dylan Groen, Gr.8
Saturday	- Alex Feyen, Gr.7
Dec. 26	- Mrs. Verbeek, Gr.8 Teacher
Dec. 31	- Kyle Bean, Gr.5; - Janelle Kroondijk, Gr.4; - Derek Overzet, Gr.5
Jan. 2	- Halli Koopman, Gr.3; Mrs. Koopman, School Secretary
	- Dylan Stockmans, Gr.3; Kevin Stockmans, Gr.3
Jan. 3	- Kira Burrill, Gr.4
Jan. 8	- Cora Branderhorst, SK

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

**Ice Skating!** We will be going skating on Thursday December 22nd which is always a great time! Parents are always welcome to join us at the Community Complex located at 381 Finkle St. We will be taking the whole school in two shifts, and the skating schedule will be as follows: Grades 4-8: 12:15 - 1:30 (they will leave JKCS on the bus at 12:00 and return around 1:40)

Grades JK-3: 2:00 - 3:15 (they will leave JKCS on the bus at 1:45 and return around 3:25)

Please note there are some new policies and laws in place now regarding health and safety (both with JKCS and our school's insurance, but also with the Community Complex), so this year, everyone who goes out on the ice must wear skates, but also a helmet and gloves. I checked with the complex, and bicycle helmets are fine and any gloves will work, but all students, staff, parents, etc. who go out onto the ice must wear a helmet and gloves! Please make sure to send these items along with your children on the last day of school before the Christmas holidays so that we can all have a great, and safe time out on the ice! MM

**Skates wanted:** Wanting to borrow a pair of girls skates for a JK student who wears size 9 or 10 shoes. Please contact [s.linker@jkcs.on.ca](mailto:s.linker@jkcs.on.ca) if there is anyone with an extra pair.

800 Juliana Drive, P.O. Box 1597 Woodstock, ON N4S 0A8

phone: 519-539-1492

fax: 519-539-1893

email: [johnknox@execulink.com](mailto:johnknox@execulink.com)

website: [www.jkcs.on.ca](http://www.jkcs.on.ca)



**December 20 (2pm) Seniors Tea:** We are hoping to host a great event for the community again this year!! If you know of seniors who would be interested in attending our event, please invite them. We will have invitation cards in the office to pick up if you need them.

**Basketball Clinic for Boys and Girls on Wednesday January 4, 2012:** Any students taking part in the girls' basketball team this season or the boys' basketball team are invited to come out for a basketball clinic on Wednesday January 4<sup>th</sup>. We need to get some practice time in since the season begins the week we return from the Christmas holidays! We will run some drills, practice some skills, learn some plays, etc. from 9:30-11:30 am. Mr. Meinema and Mr. Strikwerda will be there for sure, and some others may also join us to help out! This is not mandatory, but we would like to encourage as many students as possible to come out and join us! MM



**Please remember that JKCS is a Peanut Free School!** In this season of giving, it is common to have treats sent to school for the staff and students, and while we so appreciate this, I do want to remind everyone that we do have some students at JKCS who are allegoric to peanuts. Please keep this in mind with not just baked goods, but with items such as candies as well. Please check the labels of items you are planning to bless JKCS with! MM

**Wee Creations Christian Preschool** is accepting registrations for January, 2012. We have openings on Tuesday & Thursday mornings. Children aged 2-4 can attend once or twice a week. Call the preschool at 421-9755 for more info or to arrange a tour.

**A Change in PD days in January.** As a staff, we focus on collective topics for professional development, and this year, we have been working on "Assessment and Evaluation". At JKCS, we dedicate a number of days throughout the school year to professional growth for our staff, and an opportunity has come up for the teachers to attend a professional development day on January 19<sup>th</sup>. The Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools (OACS) is hosting an Assessment Conference on January 19<sup>th</sup> in Oakville, so our staff will be attending this day together. We had a PD day scheduled for January 30<sup>th</sup>, where we were going to focus the day on the topic of Assessment, so we are going to switch the days off for JKCS in order to be able to attend the OACS conference with our whole staff. So, there will be no

school on January 19<sup>th</sup> and we will have a regular school day on January 30<sup>th</sup>. This is a great opportunity for the whole staff to grow, and because we want to make the best of our professional development days, we felt this was an opportunity we could not pass up!  
MM



**JKCS presents our Annual Dessert Social "WIN IT IN A MINUTE" style.** Put your game face on and come out to support the school. There are prizes to be won, dessert to be eaten, and fun to be had. Individual tickets are \$20 or host a table for \$150. There will be contests for the best themed table, best dressed individual and highest scoring team. Come and join us on January 28, 2012 from 6:30pm to 9:30pm. For tickets contact the school office or a member of the fundraising committee (Steve Haagsma, Jenny Morton, Allyson Heidinga).

**Bazaar:** I know it is early but we are starting already to plan the bazaar on March 31 2012. We are really in need of people who can organize the games. I was thinking on a committee of 4 men/women. It is a lot of work, but if you do it together it is less work, more fun and more new ideas. The first meeting is in January. If you like to be a part of the committee, please let me know so soon as possible. Thanks, Hilde Makkink [hildeschuringa@hotmail.com](mailto:hildeschuringa@hotmail.com) phone: 519 688 6312

**JKCS ELECTIVES.** I am starting to think about our JKCS Electives program, where grades 4-8 have the chance to spend one afternoon per week doing something different! We have had groups that have gone skiing, curling, playing pond hockey/ice hockey, doing stamping, sewing, photography, cooking and baking, bowling, woodworking, painting water-colours, and many more options as well. If you have a talent you would like to share with a group of students, please let me know! We always love finding more volunteers who are willing to teach students something new! The groups meet from the end of second recess on through the end of the day, one day per week, for the five weeks before March break. That would have us starting our JKCS Electives program during the first week of February. We have not chosen which day of the week is best yet, as I want to work with both staff and volunteers to pick the best day which will allow the most people possible to lead our electives program. If you would like more information, or you have any questions about this program, please let me know at [principal@jkcs.on.ca](mailto:principal@jkcs.on.ca) or call me at the school. MM

### Music Notes:

**Grade 4/5:** Recorders start back in January. Try to practice over the break. Remember about our practice contest!

**Grade 6, 7, 8:** Playing Test on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Practice journals due Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>. For the month of December expectations are: Grade 5/6 - 150 minutes; Grade 7 - 180 minutes; Grade 8 - 210 minutes.

**Choir, Chimes & Flute Ensemble:** Thank you for representing JKCS and, most importantly, Jesus Christ, so beautifully last week on our visit to Woodingford Lodge. The residents really were blessed and so was I. Remember "Sunday Best" for our Christmas Programs on Tuesday & Wednesday. Please arrive by 6:45. Go to your classrooms. Happy practising and Christmas Blessings from Mrs. Martin.

**Junior Kindergarten:** What a fun week we have ahead of us! We have been diligently practicing our songs for the Christmas concert; those performances are at 1:45 on Tuesday (for JK and SK) and 7:00 (be at the school at 6:45 please!) on Wednesday night. Please wear your Sunday best for Wednesday night. Also, don't forget to bring skates, a helmet and gloves for Thursday as we are going skating with the school. Parents are welcome to join us for this! My prayer is that through the busyness and festivities of the coming weeks off we will pause and think about what Christmas is truly about! May you have a very blessed Christmas and a wonderful start to the New Year!

Tuesday - Seniors Tea; Show & Share: something from the nativity, Library

Thursday - Skating with the school (12:15-3:15)

Friday - No school! Christmas break begins!

**Senior Kindergarten:** Welcome to a new week! Have a blessed Christmas celebrating the birth of our Saviour. We will perform on Tues. afternoon and sit with our Grandfriends at the tea. Please be at the school by 6:45 on Wed. evening. Everyone needs to have a helmet and gloves for skating. Have a great week!

Tuesday - Senior's Tea

Wednesday - Christmas Program 6:45

Thursday - Carol Sing, Skating, Christmas Celebration

**Grade 1:** You will find the grade 1 newsletter posted at [www.jkcsgrade1.wikispaces.com](http://www.jkcsgrade1.wikispaces.com).

**Grade 2:** Merry Christmas!! We hope that everyone has a wonderful Christmas Holiday filled with the Lord's blessing. We thank God for sending his son Jesus to us, and the wonders that Jesus would do in life and with his death and resurrection. This week is very busy and exciting with all the Christmas events that we have going on. Tuesday and Wednesday we will be

performing our Christmas program, please wear your Sunday best. Wednesday evening, please have your child at the school by 6:45 so that we can get prepared for the program starting at 7. Thursday, we will be going skating at the community complex. If you would like to go on the ice, you MUST be wearing BOTH a helmet and gloves. On Thursday afternoon, we will be having a class Christmas party. Please see the note sent home with your child today or tomorrow.

**2A:** We will be finishing off our study of the Velveteen Rabbit this week by writing about our own "real" friends. Please bring these friends into class this week. There will be no show and share or spelling test this week.

**2B:** Hi parents! We will be adding the last three symbols to our Jesse Trees this week, and they may be taken home after the Christmas program Wednesday evening. We will be wrapping up our 2-D Geometry and Velveteen Rabbit units over the next few days. There will be no spelling test or Show & Share this week; the spelling list sent home today is for the first test in January.

Tuesday - Seniors Appreciation Tea and Christmas Program

Wednesday - Memory work due (Luke 2:6-11)

- Evening Christmas Program (7:00 start)

Thursday - Carol Sing (8:30) - Skating; - Class Party

Friday - Christmas Vacation

Sunday - Happy Birthday Jesus!

January 1 - Happy New Year!

January 9 - Back to School

**Grade 3:** Welcome to the last school week of 2011! May God bless you all this Christmas and in the New Year! No memory work or spelling this week. We will be skating on Thursday. Everyone needs to wear helmets and gloves. We will celebrate Christmas with a class party on Thursday. Students may bring a snack or treat to share. I will provide juice.

Tuesday - Library; Phys. Ed.; Christmas program for seniors

Wednesday - Christmas Program at 7pm.  
 Thursday - Skating (helmets and gloves); Christmas Party

**Grade 4:** In Math, we began a unit on Probability. This is a fun unit to explore together as a class. We will be finishing our Magic School Bus presentations this week. Tomorrow will be the last in class day to work on them, so some may have some work to do at home. Please ask your child if they need to complete their work on their presentation at home.

Thursday - Spelling Test Lesson 14. Words went home today. May you all have a blessed holiday season as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour. See you in the New Year.

**Grade 4/5:** Welcome to the last week of school in 2011, grade 4/5!! We have a very busy week ahead of us grade 4/5. Grade 5, make sure you are ready for your speech on the day you chose. I am eagerly looking forward to hearing your speeches. At this time of the year we have so much to celebrate! Thank you God for sending your one and only Son to earth. Thank you Jesus for becoming a baby and coming to save us! On Thursday, we are skating and in order to skate your child needs to wear a helmet and gloves. Please bring these items to school on Thursday, along with skates in a bag. Thank you so much parents and students for your Christmas donations. We are deciding today what we will use the money for. Make sure you ask your child tonight. I want to wish you all a very blessed Christmas with your family and friends. May God bless you all richly in 2012!!

Monday - Julia; - Phys. Ed.  
 Tuesday - Naomi; - Music; - Speeches: grade 5  
 - Christmas program for Grandparents  
 Wednesday - Katie; - Library  
 - Science test: Rocks and Minerals  
 - Speeches: grade 5  
 - Christmas program 7:00 PM  
 Thursday - Josiah; - Christmas carol sing at 8:30  
 - Spelling test: lesson 15 grade 5  
 - Math test: grade 5; - Music; - Skating  
 - Happy Birthday Derek, Janelle, and Kira!  
 Friday - Christmas holidays  
 January 9 - Kira; - Phys. Ed.: bring your clothes

**Grade 5/6:** I wish everyone a blessed Christmas! This week is a busy one prior to our Christmas Break. Grade 6 should again be practicing two math drills at home this week. Last week, we have been working on topic sentences and paragraph development in class. This week we will be working on our speeches. The written copy of the speeches will be due the Friday after we come back from Christmas holidays. As students write their speech they will share their speech with me so that I can aid with the writing process. The introduction should be prepared for Thursday.

Tuesday - Matinee  
 Wednesday - Evening performance  
 Thursday - Spelling test: Unit 16 (grade 6)  
 - Opening paragraph for speech written & shared with teacher  
 - Bring in skates, gloves, helmets, & gift (remember, peanut free)

**Grade 7:** Wishing you all a very blessed Christmas and much

peace and joy in 2011. "Glory to God in the highest on on earth peace on whom His favour rests." This week is full of many different activities related to the advent season; it is exciting to celebrate the birth of our Saviour and also to look forward to when He will return again. It is speech week - practice at home in front of family and friends.

Monday - Last group goes to the VanRooyen's  
 Tuesday - Christmas program matinee for grandfriends  
 - Literature test: choices (study your review sheet and look over the stories)  
 Wednesday - Speeches begin  
 - Geography: Australia/Oceania quiz  
 - Christmas Program in the evening  
 Thursday - More speeches  
 - Spelling Lesson 16  
 - Skating  
 Friday - The holidays begin

**Grade 8:** Welcome to our last school week of 2011! Thank-you to Mr. VanderSpek who spoke to us about Nicaragua. We wish your team strength and wisdom as you minister and witness to our neighbours there. It will be a full and interesting week with time to celebrate God's gift of Jesus. We will also celebrate five other birthdays in grade 8. Wishing everyone God's blessings during Christmas break. May you have time for relaxing, worshipping, celebrating, playing, and praising! God is good!

Monday -AR reading due/AR quiz  
 - All school rehearsal, Phys Ed  
 - Science lab & Hobbit ch.7 due  
 Tuesday - Library (try for no overdues!)  
 - "Follow the Star" matinee  
 Wednesday - Bible test  
 - Written or typed copy of speech due. We will begin learning speeches in the first week of January. Speeches will be performed for the class on Jan 17.  
 - "Follow the Star" evening performance. Students need to be at school by 645 pm.  
 Thursday - Spelling test 16; - Mem Wk Luke 1:46-48  
 - History quiz; - Carol Sing Chapel  
 - Skating & helping @ Southwood Arena. All must wear helmets & gloves!

**CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Dec. 20 Senior Tea (1:30)  
 Christmas Program Matinee (2:15)  
 Board Meeting  
 Dec. 21 Staff Meeting; Christmas Program (7 pm)  
 Dec. 22 Carol Sing (8:30); Skating; LDCSS Concert  
 Dec. 23 P.A.Day  
 Dec. 26 - Jan. 6 Christmas Break  
 Jan. 9 New Year's Assembly 8:30  
 Jan. 11 Staff Meeting  
 Jan. 12 Coffee Morning; Sub Day  
 Jan. 17 Board Meeting  
 Jan. 19 P.D. Day\* (NEW)  
 Jan. 26 Pizza Day; Staff Meeting  
 JK / SK Information Evening  
 Jan. 28 "Win It in a Minute" Dessert Evening  
 Jan. 30 P.D. Day (CANCELLED)