

KNOX TALKS



Weekly Newsletter of
John Knox Christian School

November 28, 2011

As we near the Christmas season, we again will be bombarded with the pressure to buy, buy, buy. As Christians, it is always difficult to stay focussed on the true meaning of Christmas. As a teacher, and a parent, I feel the need to try to constantly remind our children (and ourselves) that it isn't all about the gifts. But how do we make this real? How do we, as adults, be role models that shine Jesus light during this amazing season? How do we let our children know that they are role models themselves? I certainly do not have the answers, but I think the fact that we know that Jesus' birth needs to be announced over again every year is a good start. The challenge is to do this – shout His birth from the mountain topssing Hallelujah!!!! Thank you Lord for sending your Son. May you all be blessed through this advent season.

L. Lammers



Monday	- Andrew Dieleman, Gr.7
Wednesday	- Mrs. Pier, Teacher Assistant
Thursday	- Vanessa VanWyk, JK
Sunday	- Landon Lichti, SK

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

No School on Thursday or Friday This Week. Please remember that we have a short week for the students this week. On Thursday, December 1st, Parent-Teacher Interviews will continue from the night before, and on Friday December 2nd, the staff will be gathering together for a Professional Development day here at JKCS. The staff will be learning about 21st Century Skills for teachers and students, and also about integrating technology into teaching! Please pray for the staff of JKCS as this remains a busy week for them including evening PTIs etc. MM

Hockey Day at JKCS! On Wednesday morning, Cody Sol from the Kitchener Rangers OHL will visit JKCS. Cody will read hockey books in the library, sign student hockey sticks (students may bring a stick to school) and play floor hockey with students at recess. Students are invited to wear their favorite hockey jersey to school on Wednesday! Thank you, JKCS Student's Council.

Usborne Books: We are excited to be back again for the Book Fair !! Over 2500 amazing titles available! Over 90% are \$20 or less! Please check www.usbornebooksathome.ca for all the awesome books! Free book draw too! Accepting cash, cheque and credit cards! Great ideas for every age! Marlene Lendvay: lendvay@execulink.com.

Scholastic Book Fair: Dr. Seuss once said "The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." Our book fair is quickly approaching! Students will be able to view the books and

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

phone: 519-539-1492

fax: 519-539-1893

email: johnknox@execulink.com

website: www.jkcs.on.ca

fill out their "wish lists" on November 29 or 30th. The book fair will be open to parents during the Parent Teacher Interviews on November 30 and December 1.

Senior Boys Volleyball: Last week Wednesday we travelled to London to play Blessed Kateri, and lost in 3 games against a very strong team. Thanks Mr. Wildeboer for driving! This past Friday the boys played in the Woodstock District tournament and gave it their best shot (or should I say – bump, set, spike). We ended up 1st in our division and in the play-offs played Clinton and beat them in 2 games. We then played in the semi-final game versus Strathroy, and lost to them in two games with about a 5 point spread. It was a good season, boys! I would like to thank Mrs. Hoiting and Mrs. VanRooyen for driving the boys to and from the tournament in London, and the many other drivers we counted on during the regular season. Thanks so much! G. Hiemstra

Ice Skating! We have booked our annual Christmas ice skating outing again this year, so we will be going to the Community Complex (381 Finkle St.) on Thursday December 22nd. We have the Red ice pad rented from 12:15 - 3:15, so we will schedule the 2 skate times as we usually do with grades JK - Gr. 3 skating for the first portion (with Grade 8 there to help out) and grades 4-8 skating for the second portion of the booked time! You are always welcome to join us at the Community Complex to skate with your children! 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 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!

Podcasting for JKCS! In an effort to share more about what happens here at John Knox Christian School, I have started recording short podcasts on topics that pertain to life around our school. So far, I have done three podcasts under the title "From the Principal's Desktop", and I am working on my 4th podcast, which will be posted by mid-week. A new section has been added to our school website (www.jkcs.on.ca), where you can listen to these 3 to 5 minute pieces about the happenings of JKCS. You can also subscribe to the podcasts via our school website, so that when a new file is uploaded to the website, you will be notified, and we are also posting the podcasts on the school's facebook page. It is my hope to be able to do some podcasting for our school choir and our school's concert band, so that you can eventually download some of their performances from our school website as well! I hope that this will help you will learn more about all the great things happening at our school, and that these podcasts might also provide information for new families interested in exploring who we are, and what we do, at John Knox Christian School!

Michael J. Meinema: Principal and COO

Looking for working Wii Remotes: JKCS is looking for a few Wii remotes/controllers or Wiimotes! It is possible to use the infra-red technology in these controllers to create interactive whiteboard technology for the school, at very little cost. If you would like to see how this works, go to <http://www.ecanvas.ca/> for more information. If you have some extra controllers that you are willing to part with, please drop them off at the office! These can become Wiimotes can become more great tools the staff uses to integrate technology into teaching, which adds to more engagement in student learning! If you have any questions, please ask Mr. Meinema. MM

December 20 (2pm) Seniors Tea: Anyone who is able to help out by either donating food, serving, set up (crafty table decorations) & clean up for this event could you please send an email to d_streutker@jkcs.on.ca!! We are hoping to host a great event for the community again this year!! THANK YOU!



JKCS presents our Annual Dessert Social "WIN IT IN A MINUTE" style. Put your game face on and come on 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).

Music Notes:

Choir: Many thanks to the members who sang "O Canada" for the Navy Vets game last Friday. Our week is very busy in preparation for this coming Sunday, December 4th when we sing at Innerkip Presbyterian Church. Please be there at 8:30 am so we can warm up and get a sound check. Please wear your white JKCS shirt and dark bottoms. We will be singing at both services (9 & 11). You may leave with your parents after we are done singing in the second service. In preparation for this, we will have rehearsals at 2nd recess on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Grade 4/5: I hope you are continuing to practice on your recorders, remember to aim for 10 minutes of practice every day. We are having a contest to see who can practice the most!!

Grade 5/6 Band: Please be working hard on "Jingle Bells" for our Christmas program. Also be prepared for the playing test on Tuesday. You may play #48,49,51 or 53. New Theory assignment is page 6 on sharps and flats. The new history assignment is p4 & 5 on The Middle Ages. Both are due next Tuesday, December 6th.

Grade 7 Band: Please continue working on Joyeux Noel. Also be prepared for the playing test on Tuesday. You may play #39,41,42 or 43. New Theory assignment is p8 on Time signatures and metre. Also new history pages 4-9 over the Baroque period. All are due next Tuesday, December 6th.

Grade 8 Band: Please give attention to new section in your method books, Baroque music. New history assignment will be handed out on Tuesday and due in 2 weeks. Be prepared for the playing test on Tuesday this week over #48, 49, 55 or 57.

Grade 7/8 Chimers: Listen to morning announcements as to when we will be practicing this week.

Happy practicing!! Elizabeth Martin

Junior Kindergarten: Welcome to our very short week! We ended last week on a celebratory note with blue day; we created a mural with Gr. 4/5 and we are very thankful for their help in our class! I am very much looking forward to meeting with most of your during our Parent-Teacher Interviews. Today is an exciting day as we wrap up our unit about transportation with a Green Eggs and Ham day! Please check your e-mails later this week for general news about December's events and happenings. Have a wonderful week!

Tuesday - Library, show and share: your favourite type of transportation; Green Eggs and Ham celebrations.
Thursday - Parent-Teacher Interviews: no school
Friday - P.D. Day: no school

Senior Kindergarten: Welcome to a very short week. Thank You very much to Mrs. Lichti and Mrs. Lang who helped us bake on Friday. We had a lot of fun! We wish Landon a very happy Birthday on Saturday! We pray that God will bless you with a great time of celebrating! Have a great week.

Thursday - PTIs no school
Friday - PD Day No school

Grade 1: The newsletter is sent by email on Monday.

Grade 2: We are looking forward to meeting with you this week during Parent-Teacher conferences. Please return pre-conference forms by tomorrow. Thanks. This Wednesday, hockey player Cody Sol will be visiting JKCS. We are looking forward to hearing him read to us in the library. Student council is encouraging us all to wear hockey jerseys. No Show & Share or spelling tests this week for either class.

2A: Hi parents! The Sleepover that we had on Friday was a BLAST! Everyone had a great time. Look for some pictures in our newsletter next week. We have begun to study Flat Stanley, a little boy who can fit inside an envelope. We would like to send our own Flat Stanleys traveling across Canada. Please send an address of someone that your child can send their Flat Stanley to by Wednesday, Dec. 7. We will be preparing our Flat Stanleys for their journey.

2B: Hello parents! We are very excited to share our Robert Munsch plays with you tomorrow morning. Performances will begin at 8:45 in the gym. Our Flat Stanleys are eager to begin their Canadian adventures. If your child has not yet brought in an address, please send one in by tomorrow so we can slip them in the mail this week. Thanks.

Tuesday - Pre-conference form due
- Munsch Plays (2B)
- Phys. Ed.

- Wednesday - Jersey Day
- Library
- PTIs (pm)
- Last day to say Psalm 100
- Thursday - No school (PTIs)
- Friday - No school (PA Day)

Grade 3: Welcome to a short week. I look forward to meeting with parents this week to discuss the progress of your children. We are publishing our own "Nate the Great" books this week. We won't have memory work this week but we will have a review list for our spelling test on Wednesday.

- Tuesday - Library
- Phys. Ed.
- Wednesday - Week 12: Review List

Grade 4: We will have a spelling free week. Enjoy the long weekend!!

Grade 4/5: Welcome to a very short, but busy week! On Tuesday, grade 5 is going to participate in "Race Against Drugs" at the Fairgrounds. We will leave at 9:30. Well done book reports grade 4 and 5. I was very impressed. Grade 5, your spelling test will be next Monday instead of Wednesday. Study hard!! I am looking forward to visiting with all your moms and dads this week. On Wednesday we are choosing the next book we will read for AR book reports. This book is due January 19, 2012.

- Monday - Janelle
- Phys. Ed.
- Tuesday - Adrienne
- Gr.5: Race Against Drugs
- Music
- Book Fair visit at 2:20
- Wednesday - Andrew
- Library: return your books
- Science vocabulary quiz
- Thursday - PTI's
- Friday - P.D.Day
- Monday - Kira
- Gr.5: Spelling test lesson 12
- Phys. Ed.: bring clothes

Grade 5/6: This week students from gr. 6 will bring home a drill sheet. Students should do two of those drills this week at home. This week we have a shortened week. Students, I am looking forward meeting with you and your parents this week (please

see note in last week Friday's envelope). Please bring in the signature cards anytime this week.

- Tuesday - Gr. 6 goes with Gr.5 to Racing Against Drugs. We leave at 9:25 a.m.
- Presentations on countries due
- Wednesday - Go to book fair immediately after devotions
- Book report due
- French Quiz on ER verb conjugations
- PTI meetings (Wed. & Thurs.)
- Students lead in prayer and take parents through portfolio of work and through items on the report card.
- Next Mon. - Memory Work: Luke 16: 12-13
- Spelling test: Study hard!

Grade 7: Advent season has begun and in our devotions the next few weeks we will be celebrating the joy and wonder of Christ's coming to earth. Just a note that students are encouraged and welcome to come to the interviews on Wednesday and Thursday. If you have not signed up for an interview time please phone or email the office and Mrs. Koopman will find a time that works for you. johnknox@execulink.com

- Tuesday - Math Test: Unit 3
- Speech topics ready. We are starting the outline today.
- Book fair
- Wednesday - Wear a hockey jersey today
- Memory Work: Psalm 139: 1-1
- Science Quiz
- Geography Map Quiz: Northern Africa
- Next Tues. - Books are due for AR. You'll have plenty of time to finish them over the weekend.
- Next Friday - Sloppy Joe Lunch: Three grade eight students and their families will be hosting a Sloppy Joe Lunch to raise money for schools in Nicaragua. Students are encouraged to bring a cash donation or item donation - see list below. Items can be gently used.

Donation Suggestions for Grades 7&8: Calculators, Backpacks or book bags, Notebooks for students, Spanish dictionaries, Crayons, Pencil sharpeners, Index (recipe) cards Construction paper, Tape recorders or CD players, Tapes or CDs of songs in English or Spanish for (e.g. Alphabet Song; Head, Shoulders, Knees & Toes; Days of Week), Used magazines

appropriate for children with lots of pictures to use as vocabulary teaching tools Please feel free to bring donations in ahead of time - I will have a basket at the back of the room.

Girl's Volleyball: Congratulations on a great season, girls! Your skills have developed tremendously and your attitude and enthusiasm were amazing. Some of you have a jersey still - would you pass them on to me this week? We'll have a celebration lunch Wednesday second recess. Mrs. Y

Grade 8: Welcome to another week – the beginning of December already! Students are encouraged to attend term one conferences to share their portfolios with parents.

Monday - Phys Ed
 Tuesday - Music, Library, Book fair
 Wednesday - Biography poster due, spelling quiz
 - character sketch (typed) due
 - French Quiz on passe compose; half period of health class
 - hockey day: wear a jersey or team colours
 - first term conferences
 Thursday - first term conferences day & evening (no school)
 Friday - Prof. Development Day (no school)
 December 6 - Cell project due
 December 9 - Sloppy joe lunch: bring school supply (or \$\$) see knox talks note/email

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS:

Nov. 28 VanStraten Baked Goods order deadline
 Nov.29-Dec. 1 - Book Fair
 Nov. 30 Parent Teacher Interviews 7-9
 Dec. 1 Parent Teacher Interview 9-3, 7-9
 LDCSS Membership Meeting
 Dec. 2 P.D. Day*
 Dec. 8 Staff Meeting
 Dec. 9 Chicken order are in!
 Dec. 13 Coffee Morning 8:30
 Dec. 15 Pizza Day
 Dec. 20 Christmas Program Matinee
 Board Meeting
 Dec. 21 Christmas Program
 Dec. 22 LDCSS Christmas Concert
 Dec. 23 P.A.Day
 Dec. 26 - Jan. 6 - Christmas Break

SONG OF THE MONTH: God of the Poor

1. Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair,
 Lord, in Your suff'ring world, this is our prayer.
 Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace,
 sunrise to sunset Your kingdom increase.
2. Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills,
 work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills.
 Land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak,
 voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak.

Chorus: God of the poor, friend of the weak,
 give us compassion we pray,
 melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.
 Come change our love from a spark to a
 flame.

3. Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,
 cities for sanctu'ry, freedoms to share.
 Peace to the killing fields, scorched earth to green,
 Christ for the bitterness, His cross for the pain.
4. Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams.
 Plundered and poisoned our future, our dreams.
 Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed.
 Make us content with the things we need.
5. Lighten our darkness breathe on this flame
 until Your justice burns brightly again;
 until the nations learn of your ways
 seek your salvation and bring You their praise.

Title: God of the Poor	Words & Music by: Graham Kendrick
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'Sloppy Joe' Lunch for Nicaragua December 9, 2011 1st recess!

Remember the last bake sale? Well, next week again, our Nicaragua mission-bound students in grade eight, along with their parents and classmates, are inviting the whole school to lunch. That's right - sloppy joes for lunch in our gym on Friday, December 9th. As we seek to be God's heart, hands, and feet to our world and seek to find opportunities for Service-Learning at home and internationally, we ask that students assist by bringing either a cash/cheque donation for the lunch, or choose an item from the list suitable for their grade as their donation. Cash or cheques are always welcome, and are considerably less bulky to transport!

Here is a note from the organizers in Nicaragua:

Hola!!! We are working with a local organization called the Hope and Development foundation which works with various schools in the Villa Carmen area. We would love to share some of the projects they are involved in as well. We are currently hosting their monthly workshops they hold for the English teachers and we are excited about what God has planned for the different schools in the area by bringing together various ministries and churches. Here is a list of supplies that some of the teachers put together as a "wish list".... (items do not need to be new, but they should be in very good condition)

Donation Suggestions for JK, SK, Gr.1,2,3

- Letters of the alphabet in plastic or paper
- Easy learning games
- Floor puzzles or games for different subjects
- Large puzzles to learn letters
- Large puzzles to learn numbers
- Fingerpaints
- Glue sticks
- Glitter
- Coloring books and crayons
- Easy reading books in English or Spanish
- Posters that promote education for their classrooms:
learning English, alphabets, math, etc



Donation Suggestions for Grades 4,5,6:

- Staplers and staples for the teachers
- Watercolors and brushes
- Paper for painting
- Lined paper for schoolwork
- No. 2 pencils
- Permanent and acrylic markers in various colors
- Adhesive tape in various sizes
- Scissors in various sizes for teachers and students
- Bottles of glue
- 3 (or 1) hole punch for teachers
- Used magazines appropriate for children with lots
of pictures to use as vocabulary teaching tools



Donation Suggestions for Grades 7&8:

- Calculators
- Backpacks or book-bags
- Notebooks for students
- Spanish dictionaries
- Pencil sharpeners
- Index (recipe) cards
- Construction paper
- Tape recorders or CD players
- Tapes or CDs of songs in English or Spanish for (e.g. Alphabet Song; Head, Shoulders, Knees & Toes; Days of Week)
- Used magazines appropriate for children with lots of pictures to use as vocabulary teaching tools