

"A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other." I Corinthians 12:7 (NLT)

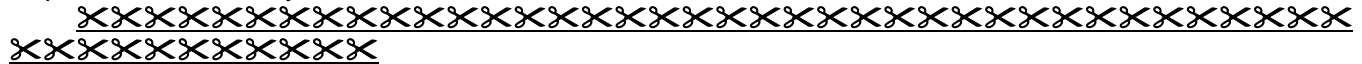
<b>Calendar of Events:</b>		
Jan. 20	-	JK Drop In Days
Jan. 20	-	School Skate - 2:30 - 3:30 Timken Centre
Jan. 27	-	PD Day ( <b>No School</b> )
Jan. 30	-	Basketball Tournament
<b>Advance Notice:</b>		
Feb. 6-22	-	Magazine Sales Campaign
Feb. 6	-	Magazine Sales Kick-Off
Feb. 11	-	STCCS Dinner Auction

**From the Principal's Desk:**

In January one of the things that our school focuses on are JK drop in days. JK drop in days are extremely important for the growth of our school. We had our first JK drop in day last Friday and, in spite of the snow, we had a pretty good turnout. We will be having our second JK drop in day this Friday and I would like to ask you to pray for the families who are considering our school as the place to educate their children. We recognize the sacrifices that parents who choose Christian education have to make. And we realize that it can be a hard decision. But we also believe, whole-heartedly, that Christian education is an essential part of our children's growth into Christian adulthood.

**GENERAL:**

\* **School Skate** - Thank you to all our drivers for our first school skate. It was great to see so many parents on the ice enjoying skating with the students. Our second school skate is next **Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>** at the Timken Centre. We will leave the school at 2:15 p.m. and will return at 3:30 p.m. **We are still in need of parent drivers so if you are able to help, please** fill in the form below and return to the school by tomorrow or call the office. Parents are again invited and encouraged to join us for our skate! Students in SK to Grade 2 **must** wear a helmet. Please also remember to send along booster seats if your child(ren) requires one. Thank you! **Please cut off and return to school.**



I will \_\_\_\_\_ will not \_\_\_\_\_ be able to help with transportation with the school skate on \_\_\_\_\_ Friday, January 20, 2012. I can take \_\_\_\_\_ students.  
\_\_\_\_\_ My vehicle is insured.

*The mission of St. Thomas Community Christian School is to assist Christian parents in providing Christ-centred quality education, in a caring environment, to develop the academic abilities and talents of children through the integration of faith and learning and living.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Name

- \* **Basketball Practices** - Practices are on Monday, Wednesday and Friday until the tournament unless otherwise posted.
  
- \* **STCCS Dinner Auction: Saturday, Feb.11, 2012** - Reserve your tickets now for the dinner auction by calling Judy in the office. The tickets are \$25.00/person and include a catered dinner and a fun evening with a silent and live auction. The booklet of items for the live and silent auction is being put together now, and we are excited about the variety of goods and services that have been donated. It is not too late for your donation to be added. Please contact someone from the auction committee: Miriam Bonvanie, Sylvia VMS, Jennifer Westendorp, Heather Pettit, Sara McCormick or Nancy Baker to add your item donation to the auction booklet. Silent Auction: begins at 3:00 PM and goes until 7:00 PM (invite your friends and neighbours to come along and check it out) **Dinner:** begins at 5:00 p.m.(call Judy to reserve your tickets) **Live Auction:** begins at 6:00 p.m. **An Auction Request to all STCCS families:** Each class is putting together a basket for the upcoming Dinner Auction. Would you please purchase a small item for your child to contribute to his/her class' basket? These items need to be brought to school by Wednesday, Feb. 1st, 2012. Thank you! JK: Kid's Activity Basket SK: Family Games Basket 1/2: Movie Night Basket 3/4: Baking Needs Basket 5/6: Delectable (Gourmet) Treats Basket 7/8: Grade 7/8 will provide a service by doing spring clean up or chores for the highest bidder
  
- \* **STCCS JK Drop In Days** - We would like to invite all children born in 2008 (and their parents) to "Drop In Days" for Junior Kindergarten at STCCS **this Friday, January 20**, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and noon. We have these two mornings set aside for you to come to the classroom and get a "feel" for what our school is all about. You will be able to meet the JK teacher, principal, potential classmates and explore our JK program. Please feel free to stop by the school at anytime between 9 a.m. and noon. We look forward to meeting you! [www.stthomaschristian.org](http://www.stthomaschristian.org)  
77 Fairview Ave. 519 633 0690
  
- \* **Grocery and Certificate Programs** are back and running. Certificate orders are due Monday by 7:00 p.m. and will be available for pickup on Wednesday after 8:30 a.m. in the school office (if the cards were in stock when you ordered them). If you would like to start a standing order (weekly, bi-weekly or monthly), please talk to us and we will get you set up with that.
  
- \* **Attention! STCCS Yogurt Cup Recycling:** *Just a reminder that we are no longer accepting/recycling yogurt cups.* This year our school community helped divert 3673 units of yogurt cups from landfills (3 small cups or 1 large = 1 unit), and brought in a total of \$75.46 for the school. The total weight of the yogurt cups we sent in was almost 53kgs! (We are continuing to collect ink cartridges, cell phones (not portable home phones), laptops, mp3 players, digital cameras, juice jammer pouches, shampoo/conditioner/soap bottles etc.) Thank You for your support!
  
- \* **Parents** - please note that if your child chooses to bring a toboggan to school, it should be a saucer, crazy carpet or one made of a plastic material.
  
- \* **Four Fun Fridays in February (Electives):** We have scheduled four Friday afternoons in February (February 3, 10, 17 and 24) for our elective workshops for students in grades 3 — 8. Some workshop ideas that we have offered in the past were crafts, baking/cooking, making small motors, puppet making, introduction to guitar, photography, hockey, etc. Other ideas are woodworking, first aid, chess/strategy games, fitness, etc. If you are interested in helping, leading one of the above, or creating your own workshop, please let the office know as soon as possible so that we can organize these afternoons.
  
- \* **Magazine Sales** - We are looking ahead to February when we will have our annual Magazine Sales Campaign to raise money for our Student Fund. Please ask family, friends and neighbours to save the labels of the magazines they wish to renew and remind them about our upcoming campaign.

\* **Scholastic Book Club** - Orders are due by this Friday, Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>.



\* **Samko Fundraiser:** We raised \$55.74 for the school from the Samko Fundraiser.  
Thank you!

\* **Hockey Elective:** I am looking forward to having the hockey elective this year once again. From the students who participate in the elective, we will create a team that will compete at the District Tournament in Strathroy. I just want to remind parents to make sure that your son or daughter has proper equipment that fits them. We do have some equipment here at school if you need something. Please contact me if you need further information. Mr. V.

### **STUDENT SERVICES - MRS. LAARMAN**

Try using post it notes as a study/comprehension tool. Comprehension sticky notes are comments that a student attaches to material as they are reading. They are created as the student reads and are typically reviewed when the reading is completed. This helps students to slow down during reading, consider what they are reading and connect the material to their own life experiences. They can summarize what they have read (For example: Animals live in different habitats) or write questions on passages they don't understand (For example: What does the word 'environment' mean?).

### **JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN - MRS. BAKER**

This week in JK, the children are learning what happens when a rule is broken. We talked about punishment; someone in our story disobeyed a rule and was punished. Ask your child about it. Next time we will discover the joy of forgiveness. Our class will be contributing to the upcoming school fundraising auction by putting together a "Kid's Activity Basket." Would you please send in one item that is a big hit with your children to add to this basket? It could be a copy of your child's favourite story book, play dough, markers, or puzzle, etc. These need to be new items that I will put together in a wrapped basket for the auction. Thank you.**Math:** Measurement **Bible:** Jesus Chooses His Disciples & His First Miracle

### **SENIOR KINDERGARTEN - MRS. VANDENBRINK**

Well.....we had a touch of snow, but not enough to pursue our plans for Winter Fun. It will come yet!! There are a few exciting events coming up within the next little while. First, there is a second **school skate this Friday** from 2:30 — 3:30 p.m. at the Timken Center. Please send to school skates, a helmet, and a booster seat. Please also consider being a driver. Secondly, there is a **STCCS Dinner Auction** the evening of February 11. SK is putting together a **Games Night basket** for the live auction. Please send to school an item to add to the basket. It could be a game your family enjoys, a game you think another family might enjoy, snacks that would be enjoyed at a family games night, etc. Anything that is fun for a family games night. **Items should be at school by Monday, February 6.** Thirdly, a **storytelling unit** will begin at the end of January; information about this will be coming home shortly. We have a missing item mystery: please look at home for the Writing Backpack. Some of its contents are here at school, however, the back pack did not come back. Please check at home for it . Next Wednesday, January 25 is **White Day**. Friday, January 27 is a **PD Day** (no school).

**Happy Helpers:** Friday, Jan. 20 — Drew; Monday, Jan. 23 — Faith; Wednesday, Jan. 25 — Jared

## GRADE 1 & 2 - MS. MOSTERD

Wow! The weather has been all over the place this week. Please make sure you are sending in hats and mitts for these extra chilly days. An extra pair of socks and even pants for wet days is also helpful.

**Bible Memory Work:** On Tuesday, January 31st, students will be saying John 3:16.

**Word Wall Words:** over, could, use, been, some

**Skating:** This Friday is skating. If you are able to drive, please let Judy know as soon as possible.

**Auction:** A reminder that the school auction is coming up on February 11th. As such, our class will be putting together a basket that will be auctioned off. Our theme is movie night! If each student could send in one new item for the basket that would be great. We will be looking for things like: kids movies, popcorn, snacks and anything else related to a fun movie night. Thank you for donating!

**Reading Tip:** Review tricky rules that we have talked about in school. For example, remind your child that when two vowels go walking, the first says its name. E.g. seat= s-E(a)-t. Another rule to review is: the E makes the vowel say its name in words that have a\_e etc. For example: cake...the E makes the A say its name. Have fun reading!

**Author of the Month:** Dr. Seuss: see <http://www.seussville.com/> for some fun activities online.

**Comprehension Tip:** Synthesizing: It's important to teach students to review what they're reading. After you read a page or two, talk about what you've read with your child. This will help them understand the overall text.

**Typing Website:** Check this out for some fun typing practice:  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/flash/s1pop.shtml>

**Poetry Books:** Thank you for keeping poetry books in your childs' back-and-forth bags. Please read these poems together sometime over the course of the week. Every Thursday or Friday we will add our new poem(s).

**Library:** Rumour has it that the newly renovated public library is open! Going to the library is a great way to promote and encourage reading at home.



**Storytelling:** This week I will be sending home information for our upcoming storytelling event.

With such a late holiday this year, time has been slipping away quickly. The Legion holds an annual speech/storytelling event. This year it falls on Saturday, February 4th. If you would like your child to participate in this event, please start memorizing a story as soon as possible. We will arrange for your child to present their story the Wednesday before the event to practice in front of our class. Participating in this competition is a great opportunity to go out into our community and practice presenting a story in front of an audience...and possibly win a prize! Please let me know the book that you have chosen as soon as you know. Thanks!

## GRADE 3 & 4 - MR. VANDERKOOI

The students are really excited about our new Social Studies unit which studies the relationship between the early explorers and the First Nations groups of Canada. We will really stretch ourselves in this unit to see the perspective of both sides and how we can seek to be peacemakers in our world by healing broken relationships. As we hear about the situation in Attawapiskat First Nation and other First Nation communities it is clear that much restoration needs to take place, and yet there are no easy answers. Thank you for discussing the Table Talk questions with your children. Those will continue to come home to help students think about the topics at home before we discuss them in class.

Yesterday I sent home the Grade 3 Word Wall sheet for January so that you can practise the spelling of those words at home. I also want to remind you that our class' regular homework is to read 4 times per week for 15-20 minutes. This can be done online at [raz.kids](http://raz.kids), in magazines, or with books. Our first book report will be coming up for Grades 3 and 4. This will need to be done with a chapter book. More information will be coming soon about that. These will most likely be due in the middle of February.

We have spent lots of time this past week measuring various items with millimetres, centimetres, and metres, and yesterday we even walked a kilometre down the hallway. Ask your son or daughter how long it took, and how many laps we needed to do!

### **GRADE 5 & 6 - MRS. MIEDEMA**

The students are busy learning about forces and building structures in Science. This week the students have built a beam bridge, a truss bridge, and a cantilever bridge. They are also busy researching different disasters caused by forces acting on structures. In a few weeks their research will be presented in the format of a news report. I'm looking forward to these presentations.

I have had the opportunity to read most of the "power points" the students wrote on their "artists." Their written work is well done. Presentations will begin on Thursday.

For the auction, our class will be putting together a basket entitled ***Delectable Sweets and Liquid Treats***. We are asking that each student take in one or two items such as a box of chocolates, boxed specialty cookies, special ground coffee, specialty teas, a "Tim" mug or "Starbucks" mug, to name a few. Please send the items with the student to our classroom. The items will be boxed and wrapped to be auctioned off at the Dinner Auction in February.

The schedule of the week is as follows: Thursday, January 19 — Art Presentations; Thursday, February 26 — Bible Test (Patriarchs

### **GRADE 7 & 8 - MS. EDWARDS**

Greetings from the Portable! Our students presented their culminating projects for 'The Hobbit' today. I was very impressed with their effort, creativity, and attention to detail. It is always such a privilege to see the results of their independent work, and I was happy to see that many of them accepted my challenge to 'raise the bar' with every aspect of this project. A reminder that students should be reviewing their memory work every week at home for Friday checkpoint quizzes. Also, many students are leaving their musical instruments at school and avoiding home practice. Please ask to hear our newest band piece to check on their progress. Looking forward to seeing you at the School Skate on Friday!

### **ON THE CALENDAR**

Jan. 20 - Memory Work - John 1:1-5, Playing Test B-flat Concert Scale

24 - Geography Test

26 - Geography Project

