

Upcoming Dates

Dec 22: Final Day of Classes before break
Jan 9: First Day of School after break
Jan 18: Teacher In-Service (no classes)
Feb 3: Teacher In-Service (no classes)
Feb 20: Louis Riel Day (no classes)
Feb 21: Teacher In-Service (no classes)

Matheson Elementary School:

Dec 22: House Group Sing-a-long
Jan 17: Pancake breakfast (8:30am)
Jan 20: Grandparents Day
Jan 20: Movie Night
Jan 27: House Group Activity
Jan 31: Hot Lunch (orders due Jan 26)

Middle School:

Jan 19: Pancake breakfast (8:30am)
Jan 24: Grade 5 soccer at Springs
Feb 14: Grade 7 & 8 ELA exams
Feb 16: Grade 7 & 8 Math exams

High School:

Dec 22: YFC Christmas party
Jan 10 to 13: Grade 12 ELA Provincial Test
Jan 25: Staff Appreciation Day
Jan 31 to Feb 2: Exams**

**Please consult the high school exam schedule posted on the Faith Academy website.



FAITH ACADEMY NEWS

2016-2017 Vol. III



The Light of the World

As Canadians, we are well acquainted with darkness. Even those of us living in the balmy southern regions of our great country, experience short days in December. As I write this on our shortest day of the year, my sister, who lives on the west coast of Mexico, enjoys almost three more hours of daylight than we do today (not to mention the extra 30 degrees Celsius).

It's not surprising that our celebrations at Christmastime include lights - white lights, colourful lights, lights of all shapes and sizes. We do what we can to push back the darkness that seems so encompassing. The scriptures use the imagery of light and darkness to help us understand the spiritual realities we encounter. We don't have to look long or hard to identify spiritual darkness. There is ample evidence of evil around us. This is what makes the message of Christmas so hope filled and powerful. While there is darkness that is deep and encompassing, God provided the light.

Jesus came as the prophets foretold. The King of kings was born in humble circumstances, surrounded by shepherds, and announced by angels. Jesus, the Light of the world, taught His followers the way to God, and showed us that we too should spread the light into the darkness. It is through Jesus our Saviour that darkness is pushed back and defeated.



Artwork by Aina Ramos

Merry Christmas! Enjoy the time with your kids. We look forward to having them back in the new year.

- Mr. Warkentin



Christmas is on display in the elementary!



Christmas Cookies

On Tuesday, December 20th, the Maples Evangelical Church came alive with our student's voices. There was a clear message of love, hope, and God's ultimate gift - His Son - as the Kindergartens, Grade 1s and Grade 2s shared their performance of "Christmas Cookies". Mr. Franzzyck shared a short devotional about taking the time to treasure God's precious gift to us not only in December, but throughout the entire year. Both the afternoon and evening concerts were well attended.



Thank you so much to all the teachers and staff for their hard work into making this year's concerts a success. A special thanks to Miss Libby for all of her hard work in preparing and working with the students on the songs, Mr. Olojan for his assistance in setting up the stage and working the sound booth, and Mr. Leclair for bringing the risers to the Church.

On behalf of the Elementary Staff, we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas. May your hearts be filled with peace, love, and joy as you spend time with family and loved ones, and may Christ be at the center of your celebrations and throughout this New Year. Thank you for your continuous support and encouragement!

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given... And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

- Mrs. Dyck

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The Middle School Presents *The Best Christmas Present Ever!*

If you could write a Christmas play, what would it be about? Would it be about Santa and his elves, Christmas baking and shopping, or about the true meaning of Christmas that we so often forget? We had the pleasure of participating in a joyous Christmas event that focused on the miracle of Christmas - the birth of Jesus.



When we first volunteered to be in the play it was a terribly exciting time, especially when we were assigned our roles. The first time that we came together we picked a part that would be temporary. However those roles were the perfect ones for each of us; they stayed the same and worked out impeccably. This painted a picture to us that God was pleased with the message we were sharing; that all the hard work would be worth it.

Leading up to the performance there was a flurry of dress rehearsals, costume fittings, and final preparations. When the night finally came the entire cast held their breath in anticipation. When it was all said and done the reaction of the crowd filled us all with immense joy. We believe that no one left the church that night feeling alone because of the unique way our production shared Christ's birth.

Participating in this play has really given us the strength and courage to share the Good News! We hope and pray, this Christmas season, that people will not neglect the true meaning of the holiday but will instead experience the best Christmas present ever given... Jesus, Himself.

- Katie Ronald, Tirzah Kleinsasser, & Bethany Ruitter (grade 8)

Welcome Mr. McGraw

Faith Academy is proud to welcome one of our newest staff members, Mr. Greg McGraw who began teaching at Faith Academy in the fall of this school year.



Mr. McGraw and his wife Terri

Mr. McGraw attended Bible College in Edmonton. After that, he went to the University of Manitoba where he graduated in 1998. Mr. McGraw is currently doing a seminary degree online. Before coming to Faith Academy, he worked overseas as a sports consultant in the Middle East where he developed a basketball program and researched the potential of other sports in the region. In 2011, the McGraws spent the year in Winnipeg and their son Joel attended Grade 11 at Faith Academy. During that time, Mr. McGraw coached our boys basketball team.

Mr. McGraw has been teaching for 7 years. At Faith Academy, he teaches Grade 9 & 10 Doctrine, Grade 9 Social Studies, and Grade 11 Phys. Ed. The thing he likes most about his job is being able to interact with the students, and he enjoys seeing students make connections with biblical truths. In his spare time, he loves to ride his bike (weather permitting) and playing basketball. We are delighted to have Mr. McGraw at our school!

- Sarah Roopchand (grade 12)

Spotlight on Middle School French

The shelves of my classroom are filled with French literature, bilingual dictionaries, and colourful duotangs, each proudly bearing the name of its owner – one for every student in Faith Academy Middle School. The freshly painted walls are covered by vocabulary words, posters, and student work carefully written to express their thoughts using unfamiliar symbols and foreign graphemes. The space resounds with awkward stammers, patchy sentences, and the genuine laughter that accompanies the students' bold attempts to communicate in an additional language. It is with great joy and thanks to God that we welcome every middle school student into this classroom that was expressly designed to support their French language development.



The chief aim of the French curriculum is to provide students with the vocabulary and grammatical structures necessary to communicate in authentic, real-world situations. Units of study throughout the fall have included personal introductions, the weather, clothing, and daily activities. Students are encouraged to take risks and to practice saying the new phrases through motivational games and activities that build their confidence towards authentic expression. We look forward to continuing the students' French language development in the New Year!

- Madame Roemer

What Christmas Means to Me

Christmas to me means a day where the whole family comes together and celebrates the birth of Jesus and gives each other gifts. In this way it has changed from its disturbing past as it's been turned into a day about God and family. The lights and the tree all give off a sense of peace, making the day enjoyable and peaceful. To be honest I would never go outside in Winnipeg on Christmas or any winter day for that matter because of the freezing cold weather. However there's a warmth associated with Christmas that makes me forget all about that. It's a day full of gift giving but not just the gifts you unwrap but also the gifts of encouragement, kindness, friends, and family. To me Christmas is also an exciting reminder that the year is almost up and a new year full of adventures awaits. Oh yes and I should also mention that Christmas to me also means food. It also means a day of memories, mostly because of the ones I'm making but also the ones that I get reminded of from the past.

These are the things that Christmas means to me.

- Meredith McClay (7A)

Students with Drive

In keeping with the Christmas spirit of giving, Elementary students were encouraged to bring a loonie or toonie throughout the month of December to contribute to gifts for 10 children in our community.



In total, we raised just over \$200.00! Thank

you once again for your generous contributions. You have truly made Christmas brighter for these deserving children!

- Mrs. Dyck