



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER
2011

PRINCIPALS' PEN

MISSION STATEMENT

- † To provide students with an education based on scripture, the Christian perspective is integrated into every aspect of study.
- † To acknowledge the Lordship of Christ and to develop the students' understanding of their own relationship to God as well as their relationship to others and creation.
- † To provide an education which allows children to reach their potential academically, spiritually, emotionally, socially and physically.
- † To direct students in development of Christ-like character.
- † To prepare students to be of service in the community

As we begin a new month, December, much of the focus in schools turns to putting the finishing touches on school programs, which traditionally marks the beginning of the Christmas season. After all it is the month that we celebrate, in my opinion, the greatest Christian celebration. Christmas: a time of the year when we celebrate the birth of our Saviour and Lord. The tradition of gift giving is central to the festive holiday and no doubt many of us have already started to look for that one perfect gift for the loved ones in our lives. The tradition has a long history dating back to the gifts presented to Jesus as recorded in the four gospels.

In our western world we all have experienced what it means to get a gift. Every child should have the opportunity to receive a gift. As a school community it is important that we try to instill in students the importance of reaching out to our community both locally and globally, so again, this year two fundraisers that have become a tradition at our school will endeavor to help the less fortunate.

The Candy Cane Store will take place on the week of December 12 to 16, with **the proceeds going to buy "Gifts for the Nations"** For those of you that are new to the school, this is a time when parents and the school community are asked to donate small items that will be displayed at school for students on Wednesday December 14th. For a dollar students may purchase a gift for an immediate member of their family (sibling(s), mom or dad) then the money received will be divided between classes and as a class students can purchase, through various gift catalogues (goats, chickens, fresh water, etc...) **for families around the world. There is additional information on page 3.**

The other tradition that we have just finished is Operation Christmas Child. Many of you are familiar with this endeavor and this year our school filled 129 shoeboxes. The reason it was decided, three years ago, to go with this fundraiser was based on a point that for every ten boxes that are placed one commitment is made to Christ. From an economic point of view a good return for the investment. On that note I would like to thank the parents for your part in making this fundraiser a success. Three years ago when we first began this venture we filled 58 shoeboxes so it has more than doubled.

Publically, again this year I would like to thank the Frank Spragins School's administration, Mrs. Roxanne Fudge for participating in this venture. The monetary gift donated was vital to the success of this venture. In closing, only eternity will reveal the impact these fundraisers will have on the people who have given and received. My prayer is that the gifts given will affect lives in a positive way. Christmas is a wonderful time of year and comes with many traditions, may I take this opportunity to wish all families associated with Fort McMurray Christian School a very Merry Christmas and remember that:

JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON.

Mr. Joseph Champion

FMCS BOARD MEMBERS

- Marek Kiejko
- Clementine Osah
- Reina VanGenderen
- Lois Ann Emberley
- Amanda Kingston
- Carlos Rivera
- Alison Peyton
- Joe Champion
(Advisor)

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. *Psalm 119:105*

SAFEWAY GROCERY CERTIFICATES

We have lots of grocery cards available. Stop by the school office before you shop at **Safeway**. This card from Safeway works wonderfully well. You buy the \$100 card from the school and give the card to the cashier to pay for your groceries. The cashier will indicate the balance you have on your card once the cost of your groceries has been deleted. It functions like a gift card allowing you to buy groceries provided there is a positive balance remaining on your card. When the school purchases the cards, we receive an 8% profit from Safeway.

CCRP MAGAZINE FUNDRAISER

Please encourage friends and family to visit the CCRP website link <https://www.ccrp.ca/orders/> and they can use a credit card (so can you) to order magazines and the school will get the credit. Please use the code **AB745** This is valid all year, the credits just keep coming into the school.

VOLUNTEERS AT FMCS

We really appreciate the work that our volunteers do in the school for our students. Volunteers are a valuable part of the school community and can enhance the educational opportunities for children. This year, Fort McMurray Public School District also requires all volunteers interacting with children to have a completed criminal record check. While there is normally a charge for this, the school can supply you with a letter that will exempt you from the fee.

MOTHERS WHO CARE

is a group of mothers who will meet once a week at the school (Wednesday mornings at 9am-10am) for the same purpose ... to bring any needs that arise through the school to God in prayer. It is a very informal setting, you will not feel uncomfortable, I just ask that as many as possible would come together each week and agree for good things concerning our school. Most of us will be there anyway dropping the kids off, so come on in, have a coffee and spend just about an hour helping the school continue to function and grow. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email the school, or contact Melissa Sacrey at mtsacrey@shaw.ca

FMCS SCHOOL CLOTHING NOW AVAILABLE



We have set up a new account with a company "[Your School Gear](#)" You can now order FMCS clothing for adults and kids. This has a 10% profit for the school. The website is user friendly and you can order sizes, colors and choose the logo design of your choice. Pay with a Credit Card and it will be shipped to your home. I have also placed a link on the school's homepage www.fortmcmurraychristianschool.ca that will take you to their website.

They have told me if you order before Dec. 1 they will do their part to have it for Christmas...it comes by Canada Post. The rest of the year regular turnaround is two weeks.

PRINCIPALS' CHALLENGE



The students are encouraged to take part in the **Principal's Challenge** that started this past week. There is both a home component and an in-school component. The idea of this challenge is to promote the health and active living of students we have in our school. The challenge will consist of six stages with various prizes awarded at the end of each stage to the successful participants.

Students are to acquire 15 points per week, for four weeks during each stage (five points each from positive well-being, active living, and healthy eat-

ing) for the out of school portion. The activity suggested in the checklist is just a guideline and parents may add to each of these areas as needed as long as they fit each category. Students can gain a point for each activity listed.

NUT AWARE SCHOOL

Please be reminded that we are a nut-aware school (this includes all nuts and peanuts). Thank you for excluding peanut/nut-related foods in your child's lunch or snack. This year we have students in two classrooms with allergies to nuts.

RECYCLING

All recyclable containers are accepted at the school at anytime. We can also pick them up, please call for arrangements.

FMCS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The staff and students at FMCS would like to invite one and all to the annual:

Christmas Concert

Wednesday,
December 7, 2011

7:00 P.M.

Family Christian Center

160 Dickins Drive



We will be having a time of fellowship after the concert if you are able please bring a plate of goodies to share.

SERVICE PROJECTS

November was Operation Christmas Child at FMCS



November was a busy month for our students. They were asked to help at home to earn money to go towards filling shoe boxes or to give up a Christmas gift themselves to go towards the shoe box. Families raised \$1675.00 and were able to fill 129 boxes. A true showing of God's love to the less fortunate around the globe. Thank you to all the families that supported this project.



Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes and the message of God's unconditional love.

CANDY CANE STORE WEDNESDAY DEC. 14



At the Candy Cane store each student will be given the opportunity to shop for family members for a gift. Cost \$1.00/per item, 1 item per family member (if enough items kids can then buy for other family members)

We need gently used items (for the gifts), tags and ribbons for our Candy Cane store. Items can be brought to the school office starting Dec 5.

It is a great day for the kids to shop for the family and the funds go towards the

"Gifts for the Nations" fundraiser.

We need parent volunteers to help sort, wrap, and help the kids with their shopping decisions. Many hands are needed for this event and it is a great time to get to know other parents. We will have baking and mulled cider for the helpers as well.

There will be an envelope going home later in the month, with the kids for you to put the names of those receiving presents and the money as well. We ask that the envelope be handed in on Dec. 13 so we can make a list. This envelope is for immediate family, kids can bring the money for other

family members the day of the store, once all the grades have gone through once.

To make this a greener Christmas, we also ask each child comes with a reusable shopping bag to take their presents home in. Please have the child's name and Grade on the bag, if possible.

Please Call Tavia 780-791-7286 or Cherylyn 780-748-5732 if you are able to help out. It is a fun day for parents and kids alike. It is wonderful to see their excitement as they get to choose a gift that is a surprise to the parent, and a great way to

FOOD BANK COLLECTION

The district as a whole has committed to collecting for the food bank for the month of December. Although FMCS just finished an excellent event in October by collecting 1279 pieces. We will also be accepting donations in December to help with this district wide endeavor.

Fort McMurray Food Bank –
Most-needed Items

NOTE: please be sure to check the expiry date on all items.

DECEMBER FMPSD GOAL: 10,000 lbs or 4,535 kilograms

Powdered milk
Shampoo

Toothpaste
Canned Corned Beef
Canned Chicken
Canned Turkey
Canned Cooked Ham
Ketchup
Mustard
Relish
Mayo
Miracle whip
Cheese whiz
Taco kits
Burrito kits
Pizza mix
Canned milk
Salt and pepper
Spices
Parmesan cheese



Winning Class Mrs. Mywaart's Gr. 3's, for most items brought in.

FMCS will also be out in the community helping with the Syncrude Food Drive at the local grocery stores. FMCS has volunteers committed to helping around the city on the evening of Dec. 2, 2011. A big thank you to the families that have offered to help with this project.

We are on the web:

www.fortmcmurraychristianschool.ca

FORT MCMURRAY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

190 Tamarack Way

Fort McMurray, AB

T9K 1A1

Phone: 780-743-1079

Fax: 780-743-1379



FMCS has been an alternative program of Fort McMurray Public School District since Sept. of 2006.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR STAFF AT FMCS

This is Mrs. Shauna Krismer's fifth year at Fort McMurray Christian School. Mrs. Krismer has the dual role of Fort McMurray Christian School's Learning Assistance Coordinator (L.A.C.) and First Steps in Literacy Learning Coach. Her role as LAC is to make sure the special needs of any student in the school is being met. She assists classroom teachers with any intervention or enrichment that is needed, coordinating Individual Program Plans and ensuring that students receive adequate assistance from Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, Mental Health, or Family School Liason. As a Learning Coach it is a joy

for her to support teachers in their growth with the *First Steps in Reading* Literacy program and to work with them to help attain their individual professional goals. If you look for Mrs. Krismer on a Monday you **probably won't find her** as this is her day off. She chose to work part-time to better meet the needs of her family. She is excited to still be involved in Music at the school this year by working with beginning and intermediate band students Thursdays and Fridays.

Mrs. Krismer was born in Medicine Hat, Alberta. She came to know the Lord at 11 years of age when she began reading the little red Gideon bible she was given in grade five. It

wasn't until she was 16 that she became fully committed and started attending church with zeal. She has been married to the love of her life, David, for 20 years. The Krismers have one child, Nian, who is 10 and attends the French Immersion program at Ecole Dickinsfield. Nian comes from Shanghai, China where the Krismers went to adopt him at the age of 11 months. Mrs. Krismer enjoys spending her spare time reading, ringing in an English Handbell Choir, playing piano at her church as well as helping to choose the songs and hymns. In the summer she tries her best to golf.

Mrs. Krismer obtained a Bachelor of Educa-

tion degree from the University of Alberta majoring in elementary education and minor in Music. She started her teaching career in 1988 and has taught at many different public schools throughout Alberta as well as a two year stint teaching ESL in Portugal with her husband. She has much experience teaching Music but also has been a classroom teacher teaching in kindergarten, grade three, five, six, seven and eight. Mrs. Krismer believes in supporting the needs of all students in a cooperative learning environment. She loves that she is free to express and be supported in her Christian faith by teaching at the Christian School and hopes that she encourages this in her fellow staff members and students.

COMMUNITY NEWS

In and around our neighbourhoods



Norfort Gymnastics

Norfort Gymnastics Club Fall Session 2011 Registration date will be held on Thursday December 8th, 2011 at 6:00pm to 9:00pm - these classes start January 2012.

Norfort Gymnastics Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion and development of gymnastics in the Fort McMurray area. We offer many programs for all boys and girls for as early as 18 months and older. Our Gymnastics, Cheerleading, and Tramp & Tumbling programs are all available. Check us out on our facebook page to see our new Fall Session Schedule! Or stop by 8208 Fraser Avenue for more information today.

HOMWORK HELPS



A Web Book is an interactive online version of the Student Book in an easy-to-navigate format. You can use the links in the table of contents to jump to a specific unit or lesson. This site provides an easy and effective way to connect school and home learning. Students and parents can now access Math Makes Sense Student Books online from their school and home computers

How do I access Web Books: www.mathmakessense.ca/
 The log on and passwords are:

christian_students
student2009



By using this web site, you can join the hundreds of thousands of Alberta students who have enhanced their learning experience by [writing randomized practice exams](#) that relate directly to the curriculum as outlined by Alberta Education. The computer will mark your practice exam as soon as you're done, so that you can immediately see where your strengths and weaknesses lie. As the service is entirely web-based, no software needs to be installed, and it works equally well on Windows, Macintosh, or any other computer system with an Internet connection. In addition, web delivery allows us to continually update and add content to our database of tens of thousands of questions

Username: fmcs
Exam Password: 1079

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ Jan. 16 Skiing Grades 4-8
- ◆ Jan. 26 Special Assembly
- ◆ Jan. 27 NO SCHOOL Prof. Development Day

DECEMBER 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Turkey Vegetable Soup	2	3
4	5 Send in your gently used items for the store	6 Pizza	7 Hot Dogs Christmas Concert at FCC 7pm	8 Subway Roast Beef on WW.	9 Science Challenge	10
11	12	13 Envelopes/money due for Candy Cane Store Pizza	14 Candy Cane Store Hot Dogs	15 Beef-a-roni	16 Christmas Assembly 9 am Gym	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Christmas Break Dec. 19 to Monday Jan. 2 (First day Back Tuesday Jan. 3)						
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Christmas Break Dec. 19 to Monday Jan. 2 (First day Back Tuesday Jan. 3)						



Bundle up!

Dressing warm makes winter more enjoyable

By the time you read this, winter will be upon you. But you don't have to let it walk all over you.

If you prepare for winter weather and dress accordingly, you can still have fun outside.

Here's some tips on how you can keep winter at bay when you're outdoors:

- Wear layers.
- Always wear a hat or toque that covers your head and ears, and try wearing a neck warmer instead of a scarf to keep warm and reduce injuries while playing.
- Choose either mittens or gloves to warm your hands.
- A windproof shell is also a good idea to keep out the cold during the windy winter months.



This young fellow has it right. Toque, jacket and gloves.

'Tis the season to be healthy and mindful

In the holiday season baked goods are at our reach and holiday gatherings tend to always focus on food. It may be easy to eat a large amount of food without realizing.

Here are some quick tips to avoid mindless eating and promote a healthy holiday season for your family:

- **Store treats until snack or meal time.** Your child is more likely to nibble throughout the day if treats are left out in



Smile-Friendly Stocking Stuffers

Sugar-free gum
Popcorn
Trendy toothbrush
Electric toothbrush
Flavoured dental floss
3-minute egg timer
Mouthguard

an easy to access area. Keep them away in a cupboard or out of sight.

- **Offer regular meals and snacks.**

Try to offer healthy food choices at regular times throughout the day. This will help to satisfy your child's appetite so that they are content with smaller amounts of the holiday treats.

- **Slow down and taste the food.** Encourage your child to fill his/her plate once and to sit down to enjoy foods before deciding whether to take seconds. Teach your child to savour special holiday foods along with regular healthy choices.

Seasonal safety tips

*Deck the halls with boughs of holly,
Fa, la, la, la...OUCH!*

Remember that hazards are always lurking in your home, even at Christmas time! The tree, the lights, even the toys can create many dangers for you and your family. So let's all remember to **CELEBRATE!**

Check your indoor and outdoor light strings for frays, broken bulbs loose connections or broken light sockets.

Extinguish all candles when unattended.

Light your tree with indoor-specific lights (alternatively, make sure outdoor lights are for outdoor use).

Electrical outlets are easily overloaded! Make sure you are smart when it comes to plugging in.

Be sure to buy toys and gifts that are suitable for a child's age. Make sure batteries are installed properly and that packaging is disposed of quickly (to prevent suffocation).

Rearrange your room so that the Christmas tree is away from high traffic areas, heating vents, radiators, fireplaces and burning candles.

Always keep lighters, matches and burning candles out of children's reach.

Turn off your holiday lights when you leave home and before you go to bed.

Ensure real Christmas trees are watered daily to prevent drying (and a potential fire hazard).

Remember to take the time to **CELEBRATE** and have a joyful holiday season!



One thing to remember about Christmas lights: Indoor-specific lights for indoors; outdoor lights for outdoors.