



# Newsletter

January 2010

Fort McMurray Christian School  
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## 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.

Fort McMurray Christian School moved into our present facility in 2000. As I write this edition of Principal's Pen, we begin our second decade in this facility. Praise The Lord! We serve a Great God. Many people reflect on the year that has just past and as we begin 2010 I too would like to reflect on the year that was and ponder what the New Year (2010) may bring. In this issue of the "Principal's Pen", I would like to highlight a number of blessings that we have seen at Fort McMurray Christian School in 2009.

### Students

- † Overall increase of 48 % in students from September of last year bringing our student population to 95.
- † Both ECDP and Kindergarten classes over 75% full
- † Over 93% of eligible students returned in the Fall of this year
- † 38% increase in enrollment at the ECS level since September 2008.
- † Surpassed provincial acceptable level on Provincial Achievement Tests Grade 3 in Math and Language Arts
- † Surpassed provincial acceptable level on Provincial Achievement Tests Grade 6 in Language Arts and Science and Social Studies
- † Surpassed provincial Standard of Excellence on Provincial Achievement Tests Grade 3 in Math and Language Arts
- † Track and Field team made a strong showing in annual city wide Track and Field event this past spring
- † Community playground adjacent to school opened in November
- † Published our first annual yearbook

### Staff

- † All ATA staff returned for this current school year
- † Staff completed curriculum units developed from a Christian Perspective during PLC time
- † Various Professional Development opportunities available to staff
- † Successful partnership with district school to deliver First Steps training to our staff
- † Various staff providing leadership in Professional Development areas within the district
- † Staff member elected president of Christian Educators Association, Prairie provinces, for two year term

### Society

- † Welcomed 19 new families to our school society
- † Another year when we operated with a balanced budget.
- † Successful fundraisers during the first months of this year, where our school was able to give back to the community of Fort McMurray and the world.
- † Continued bussing available to all families that want it
- † Last spring the funds raised for Christian Textbook Day placed our school first among the Prairie Association of Christian Schools for the fifth year in a row.
- † Third year in a row we placed first in our category (1-200 students) for recycling in Alberta
- † Completion of planned renovations to student and staff washrooms, and ECDP and Kindergarten classroom this past summer

These are just a few highlights that come to mind; you probably can add blessings that the school has provided. Our God has been truly faithful again in the year that has past and from this reflection I look forward to seeing how He will bless us in 2010. As we look towards 2010 and the future, there are some unique challenges as God continues to grow His school, I would ask each of to be faithful in doing our part ensuring that God's plan for Fort McMurray Christian School will continue.

*Mr. Joseph Champion - Principal*

## FMCS BOARD MEMBERS

Marek Kiejko  
James Knelsen  
Reina VanGenderen  
Emmy Hanemaayer  
Kenneth Rukiidi  
Jesse Parker  
Carlos Rivera  
Joe Champion (Advisor)



## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

On December 17 a group of Moms organized our second annual Christmas Bazaar. The opportunity was made available to each student to purchase small gifts for each of their family members. The volunteers then wrapped the gifts. The proceeds from this event raised \$379.45 to go towards our Gifts for the Nations program. We were able to purchase through The Plan and World Vision a number of roosters, pigs, mosquito nets and school supplies for people in third world countries. A **big thanks** to the organizers and the helpers. Its people like these that makes FMCS a wonderful school for all our families, students, and staff to be apart of.

## MOTHERS WHO CARE

This weekly prayer time takes place every Wednesday from 6:00-7:00 pm at 175 Peterson Lane. Please join the other ladies in lifting up our school in prayer.

## 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.

## SAVE THE DATE

Our plans for *Giggles and Gala 2010* are underway and we do not want you to miss it, please mark your calendars to attend this incredible event on **Friday June 11, 2010**. Gery Schubert will be back, to entertain us once again at the Sawridge! Please consider donating auction items, perhaps a handicraft or a donation of a talent or time (i.e. babysitting, garage cleaning or painting) is always popular.

## HOT LUNCH

Please see the calendar at the end of this newsletter for dates and menu selections for the month of January. Please return your monthly form to the school with payment. This can also be found on the website listed below

## NEW LOOK FOR OUR WEBSITE

Please check out our new and improved website at [www.fortmcmurraychristianschool.ca](http://www.fortmcmurraychristianschool.ca) This will be a place for you to go to get all the current events happening at the school. Please feel free to let us know what else you would like to see posted there.

## MAGAZINE SALES

Our annual Magazine Subscription Fundraiser has now finished for in school collections. The opportunity to order on-line is available all year. Please encourage friends and family to visit the CCRP website <https://www.ccrp.ca/orders/index.php> and they can use a credit card (you can also) to order magazines and the school will get the credit any time during the year. Please use the school code **AB745**

## CANADIAN TIRE MONEY

The school is collecting Canadian Tire Money. Please send into the school office any that you have saved, or please start saving for us. This is an ongoing project, so feel free at anytime to send it in.

## 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.

## RECYCLING

All recyclable containers are accepted at the school at anytime. We can also pick them up, please call for arrangements. The next **RECYCLING DAY** is January 16; please plan to come to help sort the collected containers. Starts at 9:00 am at Mr. Champions house 175 Petterson Lane. Please let the office know if you are planning to come.

If you would like to check out our progress so far  
Go to:  
<http://www.abrc.com/cfm/index.cfm?It=901&Sv=progress>

## BIG CHEQUE PRESENTATION WAY TO GO FMCS!!!!



*Cherie Cohen presenting Joe Champion & Phil Meagher the cheque with MT the ABCRC mascot lending a hand.*

**FMCS** recycled 76,000 containers in the 2008-2009 school year. We had the **most** containers for any school in Alberta with a student count of 200 or less. As a result of this tremendous effort a \$2500 cheque was presented to the school at the Christmas Assembly on December 18 by representatives from Alberta Beverage Container Recycling Corp. This is FMCS's third year to win this award. The students each received a t-shirt and a plaque was presented to the school along with the cheque to commemorate the accomplishment. This is an incredible achievement for our school, one that is making lasting differences to the Lord's creation and our responsibility for the care of it.

## ALMONDS, MINTS AND CARMELS

As you are probably aware, your oldest child has brought home a variety of chocolates that are part of our annual fundraiser. As was mentioned in the letter that was sent home we would ask that you sell these and return to the school \$75 at your earliest convenience. We still have approximately 35 cases (mainly almonds) left to sell. Students have asked that we do something similar to last year when they earned a free lunch for selling chocolates. To accommodate that the following is put in place for the months of December and January.

- Families who request a second box of chocolates will be given a free Pizza lunch (maximum 2 pieces per student) for one day in February for all students in that family upon the return to school the \$75 for the chocolates.
- Families who request a third box of chocolates will be given 2 free Pizza lunches (maximum 2 pieces per student) for two days in January or February for all students in that family upon the return to school the \$75 for the chocolates.
- Families who sell 5 or more boxes of chocolates will be given a free hot lunch for a month for all students in that family upon the return to school the appropriate money.
- these options do not include the initial box of chocolates that was sent home

## 🎵 RECORDER UNIT FOR GRADES 3-8 🎵

We are ready to begin our recorder unit at the school.. Each grade 3 - 8 student must have an approved **recorder** and in some cases a **book** by **Friday, January 8**. The recorder stays the same from grade 3/4 to grade 5/6, but the book changes from yellow to pink. At the grade 7/8 level the students need an alto recorder. It's possible your child may only need a new book if they were at the school last year. Please see below for a list of what's required. Recorders and books are available for purchase in the office from Mrs. Hlushak. Parents who are on a limited budget may contact Mr. Champion or myself for assistance in this area. Every student will be provided for! Thank you so much for supporting our music program.

### Grade 3/4 students:

|                                |      |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Soprano recorder & yellow book | \$10 |
| ~Soprano recorder only         | \$ 5 |
| ~Yellow book only              | \$ 5 |

### Grade 5/6 students:

|                                |      |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Soprano recorder and pink book | \$10 |
| ~Soprano recorder only         | \$5  |
| ~Pink book only                | \$5  |

### Grade 7/8 students:

|                              |      |
|------------------------------|------|
| Alto recorder only (no book) | \$15 |
|------------------------------|------|

## PARENT SURVEY COMING YOUR WAY

You may have recently seen newspaper articles on Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) or changes to the Grade 12 Diploma Exams. Both PATs and Diploma Exams contribute to the Accountability Pillar, a tool used by Alberta Education to evaluate how well the education system is meeting the expectations of parents and the public. All parents want to know that their children are receiving a quality education. Grades are important but there is more to it than that. A quality education helps all children make the most of their talents and abilities.

The Accountability Pillar uses a set of 16 indicators consisting of surveys of students, parents and teachers on various aspects of quality; student outcomes such as dropout and high school completion rates; and provincial assessments of student learning.

From January to the end of February, Alberta Education will be conducting the annual Accountability Pillar Survey. In January, all parents will receive a survey from Alberta Education. In February, students and all teachers will be completing their surveys online at school.

All surveys are anonymous and ask questions about experiences with this school. In addition to English and French, the parent survey is available in Mandarin, Cantonese, Punjabi, Arabic, Blackfoot, Cree, Korean, Spanish and Tagalog.

As an annual check-up on the education system, the Accountability Pillar provides an opportunity for Alberta Education and school authorities to ensure that we're equipping students for success. Your participation in the survey helps, so we encourage you to return your survey promptly.

Survey results will be available to jurisdictions in May 2010, and will be reported publicly by jurisdictions as part of their 3-Year Education Plans and Annual Education Results Reports.

## LEARNING FROM THE MAP OF DEVELOPMENT

Students learn at different rates, and teachers are challenged to help the diverse needs within their classrooms. Students learn essential concepts and skills at different rates and in different ways, but all students follow the same path and pass through the same developmental phases as they progress in their literacy learning. First Steps provides the framework for teachers to identify each student's phase of development and offer the appropriate support and learning strategies to move each student from one phase to the next.

## STUDY TOPICS FOR January, 2010

### ECDP/ECS: Mrs. Jillian Jackman

BIBLE: The Life of God's servant Moses  
MATH: K Printing and Exploring numbers 1-10 concretely and pictorially.  
CUBS: Patterns  
ANIMATED LITERACY: K: Long and short vowels –th, Nn and OO. Draw and label:  
(log, doll, moth, nut, net, hen, pen, tooth, moon, moose, goose, pig, pin, kid)  
CUBS: N, H, M , Unit on Nursery Rhymes  
PHYSICAL ED: Gross motor games such as popcorn, balloon tag, bouncing bubbles, keep it up, Funny bones, group stretch.  
Social Studies/Themes: All about ME! I am fearfully and wonderfully made by God.  
Centers: Hospital Center and Mail Center

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### GRADES 1-2: Miss Colleen Hanley and P.E. Grades 1-5

BIBLE: Armor of God  
MATH Gr. 1: Addition and Subtraction  
Gr.2: Addition and Subtraction  
LANGUAGE ARTS: Poetry  
SCIENCE: Boats and Buoyancy/ Exploring liquids  
HEALTH: Building Muscles  
ART: Gr. 1-3 (Mrs. Dunham) Christmas Crafts  
PHYSICAL ED Miss Hanley Gr.1-3.: Basketball skills  
MUSIC: Melody  
FRENCH: We will continue to study vocabulary related to the sea.

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### GRADES 3-4: Mrs. Jennifer Dunham and Art Grades 1-8

BIBLE: Jacob and Joseph  
MATH: Whole Numbers  
LANGUAGE ARTS: Self-Monitoring and Analysis  
SOCIAL STUDIES: How Communities Work  
ART: Christmas Crafts  
PHYSICAL ED. Gr. 4-6: (Ms. Hanley) Basketball Skills  
MUSIC: Soprano Recorders and Note reading  
FRENCH: Students are writing and illustrating a paragraph about their family

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### GRADES 5-6: Ms. Dwana Fifield

BIBLE: Stories of the Ancient World  
MATH: Multiplication and Division  
LANGUAGE ARTS: Reading Groups; Writing: Narratives and News Articles  
SOCIAL STUDIES: The Atlantic Region  
SCIENCE: Chemistry  
HEALTH: People Need People  
ART 4-6: (Mrs. Dunham) Patterns/Christmas Crafts  
PHYSICAL ED.: Gr. 5 (Ms. Hanley) Basketball Skills.: Gr. 6 (Mr. Champion) Basketball, Skating, Indoor and Outdoor games  
MUSIC: Grade 5 Soprano Recorders and Note Reading Grade 6: theory and alto recorder  
FRENCH: Students will write a paragraph about their school

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### GRADES 7-8: Mrs. Emberley & Mrs. Krismer

BIBLE: (Mrs. Emberley): The Beginnings of the Kingdom of Israel and the Division of Israel (Genesis, 1 and 2 Samuel, and 1 Kings)  
MATH: (Mr. Champion) Grade 7 Fractions Decimals and Percent Grade 8 Operations with Fractions  
SOCIAL STUDIES: (Mr. Champion) How the Renaissance Period shaped our worldview!!  
PHYSICAL ED.: (Mr. Champion) Basketball Skating Indoor and Outdoor games  
LANGUAGE ARTS: (Mrs. Krismer) The Bronze Bow Projects  
ART: (Mrs. Dunham) Artists Study  
SCIENCE: (Ms. Fifield) Cells and Systems  
Music 6/7/8 - Theory and alto recorder  
Drama 7/8 - Movement, Voice  
FRENCH: Students will write a paragraph about their school

# Math Problems of the Month

In an effort to develop within students a love for Math , what follows are problems based on the outcomes students are presently or have just finished in their particular classes. All students are encouraged to participate with the following guidelines:

## TO BE ELIGIBLE

- Students are to completely answer the question or questions from their grade level
- Students are to completely answer the question or questions from the grade or grade levels below them
- Student's name and grade are to be printed on the answer sheet and passed to Mr. Champion on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month
- Show all working and explanation were appropriate
- Students will be given choices of prizes for participating and following the above eligibility requirements

### Grade 1 Question

Ms. Hanley has given you a bag containing marbles and toy cars. There are a total of 12 items in the bag. Give 6 possible combinations of items in the bag.

### Grade 2 Question

Ms. Hanley has written on the board the digits 8, 9, 7. Write the largest and smallest 3-digit number you can write using these digits.

### Grade 3 Question

Mrs. Dunham wrote this pattern on the board: 11, 16, 21, 26. You are to write the pattern rule and the next 4 numbers in the pattern.

### Grade 4 Question

Mrs. Dunham wrote this pattern on the board: 15, 13, 11, 9 . You are to write the pattern rule and the next 4 numbers in the pattern.

### Grade 5 Question

Ms. Fifield asked her students to complete the following question. How many tens, hundreds and thousands are in the number 9652, write your answer in standard and expanded form.

### Grade 6 Question

Ms. Fifield asked her students to find all the common multiples of 3 and 4 between 100 and 1000.

### Grade 7 Question

Mr. Champion asked his students to write the algebraic expression for (i) a number divided twelve subtract 3 (ii) eleven subtracted from three times a number divided by two

### Grade 8 Question

Mr. Champion asked his students to solve the following problem. What are the possible dimensions of his back yard in meters if the triangle formed by connecting a diagonal line from one corner to the opposite corner forms a Pythagorean Triple?



# January 2010

## Fort McMurray Christian School

| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Mon</i>  | <i>Tue</i>                       | <i>Wed</i>     | <i>Thu</i>             | <i>Fri</i>                            | <i>Sat</i>                             |
|------------|-------------|----------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
|            |             |                                  |                |                        | 1                                     | 2                                      |
| 3          | 4<br>Pizza  | 5<br>Tomato Soup w/<br>Meatballs | 6<br>Hot Dogs  | 7<br>Spaghetti         | 8                                     | 9                                      |
| 10         | 11<br>Pizza | 12<br>HRL: Burger King           | 13<br>Hot Dogs | 14<br>Beef Barley Soup | 15                                    | 16<br>Recycling<br>at Mr.<br>Champions |
| 17         | 18<br>Pizza | 19<br>HRL: Subway                | 20<br>Hot Dogs | 21<br>Tuna Casserole   | 22                                    | 23                                     |
| 24         | 25<br>Pizza | 26<br>HRL: Boston Pizza          | 27<br>Hot Dogs | 28<br>Taco Soup        | 29<br>District PD<br><b>NO SCHOOL</b> | 30                                     |
| 31         |             |                                  |                |                        |                                       |  |