

Upcoming Dates

March 15: In-Service (no classes)
March 15: Registration - early deadline
March 25 - 29: March Break
April 11 - 12: Parent Teacher Conferences
April 19: Good Friday

Matheson Elementary School:

March: Nutrition Month
March 1: Hot Lunch Orders On-Line
March 12: Kindergarten Grad Photos
March 13: Info Night for Grade 8 Parents at HS
March 19: Hot Lunch Day
March 22: Wear the Rainbow

Middle School:

March 5: Spring Hill Tubing - gr 5 and 6
March 7: Spring Hill Tubing - gr 7 and 8
March 12: Grade 8 Grad Photos
March 18 - 21: Grades 5-8 Curling
March 21: Pizza Lunch

High School:

March 4-6: Grade 12 Camp Arnes Retreat
March 11: Grad Photos
March 13: Grade 11 Career Symposium
March 24-28: Mission 1 Trip



Mme. Moreau took all of the grade 4 and grade 9 students to the Festival du Voyageur to learn more about French Canadian culture through activities like dance, snow statues, wooden sculptures, and learning about the fur trade.

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FAITH ACADEMY NEWS

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Serving in the Ukraine

In February of 2019, our Missions 2 Team had the great opportunity to travel to Ukraine to serve their community through visiting and interacting with people of all ages from schools, orphanages, and other local non-profit organizations. Our 10 day-trip was filled with rich, cultural experiences, thought-provoking interactions, and affirming welcomes. We encountered some of the most tenacious and hospitable people everywhere we went. Though we couldn't directly preach the gospel in certain places and struggled with the language barrier at times, the team was determined to show God's love to everyone we met.

During our stay, we worked specifically with an organization called Welter + (pronounced shelter plus) located in Krivoi Rog. Shelter Plus is an organization that emphasizes making a socially active community, working to create an environment of safety and freedom regardless of age, beliefs, nationality, social status and financial situation. This organization made it possible for

our team to visit and interact with a number of different schools in Krivoi Rog. Our team was also given the opportunity to visit a few orphanages, where we were able to put on programs filled with songs, skits, and testimonies for the kids. As we worked with Shelter Plus, our team was able to help this organization form stronger relationships with their community and city. God has used this ministry to bring a new hope and joy into the lives of many people in Krivoi Rog. The culmination of our visits to the several different schools occurred on our last day when we invited all the students we met to come to the shelter for a night of singing, watching skits, hearing testimonies, and interacting with the team. The room that night was packed with over 200 people and it was a blessing to have been able to share how God affected each of our lives to people who wanted to hear about it.



In addition to Welter +, we also worked closely with an organization called the Good Shepherd Shelter located in the city of Irpen. This shelter is an orphanage that houses children across all ages, providing their basic needs while giving them a place to call home and people to call family. Through them we were able to visit more of the city, local schools, and several orphanages.

As we worked with the Good Shepherd Shelter, our team was also staying with different Ukrainian homes in the city of Irpen. Our team was split up into groups of 2 or 3, where each group was given the privilege of being hosted by a Ukrainian family. Spending time with the families was an experience that taught our team a number of different things. Hospitality and gratefulness were two specific qualities that Ukrainians specialize. Our

hosts welcomed us with open arms, showered us with food, gifts and enthusiasm. Staying with different hosts was also a unique learning opportunity for our team, where we were able to experience more of the culture, and through asking questions, we were able to learn more about this country's history. All in all, this unique opportunity was both fascinating and unforgettable. It was truly a blessing to have been able to be a part of such an incredible experience and witness firsthand how God is working all around the world.



- Danielle Kleinsasser & Tasha Purificacion



Staff Profile: Educational Assistant Connie Alecio

Faith Academy has been home to Connie Alecio for twenty years. Connie's first year at Faith was as a third grade student in 1998, staying until her graduation in 2008. Connie fondly remembers learning many things at Faith. She practiced English with Mrs. Laldin and learned a few money saving tips from Mrs. Ingels. More importantly, she learned about and encountered Christ here. Growing up in the church, Jesus was a part of her everyday life. It wasn't until fifth grade, though, that she gave her life to Him after a chapel led by Mr. Franczyk.

After graduation Connie went on to marry her husband Aroldo and together they have a lovely daughter Ariana. She returned to Faith Academy as an Educational Assistant the first time after graduation and again after her maternity leave. She has worked at the Pritchard, Elementary and High School campuses. This year she joined us for the first time at the Middle School campus. This year is also her daughter's first year at the Elementary School. Connie is excited for Ariana to have some of the same opportunities to learn and grow that she had. *"It makes me happy and very emotional seeing her play and learn in the same hallways as I have."*

We are very happy that God brought Connie to Himself and to us and we're excited to see all that He has in store for her at the Middle School campus!

- Emily Findlay



Divisional Boys' Basketball Team Captures Title at Recent Tournament in Steinbach

This past weekend we took part in a tournament in Steinbach. On the bus ride there, on Friday, some got some rest before the first game while others got really excited and couldn't wait to play. Our first game against Rosenort was a success. Afterward some of us carpooled back to Winnipeg while some others stayed back at a house nearby.

The next day everyone woke up bright and early, ready to play. Those who had gone back to Winnipeg left the city around 10:00am and arrived just in time for warmups before our game against Springs Christian Academy. We won that game as well, after which we went out for lunch at Boston pizza to refuel for the finals.

When we got back, our rec. team was playing. We cheered them on as they played and as we waited for our next game. Our wait was a long one so we had plenty of time to rest. During that time we all went back to our meeting place and rested and prepared for the final game, but we also played some games to have fun and to bond as a team.

When it came time for the finals everyone was excited and ready to play. We won that game convincingly, beating Grunthal 54-26 and winning the championship. We celebrated afterward with ice cream at a local McDonald's and enjoyed bonding as a team as we talked and laughed and relived the events of the past two days. The drive back was a tiring ride, with everyone sleeping because we were really tired.

Overall we had a fun time bonding as a team and, of course, winning the plaque. Thank you to Faith Academy, Mme. Roemer and Mrs. Nicomedes for giving us the opportunity to play basketball this whole season and to take part in this tournament. Thank you, also, to the parents who drove us to Steinbach and back. We really appreciate it.

- Kyle Dayanghirang, gr. 8



Festival Du Voyageur



Teachers, EAs, and students from Kindergarten to grade 3 celebrated Festival du Voyageur "Faith Academy" style on Friday, February 22nd. The afternoon was filled with fantastic activities such as folk dancing with Mr. Hiebert, Indigenous necklace and bracelet making with Mrs. Enns and Mrs. Giesbrecht, Voyageur Games with Ms. Evans and Mrs. Loeppky, and a toilet paper roll beaver craft with Mrs. Duguay, Ms. Labun and Mrs. Kratsch. Students were also able to sample ice cream with maple syrup (from Quebec!) with Ms. Libby and Mrs. Pledger and bannock and pea soup with Mrs. Bueckert and Mrs. Ringham.

The afternoon was a great success! Thanks to the grade 9 and 10 volunteers who helped out and all of the teachers who ran the stations. A huge thank you to Mme. Moreau for her hard work and planning.

- Laurie Dyck

I Love to Read

Throughout the month of February, students celebrated "I Love to Read" month by **"Sticking to Reading"** and participating in a variety of activities such as D.E. A.R. (drop everything and read) days every Tuesday and "Guess the Book" and "Guess the Author" contests.

The benefits of reading with your child (no matter their age) regularly are astounding! Top 10 reasons to read with your child:



- Reading to young children sets them up to succeed.
- Reading develops language skills.
- Exposure to reading exercises your child's brain.
- Reading enhances a child's concentration.
- Reading together encourages a thirst for knowledge.
- A range of books teaches children about different topics.
- Reading develops a child's creativity and imagination.
- Reading with children helps to develop empathy.
- Books are a form of entertainment.
- Reading together helps to create a bond.

- <https://bilingualkidspot.com/2017/10/19/benefits-importance-reading-young-children/>

- Laurie Dyck