



Upcoming Dates

- Dec 21: Final Day of Classes before break
- Jan 7: First Day of School after break
- Jan 25: Last day to submit FA hoodie orders
- Feb 1: Teacher In-Service (no classes)
- Feb 15: Teacher In-Service (no classes)
- Feb 18: Louis Riel Day (no classes)

Matheson Elementary School:

- Jan 16: Mission 2 pancake breakfast (8:30am)
- Jan 17: Hot lunch menu will go online
- Jan 24: Hot lunch orders due
- Jan 29: Hot Lunch

Middle School:

- Jan 15: Grade 5 soccer at Springs
- Jan 17: Mission 2 pancake breakfast (8:30am)

High School:

- Jan 8 to 11: Grade 12 ELA Provincial Test
- Jan 23: Grade 12 Essential Math Provincial Test
- Jan 28 to 31: High School Exams**

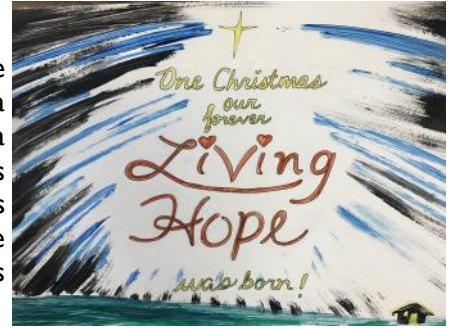
**Please consult the high school exam schedule posted on the Faith Academy website. Students are only expected at school to write their exams.



Grade 12 students Aleyah Pudwill and Kameron Ronald represented Faith Academy at a reception held for MLAs at the Manitoba Legislature that was put on by the Manitoba Federation of Independent Schools.

The Gift of Christmas

Presents are a common tradition during the Christmas season. For some, presents might get a bad rap (pun intended), but I think they can be a great reminder for us of what the Christmas season is really about. God the Father sent His Son Jesus to be born as a little baby. This was the start of Jesus' life on earth which ended with His death on the cross – a sacrifice for our benefit.



Artwork by Mr. Ringham

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

“⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹not of works, lest anyone should boast.” Ephesians 2:8

Jesus birth, life, death, and resurrection were God's gift to us resulting in the salvation of our souls when we accept Him through faith. God's gift was sacrificial and He gave it to us because He loves us and has our best interest in mind. Our response? When we accept this wonderful gift, we ought to be filled with thanksgiving and joy.

So with Christmas just a few days away, let's give gifts lovingly and sacrificially in the same way that God has given us the gift of salvation. Let's receive our gifts with joy and thanksgiving in the same way that we can receive God's grace. With each present that we give and receive this Christmas, let us be reminded of and celebrate the birth of God's Son – Jesus Christ.

- James Harnett

End of Year Giving to Faith Academy

As a registered charity, Faith Academy is able to issue donation receipts for income tax purposes. If you would like to give a year-end donation, you can give online through Canada Helps ([Canada Helps - Faith Academy](http://CanadaHelps-FaithAcademy)), mail a cheque to our main office, or drop donations off at our school offices. We would greatly appreciate your contribution to our ministry!

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FAMS Takes Audience Back to the Manger



On Tuesday, December 18, the Faith Academy Middle School put on their annual Christmas play. A take-off on “Back to the Future”, “Back to the Manger” featured four kids who travel back in time to the birth of Jesus. At the start of the play, Jackson, a grumpy kid pulled along to the annual outreach by his grandma, just wants to play video games. But, when he

accidentally triggers the Janitor's time machine, he begins to soften as he realizes how special the outreach actually is. When the machine takes them back to the birth of Jesus, Jackson realizes how ungrateful he has been. With the help of the Janitor (in a different era), the kids return home to the present day.

The play, with the help of Mrs. Harnett (choir & drama), Miss Barkman and Mrs. Johnson (drama), and Mr. Ted (props), really came together over the past week. Although it was a little bit rushed, the hard work of the drama, choir, and teachers really paid off in a successful and enjoyable program to start the holiday off with a bang!



- Rebecca Ringham

Elementary Christmas Concert

On the evening of December 20th, parents, family and friends were blessed by Faith Academy Elementary's performance of "Carriers of the Light."

As the program followed the story of Jesus' birth, the message was clear. We are to be carriers of God's light; walking in His ways, loving our neighbour, protecting the earth and worshipping God with all of our heart – not only in the Christmas season but throughout the year. A huge "thank-you" to Miss Libby who spent countless hours preparing the music, leading the practices



and organizing the entire production, to the teachers who helped put costumes and final touches together, and to the students of course for all of their hard work.

From all of the staff at Faith Academy Elementary, we wish you God's greatest blessings throughout the Christmas season and into the New Year!



- Laurie Dyck

Volleyball Season Wraps Up

Volleyball has become one of the more popular sports in the school and this year there were 49 student athletes participating in 4 teams. The junior varsity boys had a lot of first time players who were very eager to learn. Coaches were impressed with their commitment and work ethic. The team focused on basics, being mentally tough, and accountability with each other to reach our potential. The junior varsity girls had a lot of grade 9s this year who were just starting to get comfortable with high school but still contributed a lot to the team. It was nice to see the positive energy and the encouragement that the players on the team had. Even though there were not a lot of games won this year, we saw a lot of improvement throughout the season and are excited to see them play in the next few years.

There were also teams for the boys and girls at the varsity level. They played in Tier 2 in our zone (Zone 12) with the girls especially having some success finishing second. This allowed them to host a game at YFC during the playoffs where there was a lot of support from students, staff, and alumni who watched the game. This was the first time we hosted a volleyball game and the team is thankful to those who came out to cheer them on. Both varsity teams lost in the semi-finals in their tier and we congratulate them on their seasons and commend them for all the hard work and commitment.

We also want to thank all the coaches who put so much of their time in to work with all the students in each team. They are:

Junior Varsity Boys – Jared Olojan, Jeremy Bagay

Junior Varsity Girls – Hannah Van Egmond, Cam Kroeker, Abby Warkentin

Varsity Boys – Jeremy Hodgson, Stephanie Hodgson

Varsity Girls – Lavonne Leclair, Stephanie Hodgson

We also want to thank all who contributed to the Sport fundraiser that happened during November and December. Your support in purchasing gift cards will help fund jerseys for our girls soccer team.

- Jeremy Bagay



The boys and girls junior varsity volleyball teams and coaches.

Cookie Day

National Cookie Day was held on Tuesday, December 4th. Our Grade 9 students led by their Food and Nutrition teacher Miss Fehr mixed, rolled, baked and decorated for several class periods. In total over 300 cookies were baked.



The day was filled with excitement for all. Our bakers handed out the cookies to each and every student for their mid-morning snack time. There were many comments from our 5 to 9 year olds like "This is the best day ever!" And "This cookie is so good!"



Thank you High School students for building community with our Elementary students.

- Laurie Dyck

Christmas Reflections from Middle School In Both Official Languages

J'aime beaucoup le célèbre du Jésus. J'aime beaucoup de manger une canne de Noël et bois le lait de poule. J'aime beaucoup les vacances de Noël et la Nouvelle Année. J'aime beaucoup le sapin de Noël vert avec les lumières de Noël et les ornements de Noël. J'aime beaucoup Noël!

Chasity, 7B

J'aime Noël parce que je passe du temps avec ma famille et je n'ai pas l'école. J'adore Jésus.

Jeo, 6B

J'aime Noël parce que je reunis avec ma famille. Prochaine, je vais à l'église. Après ça, je joue le hockey pendant les vacances de Noël. Finalement, j'aime manger la canne de Noël.

James, 6B

Jesus is a big deal. So how must we celebrate our Lord and Saviour's birth? To celebrate Christmas, I always have to give. If it's hampers or some freshly baked cookies. I must give to show the love and kindness that Jesus showed me. To follow that, I love singing songs at church during Christmas time! It's always very lively and all of my favorite songs are played! The best part of Christmas for me is when all of my family gathers around the table, and we all praise Jesus for what He did for us. This moment over all is definitely my favorite because to me it demonstrates what Christmas is all about!

Danya Mozden, 8

So what does Christmas mean to me? Well, it means that it's a time to change... considering the fact that in six days it's the start of the New Year. Christmas itself is about friends and family, no matter how clichéd it sounds. But, the real reason is the birth of Jesus Christ, since he has forgiven our sins and saved us. As for me, Christmas is a time of loving and giving. And to all of you... Merry Christmas!

Joshua del Rosario, 8