



Upcoming Dates

Dec 23 - Jan 5: Christmas Break
 Jan 15: Teacher In-Service (no classes)
 Jan 31: Admin Day (no classes)

Matheson Elementary School:

Jan 14: Pancake Breakfast
 Jan 22: Hot Lunch
 Jan 24: House Colour Day

Middle School:

Jan 14: Grade 5 Soccer Tournament
 Jan 16: Pancake Breakfast
 Jan 21: Gr 5&6 Sleigh Ride (Birds Hill)
 Jan 28: Gr 7&8 Sleigh Ride (Birds Hill)
 Feb 11: Gr 5&6 Tubing (Spring Hill)
 Feb 18: Gr 7&8 Tubing (Spring Hill)

High School:

Jan 7 to 10: Gr 12 ELA Prov Stds Test
 Jan 22: Staff Appreciation Day
 Jan 22: Gr 12 Ess Math Prov Stds Test
 Jan 27 to 30: Exam Week*

*See the exam schedule posted on the high school page of the school website.

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Christmas - God's Gift of Love

The Christmas season is upon us once again, and chances are that this year will look very similar to the years that have come before it: lots of good food and quality time spent with family and friends, a few special winter outings to keep the kids occupied during their time away from school, and of course, the giving and receiving of gifts to express our love and appreciation for one another. It's possible that the Christmas routine has become so predictable that the significance of the celebration might get lost in the shuffle.



God sent His son Jesus to the Earth to be born as a baby and live a life on earth – a life filled with the same difficulties and challenges that you and I face. Why would God choose to send His son into a world that He knew would reject and despise Jesus and eventually put Him to death? The Bible clearly tells us that He did so because He loves us. "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. He loves you and me just as He has loved every person that has ever been born and every person that will ever be born. Christmas is our chance to celebrate God's incredible gift of love to us – His son Jesus.

God's Christmas gift is for everyone, and His gift was given to all of us in spite of the fact that He knew we would fail Him. There is nothing that we can do to earn God's love or be worthy of the gift of His son Jesus. Romans chapter 5 verse 8 reads, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Before He died, Jesus was born for us. After He died, Jesus rose from the dead for us. As a result of His grace, we are the recipients of love from God that we do not deserve. It is my hope and prayer that this year, we will more fully appreciate the significance of this incredible gift.

Merry Christmas!

- James Harnett, Superintendent



Faith Academy - Christmas Generosity

This fall, students have had several different opportunities to bless those who are less fortunate in Winnipeg and around the world.

The elementary school put together shoeboxes to support Operation Christmas Child which is an initiative of Samaritan's Purse. The boxes contain various items such as crayons, combs, and toys. They are shipped around the world to children living in poverty, and each box is accompanied by a gospel tract. The elementary school put together over fifty shoe boxes with a good amount of items left over to be passed along to other local charities.

In addition, the middle school and the elementary school both gave students the opportunity to bring in items to be passed along to the Union Gospel Mission. The middle school collected mittens and socks, while the elementary collected the same with the addition of toothbrushes.

The high school missions teams come in to contact with several ministries around Winnipeg year after year. These ministries are often in need of various supplies in order to meet the needs of the individuals with which they work. In an effort to support these ministries, the Missions 1 team in the high school collected various personal hygiene products to pass along to the ministries.

Thank you to all those that have participated in the various donation initiatives leading up to Christmas!

An Opportunity to Give

Faith Academy is a not-for-profit educational institution and a registered Canadian Charity. If you are looking to make an end of the year donation, please consider donating to the ministry of Faith Academy. We are anticipating renovations to our building, additions to our technological resources, and the need to update our fleet of busses—all in the near future. Any donation you are able to make will be a great help to us in addressing these upcoming expenses. Thank you!



NEWS FROM THE ELEMENTARY

2019-2020 Vol. II



December in the Elementary

There is usually a sense of excitement in the Elementary, but there has been even more so throughout the month of December as our students anticipate Christmas.

We've had a very busy month! The grade 2's enjoyed their field trip to the Manitoba Museum and Science Gallery to learn about our community and solids, liquids, and gases. The grade 3's had the opportunity to go to the Legislative Building to learn more about our Provincial Government, and grade 1's and 3's ended off the month by attending Robert Munsch's play "The Paper Bag Princess" at the Prairie Theatre Exchange.

We filled the month with special activities such as 'Sweater Day', 'Red and Green Day', and 'Christmas Hat Day'. Students were also treated to hot chocolate, cookies, and a hot dog (and milk) throughout December. We ended off the month with a Christmas sing-a-long, led by Miss Libby that truly put our students and staff in the Christmas spirit!

A special 'thank you' to the grade 9 Nutrition class, who worked extremely hard to bake and decorate 250 sugar cookies for our Elementary students. They were delicious!

From our staff to your family, we want to wish you God's greatest blessings as you enter the Christmas season and New Year!

- Laurie Dyck, Elementary Principal



Teacher Profile - Miss Reimer

In September, Faith Academy Elementary welcomed Miss Reimer as she took over a maternity leave in the 3B class.

This is the second time that Miss Reimer has worked at Faith Academy. From 1996-1998, Miss Reimer taught Kindergarten and grade 1, as well as grades 5-8 at the Stonewall location. The following year, she taught grade 7 at our Matheson location.

In her free time, Miss Reimer enjoys spending time with her family, going to the gym, golfing, and biking.

It is very evident that Miss Reimer cares deeply for each and every one of her students. She has a gift of seeing each student's potential and working with them in a way that helps them realize their talents. Her cheerful, friendly disposition has made her a very welcome and valuable member of our Faith Academy staff.



Thank you Miss Reimer for everything that you do!

Don't forget to purchase your Manitoba Moose tickets for the February 15th game against Milwaukee at 6:00 p.m. At \$20 a ticket, they make a great Christmas gift! Orders are due January 31st.



Grade 3 and 4 Christmas Concert

On Thursday, December 19th, the students in grade 3 and 4 performed a special musical drama for Christmas. Their mission was to present something great!

Led by Mrs. Harnett, the students presented a play called "Good News Ahead...The Signs of Christmas!"

The story was about a boy named Brett who didn't like Christmas. His friends Sienna, Kelsey, and the crossing guard, Mr. T told Brett about the birth of Jesus and the important signs of Christmas through scripture verses. At the end of the play, Brett understood the true meaning of Christmas and pointed his heart to Jesus!

A huge thank you to Mrs. Harnett, Mrs. Farebrother, Miss Bergen, Miss Reimer, Mrs. Loepky, and Mrs. Peters for all of their hard work in putting the play together. Thank you to Mr. Leclair and Mr. Elias for all of the setting up and taking care of the sound.

On behalf of Faith Academy, I would like to wish everyone a very merry and blessed Christmas!

- Khloe D (grade 4)





Divisional Girls' Team Members Look Back On Productive and Enjoyable Season

~By Kirandeep W(8A)

This year's volleyball season was a journey and a learning experience. Together the team faced many ups and downs. There were moments when we felt like giving up and moments when we felt like victors. Still, we made many memories and grew closer as a team and as a family.

I think all of us would agree that the highlight of the entire season was probably the tournament held at the Sports for Life Center. We enjoyed ourselves and were able to play real volleyball without worrying about the outcome.

This season has been an amazing experience and there will always be a special spot in my heart for the precious girls on my team.

Thank You to All Who Donated!

More than 300 pairs of socks & mitts were collected for the UGM! Your thoughtfulness will help warm many needy hands and feet (and hearts) this winter. Well done!

Student Council Responsible For Enjoyable & Successful Spirit Week

~By Jade S (8B)



Spirit week at Faith Academy is always a blast for everyone! This October we had a spirit week revolving around the fall since it was near the end of the month. Through the week, we had different themes for each day.

On Monday we started off with the cozy option of Pajama Day.

Students and staff alike enjoy dressing in warm pajamas, especially when it's cold outside and everyone just feels tired. On Tuesday we followed the theme of Fall Colour Day; it's simple and easy so it wasn't hard for people in all grades to participate. On Wednesday, our theme was Retro Day. This time, Retro Day was open to any decade within the 1900's and I think everybody was looking forward to it. Next, on Thursday, it was Fictional Character Day. You could dress up as any favourite character you wanted to and it was so much fun to see so many different costumes. Last but not least, on Friday, was Mathlete or Athlete Day. Students had a choice to either dress as an athlete or as a nerd/mathlete, and both options were pretty cool.

In my opinion, Fictional Character Day was my favourite because there were so many amazing outfits ranging from the "Powerpuff Girls" to Boo from "Monsters Inc." Student council works hard to please everyone and we love coming up with ways to make school more fun.



6B Class Takes Flight!

~By Alycia Z & Dakota W (6B)

The 6B classroom takes flight! They started an airplane unit in Science, and recently had an experiment in the gym where they would try to fly their own airplane design, and see how far it would go. They did this by placing tape on the ground, and then recording how far their airplanes flew. Then they added a paperclip each time to the plane, to see if this would affect its flight in a good or bad way. The class had a great time learning about how weight can affect flight. Students also had to plan how their planes were going to look. Some planes and wings were big and some were small. Each student also had to bring a second airplane in case their first one got stuck or ripped.



The week before the experiment, students were asked to go home and find a unique airplane idea. Some did a basic model and some a more complicated one. The students began learning about airplane parts and are learning about the history of flight, propulsion, the four forces affecting flight, Bernoulli's principle, and properties of fluids. They've learned a lot about thrust, drag, lift, and weight. The class has done some other experiments as well and is enjoying learning about flight!



NEWS FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL

2019-2020 Vol. II



Varsity Volleyball

This year's varsity teams played to their best abilities. Winning games and losing others, working through practices and positions, and bonding through their love of volleyball on and off the court brought both teams together.



Communication and asking for help when needed are extremely important for good emotional dynamics. In team sports, learning how to handle emotional stress is very necessary. The boys and girls learned through their seasons how to do just that. Whether dealing with or exercising humility, they worked together to uplift each other constantly. Even more than last year, the teams have grown in their ability to play with a Christ-like character and to play together as a family.

However, handling stress wasn't the only thing they improved on. Overall fundamental skills have been sharpened over their years of playing. This was especially evident in their smart plays and intense rallies during games. After-school practices and a drive to improve helped push the students to become stronger and smarter players, resulting in well-deserved wins. The varsity boys team managed to snag two wins against both Immanuel Christian High School (ICS) and Springs Christian Eagles (SCE), giving them an opportunity to compete in a playoff game against ICS once again. The girls team also won a couple of their games. They won two 3 set games against Gray Academy and one 4 set game against ICS. Another great achievement of the girls was their third place ranking at the Tec Voc Invitational Tournament on November 1-2, 2019.

The end of the season for both teams brought many heartfelt memories that players won't forget. As the senior players move on, there is one inescapable quality our varsity teams won't ever leave behind: their passion for playing volleyball.

- Elaine C and Kimberly W

Junior Varsity Volleyball

Faith Academy junior varsity volleyball teams made great improvements this season. Through the many highs and lows, these teams all had a common purpose in mind: to grow and develop in a sport they love.

A common goal among members was to improve in areas that matter. This included the fundamentals of volleyball (which everyone was determined to get right). Whether bumping, setting, or serving, enhancing teamwork proved to be in the minds of the players both in games and practices. This meant developing communication as well, which players recognized as beneficial to the team as a whole. The audience could easily see how each team improved in each game, causing a feeling of great pride for our younger team and their achievements.

Throughout the season, the teams attained moments to be proud of, though there was also some hoping for better games. There were numerous times when the teams excelled and had the crowd cheering. One was the junior varsity girls' first playoff win against St. Maurice. The boys also had a victory in their first playoff game against Laureate Academy. However, like all seasons, there were low points, such as losing games that were within the grasp of victory.

As we look to next year, with some students moving on to the varsity teams and others to leading the junior varsity teams, many expectations are waiting to be met. If that means improving in trouble areas or simply uniting as one team to play their best, everyone has a goal to go towards.



A member of the JV boys team expressed playing this way, "We're exercising our faith and our belief; I feel like we're playing sports but doing it with the love of God."

As Faith Academy prepares for more volleyball seasons, students should keep in mind that when we play we can bring glory to God. With every goal we strive for, and every game we win, let's remember the Lord we are playing for.

- Elaine C and Kimberly W

Fearless Week

For the first time, one of the spiritual emphasis weeks was organized and made possible by the newly formed Prayer Team. With this year's theme of "Fearless", all of the events had goals centered around growing closer with God, getting rid of garbage in our life, finding discipline, learning about the importance of listening to God and prayer, all while growing closer to the people around you.

Throughout the week we had a prayer walk around the school, where students could stop and pray over places for things such as protection and blessings for Faith Academy, the teachers, and students. Students were given the opportunity to find solitude and peace alone with God while in the prayer room, and have a chance to pray with others during the picnic blanket prayer.



Towards the end of the week there was an obstacle course that was open to all of the students where they could have fun and have a safe environment to let loose and be a little wild. It was amazing to see everyone so carefree and full of joy from just playing around the way we could when we were younger.

We ended the week off with chance to write and receive encouragement notes from other students and left fearless week with a stronger feeling of community and many new memories and lessons from God.

-Quincy H