

## Upcoming Dates

Dec 22: Final Day of Classes before break  
Jan 8: First Day of School after break  
Jan 26: Last day to submit FA hoodie orders  
Feb 2: Teacher In-Service (no classes)  
Feb 16: Teacher In-Service (no classes)  
Feb 19: Louis Riel Day (no classes)

### Matheson Elementary School:

Jan 11: National Milk Day  
Jan 17: Pancake breakfast (8:30am)  
Jan 18: Hot lunch menu will go online  
Jan 19: National Popcorn Day  
Jan 30: Hot Lunch - Soup

### Middle School:

Dec 22: FAMS floor hockey tournament  
Jan 16: Grade 5 soccer at Springs  
Jan 18: Mission 2 pancake breakfast (8:30am)

### High School:

Dec 22: YFC Christmas party  
Jan 9 to 12: Grade 12 ELA Provincial Test  
Jan 23: Grade 12 Applied Math Provincial Test  
Jan 29 to Feb 1: Exams\*\*

\*\*Please consult the high school exam schedule posted on the Faith Academy website.



Members of the Mission 1 team spent the afternoon delivering hampers for the Christmas Cheer Board on Monday, December 11, 2017.

### 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](#)), mail a cheque to our main office, or drop donations off at our school offices. We would greatly appreciate your contribution to our ministry!

### School Contact information:

#### Pritchard:

Ph:204.589.6885

#### High School and Elementary:

Ph: 204.582.3400

[elementary.office@faithacademy.ca](mailto:elementary.office@faithacademy.ca)

[highschool.office@faithacademy.ca](mailto:highschool.office@faithacademy.ca)

#### Middle School

Ph:204.338.6150

[middleschool.office@faithacademy.ca](mailto:middleschool.office@faithacademy.ca)

Website: [www.faithacademy.ca](http://www.faithacademy.ca)



# FAITH ACADEMY NEWS

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## The ABCs of Christmas

The Christmas season is a special time of year. It is full of anticipation and excitement, busyness and wondering (what I'm getting for Christmas), baking and visiting. So much to do and see. Unfortunately, it is so easy to get caught up in the frenzy of the season that the true meaning of Christmas gets shoved aside.

I encourage you to simplify, to declutter and even get rid of those things that hinder you from truly enjoying God's gift of Christmas this year. What is at the essence of the Christmas story? Let me suggest you consider the ABC's of Christmas:

**A - Adore.** Adore simply means to worship, to admire and to be extremely fond of. In Luke 2:20 *The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.* In Matthew 2:11, the Magi (wise men) *"saw the child with his mother Mary, and bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts ..."* For the shepherds and the wise men, the appropriate response to seeing Jesus was to worship him! This Jesus was more than just a baby. The prophet Isaiah called him *Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.* (Isa 9:6). The shepherds were told they would see the Saviour, the long awaited Messiah. The wise men followed the star to worship the King. Jesus throughout the Old and New Testaments is called the King of kings and Lord of lords.

**B - Believe.** We need to believe who he said he was - John 14:6 says Jesus is *"the way, the truth and the life."* If we want to know God, we need to believe who Jesus is. We also need to believe that Jesus had a purpose in coming. Luke 19:10 says that Jesus came *"to seek and to save what was lost."*

**C - Celebrate.** The whole reason for the season is found in the birth of Jesus Christ. Luke 2:17-18 says of the shepherds, *"when they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them."* The shepherds increased their joy by spreading the good news of Jesus' birth.

The ABC's of Christmas is for all who wish to participate in the true meaning of the Christmas story. It is not a spectator sport. To be actively engaged means that you have to adore Him - to worship him with all of who we are, our whole being. We need to believe who he is and what he came to do. Finally, keeping Christmas to ourselves will rob us of the greatest opportunity we have to discover true joy and truly have a merry Christmas. Therefore we need to celebrate, to have a party, bring your friends and share with others the greatest gift ever given - Jesus Christ.

- Mr. Greg McGraw, grade 9 and 10 Bible and Social Studies teacher

## FAMS Christmas Concert - "The Power of the King":

On December 14, the F.A. Middle School held it's annual Christmas concert. With Mrs. Harnett directing the choir, and Mrs. Johnson and Miss Barkman directing the drama, 'The Power of the King' was enjoyed by all who watched.

Starring Johnnie, an unbelieving DJ at K-I-N-G radio, the station staff all want him to warm up to Christmas and believe in Jesus. During their Christmas Eve broadcast, a bad storm sets in causing a children's choir to take refuge at the station. Before the staff can play their recorded program the power



goes out, leaving everybody rushing to put together a new program. Using a back-up generator, the choir's music, and the will-power of the staff, they pull it off. In their program, Johnnie is given the job of Scripture reading and, while he reads, he becomes captivated by the Christmas story. By the end of the performance, Johnnie is a new person who believes in God's sacrifice and the joy of Christmas. In a way that reflects how God's light has been turned on inside Johnnie's heart, the power comes back on as Johnnie declares that what Jesus did in coming into the world, He did to bring salvation to *him*.

It's a *powerful* story, and one which was well received by all in attendance that night.

- Rebecca Ringham, 7B



## Elementary Christmas Concert

On Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, the Grade 3's and 4's blessed us with a powerful message about the birth of our King. The afternoon and evening performances were filled with poems, scripture readings, songs, and a special black-light presentation.

We want to give a special thank you to Mrs. Siemens, Mrs. Kratsch, Mrs. Farebrother, and Mrs. Gauthier for all of their hard work and dedication in making the 2017 Christmas Concerts a success. Thank you to Mr. Elias and Miss Libby for their tech support, Mr. Leclair for the room set up and Mr. Hiebert for his flexibility in allowing us to use his Gym space.



From the Elementary Staff to you...we want to wish you God's peace, joy and love throughout this Christmas season.

-Mrs. Dyck



## Thoughts about Christmas....

Jesus was born because He loves me so much My favourite memory was in 2015. It was snowing and we were opening presents at 6:00 am and I was the first one opening presents before everybody else.

- Gracie (Grade 2)

I like to give presents to other people. I like to decorate the tree and put cookies under the tree. - Bella (Kindergarten)

Christmas means Christ was born so He later would die on the cross. It's not about presents and getting everything you want. It's about God, Jesus and family. Christmas is like God trying to give you a hug and saying "I love you." - Sarai (Grade 4)

Christmas is about Jesus and His birth in a manger. He saved us from our sins. Christmas is about believing in Jesus with all your heart. You can help people by being a peacemaker. Christmas is about love. Jesus died on the cross for us. - Harshdeep (Grade 2)

Christmas to me is celebrating Jesus Christ's birth with my family. Also, just celebrating Jesus in general because we should celebrate him all year round. - Sarah Europa 7B

I love seeing everyone's smiling faces, the crowds bustling to buy gifts, and of course, the endless colours of lights and decorations. But most importantly, I will remember and know that this holiday is about the birth of Christ, my Saviour who rescued us all from the dark waters of sin and sacrificed Himself on the cross for us. - Audrey Litster 8A

The Christmas story shows how much God loves us that He sent his son to save the world and to conquer sin and death. - Jaden Esquejo, grade 9

My favourite Christmas memory was when our family spent Christmas visiting family in the Philippines. We stayed with my grandparents, had a big feast, watched fireworks and a parade, and exchanged gifts. - Crissa Laudato grade 9

December at Faith Academy is a very exciting time of year. There are concerts, potlucks, themed school days, and class parties. What an incredible opportunity we have to embrace the joy of the Christmas season by celebrating the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, together as a school. From all of us at Faith Academy, we wish you a Christ-centered Christmas full of joy, love, peace, and hope. - Mr. Harnett

In all the busyness of Christmas gatherings, my dad always made it a point to take us home and encourage us to individually spend time with Christ, thanking Him and reflecting on all the blessings He's given us. - Mrs. Nicomedes

I made a card as well as a present for my friend and it has pink glitter on it. We make Christmas dinner sometimes. We don't have meat. We have Christmas bread. Sometimes we make noodles. - Noor (Kindergarten)

Christmas is about Jesus and His birth in a manger. He saved us from our sins. Christmas is about believing in Jesus with all your heart. You can help people by being a peacemaker. Christmas is about love. Jesus died on the cross for us. - Harshdeep (Gr 2)

To me, it means that today we rejoice for the Saviour is born, in other words, Jesus' birthday! I have so much joy that Jesus is born! - Kim (Grade 4)

My favorite Christmas memory is when my brother was born on Christmas. I remember that when he was born they put him in a stocking and gave him to my parents. **Best Christmas present ever!!!!!!** - Myhalia Taylor 6B

Christmas is about celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. It's fun to get presents, but it's also fun to give presents and spend time with your family." - Sofia Start 6A

Christmas is special to me because I Skype my grandma. - Hannah Roopchand 5A

Christmas is important to me for many reasons: toys, fun, seeing cheer in peoples' faces, God and love. Love is an important element in my family. - Malakai Pops 5B

I think, 2 years ago, when I was 10, I opened this big box that was up in my loft. It was a PC. I wasn't expecting a PC for Christmas. It came from my parents and it took a day before we could set it up. I had wanted one for 2 years but I wasn't expecting it. - Lyle Armishaw 7A

My favourite Christmas memory would be one year ago when my whole family took a big sleigh ride. During the sleigh ride, we were allowed to push each other off the back. The best part of that sleigh ride would be being with all the people I love. - Reuben Stetski 8B

At Christmas 2014, we went skating to the Forks with relatives and ate cinnamon mini-donuts. It was the first time I skated. - Aldrin Mendoza, grade

Christmas is a time of reflecting on all the blessings I've been given in life. There's something about the Christmas season that makes me feel pure joy. - Natasha Purificacion, grade 11

The spirit of Christmas time often brings about feelings of warmth, cheer, and generosity. To me, Christ's birth is not just a gift, it's the fulfillment of prophecies and the physical beginning of God's Rescue Plan. It is a celebration of God's promise being fulfilled and the reminder of our everlasting hope in Christ who came and will come again. That is the reason for the season! - Jared Olojan, grade 12