



Upcoming Dates

Dec 22: Last day before the break
 Dec 23 - Jan 7: Christmas Break
 Jan 10: First day of classes after the break
 Jan 24 to 28: Exam week (high school)

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A Christmas Contemplation

The Shepherds and the Magi take up a familiar presence in the Christmas narrative. Yet, we know little of their history. Were these shepherds those who took care of raising lambs for the Temple sacrifices? Did the Magi “from eastern lands” know about the coming Jewish Messiah through the witness of Daniel and his friends



exiled to Babylon so many years before? We are left to wonder. But of this we are certain—their thoughts were captured by promises, a coming Saviour, and a future King. Hundreds of years earlier, it had been written, “For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6). This Child was promised to Israel but would “be a light to guide the nations....open the eyes of the blind....free the captives from prison, releasing those who sit in dark dungeons” (Isaiah 42:6–7). This Child would deliver from the tenacious grip and suffocating darkness of sin. This Child would conquer death, His perfection replacing humanity’s striving. This Child would become the ultimate Servant, choosing to walk with us in our darkness that He might become our certain, unshakeable Hope. His ancient promise and present challenge still remain, “Who among you fears the Lord and obeys His servant? If you are walking in darkness, without a ray of light, trust in the Lord and rely on your God” (Isaiah 50:10).

Donna Barkman, Grade 8 Teacher



It’s Beginning to Look a LotMore Normal?

While there are still some aspects of school life that are quite different than the way things are normally done, this fall has allowed us to get back to many of the activities that make school enjoyable. Who knew that things like attending classes with the other students could be such an encouragement (and good for learning too)?

This fall saw the return of intramurals at lunchtime and volleyball games against other schools. Faith Academy had a boys volleyball team as well as both junior varsity and varsity girls teams. It was great to see students back on the court. While fans were not allowed at most matches, the streaming of games allowed a wide audience.

Mr. Kroeker and the mission teams have done a great job with switching gears from what they would normally be doing and preparing for and providing the student body with activities and events that are fun and that help focus us back on growing in faith. The Week of Transformation was a highlight that included unique activities and challenges for each day of the week. We pray for continued growth and opportunities as we begin 2022!





Ending the Calendar Year with Christmas Cheer!

It has been a busy and festive season in the Elementary. Throughout the month of December, students enjoyed a variety of different Christmas themed activities such as weekly Christmas chapels, Christmas socks and slippers day, Christmas hat day, Christmas sweater day and an all school virtual Christmas trivia game. Small Christmas treats like candy canes, Christmas chocolates, and hot chocolate brought much joy and excitement to the students' days as well.

In the spirit of spreading joy to those around us, Elementary students were encouraged to bring stuffing, cranberry sauce, pasta, cereal and beans to our "Giving Tree". All food items were donated to Union Gospel Mission to help those in need.

From the staff at Faith Academy Elementary, we would like to wish you a very blessed Christmas. May the season be filled with hope, joy, love and peace as you reflect on our Saviour's birth!



"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11



Spirit Days Add Festive Fun

This year's spirit week was a bit different from past years, but it was definitely one to remember. Eighth graders on the Spirit Week Committee were delighted to help with this year's Spirit Week planning. It was a great way to show our School spirit!

We started off with Cozy Day on the 8th of December, where many wore comfortable clothes to school. Some brought blankets, slippers, robes and stuffed toys to make themselves comfortable. Green, red, and blue shone on every corner of our classrooms on Christmas Colours Day (the 9th), bringing excitement to everyone at school. That day was an opportunity to express our festive feelings. Blue and Gold Day was added on the 10th to cheer for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers as they headed into the CFL's Western Final (and who were eventually crowned as the Grey Cup Champions!). Blue and Gold gleamed all around the school on that day.



On Ugly Sweater Day, students had the opportunity to wear their Christmas Sweaters! Preferably their ugliest, but both ugly and nice were welcomed. Only a handful participated on this day, but students still enjoyed their uniform-free day. Dressed their best, Glam Day was presumably the most awaited day. Staff and students alike wore mostly formal clothing such as dresses and tuxedos.

The final day of spirit week is yet to come. On December 22nd, Casual Day, we would have the chance to wear something like a "leisure look." It was amazing to see both staff, and students participating in this year's Spirit Week. It truly was a great way for us all to bring a bit of festivity into the school just before the holidays.

~ by Reeze Gorospe (8B)

Super Sock Drive

Imagine having only one or two pairs of socks to wear. Imagine the smell, the discomfort, the possible infections and frostbite from having insufficient socks. Most of us don't think twice about our socks, we have so many. However, hundreds of Winnipeggers don't have the same benefit we do. They get freezing feet while we complain about getting socks for Christmas.

While collecting socks might seem unimportant, or even silly, socks can really make a difference. Because having clean socks can be a really big help to the less fortunate, FAMS holds a Sock Drive annually to provide for that need. A group of Grade 8 students, the Sock Drive Committee, does things like create posters, make announcements to raise excitement for the cause, go from class to class performing a funny skit, and collect the new socks for donation to the Union Gospel Mission (UGM).

To create more hype to bring socks in this year, we created a contest between all of the classes to see which one could bring the most socks in by our deadline, December 16th. It was awesome to see such an amazing response from the entire Middle School. In fact, we doubled our original goal of 200 pairs of socks! I'm happy that because of our school's generosity, the UGM will be able to help warm the feet of more than 400 men, women and children this winter!



~ by Jack M. (8A)