



Upcoming Dates

Sept. 6: First Day of Classes
 Sept. 13: Matheson Pictures
 Sept. 15: Jefferson Pictures
 Sept. 16: Fall Fun Fest
 Sept. 19: In-Service

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Finishing Well and Looking Ahead

After two years of limitations connected to COVID-19 restrictions, the month of June is back to looking like a typical month of June at Faith Academy. Most grades have taken at least one field trip; the fun and excitement of Vacation Bible School in the elementary has returned; and we have been able to hold Graduation celebrations for the Kindergartens, Grade 8s, and Grade 12s. We are so grateful to be able to get back to doing the things that we love to do, and it has been such a blessing to see the smiling faces of our students as they take part in all of these exciting events.

Please join me in thanking God for His many provisions over the last two years. I suspect that all that we have experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic will go down as some of the greatest challenges that we have ever experienced as individuals and as a community. I am grateful to God for giving us all that we needed to take one day at a time.

As we look forward to next year, we are filled with hope and anticipation that the school year will start off normally and remain unaffected by pandemic related restrictions throughout the year. We are planning a celebration to start the year with the return of the **Fall Fun Fest on September 16, 2022**. Please mark your calendars and make plans to join us for free hotdogs, bouncy castles, face painting, and a three-on-three basketball tournament.

James Harnett - Superintendent

Ottawawa 2022

Fifty-two of our grade 11 and 12 students ventured out on our first Ottawa trip since 2019. Typically, this is a grade 11 trip, but since our grade 12s never got the opportunity in 2021, they were invited as well. With the larger numbers, the bus was overfull, so 11 people had to take an airplane. The trip went well, and students and staff let us know that fun and learning took place. Highlights included visits to Parliament, numerous museums, good food, and evenings of campfires and worshipping together. We saw God provide in numerous ways...even when stranded on a remote highway after the bus hit a moose. The delay meant the group spent some extra hours in Wawa, Ontario, but everyone eventually arrived safely back in Winnipeg.



Graduation 2022

Faith Academy High School was incredibly thankful to celebrate our first "normal" graduation in 3 years. It was a great day, and we are exceptionally proud of this resilient group of young men and women who persevered through a couple of very difficult years. Mr. McGraw issued a challenge to the grads at convocation, and Tirza Zuniga Guzman, our valedictorian, provided a vivid snapshot of the importance of faith, friendships, and our school community. Congratulations to all of our grads who pressed on and finished the high school race despite significant obstacles. We pray that you will submit all of your future plans into the Lord's mighty hands, and we look forward to hearing where the future takes you.



Mr. McGraw speaking to the grads

Tirza Zuniga Guzman, valedictorian



Cheska Moncada, Governor General Medal recipient





Monumental!

It was a fun-filled, action packed week from June 20th-24th, as Elementary students participated in *Monumental* (VBS). Students had the opportunity to engage in games, science experiments, sing songs, witness other kids living out their faith in amazing ways and of course eat snacks, every afternoon. Our students learned how God loves us no matter what, God is with us everywhere, God is in charge, God is stronger than anything and God is surprising. It was indeed a 'monumental' moment as all students from Kindergarten to Grade 4 had the opportunity to gather together for the first time since September 2020. For many of our younger students, this was the first time they experienced VBS in person! A huge thank you to our Elementary teachers who ran each of the VBS stations, our support staff and an amazing group of Grade 8 students who supervised Elementary groups, Mr. Leclair who helped built and set up our spectacular decorations and of course Mrs. Leclair, who organized the whole week!



Upgrades

Throughout the month of June, the Elementary received three new additions to physically improve the space around our campus. Our cement blacktop area, was converted to a rubberized hardtop area. Our students have been enjoying the much more 'kid-friendly' surface. A new chain link fence was installed along the perimeter of the grassy area just outside the Chapel. Our students have been taking advantage of this new space, as it is now safe enough for them to use as an additional play area. Three brand new picnic tables have also been set up on our hardtop area, and teachers and students are looking forward to using this space as an outdoor classroom of sorts in the upcoming school year!



Goldeyes Game a Big Hit

On May 19 the staff and students of the middle school - 185 strong - visited Shaw Park for a daytime game between the hometown Winnipeg Goldeyes and the visiting Sioux Falls Canaries. The forecast was for a cool and rainy day (big surprise given how this spring has been) but what we got was a warm and sunny day that was just perfect for a ball game.



The day began as a normal school day, with first-period classes still in effect, but when the little hand struck ten we all boarded buses to head downtown for the 11:00 game. When we arrived, we stepped off into a sea of humanity that was all heading in the same direction... the entrance to the ballpark. The process of arrival, deboarding, and entrance into the park takes a significant amount of time and organization with so large a group but our

staff handled it expertly and got us inside and to our seats before long. It was about 10:45 by this time - still plenty of time to relax and take in some of the pre-game warmups by the players before the start of the game.

When the game finally got underway the home team got off to a fantastic start, scoring seven runs, including four off a grand slam home run, in the bottom of the first inning that paced them to an easy and decisive 10-1 win. And while the students genuinely seemed to enjoy the game, there can be no doubt that the best part of the day for many of them was the opportunity to spend money on food; lots and LOTS of food! In fact, this was so evident that perhaps the most emphatic example of this I can cite is that of a student who asked me in the ninth inning - with the result of the game already well in hand - if the Goldeyes were winning. Yes, Ejay... the Goldeyes were winning (and won)!

All in all it was a great day and one which we hope to continue doing with the students in years to come, just as we had done five times before within the six years immediately preceding the pandemic.

Thank you to the Goldeyes for a great game and thank you, students, for a great day having fun together. We hope you enjoyed it!

~ by B. Mensforth

Birds Hill Park Wind-Up Hits the Mark

On June 27 the staff and students of the middle school once again packed their gear and headed off en masse for another day of fun in the sun (see Goldeyes article, opposite) - this time to Birds Hill Park for another outing that used to be an annual event before the pandemic. Not being able to do this for the past two years meant that for 3/4 of our students this was a first-time event (just like the Goldeyes game had been in May).

The students arrived at the East Beach just before 10:00 for a morning of games that was scheduled to run from 10:00 - 12:40 and feature a rotation of 8 different games/activities such that each homeroom class would get to cycle through all 8 events. The activities included: soccer, volleyball, capture the flag, steal the bacon, ultimate frisbee, last person standing, soccer baseball, and play structure/parachute games. We started on time at 10:00 and we ended on time at 12:40. All in all it ran very smoothly and was a lot of fun but it was also hot and humid that day and by the end of the circuit everyone was glad to have a break.

Following the conclusion of the morning's games we took a break for lunch and also got ready to hold the piece de résistance: the always-enjoyable, always epic, always-uncomfortably-wet-for-anyone-who-forgot-to-bring-their-towel-and/or-change-of-clothes...

Water War! The field was quickly converted from its morning configuration so that the students who wanted to participate could do so within an approved play-zone, thus leaving plenty of safe (and dry) space for those preferring to play other games during this time. The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and so did Mr. Alexander, who was the lone staff representative in the water war. Thanks, Mr. A., for taking an aquatic bullet, as it were, for the rest of us. Much appreciated!



As with the Goldeyes game the month before, this outing was another example of how great it has been to slowly be getting back to normal in terms of participating in special events like these. It was a much appreciated and much needed wind-up to the year - one that, like the Goldeyes game before it, we hope to continue doing each year from here on out, just as we always used to in the past.

~ by B. Mensforth