



Upcoming Dates

March 17: In-service Day (no school)
 March 27-31: Spring Break (no school)
 April 7: Good Friday (no school)
 April 10: Easter Monday (no school)
 April 13-14: Parent Teacher Interviews

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Dreaming of a Gymnasium

Over the years, it has been exciting to watch God shape Faith Academy into the school that it is today. Nearly four decades ago in the fall of 1983, the school started off in the basement of a north-end church. Eventually the school was able to move all of the K-12 students into 600 Jefferson avenue. With time, the school grew to include space at 220 Pritchard Avenue and the New Life Baptist church in Stonewall. As the number of students continued to increase, the move to the bigger building at 437 Matheson Avenue with all of the K-12 students was necessary. Just a few years later, grades 5 to 8 moved back to 600 Jefferson Avenue, and the elementary and high school remained at 437 Matheson Avenue - the same configuration that we have today. We have come a long way from humble beginnings!

Throughout the history of the school, sports have always been an important part of building school spirit and community. We have had many talented athletes who have proudly represented Faith Academy on our sports teams. For many years, basketball was the sport of choice, and in recent years, volleyball has also become quite popular with our student body. We have been blessed to have two gyms that work well for holding practices for our middle school and high school basketball and volleyball teams, but we have missed out on hosting home games because neither of our gymnasiums is big enough to be able to facilitate competitive matches.

Many of the staff and students at Faith Academy have been dreaming of a full-size gymnasium for a long, long time. As you can imagine, both the logistics and the cost of pursuing something like a gymnasium are quite overwhelming. At the same time, I am reminded of how God has blessed Faith Academy over the years and excited to imagine how He will bless us in the future. Would you please join me in praying that God would make a way for a full-size gymnasium at Faith Academy?

James Harnett, Superintendent

To Portugal and Back

After two years without an international missions trip, the missions two team were able to have the wonderful opportunity to go to Portugal this February and serve the community there. Everything about this trip felt unreal, we couldn't believe that it was actually happening until we arrived in Portugal. When we did, we were warmly welcomed by Carlos, Rute, and Megan who were the main people we stayed with throughout our 10 days there. Words could not describe how astounding they were. It did not take long until they felt like family to us.

During our stay, we were separated into two groups for five days. One group went to Fafe, while the other stayed in Monção. Both groups were in charge of leading English and religious classes. Even though the class sizes varied greatly, both groups treasured the students they were able to meet and the time they had with them.

In Fafe, we were able to meet some of the most genuine people ever, Miguel and Dalia (along with their family), helped us feel at home and loved us with agape love. They played a huge role in providing us with opportunities to teach in school and also get involved with their church. We were able to get involved with their youth group where we performed skits and stumps, sang songs, shared testimonies, and connected with the youth.

In Monção, they were able to help out in the local community. They did many things such as going on prayer walks, handing out literature, and dancing with the locals. Through this all, they were able to form special bonds with the people there and also within the team itself.

On Saturday, we were involved in soccer, kid day care, or helping out in the kitchen. Whether it was being amazed by people's soccer skills, making balloon animals for kids, or stressing out in the kitchen, it was an experience none of us will forget. Later that day, all the hard work in the kitchen came together for the banquet at the church, Igreja Evangélica de Fafe, where we served Canadian dishes. It was amazing to see how God worked through this banquet to bring the community together and attract people to come to church.

Both groups also had the chance to lead church services. The churches were so welcoming and interested in what we had to bring. It was visible that the presence of our team was something new and exciting for the church goers. During these services, some people preached, others shared testimonies, and we also sang songs.

Overall, this trip was an unforgettable experience for the team. The people we met will always have a special place in our hearts. Thank you to our families, friends, teachers, and everyone who supported us to make this trip possible.

Noryn De Guzman, mission 2 team member





Popping Open a Good Book

Another chapter is finished! Faith Academy Elementary spent the month of February "Popping Open a Good Book" for *I Love to Read Month*. Students were encouraged to read, read, read and were given tickets to put in prize jars for their reading efforts (prizes included pop fidget toys, Kernels and movie theatre gift cards, popping candy, and of course...microwave popcorn and pop). Together, students exceeded our school wide goal and collectively read over 6000 books throughout the month of February! A huge thank you to Mrs. Hoepfner and Mrs. Siemens for coordinating a very successful *I Love to Read Month*!



Festival du Voyageur... Elementary Style!

Hey Ho! Faith Academy Elementary held our own Festival du Voyageur afternoon on February 24th. Students learned the Red River Jig, participated in a Portage Relay Race, and created their own Bilboquet (a traditional Voyageur game). They learned more about the fur trade and Voyageur and Indigenous cultures, and tried traditional foods such as pea soup, bannock and maple syrup. Thank you so much to our grade 8 volunteers, the grade 9 Home Ec. class (for making bannock), and to all the Elementary staff for making the afternoon a tremendous success! A very special thank you to Mme. Moreau for planning and organizing all of the events!



Beep Beep!

Congratulations to Mrs. Stetski - Faith Academy's newest bus driver! We are so extremely proud of your accomplishment!



I Love to Read Month at the MS

February is one of the coldest months of the year, and this year was no different! All you wanted to do was stay inside by a fire with a cup of hot chocolate in your hand...and read.

In fact, February was officially 'I Love to Read Month'. Students at FAMS participated in many fun activities such as the book poster contest, hidden quotes, mystery readers, book trivia, and of course - the bingo page.

Students worked hard to fill out their bingo pages, win themselves a class pizza party, and be the first to hand in a completely filled out bingo sheet. It was interesting to see classmates who normally hate to read rush to fill out yet another bingo square. Bingo squares had students reading in interesting places, to their pets, reading a variety of types of text and much more.

'I Love to Read Month' was a great success, and a lot of fun for everybody!

By Imogen Miller (6B)



Ski & Snowboard Trip to Holiday Mtn.

The ski trip for most of the grade 8's and 7's began as early as 5:00 am. But despite how extremely tired we were we pushed through until about 6:00 am, when we proceeded onto the bus. Throughout the two-hour long trip to Holiday Mountain, some of us slept, some listened to music, and some of us simply enjoyed quality time with our friends. The bus ride was definitely a highlight to everyone's experience during the trip.

When we all arrived and saw the hills, most of us definitely felt intimidated by their height. Still, we pushed through that and got ourselves prepared to ski or snowboard. At first, many of us found it to be challenging, and even discouraging, but we all persisted despite our varying levels of skill. The instructors were helpful and encouraged us to step out of our comfort zones, even if it seemed incredibly difficult to do so.

The trip back was, for the most part, relaxing because all of our energy had been drained from all our hard work. Many of us were disappointed at how quickly the day flew by but that just shows how much of a success the whole trip was.

We are all very thankful for Mr. Mensforth, who organized the trip. Without him, the grade 8's and 7's wouldn't have had the chance to make more great, everlasting memories at Faith Academy. A lot of us were able to connect and bond with our friends, and that alone is something that will be carried on with us for the rest of our lives. It is truly a trip to remember.

By Mia de Chevigny (8B)

