



HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!!!



Upcoming Dates

Sept 8: First day of School!
 Oct 12: Thanksgiving (no classes)
 Oct 23 : P.D. Day (no classes)

School Contact Information:

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High School and Elementary:

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Middle School

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Summer Office Hours

The school offices will be closed from **July 27th to August 14th** this summer.

For the rest of the summer, one of the school offices will be open from 9 to 3 each day. Please call ahead to determine which office is open. Thanks!

Greetings from the Board Chair

The Great Flood of 2019! The Worldwide Virus of 2020! Our dear brother James Harnett ☺ may be bracing for what is coming next year. We on the Board have been very encouraged as James, the principals, the teachers and indeed all of the Faith Academy team have handled these unexpected events with the grace supplied by our Lord Jesus Christ.

And now our dear Grade 12 grads are receiving grace to graduate in a very unusual way, quite different than they were expecting. May the Lord give an extra blessing to them at this time.

We know many of our families have been facing difficult times, and we thank you all for your grace, your patience and understanding. We don't know exactly what is coming in September, but let us continue to walk through it together, loving and encouraging one another, and accomplishing the goal of raising an educated and Godly generation.

Please continue to pray for Faith Academy, including the Board. We all need the joy of the Lord as we make decisions and carry out this vital ministry He has ordained. All praise and glory to our wonderful Lord Jesus Christ!

Greg Stetski - Board Chair



Beginning the 2020 / 2021 School Year

The Manitoba government has declared that school will begin for students on September 8, 2020. At this point, we are hopeful that we will be able to get back to having full classes at that time. However, Manitoba Education continues to communicate that all planning will be contingent on the conditions of the pandemic in Manitoba at that time. Unfortunately, that means that we will need to wait and see yet again. In any case, we will be very committed to establishing an environment that respects public health guidelines for schools as has been the case throughout the past few months. The school offices will be sending out information over the summer and especially closer to the beginning of the school year outlining what you can expect in September. Please pray for the Lord's wisdom to be given to those that will make decisions regarding schooling next year and thank you for all of your hard work and flexibility over the past months during this unprecedented time. It is my prayer that we will all continue to look Jesus to be our source of strength and peace through to the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

James Harnett - Superintendent

Faith Academy Contributes to the COVID-19 Effort

In the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, Manitoba Health asked for Independent Schools and School Divisions to consider donating PPE to be used by front line workers. Faith Academy was able to donate thirteen boxes of medical grade latex gloves. Although the offering was relatively small, it was received with much appreciation from Manitoba Health, Manitoba Education, and the Minister of Education who responded with a letter of thanks.



NEWS FROM THE ELEMENTARY



2019-2020 Vol. IV

VBS

Throughout the last week of school, Faith Academy Elementary students were provided with the opportunity to participate in our VBS program: IncrediWorld Amazement Park (put out by Answers in Genesis) COVID-19 style! Students ate snacks, played games, sang songs and did crafts, all while listening to thrilling Bible stories about God's great creation.

A HUGE thank you to all of the teachers for doing an amazing job! A SUPER INCREDI-THANK YOU to Ms. Libby for editing and compiling all of the videos!



Re-Opening of Faith Academy Elementary

During the month of June, Faith Academy Elementary took advantage of the 're-opening of schools' as outlined in Phase 2.

What a wonderful experience! From June 2nd to 12th, small groups of students were invited into the school for two hours at a time. Teachers were able to connect with their students once again and perform some much needed assessments.

From June 15th-19th, the Elementary's focus shifted, as teachers invited their whole class to spend time together. Students had the opportunity to say good-bye to many classmates and teachers. The two hours felt like some sort of closure to a very different year.

Many thanks to all of the teachers for "thinking outside of the box" and coming up with some very innovative ideas to provide the students with an opportunity to have fun while staying safe and maintaining social distancing. A special thanks to Mr. Hiebert for his constant energy, participation and involvement throughout all of the grades!



Looking Ahead

The last two months have been quite the adventure in the Elementary. Who could have ever imagined that our school year would end with remote learning? Who even knew what remote learning was?

Yet here we are. Despite the frustrations, learning curves, readjustments and tears (from students, teachers and parents), we made it.

The teachers and I are so grateful for all of the support that we have received over the last few months. Our parent community seemed to sense when we needed the encouragement the most. Thank you so much for your quick messages, "check-ins" and frequent communication. It has been sincerely appreciated. This entire situation was made so much easier just knowing that you are thinking about us, and praying for us.

As we look toward September, we can hold fast to God's promises. I have taken comfort in Jeremiah 29:11 in times of uncertainty and I believe that now more than ever we need to cling to God's promise: "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."

Thank you once again for your support. I wish you God's greatest blessings, safety and rest during the summer holidays!

- Mrs. L. Dyck





7-8 Ski Trip Another Success, But...

Once again we had another very successful ski & snowboard trip this year. On Thursday, March 12, approximately 40 students, along with 7 staff members and 1 parent, left the city at 6 AM en route to Holiday Mountain, in La Riviere, for a day of skiing and/or snowboarding.

The day began with a perfectly blue sky - not a cloud to be seen anywhere - but by mid-morning it had clouded over to the point of being quite overcast. This, along with the wind, made it feel quite cold so everyone tended to stay pretty bundled up throughout the day.



After a great day on the slopes, followed by an enjoyable supper-stop in Winkler, we got back on the road and on our way home. Who knew that just a day later we would all receive the news that due to the COVID-19 pandemic all schools would be suspending their classes for two weeks. Last year we returned to a flooded school basement; this year it was a global pandemic that brought

about a hitherto-unseen interruption to classes. Some people have already begun to question whether or not we should even *have* a ski trip next year! Hopefully all will go well when we do!

Limited Return Welcomed by Many



On Thurs., May 21 - after a suspension that lasted for more than two months - the Manitoba government announced that phase 2 of their *Restoring Safe Services* plan would take effect on June 1 as it pertained to K-12 education within the province. It was referred to as a "limited-use" plan in terms of limiting schools to hosting no more than 24 students per site at any given time (all the while still

calling for people to maintain physical distancing).

We therefore quickly set ourselves to formulating plans that could accomplish what the government was extending permission to do, with all due care given to the physical and mental well-being of our students and staff. As attendance would continue to be voluntary, it was decided that Mondays would be used for teachers to continue their work with students remotely, while on the other days of the week we would invite specific groups of students to attend for two hours each - gr. 6 & 8 in the mornings (from 9-11 AM) and gr. 5 & 7 in the afternoons (from 1-3 PM). Remote learning actually continued for all students throughout this time, in addition to their once-per-week physical-attendance privileges, although this wrapped up by Friday, June 12.

The first groups of students were thus welcomed back on Tuesday, June 02, and from that day forward until Friday, June 19 - three weeks in all - we saw just about 60% of each day's invitees attend. Those who did seemed genuinely glad to be back in their building, and among familiar faces. It was nice to see so many return after being away for so long. For those who weren't able to make it out - we look forward to seeing you again in the fall. For those who aren't returning - we're sorry we missed you and wish you all the best, wherever you may be attending in the fall.

... Global Pandemic Suspends Classes

Once again the gr. 7-8 ski trip was followed by a very large, unexpected, unfortunate, and deeply impactful event. Last year it was the flood (which significantly damaged the basement level of our building). This year it was COVID-19.

The news first broke on Friday, March 13 and when it did it indicated that we would be facing a two-week suspension of classes - one week before and one week immediately following spring break. However schools across the province saw an immediate and substantial downturn in their attendance figures the following week (beginning on Monday, Mar. 16). In our own case, we had just under 50% to start the week. By Thursday/Friday we were down to just over 15%.

Before students could even return in mid-April, the suspension was declared indefinite and for the next two and a half months students and teachers worked from home utilizing various online methods to stay in contact and accomplish the work that remained for the rest of the school year. Many staff members (EA's, bus drivers, etc.) were unable to continue working under these conditions so as a result there are many students and staff members who have not seen each other or interacted with one another since word of the suspension was first heard back in March. They will likely not have that opportunity until September.

As we look to the fall, though, given what we've just heard from the Manitoba government regarding the resumption of classes in September (June 22 announcement), we remain positive and hopeful in terms of our plans to begin the new school year with our students in the building, physically, and to quickly and competently identify and work to address any areas that represent learning gaps for individual students - particularly those who are in need of the greatest amount of recovery-based support. One thing we can count on is that having made it this far together, we know that we can continue to do whatever is necessary to make it through this pandemic in its entirety; no matter how long it should last.



Repairs Still Ongoing A Year Later

Thursday, Mar. 14, 2019 is a day that will live in infamy... at least at FAMS... for that was the day that our basement flooded, immediately closing school down for the following week and leaving us uncertain of whether we'd be able to reopen in April (and where). As it turned out, we were able to be back in our own building and in session by Tuesday, April 2, having been closed for only six days.



Since then, we have not ceased to praise and give thanks to God for how we have been looked after throughout this past year in relation to the ongoing work in our building. More than a year later, the work to repair and restore what was damaged continues. In fact there have been things that have continued all through the year, on and off, but as a silver lining of sorts throughout the COVID-19 pandemic we have been able to get a lot of work done that would have had to wait until summer if regular classes had been ongoing. So we are very grateful, in the midst of more trying times again in 2020, to be making good progress with respect to all of this and to be nearing the day when it will be all finished and we will finally be able to turn the page on this particular chapter in our school's history.



NEWS FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL

2019-2020 Vol. IV



Spring 2020

Our school year turned out a lot differently than we were expecting. With the switch to remote learning after March 20th, teachers and students began working together online and learned to do school in a completely new way. Teachers worked incredibly hard and put in long hours as they made the changes that were necessary. It was a challenge for students as well, and we were pleased to see that the majority of our students worked hard and took responsibility. It wasn't an easy situation to find themselves in, but students and their families found ways to make it work. In many cases, learning at home provided some new learning opportunities as well.



As the weeks went by and the maximum numbers allowed for indoor gatherings remained low, it became clear that graduation would need to be celebrated differently. Mrs. Hodgson and the grad committee began working on ideas, and the high school staff brainstormed as well. The first thing that took place was for the teachers to deliver lawn signs to the grads at their houses.



As June 26th approached, the grad committee decided on the idea of a drive through grad. Since grad pictures had been cancelled with the school closure in March, the grad week began with grad photos (complete with hand sanitizer and physical distancing protocols). On Friday, June 26th, grads arrived at noon, put on their caps and gowns and went out to the playground for drone photos taken by Mr. Ingels and his mechanical flying friend.



After pictures, grads were arranged on either side of Matheson and families pulled up to the stage to see their grad receive his/her diploma.



The day was hot and sunny, and the procession went smoothly. Families got into the spirit by decorating their vehicles and honking and cheering for their graduate. After the ceremony, the grad vehicles were led through Kildonan Park for a short parade by a big, yellow Faith Academy bus. Everything went well, and we look forward to having a follow-up grad event in fall. Congratulations to all of the members of the Class of 2020! You finished off high school during very trying times. It took a lot of persistence, prayer, and hard work.

