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NorthStar  
ACADEMY  
Any Time. Any Place.



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MAY 2016

## Stand Firm

*Stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you.*

2 Chronicles 20:17

*Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year with NorthStar Academy. We are so pleased to be partnering with you to educate your children, not just to meet the standards of the day, but for eternity. It is a privilege to be able to help “our” children grow in knowledge and wisdom from a Biblical worldview.*

*NorthStar Academy has reached another milestone as we are currently working with just over 600 students. This continued growth comes with challenges, such as processing all of the registration paperwork (which is largely electronic these days) and managing all of the resource purchases for families. Michelle Best, our finance manager, is working overtime to get reimbursements out to our Traditional Program families. This growth does help to minimize the impacts of change, such as the new rules for Teacher Directed students put in place by Alberta Education – no direct reimbursements to families, so it isn’t all bad.*

*This year we are able to offer more Activity Days at no cost to our families, without making any deductions from the funding available to Traditional families or to the resource support available to our Teacher Directed families, as some home schooling organizations do. Our new online registration process smoothed out some wrinkles we had previously encountered. However, we are experiencing some scheduling challenges with a few of our A Days as there are venues that can’t accommodate as many guests as we would like. It is our desire to offer these free social and academic adventures to all of our families, as we recognize their importance in building community at NorthStar Academy. We are exploring ways to reduce the number of families on waiting lists – we will keep you posted.*

*You may wonder how we at NorthStar are able to maintain our focus as a Christian school while we operate as part of a public school board. One of the ways is to provide our teachers with great professional development opportunities that work to build our understanding of how to teach from a Biblical worldview perspective. October 20th and 21st we will be attending the Association of Christian Schools International Teachers’ Convention in Edmonton. The theme of the conference “Teaching Timeless Truth in Turbulent Times” looks to be very relevant to our needs as educators and to the needs of the families we serve, as does the theme verse “Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.” 1 Timothy 4:16 NIV*

*May the Lord bless you with a great school year.*

*Randy Wood, Principal*



# Bible Memory

“Stand Firm...”

2017 Bible Memory!



**September** Stand Firm with the Armor of God  
*Ephesians 6: 10-18*

**January** Stand Firm when other doctrines rise up  
*1 Corinthian's 15:51-58*

**October** Stand Firm with God's Help  
*2 Corinthians 1: 21-24*

**February** Stand Firm because God's word stands firm  
*Psalms 93:1-5*

**November** Stand Firm so you will not be a slave to sin.  
*Galatians 5:1, 13-17*

**March** Stand Firm in unity as believers  
*Philippians 1:27-30*

**December** Stand Firm in your faith you will not stand at all  
*Isaiah 7: 9b-14*

This is open to all TD, online, and traditional program students. It is **optional**, and students and parents/supervisors can decide the extent of your involvement together. I know there are some students that want to do Bible Memory, but don't have a Bible Memory program in their curriculum, or love it so much that they want to do extra, so here is one you can use!

## ~Ideas for Fall!!~

<http://www.allkidsnetwork.com/crafts/fall/>

<http://handsonaswegrow.com/28-winter-crafts-kids/>

<http://www.focusonthefamily.ca/>

# Activity Days Recap!

Activity days started out with a bang this year! We had registration at the start of the month and 160 families (not just students) filled out the Google form to be able to attend our activity days. We are feeling very blessed that so many people are able to join us for these days. We started by travelling south the Calgary Corn Maze and Fun Farm where we spent time playing, learning and getting lost together. We then went to Alberta Pioneer Camps for horse-back riding, archery, and rock climbing. Although there was snow and so families

couldn't join us, the families that braved the snow had a great time and were all protected by the Lord on this day. Thank



## Activity Days

**\*\* REGISTER BY EMAILING \*\***

**activityday@nsaschool.ca or call the NSA office at 1 877 335 1171**

**Spaces fill up quickly!!!**

**November 3, Science Day : Edson Bethel Church**

**November 9, Workshop Wednesday "How to Google": NSA office**

**November 10, Remembrance and Science Day: Edson Bethel Church**

**November 17 & 18, Telus Spark Center: Calgary**

**November 24, Telus World of Science: Edmonton**

## NorthStar Back to School BBQ



## Camp Days!





If you are a NSA student in grades 10-12 and are interested in joining, please email Roberta for more information at [roberta.onyschtschuk@myghsd.ca](mailto:roberta.onyschtschuk@myghsd.ca)

**Our High School students had a blast at Laser Quest on October 1st. We had over 30 students show up to play laser tag and eat pizza. There was a lot of good fellowship over pizza and a healthy amount of competition in the laser tag arena. It was a very fun evening!**

**We have several more special events for our Limitless Grade 10-12 students planned for this year. It's not too late to get in on the fun!!**

**December 10, 2016 Jump 360 Trampoline Park, Red Deer**

**February 4, 2017 Tubing at Canyon Ski Resort, Red Deer**

**April 7, 2017 Bowling, Airdrie**

**TBA Hiking Day, Banff**

**Email [roberta.onyschtschuk@myghsd.ca](mailto:roberta.onyschtschuk@myghsd.ca) to sign up for activities now.**

THERE IS  
*always, always,*  
ALWAYS  
*something*  
*to be thankful for*



## Where is the Joy?

~Rene Hoeksema

I have taught Bible for many years in several different schools including the online school that I teach at now. Looking back at all those years of teaching Bible, one thing stands out in my mind. Almost all of the students were Christians but most of them often stated that they were somehow not good enough for God and, that they should be trying harder to be good Christians and that they needed to study the Bible more. We all say that is true but many of us don't do it, and I know that from past personal experience. The New Testament often speaks of the joy of knowing the Lord, of being a believer and realizing that we belong to the Father. Why do students get the idea that they are not good enough? Are we as a Christian community teaching our children that? These questions have been rattling around in my brain for many years and in the last decade I have come to some sort of understanding.

A few years ago a man got up in our church and stated that he had just been diagnosed with cancer, his wife had left him and he had a serious accident at work. He stated quite proudly that he had finally decided that God was trying to get his attention and he was now listening. Most of the people in the church smiled and they looked like they thought that this was a great thing. In fact a few of the people stated after church that this man had been an inspiration to them.

I did not agree. I am a father of three children that are all grown up now but I remember with fondness when they were young and they lived at home. (It seems like they lived at home for such a short time now that I look back). I loved my children and wanted the best for them although I did discipline them and I did correct them because I loved them. They responded because they loved me. My love for them was in no way perfect but I did the best that I could. If I had hit one of them or ran over them with a car to get their attention, I would have been considered a very bad father, yet it seems that some of us think that is how our Father acts. Even though we know that His love is perfect and that nothing stands in the way of our relationship with Him, we do not seem to really believe that. The big problem is that if we do not really believe that we are perfect in the eyes of the Father and if we aren't, then Jesus died for nothing.

What happened when Jesus died for us? In the Old Testament era, and that includes the years that Jesus was on earth before his resurrection, we see the Father trying to have a relationship with his people. This relationship was constantly broken because sin was a huge block between the Father and the people since the Father could not tolerate sin. When Jesus died to get rid of the sin block, the curtain, that had symbolically separated Him from the people, tore from the top to the bottom to show that nothing was blocking us from the Father. He was now free to have a relationship with his people (those who believe).

For many years after I became a Christian, I thought that all my past sin had been taken care of, but that now it was my job to stop sinning and to make myself acceptable to the Father. What I was actually saying is that Jesus had died for nothing and when I think of that now I am horrified. Jesus took care of all my sin, past, present and future. Now when the Father looks at me, he only sees his perfect son. I am not sinless by any means and sometimes I can easily say with Paul that I am the chief of all sinners but the Father no longer sees my sin. I often talk to the Father about my sin but I no longer ask Him to forgive my sins because that would be like asking him for something that I already have, and that seems foolish. I regret my sin because I love my father and out of respect I will do my best.

Paul says that when we became Christians we died with Jesus and we rose with him. It is no longer I that live but it is Christ living in me. It is not my job to make myself better for the Father. It is my job to let Christ in me, change me into what he wants me to be. (Galatians 2)

In the past few years I have come to the conclusion that I am not religious and when people say I am, I get kind of angry. Religion is man's attempt to make himself good enough for his God, whoever that may be. Christianity is the belief that Christ did it all and that the Father now sees me as perfect and that he loves me totally and completely. The really cool thing is that if I mess up, I know that no one knows me better than the Father and that He completely understands why I messed up just like I understood when my kids messed up.

So how do I handle my student's pessimism? I tell them that the Bible is the most important book in the world but the book should never become more important than the author. If it does, then the Bible has become an idol and that is not cool. When they say that they are not good enough, I tell them the story of the Galatians. Paul went to Galatia, a province that was extremely poor. Most of the land was owned by absentee land owners and the people, who were very poor, worked on the land for the owner and most of them could not read since education was almost non-existent there. It is probable that the people had never been more than a few miles from home and would never be further from home than that in their lives. He stayed with them for a few years and made tents for a living. Many of them became believers. He left them without a pastor, without a Bible and certainly with no seminary or Bible School. He left them with Christ in them and he believed that was enough. As far as not being happy, I tell my students that they belong to the Master of the universe, their eternal life has started and that God even promised that he would use everything, even the bad things in their lives, for their good. What more could you want? When we think that we are not good enough or that we should do more to make the Father happy, we are saying that Jesus died for nothing.

Believe he did it all and be happy!!