



[www.northstaracademycanada.org](http://www.northstaracademycanada.org)

January—February 2018

Did you know that teachers do classwork much like they ask their students to? It doesn't look exactly the same, although a room full of teachers can be just as hard to control as one full of enthusiastic kids. At NorthStar Academy our teachers are part of a collaborative group within our school division that has us looking at best practices for online and home education. On January 31st we got together with the other online school in Golden Hills to spend the day working on how to make our classes more engaging for our students (online instructional design).

As well, as a part of our focus on Powerful Learning we are also engaged in making our classes and our school into places of thinking. Sounds pretty simple but it turns out we have some things that we need to "unlearn" before we can go forward. Ron Ritchhart, the author of *Creating Cultures of Thinking*, spells out some of the challenges we face:

- Focusing students on learning vs. the work
- Teaching for understanding vs. knowledge
- Encouraging deep vs. surface learning strategies
- Promoting independence vs. dependence
- Developing a growth vs. a fixed mindset

*Continued on next page*



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**"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1**



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Online learning and home education can make some of these challenges even more difficult to overcome, but our staff continues to work on making ourselves and our students into better thinkers.

NorthStar will have a new program for the 2018-2019 school year. We will be offering our families a blended program. A blended program combines the benefits of parent directed home education with the advantages of teacher directed and online programming. In the past NSA parents have had to choose either a traditional home education program (parent directed) or a fully aligned program (online or teacher directed). We will now be able to offer the opportunity for a student to be a part of both of these worlds. There are some boundaries, so we will provide all the details in the days ahead, but here are the basics:

- Grades 1-9 – Aligned portion of the program must be 50% or higher
- Grades 10-12 – Aligned portion of the program must be 20% or higher

Stay tuned for more details as we will send out guidelines for the NorthStar blended program in the near future.

Randy Wood

Principal



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# See What's New at NorthStar Academy!

## Term 2 Activity Clusters

**Registrations are still being accepted for all clusters**

Red Deer ~ Sewing Feb 7—March 21 1-2:15pm

Calgary ~ PE (Rock Climbing) Feb 7—March 21

Airdrie ~ Music Feb 8—March 22



### Upcoming Events!

**February 14—Valentines Day!**

**February 19-23 Flex Week**

**Moodle is still up and running during all PD days, holidays and days when teachers are offline**

### Activity Days

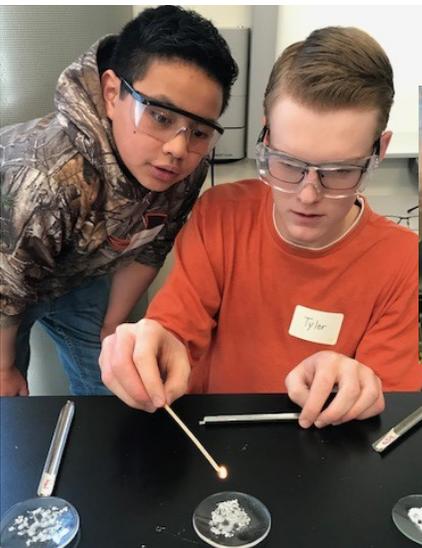
**February 10, 2018** February Family Fun and Fellowship Red Deer. *This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other families and your teacher!*

**March 6, 2018** Cornerstone Youth Theatre presents "The Wizard of Oz"

**\*\*In the last newsletter the Rosebud Theatre was on the Activity Day list but this event has now been cancelled and the Cornerstone Youth Theatre is now in its place\*\***

# NorthStar Academy Activity Days and Clusters

## Telus Spark Center



**February 16, 5:30-9pm** at Lloyd's Roller Rink, Calgary  
**March 24, 7-9pm** Escape Room, Escape City, Edmonton

If you are an NSA student in grades 10-12 and are interested in joining our High School 'Limitless' Youth group, please email Roberta Onyschtschuk for more information at [roberta.onyschtschuk@nsaschool.ca](mailto:roberta.onyschtschuk@nsaschool.ca)

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# Bible Memory



## Bible Verses for the New Year

1 Corinthians 13: 4-13

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. 12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

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!

## Check Us Out



Did you know that NorthStar Academy posts updates about upcoming events, contests, homeschool tips, and more on our website and social media? Check out the links below for all of the updates:



[www.NorthStarAcademyCanada.org](http://www.NorthStarAcademyCanada.org)



[Facebook.com/northstaracademycanada](https://Facebook.com/northstaracademycanada)  
Instagram: [@northstaracademycanada](https://www.instagram.com/northstaracademycanada)

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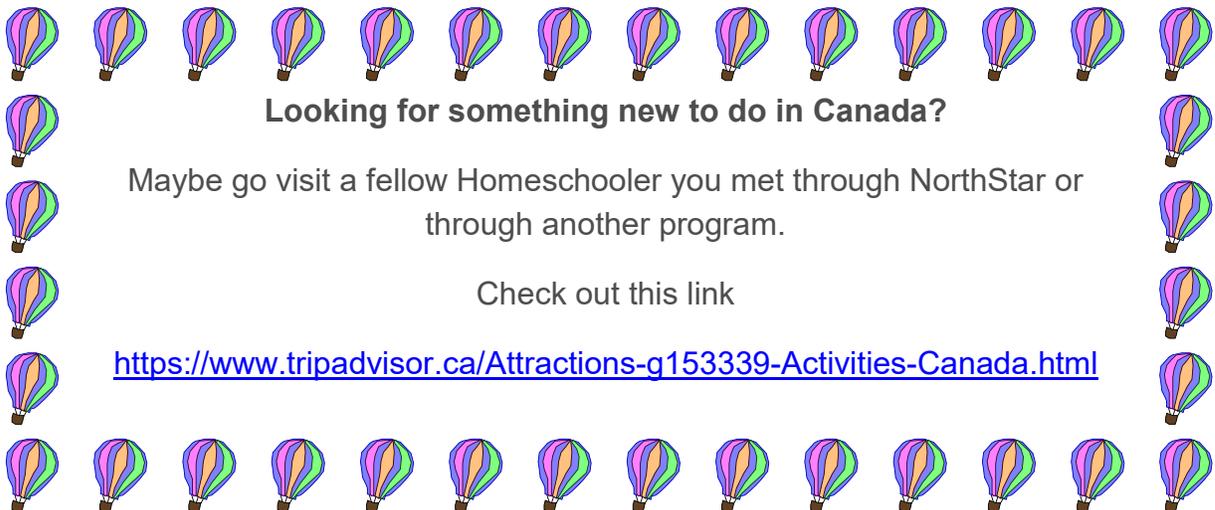
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# Home School Community



<https://www.getassist.com/4-ways-homeschoolers-can-stay-connected-to-the-community/>

If you've chosen to educate your children at home, you won't have easy access to clubs and organizations that are often included in traditional school systems. But there are still ways you can stay connected and participate in sports teams, hobby clubs and other activities vital to healthy growth and development. Get Assist is the perfect tool to help you find different activities in the community for your homeschoolers. Here are a few tips to get you started.



**Looking for something new to do in Canada?**

Maybe go visit a fellow Homeschooler you met through NorthStar or through another program.

Check out this link

<https://www.tripadvisor.ca/Attractions-g153339-Activities-Canada.html>

# 2018 New Year Thoughts and Reflections

I want to learn...

I want to go...

I want to do more...

I want to read...

I want to improve...

I want to imagine...

I want to try...

I want to change...

I want to \_\_\_\_\_

In the new year I am going to...