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NorthStar
ACADEMY
Any Time. Any Place.



www.northstaracademycanada.org

MAY 2014

Walk in the Light

*“Come, descendants
of Jacob, let us walk
in the light of the
Lord.” Isaiah 2:5*



DATES TO REMEMBER

**April 18-25 Spring
Break**

**May 2 PD day. No
teachers online**

**May 16 Non-
Instructional day. No
teachers online**

May 19 Victoria Day

May 31 NSA GRAD

**June 6 Non- Instruc-
tional day. No teachers
online**

**June 20 Last Day of
School!**

Principal's Message



Words you never want to hear from your mother - “I thought you were trying to take advantage of me”.

My mom is 80 years old and getting quite frail, she weighs 70 pounds, and she lives with my younger sister who is developmentally delayed. My wife and I have bought a house in Edmonton to provide a better place for them to live, with the idea that we would help out my sister when mom is no longer able. We wrote up a plan for the process and mom misunderstood one piece which led her to question our motives.

I came to the Lord at 17 and as I grew out of my self-centered teen years I came to appreciate how much my mom had sacrificed as she raised the three of us (older brother as well). Dad left when I was 2 and mom never remarried, never dated – she raised us first on social assistance and later by working as a shoe sales clerk. I love her deeply and do everything I can to take care of her. This past week during spring break I was putting a kitchen in the basement – a painful process as I am not much of a carpenter, plumber or electrician. I didn't lose any fingers but I managed to cut, scrape or bang up 9 out of 10 of them as I did most of the tasks at least twice. In this context, her thought that I might be taking advantage of her, really shook me. At times God uses our hurts to teach us. A song brought me a lesson, one that God has shown me before (I'm a slow learner at times), that I can't define myself by people in my life, that I can't care too much about what they think about me. The song was “In Christ Alone”. The first stanza reminded me that I am a child of God before I'm a child of my mom.

*“In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.”*

The song is stuck in my head as I try to fully learn this lesson – thank you Heavenly Father for being such a patient teacher.

Randy Wood

Summer Reading Tips for Parents

By: Coordinated Campaign for Learning Disabilities

Parents should remember that children need free time in the summer to relax and enjoy the pleasures of childhood. So summer reading should be fun. Following are a few tips to make reading enjoyable for your children this summer:

1. Read aloud together with your child every day. Make it fun by reading outdoors on the front steps, patio, at the beach or park. Also, let your children read to you. For younger children, point out the relationship between words and sounds.
2. Set a good example! Parents must be willing to model behavior for their children. Keep lots of reading material around the house. Turn off the TV and have each person read his or her book, including mom and dad.
3. Read the same book your child is reading and discuss it. This is the way to develop habits of the mind and build capacity for thought and insight.
4. Let kids choose what they want to read, and don't turn your nose up at popular fiction. It will only discourage the reading habit.
5. Buy books on tape, especially for a child with a learning disability. Listen to them in the car, or turn off the TV and have the family listen to them together.
6. Take your children to the library regularly. Most libraries sponsor summer reading clubs with easy-to-reach goals for preschool and school-age children. Check the library calendar for special summer reading activities and events. Libraries also provide age appropriate lists for summer reading.
7. Subscribe, in your child's name, to magazines like Sports Illustrated for Kids, Highlights for Children, or National Geographic World. Encourage older children to read the newspaper and current events magazines, to keep up the reading habit over the summer and develop vocabulary. Ask them what they think about what they've read, and listen to what they say.
8. Ease disappointment over summer separation from a favorite school friend by encouraging them to become pen pals. Present both children with postcards or envelopes that are already addressed and stamped. If both children have access to the Internet, email is another option.
9. Make trips a way to encourage reading by reading aloud traffic signs, billboards, notices. Show your children how to read a map, and once you are on the road, let them take turns being the navigator.
10. Encourage children to keep a summer scrapbook. Tape in souvenirs of your family's summer activities picture postcards, ticket stubs, photos. Have your children write the captions and read them and read them aloud as you look at the book together.

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/36>





High School Online OPTIONS!

<http://www.northstaracademycanada.org/Options.php>

Important Information Night Dates!

May 6 Airdrie Genesis Centre - general info

May 7 Here in the office - New to Home schooling

May 13 Calgary—Location to be announced

May 14 Here in the office - general info session

May 24 Edson Alliance Church - general info session



Activity days

**** REGISTER BY EMAILING OR CALLING THE NORTHSTAR OFFICE ****

May 2, Rock Climbing and Archery, Pioneer Lodge Sundre AB

Space is limited

June 4, Police Dogs and Bowling



POST SECONDARY EDUCATION INFO

Grade 12 and high school students and families,

Want information about programs, admissions requirements, scholarships, loans and other topics related to post-secondary education?

Check out www.alis.alberta.ca!



There are tons of resources for studying in Alberta. If you aren't sure what you want to do after high school, there is info on a variety of careers. If you do know what you want to do, there is information about scholarships, Post-secondary institutions and programs in Alberta. For information about admissions requirements, you can go to the website for the Post-secondary institution you are interested in attending and find the program you want and check out admission requirements. If you prefer to talk to a person, Colleges and Universities have academic advisors who are only a phone call away and their numbers are usually pretty easy to find on the website.

If you'd like help planning your high school years, make an appointment with Mrs. Leismeister at www.nsacorrie.simplybook.me.

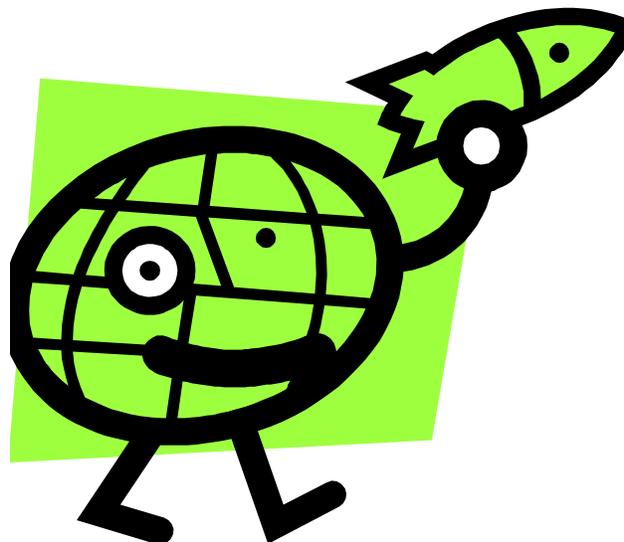




Science Center Activity Day

On Friday, April 4, about 50 students, several preschoolers and many wonderful parents attended the NSA Activity day at the Sparks Telus Center in Calgary. The students were divided into three age groups, led by Kimberley Brown, Barb May, and Sheila McIlwain. The groups enjoyed three different themed presentations: Cultivating Technology, Sparking Circuits, and the History of Western Music (which was a dramatic overview of European and American music from the middle ages until the present).

After the specific classes were over, we enjoyed free time with our families, exploring the different hands-on activities and information centers available. There was certainly something for everyone. A couple of my favorites were the thunder booth and the animation centers. I could have stayed and created little movies with the plastic animals for hours - of course, I had to move on so others could have their turn. Another highlight of the afternoon included the Fire Demonstration in the Presentation Theater. If you missed that, I strongly encourage you to take it in next time you are there. Which reminds me, one of the many helpful and accommodating Sparks Center staff members made a point of mentioning that they host regular Home School Family days twice a year where they open the center up only to Home School Families. You can check their web site to find out which days they are. The staff were so welcoming and enthusiastic in each presentation and activity center. They really made the students feel comfortable and tried to involve them in the learning and activities. This was a worthwhile activity day that I hope to participate in again.



Two Hearts

- by Ilona Jones English 20-1

Follow your heart! We hear this advice so often that it has become ingrained in our way of thinking. When we hear it we either immediately accept it as wise advice, or else dismiss it equally quickly as foolish advice. But how can we determine which view is really the right one when it comes to this popular quote by Michael Nolan? There is only one sure way. In order to establish the veracity of the philosophy behind Michael Nolan's quote we must consider it from a biblical perspective. We need to first contemplate it in light of the wickedness of our natural hearts, then as it pertains to the regenerated nature of our saved hearts, and finally we need to determine the wisdom of applying the quote to our own lives.

The Bible makes clear the danger of following our hearts. Speaking strongly on their evil nature, the Bible calls our hearts "deceitful above all things and desperately sick" (Jeremiah 17:9). And they are naturally so, from the very beginning of our lives. Wickedness is not something that our hearts learn; rather they are innately corrupt and we are told that "every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood" (Genesis 8:21). All of us as Adam's descendants are in open rebellion against our Creator and our hearts are as a result sinful by their very definition. In the New Testament Jesus says "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders" (Matthew 15: 19). By nature our hearts are corrupt and indeed "desperately sick". Following our hearts is then an extremely foolish and dangerous course of action.

However, although our natural hearts are evil and dangerous, those of us who are redeemed have been given new hearts: hearts that are being conformed to Christ. Our old hearts have been destroyed and replaced with new hearts. The Lord says, "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh" (Ezekiel 36:26). Those of us in Christ have been given entirely new hearts that are at peace with God and want to obey him. "For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ"- this is what Paul writes about the saved heart. Our new heart will want to follow Christ and learn more about Him. It will want to be with God's people and serve them. These are good and right things to do and so following this "new heart" is wise and correct. We must still be careful to not turn aside to the things of this world that "catch our eye", but these things will no longer truly catch our hearts. Having been given new hearts, we must act in accordance with who we are in Christ and "following" our redeemed heart is what we are meant to do.

As we consider these things we need to contemplate how they relate to our lives and the choices that we make. In order to determine if this quote is wise to follow or not, we need to examine the meaning of "heart". If following our hearts means giving in to every impulsive whim of fancy that is in us then we have the wrong idea of the heart. Rather following our hearts should mean striving after what is truly important to us; those things that resonate in our souls. If our heart is in its natural state we cannot trust these things, for our heart will be deceptive. But if we have been given a new heart then we can be confident of the redeemed nature of our heart and know that its deepest desires will be to the glory of God. Our daily choices should reflect our saved heart; we should live for God's glory in our every action, spending our time and resources on the things that truly capture our redeemed heart. This is wisely following our heart.

We have found that this quote has the potential for either great wisdom or great danger. If we follow our natural hearts, hearts that are wicked and desperately sick we will be setting ourselves up for hazard and heartache. However, if we follow our redeemed hearts, hearts that have been saved by Christ and are being conformed to Him, then we will be wisely living for what really matters. As we live life we must make wise choices, choices that are in accordance to our redeemed hearts. We must take care to not waste our lives on futile things that only "catch our eye" but rather on the things that conform to the calling of our redeemed hearts. As we consider these things we must ask ourselves a question - which heart will I follow?