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NorthStar
ACADEMY
Any Time. Any Place.



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OCTOBER 2014

A Servant's Heart

*"Wisdom's instruction
is to hear the Lord,
and humility comes
before honor."*

Proverbs 15:33

September NSA BBQ Kick off



Principal's Message

What are you thankful for today?

What are you thankful for today? The Thanksgiving season is a great time to consider all the things we have to be grateful for. 1 Corinthians 16:34 tells us to "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good". The staff of NorthStar Academy has much to give thanks for. We have a great working relationship with the Golden Hills School Division whose leadership is very supportive of Christian education. We also have a strong connection with the Koinonia Society which helps to guide shape our faith based education. We have experienced considerable growth over the last couple of years which has allowed us to offer more Activity Days, introduce science resource kits and add additional staff to better support your needs. As you carve up your turkey, know that we are thankful for all of the families who have partnered with us to educate their children.

You may have heard that Alberta Education has introduced a new assessment process that will eventually replace the Provincial Achievement Tests for grade 3, 6 and 9. It is called Student Learning Assessments (SLA's). The idea is to gather data at the start of the school year which can then help teachers to shape instruction for their students. NorthStar has been exempted from these assessments for this year as the evaluation branch is not sure how this process will work in a schooling-from-home setting. We will monitor the development of SLA's and keep you informed.

~RANDY WOOD



Bible Memory

OCTOBER: The Beatitudes

Matthew 5:1-10

1 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him,

2 and he began to teach them. He said:

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

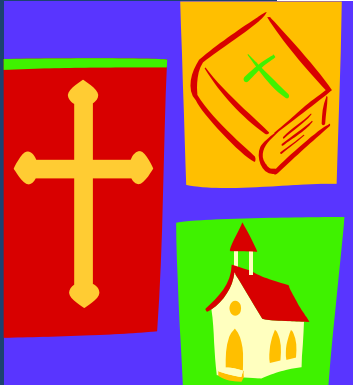
6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



This is open to all IL, 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!

The month's Bible memory passage will be included in each month's newsletter. You can print it and memorize it. When you've memorized the passage, recite it to your parent or supervisor and then they can e-mail either (corrie.leismeister@myghsd.ca) or (marci.penner@myghsd.ca) to let them know you have completed it.

Activity days

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

Spaces fill up quickly!!!

October 9 Sport Ball @ Deer Park Alliance Church in Red Deer

October 29 Medieval Day @Three Hills

October 30 Astronomy-God's Design @Edson Bethel Pentecostal Church



Activity Days!

Archery Classes, Horseback Riding and Wall Climbing... what a great combination ! Even in the rain, we all had a wonderful time. Our Activity Day, at Pioneer Lodge was a HUGE success! We had over 80 students attend, along with parents and preschoolers. The horses all had VERY interesting names and they were all very well behaved. The students were well behaved too! Every student thoroughly enjoyed their trail ride, even in the rain!



The Archery was great fun! We have many talented students in our midst! Balloons and playing cards were added to the targets which created a higher level of difficulty. Our students did wonderful and we popped many balloons!

The Climbing Wall was slippery with all the rain, but our students tackled it and conquered! Hearing them ring the bell at the top of the climb was awesome!

At lunch students enjoyed visiting and playing air hockey, fuse ball, and ping pong. It was a wonderful time of fellowship.

The Lord blessed us with a BEAUTIFUL day and with safety. We praise Him for a great time of fellowship together. He is so good to us!

~**Barb May**



Additional Resources~

The Notebook Fairy

www.notebookingfairy.com

If a child can tell, draw, or write about what they have learned, it shows that they have retained that information! Notebook Fairy is about having a student re-tell what they have learned!

<http://www.gcflearnfree.org/windows8>

Do you have a windows 8 laptop and feel overwhelmed?

Never fear 8.1 windows update is here!

This site also offers many other great tutorials!

THE NORTHSTAR FAMILY

Each month we will be featuring staff members that work for NorthStar Academy.



Emily Christopherson ~ Administrative Assistant, Registrar/student records

Emily has been working for NorthStar Academy since June 2010

Previous to this position, she completed Office Administration at Olds College and a variety of administrative courses through Red Deer College. Emily is an alumna of NorthStar Academy: having attended NorthStar from 2006-2008. Emily lives west of Olds, AB on a farm. She always loves to learn something new, and also enjoys travelling, exercising, scrapbooking, design and outdoor activities such as hiking.



Michelle Best ~ Administrative Assistant, Finance/marketing

Michelle has been working at NorthStar Academy since September of 2011.

Michelle has been married to Kevin Best for 30 years. They have 4 children. Two of which are married to wonderful spouses. Michelle is the proud “Amma” to two beautiful granddaughters. Before coming to work in the office at NSA, Michelle ministered as the Assistant Children’s pastor at a local church for several years. Prior to that, she lived in Nairobi, Kenya where her and her family were missionaries.

Michelle loves working with children and seeing them succeed as they follow God’s plan for their lives.



Barb May ~ Administrative Assistant, Moodle Tech/help desk

Barb has been working at NorthStar Academy since September 2013.

Barb married her best friend Kyle May on April 19, 2013. (We eloped). They held a Love Ceremony on June 22, 2013 where they celebrated with our family and friends. Together they have 6 children, ages 6 yrs to 15 yrs. Before working at NSA, Barb was an Education Assistant in both a preschool and a high school setting. Currently Barb and her husband Kyle partner together with a friend in running an online ministry, Surrendered Image (www.surrenderedimage.com). In her free time Barb enjoys crocheting, watching her kids play sports, bake and write.

Teacher Profile



Hello! My name is Mrs. Marcia Penner. My family and I currently live in Edinburgh, Scotland, and while it is a very long way from home, it is proving to be a very grand adventure! Edinburgh is home to nearly 500,000 people and home to a rich heritage of literature, culture and history.

I am married to my wonderful husband Brad. We have been married for 11 years. God has blessed Brad with an amazing love of learning and a love for school. He is currently completing the last year for a PhD in Theology at the University of Edinburgh. He hopes to one day teach Theology at a Bible College or Seminary.



Together we have two children.



Hanah is 8 years old and is full of life and energy. With two parents as teachers, she already loves school and loves to learn. This August she started Primary 4 here in Scotland! Her favourite activity currently is “adventuring” or anytime we leave the house to try something new. Living in a different country provides lots of opportunities for that!

Landen is almost 6 years old and is in Primary 2. He loves to stop and take all of life in, on his own time and in his own unique way. His favourite things in the world include planes, trains and automobiles, or pretty much anything with wheels. He also already loves tormenting his sister, especially now that he is almost the same size.



This is my fifth year with NorthStar and I teach Biology 20/30, Physics 20/30, Science 10, junior high Math, Math 20-2/30-2 and Digital Photography. Prior to being here I taught Special Education at a public elementary school in Salmon Arm, British Columbia and both grade 1 and grade 4 at Prairie Christian Academy in Three Hills, Alberta.

I have also had the opportunity to teach some education courses at Prairie Bible College for a few semesters. And once upon a time, I managed to complete a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry at the University of British Columbia. While teaching is my profession, science is one of my passions.

Thanksgiving dinners take eighteen hours to prepare. They are consumed in twelve minutes. Half-times take twelve minutes. This is not coincidence. ~Erma Bombeck



PSALM 95:2-3

Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.



FUN FACTS

Basic Math Facts and Number Fluency

Alberta Education recently announced a set of updates to the new Mathematics curriculum for grades 1 through 9. Having heard from teachers, parents and other stakeholder, they have specifically gone back and added the expectation that students can recall, understand and apply their number facts, including their multiplication tables.

Why are the basic math facts important?

Just as learning your ABCs is necessary for literacy success, knowing and being able to quickly and accurately recall the basic math facts (adding and subtracting number bonds to 20, multiplication and division facts to 12) is necessary for numeracy success. Knowing these, will help students solve more complex and higher level math problems. It will also expand their number sense. They will be better equipped to see and understand the relationship between numbers and their operations.

How can you help your child develop their basic math facts?

Practice, Practice, Practice!

I was recently at a parent consult meeting with my daughter's P4 teacher and we were talking about multiplication tables. She suggested reciting through a portion of the table at breakfast each morning. I had one parent a couple years ago when I was working in Three Hills, who would recite them with her daughter, as they walked to school every day.

There are many online website with various games that students can use to review their facts. One of my favourites is mathplayground.com. If you have older students, you might want to check out mangahigh.com. They do have a paid membership program, but most of the games have shorter trial version that are well worth a play. If you have an ipad or iphone, the [Squeebles Math Apps](#) are a great option.

Or there is always the old fashion route. Scholastic has a great [online article](#) outlining 7 different games you could play with basic household items focused around adding and subtracting. Each of them could easily be adapted for multiplication or have positive and negatives included to make them integers.

Be creative and have fun!