



From the Principal's Office



The new semester is upon us for our grade 10-12 students and we are getting a touch of real winter as it has been a pretty mild one so far. Final exams are usually as predictable as cold weather in a prairie winter, but this year has been unusual. First Alberta Education made diploma exams optional which resulted in nearly every student in the province choosing not to write. Secondly, school boards around the province decided to do "hold harmless" final exams for grades 11 and 12. This means course grades could go up but not

down based on the final exam results. This move came late in the semester so that our students were already in the process of writing or had completed their final exams. Our school division determined to apply this "no risk" strategy to grade 10-12 students for comprehensive final exams as not doing so would have placed our students at a disadvantage when compared to others in the province. Our teachers applied this concept to their semester 1 courses.

Students whose grade would have decreased because of a final exam result were exempted from that final exam. Those whose marks went up had the final exam included.

Congratulations are due to Mrs. Shaylene Dykema on the birth of Preston James – 8 lbs and 11 oz. Shaylene and her husband Stefan have two girls so I'm sure this little fellow is a welcome addition.

Mr. Daryn Wall is taking over Mrs. Dykema's classes. Mr. Wall earned a BA in Intercultural Studies from Briercrest and most recently his B Ed from Ambrose University. Welcome to NorthStar Mr. Wall!

February break is nearly upon us. Teachers will be unavailable that week as they enjoy the Family Day weekend and engage in professional development at teachers' convention. The NSA office will be closed on February 15 & 16 but open from the 17th to the 19th. May God bless you with a time of refreshing or productive catching up time – or perhaps a bit of both!

Randell P. Wood - principal

Dates to Remember

February 15 - Family Day

February 15 - 16 - NSA Office Closed

February 15-19 - Flex Week

Keep in mind that Moodle is still available, but there are no lessons due

February 16 - School Closure

February 17-19 - Teacher's Convention

February 24 - Pink Shirt Day for Anti-Bullying



**Coming Soon
NSA Clubs 2021!**

Join with others at NorthStar who have similar interests, participate in some fun activities, and learn more about something that you enjoy doing. Each club will be organized by a NorthStar teacher and will include one or two activities to participate in each term. Watch for the needed link to access the Moodle classroom Monday, February 1st.



Graduates be watching for an email from Amanda soon.



Spread some love and kindness...

BE MY PALENTINE?

This February spread some love and kindness to someone that attends NorthStar Academy!

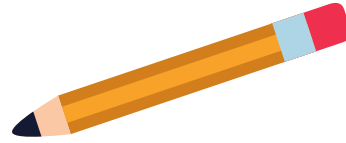
1. Go to the Learning Commons and fill in a Google Form with your information by Feb.10th.
2. You will be emailed someone's information from NorthStar by Feb.12th.
3. Create or Buy a Valentine's Card for the person.
4. Write a kind message of encouragement to them.
5. Pop your card in the mail and wait to receive your own card from a mystery student.

So... Will You Be My Palentine?

Here is the link to our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/northstaracademycanada/>

Here is the link to our Instagram page:
<http://www.instagram.com/northstaracademycanada>

This month we are getting to know... **Marci Penner**



Flashback to when you were 10 years old. What do you want to be when you grow up?

I definitely did not want to be a teacher. At age 10 I think being a dentist was top of my list. I spent quite a bit of time at the dentist having had 9 teeth pulled over the years. Rumor has it that big teeth and small mouths don't work well together.

What's better— Pizza or Tacos? Pizza, all the way!

How many years have you been teaching? I have been teaching for 21 years now. Oi - that is a scary number. It feels like it was just yesterday that I graduated from university and in my heart I am still 26 years old.

What's the most inspiring part of your job? Hearing a student say, "I get it, now!"

What is your favorite Bible verse & why? Oh, this is a tough one, as it changes almost daily. This January I have been returning often to Isaiah 43 and in particular vs. 19. "For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland." It has been a great reminder of who is in control and that we can have hope despite the chaos that may surround us.

Next month's Teacher Feature...Madison Haller

DID YOU KNOW...



...with Mr. H.

"The Body"

- Human sweat contains chemicals similar to what skunks spray.
- Human babies are born with 300 bones but adults only have 206. The smaller bones fuse together over time to form stronger ones.
- Eyelashes are typically the darkest hairs on the body.

Bible Memory

The Word of Life

Proclamation of Christ as Lord

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim, concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the Eternal Life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete. John 1:1-4

This is open to all Print Base Resource, Online, and Home Education 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!



STUDENT FEATURE



This month we are showcasing Raina's creation (above) and Evan Fiselier's creation (below) from the Tech Tools class.



CRAFT CORNER



Make a personalized sentimental Valentine's Day paper craft in minutes!

You will need:

12x12 paper, pictures, glue, scissors & embellishments such as ribbon, buttons or hearts. (optional)



Directions:

1. Cut a 3 inch strip of paper from a 12x12 paper.
2. Fold it accordion –style to form a small booklet. (Each section should be 3".
3. Cut squares of photos to fit on each flap.
4. Secure with glue!
5. Add embellishments. You can add ribbon, buttons, hearts or write a personalized note!

UPCOMING EVENTS

While we are waiting to hear when things will open, we have a few virtual activities scheduled for February. As I hear more about the changes in restrictions, I will add more events.

If you have any ideas for programming, please email [activityday@nsaschool.ca!](mailto:activityday@nsaschool.ca)

ACTIVITY DAYS

The current COVID-19 restrictions in place have made scheduling Activity Days, Clusters, workshops and Limitless Events challenging, as many have been postponed or cancelled without knowledge of when the organizations will start retaking bookings. As an alternative, I am offering some virtual activities for February. Please watch your inbox for an email with updates this week. Step One of Alberta's "A Step Forward" Plan takes place on Monday, February 8th. It opens up "indoor and outdoor children's sport and performance (school-related) activities." I am looking into this more to see if we can book school sports programs such as Gymnastics, Fencing and Swim lessons for our students or if it only applies to brick and mortar school programs. Museums, etc., do not open until Step 3 of Alberta's plan. Moving between steps will happen at least 3 weeks apart to assess the impact on cases. This means the earliest we will be able to book activity days inside a museum, zoo, interpretive centre, etc., is March 22. If you have not received an Activity Day update by Friday, February 5, please email me at activityday@nsaschool.ca. Make sure you check your spam folder first!

Various Dates in February - Virtual Activity Day - Telus Spark Dome Shows

Wednesday, Feb 10 - Virtual Activity Day - Math in Motion (Telus Spark with DJD)

Thursday, Feb 11 - Virtual Workshop - Card Making

Friday, Feb 19 - Virtual Activity Day - Vancouver Aquarium with Ocean Wise Workshop (Telus Spark)

Mondays, Feb 22 - Mar 29 - Virtual Cluster - Virtual Amazing Race

Tuesday, Feb 23 - Virtual Activity Day - Direct From Polar Bears International (Telus Spark)

Thursday, Mar 11 - Virtual Activity Day - Direct from Yamnuska Wolfdog Sanctuary (Telus Spark)

NORTHSTAR ACADEMY CONTACT LIST



 **Email Us**

Please note the changes for whom to contact!

- Principal - Randy Wood
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- Registrar, course changes, student files - Emily Neufeld
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- Finance, PBR and Home Ed Resources - Michelle Best
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- Powerschool parent portal - Glenna Rothfus
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- Online textbooks/shipping - Janae Johnson
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- Learning Supports Assistant - Ang Christopherson
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- Activity Day Coordinator - Amanda Sadler
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