



NorthStar ACADEMY

Any Time. Any Place.



From the Principal's Office



2022 is upon us and COVID -19 continues to make for some interesting times in education. Across the country the return to school after Christmas break is being postponed, with some jurisdictions returning to online learning rather than in person classes. For us at NorthStar, Diploma exams have been cancelled (not made optional as they were last time around) and our students are back to work on January 10th but things are mostly “normal”. Final exams for our grade 10-12 students are set to proceed but with a reduced weighting (10%). This gives our students the opportunity to practice their exam writing skills in a low-risk environment.

Things have not been exactly normal for our parent-directed students and families either. Many of you have been impacted by closures and restrictions to libraries, museums, and other kinds of learning centers that are an important part of your program. We are working hard to provide opportunities through our Activity Days program but it has been a challenge with the changing rules and guidelines. Thankfully, our activities coordinator Amanda Sadler is very resourceful.

In the midst of all this uncertainty we can find ourselves worried about what does the future hold. I can predict that it is going to get warmer outside – the wind chill is currently -43 Celsius and it can't get much worse! I know that in the months ahead our teachers and support staff will be working hard to help educate your children for eternity. Beyond that ... The truth is that many of the details of how the days ahead will play out are not known to us. This lack of certainty can be unsettling but as Christians we have faith – we can trust in the Lord. In recent days some difficulties in my extended family have sharpened my focus on what it means to trust God.

Isaiah 12:2 has been a reminder and a source of encouragement. **“Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.”**

We are living in uncertain times but we can be certain of our God.

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Happy New Year!
Randy Wood



Dates to Remember

- January 10** - School begins - week 17
- January 13** - Cut-off for Grades 7-9 submissions
- January 14** - Non-instructional Day
- January 21** - Cut-off for Grades 10-12 submissions
- January 24** - Semester 2 Begins for High School
- January 31** - Non-instructional Day



JANUARY EVENTS

January 3rd - 31st

Hot Chocolate Recipe Share

Is your hot chocolate recipe just too good not to share? Share your delicious recipes on the Padlet, posted in the Learning Commons.
Time to start mixing!



Snow Sculpture Contest

Prove your Snow sculpture is the best in this fun contest! A Moodle Discussion will be posted in the Learning Commons.
Ready, set.... Sculpt!




ACTIVITIES WITH AMANDA!

We now have a Tab for Activity Days in Moodle under Parent Lounge. It is highlighted in **GOLD**. Click on it and check it out for information on how to register for Activities! It is a place where you can easily access all information and ask questions in one spot! Please send any suggestions on what would be helpful to see there to activityday@nsaschool.ca.

Activities for the new year will be released after Christmas Break! So watch your emails in January for what's coming up!

NO SLAMMING POLICY IS IN EFFECT

Please head over to the Learning Commons under "School Policies" to learn more.



DID YOU KNOW...

...with Mr. Hooks

1. It takes 300 pounds of pressure per square inch to break a macadamia shell.
2. If cashews are not roasted, they are poisonous. The nut hangs down from the fruit that looks a bit like an apple or pear. Google: "cashew fruit image".
3. Because an unshelled walnut looks like a brain, the nuts got a reputation for being brain food. They are not! Of course, if you like walnuts you can still use that as an excuse to eat them.



Check Out Our Social Media by clicking the logos





HOME ENVIRONMENT AND LEARNING IDEAS FOR PARENTS

New Year Reset

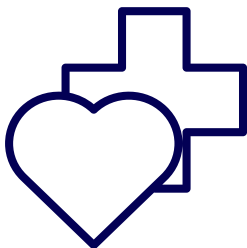
Each new year rings in the ideas of a hopeful fresh start. It is particularly helpful when we think about our learning. Perhaps you had a rough start to your school year whether it be adjusting to a new learning environment, interrupted sickness, or family challenges, we can all find our selves feeling stuck, lost, or exhausted.

Moving into the New Year, we can step back and revision and refocus on what we want learning at home to look like. If you could pull out the single most important thing you want to change, what would it be?

Do you need to change up that school schedule? Perhaps your learning space could use some adjustments. Are you ready to start a new activity or routine? Or maybe it is best to set an activity or responsibility aside for a time. Sometimes a reset can give everyone the excitement, freedom, and motivation needed to find refreshment, joy, and peace in learning!

If you are looking for tips on how to reset this year, you may find this [reflection and resource checklist](#) helpful. You can also find this in the Parent Lounge.





MISS HALLER'S WELLNESS CORNER



New Mercies Every Morning

It is a New Year! 2021 is in the past, and 2022 is our present reality. Even if you aren't someone who makes New Year resolutions, you most likely still evaluate the past year in some ways. You might look over the last year and see quite a bit of growth and success. You might see real discouragements and heartaches. Most often, the experiences can be a mix of joys and sorrows. Nevertheless, for Christians (Christ-followers), the character of God is more than enough for the past, present, and future.

“The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” ~ Lamentation 3:22-23

If you are stepping into this New Year on a positive note, be encouraged – God's love, mercy, and faithfulness will continue to sustain you through whatever this year will bring! If you are stepping into this New Year with the weight of last year holding you down, be encouraged - God's love, mercy, and faithfulness are granted to you in a new and beautiful way each morning! If you are God's child, He has given you hope and peace entering 2022 and will sustain you through this year. Each morning is a new opportunity to look to the Lord, depend upon His character, and be flooded with the grace and mercy He generously supplies.

I like the lyrics to a song, “I Have This Hope,” by Tenth Avenue North:

As I walk this great unknown / Questions come and questions go / Was there purpose for the pain? / Did I cry these tears in vain? / I don't want to live in fear / I want to trust that You are near / Trust Your grace can be seen / In both triumph and tragedy / I have this hope / In the depth of my soul / In the flood or the fire / You're with me and You won't let go / So, whatever happens I will not be afraid / Cause You are closer than this breath that I take / You calm the storm when I hear You call my name / I still believe that one day I'll see Your face

We have great hope in the character and promises of our great God! Each morning is a new day before the Lord. Let's live in this hope today!

This month we are getting to know... Taylor Fornwald



Miss Fornwald teaches
Grade 7-9 Math, LA, and
Social Studies.

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

I have always wanted to be a teacher for as long as I can remember. I used to play “school” with my younger brother and cousin during our summers off and have been working with kids for most of my life.

What’s better— Pizza or Tacos?

I would have to say pizza. Especially simple thin crust pizza like I had during my travels throughout Italy, nothing better!

How many years have you been teaching and what do you teach?

This is my 6th year teaching. My first two years I taught in London, England where I spent a year subbing and then a year teaching Grade 4. Since being back in Canada I have taught mostly at the Junior High level teaching Humanities, Drama and also lots of subbing for all grades. I started with NSA just over a year ago. This year I am teaching Grade 7-9 Math, LA and SS.

What’s the most inspiring part of your job?

The most inspiring part of my job is being able to guide students to find success and uncover their abilities that they were not even aware of having.

What is your favourite Bible verse & why?

My favourite Bible verse is Matthew 6:34, “Do don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.” Encouraging words that I have on a sticky note in my workspace as a reminder when my to-do lists get overwhelming and I find myself at a stand still. Knowing tomorrow is another day and calling on God to give the strength to get through what ever I am battling through gives me peace and comfort.

Bible Memory Verses January 2022

Children of God Faith in Christ Leads to Our Adoption into God's Family

Galatians 3:26 – 4:7

26 You are all sons of God, through faith, in Christ Jesus,

27 for all of you who were baptized, into Christ, have clothed yourselves, with Christ.

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one, in Christ Jesus.

29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

1 What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate.

2 He is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father.

3 So also, when we were children, we were in slavery, under the basic principles of the world.

4 But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law,

5 to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

6 Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."

7 So, you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

For more Bible Memory Verses, please visit the [Learning Commons](#)



Have a
Blessed
2022