

From the Principal's Office



Spring is an exciting time of year in nature with lots of change that happens. The green returns in the grass and trees and the flowers show off their colours. It is also a time of change in schools as some staff indicate they will not be returning, and we hire some new ones. Taylor Fornwald and Daniel Kim will both be moving on next year. We pray that God will bless them as they shift to serving him from new locations. We are doing interviews for a couple of positions and will share those results with you soon. We are blessed at NorthStar to be able to talk with candidates about how their faith will impact their work. Running interviews is a fun job as we get to meet people and talk with them about their passions.

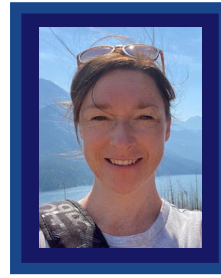
Angela Paine has been appointed as associate principal for NorthStar. She will continue her work in Learning Supports and teaching some PBR Math but will join principal Marci Penner in leading the NorthStar community of learners. These two teacher/administrators complement each other and will make an excellent leadership team.

Alberta Education is rolling out the new curriculum for grades 1-3 Math and Language Arts as well as Phys Ed & Wellness for grades 1-6. Our teachers are doing some professional development work over the next couple of months with other Golden Hills teachers to prepare for those changes. Be assured that the Biblical worldview will continue to infuse our lessons as we move forward with the new curriculum. Christ-centered education is our niche and our calling. It is a joy to live out this calling in partnership with our students/parents.

Principal Randy Wood

Dates to Remember

- May 6** - Non-Instructional Day
- May 9** - Info Session
- May 11** - Grade 9 High School Orientation Session - 7pm
- May 16** - Summer School Registration Begins
- May 20** - Non-Instructional Day
- May 23** - Victoria Day - Teachers Unavailable/Office Closed
- May 26** - Info Session
- May 30** - Limited Submission Period Starts (see pg 5)



CONGRATS!!

Special congratulations to our new Associate Principal Mrs. Angela Paine.



Summer school applications will open on **Monday, May 16th**. Spaces are limited and students will be placed on a waitlist upon submitting their application. From there, we will contact you by June 15th, regarding acceptance. Priority will be given to NorthStar students first. Keep an eye on our website on May 16th to apply: <https://www.nsaschool.ca/programs/summer-school>

Please Note:

- Summer school is available for **Gr. 10-12 students only**. Students currently in Gr. 9 (going into Gr. 10 in the fall), may apply for one Gr. 10 summer school course.
- Students may only apply for **one** summer school course.
- 30-level diploma courses are **not** offered in our summer school session.
- Summer school runs for approximately **three weeks** in July. Summer school is a very short timeframe, and students will be expected to complete their course during this timeframe.
- Fees: We charge a \$50 application fee per summer school student (if accepted). Plus the cost of shipping & consumable resources, if the course requires it. If a student is continuing a course from semester 2, a \$200 continuation fee will be charged.

For any questions related to summer school, please email office@nsaschool.ca

Grade 9 High School Orientation

Please click here to register: [information session](#). For NSA families with a student entering grade 10, we have a special High School Orientation session just for you. May 11th at 7pm.

May & June Events

Scavenger Hunt

Walk around your neighbourhood and enjoy the fresh air while participating in a Scavenger Hunt.

List of items and more details posted in the Learning Commons in May/June Events Tab.

Talent Show

Do you have a talent? Share a picture or video of your talent in the Learning Commons.

This event will be running throughout May and June. Make sure you post or view the talents of the students and staff at NSA.

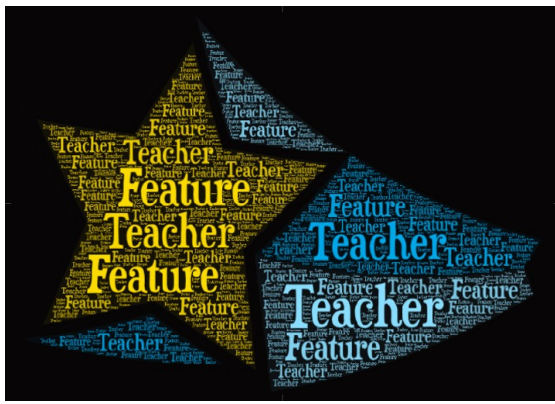


Check Out Our Social Media by clicking the logos



Registration is open for **2022-2023**

[Click here to access forms](#)



**THIS MONTH WE ARE
GETTING TO KNOW...**

MR. RANDY WOOD



Flashback to when you were young. What did you want to be when you grew up?

I wanted to be a doctor. I started in Pre-Med at university before I switched to Education.

What was your least favorite subject when you were in school?

French - Voila Monsieur Thibault!

Where have you taught?

Shell Lake, SK - 4 years

Macklin, SK - 2 years

Carbon - 11 years

Westmount Elementary, Strathmore - 1 year

Prairie Christian Academy, Three Hills - 12 years

NorthStar Academy, Didsbury - 8 years



Favorite subject to teach? Science - so many fascinating things about how God designed the universe.

What is the craziest thing you've done as a teacher/principal? Lots of crazy science demos - while I never actually set the lab on fire, we did have to evacuate once because the smell chased us all out.

Favorite memory in your 36 years of teaching? My best memories are of each time I was able to find a way to help a struggling student succeed. I even had a couple of them go on to careers in science.

What would your students be surprised to find out about you? That I love to fish but I don't like to eat them!

What is the first thing you are going to do when you retire? Go fishing!

What is your favorite Bible verse?

And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.
Micah 6:8



ACTIVITIES WITH AMANDA!

The weather is getting warmer and we have lots of great activities happening all over Alberta! I hope you will be able to join some of them.

There was an email sent last week with the May and June activities coming up! You can access the activities through the links below if you did not receive that email. You can also find information on the activities in Parent Lounge on our Moodle platform at any time. (The Activity Day Tab is highlighted in **GOLD**.)

If you have any questions or suggestions, you may email me at activityday@nsaschool.ca.

The Activity Day Newsletter link explains how all the activities work and the registration process: [Activity Day Newsletter and Registration Process](#).

The Activities Schedule link lists the activities you may register for. It is a live link updated regularly: [2021/22 Activity Day Schedule](#).

Here is a link to our NSA Activities Calendar that you can add to your Google Calendar: [NSA Activities Calendar](#).



GRADUATION INFORMATION

We are excited because Graduation is a month away!

Check out the Grad 2022 Moodle Classroom if you want to connect with your graduating class.

The deadline to enter your Coco Brooks Orders is Thursday, May 5!

If you would like to donate items or money towards our graduation, we will gladly accept them at the office or pick them up from you!

Email activityday@nsaschool.ca with any graduation questions.

DETAILS

Date: Saturday, June 4

Location: Zion Church, Didsbury, Alberta

Ceremony: 2:30 PM

Banquet: 4:30 PM

Dress: Semi-Formal

RSVP and tickets required to attend both the ceremony and banquet. **The deadline has passed to register.**

Limited Submission Period Policy

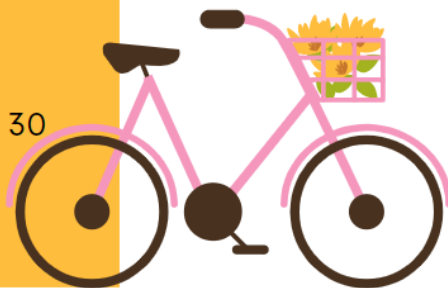


Why?

Once upon a time, most of our teachers worked part time. When the end of semester came and the students who were behind handed in a lot of assignments, we would increase our hours to get grading and report cards complete in time for our deadlines. As our student body grew and more teachers started working full-time, we found that a teacher can no longer double their hours at the end of semester (and still sleep and maintain healthy life balance). To balance the needs of teachers to survive the end of year rush and the needs of students who have found themselves behind in their courses, we now allow students to hand in as much as they can up to the **night before** the start of the last two weeks of class. That gives teachers two weeks to mark that avalanche of assignments and in each of those last two weeks, students may hand in up to two lessons' worth of work.

Start of LS Period:



Diploma courses: May 24
Other online courses: May 30
PBR courses: Check with
your teacher.



**DID YOU
KNOW...**

...with Mr. Hooks

1. What is the name of the Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox? Easter.
2. Apple founder Steve Jobs didn't let his kids use iPads.
3. Before there were envelopes, letters were elaborately folded and sealed with wax to ensure privacy.



Coco Brooks
Fundraiser

**Would you like to support our 2022
Graduating students by purchasing
Coco Brooks?**

Email activityday@nsaschool.ca.
**Pickup locations are in Calgary, Red
Deer and Edmonton.**

**Spoiler Alert! There's a lot more than
Pizza, and they have GF options!
Deadline, Thursday, May 5.**

**Our Student Graduation Committee is
looking for donations for our
Graduation Day!**

**We would like you to team with us by
donating a gift certificate or tangible item to
be given as a door prize or a cash/in-kind
donation to help defray the cost of the event.
An event this size requires many resources.
We will recognize contributions made in the
graduation program provided to all who
attend the ceremony.**

**If you would like to donate or inquire about
donating, please email
activityday@nsaschool.ca.**



HOME ENVIRONMENT AND LEARNING IDEAS FOR PARENTS

Help! I need to plan for next year!

It is that time again when you are making decisions about school programming for next year. When you are also managing learning challenges, it can often be challenging to know what to do.

NorthStar affords many benefits to students with specific learning needs. Providing multiple program options and meaningful instructional accommodations allows students to thrive in an educational environment designed for their learning success.

Looking at our four programming options, each one offers a different opportunity to accommodate student learning needs.

Does your child need more structure and accountability? Our **online program** (Grades 5 to 12), as a teacher-directed program based on Alberta's provincial curriculum, offers students greater structure and accountability.

Does your child need more choice and flexibility? Our **print-based resource program** (Grades 1 to 12), also a teacher-directed program based on Alberta's provincial curriculum, offers students greater flexibility. Student learning resources are chosen from a recommended list.

Does your child need to pursue their own interests? Our **home education program** (Grades 1 to 12), as a parent-directed program, does not require students to meet the outcomes of Alberta's provincial curriculum. It offers parents the ability to customize their student's program based on their specific learning needs and interests. A teacher facilitator is assigned to help support parents through this process.

Maybe your child needs a bit of everything, depending on the subject area. Our **shared responsibility program** (Grades 1 to 12), as a blend of our teacher-directed and parent-directed programs, offers students the opportunity to pursue their individual learning interests in some subject areas, while working towards the fulfillment of the provincial curricular requirements in others.

For a chart summarizing each of these options and highlighting the roles and responsibilities for each, please refer to the following link: [NSA Program Options Summary](#).

If you would like to connect with an LS coordinator to help with program decisions, please contact our school office.

Happy Planning!



MISS HALLER'S WELLNESS CORNER



Living in an Anxious Age

Have you found yourself struggling with periodic fears, unrealistic worries, or crushing anxiety? If so, know that you are not alone! Everywhere I go, I encounter individuals who are battling anxiety in different ways. I, myself, am not immune to this struggle! I don't know exactly what you are facing right now... you could be anxious about your workload, your friends, your family, your job, your health, your future, your safety, or a variety of other stresses. Whatever the case may be, I want to share with you some strategies I find helpful when I am trying to trust in the Lord and think rightly about a particular situation or relationship.

1. **Dwell on what is Good and Beautiful** – spend time focusing on the positive things in your life, the truth of God's Word, and the beauty of His creation (count your blessings) instead of spending the majority of your time thinking about what is going wrong or stressing you out in your world.
2. **Grace Spot** – look at all the ways other people are evidencing the grace of God in practical ways instead of getting wrapped up in the negative things that people are doing around and to you. Once you notice these graces, share them! Speak life and encourage others!
3. **Read the Word of God and Focus on Trusting in God's Promises** – “Children need to be reminded that God is in charge of everything happening in our world. Also, God did not promise us that only good things will happen. Bad things happen too because we live in a broken and sinful world. The absolute truth is this: in good times and bad times, God is in control. 1 Peter 1:6 reminds us that as God's children we will suffer grief in all kinds of trials, including sicknesses. But our response to these things will show that our faith is genuine. This truth should drive the children to depend on God who knows everything. God's Word also gives us hope when Paul says, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us” (Romans 8:18). Help children to trust that God is with them even in the midst of difficulties, and one day all suffering will end when Christ returns.” ~ Dudu Mkhize (<https://africa.thegospelcoalition.org/article/helping-anxious-children-to-trust-god/>)
4. **Talk and Share your Heart and Struggles** – It is so important to find a trusted parent or friend to share your struggles with. We need community! Do not try to run this race alone. Be vulnerable with someone you can trust. Depend upon the care and support others can offer.
5. **Pray** – Ultimately, God is in control of your mind, heart, and life. We need to humbly ask God to renew our hearts and minds, give us a greater love for our Lord, and help us comprehend his great love for us. The closer we are to our loving God, the farther we will be from our worldly worries.
6. **Have Grace with Yourself** - We are all humans. Anxiety is a natural response to living in this sinful world. We need to strive to cast all our cares upon the Lord (1 Peter 5:7), but we also need to understand that we will never do this perfectly in this life. That is why we need God's grace provided through Jesus's sacrificial work on the cross to save sinners. If we have received this grace, we need to live in this grace. Be gentle with yourself as you battle with and through anxiety.

Amazing Resource for Adults - **Gospelbound: Living with Resolute Hope in an Anxious Age by Collin Hansen and Sarah Eekhoff**

Amazing Resource for Children - **Zoe's Hiding Place: When you are anxious (edited by David Powlison and illustrated by Joe Hox)**



MAY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Week 31	3	4	5	6 PD Day (teachers unavailable)	7
8	9 Week 32	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Week 33	17	18	19	20 Non- Instructional (teachers unavailable)	21
22	23 Week 34 Victoria Day	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Week 35	31				

Yellow = All staff offline
Blue = Teachers Offline