

NORTHSTAR ACADEMY  
#103,1001-20 AVE  
Box 2220  
Didsbury, AB  
T0M0W0  
1-877-335-1171

office@nsaschool.ca



NorthStar  
ACADEMY

Any Time. Any Place.



[www.northstaracademycanada.org](http://www.northstaracademycanada.org)

OCTOBER 2015

I Believe...

*"Now faith is being sure  
of what we hope for and  
certain of what we do  
not see."*

Hebrews 11:1

September NSA BBQ Kick off



## Principal's Message

Thank you to all of you who were able to join us for the back to school barbeque. It was great for the staff to be able to connect with so many of you. It is our desire for NorthStar Academy to be a community of believers learning together. Every time we get together, even if it is just for hotdogs and bouncy castles, we build relationships that are the key to us being more than just an online school. We have added a number of new Activity Days and Workshop Wednesdays so that you will have more ways to connect as families and with us as staff. Sure we sneak a bit of schooling in there as well but the relationships we build on these days are invaluable. Thanks for being a part of the NSA community.

NorthStar Academy continues to grow. We are now at a head count of close to 550 students with just over 380 full time equivalents (we have many part time senior high students). In the last three years we have more than doubled in size. We give thanks to God that he continues to provide us with new teachers to meet the demands of this growth who are strong in their faith and in their professional skills. Shaylene Machacek joined the NSA team in May and Susan Cullum signed on this fall as our numbers continued to climb. When you get a chance, please welcome them to the NorthStar family.

Did you know that as a Christian school in the Golden Hills School Division our teachers have the privilege of attending the ACSI teacher's convention? ACSI is the Association of Christian Schools International. At NSA our teachers are called to lead students into a deeper walk with the Lord, in addition to all the other teacher stuff they do. We attend this convention so that we may sharpen our skills as faith leaders. Our work on October 22nd and 23rd will be guided by the theme - Cultivating Strong and Courageous Students – "Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord!" Psalm 31:24

We pray that your school year is off to a good start and that God will bless your efforts as you work alongside your children. If there are any wrinkles we can help you iron out, please don't hesitate to give us a call at the office.



## Bible Memory

**OCTOBER: "I Believe.."**

Matthew 16:13-20

13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

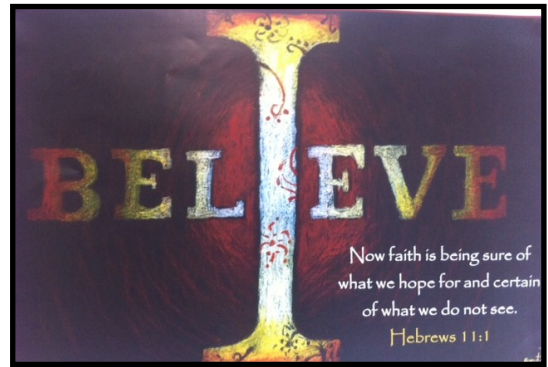
14 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter,[a] and on this rock I will build

my church, and the gates of Hades[b] will not overcome it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be[c] bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be[d] loosed in heaven." 20 Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.



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!

## Additional Resources~

[http://www.first-school.ws/theme/cpseasons\\_autumn.htm](http://www.first-school.ws/theme/cpseasons_autumn.htm)

<http://www.printactivities.com/ColoringPages/Autumn/Autumn.html>

<http://www.crayola.com/free-coloring-pages/seasons/fall-coloring-pages/>

# Activity Days Recap!

This past year NorthStar had adventurous Activity Days. We played hockey and went to the Alberta Sport's Hall of Fame. We learned some new gymnastics skills and got to swim and play together. We had our annual weekend family retreat, where we got to experience the Lord's beautiful outdoor scenery together and dissect some pigs hearts and lungs. We got a chance to try archery, climbing, and horseback riding at Pioneer Lodge. We got to go skiing. Thank you to all the families who attended these events, we

loved getting to have you join our experiences. But most of all we loved joining you in fellowship and play. This next year we hope to see you come out to these wonderful activities.

FREE for all NSA families.  
God Bless!



## Activity Days

**\*\* REGISTER BY EMAILING \*\***

**activityday@nsaschool.ca or call the NSA office at 1 877 335 1171**

**Spaces fill up quickly!!!**

**October 15 & 16 Pioneer Lodge Camp Day in Sundre**

**October 21 Workshop Wednesday at NSA office**

**October 28 Prairie Gardens & Adventure Farm in Spruce Grove**

## NorthStar Academy welcomes Susan Cullum



Education: Bachelor of Education from the University of Alberta with a Social Studies Major and Clothing & Textiles Minor

Teaching Experience: Taught at Prairie High School/Prairie Christian Academy for 12 years and then substitute taught all grade levels since my family began arriving in 2001.

Sue is married to Pat and lives on a small farm with some sheep, cow, horses and grain southeast of Three Hills, AB. She has four children: Garrett (14), Jenna(12), Keifer(10) and Declan (6). They keep her very busy running a shuttle service to their various activities such as volleyball, hockey, figure skating, piano, 4-H, lacrosse and Youth!! She also enjoys baking and decorating cakes for birthdays and weddings, scrapbooking and making figure skating dresses. Sue love to bike and spend time at Lake Koocanusa in Montana.

Sue is excited to join the NorthStar Academy team and work with some former colleagues! It has been a great experience meeting all the new NorthStar families!

A favorite verse of hers is 1 Thessalonians 5:24: The one who calls you is faithful and He will do it.

## NorthStar Academy welcomes Shaylene Machacek



Miss. Machacek has experienced both the traditional and online sides of home schooling from the students perspective. She has come to appreciate many aspects of both.

Miss. Machacek loves to hit the mountains all year round, so she is very fortunate to only be a couple hours from Banff! She loves to be out hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, snowboarding, and just appreciating the beauty that God has surrounded us with. It's always good to take a nice, healthy drive out to the mountains! She is also a bit of a board game nerd. She enjoys games that require strategy and is always up for a challenge.

She also enjoys traveling, because she gets to meet new people and learn about other cultures. This past year, Miss. Machacek had the opportunity to travel to South America, where she taught English and did a lot of hiking. She thought South America might rid her of the travel bug, but instead it just made it stronger!

## Where is the Joy?

~Rene Hoeksma

I have taught Bible for many years in several different schools including the online school that I teach at now. Looking back at all those years of teaching Bible, one thing stands out in my mind. Almost all of the students were Christians but most of them often stated that they were somehow not good enough for God and, that they should be trying harder to be good Christians and that they needed to study the Bible more. We all say that is true but many of us don't do it, and I know that from past personal experience. The New Testament often speaks of the joy of knowing the Lord, of being a believer and realizing that we belong to the Father. Why do students get the idea that they are not good enough? Are we as a Christian community teaching our children that? These questions have been rattling around in my brain for many years and in the last decade I have come to some sort of understanding.

A few years ago a man got up in our church and stated that he had just been diagnosed with cancer, his wife had left him and he had a serious accident at work. He stated quite proudly that he had finally decided that God was trying to get his attention and he was now listening. Most of the people in the church smiled and they looked like they thought that this was a great thing. In fact a few of the people stated after church that this man had been an inspiration to them.

I did not agree. I am a father of three children that are all grown up now but I remember with fondness when they were young and they lived at home. (It seems like they lived at home for such a short time now that I look back). I loved my children and wanted the best for them although I did discipline them and I did correct them because I loved them. They responded because they loved me. My love for them was in no way perfect but I did the best that I could. If I had hit one of them or ran over them with a car to get their attention, I would have been considered a very bad father, yet it seems that some of us think that is how our Father acts. Even though we know that His love is perfect and that nothing stands in the way of our relationship with Him, we do not seem to really believe that. The big problem is that if we do not really believe that we are perfect in the eyes of the Father and if we aren't, then Jesus died for nothing.

What happened when Jesus died for us? In the Old Testament era, and that includes the years that Jesus was on earth before his resurrection, we see the Father trying to have a relationship with his people. This relationship was constantly broken because sin was a huge block between the Father and the people since the Father could not tolerate sin. When Jesus died to get rid of the sin block, the curtain, that had symbolically separated Him from the people, tore from the top to the bottom to show that nothing was blocking us from the Father. He was now free to have a relationship with his people (those who believe).

For many years after I became a Christian, I thought that all my past sin had been taken care of, but that now it was my job to stop sinning and to make myself acceptable to the Father. What I was actually saying is that Jesus had died for nothing and when I think of that now I am horrified. Jesus took care of all my sin, past, present and future. Now when the Father looks at me, he only sees his perfect son. I am not sinless by any means and sometimes I can easily say with Paul that I am the chief of all sinners but the Father no longer sees my sin. I often talk to the Father about my sin but I no longer ask Him to forgive my sins because that would be like asking him for something that I already have, and that seems foolish. I regret my sin because I love my father and out of respect I will do my best.

Paul says that when we became Christians we died with Jesus and we rose with him. It is no longer I that live but it is Christ living in me.

It is not my job to make myself better for the Father. It is my job to let Christ in me, change me into what he wants me to be.

(Galatians 2)

In the past few years I have come to the conclusion that I am not religious and when people say I am, I get kind of angry. Religion is man's attempt to make himself good enough for his God, whoever that may be. Christianity is the belief that Christ did it all and that the Father now sees me as perfect and that he loves me totally and completely. The really cool thing is that if I mess up, I know that no one knows me better than the Father and that He completely understands why I messed up just like I understood when my kids messed up.

So how do I handle my student's pessimism? I tell them that the Bible is the most important book in the world but the book should never become more important than the author. If it does, then the Bible has become an idol and that is not cool. When they say that they are not good enough, I tell them the story of the Galatians. Paul went to Galatia, a province that was extremely poor. Most of the land was owned by absentee land owners and the people, who were very poor, worked on the land for the owner and most of them could not read since education was almost non-existent there. It is probable that the people had never been more than a few miles from home and would never be further from home than that in their lives. He stayed with them for a few years and made tents for a living. Many of them became believers. He left them without a pastor, without a Bible and certainly with no seminary or Bible School. He left them with Christ in them and he believed that was enough. As far as not being happy, I tell my students that they belong to the Master of the universe, their eternal life has started and that God even promised that he would use everything, even the bad things in their lives, for their good. What more could you want? When we think that we are not good enough or that we should do more to make the Father happy, we are saying that Jesus died for nothing.