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### Stand Firm

**Stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you.**

*2 Chronicles 20:17*



**NorthStar**  
ACADEMY  
Any Time. Any Place.



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

NOVEMBER 2016



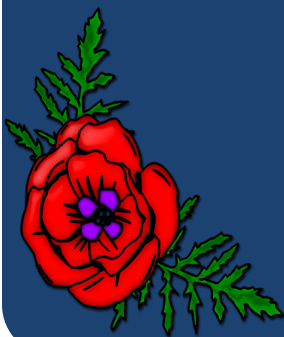
We love our  
NorthStar  
Families!!!!

*The home schooling community in Alberta has recently been impacted by the closure of Trinity/WISDOM. These events have taken parents by surprise and disrupted a learning community that has been in place for many years. Homeschoolers across the province are feeling a bit unsettled, which is very understandable with what has been in the media. One of the big concerns Alberta Education has identified is what they have called "third party delivery of education". This is about the relationship between the operating authority and teachers – whether the teachers work for the operating authority or a second party. Alberta Education has indicated there are four or five homeschool organisations that operate under this model. Some of our families have asked about NorthStar Academy and whether this issue relates to us. It does not. We are operated as an alternate program under the Golden Hills School Division. All of our teachers and support staff are under direct employment contracts with GHSD, which is the model Alberta Education apparently wants for all homeschooling providers.*

*To keep you updated on how this is affecting us, let me share with you that the superintendent of Golden Hills School Division, our operating authority, has directed us to welcome any and all WISDOM families – a direction we are most happy to follow! We have already received a number of student transfers and many calls and visits from families trying to determine if NorthStar Academy could be a new home for them. Many of the WISDOM families are waiting to hear the results of an appeal/challenge of the closure before making the move to a new school so we anticipate further inquiries and registrations in the coming days.*

*Please join us in praying for these families who are experiencing this disruption and loss of community as they are now unexpectedly having to reach out to new organisations to assist them in educating their children – not a great place to be this far into the school year.*

*Randy Wood, Principal*



## Bible Memory

“Stand Firm...”

2017 Bible Memory!



**September** Stand Firm with the Armor of God  
*Ephesians 6: 10-18*

**January** Stand Firm when other doctrines rise up  
*1 Corinthian's 15:51-58*

**October** Stand Firm with God's Help  
*2 Corinthians 1: 21-24*

**February** Stand Firm because God's word stands firm  
*Psalms 93:1-5*

**November** Stand Firm so you will not be a slave to sin.  
*Galatians 5:1, 13-17*

**March** Stand Firm in unity as believers  
*Philippians 1:27-30*

**December** Stand Firm in your faith you will not stand at all  
*Isaiah 7: 9b-14*

This is open to all TD, 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!

## ~Ideas for Remembrance day!!~

<https://www.pinterest.com/domesticgoddess/remembrance-day-crafts/>

<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/get-involved/ways-to-remember>

<http://www.focusonthefamily.ca/>

# Activity Days Recap!

In October NSA 59 families adventured to the Calgary Zoo, where they were set with a scavenger hunt task. The students took their task very seriously and were able to learn many new things about the animals they found in the Zoo. The families and NSA staff were incredibly grateful for the beautiful fall weather and the time that they got to spend together. The NSA staff feels very blessed to be able to share this day with their students and families. Thank you to all families who joined us. Want to

try an activity with NSA? We still have space in our Puppet, Science, and Remembrance Day Activity in Three Hills on Nov 10.

Email [activityday@nsaschool.ca](mailto:activityday@nsaschool.ca) to join!



## Activity Days

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

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

**Spaces fill up quickly!!!**

**November TBA, Workshop Wednesday "How to Google": NSA office**

**November 10, Remembrance and Science Day: Three Hills**

**November 17 & 18, Telus Spark Center: Calgary**

**November 24, Telus World of Science: Edmonton**

**Dec 14, Workshop Wednesday: How to write a Position paper**

**Dec 16 Christmas Party's! Edson (Northern AB)**

**Pioneer Lodge Sundre (Central AB)**



## NorthStar Activity Day to Calgary Zoo!





## Limitless!





If you are a NSA student in grades 10-12 and are interested in joining, please email Roberta for more information at [roberta.onyschtschuk@myghsd.ca](mailto:roberta.onyschtschuk@myghsd.ca)

**Our High School students had a blast at Laser Quest on October 1st. We had over 30 students show up to play laser tag and eat pizza. There was a lot of good fellowship over pizza and a healthy amount of competition in the laser tag arena. It was a very fun evening!**

**We have several more special events for our Limitless Grade 10-12 students planned for this year. It's not too late to get in on the fun!!**

**December 10, 2016 Jump 360 Trampoline Park, Red Deer**

**February 4, 2017 Tubing at Canyon Ski Resort, Red Deer**

**April 7, 2017 Bowling, Airdrie**

**TBA Hiking Day, Banff**

**Email [roberta.onyschtschuk@myghsd.ca](mailto:roberta.onyschtschuk@myghsd.ca) to sign up for activities now.**

# Creating Community at NorthStar Academy

At NorthStar Academy we believe in the importance of community, both as a school community and as a community of faith. We use our back to school barbeque, our activity days, our Workshop Wednesdays, and Limitless, our senior high youth group, to make connections. These connections help our families to meet curricular objectives, to grow in faith and to just have fun.

~Randy Wood, Principal~

Nothing brings more community than praying for one another. At NorthStar we take time to pray for our staff and our families.

~Shauna Crotser, Teacher/Facilitator~



I just came from a music class (which is new to NorthStar) and spent a wonderful hour visiting with Mom's who have been with us for a while and Mom's who are new. All were quick to introduce themselves to one another and were not shy about asking questions and answering them and getting to know one another. By the time the kids were done the Mom's were exchanging phone numbers. What a great afternoon.

At NorthStar Academy we work hard to provide activities that will allow friendships to form between both children and adults. All of our activities are geared to have family involvement allowing for time for the parents to meet and chat amongst themselves. We have recently started a parent support group for parents to come together while their kids are in a workshop. This group is lead by one of our teachers. She generally lets the parent set the tone for the meeting and then answer questions where needed.

We believe it is very important to form friendships with like minded families and NSA tries to provide opportunities for this at all of our activities.

~Michelle Best, Admin/Finance~

***If you are interested in our Activity Days please email Taylor at [activityday@nsaschool.ca](mailto:activityday@nsaschool.ca)***

# Creating Community at NorthStar Academy

I start with the premise that the parents are responsible for the education of their children. They may ask some institution like NSA to help with that task. We then become the servants of the parents and it is our job to help them educate their children. We do not want to take the parents out of the picture so it is our job to make sure that we are doing what they need and want. We may have special skills and training to help in the task but we can never say that we know better than the parents what is best for the child.

That being said, we as a school must make sure that the parents are heard and understood. For that reason community is very important. How best to do that in the broader sense of the school with the parents is rather difficult. I believe it is my job to develop a relationship with each of the parents of the children that I teach. Without a relationship, there is no dialog.

I am not sure how you would do that as a school but I think that activity days are one very good way to do that. I have seen a community develop at these days and the more times the teachers and the parents meet the more a community is developed. Still, I think that it is best for each teacher to work at knowing and understanding the parents that they serve.

~Rene Hoeksema, Online/TD Teacher~



There are three ways I see community happening in NorthStar:

1. The student cafe - my girls often talked about things going on there and felt a connection to other students through sharing of common interests there.
2. Activity Days - You can really see how kids connect at these events, completing challenges, playing games and hanging out.
3. One-to-one interaction with students and peers. This is not as visible and some students pursue this more than others, but it is fun sending pictures and emojis back and forth; discussing classes, interests and events in our lives; and encouraging each other via e-mail or moodle messaging.

~Corrie Leismeister, Teacher/Facilitator~