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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)

DECEMBER 2016



***As a child growing up in Edmonton one of the markers of the start of Christmas was the unveiling of the animatronic displays in the windows of the Hudson's Bay store. Reindeer and rosy cheeked kids were often featured all having a great time in the snow. My family used to make the trek downtown so we could see what the imaginative artists had come up with. Now Black Friday and Cyber Monday are the harbingers of the Christmas season. Things have changed!***

***While some of the changes are not a good thing, such as the hype around online shopping, some trends are pretty positive. Lots of people are working to step back from the materialistic commercialization of Christmas. I have heard from many friends and family that the focus of their giving this year will be on experiences rather than things – planning for a day of cross country skiing, going to the Hot Springs as a family outing, touring the Science Center – time spent together as family and friends. While this is not the same as celebrating the true meaning of Christmas – a saviour come to take away the sins of the world – it is a step in the right direction, a trend that is worth supporting. Hopefully you will get a chance to reflect on that greatest of all gifts as you spend time with your family, whether it will be enjoying the splendor of God's creation, or having fun while opening the presents under your tree. I have a three year old granddaughter so I know I'm looking forward to seeing some presents opened.***

***May the Lord bless you as you celebrate the birth of Christ. Merry Christmas from the staff of NorthStar Academy***

***Randy Wood, Principal***



## Bible Memory

**“Stand Firm...”**

**2017 Bible Memory!**

**December** Stand Firm in your faith you will not stand at all

Isaiah 7: 9b-14



If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all.’ ”

10 Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz,

11 “Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

12 But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.”

13 Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try

the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also?

14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

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 Christmas!!~

<http://www.delish.com/holiday-recipes/christmas/>

<http://www.parenting.com/gallery/diy-crafts>

<http://www.crosswalk.com/devotionals/christmas-devotionals/>

# Activity Days Recap!

November was the month of science for our grade 1-3 students participated in a NSA activity days. Thank you to all of the class where they learned about (roughly) 125 families that joined us for one microscopes, the grade 4-6 students or more of our science days. Whether you learned about coding (scratch.mit.edu) and traveled to Three Hills, the Calgary Science our grade 7-12 students learned about 3-D Center, or the Edmonton Science Center, printing. In Edmonton, we wandered we loved getting to learn with you! In around the exhibits, learned some Angry Three Hills, we were fortunate to get a Bird Physics and saw a wonderful movie variety of skill lessons, with science with called Born to Be Wild. Each day reminded Mrs. Penner, art with Mrs. Cullum, and us how blessed we are as a staff to work Puppetry with WP Puppet Theatre. In with all you wonderful families! Thanks for Calgary at the Telus SPARK, students got a coming out! We can't wait to see you at chance to wander the exhibits as well as the next one.

## Activity Days

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

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

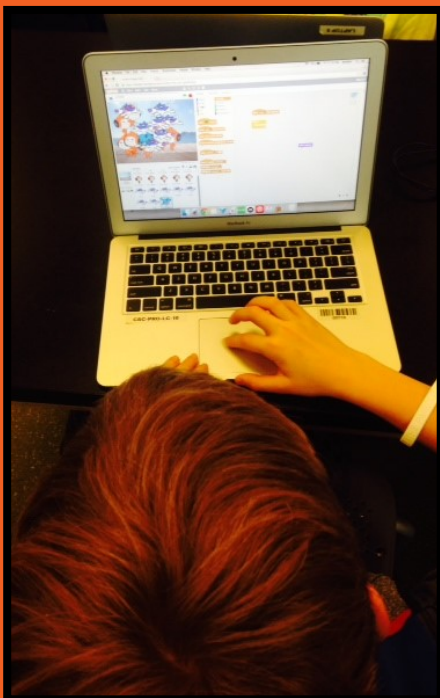
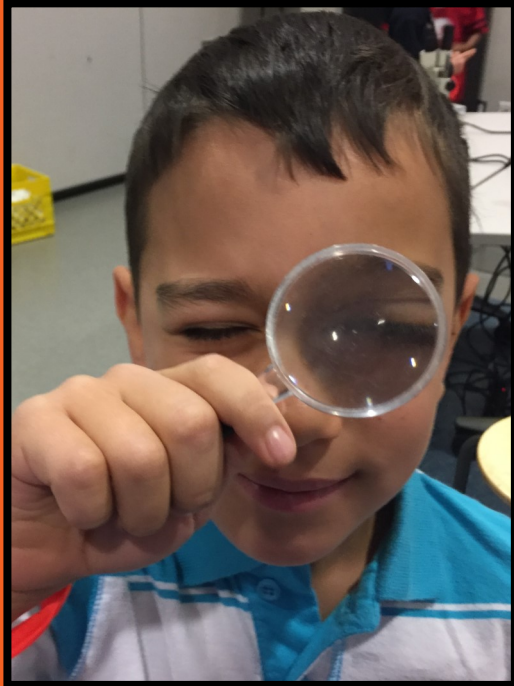
**Spaces fill up quickly!!!**

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

**Dec 16 Christmas Parties! Edson (Northern AB) or  
Pioneer Lodge Sundre (Central AB)**

**ENJOY YOUR CHRISTMAS BREAK!**

## Calgary Telus Spark Center



## Limitless



A HUGE thank you to all who came out to help out at Samaritan's Purse shoebox packing distribution centre on Monday, November 21st. It was amazing to see God's love get "packaged up" to be sent off to children all over the world. We will definitely make this an annual event! So if you missed out on it this year, be sure to watch for it next fall.

These two boys were still busy working when we took our group photo!





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)

**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

## The Story of the Birth of Jesus

One day about 2,000 years ago an angel named Gabriel appeared to a young Jewish woman named Mary. Gabriel told Mary she would have a son, Jesus, who would be the Son of God! Mary was confused and worried about this sudden news, but she had faith in God and said, "I am the Lord's servant; let it be as you say."

### **Journey to Bethlehem**

Mary and her husband-to-be, Joseph, lived in a town called Nazareth. But they had to travel to the city of Bethlehem to register for a census ordered by the Roman emperor, Caesar Augustus. Both Nazareth and Bethlehem are in the country now called Israel. It is about 65 miles (105 km) from Nazareth to Bethlehem, and the trip probably took them several days.

When Joseph and Mary got to Bethlehem, there was no place for them to stay because the inn was already full. They ended up spending the night in a stable, a place where animals were kept. There was probably fresh hay on the floor that they used for beds.

That night, Jesus was born. There was no crib, so they laid baby Jesus in a manger, a feeding trough for animals. The manger probably had fresh hay in it and made a nice bed for the baby.

### **Shepherds Visit Jesus**

That night, some shepherds were in the fields near Bethlehem, keeping watch over their flocks of sheep. An angel appeared to them and gave them the good news that a Savior, the Messiah, had been born. The angel told the shepherds they could find Jesus lying in a manger. Suddenly a whole group of angels appeared saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

The shepherds hurried into Bethlehem and found Jesus in the manger, just as the angel had told them. After they had seen Jesus, they spread the news, and everyone who heard was in awe.

Some time later, wise men, or magi, from eastern countries saw a star in the sky that signaled the birth of a new king. They came to Judea, the region around Jerusalem and Bethlehem, to worship Jesus, the new king.

A man named Herod was the king of Judea. He called the wise men to a meeting and told them to find the new king so he could go and worship him, too.

The wise men continued on to Bethlehem and followed the star until it was directly above the house where Jesus was. They found Mary and Jesus in the house and knelt down to worship Him. They brought Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, some of the finest things in the ancient world. Frankincense was burned to make a sweet smell, and myrrh was an expensive perfume.

# Creating Community at NorthStar Academy

## Cont'd

After visiting Jesus, the wise men had a dream that warned them not to go back to King Herod, so they took a different route home.

## Journey to Egypt

King Herod lied when he told the wise men he wanted to worship Jesus. He was afraid this new "king" would replace him as king of Judea. He did not understand that Jesus would grow up to be king of God's spiritual kingdom, not king of Judea.

What Herod really wanted was to find Jesus and kill Him! Herod was furious when he realized the wise men had not come back to tell him where to find Jesus. He sent his soldiers to Bethlehem to kill all the children under two years old, thinking Jesus would certainly be one of the ones killed.

But God had told Joseph in a dream to flee to Egypt. Joseph took Mary and Jesus to live in Egypt where they would be safe from Herod. Joseph, Mary and Jesus stayed in Egypt until Herod had died, and then they returned to Nazareth.

## Question

Was Jesus born on Christmas day? We celebrate Jesus' birth on Christmas, but no one really knows what day Jesus was born, or even exactly what year. In 336 A.D., the Western Church, based in Rome, chose December 25 to celebrate as Christmas, meaning "Christ's Mass." The Eastern Church chose January 6. The day was named Epiphany, meaning "appearance." Eventually the period from December 25 to January 6 became known as the Twelve Days of Christmas.

[http://www.christianbiblereference.org/story\\_BirthOfJesus.htm](http://www.christianbiblereference.org/story_BirthOfJesus.htm)

Christmas is a wonderful time of year for families that educate from home to participate in different areas of the community!

- Carolling in the Senior homes
- Helping out at the local food bank or thrift store
- Shovelling your neighbors walk way
- Reading to a lonely elderly neighbor
- Helping with gift wrapping

Christ gave us the sweetest gift with the birth of his son Jesus. We can spread the joy of giving with our time. Have a blessed holiday season!