

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

office@nsaschool.ca



www.northstaracademycanada.org FEBRUARY 2014

Walk in the Light

"Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord." Isaiah 2:5



Principal's Message



The staff of NorthStar Academy recently spent a day looking at how our program is organized (don't worry, we are not reinventing ourselves again!). We examined parental concerns and suggestions as well as reviewing the teacher's observations about how things are working. Our mission is to provide our students access to quality Christian education "Any time. Any place." Your feedback is a great help to us in fine tuning our program so that we can meet our goals.

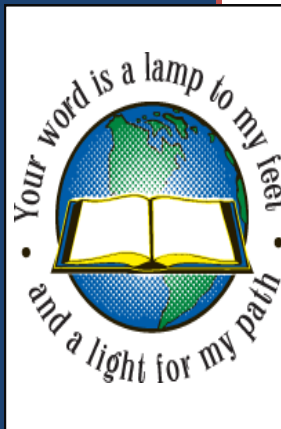
One area we would like to improve on is the degree of connection between our students and their teachers. While distance makes building relationships a challenge we value the interactions that make for connections. Our teachers are each planning a strategy to get to know your children a bit better. It may be a "hi how are you email", it may be an occasional phone call or just more personal comments on marked assignments. As Christ followers we believe that God has led us to a common path so we want to enjoy the opportunity to fellowship.

There are a few pieces of our registration process that we want to clarify and streamline as we have heard from a few of you that it needs some work. We heard from parents about student names being too accessible. We made a quick change to that but are also looking at a login page that will keep our Moodle main page secure. Parents told us that they would like to be able to see their student's lessons and assignments through their login account, rather than having to log in to each student account separately. We figured out a way to do this and our tech assistant, Barb May, is busy converting all the parent accounts into this format. If you haven't gotten this new access just give Barb a call or send an email and we'll get yours done as soon as possible.

We have had a few technical troubles this year. One was due to a major power outage and the latest one was because of the redundancy system. This is a setup that allows one server to quit while the others keep running, which is a good thing. However, the three of them decided they needed to synchronize in the middle of the day which takes 4 or 5 hours. We are looking at a text message alert system that will allow us to send you information about technical difficulties without having to use email or our website (both of which can be offline when trouble arises). This would allow us to tell you if the problem is a minor one which will be short lived or whether we are looking at a snow day. If you would like to sign up for this alert please contact Emily (office@nsaschool.ca) with your cell number and we'll sign you up. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you and are committed to continually improving how we do that. We know the transition to our new online learning platform has been stretching for you folks as well as for our staff. Thanks for your patience and please continue to give us your suggestions as we move forward. **RANDY WOOD**



Bible Memory



FEBRUARY: The Lord is My Light

Psalms 27:1-5

1 The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

2 When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.

3 Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

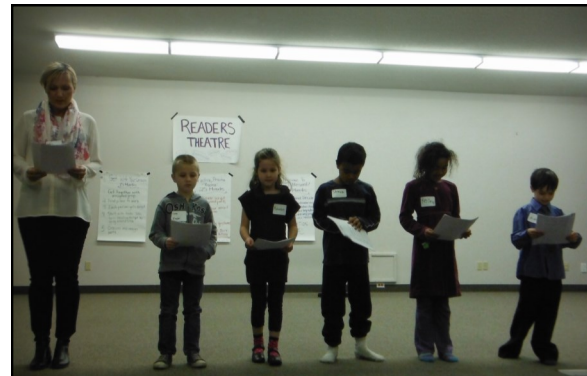
4 One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.

5 For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.



Welcome to February!

When you've memorized the passage, recite it to your parent or supervisor and then they can e-mail me (corrie.leismeister@myghsd.ca) to let me know you have completed it. I will post names of the ones that have completed it in the newsletter the following month.



Activity days

**** REGISTER BY EMAILING OR CALLING THE NORTHSTAR OFFICE ******

February 12, Edson, Bethel Church
Public speaking workshop.

Darrin Stephen, local author holding a poetry workshop

March 13, Nakiska Ski Trip

March 14, Lego Day in Red Deer.

~Space is limited



Three Hills LA and Art A-Day –Jan. 15



What projects can you make using beans and paper? ...AMAZING MOSAICS! Homeschoolers enjoyed participating in Reader's Theatre and Making Mosaics at the Three Hills Activity Day, on January 15.

For art class, students were inspired to create unique mosaics using paper or beans and seeds. On a small piece of cardboard, students drew a simple design. Then they chose various colored beans and seeds to create their designs. Believe it or not, paper mosaics can be VERY creative as well. Students used paper to design wonderful mosaic pictures. Students could also have their names (or other words) cut out with the Cricut machine. They glued their names on the cardboard and created wonderful paper mosaic backgrounds. Their creative juices were flowing!

Psalms 139:14 says,
"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully
and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy
works; and that my soul knoweth right well."

The Lord has made us with creative minds,
and we praise Him for the opportunity to use
our minds to read with expression or to create
special projects. He is so good to us; and we
need to use our creative talents for His glory!



Readers Theatre was a lot of fun and was done with a ton of theatrical flair! All the students diligently practiced and performed wonderfully. We definitely have some drama stars in the making. It is a wonderful and creative way to be expressive. Both the younger and older grades were great sports and did a wonderful job!

Moodle Tips~

Are you struggling to get a video downloaded? Will your assignment not upload or does it give in an error message? Does your submission not want to send properly to your teacher?

There are many different scenarios that could happen.

FIRST THING TO DO:

Switch browsers. The best one is Google Chrome.

SECOND THING TO DO:

Call Barb at the NSA office!!!! I'd be happy to help!

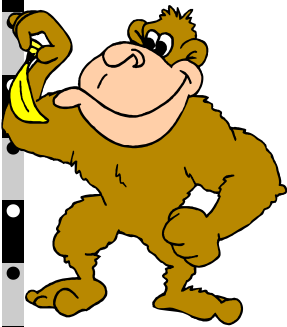


How to use a tablet for home education

This month I thought I would talk about how to use a tablet for your home education program. Here are some fun apps you can download!

I was so thrilled when a family I work with introduced me to:

<http://www.gorillaworkoutapp.com/>



This is a fun app from the itunes store and Google Play. "Gorilla Workout is a fast-paced, no-equipment grouping of over 40+ exercises. "

This would be a great addition to any PE program. Do you have a child who loves to draw? There are many fabulous apps you can download with instructions on how to draw. They are good for beginners and advanced drawers.

Here is a website with 55 of the best apps for Apple products. You will find ideas for all age ranges!

<http://www.teachthought.com/apps-2/the-55-best-free-education-apps-for-ipad/>

If you are looking for ideas, be sure to talk to one of the teachers. They have sensational ideas.

Sincerely, Kimberly Brown



What in the World?

Regardless of how you do school, having some understanding of things that are happening in the world right now is important. Knowing about the destruction caused by typhoon Haiyan provides us all with the question, “What can I do to help?” Learning about events in other parts of the world such as the struggles of a Pakistani girl named Malala Yousafzai who has to fight to get an education may cause us to pause and consider, “What would I do?” Or upon learning about the Senate Scandal of last year, we can consider the pros and cons of the way our Senate currently operates; what reforms have been proposed; and which party will I promote when talking with my parents and other adults I know who will vote in the next election, in which this may be a significant issue?

One resource we have available to every student in this school is a series of current-events-for-kids publications from LesPlan Educational Services.

The Canadian Reader is a publication for **Grades 3-5ish**. There are usually 3 articles describing current events in several categories: international news, national news, science and technology, environment. It also includes cartoons, weblinks and **map work** related to the content of that issue.

What in the World? (**Level 1 for grades 5-7ish** and **Level 2 for grades 8-10**) is a publication that usually has 4 articles that cover current events in Canada, Internationally and in the fields of science, technology, health and the environment. Not only does it have the articles, but there are visuals and editorial cartoons. As the Social Studies teacher for our Grades 10-12 online program, I can tell you that analyzing and interpreting **editorial cartoons** is one skill that many students struggle with in high school. The more experience students have with editorial cartoons before high school, the better! This publication always walks students through strategies to interpret these cartoons.

All these publications include **comprehension questions** as well as activities that teach and practice skills taught throughout the social studies curriculum such as **evaluating pros and cons, drawing conclusions, understanding multiple perspectives, making predictions, and other critical thinking skills**. This is a teacher resource, so for families in the IL and traditional homeschool programs, there is background and activity ideas for parents. For students in the online program, even if your teacher does not use these resources, they are interesting to read and will help you to understand some of the other content in your lessons as it often discusses things like **natural resource use, geography, Canadian identity, human rights, Canadian government** and other issues that are explored in Social studies.

How do I access these resources? Great question! For traditional homeschool families, you should be getting an e-mail when every issue becomes available with the passwords. For students that are enrolled in Moodle, you can go to the **student cafe**, which is in your list of courses on your home page.

Click on the **What In the Word/ Canadian Reader PW** tab and go into the forum there.

Mrs. Best posts the passwords and links there.

If you have any trouble accessing these, feel free to contact your **Social Studies teacher, support teacher, or facilitator**. We are here to help you.

