



www.northstaracademycanada.org

October 2017

Principal's Message

What a privilege it is for us at NorthStar to be able to work with you. The political message in the province recently has featured talk of putting barriers between schools and parents. We are so thankful that we get to work with families, not just students. Kids learn best when they are in a safe, caring environment where they can take risks and try new things. When the NorthStar staff and you at home are both working to make this a reality, good things happen. Our back to school barbeque was a great success I hear. I was unable to attend as I was at a family wedding helping to corral the grandkids while my wife played piano for the ceremony. The staff told me there were many great conversations as they got a chance to meet new families and reconnect with old ones (maybe it's better to say returning families as many of you are much younger than us!).

Our first large Activity Day of the year went well, except for the chilly weather. Our focus now moves to indoor adventures for both the large Activity Days and for our Activity Clusters (the short term courses being offered in various areas around the province). This split for our activities program is a new venture for us, designed largely to assist our Teacher Directed families to access more learning activities. We would appreciate your feedback as to how these changes have worked for you so that we can see if adjustments to the program are needed.

Change in education is a constant. One of the newest is the adjustment that Alberta Education has made to the credits senior high students can earn. Alberta Education has reduced the cap for credits from 60 per year to 45. This means we are only funded for up to 45 credits per senior high student. If students take more credits than that, we receive no additional funds. This change represents a challenge for us and for many rural students. Smaller schools do not offer the same class multiple times in a school year. It is routine for rural students to need to take a class or two through an online school like ours when they can't get the class they need at their local school. Now when a student from another school comes to us we have to assess whether or not that student is at their credit maximum before we can offer a class to them. While this change should not have an impact on most of our senior high kids, it could for those who desire to take a very broad selection of courses. Summer school is also included in this 45 credit maximum so we are looking carefully at that program and seeking input from Alberta Education. Interesting times!

One thing that does not change in education is the importance of relationships. James Corner, a prominent American educator says, "No significant learning can occur without a significant relationship". At NorthStar we are working hard to enhance our relationship with our students and their families. The teachers are training on how to make instructional videos where our students can see and hear us as we teach. We are testing out programs like Flipgrid, a video discussion platform, and we are looking at best practices across the distance education industry on how to engage students. It is an exciting time here at NorthStar with fantastic opportunities to serve you. We pray for our families at every staff meeting. Let us know how we can be a support to you as together we educate your children for eternity.

Yours in Christ, Randy Wood



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"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1

See What's New at NorthStar Academy!

Term 1 Activity Clusters

Edmonton ~ Music/Science Oct 17-Nov 21, 2017 1-3pm

Didsbury ~ Music Oct 17—Nov 21, 2017 1-2pm

Red Deer ~ PE, Softball Oct 18—Nov 22, 2017 Gr 1-6, 2-3pm Gr 7-12, 3-4pm

Calgary ~ Art Oct 18—Nov 22, 2017 2-3pm

Airdrie ~ Gymnastics Oct 26—Nov 30, 2017 1-2:30pm **FULL**



Upcoming Events!

Teachers at ACSI Conference
Oct 19-20 so they will be offline

Teachers offline **Oct 27, Nov 13
and 24**

Activity Days

Nov 17, 2017 Telus World of Science in Edmonton AB

Dec 15, 2017 Southern Alberta Christmas Party
Pioneer Lodge, Sundre AB
FULL

Dec 15, 2017 Northern Alberta Christmas Party
Brightwood Ranch, Entwistle AB

NorthStar Academy Activity Day



Corn Maze Activity Day

Thank you to all the families who came out in spite of the cold blustery day!

It was an awesome day filled with laughter.

Can't wait for the next Activity Day!



Oct 21, 2017 Laser Tag and Pizza at Laser Quest in Calgary FULL
Nov 28, 2017 Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Processing in Calgary

If you are an NSA student in grades 10-12 and are interested in joining our High School 'Limitless' Youth group, please email Roberta Onyschtschuk for more information at roberta.onyschtschuk@nsaschool.ca

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Bible Memory



The Lords Prayer

Matthew 6: 9—13

9 “Pray, then, in this way:

‘Our Father who is in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.

10 ‘Your kingdom come.
Your will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

11 ‘Give us this day [a] our daily bread.

12 ‘And forgive us our debts, as we also have
forgiven our debtors.

13 ‘And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver
us from [b] evil. [c][F or Yours is the kingdom and
the power and the glory forever. Amen.’]

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!

Check Us Out



Did you know that NorthStar Academy posts updates about upcoming events, contests, homeschool tips, and more on our website and social media? Check out the links below for all of the updates:



www.NorthStarAcademyCanada.org



Facebook.com/northstaracademycanada
Instagram: [@northstaracademycanada](https://www.instagram.com/northstaracademycanada)

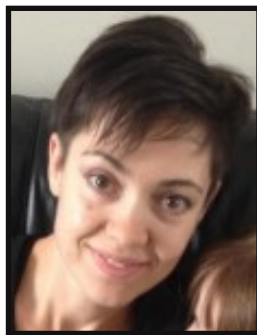
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NorthStar Staff

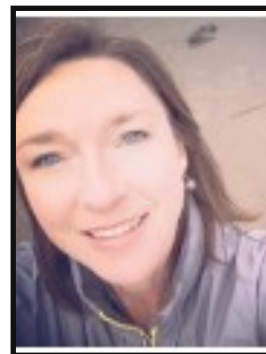
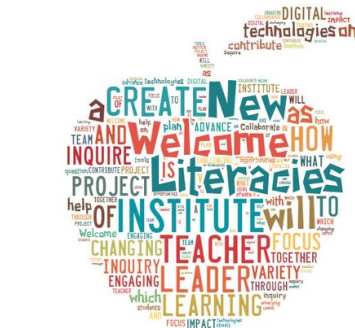


We'd like to introduce 2 new members to our staff!



Kirsten Brinks

Traditional Teacher/Facilitator & online substitute
teacher
Email: Kirsten.brinks@nsaschool.ca



Angela Paine

Online/Support Teacher
TD Courses: Jr High Math and Science
Online Course: Early Learning and Childcare

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Home School Community



<https://www.getassist.com/4-ways-homeschoolers-can-stay-connected-to-the-community/>

If you've chosen to educate your children at home, you won't have easy access to clubs and organizations that are often included in traditional school systems. But there are still ways you can stay connected and participate in sports teams, hobby clubs and other activities vital to healthy growth and development. Get Assist is the perfect tool to help you find different activities in the community for your homeschoolers. Here are a few tips to get you started.



<http://www.theunlikelyhomeschool.com/search/label/Homeschooling%20101>

Transition can be rough, especially for kids. It seems that just as soon as a household settles into a comfortable summertime rhythm...BAM!...it's time to start school again. Downshifting to a more structured, intentional schedule can wreak havoc on one's emotional and physical constitution. Tantrums, meltdowns, and bad attitudes are often the byproducts of drastic change. And that's just how we, mommas, respond. Don't even get me started on the kids' reactions!

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