

THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH.
(PSALM 119:105 KJV)

<https://christian.fmpsdschools.ca/>

January 2021

School Hours

8:00 - First Bell
9:30-9:45 - Recess
11:27-11:55 - Recess
11:55-12:15 - Lunch
2:40 - Dismissal

ECDP/Kindergarten

8:05 - 10:51

To ensure the safety of all, students should not arrive at school before 7:45 and should leave school grounds immediately after dismissal unless involved in an after-school activity.



A reminder to parents/guardians: It is mandatory to wear a mask if you are entering the building for an appointment, or to visit the office.

Parents/guardians are also encouraged to wear masks when dropping off and picking up students



Student Absences

Please notify the office if your child is going to be late, absent, or (specifically for online learning) if there is a technology issue causing your child to be unable to join their virtual class by calling or emailing with “absent”, “late”, or “tech issue” and your child’s name in the subject line.

780.743.1079 csinfo@fmpsdschools.ca



A Royal Message From Administration

Dear parents, guardians and friends,

Happy New Year! A new year brings rejuvenation and hope for the future. While we continue to experience uncertain and unprecedented times, we pray for God's blessings in the months ahead and give thanks for all we have.

At Fort McMurray Christian School we have the right team in place, who are continually adjusting and planning for what lies ahead. We are able to meet the spiritual, academic, social and emotional needs of our students - whether in person or online. We are dedicated to "doing what's best for kids"; we've got this!

We would like to extend our congratulations to two Fort McMurray Christian School staff members - we are expecting two new Royals in the Spring. Congratulations to the Vanden Pol and O'Keefe families!

In the near future, we will focus on student registrations for 2021-22 and means by which to grow our school. Please keep our efforts in your prayers, and conversations with others. We are excited to see what God has in store!

Thank you for your patience and support as we navigate through uncharted waters during these uncertain times. Please continue to pray for us, and for each other.

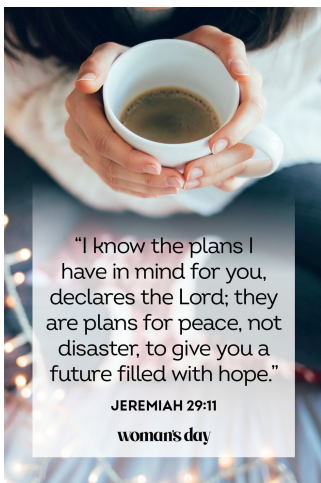
If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact the school at 780.743.1079.

Blessings,

Admin. Team -
Bobbi Compton, Principal
Dan Baseley, Vice Principal

"I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope." — Jeremiah 29:11

When life weighs us down, it can be hard to see the forest through the trees. But take comfort in knowing that God always has a plan for us, and in time, we'll begin to see what that is.



"I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope."

JEREMIAH 29:11
womans day

School Council



Happy New Year!

Our January School Council meeting is cancelled. See you in February.

As always, if you have an item you would like to add to the agenda, please send me an email at lmvpodor@gmail.com

Thank you.

Fort McMurray Christian School Society

As we ring in the new year, we are hopeful and filled with anticipation for greater things to come! It has been exciting to see God move in many ways over the past few months of being together, and we are looking forward to how He will guide and shape our actions in this upcoming year.

If I may, could I ask that as you look at your schedule for 2021, that you take time to consider where our school fits in. Are you looking for a way to get involved, but just don't know how? Are you looking for a team to be a part of, and make a difference? Is having your child receive a Christian education a passion of yours - perhaps without you even realizing it? Would you like to become more involved in what is going on at the school?

I'm asking because we have a lot that can be done, even in the midst of COVID restrictions. Perhaps you would like to be a part of our monthly meetings, which take place on the third Thursday of each month; or perhaps you only want to commit to a specific task, or short-term project.

We have all been blessed by God with talents to share and whatever yours is, we would love to have you involved!

Christine

Society Chair



A Message from our TfT Program Coordinator



Teaching For Transformation

Happy New Year! I am sure that I am not alone in thinking that the turn of this new year has to bring brighter days than 2020 had. Yet, there are many blessings that 2020 brought, and it is important to focus our hearts and minds on these blessings instead of the hardships that we may have experienced in 2020.

The philosophy of Teaching for Transformation (TfT) is change, transformation. It is about changing how we view the world, changing how we understand the role we all play in God's Story and how our story can in turn bring about change as well. I realise that change is not something many of us look forward to, and some of us even get anxious about change; if 2020 taught us anything, it would be how to become more comfortable with change. We are so thankful for how our school has adapted to the changes that have taken place around online learning, online worship and socially distanced times.

As we head into 2021, we look forward to exploring God's Story for the upcoming year. We would love our families to share what is going on with your children and how they are exploring their role in God's Story. Take pictures of projects, work, or special awards and when you share them tag us @ChristianFMPD on Twitter and @Fort McMurray Christian School on Facebook. Let's work together to show our larger community the amazing work that our students are doing here.

Lois Ann Emberley
TfT Coordinator



Apple School Memo

A Bite of Health



As an APPLE School, we strive to build a healthy school community, focusing on improving students' healthy eating, physical activity, and mental health habits.

New Year, New You

This month, students are learning how to set health-related goals through a campaign called New Year, New You. Here is a summary of the learnings and how you can support your child's health.

Goal setting for the new year

This time of year, many people will make New Year's resolutions that revolve around health and wellness. One of the simplest steps you can take to improving your health is to set goals. But, do you know *how* to set goals to increase your chances of success?



Be successful with SMART Goals

S – smart
M – measurable
A – attainable
R – realistic
T – time-based

Set some healthy goals with your family this year. By setting goals as a family, you can stay positive, keep each other accountable, and encourage each other to reach the goals. Goals could revolve around healthy eating, physical activity, or increasing family time together. Make sure that your child has a chance to provide input.

Don't forget about your mental health

Developing a positive outlook on life in the present will be helpful for your future mental well-being. The way you think about yourself now and how you contribute to your surroundings, will shape how you feel later. After all, achieving or maintaining

mental well-being is more than the absence of mental illness symptoms, it's about making the most of life, building a sense of belonging, and making use of available resources to help face challenges.¹

Reference

¹ <http://www.health.alberta.ca/>



For more information about APPLE Schools, visit
www.appleschools.ca





Prayer Corner

Parents, friends, churches and community partners, please remember us in prayer.

- Stronger connections with our church communities
- Continued safety for everyone amid a global pandemic
- Calm anxieties for our students and clear their minds so they can focus and learn
- Increased enrolment/growth for our school

From Our FMCS Prayer Group!

Let's pray together to discern God's will for our school, and the needs of our school community.

We meet virtually every other Tuesday. All are welcome. Come to pray, or send us your prayer requests!

"FMCS Prayer Group" on Facebook

Or prayer.fmcs@gmail.com

Or reach out to Laura Blake or Lacey Miller for more info.



| Month | Hymn of the Month |
|------------------------|--|
| September | Shout to the Lord! Link |
| October (Thanksgiving) | Take my Life and Let it Be |
| November | One Step at a Time |
| December (Christmas) | He is Here |
| January | Majesty |
| February (Valentine's) | The love of God Praise Him Praise him all Ye Little Children |
| March | Christ Arose |
| April (Easter) | For the Beauty of the Earth All Creatures of our God and King |
| May | Shine Jesus Shine |
| June | What a Friend We Have In Jesus |

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Bus Late?

Check out the schedule myschoolbusmonitor.ca

My School Bus Monitor

LIVE SCHOOL BUS UPDATES -- STAY INFORMED!



What's Happening at FMCS?

January

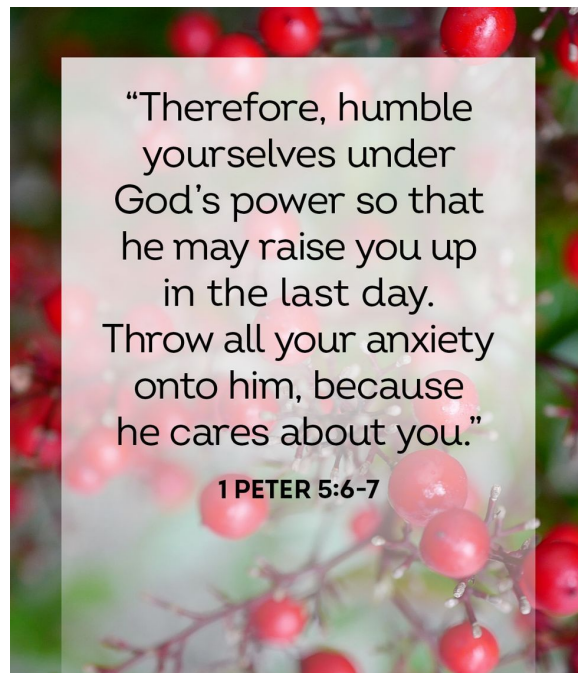
4-8 - Online Learning/In-Person Learning

15 - PLF, No School For Students

21 - Society Meeting, 7pm

22- Pajama Day

29 - FMPSD Professional Learning Day, No School For Students



If you're entering 2021 with hesitation or fear, pray to God for strength and hope. He'll answer and lead you where you need to go. The Holy Spirit walks beside us every single day, guiding us from above, and we are never alone.

The Historical Context of Jeremiah 29:11

In its context, Jeremiah is speaking to his fellow people as they were forced into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon and, now, under enemy rule.

There was too much turmoil in terms of emotional and physical stress among the believers of God during this time. To add to this, there was also a false prophet named Hananiah who gave false hope to the Jews regarding the prophecy of God.

According to Hananiah, God promises to relieve the Jews of their suffering after two years and would come back to their home. This was a false prophecy that Jeremiah heard and rebuked. We can read this verse further in Jeremiah 28: 15-17.

Then the prophet Jeremiah said to Hananiah the prophet, "Listen, Hananiah! The Lord has not sent you, yet you have persuaded this nation to trust in lies. Therefore this is what the Lord says: 'I am about to remove you from the face of the earth. This very year you are going to die because you have preached rebellion against the Lord.'"

In the seventh month of that same year, Hananiah the prophet died."

Imagine Jeremiah having to tell the Jews that instead of two years, they would live in Babylon for 70 years and endure as it is written in Jeremiah 29: 4-10.

This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." Yes, this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them," declares the Lord.

This is what the Lord says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place."

Jeremiah was tasked to deliver a message that God's people would have to live, build houses, marry, pray for peace, and prosper in a city that was not theirs. It was a difficult task, and Jeremiah had to give the people an inspirational message and thus the words in Jeremiah 29:11 were written.

Literal Context of Jeremiah 29:11

Based on the historical context of the verse and the major events that happened in the past, we can understand now why Jeremiah said the words in Jeremiah 29:11. His goal was to speak to God's people amidst hardships and suffering.

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The people of God were asking for an immediate rescue from the suffering that they were experiencing, and Jeremiah had a huge responsibility to tell them the truth about God's promise. He was also tasked to rebuke a very huge lie that the false prophet Hananiah circulated, which was not a very easy task to do.

This verse was his message, inspired by God's guidance, to tell the people that God's response is not an immediate answer, rather, that God has a plan to prosper His people amidst hardships and that God has a promise for the future of His people.

If we reflect on the words of Jeremiah, we can see the wisdom that God gave him during those trying times. He starts with a direct message, "For I know the plans I have for you,"

These words can be interpreted as a direct message and an assurance that God knows their plans. And then, the verse continues with a more profound explanation of God's plan, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" Jeremiah 29:11.

These words give more detail of His plan — to inspire His people.

What Does Jeremiah 29:11 Mean for Us Today?

Jeremiah 29:11 is a great reminder that amidst the longevity of suffering, God has a plan for us to prosper and hope for our future. We should not give up. We may be experiencing different situations such as the pandemic or a financial crisis or a family relationship breakdown, the verse tells us that these things are in passing and God has a plan.

Just as what happened in the past with the Jews in Babylon, we may experience false prophets like Hananiah. The verse also reminds us not to believe in things that are too good to be true and instead, trust God and His process. For it is only in His process that we can be assured of hope for the future.

Lastly, the verse also reminds us that if we seek God in our hearts, we will never be weary even if we experience suffering in our lives.

More Bible Verses about Hope

But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. ~ Isaiah 40:31

For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. ~ Romans 8:24-25

Taken from christianity.com

Updated Division Re-entry Plan

Updated COVID Information **New** Daily Healthy Checklist for Children Under 18

COVID-19 INFORMATION

HOW LONG TO STAY HOME FROM SCHOOL

The amount of time a student needs to stay home from school depends on the type of symptoms. For more details: [isolation requirements](#)

If a student has these symptoms

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Loss of sense of smell or taste

What to do

- Isolate at home for a minimum of 10 days from when symptoms started or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.
- COVID-19 testing is recommended.
- Can return to school before 10 days only if a COVID-19 test is negative, symptoms are gone, and the student was not a close contact of someone with COVID-19.
- Do not enter any long-term care settings for 10 days and until symptoms have resolved.
- If test results are positive, isolate at home for at least 10 days and follow instructions received from Alberta Health Services.

One of the following symptoms:

- Chills
- Sore throat/painful swallowing
- Runny nose/congestion
- Headache
- Muscle or joint aches
- Feeling unwell/fatigued
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- Unexplained loss of appetite
- Muscle/joint aches
- Headache
- Pink eye (conjunctivitis)

- Stay home from school and monitor for 24 hours. If after 24 hours your symptoms improve, you may return to school when you are feeling better.
- A COVID-19 test is not required but is available.
- Do not enter any long-term care settings for 10 days and until symptoms have resolved.

If a child has any two of these symptoms, or after 24 hours, their condition gets worse or they develop a second symptom:

- COVID-19 test recommended.
- May return to school after symptoms are gone, even without a COVID-19 test or results.
- Do not enter any long-term care settings for 10 days and until symptoms have resolved.
- If test results are positive, isolate at home for at least 10 days and follow instructions received from Alberta Health Services.