



The Royal Herald

Fort McMurray Christian School



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

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

December 2020

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

FOR
UNTO US A
Child is born,
UNTO US A
Son
is given; and
the government will
be upon his shoulder, and his name
will be called
Wonderful Counselor,
MIGHTY GOD
Everlasting Father,
PRINCE OF PEACE.
ISAIAH
9:6
EMILYPULLEN.COM

Student Absences

Please notify the office if your child is going to be late or absent by calling or emailing with "absent" and your child's name in the subject line.



A Royal Message From Administration

Dear parents, guardians and friends,

Christmas is the time of year when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. While our celebrations will look differently this year due to COVID protocols, the reason for the season has not changed. As we head into the Christmas Break we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a blessed holiday season and a joyful, Happy New Year.

As we are putting this newsletter together, we are thinking of our Junior High students who are shifting to at-home learning. We want to encourage them and remind them that their teachers are still their teachers, and their school is still their school. We look forward to Jan. 11th, when we will all be back together again.

As a school, we continue to diligently uphold procedures and protocols issued by Alberta Health Services, and update our safety plan accordingly. We appreciate your continued patience and understanding, and your efforts to follow provincial guidelines intended to keep everyone safe.

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



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November 15, parents came together to process our wreath fundraiser. Some met someone for the first time. We wore masks, worked outside, accomplished a task, saw familiar faces, connected with other school parents from a distance and all had a great time!



TOGETHER *is Better*

We would also like to thank all the families that participated in our Angel Tree program. Because of the kindness and generosity that was shown again this Christmas season, approximately 45 children of low-income families will have a gift for Christmas day.

School Council



December is upon us already, and the last School Council meeting of this eventful calendar year is scheduled for December 8th at 7 pm via Google Meet. The meet link is <https://meet.google.com/edb-yavf-jnr>

Connecting with others in a meaningful way is one of the biggest challenges we face this year as a school community. One way to stay connected to each other and to the school is by attending School Council meetings to keep abreast of what is going on in the school and to provide feedback to the school administration. The minutes are posted on the School Council Facebook group page. If you are not in the group, email me and we can send them to you.

Since our last meeting, Laura Blake and Lacey Miller have relaunched a time of regular prayer for our school community. If you have the time and feel the call, please join them at 9 am on every 2nd Tuesday. But even if you can't join them, please do pray for the school. That is one thing we can do that can have a meaningful impact on what goes on in the building. Maybe shoot them a message to let them know that you are praying too.

If you have items you would like to have discussed at School Council, please send me an email. I can add it to the agenda.

If you had any difficulties logging in for November's meet, please let me know at lmvpodor@gmail.com and we will see if we can get you sorted ahead of time.

I look forward to seeing you online!

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**Fort
McMurray
Christian
School
Society**



December Newsletter Submission:

As we begin our last month of 2020, it is a wonderful time to reflect on things that we are thankful for. Perhaps for you they are people, acts of service, a special time with God and/or moments that will forever be treasured memories.

I find myself thankful, and honestly rather surprised, that most children are still able to attend classes in person. I'm so grateful for our teachers and all they are doing! For our new principal, Mrs. Compton, who is working endlessly for the betterment of the school, and for our School Council and Society and the friendships that have been made as a part of that.

Our 2020-2021 School Society looks as follows:

Chair: **Christine Gogolinski**

Vice Chair: **Josh Friend**

Director of Public Relations: **Dennis Vroom**

Treasurer: **Clementina Okoro**

School Council Liaison: **Lisa Podor**

Society Administrator: **Krista Downey**

We've been meeting monthly and working hard to make progress in many areas. There is definitely so much more to be done, than our team can handle....so, if you are interested in being a part of things for a project or on a greater scale, please let one of us know!

Some of what we've done this year are as follows:

- Gifted Teachers with school branded masks
- Gifted students with school shirts that did not get one as a part of the registration initiative last year
- Standardized our school logo
- Provided our new library with \$6,700 of Society reserved funds
- Held our wreath fundraiser
- Held our annual AGM in October
- Supplemented salary to keep the staff that we have and minimize change for students
- Presented Mr. Champion with a painting by Russell Thomas as a retirement gift
- Completed the design for and printed our school brochure
- Held our Dieleman's Fundraiser

We've held two successful fundraisers, thanks all to **YOU**, and have raised \$990 for our library and \$1,178 for music instruments and gym equipment. We have just launched our final fundraiser for 2020 with gift ideas to help with your Christmas shopping, as well as a great memory making experience of decorating cookies together.

Excited for what is ahead!

Christine

LINK TO ORDER IS:

<https://forms.gle/emLtFnSBMJuWLRva8>



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Gifts that Give Back

Proceeds will go to enhance student experience for 2021

2021 GOLF CARD
FORT McMURRAY GOLF CLUB

\$100



DIY DECORATING KIT
CUCKOO FOR COOKIES

\$30



ROYALS TOQUE
LIMITED EDITION

\$20



WIDE ORNAMENT
BLISSFUL TREE



ROUND ORNAMENT
BLISSFUL TREE



SCHOOL MASKS
BLISSFUL TREE



Order & Payments Due By:
December 4th

How To Order: Complete Order Form Online & Send EMT

Pick Up: School Parking Lot on December 15th

107 Brett Drive

A Message from our TfT Program Coordinator



Teaching For Transformation

God's workmanship is a strong force in students!

Welcome to Advent! November 29 marked the first Sunday in Advent. Advent is the season of hope and anticipation. It is a season of awaiting the promise of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem and the promise of His second coming. Advent is also a season of longing, promise, and preparation; not only in our spiritual sense but also in the greater world.

Just as Jeremiah reassured the people of Judah that God was with them, the season of Advent reminds us that we live in the 'not yet' time. We wait actively by engaging in God's justice in the world. We try through many outreach efforts to bring about a better world, if not globally then for the people we might see each and every day.

Did you know that the children of Fort McMurray Christian School are busy making a difference? Not only in learning about God in and through all of the subjects that they learn everyday, but also in the acts of service that they participate in our school and larger community.

These projects, which we call FLEx (Formational Learning Experiences) are just the beginning for these students and all the students in our school. Service projects have been an integral part of our school and its mission since its beginnings. This year projects are already in the works in several of our grades. Grade twos are bringing home information about how they can support Legacy Water Foundation. Students in grade six have begun working on ideas to have a sundial created for our school grounds; and grade threes are learning the process involved in dyeing and creating bracelets in connection to their Social Studies lessons.

As a teacher in this world today, it is my prayer that all students understand God's calling for each of us to be 'workmanship' in His world. The students in our school are beginning this movement by making these decisions.

So whether it is shoveling an extra sidewalk or driveway, making cards for our service men and women or donating to the Angel Tree, we are commissioned by God to continue His work, with hope and faithfulness.

Just a reminder that all of our families have been given access to **RightNow Media** as a gift from our Society Executive. Here is the link to register if you haven't already (<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/FortMcMurrayChristianSchool>). In times like these days, I also encourage you to block out time to listen, watch and learn about Advent and how the arrival of Jesus changes everything for all time. You will find J.D. Greer's study in the Christmas Studies library in your **RightNow Media** account.

God's Blessing in His Season,
Lois Ann Emberley
TfT Coordinator



Apple School Memo

****We have changed the 5 high fives to 5 air high fives to remind in compliance with current protocols**



Eat, Move, and Play Through the Holidays

This month, students are learning how to stay healthy during the holidays through a campaign called Eat, Move, and Play Through the Holidays. Here is a summary of the learnings and how you can support your child's health.

'Tis the Season to be Healthy and Mindful

During the holidays, baked goods are just a hand's reach away and gatherings focus around food. Maintaining a healthy routine can be challenging during this time. Here are some quick tips to promote a healthy holiday season for your family:



- **Store treats until snack or meal time.** If left out in an accessible area, your family is more likely to nibble throughout the day instead of scheduled meals times.
- **Plan fun winter activities.** Make the best of the snow while you can. Build a snowman, have a snowball fight, or go tobogganing as a family.

How Will You Eat, Move and Play Through the Holidays?

This month, students' goal is to get 60 minutes of physical activity, replace a less healthy food or drink with something healthier, and spend at least 1 hour less in front of a screen every day for five days.¹

Help you child reach his/her goals, or even better, join in the challenge yourself!

3 SCREEN TIME ALTERNATIVES => Reduce your screen time by at least one hour. See other side for ideas on what to do instead.	I reduced my screen time by 1 hour today What I did instead: <input type="text"/>	1 PHYSICAL ACTIVITY => Colour in one bar for every 30 minutes of activity you do My favourite activity <input type="text"/>	2 HEALTHY EATING => Choose healthy foods and drinks often. See other side for more information.	Today I ate/drank <input type="text"/> (something healthy) instead of <input type="text"/> (something unhealthy)
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Reference:
¹ <http://www.everactive.org/>



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 for our school

From Our FMCS Prayer Group!

Let's prayer together for 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?

December

- 4 - PLF, No School For Students
- 8 - School Council Meeting, 7pm
- 11 - Red/Green Day
- 15 - FMCS Society Meeting, 6pm
- 17 - Pajama Day (last day before Christmas break)
- 18 - PLF, No School For Students

Christmas Break December 21 to January 1



God, thank You that because of Jesus we can celebrate Christmas. As we do all the fun things that come with Christmas, help us remember Jesus most of all. Thank You for loving us so much that You sent Your very own Son to earth as a baby so that we could be saved from our sin and can spend forever with You. We love You! Amen.

The Birth of Jesus (NIV)

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while^[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

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8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Updated Division Re-entry Plan

Updated COVID Information

New Daily Healthy Checklist for Children Under 18

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Fort McMurray School Division

231 Hardin Street
Fort McMurray, Alberta T9H 5S1
T: 780.799.7900 | F: 780.743.2655

Nov. 25th, 2020

Dear Parents:

As was announced by Premier Kenney yesterday, schools will be moving their secondary students to online learning as of Nov. 30th. Elementary students remain in the brick and mortar schools until December 18th. The Minister of Education met with all Superintendents yesterday to review the recent announcement and answer any questions. The following points were made clear:

- ALL grade 7-12 students would be learning online between Nov. 30th-Dec. 18th 2020 and again from Jan 4th-8th, 2021.
- Kindergarten to Grade 6 students will be learning online from Jan. 4th-8th, 2021 only.
- January 11th all students will return to the brick and mortar schools.
- This will NOT be the same as learning from March to June 2020
- This will include all subjects including CTS and options courses where possible
- Diploma exams are optional for the remainder of the school year and are a decision to be made by the student and their parents

As we prepare to move our grade 7-12 students to an online learning platform, and later our Elementary students, FMPSD has the following expectations of students:

- Students will attend class online daily, as if attending the brick and mortar schools
- attendance will be taken in each class as usual
- all assignments and online assessments are required to be completed as usual

Additionally, we need parents to understand that:

- Learning is being transferred to the home environment. This may include live online classes, pre-recorded lessons, materials provided in online classroom environments, or paper-based options. Your classroom teacher will work to provide the material in the way they feel will meet the learning needs of the students in the classroom. Not all staff will utilize the same instructional approaches during this time of home-based learning.
- Not everything that your child does as an assignment is counted toward their report card mark; some of their work is formative assessment, which means they get feedback so they can improve in preparation for a summative assessment which will be included in report card marks.
- If they are not completing assignments, then we cannot provide feedback and help them improve or prepare for the final assessment.
- Parent portal will continue to have assignments and assessments updated every two weeks (Junior High and High School) so that parents can see what assignments students have not completed. Elementary teachers will continue to update grades monthly.
- Parents will be contacted for unexcused absences, online behavior issues, and insufficient work habits as they would if we were in the brick and mortar schools.
- CTS and options classes will continue as best as we can provide online
- More information about assessments can be found [HERE](https://www.fmpsdschools.ca/Assessment.php) (<https://www.fmpsdschools.ca/Assessment.php>)

Thank you for your partnership in making sure your child's learning continues through these changing times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Annalee'.

Annalee Nutter, Assistant Superintendent Education and Administration

"Doing What's Best For Kids"

www.fmpsdschools.ca

Twitter: @FMPSD | Instagram: @FMPSD
facebook.com/fmpsdschools

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

What to do

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

- 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.

For more details: alberta.ca/returntoschool

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