



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)



Winter 2023 Principal's Letter



As we head into the beauty of the winter season, we are excited to share with you the latest news and updates from the Fort McMurray Christian School (FMCS). It's a time of reflection, gratitude, and anticipation as we look ahead to the joyous festivities and opportunities for growth that the winter season brings.

As we continue to celebrate our 30th year we are excited about all the ways that God is on the move. We have an enrollment of 283 students with more families showing up at our doorstep wanting to be part of the FMCS community. This is an increase of 21% from last year's numbers in June. The reason for this increase should not be surprising. We simply do not put conditions on the door to enter our building just as Christ does not put conditions on us to enter a relationship with Him. At FMCS we strive to meet people where they are at regardless of where they are on their journey of faith. We begin with love, grace, compassion, and acceptance. If families desire a high quality Christian education for their children where we focus on the social, emotional, physical, and academic excellence (the whole child), then they are welcome here. (con't on next page....)

BELL TIMES

First Bell - 8:00
School Start - 8:05
Lunch - 11:55
School Ends - 2:40

ECDP	KINDERGARTEN
AM : 8:00 - 10:50	AM : 8:00- 10:50
	PM : 11:54-2:40

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



Attendance

Please call the school office or email
fmcs.absences@fmcsd.ab.ca

780-743-1079

107 Brett Drive, Fort McMurray
<https://christian.fmcsd.schools.ca>

Follow Us

- @FMChristianRoyals
- fm_christian_school
- @ChristianFMPSD



Winter 2023

Principal's Letter

Within our school's diverse tapestry, composed of the 283 students who grace our halls daily, we recognize the breathtaking diversity of God's creation reflected back at us. This year it is one of our goals as a staff to celebrate that diversity in a more authentic way. Some ways that we are doing this is to ensure that we have all our national and cultural flags hanging in the gym updated, hanging photos of students in action on the walls, creating an FMCS recipe book, and seeking to understand through conversations and surveys the multitude of countries and cultures that make up the FMCS community. We wholeheartedly invite you to accompany us on this journey through your voluntary involvement, sharing of perspectives, and offering of ideas that will aid us in better representing you and your family within our school.

We continue to express the theme 'We Will Go' by introducing our first international missions trip for our Grade 8 and 9 students. We have 13 signed up for the San Francisco/Modesto trip and we are excited to embark on this experience that will surely be life-changing for all involved. In this regard, numerous fundraising opportunities will arise for those interested in contributing to this initiative - stay tuned!

Throughout the pages of this newsletter, you will find a wealth of insights into the remarkable work that FMCS is embarking upon, all made possible by the grace of God. We remain deeply appreciative of your ongoing prayers, which are invaluable to our staff, students, families, and the entire school community. Your unwavering support is a cornerstone upon which we build our shared mission.

We are looking forward to a joyous Christmas season and a blessed New Year ahead!

**In Him,
Mr. Geoffrey Bishop
Principal**



What's Happening at FMCS?

Christmas at the Cabin

A MARKET FOR YOU BY
FORT McMURRAY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH
12-4 PM
DOUG BARNES CABIN
165 TAMARACK WAY



JOY TO THE WORLD Christmas Concert

December 12th
6pm - 8pm
@ Fort McMurray Christian Centre



NO SCHOOL!

Friday, Nov 3rd

In Lieu Remembrance Day, Friday, Nov 10th

Friday, Nov 24th

Friday, Dec 1st

Friday, Dec 15th

Christmas Break Dec 22nd - Jan 5th

Class resumes Monday Jan 8th

Friday, Jan 26th



Upcoming

WORSHIP WEDNESDAY

8:10-8:35 in the Fort McMurray Christian School
Gymnasium on:

Nov 1st

Dec 13th

Jan 10th

Nov 8th

Dec 20th

Jan 17th

Nov 22nd

Jan 31st

Nov 29th



2023 - 2024 School Staff

In The Office:

Principal: Geoffrey Bishop
Head Secretary: Kitty Roberts
Secretary/Librarian: Kayla Dalley
Day Custodian: Helena MacDonald



In Our Classrooms:

ECDP: Jennifer Dunham
Kindergarten AM/PM: Heather-Joy Freake
Grade One: Stephanie O'Keefe
Grade One/Two Split: Timothy Dikit
Grade Two: Jillian Jackman
Grade Three: Rebekah Hiltz
Grade Four: Erica McIntyre
Grade Five: Katie Lemon
Grade Six: Gayle Neil
Junior High: Kim Huygen, Jonathan MacIntosh
Ellen Polegato, Geoffrey Bishop
Physical Education: Ellen Polegato
LAC: Stephanie Merrick
Counselor: Samantha Patey
Teaching for Transformation: Thania Breikreuz
Educational Assistants: Tara Atalifo, Oksana Bodnarchuk, Julie Bursey, Cathy Kirschner, Chantal Lehman, Melissa Russell
PEAK Coach: Carrie Fedun



adding layers will help keep you warm as the temperature drops

CHILLY



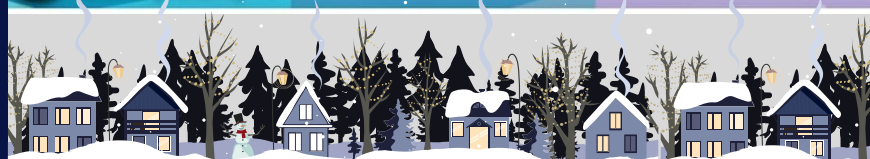
weather.gov/safety

DRESSING FOR COLD WEATHER

COLD



EXTREME COLD



What's Happening at FMCS?



SCHOOL ABSENCES

SPORTS TOURNAMENT COMING UP?



GOING ON VACATION?



YOUR CHILD WOKE UP SICK?



For absences of **ANY** reason please let our office know **before 8am** of the upcoming school day

To report an absence, please call or email:
 780-743-1079
fmcs.absences@fmcsd.ab.ca

Fort McMurray Christian School presents the Junior High **PLANT SCIENCE CLUB**

Mondays, Nov 6 - Jun 10, 2:45 - 4:00

To join your child up, complete the Parent Permission Form at <https://forms.gle/FoUtvbUFFG2sw3rP6>



Upcoming Fun Days

Nov 17th
Superhero Day



Dec 8th
Sweater Day



Dec 21
Red & Green Day



Jan 12th
School Spirit Day



Jan 19th
Mis-match Day



**Individual classes may choose to hold more theme/fun days than listed. Please ensure to check your emails for classroom updates*




***PLEASE CHECK OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES FOR MONTHLY CUT-OFF DATES

Hot Lunch has begun

Orders and payment can be made through parent portal***





Want to see more of what's taking place in our school?
 Check out:
<https://christian.fmcsd.schools.ca/home/news>

Teaching For Transformation!

A Community of God Worshipers

Through September and October we spent time as a school in God's Word reflecting on "What is Worship". We met in assemblies as a school community and in homegroups (multi-grade groups that connect older students with the younger ones) to discover that worship is so much more than singing and dancing, and that we can also worship God through serving others, prayer, giving etc.

Our Worship Wednesday Assemblies were hosted in collaboration by Grade 1, 2, 4, and 6 over the last two months and these students did a beautiful job leading us in worship. We were excited to welcome Pastor Eric Benner from All Nations Church during one of our Worship Wednesday assemblies. Pastor Eric shared about Acts of Worship and students were very engaged as he approached the student community in a very relevant and related way. He explained that when we praise the Lord, it is like a "dab on the devil". A gesture in which we show the enemy who is Ruler over our lives.



We also met in homegroups and produced our own recordings of worship songs and created ribbon sticks to be used in worship.

At the end of October, our teachers (not all pictured) had the opportunity to attend the Prairie Centre for Christian Education (PCCE) Convention in Edmonton to further their Teaching for Transformation professional development. This made our staff excited about what is to come for the school year!



The **God Worshipping** Throughline we focused on from September to October leads us into our next Throughline for November and December: **Servant Working**. We are excited to discover the unique God-given purpose and call on each of our lives as we make a difference in our community. In December we will work together as the body of Christ; looking for ways to help those who are less fortunate and seek justice for those in need.

If you have any questions about what we are working on as a school, or if you have ideas about how we can share JOY with those in our community leading into the Christmas season, I would love to hear from you!

Mrs. Thania Breitreuz
Christian Education Coordinator
thania.breitreuz@fmpsd.ab.ca

Hello and welcome to November from your Society Executive!

We are grateful for an awesome start to the 2023-24 school year and excited for everything that is to come. We want to share and celebrate with you a couple Society highlights so far this year. The first was co-hosting a Welcome Back BBQ in September. What a great turnout there was and such a sense of community as we gathered! We are thankful for the leadership of the Jr. Highs with See You At the Pole, at the end of September, and took time to make them breakfast. In October we had the opportunity to send 11 of our teachers to the Christian Teachers Convention put on by the PCCE. We want to thank the FMPSD for their support in enabling our school to have an additional day off to allow for this. Most recently, we were honored to host and appreciate 18 pastors and ministry leaders from 7 different churches and ministry organizations within Fort McMurray for Pastor's Appreciation month. We are truly Fort McMurray's Christian School and are grateful that we get to partner together.

There are two opportunities, usually, within a school year, for parents and caregivers, who choose to be Society members, to gather to discuss and review the Society's business. Simply put, the Christian Education and experiences that our school provides for our children is what the Society is here for. We are holding our Society General Meeting on Monday, November 27 at 7pm, at the school, and want to invite you! Yes, there will be light refreshments and childcare provided so you can bring your littles. Further details will be emailed out, in the coming weeks, with how to RSVP and what we will be discussing.

As we look forward to a season of remembrance our eyes are focused on Jesus and the promise that He carries.

5 Every warrior's boot used in battle
and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning,
will be fuel for the fire.
6 For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:5,6

May the Prince of Peace lead and guide us,
Your Fort McMurray Christian School Society Executive



FMCS Society Fundraising



PIZZA BY THE SLICE FUNDRAISER
Get a slice of cheese pizza for lunch

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH
@ LUNCH \$3 A SLICE
GRADES 1-9

Please Pay to fundraising@fmcssociety.com
or
in the Society Office
by November 15th



PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS JR HIGH MISSIONS TRIP



SAVE THE DATE
FOR OUR FAMILY
CHRISTMAS MOVIE

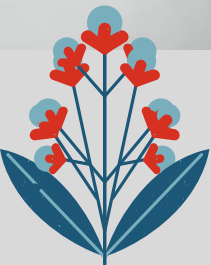
December 16th
10am @ Landmark
Cinemas

MORE INFO AND
TICKETS COMING SOON

Recipes

Please help the fundraising team create a FMCS family cookbook. Simply go to the link below and write a recipe that represents your family or is a family favorite! Feel free to give us more than one recipe!

<https://forms.gle/7HmEDARBGzR1EdfW6>





FMCS School Council



Hello Christian School Community,

First we would like to welcome and introduce our new School Council Executive: **Mary Murley (Chair), Elizabeth Benner (Vice-Chair), Colleen Dorchak (Secretary), and Alanna Hyman (Volunteer Coordinator)**. We are always looking for more volunteers to help out with these roles and more, such as media person, so please reach out to anyone on the executive to find out more.

We're taking a fresh approach to our next School Council meeting! Instead of our usual formal gathering, we're excited to announce that we'll be dedicating our time to giving back directly to our school. We believe in leading by example and what better way than to roll up our sleeves and help beautify and enhance our beloved institution? Whether it's sprucing up the garden, organizing a classroom, or assisting teachers with their classroom prep, we invite everyone to join us in this hands-on endeavor. It's a fantastic opportunity to bond, make a tangible impact, and witness firsthand the difference we can make as a united community.

The first meeting will be **November 21st** with more details and specifics to be shared closer to the date. These working meetings will also take place in January, March and May, please feel free to help for one or all! Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Warm regards,
School Council



Dates:

1) September 19, 2023	6) February 20, 2024
2) October 17, 2023	7) March 19, 2024
3) November 21, 2023	8) April 23, 2024
4) December 19, 2023	9) May 21, 2024
5) January 16, 2024	10) June 11, 2024

*MEETINGS WILL START AT 7:30, UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED. MORE DETAILS WILL FOLLOW CLOSER TO MEETING DATES

August 2023

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September 2023

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October 2023

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November 2023

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December 2023

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January 2024

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February 2024

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March 2024

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April 2024

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May 2024

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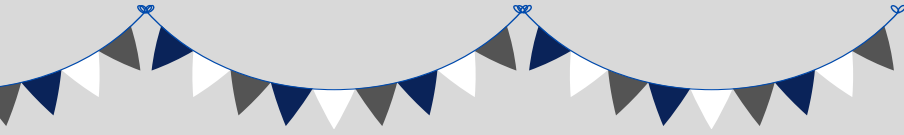
June 2024

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July 2024

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From the Office



Paying Fees

The following **fees** can be paid through **Parent Portal**:



*Bus fees, *ECDP Fees, Field Trip Fees, Hot Lunch Program, Library Fees, Junior High Graduation, Electives, and other fees as they arise

*Bus & ECDP fees can be paid through pre-authorized payment with a credit card. Please see the office to for more details.

All pre-authorized payments will be complete by March 2024

The **Christian Programming Fee for grades K-9** can be paid through our **Society Admin, Carolina Bolivar**. If you have any questions, please contact our office at 780-743-1079 .



SAVE THE DATE!



MAY 3 & 4

Grades 5-9

More details to follow!



Report Cards Go Live

Elementary Report Cards will be available on Powerschool:

Evening of November 30th

Volunteer Information

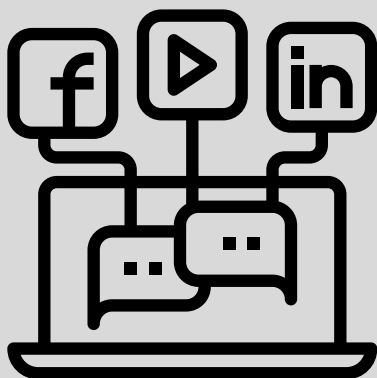
Volunteers are an important part of school. We are excited to be working with our School Council to recruit and provide volunteering opportunities.

In preparation, we have prepared volunteer packages that are available in the office or can be sent home with your child. Included in the package is information about volunteering, the purpose and responsibilities of volunteers, a volunteer registration form and a Criminal Record Check form. Also included is a sample RCMP letter and information to get a Criminal Record Check at no cost to you.

Please contact the office if you would like a volunteer package sent home or if you have any questions.

We look forward to you joining us and volunteering,

FMCS Staff



Stay Informed

There are many ways to communicate with each other and schools are no exception. We thought it might be a good idea to share all of the ways you can stay informed about things that are happening at the school in case you weren't following us already.

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

Our Website is a great place to find out when major school events are and important links.

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/FMChristianRoyals/>

Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/fm_christian_school/

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/ChristianFMPSD>

Our Social Media Pages are regularly updated with pictures and upcoming events.



2023-2024 DIVISION CALENDAR

231 Hardin Street,
Fort McMurray, AB T9H 2G2
PH: 780-799-7900

August 2023						
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September 2023						
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October 2023						
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November 2023						
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KEY	
	Important Day-Students
	PLF Staff Only
	Important Day - Staff
	School Break All
	PD Day - Staff Only
	Stat Holiday - All

December 2023						
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January 2024						
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February 2024						
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March 2024						
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April 2024						
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May 2024						
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June 2024						
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July 2024						
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Semester 1	
Operational Days:	100
Instructional Days:	87
Semester 2	
Operational Days:	94
Instructional Days:	85
Total Operational:	194
Total Instructional:	172

- August**
- 7 Heritage Day Stat Holiday
 - 16 Schools open for registration
 - 17 First day for Administrators
 - 22 First day for Teachers
 - 24 First day, School-Based CUPE
 - 28 First day for Students

- September**
- 1 PLF #1 Staff Only (No school for students)
 - 4 Labour Day Stat Holiday (No school)
 - 15 PLF #2 Staff Only (No school for students)
 - 29 Day in Lieu of National Day of Truth and Reconciliation
 - 30 Stat Holiday National Day of Truth & Reconciliation

- October**
- 6 Day in Lieu (No school)
 - 9 Thanksgiving Stat Holiday (No school)
 - 20 PLF #3 Staff Only (No school for students)
 - 27 Institute Day (No school for students)

- November**
- 3 PLF #4 Staff Only (No school for students)
 - 10 Day in Lieu of Remembrance Day (No school)
 - 11 Remembrance Day Stat Holiday
 - 24 PLF #5 Staff Only (No school for students)

- December**
- 1 PLF #6 Staff Only (No school for students)
 - 15 PLF #7 Staff Only (No school for students)
 - 22 Non-operational (No school)
 - 25 Christmas Stat Holiday (No school)
 - 26 Day in Lieu Stat Holiday (No school)
 - 27-29 Christmas Break (No school)

- January**
- 2 New Years Day Stat Holiday
 - 2-5 Christmas Break (No school)
 - 26 PLF #8 Staff Only (No school for students)
 - 31 Semester 2 Begins

- February**
- 2 PD Day (No school)
 - 16 PLF #9 Staff Only (No school for students)
 - 19 Family Day Stat Holiday
 - 26-1 Teachers' Convention (No school)
 - 29 Teachers' Convention (ATA Staff Only)

- March**
- 1 Teachers' Convention (No school for students)
 - 15 PLF #10 Staff Only (No school for students)
 - 29 Good Friday Stat Holiday (No school)

- April**
- 1 Easter Monday Day in Lieu (No school)
 - 12 PLF #11 Staff Only (No school for students)
 - 15-19 Spring Break (No school)

- May**
- 3 PLF #12 Staff Only (No school for students)
 - 17 PTL Day in Lieu (No school)
 - 20 Victoria Day Stat Holiday (No school)

- June**
- 7 PLF #13 Staff Only (No school for students)
 - 26 Last Day Students
 - 27 Last Day Staff

- July**
- 1 Canada Day Stat Holiday

