



The Phoenix Messenger

Northwest Elementary Campus 719 - 44 Ave NW Calgary, AB T2K 0J5 P: 403.282.5202 F: 403.282.5381

November 2023

“A MATTER OF PRINCIPAL”

BY SHAWNA DRUMMOND

Dates to Remember

December

- 01 PD Day – No Classes
- 13 Board Meeting
- 15 Report Cards
- 18 Council Meeting
- 22 Fun Lunch & Casual Day
- THEME: PJ's
- Dec 25-Jan 5 Winter Holiday



January 2024

- 08 Classes Resume
- 09 Skiing Day #1 Gr 1-4
- 15 Council Meeting
- 19 Fun Lunch & Casual Day
- THEME: Favorite Team/Jersey
- 23 Ski Day #2 Gr1-4
- 24 Board AGM
- 25-26 Learning Conferences
- No Classes

VISION

Excellence in student achievement and character development through distinctive teaching and learning.

MISSION

To provide a safe and caring environment where academic excellence, character development, parental involvement and staff leadership are valued and fostered.



The hallways and classrooms have been buzzing with excitement over the past month – partly in thanks to our grade one students who have been sharing with us different ways we can “**Beeee Responsible!**” We are so impressed with the confidence of our grade one students who have been reading announcements to the whole school every morning to share their ideas of how we can be more responsible at home, at school, and in our community. We look forward to the assembly they will put on tomorrow to continue teaching us about how to show responsibility.



Recently, we had the opportunity to have some representatives from Alberta Education spend the day at our campus as part of FFCA’s charter renewal process. While here, they met with some students, parents, and staff, in addition to observing lessons in several classrooms. We often take for granted the culture of care at FFCA – care for the wellbeing of staff and students, care for the success of our students, and the care our parent community extends in partnership with the school. When we have the opportunity to share our school with someone from outside of FFCA, it’s a great reminder of the amazing work happening every day in our school.

As we move into December, we’d like to update you on a few staffing changes and updates. We are excited to welcome back Mrs. Tetrault to our grade three team. We are so grateful to Ms. Kung, who has been a great addition to our school community while covering for Mrs. Tetrault. We wish Ms. Kung all the best and look forward to having her as a guest teacher in all of our classrooms.

We’ve also welcomed Ms. Stephanie Di Maria to our staff. Ms. Stephanie is working as a part-time youth development counsellor. She has been busy working with classes on friendship skills and resilience, as well as helping out individual and small groups of students.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Seniors Secret Service initiative which was organized by our School Council. In addition to bringing in gifts, students were given the opportunity to create cards for the seniors they sponsored. The goal of this project is to enhance the quality of life for individuals 60 years or older who are alone in our community. The spirit of giving was in the air as we saw the culture of care that we see in our NWE community shared beyond the school walls.

Shawna Drummond
Principal

Michelle Newell
Associate Principal

Fun Lunch & Casual Day

Friday, December 22nd

THEME: PJ Day



Healthy Hunger is back...
To register for hot lunches,
please go to www.healthyhunger.ca

OPT-IN

FUNDRAISING EVENT

NWE School Council is offering an Opt-In fundraising option for those who may be too busy or overburdened supporting other various fundraisers. This option allows families to support the school directly.

Donations can be made online from
Sept. 1 to Dec. 21, 2023

Donations can be made in increments of \$25.

Tax receipts will be issued by Central Office
for all donation over \$25.00

Principal's Wall of Learning

Moksh I.	Rian L.	George F.
Eason W.	Alexander L	Niam V.
Ashton K.	Anjola M.	Aarav C.
Henrik L.	Koa R.	Eden L.
Emerson Y.	Blakely S.	Annabelle R.
Rena M.	Travis Z.	Emmett E.
Shanaya N.	Sophie B.	Jasmine G.
Ira B.	Ava L.	Minette Z.
Jimi M.	Zachary V.	

School Council

Got Bottles?



Looking for new ways to help us out? We've partnered with

[@SkipTheDepot](https://www.skipthedepot.com).

Download the App, book a pickup, place your bags and donate your refund directly to FFCA.



Thank you to all who contributed to the Secret Seniors Initiative!





Join our Board!



We are currently recruiting candidates for FFCA's Board of Directors!

Join Us and Become a Director!

On behalf of the FFCA community, we're calling on YOU to share your unique gifts, skills, experience, and fresh ideas as a valued contributor to serve as part of our Board. We welcome candidates from all backgrounds and roles who bring a passion for governance, improving the education experience for students, are collaborative problem-solvers and are committed to the goals and mission of FFCA.

The FFCA Board of Directors plays an integral role in the continued success and future of FFCA. Directors serve a three year term and are expected to prepare for and participate in a variety of Board, Society and Campus functions. On average, Board members spend 10-20 hours per month on Board activities, including:

- Attending and participating in all scheduled meetings of the Board
- Reviewing supplemental reading materials, draft policies, reports or other Board documents
- Attending an annual Board tour of the FFCA campuses
- Attending campus functions periodically at the invitation of campus administration

The Role of the Board

The FFCA Board is a governance board and it is ultimately responsible for providing oversight of FFCA's education system to ensure it is operating in the best interests of its student base. This includes decisions about FFCA's finances, infrastructure and other strategic priorities. Successful governance relies on a strong Board with the right mix of skills, chemistry, personal motivation and of course a commitment to the organization's mission, vision and shared beliefs. The Board also operates with a high degree of trust, collaboration and teamwork including between the Board and FFCA management.

Some of the key things that the Board of Directors will focus on is the review of the Charter and the new Strategic Plan; advocacy for Charter permanency; ongoing work in capital planning and infrastructure across all campuses.

Important Deadlines

- December 6 - Zoom open house for interested candidates (2 positions open for election)
- December 15 - Deadline to submit all documents required: form application, bio, resume and a short 2-4 minute video
- December 19 - Candidates posted for Society to view
- January 22 to 23 - Director Election Voting (open for 24 hours, noon to noon)
- January 24 - AGM and results announced

[Click here to go to the 2024 Board Election Website](#)

BUSSING NEWS

Just a reminder that the bus routes were created in July and posted on the FFCA website the third week of August. Please check for changes to your stop location and time.

Parents requesting changes to bus stops **must** put their bussing request in writing (Bus Change Request Form) and email the form to the Transportation Department. Change requests for convenience and/or proximity to residences will not be considered.

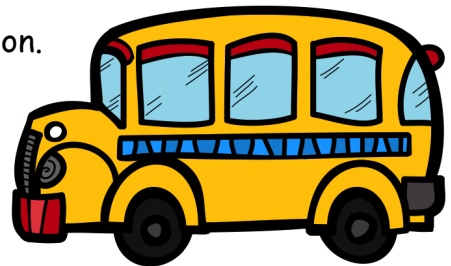
Requests will be collected until the 15th of October and assessed according to the Transportation Parent Handbook in order to keep the ride times to a minimum. Requests for a second bus stop or a bus stop at a day care **will not be accommodated** but we can allow students to use a different bus route if space is available and there is an existing stop along that route. Students are assigned to their community routes as this is how we balance the student loads per route. Please notify the Transportation department immediately if you plan to use a stop other than your community stop.

All change requests will be accepted but not addressed until October/November (unless there is a safety concern) as per the parent transportation agreement that parents agree to when signing up for bussing.

All requests to provide or cancel bus service must be sent by email to the Transportation Department. No changes to bussing can be done at the campus level.

Please see the Transportation Website for further information.

Susan Goldsmith
Director, Transportation Services
Email: susan.goldsmith@ffca-calgary.com
Website: www.ffca-calgary.com



Bus Sign Out

We appreciate the effort you make to communicate with us about your child's bussing changes. It is very important that you . . . **CALL THE OFFICE**

Although informing the driver in the morning or writing an email or note in the agenda to the teacher *might* seem sufficient, *if there is a substitute driver or teacher that day, the message will not get through.*



**PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE BEFORE 2:30
REGARDING ANY BUS CHANGES.**

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.





SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 PD Day No Classes	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Khushali	14	15 	16
17	18  Online NWE Society	19	20	21 In-Lieu-Of Donations Closes	22 Fun Lunch & Casual Day 	23
24	25 	26	27	28	29	31
31				Winter Break: Classes Resume Jan 8, 2024		