

THE NORTHEASTERLY



Edmonton Christian Northeast School

5940 159 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta

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Web Site: www.edmchristian.net

Lord of All or not at All

February 3, 2010

LEARNING... LEADING... LIVING... IN COMMUNITY

Growing up, I was one of those students who groaned, at least inwardly, when it was time for math class. It was not my favourite subject (not even close) and yet I knew my "facts" very well. I could quote the times table as well as my teacher. I memorized the formulas and logarithms, but I didn't understand them. I dreaded the statistics course in University; I took a light load that term and made sure I had a tutor lined up if I ran into the first hint of trouble.

On Monday evening about 30+ parents gathered at school to hear about the new Math curriculum that is part of the recent focus from Alberta Education. This new approach to mathematical learning engages each student in a purposeful struggle to solve problems rather than just compute facts and memorize mathematical equations. Students are encouraged to take risks and be unique in exploring ways to problem-solve. The emphasis in mathematical learning is discovering the correct answer while using strategies that work for the individual; the tough part is explaining how you got that correct answer, when the pathway to the solution is different from that of your neighbour. You see, there are often many ways to finding the correct answer. Not all students/people think the same way.

I echo the sentiment of one parent who said, "I wish math had been taught like this when I was growing up... maybe then I would have really learned something and enjoyed it." Heads nodded in agreement.

This new math allows for diversity in critical thinking, promotes problem solving and builds a foundation for real understanding of mathematical concepts that are rooted in real life problems. This learning is developed within a safe environment that allows students the freedom to risk and experiment and try again. This new freedom in mathematical problem solving may be liberating to students but frustrating to some adults who are used to traditional ways of "doing math."

As I listened to the teachers present the underlying goals of the new math instruction, I was struck by the complexity of our Maker – our God who created people

with such diversity. Our individuality is a tribute to a Master Designer. The ability to ponder problems (of all kinds) and find solutions (diverse and creative in many ways) points to a Creator who made order out of chaos. Yes, for me (growing up) math was often chaos.

The need for conversation and the ability to work together strengthens the learning community and builds open thinking and listening skills. Our God is a personal and caring God, in intimate relationship with all of us. It was never as clear to me as it was this week how our mathematical learning moves us to understand and live more capably in our world; an amazing world that is founded on order, diversity and complexity -- yet filled with beauty inspired by our God, rooted in community.

(Thoughts by Darlene Eerkes, Principal)

PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS THAT PRAY

Most every Tuesday morning at 8:30am a group of parents/grandparents meet in our school to pray. Anyone is invited to join us. There has been a **Prayer Request Box** placed in the office (at the front desk) for anyone to add a prayer request; please feel free to submit your requests. These requests are prayed for on these mornings. When possible, the Principal joins this group. It is an enriching time where we acknowledge God's command to "Be still and know that I AM God." We pray!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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| Mon. Feb. 15 | Family Day NO SCHOOL |
| Tues. Feb. 16 | Junior High Ski Day Elementary Option Day Gr. 4-6 |
| Feb. 25-26 | GETCA (Greater Edmonton Teachers Convention Association) NO SCHOOL |
| Fri. Mar. 12 | Waterpark Evening at WEM |
| Thurs. Mar. 18 | 2nd Report Cards |
| Fri. Mar. 19 | NO SCHOOL Day in Lieu |
| March 29-April 5 | Spring Break NO SCHOOL |
| June 29 | Last Day of School |

Our students will grow in critical thinking skills using a Biblical framework.

WHAT IS PARENT COUNCIL?

Simply put, it is any parent who wishes to attend a 2 hour gathering with other parents that meet with administration and school staff to talk about specific school things that are put on an agenda. Topics can include anything that helps keep our learning community a strong, safe place for all our children. And, we strive to make suggestions and take on responsibilities (i.e. playground committee, Auction committee, hot lunch program) that make our school even better. We might discuss volunteering, athletics, uniforms, curriculum, service learning, new enrollments, parking spaces, traffic controls, playground equipment, fundraising, prayer boxes, locked/unlocked doors, the facility, etc. Occasionally we have staff presentations on curriculum, new endeavours, technology uses (i.e. Smart boards); sometimes, we have special speakers (i.e. internet safety, computer use, etc.). And, we have devotions together and take time to pray for specific or general needs in our community.

Possible agenda topics are suggested to our Parent Council Chair, Shanna Stolte (telephone: 780-475-1467; email: sstolte@gmail.com). She and the Principal discuss the agenda items for particular meetings. At our meetings we do not talk about individual staff or parents or students. Any topics that might best be addressed individually are referred to staff or to other channels for information and follow up. We meet once a month, alternating our gatherings from one month in the evening, next month in the afternoon. Even still we realize that this is not convenient for everyone. Meetings are announced in the Northeasterly – **everyone is invited!** We are going to put the minutes of our Parent council meetings on Schoolzone, when they are completed. Please look for them within a week (usually) of the meeting. **Please, join us for our next gathering on March 1, 2010 from 1 – 3 pm in the conference room at the school.**

A CANADIAN TIRE BOX will soon appear in the entrance way of the school. This is for you to donate any Canadian Tire money you might have. We hope to raise money for sport/playground equipment. This is an initiative of the Parent Council.

ENROLMENT 2010-11: Enrolment packages for **new families** are available at your School office . Perhaps you would like to pick up a package for a family member or friend who is considering Christian education at our School. Also available will be *Application for New Student* forms for **current families** who wish to register a new child for 2010-11, whether in Kindergarten or another grade. All forms are available on our website February 1: www.edmchristian.net . The deadline to complete and return these forms is April 14. The **re-enrolment process for current students** will take place in early April; more details to come in March. If you have any questions, please call the Society office at 780-408-7933.

DESSERT EVENING WITH ECHS BAND AND CHOIR

Enjoy a wonderful evening of fine dessert, refreshments and music on **February 11 at 7:00 pm** at the Edmonton Christian High School, 14304-109 Ave. Desserts will be available for silent auction throughout the evening with proceeds for the Band/Choir Tour. Tickets are available at early-bird prices before February 8 for \$10.00 each; children age 5 and under are free. After February 8, ticket cost is \$15.00; tickets are NOT available at the door. Tickets available at the school office (408-7945).



Dessert Evening

Thursday, February 11, 7:00 pm

of tickets @ \$10.00 each: _____

of tickets for age 5 and under: _____

of tickets @ \$15:00 (after Feb 8): _____

Total cost: _____

Payment: cash/cheque (ECHS)

A NIGHT FOR PARENTS: Have you ever wondered how to: Parent with insight and love, Parent with effective discipline ages 2-12— SEE THE NEXT PAGE OF THE NEWSLETTER FOR MORE INFORMATION.

An alternative program of Edmonton Public Schools in partnership with the Edmonton Society for Christian Education.

Principal: Darlene Eerkes 408-7942 Assistant Principal: Vicki de Haan 408-7942

Edmonton Society for Christian Education

Chairperson: Wilco VandenBorn 780-478-1367
Executive Director: Peter Buisman 780-408-7929



EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Superintendent Edgar Schmidt
Trustee Ward B Ken Shipka

780-429-8000
780-429-8015



"PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS EVENING"
Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Hosted by GETCA
(Greater Edmonton Teachers Convention Association)
Edmonton Public School Board
And the Edmonton Catholic School District

The audience may select to hear either Dr. Mate or Dr. Phelan

Location: Mayfield Inn
16615—109 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5P 4K8
Free Parking

Time: 7:00 PM, Wednesday, February 23, 2010

Dr. Gabor Mate
(Rundle Ballrooms 1 & 2)
Time-In: Parenting With Insight and Love

Powerful parenting requires insight into the child's emotional life—not punishments, but safeguarding of the child's attachments to nurturing adults.

Child-rearing has become an increasingly frustrating and thankless task in our fragmented, stressed and peer-drive world. The temptation is to control our kids through "consequences," punishments and threats of "time outs" and "tough love." The real answer to the parenting dilemma is to create an environment which recognizes our children's deep need for connection with nurturing adults, in which proper boundaries are set not by evoking children's fears, but by inviting their love and respect

Or

Dr. Thomas Phelan
(Logan Ballrooms 3 & 4)
1-2-3— Magic for Parents Effective Discipline
For Children Ages 2-12

This program provides parents with practical and easy-to-learn discipline techniques that WORK! Parents will learn 3 simple steps that get results quickly 1)Control Obnoxious Behavior, 2) Encourage Good Behavior, 3) Strengthen Your Relationship With Your Children.

NO FEE TO ATTEND