



# The Phoenix Messenger

North Middle School 211 McKnight BLVD NE Calgary AB T2E 5S7 P: 403.253.9257 F: 403.253.1273

## Survey Reminder

Reminder it is once again the time of the year we send surveys home, as well as have students and staff fill out surveys at school. We know that at times it may feel overwhelming to complete these, but it is important that we hear the voices of all the stakeholders in our school. It is through surveys like this that both the school and Alberta Learning can gain a deeper understanding of your thoughts and needs as stakeholders. The following surveys will be taking place over the upcoming months:

### Alberta Accountability Surveys

- Random Parent Surveys mailed to home from Alberta Education (Grades 4,7 and 10)
- Students Surveys (Grades 4,7 and 10)
- Staff Surveys

### Schollie Surveys

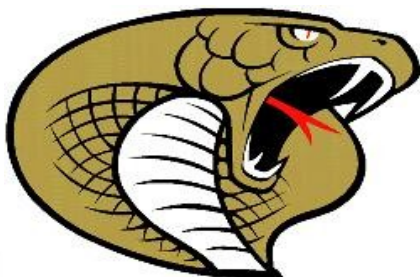
- Student Surveys (All Grades)
- Parent Surveys (Grades 5-8)
- Staff Surveys

### Parent/ Student Voice

- Parents Surveys (All Grades)
- Student Feedback Sessions (All Grades)

We strongly encourage you to participate fully in these surveys so that we can better meet the needs of the students. Thanks you for your time and energy.

Lorne McDonald  
Principal Educator



## JANUARY 2011

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### Absences

All absences **MUST** be reported to the Office. Please call 403-253-9257 ext 100. Please leave a message with student's first and last name, grade, teacher and **SYMPTOMS**. Thank you!

### Electronics

Any electronics brought to school **MUST** be kept in your locker from the beginning of homeroom, 8:20 am, until the end of homeroom, 3:10pm. These are not be taken out of the lockers for any reason. If electronics are lost it is the responsibility of the student.





***PARENTS/GUARDIANS***

***YOUR VOICE IS URGENTLY REQUIRED  
IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE FUTURE OF FFCA!!!!!!!***

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Recently Alberta Education has placed on its website a survey entitled Research and Innovation in Education (<http://education.alberta.ca/departement/ipr/charterschools.aspx>). **Please be aware that this survey is intended to impact the future of charter education in Alberta. Your voice is critical to the continued success of our school in the future.** However some of the wording and implications of the survey questions are difficult to interpret or understand. To assist parents in providing their responses, meetings in both the North Middle School and the South Middle School have been arranged. At this meeting, there will be members of Administration, the Board and School Council present. It is important that we all understand the intent of the questions on this survey, so that we may respond with one resounding voice to Alberta Education.

FFCA is a **unique school of choice**. It has been, and continues to be, a shining light in the world of education. We as a school community need to let others know, so that this extraordinary successful enterprise can and will continue into the future. The meeting dates and times are:

**North Middle School  
Monday, January 31<sup>st</sup>  
7:00 pm  
School Gymnasium**

**South Middle School  
Tuesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>  
7:00 pm  
School Gymnasium**

Please mark one of these dates on your calendar so that we may all give informed responses to Alberta Education about the future of FFCA.

Sincerely,

Lorne McDonald  
Principal Educator  
North Middle School



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**FFCA's 8TH ANNUAL ONLINE AUCTION**

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**This year's Online Auction will take place March 10 to 15, 2011!**

Working with our new vendor, "Go Bid Online Auctions", we are planning for an online auction extravaganza and expect to surpass our former fundraising successes.

***HOW CAN YOU HELP?***

***Donations:***

We need you to donate items to the auction and/or acquire donations from Corporations. You can find a copy of the Campus corporate donation request letter on our website.

***Volunteering:***

Each Campus will need some volunteers to assist with forms and donations, photographing donations and data entry (computer work) - each Campus needs someone to communicate with the other Campuses on the coordination of the auction. We will also need some assistance with marketing (posters, flyers) and distribution of purchased items after the auction. Many of the tasks can be done from home!

Earn volunteer hours from the comfort of your home - how easy is that!

***Important Dates:***

Donations will be accepted at each Campus from **February 1 to 20th, 2011**

Live Online Auction: **March 10 to March 15, 2011**

Your time, commitment and help are greatly needed and appreciated in making this event for FFCA a success!! Please contact me directly if you can offer your assistance in any of the capacities listed above.

Sincerely,  
Christine Cloutier  
FFCA NM campus  
Volunteer Coordinator  
[cm.ck03@hotmail.com](mailto:cm.ck03@hotmail.com)



## Staff Parking Notice

Parents/Guardians:

I am writing this note because we have some real concerns with parents/guardians dropping off and picking up children in our parking lot. Not only is it not the safest place to drop off your child but we have had a number of other incidents. We have had a number of staff vehicles that have been hit in the parking lot at different times in the day and have not been reported. The fact that we have made it clear that the parking lot is for staff should suffice, but to hit another individual's vehicle and not report it to the office or leave a note is incredibly disrespectful. It becomes increasingly difficult to teach character education in school when children watch their parents do this in the staff parking lot and drive away. I realize this is the vast minority of the people but it is seriously affecting the safety of the students and the sense of security the staff have about their vehicles. We are working on upgrading our signage but I ask you to please not drive into the staff parking lot. Thanks you for your continued support.

Lorne McDonald  
Principal Educator

## 2010/11 Cobra Girls Basketball Team



The members of the North Middle School Girls Basketball Team and Development Squad have had a great start to the season. We are very impressed so far with the hard work, dedication and positive attitude displayed by all the players. With the strong leadership of our grade 8's and the addition of the talented grade 7 students, we look forward to a very competitive season. We are also pleased to have a very committed group of Gr 6 girls on our Development Squad. Please see the CISAA website for game times and locations. Come on out and support Cobra Basketball!

Mrs. Thomson & Ms. Jeffries

### 2010/2011 Cobra Girls Basketball

Navleen B., Manpreet S., Melissa B., Dawsyn M., Aliya K., Jasmine K., Erin T., Alysha S., Harleen K., Ameen S.

### 2010/2011 Cobra Girls Basketball Development Squad

Rachel Z., Kiran H., Qainaat M.



## Logging Volunteer Hours

Did you know...the time you spend helping out the school counts as volunteer hours? This includes driving to sporting events and baking for staff appreciation meals.

Please remember to log your time into the online volunteer system at:

[www.ffca-calgary.com](http://www.ffca-calgary.com) → Parent Information → Family Login → Family Volunteer Hours

Thank you for taking the time to log your hours.



## Bus Installment Reminder

The final bus installment of \$200.00 for the 2010-11 school year is due February 1, 2011.

## Bus Passes

Please note at the North Middle School we **do not** issue bus passes for social reasons. However, occasionally a bus pass will be issued for unexpected emergencies. Thank you for understanding.

## Coco Brooks Fundraiser

As a school we sold 597 pizzas. Giving the parent council a profit of \$1224.32. I would like to send a thank you to the parents that helped with this fundraiser. Every little bit counts. I would like to congratulate Nicholas Taylor of Ms. Johnson grade 6 class for being top seller. He sold 57 pizzas. WAY TO GO NICHOLAS!!!! We would like to do another fundraiser before the end of school to try to raise money for smart board devices. If you have any suggestions please email me at [angbw4@gmail.com](mailto:angbw4@gmail.com).

## Parent Evening

Thursday February 3, 2011

6:30 pm—8:00pm

FFCA—South Middle School –hosting  
8710 Ancourt RD SE

Guest Speaker: Mr. Bill Belsey, president of  
Bullying.org

### “Cyberbullying, An Emerging Threat To the Always On Generation”

Please RSVP to Ms. Grace  
[gina.grace@ffca-calgary.com](mailto:gina.grace@ffca-calgary.com)  
or call 403-259-3175 ext 128

## NMS Parent Council

WE NEED YOU!

Do you have a few hours each month to volunteer for your Child's School Parent Council? Do you have talents such as taking minutes, or accounting? The Council is in need of a Secretary and Treasurer. Please consider volunteering your time and talents as a member of the NMS Parent Council.

The council meets each month. The next meeting date is Monday, February 7, at 6:15pm to 8:15pm in the Staff room.

We look forward to continuing to build a strong and successful School Council for the Children and Staff of FFCA, NMS.

If you are interested, please call Susan Elson, Chairperson at 403 250-4174.

## ELL Notice

Attention all parents of ELL Students. Please sign and return the Progress Reports by February 4, 2011.



## Southland Bus Parents & Students—Bus Communication System

FFCA strongly encourages you to sign up for the Southland Bus Communication System.

Go to: [www.yourschoolbus.com](http://www.yourschoolbus.com)

Username is: ffcasubscriber

Password is: signup

Please follow the link and provide the information needed to be included for bus delays. You can then receive an email or a text message to your phone/home email. Schools also sign up through ‘yourschoolbus’ and receive the delay messages in the same manner – please do not call them to ask about delays. The campuses will not be calling you in the event of a delay.

### FAQ

1. Do I sign up every year?

Yes, this is due to bus route numbers changing, or your student changing to a new campus. All records will be cleared each year.

2. How do I edit my information?

Log in to the website using the username and password as above with your identifier number, if you have forgotten this number, click on Identifier retrieval. The code number will be sent to the email or phone number you used to sign up with. Then log in and change any necessary information.

3. How do I unsubscribe to this service?

Once you log in with your identifier number at the bottom of the page you will see a link to “unsubscribe”.

4. Can a Text to Landline be sent to my home phone number because I don’t have a cell phone?

No, only cell phones or your home email address can receive this service. We encourage you to introduce yourself to another student at your bus stop, who has signed up for this service, so you are kept informed.

5. Can I call Southland dispatch?

If you can not sign up for this communication or do not know of anyone that has on your bus route, you may call your dispatcher, but at times you will be put on hold or find that the line is busy. The dispatchers are extremely busy in the mornings. Please understand that in the event of an issue, the dispatcher will be attempting to keep their attention to correcting the current situation to get the students wherethey need to be. In this event the fewer interruption by extra calls the better.

If you have complaints please do not speak to the dispatcher about your service or bus driver during this time of the day, but rather leave your name, your phone number and bus route number for them to return your call. It is important to respect the fact that they do care and want to respond but their time is limited. You may always call your Transportation Director 520-3206 ext 158 or the FFCA Liaison at 287-1335 ext 301.

6. What if my server does not appear on the list?

If your provider is not listed on the list then the provider is likely not capable of transporting these types of messages (you can ask your provider if they support “Email to SMS technology” and if they do then let us know and it will be added to the list). Speakout 7-11 users please see the information provided on yourschoolbus website for information on how to sign up.

7. Can I reply back to the administrator via email or text the administrator?

This communication is one way only, you should not reply back to the administrator of this website. This communication is only to advise you of a delay, not to answer any questions you may have.

8. When the time delay is entered as 10 minute delay at stop 1, how do I know how late the bus will be at my stop?



Please keep in mind that although the bus drivers attempt to keep the delay times as accurate as possible, just entering a delay will let you know that the bus is not on its regular schedule. The drivers will try to update the times if they increase or decrease throughout the run. It will be the parent’s decision to remain at the bus stop or return home or drive to their designated campus.

Please have a back up plan in place with your student. How long do you want your student to wait at the bus stop is your decision as a parent. Do you want them to return home? If so, they will need a number to reach you at. If you are waiting in a car for the bus to arrive, you must decide how long you will wait before leaving and perhaps driving to the campus. Delays may occur throughout the school year, either due to road conditions, accidents causing traffic delays, weather or mechanical. The bus drivers are trying their best to drive the route safely for the road conditions. When you see the bus coming, ensure your students are outside waiting (do not send your student across a busy street at the last minute on snowy icy days) and on good weather days, have your student outside waiting at the stop 5 minutes prior. Please note that just because one school bus from a different school board gets a bus to your area in a timely manner doesn’t mean all school buses will make it on time during weather delays. Each route is created differently and the bus drivers will take every precaution to transport the FFCA students safely.





2011 CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>3</p> <p>PD DAY NO SCHOOL</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>Classes Resume Welcome Back!</p> 	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>10</p> <p>PARENT COUNCIL MEETING 6PM</p> 	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>BOARD MEETING CENTRAL OFFICE 6PM</p> 	<p>13</p> <p>GRADE 6 FIELD TRIP POLICE INTERPRETIVE CENTRE</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>CASUAL DAY</p> <p>HOT LUNCH MR. SUB</p>
<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>GRADE 7 &amp; 8 FIELD TRIP VERTIGO THEATRE</p>	<p>27</p> <p>LEARNING CONFERENCES EVENING / USBORNE BOOK FAIR FAMILY VIEWING</p>	<p>28</p> <p>LEARNING CONFERENCES NO SCHOOL / USBORNE BOOK FAIR FAMILY VIEWING</p>
<p>31</p> <p>Parent Meeting NMS Gym 7:00pm</p>				



2011 CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14 PARENT COUNCIL MEETING 6PM 	15	16 BOARD MEETING CENTRAL OFFICE 6PM 	17 PD DAY NO SCHOOL 	18 PD DAY NO SCHOOL 
21 FAMILY DAY NO SCHOOL 	22	23	24	25 Field Trip Grade 5K & 5W - Fort Calgary Interpretive Centre Casual Day / Hot Lunch Extreme Pita
28 Field Trip Grade 5DH & 5DV - Fort Calgary Interpretive Centre				