



The Phoenix Messenger

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Matter of Principal

Lately, there have been many discussions around the topic of character education. This is a very important part of what we do here at FFCA and is arguably some of life's most important lessons. During these discussions, a reoccurring theme continues to emerge. This theme is that our actions, manners, and leadership are the outward expression of our inner character. In other words, what we say and do informs others of the character that we hold in our hearts and in our minds. How we treat, support and influence each other speaks volumes as to our respect, responsibility, self-discipline, compassion and integrity.

In order to help our students express the high level of character that we know is within their hearts and minds, we are lucky to have the opportunity to celebrate National Manners Month! On Wed. Oct 26th we are excited about our special day with North America's award-winning family entertainer, Judi The Manners Lady! Our whole school will have fun singing with Judi and sharing with her how we can make a difference in our world through our attitude, words & actions!

Our students will be learning The Manners Club songs from Judi's CD **"It's Fun to Have Good Manners!"** as we learn the importance of living with *kindness*, **R-E-S-P-E-C-T** and an **"attitude of gratitude!"** We'll learn to say "NO!" to "The Bad Manners Monsters," **"The Five Steps of Awesome Introduction Skills,"** firm handshakes and **to obey "right away without delay"** wearing **"happy eyes!" with a "happy heart!"**

Similarly, we will be hosting a family concert that evening, Oct. 26th, from 7:00-8:00 which both parents and children are welcome to attend. We would love to see our entire school join us for a night of song and discussion around the topic of manners.

Note: You can hear Judi's music online at www.cdbaby.com/cd/mannerslady or www.YouTube.Com/MannersLady

Yours in Learning

Justin Kool
Principal Educator

Joan Burke
Associate Principal

October

2011

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Dates to Remember



REACH FOR THE STARS

Provincial Achievement Test

2010-2011 Provincial Achievement Test Results

As presented at our October 17th School Council meeting, we are very proud of our students and the results that they achieved on last year's Math and English Language Arts (ELA) Provincial Achievement Tests. Compared to the provincial averages, **10% more of our students scored in the acceptable standard and in most cases 2X more of our students scored in the excellence standard.**

Our specific results were:

ELA

Prov. Overall: 89.9% Acceptable 19.2% Excellent

FFCA Overall: 97.5% Acceptable 46.3% Excellent

Prov. Writing: 92.1% Acceptable 14.2% Excellent

FFCA Writing: 100% Acceptable 47.5% Excellent

Prov. Reading: 88.2% Acceptable 39% Excellent

FFCA Reading: 95% Acceptable 58.8% Excellent



Math

Prov. Overall: 84.4 % Acceptable 28.3% Excellent

FFCA Overall: 97.5% Acceptable 44.4% Excellent

For those who are not aware of the terms Acceptable and Excellence, each is a measure of the student's success on the test. The Acceptable standard is achieved when a student scores over 50% on the exam, and the Excellence standard is achieved when a student scores over 80%. The numbers above indicate the percent of our students who have scored within each of these standards.



Art Clubs and Art Project Catch Up



Art clubs start the week of October 18-21 and run until May. Artist Trading Card club for grades 2 and 3 will happen on Tuesdays at lunch recess. Young artists club for grade 4s will happen on Fridays at lunch recess (with alternate arrangements during holidays and PD days). During Wednesdays the art room is open at lunch recesses to students who need to catch up on missed work.

Art Explorers

For students who are busy during lunch recess, this year, SWE is also offering the Art Explorers club (started by the NWE campus). Check the newsletter for art explorations. Students are encouraged to find art around them at home and either photograph it or bring found objects in to Mrs. Wanhill. Work submitted will displayed in the art room each month. (Please make sure work is labeled with the child's first name and grade so that work can be returned at the end of each exploration.)

Exploration 1: Found Faces

TASK—Look for faces in the things around you.

Using a camera, photograph faces in things you find in your everyday spaces. For example: have you ever seen face shapes in the clouds? on a barn, on a banana?

Barbara Wanhill
Art Specialist Teacher

Music To our Ears!

We are off and running in the music room this year!

Our senior choir has started up once again, practicing for our upcoming Remembrance Day ceremony on Nov. 10. We have a very enthusiastic and energetic group this year and hopefully will have even more opportunities to sing at different events throughout the school year.

Also, the music room door is ALWAYS open for you to come and watch our classes. We love to have an audience to perform to!



REACH FOR THE STARS

Library Corner

I find television to be very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go in the other room and read a book. ~Groucho Marx

Parent Conversation Outcomes

Thank you to those parents who took the time to meet with me during September to discuss reading strategies to improve the fluency of their child. Fluency is the ability to read text with speed, accuracy and proper expression. Our discussion focused on how you, the parent, can help your child improve his or her fluency at home. In summary, read with your child every day, if possible. The more your child practices reading, the quicker and more proficient he will be. Encourage your child to read library books, cereal boxes, restaurant menus, street signs, grocery store labels and more. During family time, read to your children and let them follow along, so they can hear the correct pronunciation of the words. The more you read with them, the more they will find reading fun.

Book Fair



A huge thank you to Celeste H. and her amazing team of volunteers who, again, made our first Scholastic Book Fair of the school year a huge success! For those parents who assisted their child with the "guess the number of Saturn rings" contest, the answer was 57! Winner of the Family Event Draw was Chloe in Miss Baker's class – congratulations! Our next Fair will be in April so watch for information in the New Year!

WATER DAMAGE has become a *huge* problem in the library! ***PLEASE*** ensure ***ALL*** containers with liquids in them are kept **SEPARATE** from library books! Freezer bags are a wonderful way to keep books safe! We have lost 6 books to water damage in as many weeks. Should your child discover their book is wet, please have them bring the book directly to me; putting a wet book in a book return bin just makes other books wet. Thank you for your help!

Until next time, I leave you with this fun *Mind Trap*

How can you physically stand behind your father while he is standing behind you?
[See below my name for the answer]



Mrs. De
(The two of you must stand back to back.)



REACH FOR THE STARS

Thank You

THANK YOU

to Karen Brown and all the volunteers who provided the wonderful dinner for the staff on Thursday, October 6. It was so enjoyable for the staff to be able to sit down, relax and share a meal together on such a busy day.

Remembrance Day

We would like to invite all friends and families to join the staff and students on Thursday, November 10, 2011 beginning at 10:20 as we honour our past and present Service Men and Women.



Hot Lunch Days



Just a reminder to send a **SNACK** to school with your child on Hot Lunch Days. Most of our students are developing hollow legs by morning recess and a snack at this time gets them through the excitement of anticipating their hot lunch.

Wellness Week



We had a wonderful Wellness Week during the last week of September. A big thank you goes out to all our families who joined us for Family Zumba, to our School Council for providing a healthy peach snack on our fruit Tuesday, and all our students, families, and staff who participated in our Terry Fox Run. SWE raised \$1318.56 for the Terry Fox Foundation. This money will go towards cancer research. Way to go SWE!

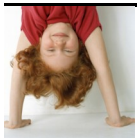
Running Club

Running club has come to an end with the completion of our second fun run race against the FFCA – SEE campus. We are very proud of all our grade 1, 2, 3 and 4 students who practiced their running skills at lunch recesses and put their speed to the test at our two running races. If you enjoy running, we encourage students to sign up for our running club again next fall.

Thank you to all our families who supported our Kids Night Out Event on Friday October 14.



Kids Night Out



Our theme of Fitness...Food...and Fun was a hit with our students. The money raised during this event will go to fund our SWE Exergaming Research Centre. Watch for our next Kids Night Out in spring 2012.

Swimming Program

We are underway with our swimming program at Southland Leisure Centre. Thank you to all our parent volunteers who have helped or will be helping out in the change room. Remember, swimming is a great active lifestyle skill. We encourage families to get out and hit the water on weekends and holidays to stay physically active.



Transportation



We would encourage all parents\guardians to review our **Transportation Handbook** that provides information on topics such as bus stops, behavior and passenger information. The document is available at the following link:

http://www.ffca-calgary.com/FFCA/Parent_Info/Bus%20Routes/Transportation%20Handbook%202010-11.pdf

Wait List Application

TIME TO RENEW YOUR WAIT LIST APPLICATION



Who: EVERYONE who has a child's name on the wait list. This includes siblings, and those with priority status.

When: October 1st through to the 31st.

How: Renew your application online through the FFCA website www.ffca-calgary.com. From the Parent tab, there is a drop down menu, select **Wait List**, then look for the writing in blue that says "*click here to enter the online wait list system*". Enter your username and password (detailed instructions are given on the website to retrieve yours if you do not already know it). You will see your family profile. Select and click on the renew button.

What if I don't have a computer? You can renew in person at Central Office #240, 688 Heritage Drive SE, Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8:00 am and 3:00 pm.

To renew, do I fill out a new application and send it in? No. You do not complete a new application to renew. Renewals are done online through the FFCA website, or in person at the Central Office.

Does it matter what day in October that I renew? No, your original entry date is how you are sorted on the wait list.

If you have any questions please contact Wanda Olson 520-3206 ext 160 or by email wanda.olson@ffca-calgary.com



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