



The Phoenix Messenger

FFCA High School - North Campus

Matter of Principal

Dear Parents,

At the beginning of the school year, Mrs. Boyd and I had a town hall meeting with each grade. Our academic guidance counselor, Mrs. Anten & the family Liaison counsellor, Ms. Evans were also present at these town halls. We were struck by the energy and enthusiasm of the students. And with passing time, it is heartwarming to see students engaged in learning, leading various initiatives.

One of the fundamental policies of the FFCA is to provide a safe, caring and welcoming school for all stakeholders. We work very hard to achieve this goal and try to fill in the gaps so that every stakeholder can achieve success in our inclusive environment. At the high school we have many initiatives that provide such opportunities namely Continuum of Support for Inclusive Education, Mental Health support, Wellness Initiative, Literacy Support, Career Guidance, Interpreters for Learning Conferences and GSA.

At the high school there is never a dull moment, Musical, athletics.....

On top of that the move to the new building is on everyone's mind. The community is excited about the new learning environment and opportunity. Details of the move-plan will be shared with the stakeholder soon.

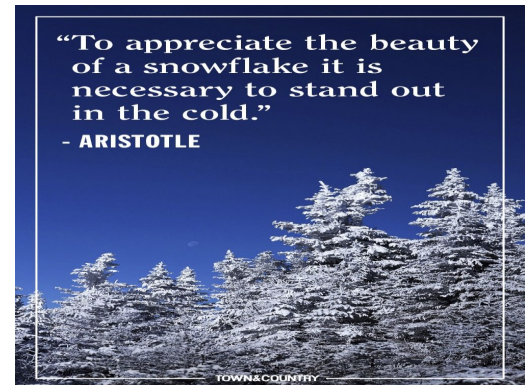
All of us at the high school would like to wish you and your family a very happy holiday season and a Happy New Year.

We are always available for a conversation and or a question.

Yours in Education,
 Bharati Singh, Principal Educator
 Sue Boyd, Associate Principal

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Dates to Remember

Dec 1	PD Day- No Classes
Dec 22	Casual Day
Dec 25—Jan 5	School Holiday
Jan 8	Back to Classes
Jan 10	Diploma Exam
Jan 11	Casual Day
Jan 22-30	Exam Days





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](#)

COUNSELOR UPDATE

Things have been busy in the office over the past month as I have been working with students on post-secondary applications and planning. I have also been working to meet with every grade 12 student to go through the requirements for graduation with them and where they stand in terms of these requirements. Please check with your student to see if they have met with me for a Grad Check and, if they haven't, please encourage them to book a time some for us to meet as these were to be done before the November break.

Thank you so much to all of the families who attended our first every Grad Parent Information Night. Hopefully this gave you insight into what to expect in your grade 12 year. The Grad Handbook will be posted on the website for you to refer back to for information.

For those who aren't in grade 12, I have thoroughly enjoyed our conversations about post-secondary and career planning as you consider your high school courses. Please feel free to book an appointment at any time for us to have a chat.

Taira Anten
Career and Academic Guidance Counsellor

GRADE 12 GRAD INFORMATION



Save the Date!

Graduation 2024 will be taking place on
Friday, June 28, 2024

Watch upcoming newsletters, Edsby & Emails for
further information!

Endangered Species Spotlight: Woodland Caribou

When you hear the word “Caribou” what comes to your mind? A side of the Canadian quarter, perhaps? Maybe a migratory animal that resides in the arctic? Few people think of Alberta and British Columbia’s *Rangifer tarandus caribou*, the Woodland Caribou. Also known as the Southern Mountain Caribou, this species is found in small, scattered populations in the Rocky mountains of Alberta and the Columbia mountains of British Columbia. Caribou tend to live in alpine meadows, sub-alpine forests, and old-growth forests. Caribou eat different types of mosses, lichen and shrubs that grow on high mountains. Alpine meadows and dense forests help caribou keep distance from predators.

The Woodland Caribou’s population is swiftly dwindling due to:

- Increased wolf populations hunting more caribou along with elk and moose

- The logging of caribou habitat

- Wolves using logging roads to reach alpine areas without traversing through dense forests.

- The destruction of alpine habitat due to climate change



Jasper National Park, along with British Columbian First Nations are implementing maternity and breeding pens to increase caribou populations in Alberta and British Columbia. A caribou calf is very likely to be killed by predators in its infancy, therefore calves are kept in well protected maternity pens until they grow enough to outrun wolves and bears. Breeding pens slowly release captive-bred animals into natural habitats. Although Jasper National Park is taking the appropriate action to conserve its caribou population, Banff National Park is not. Banff lost its last caribou herd to an avalanche in 2009 and has not made any effort to bring any caribou back. A study has shown that a region north of Lake Louise along the Icefields Parkway has enough alpine habitat to hold up to 1000 caribou. The most visited and wealthiest national park in Canada, however, has no interest in repopulating its mountains with caribou. Banff has simply added their name to breeding projects without taking any actions. For a species that is rapidly losing habitat, it is essential that National Parks and protected areas serve as strongholds for their population. Provincial governments make little effort to curb the intense logging of caribou habitat and only encourage further logging. A united effort from federal, municipal and provincial governments is required to protect this beautiful species from extinction.

Conserving caribou is not only a matter of saving one species. By protecting caribou, every species in its ecosystem is protected and conserved. Various species of alpine flowers and shrubs benefit from caribou conservation. Old growth forests and all the creatures that reside within them are saved by reducing logging. The caribou is an “umbrella species”, an iconic species that supports an entire ecosystem. By protecting an umbrella species, we are also conserving any animal, plant or fungus that takes shelter underneath the umbrella.

From: The Eco Club

By: Siddh T Edited by: Rishi T

Eco - Club

- E - Ecological and
- C - Collaborative
- O - Opportunities

Our mission is to foster and maintain strong ecological and sustainable practices within the FFCA community through collaboration with parents and the people of Calgary. We are motivated by the opportunity to establish FFCA as an eco-school and the chance to do our part in stopping global warming and climate change. We believe that the power to make a change in the present for the betterment of our future is in our hands and are inspired to work toward our common future.



Did you know, the Eco-club has an Eco-Code? The club is busy enacting our vision. Watch the School TV, and listen to the Announcements to keep up to date on our action items.

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"We don't need a handful of people doing zero waste perfectly. We need millions of people doing it imperfectly." – **Anne Marie Bonneau**

Reference:

<https://daretobeawildflower.com/sustainability-quotes-to-inspire-eco-friendly-living/>

ALBERTA MINISTER'S YOUTH COUNCIL

Dear FFCA NHS,

For those unfamiliar with my identity, I am Neelesh Sharma, and I have been bestowed with the honorable opportunity to participate in the Alberta Minister's Youth Council. This council comprises of 40 students, each hailing from diverse backgrounds and schools across the province. All council members play a vital role by offering insights into the Alberta education system to the Minister of Education, and by proposing constructive suggestions for enhancements. In mid-October, I had the privilege of attending the inaugural council meeting, and it is my pleasure to share my enriching experience with you.

To initiate, let me delve into the ambiance of the council meeting and provide a glimpse into the true essence of the experience. From boarding the bus in Calgary to returning home after the meeting, every moment was a unique and unforgettable experience, brimming with enduring memories. Alberta Education generously facilitates transportation for all council members to and from the meetings, some by air and others, like myself, by bus. The atmosphere at the Minister's Youth Council exuded optimism and perpetually radiated a positive vibe. It was an environment that embraced everyone, fostering a sense of belonging. The prevailing mindset was generally harmonious, and even for those with divergent perspectives, their views were accorded due respect. This council stands out as one of the most uplifting events I have ever attended, with levels of positivity soaring through the roof. The inclusive nature, where everyone embraced each other's differences, was a revelation for me. This event underscored the possibility of fostering positive environments where inclusivity and acceptance of differences are not just ideals but achievable realities. Despite the fantastic atmosphere, the meeting also involved a myriad of activities for all participants.

All three days of the council meeting were filled to the brim with various tasks and activities. On the first day, upon our arrival at the hotel, we swiftly dropped off our belongings in our rooms and returned downstairs to commence the meeting. The session, extending until about 9:00 pm, primarily featured icebreakers to facilitate mutual introductions, a brief interaction with the minister, and a concluding elder blessing. The second day proved to be the most hectic, with a 7:00 am start, preparations for the day, and departure by 8:30 am to the Alberta Education Building. There, we engaged in discussions about potential improvements to the education system and gained insights into its intricacies. Our visit to the legislature offered a firsthand glimpse into the inner workings of Alberta's government. Returning around 5:00 pm, we dined and resumed the meeting. The day concluded at 8:30 pm, followed by many of us spending time together. The third day, being our last, felt like the swiftest. Again, a 7:00 am start, breakfast, and some free time preceded the final council meeting. On this day, each group presented their proposals for improvements directly to the minister. Overall, the meeting was a whirlwind of activity without a dull moment, an experience that I thoroughly relished.

Having shared my personal reflections on the Minister's Youth Council, I urge all readers to contemplate the opportunities that lie before them. Often, many of us procrastinate or fail to capitalize on opportunities that come our way due to a love for our comfort zones and a reluctance to step out of them. My appeal to each of you is to venture into the world, seek out opportunities, and embrace the unknown. Taking risks may be daunting, but the rewards that accompany them are often hindered by our own hesitations and fears, impeding our progress in life.

Sincerely,
Neelesh Sharma
Grade 10 FFCA NHS Student



YEARBOOK 2023-24

The Yearbook Team is busy taking photos of the student body in preparation of making a fantastic yearbook! Unlike previous years, the yearbook fee is not embedded in your resource fee. If your child would like a yearbook to remember the 2023-2024 school year, please log on to family zone to make the purchase. The fee is \$40 – the same price as previous years. With your help, the yearbook team will have the budget to complete the award winning yearbook that we are used to having your help,



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ATTENDANCE REMINDERS

When a child is going to be late or absent from school, it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to inform us of the reason for the late/absence before 8:00 am.

To report your child's absence, please send an email the campus office at sherri.codd@ffca-calgary.com or a phone call at 403-243-3316 Ext 1001

Please be sure to include the following information:

1. date of absence
2. first and last name of your student
3. the reason they will be away

If you believe your child was marked incorrectly for a block, they must speak with that teacher for that class to have this updated. The office is not able to make these changes. - An extended leave of absence from school requires a written request to the Principal Educator. Please send the email to bharati.singh@ffca-calgary.com.

Please note that not all absences are considered excused under government rules.





GRADUATION 2024

UPDATE

✓ **Grad Committee**

- students and staff are in place for this committee
- we are looking for parents to join - please e-mail Mrs. Anten if you are interested in joining us - it will be one evening per month

✓ **Thank You Parents Who Attended the Grad Family Meeting**

- Find the Grad Handbook online if you have any questions about the Grade 12 students' year and Grad!

✓ **Fundraising - Support our Grads**

- Our first event will be Coffee & Cinnamon Buns on November 30th. Watch for more events!

✓ **Grad Photos**

- Grad photos will be January 30 and 31. Booking information to come.

Questions? Interested in joining Grad Committee? taira.anten@ffca-calgary.com

JANUARY EXAM SCHEDULE

Exam Schedule – January 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><u>January 8</u></p> <p>Regular Classes (Grade 9-12)</p> <p>Bus Departure @ 3:28 PM</p>	<p><u>January 9</u></p> <p>Regular Classes (Grade 9-12)</p> <p>Bus Departure @ 3:28 PM</p>	<p><u>January 10</u></p> <p>Regular Classes (Grade 9-12)</p> <p>ELA 30-1 Part A ELA 30-2 Part A</p> <p>Bus Departure @ 3:28 PM</p>	<p><u>January 11</u></p> <p>Regular Classes (Grade 9-12)</p> <p>Soc 30-1 Part A Soc 30-2 Part A</p> <p>Bus Departure @ 3:28 PM</p>	<p><u>January 12</u></p> <p>Regular Classes (Grade 9-12)</p> <p>Bus Departure @ 1:20PM</p>
<p><u>January 15</u></p> <p>Regular Classes (Grade 9-12)</p> <p>Bus Departure @ 3:28 PM</p>	<p><u>January 16</u></p> <p>Regular Classes (Grade 9-12)</p> <p>Bus Departure @ 3:28 PM</p>	<p><u>January 17</u></p> <p>Regular Classes (Grade 9-12)</p> <p>Bus Departure @ 3:28 PM</p>	<p><u>January 18</u></p> <p>Regular Classes (Grade 9-12)</p> <p>Bus Departure @ 1:20PM</p>	<p><u>January 20</u> Last Day of Regular Classes (Grade 9-12)</p> <p>Bus Departure @ 1:20PM</p>
<p><u>January 22</u></p> <p>Math 30-1 Math 30-2</p> <p>ELA 20-1 ELA 20-2</p> <p>ELA 10-1 ELA 10-2</p> <p>Bus Departure @ 1:20PM</p>	<p><u>January 23</u></p> <p>ELA 30-1 ELA 30-2</p> <p>Soc 20-1 Soc 20-2</p> <p>Soc 10-1 Soc 10-2</p> <p>Bus Departure @ 1:20PM</p>	<p><u>January 24</u></p> <p>Soc 30-1 Soc 30-2</p> <p>Math 20-1 Math 20-2</p> <p>Math 10C</p> <p>Bus Departure @ 1:20PM</p>	<p><u>January 25</u></p> <p>Bio 30</p> <p>Bio 20</p> <p>Sci 10</p> <p>Math 9</p> <p>Bus Departure @ 1:20 PM</p>	<p><u>January 26</u></p> <p>Chem 30</p> <p>Chem 20</p> <p>ELA 9</p> <p>Bus Departure @ 1:20PM</p>

January 29

Physics 20
Bus Departure
@ 1:20PM

Students must use their assigned locker on exam days. Please see Ms. Codd ahead of exams to know your locker and to put a combination lock on it.