

October 2018

4210 – 59th Street / Red Deer / AB / T4N 2M9

Phone: 403-346-5795 Fax: 403-347-3003

*Gateway Christian School staff
wish you and your family a
Very Happy & Blessed Thanksgiving!*

We are thankful to our Heavenly Father for the work He is doing in our school & for the blessings he has poured out on our school community.

*"Praise the Lord, all you nations,
Extol him, all you peoples.*

*For great is His love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord
endures forever. Praise the Lord." Psalm 117*



Before/After School Child Care

Are you looking for before/after school child care and/or childcare on school staff learning days? The Red Deer Child Care Society offers an awesome program at Gateway. Please call 403-347-7973 if you are interested or would like more information.



**ADmazing Coupon books
available at the office!**

The coupon book is filled with \$25,000 in savings on everyday items for everyone in your family. All proceeds going towards the Gr. 11 Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic. Cost: \$25. ea.
Stop by the office today!

School Council's Annual General Meeting October 16th @ 6:30 p.m. Please join us!

Involvement in school council is a meaningful, hands-on way to have a direct, positive impact on your child's education. Don't miss an opportunity to get involved, be heard, and make a difference at Gateway Christian School. Hope to see you there!

Student Accounts:

2018-2019 school fees are as follows:

- Kindergarten Students - \$200/year
- Grades 1-8 Students - \$300/year
- High School Students- \$200/year
- Charter Busing - \$300/year
- Band Rental/Maintenance Fee - \$100/year (please note that Band fees were recently added to Student Accounts)
- Gr. 8 Frontier Lodge \$75.00 fee and Gr. 6 Survival Trip \$20.00 fee have also been added to Student Accounts.

Thank you to those who have already paid the fees, or made arrangements for monthly payments for your student's account.

If you have not yet paid your fees, you can access and pay them online via the PowerSchool Parent Portal (for more information on how to access the Portal, please check [Acorn Online Payment Guide](#)).

To make alternate payment arrangements, or to receive a hard copy of the Student Account, please call the school office or email aletta.cartwright@rdpsd.ab.ca.

Thank you,
Aletta Cartwright

Gateway Christian School is hosting...

This month Gateway is honored to host the Prairie Center for Christian Education Teachers' Convention. On October 18 and 19 over 300 teachers from our partner Christian Schools across Alberta and Saskatchewan will join together in professional development in order to improve our practice as Christian Educators. "Living the Story" is the theme of our 2018 PCCE Convention.

Keynote speaker, Carlos Whittaker, wrote a book called "Moment Maker" describing "living intentionally and claiming moments that touch the lives of others," which connects well with our task as Christian teachers where we proclaim that there is no square inch of creation (or experience that we have) over which God does not claim, "Mine." Together, we will explore how to intentionally live in God's story: for us as teachers, in our classrooms, our schools and our communities.

Carolyn Stolte

Survey Says...

Over the years of your child's education, you will be asked to fill out a series of questions from Alberta Education and our school District. The purpose is to gather opinions of parents on the education system in Alberta and their community school. We want you to know that this information translates to us. We want the best opportunity for your child's success. Reflecting on the results of feedback is important. We believe that armed with a better awareness of what is actively happening in these areas, along with the characteristics of effective schools as asked by the questions ... we will be better equipped to serve, and you will be better informed. Exploring these questions will be win/win for all of us. Research shows that students in schools that share these characteristics will achieve at higher levels. That's enough for me. Thanks for your partnership in this! We've been focusing specifically on 'What Great Teachers (and Principals) Do Differently'.

This month:

Great Teachers: Establish clear expectations consistently and when they say something, they mean it.

Great Principals: Treat everyone with respect, every day, all the time.

Teresa Tataryn

Gateway Christian School Priorities

2018-2019

Completion. Success for all.

School is about creating life chances for students. The journey to high school completion begins the day students enter school.

Literacy/Numeracy

Literacy is acquiring, creating, connecting and communicating meaning in a wide variety of contexts.

Numeracy is the ability, confidence and willingness to engage in quantitative and spatial information to make informed decisions in everyday living.

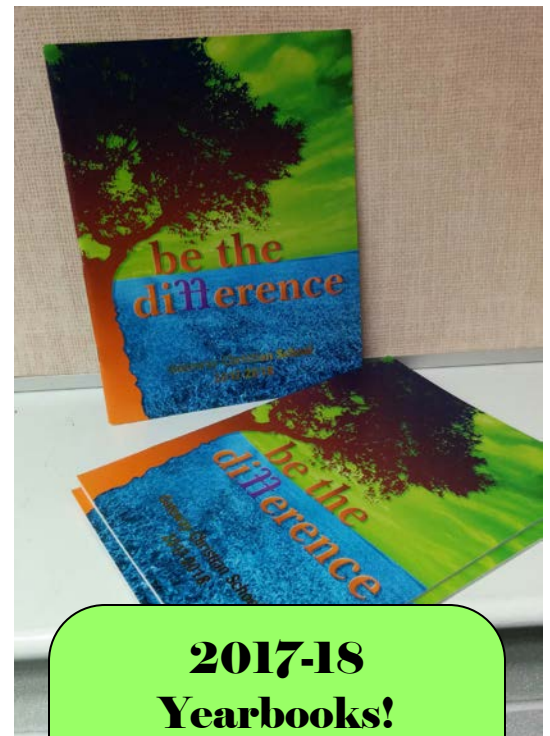
Playing Our Part in God's Story

Equity

Equity ensures that fair and inclusive education is available to all students so that they can reach their full potential.

Teaching for Transformation

Teaching for Transformation is about students learning how to play out their part in God's story.



2017-18 Yearbooks!

We have a few of last year's yearbooks for sale. If you are interested, please stop by the office Cost: \$30.00 ea. - soft cover.

Physical Literacy/PE/Sports



Hopefully everyone had an active and enjoyable summer! With mother nature playing some tricks on us, we have been forced to change our plan of attack and have braved some colder weather within our Cross Country unit in PE as well as the Dawe Run. We are hoping to get back outside for our football unit coming up, but might have to push pause on that until the spring if the weather keeps this up.

Our mission at Gateway is to serve the student community in a fair and equitable manner that allows them the ability to develop as ambassadors for Christ and student athlete through a focus on skill development, maximum equal participation, fair play and good will. This mission statement aligns with the mission of the RDMSAA in which we participate in. These opportunities for all our middle school students have been a huge blessing to our student body and we are very thankful for the hard work and dedication of the coaches, parents and players to make this a reality.

We currently have our volleyball and running club seasons underway and as we get into the month of October Gateway's hockey team will get rolling. This program will be open to grade 6-9 students at Gateway and will have an info meeting for students at the start of the month. This recreational hockey experience is aimed at allowing students an opportunity to experience the great game of hockey within a safe, organized setting.

I'm looking forward to a fun filled year full focused on physical literacy and activity!

Fine Arts



Well, we are off to a great start in the arts!

Students started the year learning about Leonardo Divinci, observing his work as not only a beauty creator but a creation enjoyer and order discoverer. After studying the many works of Divnici, students learned about one point perspective through one of his most famous works, "The Last Supper". This coming month students will complete their own one point perspective project.

In music students are exploring the world of rhythm and its significance not only to music but to the heart of God. In the next month students will continue practicing and exploring rhythms.

Codi Kreil

PBIS Corner

(Positive Behavioral Interventions Support)

Gateway is excited to be bringing back PBIS within our school! "The Gateway" helps to promote responsible and respectful behaviour within our school walls and out into our community. With an excited group of grade 6 students embracing the opportunity to be leaders and develop mini lessons on appropriate behaviour, we are excited to see the positive, safe environment continue to grow here at Gateway! Staff members have already started to notice these awesome examples of respectful and responsible behaviour and have been busy handing out "Like" tickets for our weekly draws. Keep being respectful and responsible Gateway, you're doing amazing!

Parent Sessions:

We offer a relaxed, no pressure chance to get out, fellowship with other parents, and talk about a common focus - our kids! Come for the entire evening, leave when it suits you. There are learning sessions and table talk opportunities for you to engage with other parents and learn with each other about topics of interest to you and your family. Join us in building community by engaging in the following opportunities:

Oct. 10th 7:00 – 8:30 pm / Gateway's Den - 40 Developmental Assets Gateway and Thurber are pleased to offer our parents an information session that focuses on an effective approach to raising healthy, competent kids by building developmental assets! Join us for coffee, muffins and an introduction to the 40 Developmental Assets! We look forward to seeing you there!

Oct. 25th @ 6:00 p.m. in the school Den- CD: Creating School Family (1hr session/ 1 hr Table Talk)

Discuss the shift from a factory model of education to a family model, with the goal of creating an optimal school culture. • Examine how intrinsic motivation to achieve, learn and be of service is more effective than relying on external manipulation. • Discover the transformative power of the School Family and the Connected Home Family, and how they lay the groundwork for a safe, connected culture where problem-solving is possible.

High School

We are thrilled to tell you that Gateway's High School continues to grow - God is faithful! We have a remarkably balanced program of (approximately) 40 students per grade in 9-12 - give or take a student here or there. What it means is, for the first time in Gateway's history, all of its high school teachers are ONLY high school teachers. The advantages of a K-12 school mean that we can do all kinds of things together in community, but we feel blessed to be able to offer teachers a schedule that focuses on one division, and to offer students teachers that are focused entirely on them!

Our high school retreat was a fantastic success, and Crossroads was gracious in hosting our second annual kick-off. Students spent time in worship, learning more about their teachers, hearing about the plans and themes for the year, and growing closer together. Look for more information about this happening again in semester two - a great way to continue to grow together.

The High School Suite (which will have a new name soon!) is remarkably close to completion, and the transition that the old Learning Commons space has gone through really changes the feel of things around Gateway. A dedicated space for high school students for their classrooms, FLEX time, and just to hang out in was overdue. We are thankful to the Society for Christian Education for making this happen. And if you see Mrs. Stolte around, give her a hug - she worked really hard on this!

Once again, Gateway is offering opportunities for High School students outside of the regular daily timetable. Currently, CALM, Intercultural Studies, and Leadership are in full swing. It's not too late to join in, although it's getting close to too late, so ask Mr. Kooman or Mrs. Stolte if you need more information!

Chris Kooman

Success for All towards Completion

Finding ways to continue to connect with students is paramount in keeping students in school, interested in classes, and feeling like they have a say. We want to do school 'WITH' your children, our students, not 'TO' them! A number of exciting things are underway, or starting up this year at Gateway. If you've been around for a while, you'll notice that some of these things are new, some are improved, and some are tried and true!

- Connections groups for grade 9 students are off and running
- Connections groups for grade 10 students will continue
- Grade 11 and 12 will meet occasionally with leaders as well, to continue checking over course selection, marks, and graduation plans
- Got Your Back is a program that staff at Gateway love to take part in. They spend time connecting one on one with students in the halls, before and after class.
- Students approached Mr. Kooman with the desire to create a grad committee that plans events for students all throughout the year. The first meeting is scheduled for October 9th, 7-8 p.m.

Chris Kooman

Equity

September is all about setting students up for success. We have been busy this month getting to know our students as learners and as followers of Christ. Equity is all about ensuring each student has the supports they need to achieve the success God has in store for them. Relationships are the key to ensuring equity for our students, and events like our Meet the Teacher night and upcoming Parent and Teacher Conferences are key steps in building the relationships our students and families require. Along with IEP case conferences and math and language benchmarking, these opportunities to connect with families form the foundation for our staff in their efforts to support each and every student at Gateway. Orange Shirt Day on September 28th reminds us that every child matters as we continue to look at how God has challenged us to care for his children in all ways and always.

Chris Kooman

Language Literacy:

The Gateway Literacy Team is excited to be back at school and we are looking forward to another great **year of school wide literacy events** at Gateway. Last year our school implemented a literacy framework. Staff engaged in professional learning of effective literacy practices for their grade level. This year we will work as a staff to continue to increase our professional learning about literacy. In addition we have expanded our literacy framework to include numeracy skills. Our whole school will continue to take part in school wide literacy events.

We were thrilled to announce our summer reading winners and would like to thank all parents and students who submitted an entry.

Lucille Snyder

Book Fair!

The Fall Scholastic Book Fair is coming to our school library for Kindergarten – Gr. 12 students/families!

Tuesday, Oct. 2nd from 9 am – 3 pm

Wednesday, Oct. 3rd from 9 am – 3 pm

Thursday, Oct. 4th from 12:30 – 7:30 p.m.

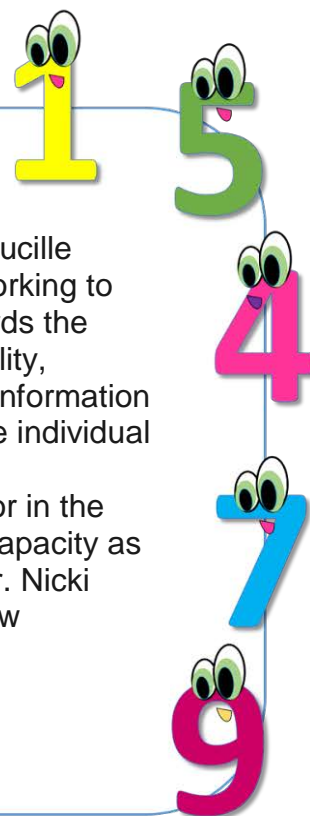
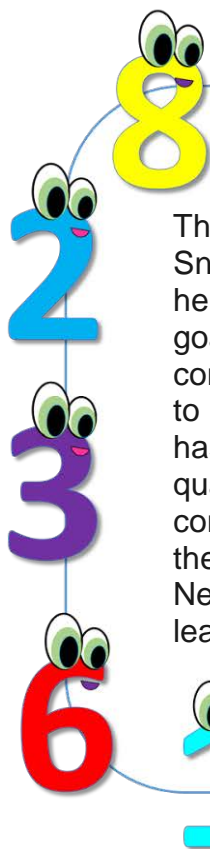
There will be a wide selection for all reading levels – stop by before/after your parent/teacher interviews.

Thank you, in advance, for supporting this great literary event.

Cathy Vaartstra

Numeracy Literacy

This month our Numeracy Team (Carolyn Stolte, Teresa Tataryn, Lucille Snyder, Ger Klootwyk, Rosemarie Welch & Karen Wolfmeyer) is working to help teachers grow in their Mathematical Mindset as we work towards the goal of developing numeracy rich classrooms. Numeracy is the ability, confidence and willingness to engage with quantitative and spatial information to make informed decisions in all aspects of daily living. A numerate individual has the confidence and awareness to know when and how to apply quantitative and spatial understanding at home, at school, at work or in the community. Members of our team will be building their numeracy capacity as they attend the Guided Math and Running Records workshop by Dr. Nicki Newton. We look forward to impacting student learning with the new learnings they bring back to Gateway.



Sprint and Spark Focus

At Gateway, we are continually working to improve teacher effectiveness because this factor has the greatest impact on student learning. One structure we have set in place for this involves teachers meeting one hour each week as a collaborative grade team, fostering a collective responsibility for student learning and building agile teachers (flexible, student focused, connected to colleagues and coaches, continual growth, learning and responding to change). Sprint provides the opportunity for teachers to impact progress in student learning through small, manageable, time-bound chunks of work that are connected to curriculum, well researched, supported and celebrated with the goal of improving student learning. Our focus this month with teachers includes:

While teachers are 'Sprinting', students are 'Sparking'. Considerable research and intentional planning has gone into this time. Students engage and stimulate bodies and minds to better prepare them for learning. Students will have a minimum of 10 minutes of active movement - getting their heart rate up and engaging their mind to learn. Included in this important connection is the opportunity for typically 'Hidden Curriculum' such as: FNMI topics, Mental Health and Wellness, Christian calendar and Character Education, Digital Literacy/Citizenship, Call to Worship and HANDS connections. The time is assigned to meet Alberta Education's Health requirements as well as teach knowledge, skills and attitudes connected to Gateway and our District's Priorities (Literacy/Numeracy, Equity, Success & Completion and Teaching for Transformation). Our focus this month with students includes:

<u>Priority</u>	Teaching for Transformation
<u>Learning Goal(s)</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students will understand the Christian Calendar and that we are in the season of ORDINARY TIME (green). 2. Students will use all five senses to be wide awake to God's goodness in the ordinary as they explore the outdoors. 3. Students will: (<i>AB Physical Education Program of Studies</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand, experience and appreciate the health benefits that result from physical activity • interact positively with others • assume responsibility to lead an active way of life

<u>Priority</u>	Equity
<u>Learning Goal(s)</u>	<p>Students will engage in activities that help them to better understand Orange Shirt Day. Orange Shirt Day is a national movement to recognize the experience of survivors of Indian residential schools, honour them, and show a collective commitment to ensure that every child matters. The initiative calls for every Canadian to wear an orange shirt on September 30 in the spirit of healing and reconciliation. Relationship Choices (<i>AB Health Program of Studies</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will develop effective interpersonal skills that demonstrate responsibility, respect and caring in order to establish and maintain healthy interactions

<u>Priority</u>	Student Success and Completion
<u>Learning Goal(s)</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students will understand the purpose for SPARK (Gym SPARK specifically) and the routines that are outlined for attendance, introductory activities, and Call to Worship 2. Students will learn about the importance of SPRINT time for teachers and why we do SPARK with students 3. Students will <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. acquire skills through a variety of developmentally appropriate movement activities; games and individual activities (<i>AB Physical Education Program of Studies</i>)

<u>Priority</u>	Student Success & Completion
<u>Learning Goal(s)</u>	<p>Students will understand Love Languages to promote academic success and connections for life Relationship Choices (<i>AB Health Program of Studies</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will develop effective interpersonal skills that demonstrate responsibility, respect and caring in order to establish and maintain healthy interactions

New Gr. 1 - 5 Report Cards

This year we have a new elementary report card. This report card has been piloted across our district for the past three years and is now being implemented throughout Red Deer Public schools. The reason behind the new report card is to better meet the needs of the students, parents and teachers as we respond to curricular and teaching practice changes.

We are using an outcome based report to reflect the continual gaining of skills that occurs over an elementary school year. It will allow parents to see where students are showing achievement of the outcomes and skills. These very important outcomes will be revisited regularly showing the continuum of growth that occurs over a child's elementary years. This will help parents see clearly where their child is at currently, what their child is working toward and how to understand those processes in a clearer manner.

Each outcome will be assessed as either Beginning, Approaching or Achieved. If the space beside an outcome is marked with a *, that will mean that the teacher has not assessed that outcome for the current reporting period.

Work samples for all students will continue to be shared at parent teacher conferences. Please feel welcome to ask questions about the report card. There will be a variety of opportunities for parents to provide feedback throughout the year.

Sincerely,
Teresa Tataryn



Parent/Teacher Interview

Kindergarten Interviews:

► Mrs. Lodewyk's kindergarten students: Thursday, Oct. 4th from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., 12:30 - 5:00 p.m. & 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

► Ms. Rhoad's Monday/Wednesday kindergarten students: Thursday, Oct. 4th from 12:30 - 5:00 & 5:30 - 7:30 pm

► Mrs. Keys' Tuesday/Thursday kindergarten students: Thursday, Oct. 4th from 12:30 - 5:00 pm

Gr. 1-8 Interviews: Thursday, Oct. 4th from 12:30 - 5:00 & 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Gr. 9-12 Interviews: Wednesday & Thursday, Oct. 3rd & 4th from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. & 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Please see instructions for booking you parent/teacher interviews on the next page!

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEW

We are pleased to once again use an online web based interviewing scheduling system for our upcoming Parent/Teacher Interviews.

The system will be open for parent registration and appointment bookings until Thursday, October 4th at 10:00 a.m.

How it works:

1. Go to our school appointments website: gcs.parentteacherconferences.net
2. Register for an account by clicking the “**REGISTER**” menu tab (top right hand corner) and filling in the on-line form. Choose a user id and password for yourself and then click the “**Register Now**” button. Be sure to keep your user id and password in a safe place, because you will need both items any time you wish to access the system. **(Parents need to register each school year.)**
3. Add your child(ren) into the system by clicking the “**Add a Student**” button, add your child’s name and click “**Insert**”. To add more children click the “**Insert New**” button, add their name and click “**Insert**”.
4. Click the “**date**” icon beside each child's name to schedule your interview. Select the appropriate schedule. Select the staff you wish to book appointments with and the “**View Calendars**” button. Use the “**Ctrl**” or “**Command**” key to select multiple staff to view at the same time.
5. Click on available time slots to book your interviews and then click the “**Book Appointments**” button to save your bookings. **If you are booking interviews with more than one teacher, please leave time between scheduled interviews to make sure you have enough time to get to your next interview.**
6. Click “**Print Appointment**” to keep a record of your booked interviews. Detailed instructions are readily available on the site via prompts and by using the “Parent Instruction Guide” available on the site’s “HELP” tab.

If you have any questions or do not have access to a computer, please don’t hesitate to call the office (403-346-5795) Thank you!

We look forward to seeing you on October 3th/ 4th!

Parents please be respectful of the 10 minute allotment time. Some teachers teach a significant number of students and would like to connect with each parent during the parent/teacher interview process. If you require more than the 10 minute allotment please make arrangements with the teacher to meet on another day. Thanks you ☺

Community News



Nutrition Services



Infant Nutrition

Free educational workshop in your community!

Learn about:

- Starting solid foods
- Helping baby accept new foods
- Making healthy baby food
- Hot topics like baby-led weaning

**Location: Johnstone Crossing
Community Health Centre**



Date: Oct 10, Nov 7 or Dec 5

Time: 1:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

To register or for more info call:

403-356-6333

Infants are welcome to attend!

We kindly ask that you make alternate arrangements for your older children.

