



# Morinville Community High School



9506 - 100 Avenue, Morinville, Alberta T8R 1P6  
Phone: 1-780-939-6891 Fax: 1-780-939-6896  
*Home of the Prairie Wolves!*

Principal.....	Mr. V. Pedersen
Vice Principal (& Grade 12 Coordinator).....	Mr. L. Pedersen
Vice Principal (& Grade 9 Coordinator).....	Ms. S. Coates
Grade 11 Coordinator.....	Ms. S. Christensen
Grade 10 Coordinator and Learning Support Facilitator.....	Mrs. J. Hobbs
Counsellor.....	Ms. K. Spence

## April 2009 Newsletter

Our Easter Celebration will be held on Tuesday, April 14th at 10:45 am in the school gymnasium. Parents are most welcome to attend this event.



This weekend we participate in the proclamation of the passion and death of Jesus according to the Gospel of Mark. We are witnesses to Jesus' undeterred obedience to the Father. Jesus' obedience comes at great sacrifice. An important part of Christian stewardship is the willingness to make sacrifices that reveal our own embrace of Jesus' cross. As good stewards of our life in Christ, we should ask ourselves: What sacrifices are we willing to make to witness to God's love to the world?

***The staff of MCHS wish the students and families of our school community a very blessed Easter!***

## Passion Play:

As part of the Easter Celebration festivities on April 14th, 2009 MCHS will be performing a unique and powerful Passion Play. The performance depicts the last days, Crucifixion, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ as well as a multimedia presentation based on humanities relationship with our Lord. Nine junior and senior high school students have worked hard to remind us of the sacrifice that Jesus made for us in this moving and dramatic presentation. If you are unable to join us on April 14th, we will be performing an extended version at St. Jean Baptiste Parish on Friday, April 10th at 7:00pm.

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## MCHS Open House

**April 22nd from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

MCHS will be hosting our annual Open House on Wednesday, April 22nd from 6:30-8:30pm. Come out to see the academic, athletic, and cultural opportunities that are available. Student presentations will be on display throughout the school as well as a number of prize draws.

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**IT WAS GREAT TO SEE YOU!**

We would like to thank all of the parents who were able to join us for our Parent-Teacher Interviews on March 24th and 25th. These times are a great opportunity to put our heads together and support our students to do their best and achieve their potential! These interviews represent formalized opportunities for teacher-parent contact but please know that you are able to contact us at any time to ask questions and check out concerns. We appreciate the time you take to reinforce and extend learning when you work with your child at home. You are great partners!!

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## Congratulations!

Canadian Mathematics Contest Results

Congratulations to all students that participated in the Canadian Mathematics competition that took place at MCHS on February 18. The official results are in. The top three contestants in the Pascal contest which is at the grade 9 level were: 1st Shane Conrad, 2nd Darian Shalapay, 3rd Amy Constantin. The top two contestants in the Fermat contest which is at the grade 10 level were: 1st Wesley Jones, and 2nd Brittany Hope. The top three contestants in the Fermat contest which is at the grade 11 level were: 1st Michael Hladky, 2nd Luke Dion, 3rd Blake Simmons. Shane, Wesley, Michael, and Luke will also receive certificates of distinction for finishing in the top 25% of contestants all across Canada. All of these students will receive awards at the MCHS awards night in the fall. We look forward to challenge the math skills of our students again next year.

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## **One Acts:**

Come and check out our fabulous Night of One Acts. Four grade 12 students have selected, cast, and directed four outstanding one act plays for your consideration and enjoyment. These plays run between 30-50 minutes each and will be showcased during our Night of One Acts on April 23rd, 2009. Amanda Trimble offers a slapstick comedy entitled "Case for Two Detectives", why is it that murder always takes place on rich estates in the English countryside? Patrick McManners and his ambitious cast took on a comedy of errors in "Black Comedy", on the night when Brindsley's sculptures are being reviewed by a famous art loving millionaire what could possibly go wrong, except everything! Darci Nickel takes us back in time to the end of the First World War in London as "A Boy Comes Home." Life is a dream as a family is reunited when their nephew returns from fighting in the great war; he left a boy and returned a man. And finally, Stephenie Clewes presents a heart warming look at the connection made between two perfect strangers in "Where Have all the Lighting Bugs Gone?" Witness the beautiful relationship that grows when two accidental soul mates meet for the first time on an ordinary bench in an ordinary park.

Please come and support the MCHS drama program on April 23rd, 2009. Tickets are available at the door for donation. Our first show will take the stage at 6:30pm.

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## **Student Council...**

Student Council will be hosting a HAT DAY on Thursday April 23rd. Students are reminded to bring \$1 to "buy" the opportunity to wear their hat in class! Thanks for supporting MCHS Student Council!

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## **Community News:**

Sturgeon County Rural Crime Watch will be hosting a concert on Saturday, May 9, 2009 from 7-10pm at the Morinville Arena. This event is a celebration of the 25 Anniversary of the Crime Watch Organization. As a way to bring the youth of Sturgeon County together there is a concert and competition event.

The line up for the evening includes Throttle, a student band from Sturgeon Comp., a Rock Band/Guitar Hero Competition between schools, and as a closing act Louie on Three, a band made up of former MCHS students.

Although this is a community event, it will be run like a 'school dance'. Tickets, selling for \$5.00, can be purchased at either High School. Guests (non students) must be signed in and approved before tickets may be purchased. Ticket sales will begin on Tuesday, April 21, at MCHS in Center Court at Lunch. Final ticket sales will on Friday, May 1, 2009. Only 250 tickets will be printed, and tickets will not be sold at the door.

We would like to thank all the organizers and volunteers to this event. If there are any parents interested in helping out with this event, please contact Michelle Boucher at 780-939-6891.

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## **Nurturing Faith at Home** ***Doubting Children***

You are probably familiar with the story of 'doubting Thomas' (John 20: 24 - 29), who would not believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. (It is the gospel reading for the second Sunday of Easter this year.) Like all of us, children - and especially those in their teens - sometimes go through similar moments or phases, and they experience doubt. A common question from parents is: *How should we respond when my child states: 'I don't believe in God'?*

This can be a disheartening comment, especially if you have worked hard at instilling faith in your children. Rather than throwing your arms up in despair, you would be better to respond in a positive and proactive manner. Here are some ideas for consideration:

- Understand that **there is more happening under the surface** than what is expressed overtly. Sometimes the very songs that you struggle to get your teenaged children to sing at church are the very songs they are belting out on the bus as they return from a field trip.
- **Take your children to church faithfully and regularly.** Encourage them to become involved in the church youth group or in an area of service such as music ministry or serving as a reader or altar server.
- **Model faith** for your children. ... Treat others with respect. Be honest in all your dealings. Forgive others when they hurt you. Do random acts of kindness. Pray often. Your example is the most powerful way of influencing your child and nurturing their faith development.
- **Pray** for your children; pray over them as they sleep and ask God to open their hearts;
- **Pray with** your children - even your teenagers; bedtime prayers are a wonderful way to settle your child down for the night and to reflect on their day, including God's blessings, those people who need our prayers, and areas where forgiveness is needed.
- **Bless** your child during the day; before school (e.g. *May God bless and protect you today. May He help you with your schoolwork and keep you happy and healthy.*). Some parents trace the sign of the cross on their child's forehead as a blessing before bedtime.
- **Provide opportunities for faith** to be experienced and expressed; e.g. Christian concerts or retreats, Christian summer camps, youth group activities, parish functions. Keep in mind that faith is 'caught', not taught.
- **Arrange for your child to take an active role** in an upcoming liturgy, delivering food hampers, filling an Operation Christmas Child shoe box, attending a weekend Church retreat, or providing community service. Active participation is the key to 'touching the heart'. Once your child has had a positive spiritual experience, especially one with their active involvement, he or she may 'change their tune' about faith.
- Take advantage of opportunities to **share your own faith experience** ... times when you have had doubts, occasions when you felt God's presence, faith-filled moments in your life.
- **Talk about faith as a journey.** We all have lived through periods when our faith was weak or when we questioned God's existence. We all grow in faith. This journey never ends.
- Make time at the end of the day, perhaps at bedtime, to **ask your children** (and that includes the teenagers): 'How did God reveal Himself to us today?' or 'How did God bless you today?' If young people can recognize God in the everyday events of their lives, He becomes more real and alive for each of them.
- **Allow** faith to play a part in every activity; assist your child in turning to God when making important decisions or when working out problems with siblings. Take religion out of a 'box'.
- Love **your children.** When children feel loved, they will love in return.
- When your child seems to question faith, **remember** that your child is also saying: "Be patient. God isn't finished with me yet."
- **Let go and let God.** As parents, we are merely 'sowers of the seeds'. We try to prepare fertile 'soil', but it is God who gives the gift of faith when the individual is ready to receive it.

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# April 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break
			1	2	3	4
Spring Break	First Day of Classes	Band Parent Meeting @ GHP at 7:00pm			Good Friday - No Classes Badminton Tournament	Badminton Tournament
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Easter Sunday	Easter Monday - No Classes	Easter Celebration				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		School Council Meeting 7:00 PM	Open House 6:30 - 8:30 PM		Staff Meeting & Professional Development - No Classes Grad Retreat	Grad Retreat
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
				Grad Rehearsal (12:00 PM)		
26	27	28	29	30		