



The Phoenix Messenger

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"A MATTER OF PRINCIPAL"

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This Calvin and Hobbes strip illustrates a dangerous misconception that people are either smart or they are not. If you believe ability is fixed, then having to work too hard at something is confirmation that you lack ability or talent. Carol Dweck, a world-renowned psychologist and the author of *Mindset*, has done decades of research on the power of our mindset – our beliefs about our own ability to learn. There are two types: a **fixed mindset** and a **growth mindset**. A person with a fixed mindset might say, "I don't have the genes for math." A person with a growth mindset embraces learning and believes they can conquer any challenge by working at it. Hard tasks for the growth-minded are intriguing puzzles to be solved, not potential failures to be avoided.

Dweck's research reveals the importance of **cultivating a growth mindset**—the belief in one's own ability to learn by expending effort and applying one's abilities /skills over time. Students with a growth mindset achieve more. They believe in the infinite possibilities that can be achieved when they gear up to learn. Rather than fearing failure, growth-minded students see their mistakes as part of learning. A growth mindset, along with optimism and persistence, are important aspects of character development which contribute significantly to becoming a successful, life-long learner.

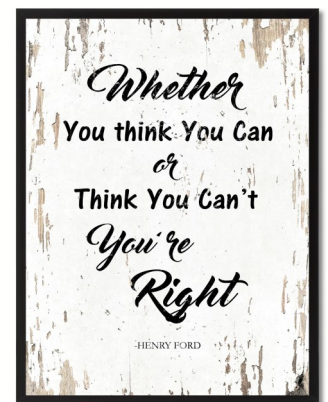
If you think you can, then you can. That is great news! Helping our children believe in their ability to learn and the power of perseverance is essential to setting them up for success in school and life. It is an important component of character development.

What would you do, if you didn't think you could fail?



Our MISSION at FFCA is:
"To provide a safe and caring environment where academic excellence, character development, parental involvement and staff leadership are valued and fostered."

Our VISION at FFCA is:
"Excellence in student achievement and character development through distinctive teaching and learning."





**Does your child usually ride
the bus home?
Please read this important
REMINDER**

If you plan on picking your child up from school instead of taking the school bus home, please remember **TWO ESSENTIAL** STEPS:



Call the school office no later than 2:30pm in order to sign your child off the bus. The office will check voicemail messages. Please do not leave a voicemail message for your child's teacher. The office will get a message to your child's teacher.

In addition, if you know the night before, put **a note in your child's agenda** to remind your child and his/her teacher that your child will not be taking the bus home.

REMEMBER TO DO



**Attention Parents/Guardians of Students Riding on
FFCA's Charter Bus Service**

Please arrive at your child's stop 5 minutes before the designated time.

It is important that the drivers are able to identify who your child is being released to. If your child is in Kindergarten or Grade 1 they **must have someone meet them at the bus**. If it is not Mom or Dad, you **need to complete Permission to Exit Forms**. Please pickup a form at the office.

Please meet your child at the bus door when the bus arrives at your stop.

Do not wait in your vehicle or anywhere other than at the stop as this prevents the driver from safely releasing your child off the bus.

If you have arranged for someone else to pick up your child, **please let them know to stand at the bus stop so they are visible to the driver** and your child.

Working together will ensure your child's safety and a timely ride home.

Thank you for your cooperation and attention to these expectations.



BUSSING NEWS:

Just a reminder that the bus routes were created in July and posted on the FFCA website the third week of August. Please check for changes to your stop location and time.

Parents requesting changes to bus stops **must** put their bussing request in writing (Bus Change Request Form) and email the form to the Transportation Department. Change requests for convenience and/or proximity to residences will not be considered.

Requests will be collected until the **15th of October** and assessed according to the Transportation Parent Handbook in order to keep the ride times to a minimum. Requests for a second bus stop or a bus stop at a day care **will not be accommodated**, but we can allow students to use a different bus route if space is available and there is an existing stop along that route. Students are assigned to their community routes as this is how we balance the student loads per route. Please notify the Transportation department immediately if you plan to use a stop other than your community stop.

All change requests will be accepted but not addressed until October/November (unless there is a safety concern) as per the parent transportation agreement that parents agree to when signing up for bussing.

All requests to provide or cancel bus service must be sent by email to the Transportation Department. No changes to bussing can be done at the campus level.

Please see the FFCA website / Parents section / Transportation tab for further information.

Susan Goldsmith
 Director, Transportation Services
 Email: susan.goldsmith@ffca-calgary.com
 Website: www.ffca-calgary.com



If your child rides the bus, please sign up for our new monitoring system. All Southland buses have GPS units installed on them so you will be able to see where your child’s bus is at any point during it’s scheduled route. The code for FFCA SEE is **2CP25IYGLV**.

Please ensure you add the AM and PM routes if your child rides two-ways.

Please see the website for additional information and to register: <http://www.mybusstop.ca/>.

Wait List Application Renewal

This is just a heads up that the annual October renewal is coming up fast for any students waiting for a seat at FFCA. The 'Renew' button will appear on October 1st and you will have the whole month of October to click on it in order to maintain your wait list child's position on the wait list. Please set a reminder in your calendar! Then login to the Online Wait List System any day in October to renew!

OCTOBER:

Renew Your Wait List Application

Who: **EVERYONE** who has a child's name on the wait list.

When: October 1st through to the 31st

How: You can renew your application by following these steps:

Go to the FFCA website, www.ffca-calgary.com. Select Parents/Wait List for Prospective Parents scroll down and click on the Online Wait List System

Enter your Username: See the onscreen instructions.

Enter your Password: If you have changed your password, please use that one. Otherwise, see the onscreen instructions.

Click on **Login**. Confirm your email address. This is the address where you will receive your renewal confirmation, so please make sure it is correct!!

On the parent Information page click the "**RENEW**" button located to the right of the parent names.

The system will ask you to confirm the renewal, click **RENEW**.

Now click **FINISH**.

A confirmation letter of the renewal will be sent to the email address you confirmed upon login and it will advise you when you will be able to check your **rank (position)** on the FFCA Wait List.

What if I don't have a computer? You can borrow a computer at any Calgary Public Library. Renewals will not be done via phone, email, or in person.

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 through the Online Wait List System only. If you submit a new application, your application date will become the date you submitted the new application.

Does it matter what day in October that I renew? No. You are not sorted on the Wait List by renewal date. You are sorted by your original application date (the date you were added to the wait list).

FFCA SEE CAMPUS

* Reminder for Parents *

Supervision starts at 8:15 am
School starts promptly at 8:25 am
8:26 + is officially *late*



BOARD UPDATE

Following our December election, our Board welcomed 6 new Directors who were sworn in on January 12th. Many of us come to the Board with experience serving on other Boards, and as we get to know each other and learn our roles & responsibilities we appreciate the grace and warm welcome from the FFCA community. As our calendars fill with upcoming events spanning all 7 FFCA campuses, we are excited to attend as many as possible to get to know parents and staff from each school. In the coming months, we'll be introducing your Board via this newsletter, one Director at a time, in the hopes that you might recognize us and say hello.

Director Randall Spahl
Elected December 2018
Term: 1 Year

Randall holds a BA in History and a BSc in Geography from the University of Calgary. He has worked for the City of Calgary Parks since 1981, specializing in Urban Forestry since 2001. He became a Journeyman Landscape Gardener in 2000, an ISA Certified Arborist in 2002, and has maintained the Tree Risk Assessment Qualification since 2011.

From 1979 to the mid 1990's, Randall was active in the sport of cave exploration, holding executive positions with the University of Calgary Caving Club, the Department of Geography Palliser Club, and the Alberta Speleological Society. The winters of 1982, 1983, 1987 and 1990 were spent with expeditions in remote areas in Mexico, Guatemala, Belize and Honduras.

Randall has one daughter currently attending FFCA High School. He has attended School Council and Board meetings occasionally since she joined FFCA in Grade 4. In the spring of 2018, Randall was appointed to Chair the High School Council until he was elected to the Board of Directors. Randall joined the Board of Directors to help ensure the continuity of FFCA and other Alberta Public Charter schools. He is a passionate advocate for choice in education.



At SEE, school starts PROMPTLY at 8:25a.m.

This year, the first bells rings outside at **8:23** signaling students to line up immediately in preparation to come inside and begin the day. Teachers greet their children at 8:25. Please allow enough time in the morning for your child to be in the line up outside at 8:25.

Once inside, the day begins...students must quickly unpack, eat their optional protein bites, and be ready for O Canada and morning meeting which begins promptly at 8:33. They have approximately 8 minutes to accomplish all of that. It is sufficient time if they are in line when the bell rings.

Arriving after the bell, is disruptive to classes and stressful for students.

Working together to form good habits, and weather permitting, everyone will be able to start the school day hassle free and on time.

School starts promptly at 8:25.
8:26 + is officially *late*.



Students start the day on the tarmac,
unless the weather requires us to come immediately inside.

If a student needs to use the front door to enter the school, they are late.
Thank you for your help starting your child's day with positive anticipation!

How to ensure your contact information is correct and up to date

It all starts with you and Family Login

- ☑ Family Login – please check your contacts and information in Family Login and update the information where applicable
- ☑ **Once you have done that, the office will receive an email notifying them of the update/change**
- ☑ The office will then update the school database, Maplewood
- ☑ Once Maplewood has been updated, **Edsby will automatically be updated overnight**



PICTURE DAY

WEDNESDAY, September 20, 2019

GALA Uniforms Required

**(Check Edsby River for uniform requirements)
Bring your BEST SMILE!**

