



On September 5th, 2023 FMPSD announced that Ved Bhowmik, a Grade 11 student from Westwood Community High School, had been selected to join the esteemed 2023/24 Minister's Youth Council.

With 183 applications from junior and senior high school students across Alberta, the competition was undoubtedly wide; still, Ved's impressive application shone through and successively landed him a spot in this exclusive council. As a council member, Ved was integral to making a difference in the education system and providing valuable student feedback to the Minister of Education.

VED BHOWMIK

Westwood Community High School

Appointed to the 2023/2024 Minister's Youth Council



Congratulations to Sniti Shah, a Grade 3 Dave McNeilly Public School student, who made her school and community proud by winning the Grand Champion trophy, Grade 3 category medal, and two certificates at the International ALOHA Math competition in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The competition saw the participation of about 600 kids from 16 different countries.

Sniti's achievements are not limited to international competition. She has consistently won at local competitions organized annually by ALOHA Center, having been awarded the Grand Champion title for the past three years.



13 current and former FMPSD students achieved outstanding recognition and admiration for their remarkable achievements at the 2023 Top 20 Under 20 Celebration organized by YMM Parent Magazine. The prestigious event celebrates the exceptional accomplishments of young people under the age of twenty.

The event held in Fort McMurray brought together the brightest and most exceptional young minds from the local area and beyond, who have made a significant impact in various domains such as academics, athletics, innovation, and community leadership.



The Fort McMurray Public School Division (FMPSD) hosted an extraordinary cultural celebration with the Second Annual Dene Hand Games Tournament, showcasing a rich and dynamic aspect of Indigenous culture. The event brought together participants and enthusiasts in an exuberant display of tradition, community spirit, and competition.

Westwood Community High School's Junior High team rose to the top, securing their joint victory in the High School Tournament.



FMPSD students dominated the 23rd annual Wood Buffalo Regional Science Fair (WBRFSF), securing a stunning 22 out of the 30 medals awarded during the event. Their achievement did not stop there; they also clinched 21 of the 30 Special Awards.

However, perhaps the most prestigious accolade came with the announcement of the grand prize winners, Westwood Community High School's Tanya Jivani, Lalithya Raavi, Shayan Awan and Riley Saha Halder, who all would attend the Canada-Wide Science Fair (CWSF) and would go on to receive national medals, special awards and scholarships.



FMPSD hosted its first Career Fair in a long time, which saw the attendance of over 1100 junior high and high school students. With 33 different careers and 50 exhibitors present, the event was a resounding success, eliciting positive feedback from the exhibitors and students who took part.

The FMPSD Career Fair was organized with meticulous attention to detail; it provided an ideal opportunity for students to interact with different professionals, learn about diverse career options, and explore their potential in numerous fields. The extensive range of companies and careers at the event was impressive and eye-opening, exposing the students to a world of possibilities.



Congratulations to Christina Gordon Public School's Odessa Tootooosis and Dave McNeilly Public School's Hanna Belhumeur for winning the Young Achievement Award at RARA 2024!

FMPSD attended the Regional Aboriginal Recognition Awards on March 2nd, 2024, celebrating individuals who have positively contributed to the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. This includes the communities of Fort McMurray, Fort Chipewyan, Anzac, Janvier, Fort MacKay, Conklin, and Gregoire Lake in Alberta. We're incredibly proud of Odessa and Hanna for their outstanding achievements and contributions to our community!



On the evening of March 26th, FMPSD took a significant step towards cultural appreciation and education with its Indigenous Learning Night. Held at Dave McNeilly Public School, the event welcomed over 130 attendees into an immersive experience of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit cultures.

The Indigenous Learning Night emphasized the importance of cultural understanding and education in fostering inclusivity and respect for all peoples. By sharing traditions and knowledge across a tapestry of Indigenous cultures right in the heart of a school setting, FMPSD educated its attendees and celebrated the vibrant diversity that defines Canada.



On May 23rd, Composite High School hosted a heartwarming "Recognition Celebration for Partnering Local Agencies and Participating Students." This inaugural celebration was designed to honour the local agencies and students who have significantly contributed to the success of the English Language Acquisition (EAL) Program.

The event brought together Composite EAL students, staff, school district officials, trustees, personnel from various agencies, and the agencies themselves, all of whom have dedicated their time and resources to support the students at Composite High School.



On June 17th, Fort McMurray Public Schools recognized and celebrated First Nations, Metis and Inuit graduates at the 27th annual Traditional Celebration of Achievement (TCOA). The TCOA is an annual event celebrating the graduating accomplishments of grade 12 First Nations, Metis and Inuit students in the Wood Buffalo Region.

The graduates from Fort McMurray Public School Division, Fort McMurray Catholic School Division, Northlands School Division, Parkland School Division, FM First Nation and Fort Chipewyan are all honoured at this celebration; this year's TCOA recognized 27 graduating FMPSD students.



Thickwood Heights Public School marked a monumental milestone on its 50th anniversary!

Over the past half-century, the school has been more than just an educational institution; it has been a pillar of the community, shaping young minds and fostering a spirit of togetherness.

A heartfelt congratulations to all the staff, students, and community members who have contributed to the legacy of Thickwood Heights Public School. Your dedication and passion define what it means to be a Thunderbird.



On June 8th, 2024, FMPSD held its highly anticipated 11th Annual Robotics Tournament. This year, the tournament saw an impressive turnout, with 38 teams and 190 students from our 10 elementary schools and two junior high schools participating.

The audience, estimated at over 200 people, was treated to a day filled with excitement, innovation, and intense competition.

Congratulations to Grand Tournament Champions Beacon Hill Public School and Fort McMurray Islamic School!



Westwood High School Fort McMurray and Fort McMurray Composite High School esports teams represented FMPSD at the first annual Fort McMurray Scholastic Championship Valorant Finals hosted by the Keyano College Huskies Esports!

Westwood High School Fort McMurray Team A took 1st place, and Fort McMurray Composite High School secured 2nd place, but both teams would travel to the 2024 Alberta Esports Championship hosted in Lethbridge.

Both Westwood and Composite would secure a top 10 finish amongst all Alberta highschools!



In an exciting development for inclusive sports engagement, Christina Gordon Public School and Dr. Clark Public School were selected to participate in the esteemed Toronto Blue Jays Affiliate School program.

Through the incorporation of Girls at Bat and Challenger Baseball, Christina Gordon and Dr. Clark Public Schools promote physical activity and instill vital life skills among students. The programs' unique focus areas, ranging from courage and leadership to independence and belonging, underscore the holistic benefits of sports participation.



This year marks a significant milestone for our beloved Fort McMurray Christian School as we celebrate 30 years of nurturing young minds and souls. Over the past three decades, the Christian School has grown in numbers, faith, community spirit, and academic excellence.

While we celebrate our past, we also look forward to the future with hope and excitement. We remain committed to providing a high-quality, faith-based education that prepares students for a life of purpose and service.



In March, Composite High School's Academic Counselor, Ryan Hoffman, was awarded the prestigious Hilton Mireao Award of Excellence for his outstanding dedication to student success.

Recognized for his innovative counselling approaches, Ryan effectively guides students through academic challenges and college preparations. His commitment to developing a strong rapport with students and personalizing their learning journeys is a testament to his passion for educational mentorship.



FMPSD proudly unveiled the FMPSD Newcomer Kiosk in February to all schools. The kiosk is a combined effort of the Communications Coordinator, Momin Syed, and the DEI Coordinator, Kehinde Saka, to provide more inclusive initiatives for those new to Fort McMurray. It is a fully interactive screen detailing general information about FMPSD, programs, and the 16 schools, as well as information translated into over 40 languages.

The kiosk debuted at the FMPSD Booth on February 3rd at the MCA's Multicultural Expo. All schools have provided kiosks to support communication through all languages.



The Fort McMurray Public School Division (FMPSD) offered a specialized Deaf and Hard of Hearing Skillsshop called LINK - Linking Interaction Network for Kids who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. It was designed to assist parents, caretakers, and students in navigating new environments.

These workshops provided essential skill-building sessions tailored to the unique needs of deaf or hard-of-hearing individuals. In collaboration with expert consultants, FMPSD ensures that participants gain valuable insights and practical strategies to enhance communication, accessibility, and overall quality of life in various settings.