



MISSION STATEMENT

To provide a safe and caring environment where academic excellence, character development, parental involvement and staff leadership are valued and fostered.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Foundations for the Future Charter Academy (FFCA)

established a school that fostered strong, positive, respectful partnerships among students, staff, parents and community. Their vision was to strive for excellence in academic development and independent learning, personal and character development and the development of outstanding staff.

Over the first decade, a truly remarkable group of faculty gathered at FFCA. The charter school's impact grew from the Baptist Leadership Training School basement in 1997 with 12 staff and 224 K-9 students to seven campuses with more than 170 staff and 2,500 students by 2007. Word had spread, and there were 6,500 students on the waitlist by that time!

Fast forward fifteen years later, in 2022, FFCA occupies eight campuses across the city of Calgary with over 2,700 families, 3,800 K-12 students and more than 300 staff.

FFCA will continue to value and foster academic excellence, character development, staff leadership, and parental involvement as essential pieces of their mission that contributes to the program's success.



IN THEIR WORDS

A conversation with founders, staff and alumni.

Read on as founders, staff and alumni share in their own words how FFCA has impacted their lives.



"We have learned that leaders stand up for what they believe in, encourage others and make a difference. We have learned how our character can define us and create connections among others." *Amy Biensch*

"If there is a problem to be solved - and there always is - then it is our job to do something. Apply your talents. That is why we are here. Not to be complacent, but to leave our mark. How will you leave your mark?" *Kaiz Alarakyia*

Valedictorians of 2010
First graduating class who attended FFCA since Kindergarten.

1997



THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOMES BY AVI

COLOURING CONTEST

CALLING ALL FFCA KIDS! Break out your crayons, markers or paints and colour this page. We'll pick a winner to receive a \$50 Toys R Us Gift Card!
To enter: Take a photo of your finished coloured page and have your parent either send it to socialmedia@homesbyavi.com or DM us [@homesbyaviyc](https://www.instagram.com/homesbyaviyc).
Tag us on your Instagram story for a bonus entry! Contest Deadline: July 1st, 2022

NEW BEGINNINGS.... as written in FFCA's first year book

This past school year is best characterized as one of new beginnings. Parents, teachers and students came from a variety of places to pursue something new and different. We knew we would find uniforms, Spalding, Math-U-See, teacher directed instruction, multi-sensory teaching, structure and discipline. What we did not know was who would be coming to experience this new beginning.

This photo is a reflection of the people with whom we shared this exciting first year. The real joy in learning came from the interaction of a dedicated teaching staff, enthusiastic students and committed parents. Thank you all for your special contributions - together we established a measure of success that surpassed expectations. This great new beginning has given us a solid foundation for the future.

How things were in 1997.....

Gas \$.53/litre.

Getting up early to look at the paper to find out what the weather was going to be like or turning on the Weather Channel and hoping the local forecast was on.

Mail ordering from catalogues and waiting weeks for them to come in the mail.

Watching TV commercials - No PVR!

Calling the video store (good ole Blockbuster) to make sure the copy of the movie you wanted to see was in stock.

Ordering CD's from commercials by phone.

Photocopying sections of magazines or books for resource purposes.

Looking up phone numbers in the yellow pages.

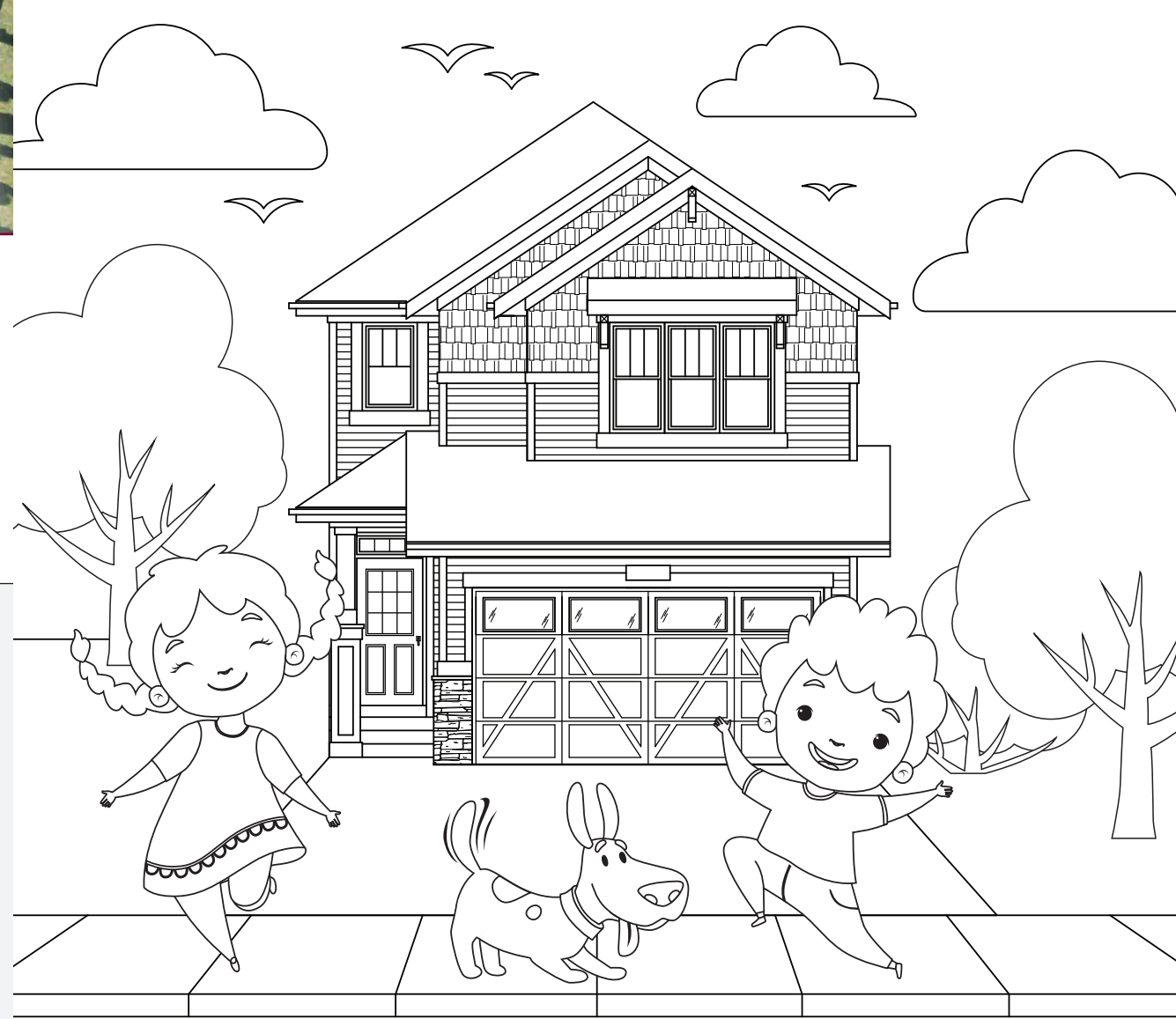
Watching the TV Guide Channel just to see what was on - which meant if something caught your eye you also had to remember the channel number.

Calling an airline to actually book your flight.

Buying a paper map and unfolding it to find your way on road trips.

Looking up movie times in the newspaper.

Printing photos and creating a photo album to show your friends and family. No Facebook or Instagram.



BETTER VALUE BY DESIGN
HOMESBYAVI.COM

Homes by AVI

2022

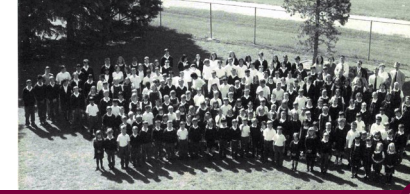
8 CAMPUSES
2,700 FAMILIES
3,800 K-12 STUDENTS
300+ STAFF



FIRST CHARTER

1997 / 1998

Baptist Leadership Training School (BLTS) in Altadore
St. Joseph Elementary in the North
224 Students K-9 | 12 Staff



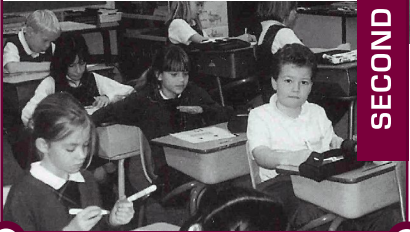
1999

Both campuses moved into Dr. Norman Bethune (DNB) in Acadia. Gave up first 2 campuses
368 Students | 20 Staff



2000

Added Alice M. Curtis in Acadia SEE | **718 Students**



SECOND CHARTER

2002



Alice M Curtis

Added 2 North campuses Renfrew & St. Lawrence NMS

Added Gr 10 DNB 4 campuses
1,380 Students | 94 Staff

2003

Added Grade 11 at DNB



2004



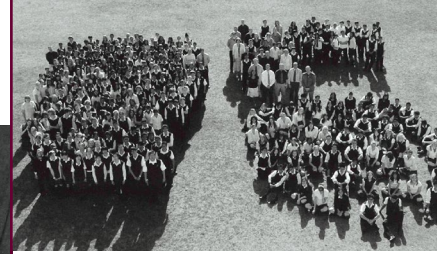
Added first Middle School, Andrew Davison/Acadia SMS
Added Gr. 12/DNB (Gr 9-12)

2005

Added Southwood SWE
2,200 Students | 170 Staff
6,500 | Waitlisted Students



2006



Added St. Clement (used as NMS at the time) **7 campuses**

2009

Added Greenview NMS & Ogden (was the HS). Gave up Renfrew and DNB. St. Clement became NEE | **2,700 Students**



THIRD CHARTER

2012

HS moved into Montgomery Gave up Ogden
2,800 K-12 Students
5,500 Waitlisted Students



2017

Purchased Central Office in Deerfoot Meadows



2020

HS split into two campuses Montgomery NHS
SHS returned to DNB Acadia
8 campuses | 310 Staff
3,800 Students
14,000 Waitlisted Students



2021

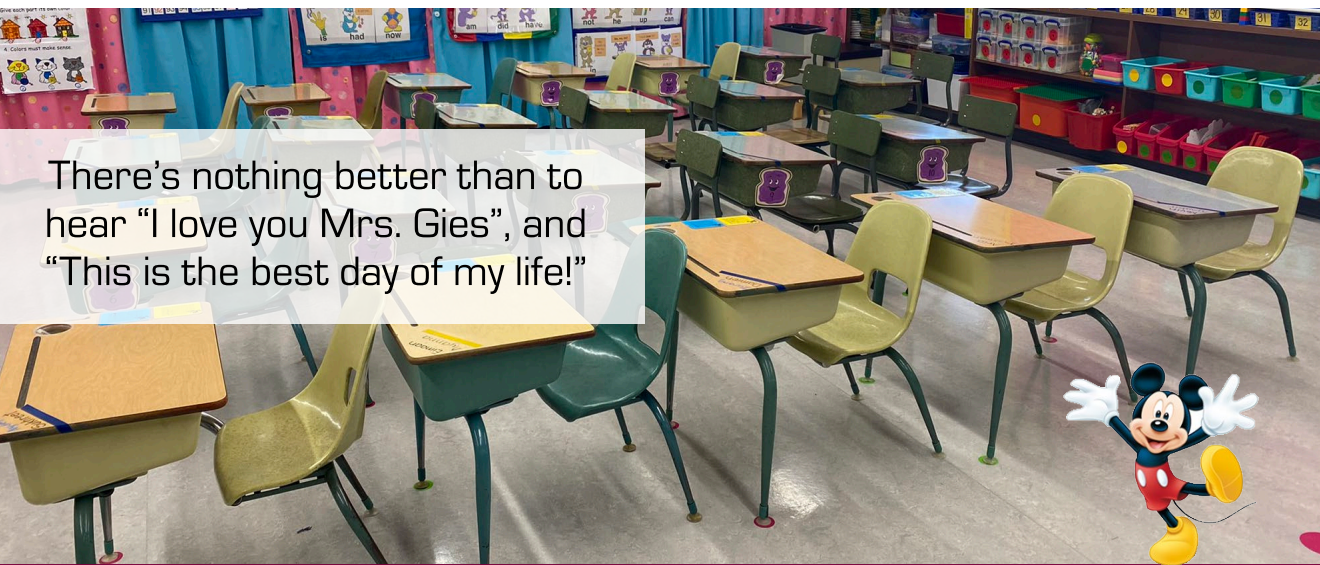
NHS Replacement Project began in Montgomery
Expected completion 2023/24



2014

DID YOU KNOW?

These are the original Kindergarten desks from 1997. As of 2022, the desks reside at the NEE. Karen's husband, Fred, carved out the pencil and cup holders. These desks will continue to "create a love of learning" for students just like Karen's granddaughter Hailey.



There's nothing better than to hear "I love you Mrs. Gies", and "This is the best day of my life!"

In 1996, I was teaching privately in my own home. I loved having children in my own home and teaching them, but something was missing.

Fortunately, I was approached by Dan Levson who was a member of a group of parents with a vision. This parent group was determined to establish a school that would emphasize character, academic excellence, and learning for all.

Knowing that I was certified trainer in WRTR (Writing Road to Reading), they felt that I would be a good candidate to teach at the school they had envisioned. The following year, when FFCA was finally established, I was blessed to be the first teacher hired!

Twenty-five years later, I am still loving teaching Kindergarten at FFCA! Kindergarten has always been my first love. It gives me an opportunity to create a love of learning in young children.

I get to be the one who opens the door to their school experience. There's nothing better than to hear "I love you Mrs. Gies", and "This is the best day of my life!"

It has also given me the opportunity to learn, grow, and collaborate with my supportive colleagues, especially with my grade level partner, Judy Walthers.

FFCA has a sense of teamwork that is not found elsewhere! There are innumerable people who have been important to me along the way: students, parents, colleagues, administrators, central office staff, board members, and custodians. I would like to thank everyone who has made this journey enjoyable, amusing, adventurous, educational, and most of all, rewarding.

After twenty-five years, it's going to be really hard for me to say good-bye one day!

Love Karen Gies
Kindergarten NEE



1997



2022

WRTR

Re spect

In teg ri ty³

C[^]om pas[^]sion

Self-dis ci pline₅

Re spon si bil i ty³



1997



2019

2016

2007

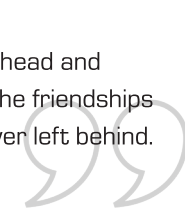
2021

2012

SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE OVER TIME

As the school year ends, don't think of it as a time of leaving things behind. It is a time to look ahead and anticipate the future - a chance to make new dreams come true. The truly important things - the friendships you made, the experiences and the laughter you shared, the discoveries and memories are never left behind.

Beverly Hammond 2000/2001



IN THEIR WORDS

WOW, FFCA has turned 25!

How can that be? It is remarkable how time flies!



I joined FFCA as a new Albertan having just moved from northern Manitoba and began my career here as a grades 7 and 8 Humanities teacher at what was then known as Dr. Norman Bethune Campus, currently our South High School.

From the very start FFCA was a welcoming inclusive community and has always been so. I am proud to be part of our uniquely caring community with my most recent years being spent at the high school level. The number of amazing colleagues, student and families that I have had the pleasure to know and work with has been a gift like no other.

I am especially excited for the future of charter schools in Alberta and the continued growth of FFCA. **Sue Boyd**



AMITA
Florist

If you want a child's mind to grow...
you must first plant a seed.

Congratulations FFCA on 25 years!

Amita Florist is a home-based flower shop
that delivers unique and innovative floral designs in Calgary.

Amanda Truong-Le | 403.889.2878
amanda25truong@yahoo.com | amita.flowers

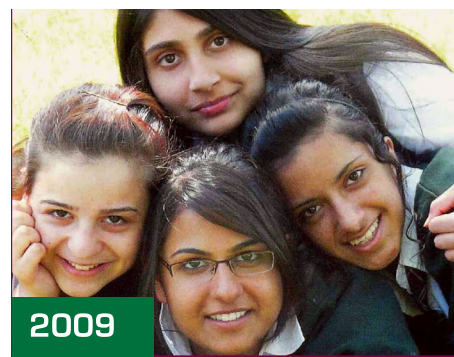


My association with FFCA began as a parent!

I had been undecided about where to send my daughters to school. Public school did not seem like the perfect choice and neither did private schools. When I heard about the new charter school being established it sounded like an answer to prayer.

During my daughter's kindergarten year (yes, in Mrs. Gies' class) I began subbing at FFCA. I subbed at several different schools at that time and FFCA was the only one where I was greeted by name, made to feel very welcome, and treated as a valued part of the community. When FFCA moved to DNB, I was fortunate to be offered a permanent teaching position.

Throughout my many years of teaching at FFCA, through the many location changes, changes in programs, changes in administration, changes in staffing, changes in my own role (parent, substitute, staff), etc... something has always remained. That underlying constant continues to be the welcoming, supportive, collaborative and generous spirit that is present at every campus and office in our organization. What a privilege to be a part of this amazing team! **Judy Walthers**

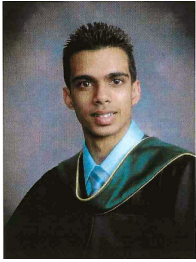


"The end of a school year is always bittersweet. While we look back on the many cherished moments, we are also saying goodbye to some of our students and families. Whether that is our grade eight students who are moving on to the next stage in their educational journey, or those who might be leaving us to explore other opportunities, we thank you for the positive contributions that you have made to our school, and wish you all the best in the future." **Mr. Kool**



WHERE DO I EVEN START?

Sohel Shivji
2007 Graduate
FFCA Counsellor/Psychologist



FFCA has been a place that has probably had the most impact in my life outside of my family. This is because out of everything in my life, I have spent the most amount of time with FFCA.

I started off as a student in grade 6, when FFCA only had a couple campuses. My first teacher was Mr. Kool, who incredibly, still works with FFCA. Actually, many teachers I had throughout my FFCA student days continue to work with FFCA. I feel like that in itself says a lot about the school.

I graduated from FFCA in 2007, but continued to come back and talk to leadership classes about post-secondary life, my learnings from FFCA, and the benefits of going to FFCA.

In January of 2017, FFCA made one of its best decisions! Mr. Symonds and Mrs. Singh decided to take a chance at having me work with students at the high school as a counsellor/psychologist.

At the time, I was a provisional psychologist, still finding my niche in the field.

I have had the pleasure and honour of working with FFCA since then, and I wouldn't change that for anything else in the world. That means for a minimum of 13 years, I have been associated with FFCA in some way.

Coming back to FFCA was a no brainer decision for me. I approached Mr. Symonds and Mrs. Singh and was determined to be a part of the community from the "other side".

FFCA didn't have a lot of mental health supports when I was a student. Ms. Geran was hired in my grade 11 year, and as amazing as she is, she had to balance mental health concerns with academic concerns, which is a lot for one person even though she made it work really well.

Ms. Geran impacted me in such a positive way in high school that I wanted to do the same. The importance and awareness of mental health and well-being has grown exponentially since my time in high school.

Being able to provide that and watch students grow with respect to their mental health has been one of the most amazing experiences in my life.

Being a registered psychologist, there are many options for work. I do have my own clinic, but for some reason I just can't leave FFCA.

Therefore, I determine my hours for the clinic around my time at FFCA. This is definitely because of the impact staff, students, and culture of FFCA has had on me both growing up as a student and now as an adult.

If FFCA has taught me anything, it is the importance of remembering the journey of how I got to where I am now, and that learning is lifelong and not time bound.

It is why I am continuing to further my education with a second doctoral degree. I want to learn, I want to be a leader, and I want to continue to grow. All of which have been instilled in me from my time at FFCA.

IN THEIR WORDS

When I was a student, FFCA didn't have an option for spares, didn't have a wide selection of electives, and was very small. The high school was one campus with about 350 students, where about half were grade 9 students. My graduating class was only about 50 students. I had to take all cores and calculus because I was really not good at drama or art, which were the only two electives at the time.

FFCA has grown so much since then! Having over 900 high school students, two high school campuses, a range of different electives, and the option to take a -1 or -2 level course in high school. All of this without taking away from the importance of academics and an academic environment, and while continuing to provide quality education.

"To provide a safe and caring environment where academic excellence, character development, parental involvement and staff leadership are valued and fostered. To prepare students to be ethically engaged citizens who care deeply, think critically and act courageously."

This is the mission statement for FFCA that I found on the high school website. I do believe that where I am at today is because FFCA lived up to its mission, and I am proud to have graduated from FFCA and am proud to have been given the opportunity to continue to be a part of the FFCA community.

I could honestly talk and write about FFCA for a very long time. I have many good things to say and so many amazing experiences. Even in my conversations with my fiancé, she suggested our future children attend FFCA because of how much I talk about the school and its impact.

We already know that our future children will be put on the waitlist for FFCA from the day they are born.

Sohel Shivji

PREMIUM MAINTENANCE SERVICES

Nothing makes a better first impression than a professionally maintained property

OUR AWESOME SERVICES

- ✓ Commercial Landscape Maintenance
- ✓ Commercial Snow & Ice Management
- ✓ Commercial Parking Lot Sweeping
- ✓ Commercial Landscape Installation
- ✓ Commercial Irrigation Services



GET A FREE ESTIMATE

403.252.5235

7024 Farrell Rd SE

www.miragelandscaping.ca





94%
Rutherford
Scholarship

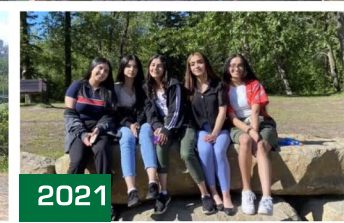
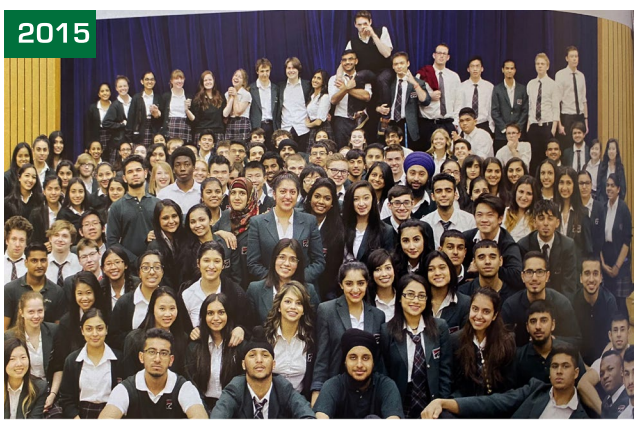
83.6%
Post
Secondary

Throughout the years, Foundations for the Future Charter Academy has seen over 94% of its graduating students qualify for a Rutherford Scholarship and 83.6% of graduating students carry on to post-secondary school within 4 years of entering grade 10. Teacher, parent, and student satisfaction with the overall quality of basic education at FFCA remains well over 90%.

Teachers, administrators and support staff continue to go above and beyond FFCA's usual high expectations in order to meet the needs of our students and families.

Their commitment plays a large part of FFCA's success and we thank them all.

"High school could be summed up into 3B's. Break. Build. Believe. Break bad habits, build good habits and believe in yourself the whole way through. Zain Tariq | Valedictorian 2021"



FFCA HAS PROVIDED ME WITH COUNTLESS OPPORTUNITIES

Andrew Quach
Class of 2018

Throughout my 13 years at FFCA, from kindergarten to grade 12, it didn't matter that we had to wear uniforms each day, the long bus rides to get there, or the many buildings we occupied. **It was always about the people that made going to school feel like a community.**

The teachers and staff were always the first to arrive, welcoming us each morning and the last to leave, ensuring we got onto the bus safely.

The warmth I felt from those teachers made me feel that I was special, loved, and could do great things in the future. It is what inspired me to become one of them, the "moulder of dreams."

FFCA has provided me with countless opportunities not only to learn from a desk but to engage in real experiences. **This has helped me grow into a better person through the leadership and character development program from a young age.**



The warmth I felt from those teachers made me feel that I was special, loved, and could do great things in the future.

It is what inspired me to become one of them, the "moulder of dreams."

IN THEIR WORDS

At the end of the day, it wasn't the marks that defined you. It was about doing your best and working to make a difference in your community because we all can make a difference.

Seeing all that the staff has done for me, has fueled my passion to become a teacher ever since I sat at one of the kindergarten desks in Mrs. Gies' classroom.

An even more surreal experience getting to come back and visit and see a new generation of students sitting at those very same desks.

To every teacher who has taught me or the ones who talked to me in the hallways for those 13 years, thank you for being such a big part of my life and for helping shape who I am today.

Infinite love and gratitude,

Andrew Quach

To the world you may be just a teacher but to US you are:

family
dedicated
caring
flexible
good listener
understanding

thankful
loving
resourceful
motivator
supportive
creative
inspiring

hard-working
compassionate
supportive
creative
inspiring

TEACHER
You know you can't sleep in my class!"

STUDENT
"Maybe if you were just a little quieter, I could..."



ALICE M. CURTIS - STAFF

SO PROUD TO PROVIDE
A CLEAN & SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT
FOR FFCA STUDENTS!



jan-pro.ca



Your words are the sparks that light up our children's future. **Thank You !**

IN THEIR WORDS

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS for FFCA is a governance Board and plays an integral part of the school's success.

This success depends on the right mix of Board skills, chemistry, and personal motivation. It depends on a common commitment to a cause – the organization's mission, vision and shared beliefs. It depends on a high degree of trust and teamwork within the Board, and between the Board and management.

On behalf of past, present and future FFCA parents, we thank you for working together to make the educational experience for our children the best one possible.



2002/2003

Front: Carol Webb, Janet Grimes, Dan Levson, Nashrin Mitha, Rob Jack Back: Kelly Swerid, Dave Butler, Chris Best, Peggy Anderson

"2020 - 21 was perhaps the most unique and challenging year in FFCA's history. While the previous year faced the spring disruption of in-person classes due to COVID, 2020-21 saw us faced with the challenge of educating our students under pandemic conditions which impacted virtually every area of school operations.

With very little notice, our administration, staff, and families all had to adjust to an unexpected situation on short notice.

This success is the product of a caring community, working collaboratively towards a common goal of student success in academics and character development.

In this extra challenging year, teachers, administrators and support staff went above and beyond FFCA's usual high expectations to meet the needs of our students and families, perhaps more than ever before. Their commitment was an extremely large part of this being a uniquely successful year at FFCA."

Jeff Wilson
2020 - 2021

"We are already eight months into the school year. It would be an understatement to say that it has been an eventful year. We have seen continued changes in the provincial education landscape with the introduction of Bill 1. Within FFCA, we have seen continued progress on our strategic plan and, most recently, we entered into an agreement to acquire a building for our maintenance operations and central office."

Amish Patel
April 2017 Board Newsletter

"The end result must be a delicate blend of what parents and staff want, centered on the best interests of student learning, while at the same time meeting the expectations imposed by Alberta Education."

Bill McGregor
March 2015 Board Newsletter



Jeff Wilson
FFCA Board Chair
2022



BOARD OF DIRECTORS
in order as per term
of service.

- Ketan Lakhani
- Gopal Saini
- Shahid Gureshi
- Amanda Fisher
- Cathy McCauley
- Sam Jin
- Robert Zagorsky
- Randall Spahl
- Naren Makwana
- Jehn Scantlebury
- Jenny Hill
- Sumara Diaz
- Jeff Wilson
- Faruq Suleman
- Rizvan Bharmal
- Pamela Wilson
- Wayne Weinheimer
- Cristian Rios
- Amish Patel
- Andrew Chu
- Deekay Fox
- Bruce Hibbard
- Darrin Whitbread
- Dave McIlhenny
- Darren Martin
- Cindy Higa Beaucauge
- Monte Wilson
- Shelley Schroh
- Bud Meghji
- Roxanne Droppo-Tremare
- Gerry Schuster
- Sean Chu
- Jason Cox
- Richard Reukema
- Mike Kelly
- Candace Lyle
- Bill McGregor
- Anita Fongern
- Kelly Swerid
- Carol Webb
- Janet Grimes
- Chris Best
- David Hayward
- Peggy Anderson
- Dave Butler
- Hugh Mayo
- Nashrin Mitha
- Rob Jack
- Bryce Medd
- Germaine Maxwell
- Bill Biensch
- Dave Fricker
- Julie Zink
- Allyson Tolton
- Holly Metz
- Glen Tanaka
- Barry Dawe
- Vicci O'Brien
- Debbie Sonnenberg
- Janyce Konkun
- Dan Levson
- Valerie LeBaron

HEY FFCA,
IT'S TIME TO
EXPLORE ALBERTA

So load up the roof rack, pack the tent, bring the bikes and create your own Alberta adventure.

Alberta is waiting for you! Get out there and enjoy the ride.



YOUR FAMILY VEHICLE IS
WAITING. IN STOCK

- 2022 TOYOTA RAV4
- 2022 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER
- 2022 TOYOTA 4RUNNER

FROM

\$123*
PER WEEK

4.49% OAC
APR 84 MONTHS

* Some conditions may apply.



SCAN HERE



Remember the yesterdays.
Plan your tomorrows and
celebrate your today.
Together as one. A family.

Happy 25th
Anniversary, FFCA!

HENINGER



3640 Macleod Trail S.
Located before the heart of downtown
HENINGERTOYOTA.com



FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE CHARTER ACADEMY

CALGARY, ALBERTA | JUNE 2022

www.ffca-calgary.com