

# September Newsletter

Welcome back to the 2017-2018 school year!

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

2017-2018  
School year

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## Welcome Notice from our new Vice Principal

Eid Mubarak! Having a spiritual event at the beginning is a great way to kickoff a school year. On behalf of principal Mrs. Mehar Rashid, all of the staff at Fort McMurray Islamic School, and the Fort McMurray Public School Board, I would like you welcome you back to the 2017/2018 school year. The staff have been working incredibly hard to prepare the classrooms for students' arrival. The enthusiasm and energy coming from staff is infectious and I know it will motivate students in their learning.

Let me take a second to introduce myself. My name is Mark Dolmont and I will be your new vice principal at FMIS. I will also be the acting principal until Mrs. Rashid returns from

Hajj. Just a little about me. I have spent the past 9 years working for the Fort McMurray Catholic School Board and am excited about this new opportunity with FMIS. Coming from a faith-based system, I understand and see the value in the connection with faith and education. By blending our learning with our faith, we gain a valuable synergy which will help strengthen our understanding and connection to both.

We are very excited to let you know that FMIS will be a Leader in Me school this year. This program is designed to help develop our students' leadership skills while building a culture of student empowerment. This is an amazing program and when paired with all of the

other programs offered at FMIS, will provide our students with an education that all of us can be proud of.

I am incredibly excited about meeting each of you and working together to ensure our students are able to maximize their potential and become successful, empowered individuals. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me through the office at (780) 750-3888 or via email at [mark.dolmont@fm-psd.a.ca](mailto:mark.dolmont@fm-psd.a.ca). I wish you all the best in the 2017/2018 school year.

Regards,  
Mark

We hope you have had a wonderful Eid with family and friends!  
Fort McMurray Islamic School wishes you:

EID MUBARAK!

عيد مبارك

## Teaching Assignments 2017-2018

### Principal:

Mrs. Mehar Rashid

### Vice Principal:

Mr. Mark Dolmont

### LAC teacher:

Mrs. Mariana Furlong

### Counsellor:

Ms. Lisa Doiron

### ECDP AM and PM:

Ms. Elizabeth Hamlyn

### KG AM and PM:

Ms. Terri Josey

1K: Ms. Carissa Ziegler

1L: Ms. Amanda Ellsworth

2K: Ms. Jenny Adams

2L: Ms. Jessica Lake

3K: Ms. Tami Kane

3L: Ms. Tasman Ryan

4K: Mr. Morgan Deveau

4L: Ms. Megan Keeping

5K: Mrs. Mariana Furlong

5L: Ms. Emilie Giroux

6K: Ms. Alyssa Kowalczyk

6L: Ms. Catrina Drummond

Sister Rana Alhawwari

Alternative Program Support Staff

Sister Wided Boughanmi

1L: Arabic and Islamic Studies

4K: Arabic and Islamic Studies

5K: Arabic, Quran and Islamic Studies

6K: Islamic Studies

Sister Sarah Benaissa Kaddar

1K: Islamic Studies

2K: Arabic and Islamic Studies

3L: Arabic and Islamic Studies

5L: Arabic and Islamic Studies

6K: Arabic

Mrs. Inaam Abdo

1K: Quran

1L: Quran

2K: Quran

3L: Quran

4K: Quran

5L: Quran

6K: Quran

6L: Quran

Sister Amany Abdelwahab

ECDP AM and PM:

Arabic, Quran and Islamic Studies

KG AM and PM

Arabic, Quran and Islamic Studies

1K: Arabic

3K: Arabic, Quran and Islamic Studies

Brother Brahim Garaoui

2L: Arabic, Quran and Islamic Studies

4L: Arabic, Quran and Islamic Studies

6L: Arabic, Quran and Islamic Studies

## FMIS is a “Leader in Me” School

Our school is implementing a whole-school transformational process called The Leader in Me, which teaches 21st century leadership and life skills to students and creates a culture of

student empowerment based on the idea that every child can be a leader.

We request parents to please visit FMIS' web site for more information regarding this pro-

gram. Please let us know if you have any questions!



## Get information live: REMIND 101

In order to receive updates and reminders from the office for general school events, please sign up to the Remind 101 text message and email service:

To receive reminders by text: send a text to (587)-333-2789

with the message @fmisoffice

To receive reminders by email, send a blank email to [fmisoffice@mail.remind.com](mailto:fmisoffice@mail.remind.com)

Your child's teacher will provide the Remind 101 information for their specific class once school starts! Please sign up for both!

## WITS/LEADS

The WITS Programs bring together schools,



families and communities to create responsive environments that help elementary school children deal with bullying and peer victimization. We use this program to deal with cases of bullying within the school. Please visit the school web site for more information!

## FMIS Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures

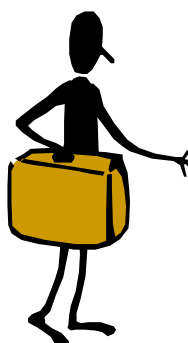
Please be advised that classes begin promptly at 8:30 a.m. and therefore, students should arrive earliest 10 (TEN) minutes before this time to assure they are prepared for class. It is important that students arrive on time, as it is a disruption to the class if students are coming in late. Also, we provide breakfast for our

students; however they will miss it if they are tardy. **Students are dismissed at 3:10pm daily, therefore students who are being picked up should be picked up at this time.** Students who are still remaining after buses leave will be taken to the office and this is where parents/guardians will need to pick

them up. FMIS follows a district policy, where measures need to be taken (such as reporting to district) if students are dropped off or picked up late on a regular basis. To review student rights and responsibilities, please feel free to visit the following website: <http://www.fmps.d.ab.ca/HTMLpolicyHB/pp/if.html>.

## Students on Extended Leaves

If you are planning on going abroad, please inform the office as well as your



child's teacher. Students will be ac-

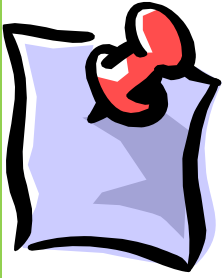
commodated with materials and necessary information for an absence up to one week.

**Alberta Education funds each child according to the total enrollment, as of September 30 annually. Therefore, if you are planning a vacation in the next school year, please let the office know as soon as possible. Jazakumullah khayr!**

## Bus Questions?



For all of the families who have questions about busing routes, including if the bus has not picked up your child or are late, please contact Sparksman at 780-790-3960, ext. 1. If you would like to set up busing for your child in KG-Grade 6 please contact the Markaz office at 780-791-1602.



## School Uniforms / Dress code

Uniforms are a requirement for the students to wear at FMIS.

Please ensure that your child is wearing their proper uniform, which includes

navy blue trousers and a buttoned down white shirt for boys. For girls, the uniform includes a white shirt, navy trousers, navy jumper and white hijab.

Jeans are not to be worn at the school.

Please note that ECDP students are not required to wear uniforms!

**“The entrance of the Islamic School is through the side door of the building”**

## Bus Loop Precautions

Please be advised that dropping off and picking up students is to be done in the parking lot, and not the bus loop (where the busses are located in front of the school).

Tickets will be issued to parents

who enter the bus loop to pick up or drop off their children. Please respect this rule, since having children walking in the bus loop is very dangerous.

## FMIS Entrance

The entrance of the Islamic School is through the side door of the building. We request that when you visit the school, to please follow the signs. KG and ECDP kids are to come into and out of the school through the Greely Road doors.

## Breakfast and Hot Lunch Programs

The breakfast program at FMIS was established six years ago and we have been offering breakfast everyday for our students. As soon as students come off the bus they are promptly offered breakfast in their classrooms.

Many of our students come to school without a proper breakfast. A cause of this is that the children spend a long time on the school bus and some of them feel nauseous with a full stomach and a bumpy bus. Those who are not nourished are at a severe disadvantage when it

comes to learning and achieving.

This program consists of a healthy snack such as fresh fruit, cheese, or a granola bar. The menu varies from day to day. **Since this program is offered free of charge, the school is open to donations.**

FMIS will be restarting our hot lunch program early September. Every month, your child will bring home a hot lunch order form. Please help them fill it in, and send the



form and the money with your kids to the school. **Hot lunch will be offered to Grade 1-6 students every Wednesday.** Examples of hot lunch items include: biryani, pasta, chili, and halal pizza.

If your children brings a lunch to school, please ensure that it does not need to be heated because microwaves are not available to students.



Please be advised that the Fort McMurray Islamic School is a nut free school zone, as well as a fish-free school zone due to severe allergies. Please

## Allergy Alert!

remember that all lunches and snacks must be **PEANUT-NUT FREE**. This includes all (*may contain*) items.

Please note that doughnuts from Tim Hortons have a may contain nuts warning.

**“Please call the school office to report your child’s absence”**

### Student Absences

If you would like to report a student absence, please call the school office at 780-750-3888. You may also email Sister Sara at: [sara.eweida@fmpsd.ab.ca](mailto:sara.eweida@fmpsd.ab.ca)

### Birthday Celebrations

FMIS does not promote the celebration of birthdays for staff or students at the school. Therefore, if your child is having a birthday, please do not send sweets to their class and announce their birthday.



### Visitor/Parent Sign in

Visitors to the school are to enter the office and sign in. Parents are not to enter their child’s classroom to discuss anything with the teachers. Parents are to book an appointment with the teachers ahead of time. All lunch deliveries are to be dropped off at the office and the secretaries will distribute it to your child. Kindly abide by this policy to keep our students safe and operations running smoothly.

### Electronic Devices in FMIS

In keeping with the FMPSD policy regarding use of non-educational electronic devices, FMIS prohibits the use of such devices during school hours. Electronic devices include but are not limited to: iPods, MP3 players, cell phones, portable game stations, laptops, earphones and blackberry's. Any student who is in possession of such items in school will have the item confiscated by administration. The item may be claimed at dismissal. Should there be a second offence, the parent must come to the school to claim the item. We thank you for your cooperation.

## iPads and Laptops

FMIS provides all children the access to iPads and laptops during their school day. This technology is used as a tool for learning. Please keep other technology, not owned by the school, at home.

## Home and School Communication

If the school needs to send a message with the parents, we will be doing so through the following means:

1. Remind 101 FMIS Office
2. Remind 101 Homeroom teachers (information specific to your child's class)
3. Twitter and Facebook
4. Flyers sent home with the oldest child in the school, as needed
5. Email (please have a valid email address on registration forms)
6. Parent-Teacher interviews
7. Assemblies and Special events

Please remember to check your children's backpack on a daily basis.

## Medical Issues

Please indicate on your child's registration form if they have a medical issue. If it is not written on the form, it is the responsibility of the parent to ensure that they inform the school through writing about their condition. Please help us keep the children safe!

## Lost and Found

There is a lost and found bin located in the hallway by the gym entrance. All lost items (apart from valuable items that are kept in the office) are placed in the lost and found bin. Twice a year after parent-teacher interviews, we donate all unclaimed items to Salvation army, so please check the items before this time.

## Indoor Recess Policy

*All students are expected to dress appropriately for weather conditions at all times. If they are not dressed properly, they will not be sent outside. During the winter months, children will not be sent outside when the temperature drops below -20C (including wind chill). If your child cannot be sent outside for a medical reason, please provide a note with them.*

**“FMIS hold  
volunteers in  
high esteem!”**

## Volunteering at the School

Fort McMurray welcomes all parents who are willing to volunteer to the school! The school holds volunteers in high esteem for helping us run school programs. Please come to the

school and let us know about your interest, We will provide you with a criminal record check letter that you may give to the RCMP. Once they have processed the information

please give the document to the school. From then on, we will call you when we need volunteers. Thank you for all your help!





Contact us!

Phone: 780-750-3888

Fax: 780-750-3890

E-mail:

mehar.rashid@  
fmgsd.ab.ca

Visit us on the  
web!

[http://  
islam-  
ic.fmgsdschool  
s.ca/](http://islamic.fmgsdschools.ca/)

We're on  


@FMISonthegeo  
@FMISoffice

We're on  


[http://  
goo.gl/  
hU1eVK](http://goo.gl/hU1eVK)

"Doing what's best for the kids"



Alberta Project Promoting  
active Living & healthy Eating

We are very excited to be a part of the Apple School program! Being an Apple School requires active participation from the parents to send healthy snacks and/or lunches with their children. We ask parents to continue sending healthy food options to student everyday.



As a part of the program, FMIS offers healthy hot lunches on Wednesday every week that meets the criterion of an Apple School. They are available for Grades 1-6 on Wednesdays at the school, for purchase!

## Fort McMurray Islamic School Operational Hours (2017-2018)

### Monday - Friday

#### Grades 1-6

8:15-8:30	Entrance Time
10:-5-10:20	Recess
11:50-12:10	Lunch
12:10-12:30	Recess
12:30-12:40	Prayer (subject to change)
3:10	Dismissal

### Monday - Friday

#### Kindergarten and ECDP

ECDP:	8:30-11:30 am
KG-AM:	8:30-11:30 am
KG-PM:	12:10-3:10 pm