

December Newsletter 2025-2026



Principal's Message

Greetings Parents/Guardians,



We had a great November at ÉLJHS and we are looking forward to the last few weeks of 2025. As we get ready for our Christmas break, I would like to recognize and thank our students and staff for their dedication this year. We all experienced some challenges in the 2025-2026 school year and I am impressed with the resilience that our students and staff demonstrated. After the labour action, our students returned to school and jumped right back into their routines and the staff picked up right where they left off. Thank you students and staff for your tremendous efforts!

I wish all of our families and staff a restful and enjoyable Christmas break and I hope you all take the time to do some of the things you enjoy. I know my break will be filled with delicious food, ice fishing, and time with my family.

Have an amazing Christmas break and Happy New Year!

Mr. Chomlak



DECEMBER IMPORTANT DATES:

DECEMBER 2:

PA ASSOCIATION/ SCHOOL COUNCIL
MEETING @ 6:30 PM

DECEMBER 10:

SKI CLUB TO RABBIT HILL

DECEMBER 19:

WINTER ACTIVITY DAY

- GR 7/8- LRC & LEDUC CINEMAS
- GR 9- MOVIE, DINNER, & DANCE

DECEMBER 20 - JANUARY 4:

CHRISTMAS BREAK

DECEMBER 24:

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 25:

CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 31:

NEW YEARS EVE

JANUARY 4:

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL AFTER
CHRISTMAS BREAK





Raylene Jubinville

ÉLJHS Counsellor

- ☎ (780) 986-2184
- 🌐 www.eljhs.blackgold.ca
- ✉ raylene.jubinville@blackgold.ca
- 📍 École Leduc Junior High School



LINK:

ÉLJHS Counselling Lounge:

<https://sites.google.com/gshare.blackgold.ca/eljhscounsellingcorner/home>

Spread Some Christmas Cheer!

This holiday season, we're collecting donations to support families in our school community who could use a little extra cheer.

If you'd like to help, please consider donating via the Christmas Cheer form on the PowerSchool Parent Portal. Every contribution makes a difference and helps brighten the holidays for those in need.

Donate TODAY!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!





ÉLJHS Grade 8/9 Leadership Team

Food Bank Drive

We are excited to announce our annual ÉLJHS Food Drive. Here is how you can get involved.

The ÉLJHS Food Drive is our chance to give back to our community by collecting non-perishable food items for the Leduc Food Bank. These donations help families in need, especially during the holiday season. It's a great way to show kindness and make a real difference in people's lives.

Here's how it's going to go:

- * Each class will have a donation box for your House.
- * You'll bring in non-perishable food items and put a House-colored sticker on the bottom of each item before placing it in the box.
- * Leadership students will come around weekly to collect the donations and track how much each House has contributed.

This year, we're making it all about the weight of the items donated.

- * The House that donates the most total weight by the end will win 50 bonus points!
- * The more you bring in, the more your House will contribute to the win—and to helping others in our community!

Item ideas: case of water, canned vegetables, canned fruits, canned meats, peanut butter, pasta, pasta sauce, cereals, granola bars, baby food, hygiene products, dish soap, toiletries.

The ÉLJHS Food Drive runs until December 18th, so let's all work together to make this a success. Every single item you donate counts and helps those in need.

Let's show some school spirit, support our Houses, and make a difference!

IT'S TIME TO GIVE BACK!

Mrs. Hykawy and Jubinville's Leadership 8/9 classes are hosting our annual FOOD DRIVE:

December 1 – 18

PLEASE DONATE!



ÉLJHS REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

November 7, 2025



On **Friday, November 7, 2025**, École Leduc Junior High School students and staff gathered for a ceremony to honour and reflect on the sacrifices made by many during times of conflict.

The Remembrance Day Ceremony was memorable and deeply moving, as our school community came together to observe this solemn occasion with quiet reflection. The atmosphere was one of reverence as students and staff paid tribute to those who have served and continue to serve.

We extend our gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of this meaningful event, including our staff, student participants, and parents who supported their children in understanding the importance of this day. Together, we created a ceremony that will remain in our hearts and minds.

11 NOVEMBER
REMEMBRANCE DAY

Lest we forget





ÉLJHS Winter Activity Day

December 19, 2025

The ÉLJHS Winter Activity Day is an important part of both creating a positive student experience in our school and giving our students the opportunity to enjoy community-related events together.

To celebrate the season, we have organized a special activity day for the last day of school before the Christmas Break.

<u>Grade 7 & 8 Students:</u>	<u>Grade 9 Students:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Leduc Recreation Centre (AM)* Leduc Cinemas (PM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Leduc Cinemas (AM)* ÉLJHS Gymnasium (PM) Dinner and Dance

As our Winter Activity Day fast approaches, we ask that all parents complete the online permission form using your **PowerSchool Parent Portal:**

<https://powerschool.blackgold.ca/public/home.html>

Permission Form Deadline: **December 12, 2025**

No late forms accepted, refunds given, or fees deleted from accounts once we have submitted our total numbers as of

12:00 PM on December 12, 2025

We are unable to provide refunds since the activity is paid for in advance.

NO EXCEPTIONS!

STUDENT VERIFICATION FORMS 2025/2026

**DONT
FORGET**



2025-2026 Student Enrollment Verification Form for Black Gold School Division is available on the PowerSchool Parent Portal.

Please completed this process before **November 30th, 2025** . Completion of this form ensures that we have accurate information for emergency communication. If you fail to complete this form, your child's ability to leave school grounds for walking field trips, as well as participating in class/team photos or being recognized in other school materials may be compromised.

In order to confirm your child's registration with Black Gold School Division, you must have:

- An active PowerSchool Parent Portal Account.
- An Internet connected computer, tablet, or phone.

Important: If you do not already have a PowerSchool Parent Portal account please contact your school, during school hours, for assistance.

Thank you for your cooperation!

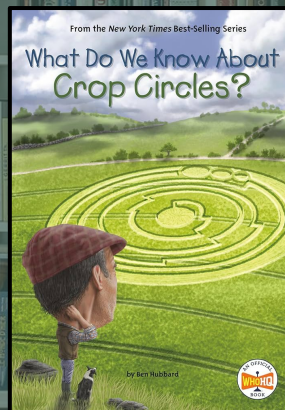


SCHOOL FEES

School Fees have been placed in student's accounts. Please ensure to check your child's PowerSchool Parent Portal for fees that may have been added and need to be paid. Fees should be paid ASAP. Outstanding fees may be sent to collections if not paid by end of April. If you require financial support please contact:

Patty Burak: (780) 986-2184





ATTENTION PARENTS/GUARDIANS



If you do not have access to PowerSchool Parent Portal please contact the office at 780-986-2184. The Parent Portal allows you to view your students' attendance, marks, pay fees online, among other features. If you have an existing account, you can add additional students to the same account. **If you have moved, changed phone number(s), or have any changes to personal information, please contact the office at 780-986-2184. It is important that we have your most current information on file.**

If your student will be absent from school, please notify the office so that we can enter the attendance accordingly. If it is after hours, please leave the message on the school's answering machine.

JOIN OUR ÉLJHS SKI CLUB

On these nights, we will be traveling by bus and leaving the school at 4:00PM to return at 9:00PM. Please watch your email or PowerSchool to register your child to join us for one or more trips to the hill!

Organizer: Mrs. Hekkink

Dates:

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| * November 25 | * January 20 |
| * December 10 | * February 20 |
| * January 9 | * March 11 |

Watch for the permission form in the PowerSchool Parent Portal and emails for updates.

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE!



COMMUNITY EVENTS:



C. L. WHOLE YOU FOUNDATION

November to Remember CONTEST WINNERS:



Congratulations...



C.L. Whole You Foundation – November to Remember Contest

We are excited to share that Mrs. Jubinville, in partnership with the C.L. Whole You Foundation, recently held a student contest titled “**November to Remember: I Am Good Enough.**” This initiative was designed to promote youth strength, identity, and belonging within our school community.

All students were invited to enter a draw for a chance to win two free tickets to see *Wicked: Part Two* at Leduc Cinemas

We are pleased to announce that this year's winner is Liam Ramos.
CONGRATULATIONS, LIAM!

We extend our sincere thanks to Mrs. Jubinville and the Whole You Foundation for creating meaningful opportunities that encourage connection, confidence, and resilience in our students. Their commitment to reminding young people that *they are good enough* is truly appreciated.

ÉLJHS SPORT HIGHLIGHTS:



BASKETBALL TEAMS



COACHES:

- **Lepage** (Sr Girls)
- **Bradley/Baulkham** (Sr Boys)
- **May/May** (Jr Girls)
- **Chomlak/Steinke** (Jr Boys)

THANK YOU
for all of your support!



ÉLJHS basketball tryouts are underway!
Please watch our Facebook and Instagram pages for game nights and come cheer them on.

GO PANTHERS GO!



ÉLJHS Panther News

Instagram



@panther.news.eljh



panther.news.eljh

Following ▾

Message

+0 ...

30 posts

222 followers

23 following

ÉLJH Panther News

ÉLJH content created by Panther News 9 students. Account run by staff

Followed by mrs.k.shewchuk, kl.jensen + 17 more

NOW OPEN!



PANTHER WEAR STORE

ADULT TOPS



Under Armour Mens Team Tech Short Sleeve

\$35.00

2 Logos 4 Colors



Gildan Softstyle T-Shirt

\$20.00

2 Logos 6 Colors



ATC Adult ES Active Vintage Two Tone Hooded Sweatshirt

\$56.00



ATC Adult Dynamic Heather Fleece Two Tone Hooded Sweatshirt

\$56.00

3 Colors



Gildan Heavy Blend Full Zip Hooded Sweatshirt

\$36.00

4 Colors



Team 365 Unisex Zone Hydrosport Heavyweight Quarter-Zip Hoodie

\$62.00



Vault Adult Pullover Hoodie - Adult

\$35.00

2 Logos 7 Colors



CSW Crewneck Pullover

\$27.00

3 Colors

ACCESSORIES



Richardson Cap Pom Knit With Cuff Hat

\$27.00

2 Colors



AJM Acrylic Cuff Toque (Faux Fur Pom 12cm)

\$23.00

3 Colors

Link:

<https://eljhs2026.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

EVOLUTION APPAREL
AND MORE

ADULT JACKETS



Core 365 Unisex Techno Lite Hybrid Hooded Jacket

\$64.00

2 Colors



Champion Adult Packable Anorak 1/4 Zip Jacket

\$62.00

3 Colors



Stormtech Canada Mens Pacifica Jacket

\$62.00

2 Colors





HOLIDAY

Bucket List

GO SLEDDING OR ICE SKATING:

One of the best group activities to do in the winter with your friends! So grab a big sled, tube, or skates, and find the perfect hill to sled or outdoor rink. Warm up with a cup of hot chocolate or coffee after you are done. This is a great snow day activity for teens!

HAVE A MOVIE MARATHON:

One of the most relaxing activities to do in the winter is to watch movies! Ask friends to come over and watch a movie series. Make some popcorn and have some cozy blankets on hand.

SET A FITNESS GOAL:

Do you want to get in shape for a spring or summer sport? Or you may want to improve your overall fitness health. Set a personal goal like a push-up or plank challenge. Then keep track of your improvements over the winter.

DECLUTTER OR REDECORATE YOUR ROOM:

Clearing the clutter from your room is a great way to reduce anxiety and feel less stressed. Grab a few garbage bags (one for a donate pile and one for a throw-away pile) and clean up your room! Once your room is decluttered, you can freshen up your space by moving things around or redecorating.

HAVE AN EPIC VIDEO GAME TOURNAMENT:

Do you and your friends like to video games? Set up a video game tournament with your friends or siblings! You can even award prizes for the tournament.

DO A FEW RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS:

The wintertime can get lonely for some. So, why not spread a little kindness to others? Here is a list of ideas: <https://coffeepancakesanddreams.com/30-random-acts-of-kindness-for-kids-free-printable/>

GET BOOKS FROM THE LIBRARY:

Stock up on some new good books by taking a trip to the library. Reading strengthens your brain, increases your ability to empathize, can build your vocabulary, and reduces stress.

HAVE A NO-TECHNOLOGY DAY:

Do you want to know what life was like for your parents who did not have as much technology as teens? Pick a day to have a no-technology day and see what creative things you can come up with to do with your time!

MAKE GINGERBREAD HOUSES:

Another fun activity for teens in the winter is making gingerbread houses! You can make the base of the houses from scratch, or buy one of the pre-made Gingerbread House kits to make it a little easier. Ask your friends, siblings, or parents to join in the fun. You can have a gingerbread house contest including for creativity, skill and appearance! Once they are finished, post them on your Instagram story and ask people to vote for their favourite.

VOLUNTEER OR DONATE TO CHARITY:

Want to feel good this winter? Helping others is an instant mood boost! Look for opportunities to help at charities near you. Local options might include animal shelters, senior centers, food pantries and homeless shelters. If you are not able to find a local charity to volunteer at, you can still do your part by donating to a charity. Round up old toys and clothes and take them to a donation drop-off near you!



Board Highlights

October 29, 2025



Welcome to Our New Board of Trustees!

Associate Superintendent Volkman conducted the Swearing-In Ceremony of the trustees where each trustee swore their Oath of Office and were sworn in by Ward:

- Ward 1 – Natasha Warnock
- Ward 2 – Devonna Klaassen
- Ward 3 – Angie Charpentier
- Ward 3 – Werner Fisher
- Ward 3 – Barb Martinson
- Ward 4 – Christie Bergman
- Ward 4 – Rachel Gregor-Stang

Organizational Meeting

At the Organizational Meeting of the Board, Trustee Klassen was declared Chair and Trustee Charpentier was declared Vice Chair.

The Board of Trustees approved the committee structure and trustee representation for the 2025-2026 term.

The full list of committees and members can be found on our website, www.blackgold.ca under 'Board' – 'Board Committees'

Signing authority for the Black Gold School Division 2025-2026 term are the Chair or Vice-Chair and the Superintendent or Associate Superintendent, Business & Finance.

Modular Classroom Request

The Board of Trustees approved the 2026-2027 Modular Classroom Requests for submission to Alberta Education as presented by Associate Superintendent Volkman.

2025-2026 School Year Calendar

The Board of Trustees approved the conversion of two Professional Learning Days to instructional days, Monday, November 3 and Monday, December 1, for the 2025-2026 school year calendar and that the calendar is being changed to meet these needs and is being done despite the prior set calendar for this year; and notwithstanding any administrative procedure normally followed for school breaks.



REMEMBRANCE
DAY
Lest We Forget
11th NOVEMBER

Photo Design by b.g.s

*Don't forget to check out the Black Gold School Division Board of Trustees' [Advocacy webpage!](#)



Board Highlights

November 26, 2025

Audit Committee Recommendation Report

The Black Gold School Division Board of Trustees approved the Black Gold School Division Audited Financial Statements and the Auditor's Management Letter for the year ended August 31, 2025 for submission to Alberta Education by November 30, 2025.

Reserves as of August 31, 2025

The Board of Trustees approved the transfer to and from reserves, as of August 31, 2025, as outlined on the Audited Financial Statements Schedule of Net Assets.

École J. E. Lapointe School Quebec Excursion

The Board of Trustees granted final approval for students, staff and parent volunteers from École J. E. Lapointe School to travel to Québec and Ottawa from February 9 to 15, 2026 (inclusive).



École Champs Vallée School Quebec Excursion

The Board of Trustees granted approval in principle for students, staff and parent volunteers from École Champs Vallée School to travel to Québec, Montreal and Ottawa from June 18 to 24, 2026 (inclusive).



SAVE THE DATE! Calmar Collegiate Grand Opening

We continue to make steady progress as we prepare for the official opening of Calmar Collegiate, and we anticipate completing construction before the Christmas break.

We celebrate the many collaboration opportunities between Calmar Secondary, Post Secondary Institutions, Division Office, and Industry that will promote a successful start-up of the program. We look forward to welcoming students for the second semester.



Please save the date of **Thursday, January 15, 2026**, for a Grand Opening Celebration. More details will be shared shortly (including time of day) once the planning committee has met.

Trustee Klaassen elected as the Alberta School Boards' Association (ASBA) Vice President!

At the Alberta School Boards' Association's Fall General Meeting in Edmonton, our very own Trustee Devonna Klaassen was elected to their Board of Directors as Vice President. Congratulations Trustee Klaassen!



Photo courtesy of the ASBA handbook page

BLACK GOLD SCHOOL DIVISION 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Monthly Calendar							Teacher Days	Student Days	Dates & Details		
AUGUST 2025	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	5	3	<div><div></div> August 25 & 26 - Teacher Workdays (No Students)</div> <div><div></div> August 27 - School Commences for ALL Grades 1 - 12 Students</div>	
		3	4	5	6	7	1				2
		10	11	12	13	14	15				16
		17	18	19	20	21	22				23
		24	25	26	27	28	29				30
	31										
SEPTEMBER 2025	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	20	19	<div><div></div> September 1 - Labour Day (Schools Closed)</div> <div><div></div> September 19 - PD Day: (No Students): (AM) Welcome Back & LSA Ceremony (To follow) PD Day</div> <div><div></div> September 30 - National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (Schools Closed)</div>	
		7	8	9	10	11	12				13
		14	15	16	17	18	19				20
		21	22	23	24	25	26				27
		28	29	30							
OCTOBER 2025	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	22	21	<div><div></div> October 13 - Thanksgiving Day (Schools Closed)</div> <div><div></div> October 14 - PD Day (No Students)</div> <div><div></div> Diploma Exam</div>	
		5	6	7	8	9	10				11
		12	13	14	15	16	17				18
		19	20	21	22	23	24				25
		26	27	28	29	30	31				
NOVEMBER 2025	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	15	14	<div><div></div> November 2 - Daylight Savings Time (clocks backward)</div> <div><div></div> November 3 - PD Day (No Students)</div> <div><div></div> November 10 - 14 - Midterm Break (Schools Closed)</div> <div><div></div> November 11 - Remembrance Day (Schools Closed)</div> <div><div></div> Diploma Exam</div>	
		2	3	4	5	6	7				8
		9	10	11	12	13	14				15
		16	17	18	19	20	21				22
		23	24	25	26	27	28				29
	30										
DECEMBER 2025	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	15	14	<div><div></div> December 1 - PD Day (No Students)</div> <div><div></div> December 22 - 31 - Christmas Vacation (Schools Closed)</div>	
		7	8	9	10	11	12				13
		14	15	16	17	18	19				20
		21	22	23	24	25	26				27
		28	29	30	31						
JANUARY 2026	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	20	19	<div><div></div> January 1 - 2 - Christmas Vacation (Schools Closed)</div> <div><div></div> January 5 - School Resumes</div> <div><div></div> January 30 - PD Day (No Students)</div> <div><div></div> Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT)</div> <div><div></div> Diploma Exam & Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT)</div> <div><div></div> Diploma Exam</div>	
		4	5	6	7	8	9				10
		11	12	13	14	15	16				17
		18	19	20	21	22	23				24
		25	26	27	28	29	30				31
Semester 1: Aug. 28, 2025 - Jan. 30, 2026							97	90	Semester 2 - Commences February 2, 2026		
FEBRUARY 2026	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	19	17	<div><div></div> February 2 - Semester 2 Commences</div> <div><div></div> February 5 & 6 - ATA Teachers' Convention (No Students)</div> <div><div></div> February 16 - Family Day (Schools Closed)</div>	
		1	2	3	4	5	6				7
		8	9	10	11	12	13				14
		15	16	17	18	19	20				21
		22	23	24	25	26	27				28
MARCH 2026	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	20	19	<div><div></div> March 8 - Daylight Savings Time (clocks forward)</div> <div><div></div> March 9 - PD Day (No Students)</div> <div><div></div> March 30 - 31 - Spring Break (Schools Closed)</div>	
		1	2	3	4	5	6				7
		8	9	10	11	12	13				14
		15	16	17	18	19	20				21
		22	23	24	25	26	27				28
	29	30	31								
APRIL 2026	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	18	17	<div><div></div> April 1 - 3 Spring Break (Schools Closed)</div> <div><div></div> April 3 - Good Friday (No Students)</div> <div><div></div> April 6 - Easter Monday (Schools Closed)</div> <div><div></div> April 7 - School Resumes</div> <div><div></div> April 24 - PD Day (No Students)</div> <div><div></div> Diploma Exam</div>	
		5	6	7	8	9	10				11
		12	13	14	15	16	17				18
		19	20	21	22	23	24				25
		26	27	28	29	30					
MAY 2026	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	20	19	<div><div></div> May 15 - PD Day (No Students)</div> <div><div></div> May 18 - Victoria Day (Schools Closed)</div> <div><div></div> Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT)</div>	
		3	4	5	6	7	8				9
		10	11	12	13	14	15				16
		17	18	19	20	21	22				23
		24	25	26	27	28	29				30
	31										
JUNE 2026	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	20	18	<div><div></div> June 21 - National Indigenous Peoples Day</div> <div><div></div> June 24 - Last School Day with Diploma Exam</div> <div><div></div> June 25 & 26- Teacher Workday (No Students)</div> <div><div></div> Diploma Exam & PAT Administrative Window</div> <div><div></div> Diploma Exam</div>	
		7	8	9	10	11	12				13
		14	15	16	17	18	19				20
		21	22	23	24	25	26				27
		28	29	30							
Semester 2: February 2 - June 26, 2026							97	90			
TOTAL = Operational Days-Teachers / Instructional Days-Students							194	180	Aug-Dec/25: 77 -T & 71 -S; Jan-June/26: 117 -T & 109 -S		

Approved - February 22, 2023

INSPIRING SUCCESS FOR
EVERY STUDENT EVERY DAY