NOVEMBER Newsletter 2026-2027

Principal's Message



Greetings Parents and Guardians,

We will be having a change in our staffing this coming week. Mrs. Severson, our school counselor, has accepted a counselling position at École Beaumont Composite and she will be leaving us on Wednesday. We wish her all the best on her new journey and I would like to thank her for all of her hard work at ÉLJHS.

Starting Wednesday, November 4th, Mrs. Cara Dirks will be joining ÉLJHS as our new school counsellor. Mrs. Dirks is currently at New Sarepta Junior Senior High and she has a number of years experience there as a school counsellor and learning support teacher. We look forward to Mrs. Dirks joining our school team and I know she will be a great fit for our school. Feel free to reach out to Mrs. Dirks after November 4th if you have any questions or require support for your child.

Sincerely,

Mr. Chomlak
Principal

November Important Dates:

November 4:
Quarter 1 Ends

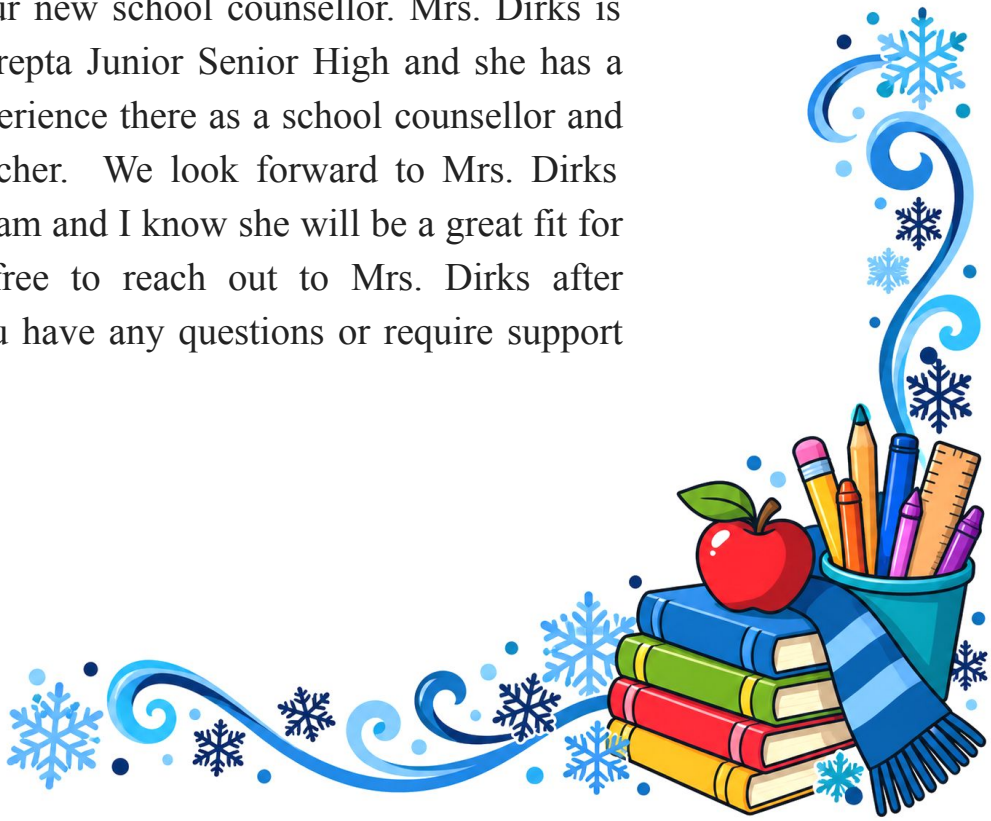
November 5:
Quarter 2 Begins

November 9-13:
Mid-Term Break- No School

November 6:
Remembrance Day Ceremony

November 11:
Remembrance Day

November 16:
PD Day- No School



INSPIRING SUCCESS FOR EVERY STUDENT EVERY DAY

Leaha Severson

ÉLJHS Counsellor

FAREWELL



It is with mixed emotions that I share that I will be moving on to a new opportunity at École Beaumont Composite High School.

It has been such a privilege to be part of this school community, and I am incredibly grateful for the relationships, memories, and experiences I have gained along the way.

Thank you for welcoming me and allowing me to be part of your children's journeys. I will carry a little piece of this school community with me and will always be cheering you on!

SUPPORT

LISTEN

GUIDE

BELIEVE

Mrs. Severson

Thank you

FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE AT ÉLJHS



Cara Dirks

ÉLJHS Counsellor

(780) 986-2184

www.eljhs.blackgold.ca

cara.dirks@gshare.blackgold.ca

École Leduc Junior High School



LINK:

ÉLJHS Counselling Lounge:

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

Welcome to our New Counsellor – Mrs. Cara Dirks

We are excited to welcome **Mrs. Cara Dirks** to her new role as our school counsellor at École Leduc Junior High! Mrs. Dirks will be supporting our school community.

Mrs. Dirks brings a wealth of experience in education, including many years as the Counsellor of the New Sarepta Junior Senior High School, along with other leadership roles. She is a warm, approachable, and caring presence who is dedicated to ensuring our students continue to feel safe, supported, and heard. Whether your child needs help managing stress, navigating friendships, or simply needs someone to talk to, she is available and eager to help. We also encourage parents and guardians to reach out with any questions or concerns, she is here for you.

Please join us in giving a heartfelt welcome to Mrs. Dirks in her new role. We are grateful to have her support and leadership at our school.



Welcome to ÉLJHS



ÉLJHS REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

NOVEMBER 6, 2026

École Leduc Junior High School students and staff will observe Remembrance Day on **Friday, November 6, 2026**, during two identical ceremonies.

As we prepare for our upcoming Remembrance Day ceremony, we kindly ask that you speak with your child about the importance of maintaining a respectful and sombre tone throughout the event. This ceremony is a time to honour and reflect on the sacrifices made by many, and our goal is to keep the atmosphere one of respect and quiet reflection. Additionally, please remind students that hats are not to be worn during the proceedings. Hats will be removed before entering the event space as a sign of respect, similar to when we stand for the national anthem. We greatly appreciate your support to help create a meaningful experience for everyone involved.

The first ceremony will take place at 8:45, and the second will follow at 9:45, with a 15-minute break in between. Everything will be completed by 10:30.

8:45 am ceremony: 7A, 7C, 7F, 7H, 8B, 8D, 8E, 8G, 9A, 9C, 9F
9:45 am ceremony: 7B, 7D, 7E, 7G, 8A, 8C, 8F, 9B, 9D, 9E, 9G

If you are a past or present member of the Canadian Military and a family member of the ELJHS community, we invite you to attend. If you are a member of the police, fire, or emergency services and would like to attend in uniform, we would also appreciate it. You are all welcome to attend one or both ceremonies.

Email **grace.henderson@blackgold.ca** to confirm your attendance.

11 NOVEMBER
REMEMBRANCE DAY

Lest we forget





ÉLJHS OFFICE REMINDERS:

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





STUDENT VERIFICATION FORMS 2026/2027

2026-2027 Student Enrollment Verification Form for Black Gold School Division is available on the PowerSchool Parent Portal.

Please completed this process before **November 27th, 2026** . 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!

ÉLJHS OFFICE REMINDERS:

POWERSCHOOL PARENT PORTAL

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 record your child's absence on the SchoolMessenger App or notify the office so that we can enter the attendance accordingly.

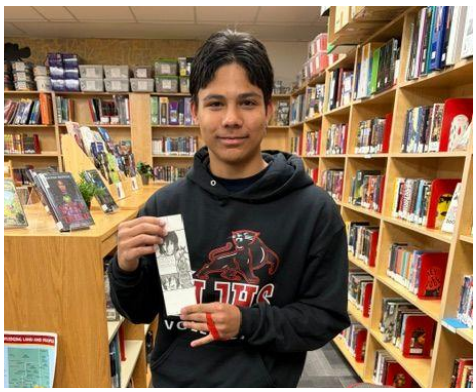


WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE LLC:



Contest WINNERS:

September's Bookmark Contest

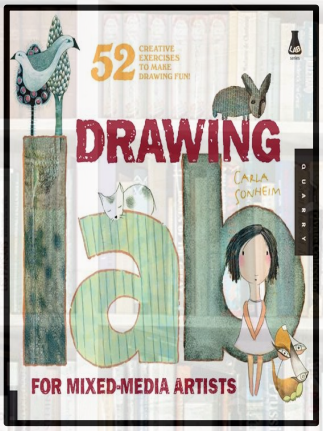


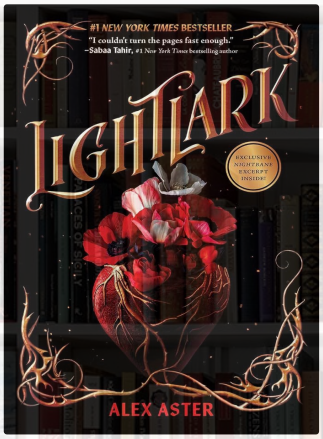
Isaac Jindapon-Pelz - 9E



Samantha Manalo - 9G

Mrs. Kern's Book Recommendations:







ÉLJHS SPORT/CLUB HIGHLIGHTS:





ÉLJHS SPORT/CLUB HIGHLIGHTS:

VOLLEYBALL TEAMS



COACHES:

- Cooney/Ostapek
- Steinke/Young
- Doherty/Fisher
- Kosowan

THANK YOU for all of your support!







Wishing the best of luck to all of our ELJHS Volleyball Teams heading into the playoffs this season.

GO Panthers GO!

GOLF TEAM



COACH:

- Mr. Bartlett

THANK YOU for all of your support!



Congratulations to our ELJHS Golf Team on their outstanding performance in the Montgomery Glen Golf Tournament on September 14th

X-COUNTRY TEAM



COACHES:

- Mrs. Jensen
- Mrs. Shewchuk

THANK YOU for all of your support!







Congratulations to our ELJHS X-Country Team on their outstanding performances in the following races:

★ Spartan Tough
★ LDAA Peace Hills
★ Viking Run

DEC | 9TH | 6PM

Join the Citadel Club



PRICE: $57

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE SEE MRS. COLLINS IN ROOM 27

LAST DAY TO PURCHASE A TICKET IS NOVEMBER 20, 2026

ÉLJHS

CITADEL CLUB

6 Shows including transporation for $346

Meet theatre professsionals and learn more about live theatre!

MAINSTAGE

2026/2027 SEASON



FOR MORE INFORMATION

See Mrs. Collins in Room 27

email: heather.collins@blackgold.ca

Winter SAFETY TIPS



DON'T RUSH TO CATCH THE BUS:
When roads and walkways are slippery, plan to arrive a little earlier so you do not have to rush.

BUNDLE UP:
Students need to keep warm. Coats, mitts, and hats are necessary on the cold days ahead. Dressing in layers prepares you for any situation, as winter weather can be unpredictable.

PUT DOWN THE PHONE:
Not looking where you are walking, driving, or biking can have disastrous results. Watch for traffic and keep your phone in your pocket.

GET A GRIP:
Wear footwear appropriate for conditions; boots, extra socks, etc.

PAY ATTENTION TO WEATHER ALERTS AND SCHOOL MESSAGES:
As hectic as mornings can be, parents should be aware of weather alerts and bus cancellations or delays. Make sure your school has your contact information to receive late-breaking alerts, and be sure to check your school website or local media when inclement weather is expected.

WINTER WEATHER CONDITIONS MAY INCREASE RISK FOR INJURY.

PREVENT SLIPS, TRIPS, AND FALLS BY PREPARING FOR WINTER CONDITIONS AND TAKING EXTRA TIME TO GET WHERE YOU ARE GOING!

Ecole Leduc Junior High School has partnered with **myBlueprint** to provide you and your child with an engaging education and career/life planning tool.

myBlueprint Education Planner (7-12) includes many beneficial resources to support your child as they progress through their education including:

- ✓ **Who Am I** – Complete 5 assessments to learn and discover more about yourself, including Learning Styles, Myers-Briggs Personality, Holland Interests, Knowledge, and Motivations
- ✓ **High School** – Visually plan courses, track progress toward graduation, and instantly identify post-secondary eligibility for opportunities in all destinations
- ✓ **Post-Secondary** – Explore post-secondary options and compare detailed information on apprenticeships, college programs, university programs, and workplace sectors across Canada
- ✓ **Goals** – Set S.M.A.R.T. goals and action plans to help achieve them
- ✓ **Occupations** – Explore occupations and compare comprehensive information on job outlooks, salary ranges, and more, including the ability to identify occupations that are a good match
- ✓ **Resumes & Cover Letters** – Record personal experiences, build resumes, and write cover letters
- ✓ **Money** – Build a budget to learn about income and expenses and develop financial literacy
- ✓ **Job Search** – Explore real-world job postings that relate to occupations of interest
- ✓ **Portfolios –** Document and reflect on learning, keep record of important learning, and share your progress with parents, teachers, or future employers

To explore the features of myBlueprint, you can create a **Family Account** and link to your child's account (requires student permission). With direct access from home, you can get more informed and involved with your child's education, and support your child in making the most informed decisions about their future.

To create your **Family Account** , follow these simple steps:

1. Visit www.myBlueprint.ca
2. Click **Sign Up** at the top right corner
3. Enter your child's school Activation Key "blackgold"
4. Select **Family**
5. Complete the sign up form
6. Invite your student to login to their account and click their name in the top right-hand corner. Select **My Links** and accept your link invitation

You can also watch a video about the Family account at myBlueprint.ca/support/videos.

We encourage you to get started today!

If you have any questions, please contact your child's school and ask for the MyBluePrint site lead.

Board Highlights

October 28, 2026

Modular Classroom Requests

Administration made the following recommendation based on enrolment pressures and replacement of existing modular classrooms:

• two new modular classrooms at École Secondaire Beaumont Composite High School in the City of Beaumont to help ease enrolment pressures; and

• two replacement modular classrooms at École Horizon Heights School in the City of Beaumont to replace existing modular classrooms that are at the end of their service life.

• one replacement modular classroom at École Leduc Junior High School in the City of Leduc to replace an existing modular classroom that is at the end of its service life.

The Board of Trustees approved the 2027-2028 Modular Classroom Requests for submission to Alberta Education as presented.

École Champs Vallée School Excursion

The Board of Trustees granted approval in principle for students, staff and parent volunteers from École Champs Vallée School to travel to Québec and Ottawa from June 19-25, 2027 (inclusive).

Calmar Secondary Collegiate School Excursion

The Board of Trustees granted approval in principle for students, staff and parent volunteers from Calmar Secondary Collegiate School to travel to Amsterdam, Netherlands & Paris, France from November 6-13, 2027 (inclusive).

Board Policy 22

The Board of Trustees voted to adopt Board Policy 22 – Information Security.

Board Policy 22 ensures that the Division fulfills its dual legislative obligations to maintain public accountability and openness through the Access to Information Act (ATIA) while providing robust protection of personal privacy under the Protection of Privacy Act (POPA).

The full policy can be found on our website at https://www.blackgold.ca/board-policy-handbook

Policy 19 Update

The Policy Committee shared an update regarding the Policy 19 working group, which consists of parents, staff, trustees and administration. The group has met three times to update the policy in order to reflect the changes in the Education Act, as well as ensuring that it reflects the needs of our families, students and staff.

The recommendations will be shared with the Board at a later date.

Greetings from ATA Local 8

Kimberly St. Andre, ATA Local 8 President, brought greetings to the Board and spoke to challenges and successes on behalf of Black Gold teaching staff.

St. Andre also extended an invitation to the Board to attend the New Teacher Induction on April 22, 2027.

Aspiring Young Artists Recognition

The Board of Trustees recognized the winners of the Aspiring Young Artists competition that took place in June, 2026. The Board purchased artwork from Sharlaine Amit (Leduc Composite High School), Fara Wood (Leduc Composite High School), and Madalyn Hutzul (Ohpaho Secondary School). These pieces will be displayed in the Board Room at Black Gold's Division Office.



BLACK GOLD SCHOOL DIVISION 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Monthly Calendar	Teacher Days	Student Days	Dates & Details
AUGUST 2026 SUN MON TUES WED THUR FRI SAT 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	5	3	August 25 - 26 - Teacher Workdays (No Students) August 27- School Commences for ALL Grades 1 - 12 Students
SEPTEMBER 2026 SUN MON TUES WED THUR FRI SAT 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	20	19	September 7 - Labour Day (Schools Closed) September 18 - PD Day: (No Students): September 30 - National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (Schools Closed)
OCTOBER 2026 SUN MON TUES WED THUR FRI SAT 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	21	20	October 12 - Thanksgiving Day (Schools Closed) October 13 - PD Day (No Students) Diploma Exam
NOVEMBER 2026 SUN MON TUES WED THUR FRI SAT 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 29 29 30	16	15	November 1 - Daylight Savings Time (clocks backward) November 9 -13 - Midterm Break (Schools Closed) November 11 - Remembrance Day (Schools Closed) November 16 - PD Day (No Students) Diploma Exam
DECEMBER 2026 SUN MON TUES WED THUR FRI SAT 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	16	15	December 4- PD Day (No Students) December 23 - 31 - Christmas Vacation (Schools Closed)
JANUARY 2027 SUN MON TUES WED THUR FRI SAT 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	18	17	January 1- 5 Christmas Vacation (Schools Closed) January 6 - School Resumes January 29 - PD Day (No Students) Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT) Diploma Exam & Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT) Diploma Exam
Semester 1: Aug. 27, 2026 - Jan. 29, 2027	96	89	**Semester 2 - Commences February 1, 2027**
FEBRUARY 2027 SUN MON TUES WED THUR FRI SAT 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	19	17	February 1 - Semester 2 Commences February 4 & 5 - ATA Teachers' Convention (No Students) February 15 - Family Day (Schools Closed)
MARCH 2027 SUN MON TUES WED THUR FRI SAT 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	19	18	March 14 - Daylight Savings Time (clocks forward) March 15 - PD Day (No Students) March 26 - Good Friday (Schools Closed) March 29 - Easter Monday (Schools Closed) March 29 - 31- Spring Break (Schools Closed)
APRIL 2027 SUN MON TUES WED THUR FRI SAT 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	20	19	April 1 - 2 Spring Break (Schools Closed) April 5 - School Resumes April 23 - PD Day (No Students) Diploma Exam
MAY 2027 SUN MON TUES WED THUR FRI SAT 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	20	19	May 21 - PD Day (No Students) May 24 - Victoria Day (Schools Closed) Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT)
JUNE 2027 SUN MON TUES WED THUR FRI SAT 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 ☺ 26 27 28 29 30	21	19	June 21 - National Indigenous Peoples Day June25- Last School Day with Diploma Exam June 28 & 29- Teacher Workday (No Students) Diploma Exam & PAT Administrative Window Diploma Exam
Semester 2: February 1 - June 25, 2027	99	92	
TOTAL = Operational Days-Teachers / Instructional Days-Students	195	181	Sept-Dec/26: 78 -T & 72 -S; Jan-June/27: 117 -T & 109 -S

Approved February 21, 2024

INSPIRING SUCCESS FOR EVERY STUDENT EVERY DAY