

January Newsletter 2024-2025

P rincipal's Message

Greetings ÉLJHS Families,



It is great to be back at school and it is so nice to see all of our staff and students again. During the first few weeks of my time off, I didn't move around too much and spent most of my daytimes as a personal groomer for my two big dogs, Odin and Loki. At first, they seemed surprised that I was home each day and then gradually became more and more needy. After a few days, I couldn't walk around the house without them following me or crawling all over me. One afternoon, while I was covered in 250 pounds of dog, it occurred to me that "being needed" is an important feeling for all of us, especially in a school setting. It is of the utmost importance that our students feel like they belong and that they are needed in our school. In addition, our staff must know that they are needed and valued by our school and our school families. When both our students and our staff recognize how important they are to our school, and to each other, we create an amazing environment where everyone flourishes. I am very proud of the work our students and staff do at ÉLJHS and I thank all of our families for being so supportive of our school.

Have a great January
and stay warm!

Mr. Chomlak



JANUARY IMPORTANT DATES:

JANUARY 1:
NEW YEAR'S DAY

JANUARY 1-:
CHRISTMAS BREAK

JANUARY 6:
ÉLJHS CLASSES RESUME

JANUARY 9:
SKI CLUB RABBIT HILL TRIP

JANUARY 14:
PA / SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 17-18:
ÉLJHS SR. BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

JANUARY 17TH:
POWERSCHOOL CLOSURES FOR SEMESTER 1
GRADES AND COMMENTS

JANUARY 23:
SKI CLUB RABBIT HILL TRIP

JANUARY 28:
SEMESTER 1 ENDS

JANUARY 29:
PD DAY- NO SCHOOL

JANUARY 30:
SEMESTER 2 COMMENCES





LINK:

ÉLJHS Counselling Corner

Mrs. Severson
ÉLJHS Counsellor

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

Welcome to 2025!

I hope your holidays were filled with rest, laughter, and maybe just a little less screen time (no judgment if it wasn't). January is here, and with it comes a fresh start and plenty of opportunities to grow, connect, and thrive. Here's what's happening in the world of counselling this month:

- ★ **Stress Buster Drop-Ins:** Feeling the post-holiday blues or just need a quick reset? Swing by one of our "Stress Buster" drop-in sessions happening throughout the month. It's a relaxed, come-as-you-are space to unwind, learn a few stress-busting tricks, and leave feeling a little lighter. No sign-up required—just drop in and chill!
- ★ **Leadership in Action:** Our grade 8 leadership students are gearing up to guide grade 6 students as they prepare to join us next year. They've been brainstorming ways to show our future Panthers that junior high isn't as scary as it sounds (spoiler alert: it's actually pretty great).
- ★ **Check-ins & Chats:** Whether it's friendship drama, motivation struggles, or just needing a safe space to talk, my door is always open. I'm here to help students tackle **life's curveballs with confidence and maybe even a few laughs along the way.**
- ★ **Pro Tip for Parents:** Ask your kids about the best part of their school day (trust me, this can be a game-changer). You might hear about an awesome class project, a hilarious lunchroom moment, or how they totally nailed that pop quiz. Celebrating those little wins makes a big difference!

Let's kick off 2025 with a positive vibe and make it the best year yet!
If you or your child needs anything, don't hesitate to reach out.

Cheers to a great year ahead!



ÉCOLE LEDUC JUNIOR HIGH BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

January 17-18, 2024

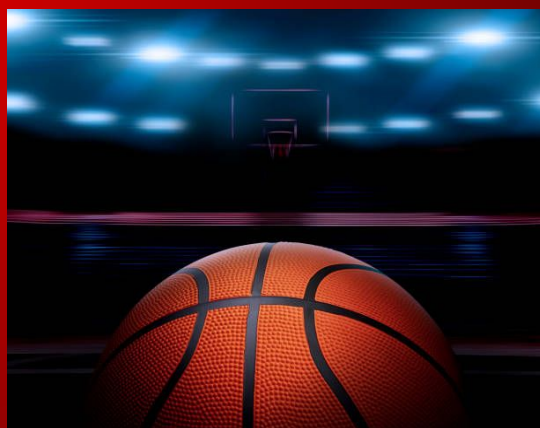


Boys Senior Teams:

- @ Caledonia Park School

Girls Senior Teams:

- @ École Leduc Junior High



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.

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:** Make sure our school has your contact information so you can receive late-breaking alerts, and be sure to check our school website or local media when inclement weather is expected.

JOIN OUR ELJHS 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

- January 9
- January 23
- February 5
- February 20
- March 6
- March 20

Limited Spots Available!





ELJHS PARKING

The parking lot on the South side of the school is reserved for:

STAFF PARKING ONLY

If you are dropping off your child or visiting our school, there are parking areas along the street that run along the East, West, and North sides of the school yard. We have very little parking for our staff so we appreciate any cooperation with this.



ÉLJHS Leadership Food Bank Drive

Thank you so much to all those that sent in food or cash donations for our Leadership Food Drive. The Leduc Food Bank supplies École Leduc Junior High School with food for our students in need, all year long. It was a great way to give back to them.



Mrs. Severson's Leadership 8/9 Helpers



Thank You!

'Tis the Season for
HOLIDAY DOOR DECORATING

Overall Best Door - 8G



Most Creative - 8F



Best Holiday Spirit - 8D



Special Mention- Inclusive Ed



**Congratulations
to our
Holiday Door
WINNERS!!**

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE LLC:



I SPY WINTER READING GAME

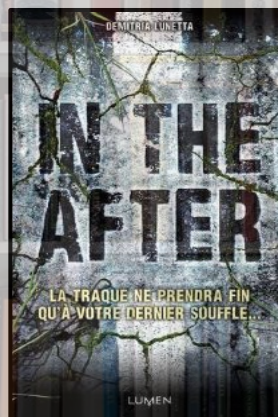
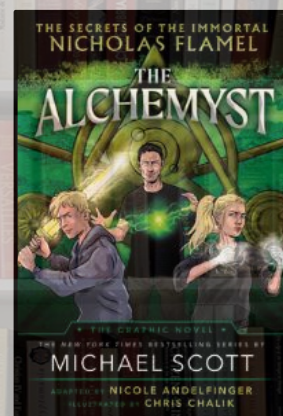
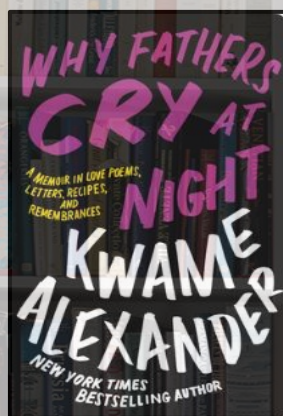
Get ready for some winter fun and a chance to win a prize with the "I Spy Winter Reading Game" at ÉLJHS! To join the game, start by picking up a game board from Mrs. Kern. Then, take on the challenges! First, check out the bulletin board and count the items you see, writing the total on your game board. Next, explore the school to count the books and record that number on your game board too.

Want to go the extra mile? Take part in the bonus challenge by visiting the library to check out the "Winter Blues" book display. Choose a book that you think you might like to read, and write its title on the back of your game board. Once you've completed all the steps, submit your game board to Mrs. Kern by **January 28th** for your chance to win a prize. Don't miss out on this fun reading adventure—start playing today!



PICK UP YOUR GAME BOARD IN THE LLC!

Mrs. Kern's Book Recommendations:



STUDENT VERIFICATION FORMS 2023/2024

2024-2025 Student Enrollment Verification Form for Black Gold School Division is available on the PowerSchool Parent Portal.

This process should have been completed before **November 30th, 2024** . 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:

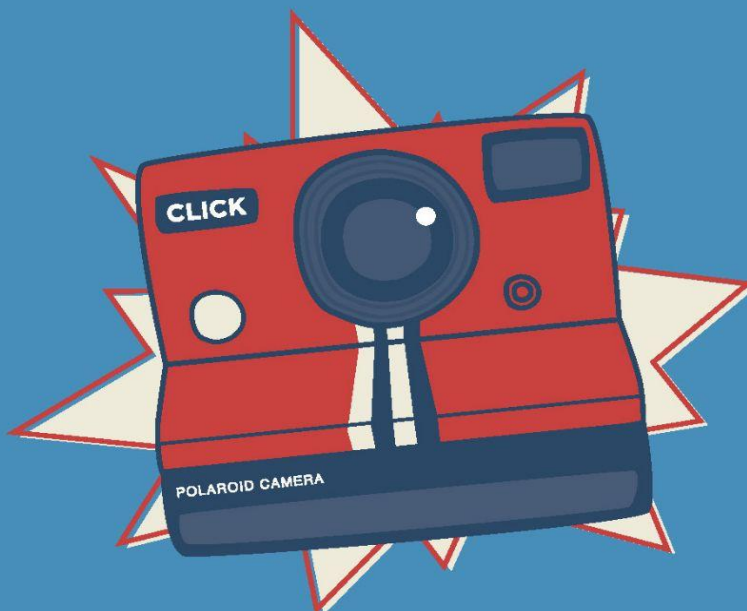
Patty Burak: (780) 986-2184
Finance Admin Assistant
780-986-2184





KEEP THE ELJH MEMORIES!

2025 YEARBOOK



PLEASE SEE POWERSCHOOL FOR
THE ORDER FORM!

Children who are eligible for immunizations may be immunized in the school setting with parent/guardian consent. Please check your child's school bag for a package which contains information about the vaccines, along with a consent form for each vaccine. For your child to be immunized in school, consent must be provided to AHS staff verbally or each consent form must be signed and returned to your child's school by the date indicated on the envelope.

For tips on preparing your child for immunizations, please refer to <https://www.immunize.ca/pain-management-kids-and-adolescents>

The immunization round date at Leduc Junior High School is Wednesday, January 22, 2025.

*If your child is not present on the round date they may receive immunizations on other dates throughout the school year.

****If you are new to Alberta OR if your child has been immunized at your doctor's office or pharmacy, AHS Public Health may not have a record of your child's immunizations. To ensure your child is up to date with all recommended immunizations refer to the schedule at <https://www.alberta.ca/immunization-routine-schedule.aspx>*

To provide an up to date immunization record or if you have any questions you may contact the nurse assigned to your child's school at 780-980-5026



Influenza is here and it's serious.



Dear Parents/Guardians,

The number of illnesses within the community and our school is rising. If your child wakes up and tells you they feel unwell, please take it seriously and keep them home. We are sending a large amount of students home each day because of illnesses. Here is some information on when to keep children home from school when sick:

When your child is sick, knowing when they should stay home from school is important. If they have a contagious disease, keep them home. This will help them get better faster and keep their teachers and classmates from getting sick.

When Your Child Is Too Sick:

Talk to your child's doctor or healthcare provider if you are unsure if they should stay home from school. As a general rule, your child should not go to school if they have:

- A fever over 100.4° Fahrenheit (F) or 38° Celsius (C) – Your child can return to school after they've been fever-free for 24 hours without antipyretics. Antipyretics are medicines that treat or prevent fever.
- Signs they are weak and tired. This is common with the flu.
- Diarrhea – Having loose poop (stool) more often than isn't caused by a change in diet
- Throwing up (vomiting) – More than 2 times in a 24-hour period.
- Coughing disrupts normal activity.
- Wheezing or getting short of breath.
- Pain from earache, headache, sore throat, or recent injury.
- Yellow or green drainage from the eye(s).
- A new rash – Not all rashes mean your child must stay home from school. Check with their doctor or health care provider.

Contagious Disease:

A contagious disease can be spread by close contact with a person or object. Your child must stay home from school if they have a contagious disease. They may be contagious **before** showing any signs of illness. Some contagious diseases include:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| ● COVID-19 | ● Strep Throat |
| ● Chickenpox | ● A Cold |
| ● The Flu | ● Measles |
| ● Pinkeye (conjunctivitis) | ● Whooping Cough (pertussis) |

Influenza is here and it's serious.



WHEN TO KNOW IT'S SAFE TO RETURN TO SCHOOL:

It may be easy to know when your child is too sick to go to school, but determining when they are ready to go back is often difficult. Sending your child back too soon can delay their recovery and make other children in the school more susceptible to the virus as well. Below are some guidelines that help you decide whether or not your child is ready to return to school.

No Fever:

Once the fever has been controlled for over 24 hours without medication, the child is usually safe to return to school. However, your child may still need to stay home if they are continuing to experience other symptoms, such as diarrhea, vomiting, or a persistent cough.

Medication:

Your child may return to school after taking medication the doctor prescribed for at least 24 hours, as long as they don't have a fever or other serious symptoms. Ensure that the school nurse and your child's teacher know these medications and their proper doses.

Only Mild Symptoms Present:

Your child can also go back to school if they're only experiencing a runny nose and other mild symptoms. Make sure to provide tissues for them and to give them an over-the-counter medicine that can help control the remaining symptoms.

Attitude and Appearance Improve:

If your child looks and acts like they are feeling much better, then it is typically safe for them to return to school.

Being sure that a child is well enough to go to school can be tough for any parent. It often comes down to whether the child can still participate at school. Having a sore throat, cough, or mild congestion doesn't always mean kids can't handle class and other activities. In the end, you may have to rely on your parental intuition to make the final call. You know your child better than anyone, so you can tell when they're feeling better. Do they look too miserable to go to school? Are they playing and acting normally, or are they happy to curl up in a chair with a blanket? Trust your intuition to make the best decision. If you have any doubts, always remember you can ask others, such as your child's doctor or call 811.

If you are worried about your student getting behind, the concern is only if they miss more than a few days. Students can catch up on Google Classroom or email their teachers. The student should usually stay home, rest, and recover, then catch up once they return to school. Teachers are very good at making sure they complete everything needed.

Please call the school to excuse your child if they are sick. The office will be happy to answer any questions you may have.



Board Highlights

November 27, 2024

MNP Auditor's Report

Benji Waser from Myers Norris Penny (MNP) presented the summary of the Auditor's Report for Black Gold School Division. Black Gold School Division was given a clean audit opinion. The full report can be read [here](https://www.blackgold.ca) on our website www.blackgold.ca

The Board of Trustees approved the Black Gold School Division Audited Financial Statements and the Auditor's Management Letter for the year ended August 31, 2024 for submission to Alberta Education by November 30, 2024.

Reserves as of August 31, 2024

The Board of Trustees approved the transfer to and from reserves, as of August 31, 2024, as outlined on the Audited Financial Statements Schedule of Net Assets.

2024-2025 Fall Budget Update

The Board of Trustees approved the 2024-2025 Fall Budget Update for Black Gold School Division as presented.

Annual Education Results Report

Associate Superintendent Dargis presented the Annual Education Results Report (AERR) for Black Gold School Division. The full report can be read [here](https://www.blackgold.ca) on our website, www.blackgold.ca

The Board of Trustees approved the Black Gold School Division 2023-24 Annual Education Results Report as presented, for submission to Alberta Education by November 30, 2024.

Skills Canada Competition

Every year, the Provincial Skills Canada event brings together approximately 700 young people from across the province to compete in 45 trade and technology areas. The competition provides an opportunity for young Albertans studying a skilled trade or technology to be tested against exacting standards and against their peers. Students vie to win the honour of being recognized as the best in the province in their chosen discipline and for the opportunity to join Team Alberta for the Skills Canada National Competition. The Provincial Skills Canada Competition takes place in Edmonton, Alberta on May 8 & 9, 2025.

Should any of these students win, they will be eligible to attend the Skills Canada National Competition in Regina, Saskatchewan on May 29 and 30, 2025.

The Board of Trustees granted final approval for the attendance of any BGSD student that qualifies for the Skills Canada National Competition to be held in Regina, Saskatchewan, in May of 2025.



Learning Walks with Dr. Beverley Freedman

Dr. Beverley Freedman gave a presentation to the Board about the Learning Walks she led for Black Gold Administrators over the past two months.

The mission of Dr. Freedman is to help schools and school systems 'raise the bar and close achievement gaps'. She works with administrators to build their capacity in terms of school improvement, observational data and evidence-based feedback, so they can work more effectively and collaboratively with teachers on increasing student achievement. (beverleyfreedman.com)



January 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
	Club is closed for Holiday Break					
5	6 Cooking Club 4:00-5:30 Virtual Games 6:00-7:00	7 Craft Club 6:00-7:30	8 Virtual Book Club 4:00-5:00	9 Keystone Mentorship 4:00-5:00	10	11 PowerUp VIRTUAL 9:45am-11am
12	13 Cooking Club 4:00-5:30 Virtual Games 6:00-7:00	14 Craft Club 6:00-7:30	15 Virtual Book Club 4:00-5:00	16 Keystone Mentorship 4:00-5:00	17	18 PowerUp VIRTUAL 9:45am-11am
19	20 Cooking Club 4:00-5:30 Virtual Games 6:00-7:00	21 Craft Club 6:00-7:30	22 Virtual Book Club 4:00-5:00	23 Keystone Mentorship 4:00-5:00 Creating Hope Medicine Bags 6:30-8:00	24	25 PowerUp VIRTUAL 9:45am-11am
26	27 Cooking Club 4:00-5:30 Virtual Games 6:00-7:00	28 Craft Club 6:00-7:30	29 Virtual Book Club 4:00-5:00	30 Keystone Mentorship 4:00-5:00	31	

Our programs are free, for youth ages 13-17 and snacks are provided !

SCAN TO REGISTER FOR BGC PROGRAMS



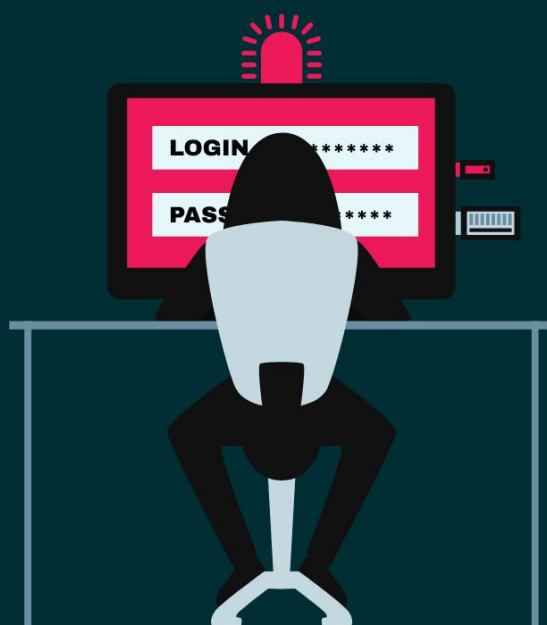
January Updates

- Registration is open for all programs
- Please note it is a new year so registration is required for all these programs

The Northern Alberta Internet Child Exploitation (NAICE) Unit welcomes all parents & caregivers to attend an evening information session on the realities of internet child exploitation in Alberta, and strategies to navigate these issues in an open and collaborative way with your children. Some of the topics we will discuss include: who we are and what we do, the internet and social media, child luring and sextortion, artificial intelligence and emerging online sites/apps, our partners and how we can all work together to keep kids safe online. For more information about NAICE please visit <https://alert-ab.ca/public-knowledge/child-exploitation/>.

You are invited to join the junior high and high school parents in Leduc to this presentation at

McLab Theater
Tuesday, January 14th 2025 at 6:30pm





49th Annual
Music Festival
April 7-18, 2025

PIANO VOCAL INSTRUMENTAL
CHOIR BAND SPEECH

Registration opens
Dec 1, - Jan 31, 2025

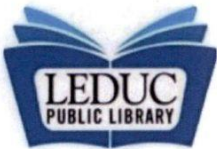
Open to performers of all ages from the
City of Leduc & Leduc County

Register at: leducmusicfestival.ca



LEDUC BLACKGOLD TOASTMASTERS PRESENT

TEEN TOASTMASTERS



YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

-2025-
(Ages 13-17)

WHERE:

The Leduc public library

- Free Program -no fee-
- Register at the library
- Certificates for completion

WHEN:

Thursday evenings

January - 16,23,30

February - 13,20,27

530pm-7pm

THE BENEFITS:

- Practice Leadership skills
- Practice Public Speaking
- Learn to plan a speech
- Build Confidence
- Social and communication skills
- Meet new friends
- Awards
- And much more!



BLACK GOLD SCHOOL DIVISION 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Monthly Calendar							Teacher Days	Student Days	Dates & Details	
AUGUST 2024	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	5	3	<div><div>August 26 & 27 - Teacher Workdays (No Students)</div><div>August 28 - School Commences for ALL Grades 1 - 12 Students</div></div>
		4	5	6	7	8	9			
		11	12	13	14	15	16			
		18	19	20	21	22	23			
		25	26	27	28	29	30			
SEPTEMBER 2024	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	19	18	<div><div>September 2 - Labour Day (Schools Closed)</div><div>September 20 - PD Day: (No Students): (AM) Welcome Back & LSA Ceremony (To follow) PD Day</div><div>September 30 - National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (Schools Closed)</div></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			
OCTOBER 2024	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	22	21	<div><div>October 11 - PD Day (No Students)</div><div>October 14 - Thanksgiving Day (Schools Closed)</div><div>Diploma Exam</div></div>
		6	7	8	9	10	11			
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26			
	27	28	29	30	31					
NOVEMBER 2024	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	16	15	<div><div>November 1 - PD Day (No Students)</div><div>November 3 - Daylight Savings Time (clocks backward)</div><div>November 11 - Remembrance Day (Schools Closed)</div><div>November 12 - 15 - Midterm Break (Schools Closed)</div><div>Diploma Exam</div></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			
DECEMBER 2024	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	15	14	<div><div>December 2 - PD Day (No Students)</div><div>December 23 - 31 - Christmas Vacation (Schools Closed)</div></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			
JANUARY 2025	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	20	19	<div><div>January 1 - 3 - Christmas Vacation (Schools Closed)</div><div>January 6 - School Resumes</div><div>January 29 - PD Day (No Students)</div><div>January 30 - Semester 2 Commences</div><div>Diploma Exam & Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT)</div><div>Diploma Exam</div></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				
Semester 1: Aug. 28, 2024 - Jan. 29, 2025							95	88	Semester 2 - Commences January 30, 2025	
FEBRUARY 2025	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	19	17	<div><div>February 6 & 7- ATA Teachers' Convention (No Students)</div><div>February 17 - Family Day (Schools Closed)</div></div>
		2	3	4	5	6	7			
		9	10	11	12	13	14			
		16	17	18	19	20	21			
		23	24	25	26	27	28			
MARCH 2025	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	20	19	<div><div>March 9 - Daylight Savings Time (clocks forward)</div><div>March 10 - PD Day (No Students)</div><div>March 31 - Spring Break (Schools Closed)</div></div>
		2	3	4	5	6	7			
		9	10	11	12	13	14			
		16	17	18	19	20	21			
		23	24	25	26	27	28			
APRIL 2025	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	16	15	<div><div>April 1 - 4 - Spring Break (Schools Closed)</div><div>April 7 - School Resumes & Diploma Exam</div><div>April 18 - Good Friday (Schools Closed)</div><div>April 21 - Easter Monday (Schools Closed)</div><div>April 22 - PD Day (No Students)</div><div>Diploma Exam</div></div>
		6	7	8	9	10	11			
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26			
	27	28	29	30						
MAY 2025	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	21	20	<div><div>May 16 - PD Day (No Students)</div><div>May 19 - Victoria Day (Schools Closed)</div><div>Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT)</div></div>
		4	5	6	7	8	9			
		11	12	13	14	15	16			
		18	19	20	21	22	23			
		25	26	27	28	29	30			
JUNE 2025	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	20	18	<div><div>June 21 - National Indigenous Peoples Day</div><div>June 25 - Last School Day with Diploma Exam & PAT</div><div>June 26 & 27 - Teacher Workday (No Students)</div><div>Diploma Exam</div><div>Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT)</div><div>Diploma Exam & Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT)</div></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			
Semester 2: January 30 - June 29, 2025							97	91		
TOTAL = Operational Days-Teachers / Instructional Days-Students							193	179	Aug-Dec/24: 77 -T & 71 -S; Jan-June/25: 116 -T & 108 -S	

Updated Diploma Exams & PATs - April 12, 2024

Approved - February 22, 2023

INSPIRING SUCCESS FOR
EVERY STUDENT EVERY DAY