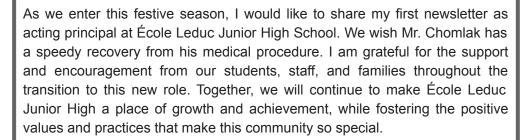
December Newsletter 2024-2025



Dear Parents and Caregivers,



There's plenty happening at ÉLJHS this month and I am proud to highlight some of the great activities happening around the school! Volleyball season wrapped up with both the Senior Girls and Boys teams earning bronze medals—congratulations to all players! Our annual Food Drive has kicked off, featuring a house competition to see which team can collect the heaviest pile. Meanwhile, basketball teams have been formed, and wrestling season is officially underway. The Citadel Club invites all students to join them for a showing of A Christmas Carol on December 5 for 55\$. The Principal-Student Advisory Committee and GSA also remain active, providing a valuable platform for student voices. In addition, we invite our school community to attend our Christmas Concert on December 11 at 7 PM. It's shaping up to be a lively and festive season at ÉLJHS!

As we prepare for the holidays, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to all members of the Leduc Junior High community. To our parents and guardians, thank you for your unwavering support and partnership. To our students, your enthusiasm, kindness, and determination inspire us every day. To our staff, your dedication to creating a nurturing and dynamic learning environment is truly remarkable.

May this holiday season bring joy, peace, and a sense of renewal to you and your loved ones. Take time to enjoy the simple moments, reflect on the blessings of the past year, and look forward to the possibilities of the new one.

Have a wonderful holiday season,

Jordan Baulkham



DECEMBER IMPORTANT DATES:

DECEMBER 2:

PD Day- No School

DECEMBER 11:

Grade 9's Grease Presentation @ LCHS (PM)

DECEMBER 11:

ÉLJHS CHRISTMAS CONCERT- 7:00 PM @ PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 12:

SKI CLUB TO RABBIT HILL

DECEMBER 20:

WINTER ACTIVITY DAY

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

DECEMBER 21 - JANUARY 6:

CHRISTMAS BREAK

DECEMBER 24:

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 25:

CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 31:

NEW YEARS EVE

JANUARY 6:

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL AFTER CHRISTMAS BREAK







LINK:

ÉLJHS Counselling Corner

Mrs. Severson ÉLJHS Counsellor

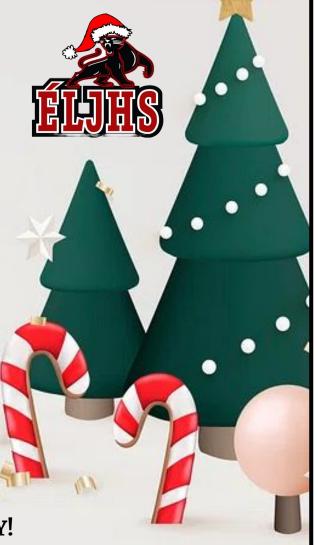
https://sites.google.com/gshare.blackgold.ca/elihscounsellingcorner/home

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!





<u>ÉLJHS Grade 8 Leadership Team</u> <u>Food Bank Drive</u>

Hi everyone! We're here to tell you about our school's annual Food Drive and how you can get involved.

The Food Drive is our chance to give back to our community by collecting non-perishable food items for the 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 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. Severson's Leadership 8/9 classes are hosting our annual FOOD DRIVE:

November 20 - December 18



PLEASE DONATE!

NO STONE LEFT ALONE CEREMONY November 7, 2024

The annual ceremony, which continues a national tradition that started in Edmonton, saw our teacher leader

Mrs. Kosowan and several of our students show their respect in an act of remembrance to those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Lest We Forget



ÉLJHS REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY November 8, 2024

On **Friday, November 8, 2024**, 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.





ÉLJHS Winter Activity Day December 20, 2024

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.

Grade 7 & 8 Students:

- * Leduc Recreation Centre (AM)
- * Leduc Cinemas (PM)

Grade 9 Students:

- ★ 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 13, 2024

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

3:30 PM on December 13, 2024.

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

NO EXCEPTIONS!

STUDENT VERIFICATIONFORMS 2023/2024



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

Please completed this process 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



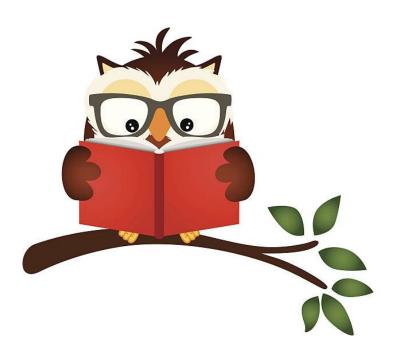
CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS:

Cafe Style Book Talks in ELA

Mrs. Anderson's grade 7 and 9 classes have been talking about books! Students have been reading independently and creating engaging One Pagers to represent the big ideas that came up in their novels.

On November 10th, everyone enjoyed a cafe environment and a sweet treat as they discussed and curated a "read next" list.

See the highlights below.









LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE LLC:

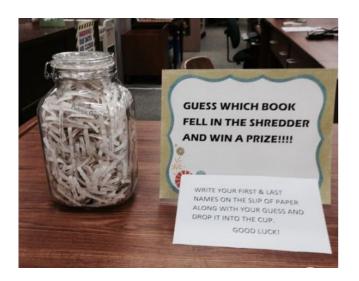


Guess What Book Fell in the Shredder?

The Library Learning Commons held a contest in November to guess what book went into the shredder.

The student that could guess the title of the book from the shreds of paper in a jar, won a candy jar from our Librarian, Mrs. Kern.

See who won below:



Contest Winners:



Alexis Langille- 8G Jade Hayes- 7A Nolan Mulrooney- 7B



Jude Potter- 8E





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.





FLOOR HOCKEYY TEAM NEWS

We are thrilled to announce that our school held round-robin floor hockey games at the end of November to determine a team to compete in a tournament in December. The top floor hockey team from ELJHS will participate in an action-packed game at the Ecole Mother d'Youville School on December 6th! Come out to cheer them on. Go Panthers Go!

* 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

Dates:

- * November 28
- * February 5
- ***** December 12
- ***** February 20
- * January 9
- March 6
- ***** January 23
- * March 20

The permission form for the first trip will be LIVE in the PowerSchool Parent Portal on November 7th @ 9:00 AM

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE!



ÉLJHS SPORT HIGHLIGHTS:



VOLLEYBALL TEAMS \Rightarrow \Rightarrow







GIRLS COACHES:

- Mrs. Wold
- Mme Ostapek

BOYS COACHES:

- Mr. Baulkham
- Mr. Steinke

THANK YOU for all of your support!







Congratulations to our **Senior Girls and Boys** Volleyball Team on their 3rd place finish in the LDAA League **Championships**

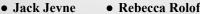


WRESTLING TEAM















COACH:

- Mrs. Fisher
- Ms. Zucca

THANK YOU for all of your support!



• Rebecca Rolof

Congratulations to our ELJHS Wrestling Team on their outstanding performance in the **University of AB Takedown Tournament** on November 16th



BASKETBALL TEAMS 🤝 🤝 🤝







COACHES:

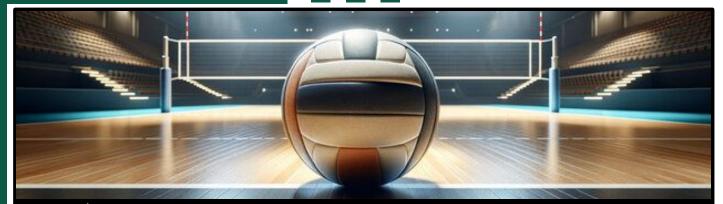
- Lepage (Sr Girls)
- Schenk (Sr Boys)
- May/May (Jr Girls)
- Bradley/Baulkham (Jr Boys)
- TBA (Gr 7 Girls)
- Chomlak/Steinke (Gr 7 Boys)

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 VOLLEYBALL TEAM FUNI





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!

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.

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.

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.

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, ost them on your Instagram story and ask people to vote for their favourite.

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.

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.

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/

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!

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!



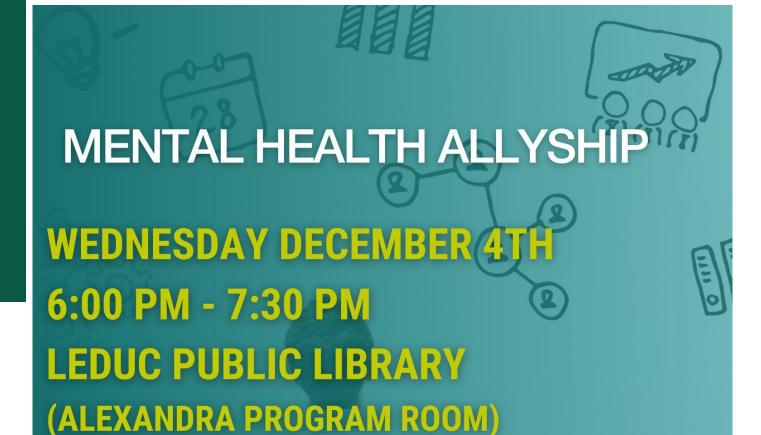




WHAT WE HAVE PLANNED FOR YOU!

The snow might not be on the ground yet, but the holiday season is just around the corner! Come join in our art classes for the month of December. We will be creating everything from snow globes to the north pole and of course some winter wonderland magic! Head on over to our website to sign up! Full list of details are over there for all the age groups! Can't wait to get creating with your kids!

www.missvs.ca 780-707-1373



Mental Health Allyship is for anyone who is interested in learning about how to improve their allyship skills around mental health through examining stigma as it relates to mental health problems, by looking at the distinction and overlap between mental health and mental illness, and by learning about the recovery-oriented approach

Registration required: Please email fcss@leduc.ca by December 1st to register



Christmas Elves and Santa's Helpers

Do you or someone you know need a helping hand from the elves this holiday season? With the help of community donations, Christmas Elves and Santa's Helpers provide food and toys to people in need.

Make a confidential referral through the contacts below.

Calmar and area

Contact 780-985-3604 ext. 233 or mleibel@calmar.ca

Intakes: Nov. 12 to Dec. 6

New Sarepta and area

Contact Lucille at **780-941-2382**Intakes: Nov. 12 to Dec. 13

Thorsby and area

Contact **780-789-4004** or **mleibel@thorsby.ca**

Intakes: Nov. 12 to Dec. 6

Warburg and area

Contact Katlynn at **780-848-2828** or **fcss@warburg.ca**

Intakes: Nov. 12 to Dec. 10

Beaumont/Nisku and area

Contact FCSS at **780-929-1006** or **fcss@beaumont.ab.ca**

Intakes: Nov. 12 to Dec. 12

Devon (gift cards only)

Contact **825-967-0025** or visit

www.devonchristmaselves.com/referrals

Intakes: Nov. 12 to Dec. 6 at noon

Leduc Santa's Helpers (toys only)

Contact **825-995-1008** or visit **www.leducsantashelpers.ca/ hamper-application**

Intakes: Nov. 4 to Dec. 12

Leduc and District Food Bank

Contact Food Bank for food hamper information at **780-986-5333**











Board Highlights

October 30, 2024

Modular Requests

The Board of Trustees approved to submit the request for one (1) new modular classroom to ease enrolment pressures at École Beau Meadow School (ÉBMS). The estimated utilization rate in 2024-25 is 90%, an increase from 86% in 2023-24. The City of Beaumont is one of the fastest growing communities in Alberta and the enrolment at ÉBMS grew by 5.12% in 2024-25. The attendance area for ÉBMS includes neighborhoods, such as Lakeview, that are developing and growing quickly.

The Division is also requesting four (4) new replacement modular classrooms to evergreen the existing modular classrooms from 1982. These modular classrooms are at the end of their service life. If this request is approved, the Board would need to approve the use of capital reserves to replace the link, as links for modular classrooms are not covered by Alberta Education under the Modular Classroom Program.

Exemption to Maximum Limit on Operating Reserves

The Board of Trustees approved the request to submit a letter to the Minister of Education requesting a one year exemption to the maximum limit on operating reserves as of August 31, 2024 in order to carry forward an additional \$1.3 million to the 2024-25 school year to support the budgeted deficit and supplement an approved capital project.

Locally Developed Courses

The Board of Trustees approved the following list of Locally Developed Courses for Division use:

- Treaties and Sovereignty 15
- Métis History and Stories 15
- Indigenous Art and Ceremony 25
- Pathways to Reconciliation 35
- Painting 15-25
- Beading (Elder Chronicles) 15
- Braided Journeys 15-25-35
- Traditional Land-Based Learning 35

Calmar Secondary School Excursion - South West Italy

The Board of Trustees granted Approval in Principle for students and staff from Calmar Secondary School to travel to South West Italy from November 8-15, 2025 (inclusive). While the trip will not take place during curricular time within the school year, it will have a significant curricular link within the high school Social Studies curriculum.



École Champs Vallée School Excursion - Quebec, Ottawa, Montreal

The Board of Trustees granted Approval in Principle for students and staff from École Champs Vallée School to travel to Quebec, Ottawa and Montreal from June 19-25, 2025 (inclusive). This trip provides the opportunity to learn about Canada's political, cultural and historical fabric, expands student's practical use of French language skills and activities are designed to supplement the grade six Social Studies and Science curriculum.



Poppy Presentation

Calmar Legion President, Bob McKerracher, presented Board Chair Eckert with the first poppy for Black Gold School Division. Chair Eckert presented a cheque to the Calmar Legion.

You can read the full story <u>here</u> on the Black Gold School Division website.



Calmar Legion President McKerracher & Board Chair Eckert

myBlueprint Presentation

Division Principal, Chris Stiles and School Counselors Laura Newell and Kristi Nelson shared a presentation about myBlueprint, the upcoming Career Fair and Off Campus Education.

myBlueprint is an engaging online education and career/life planning tool that grades 7-12 students need to make the most informed decisions about their future. It includes many beneficial resources to support youth as they progress through their education.

More information about myBlueprint can be found <u>here</u> on the Black Gold School Division website.



Student Artwork Presentation

Each spring, the Board of Trustees purchases artwork from Black Gold students to add to their collection.

This past spring, the Board purchased artwork from Julie Dakin, Mariah Villa and Sofia Bariak. Board Chair Eckert presented each of the students with a cheque for the purchase and commended them on their talents. Mark Templeton, Fine Arts Teacher, Ohpaho Secondary School, accepted the cheque on behalf of Sofia.

You can read more about the students and their works here on the Black Gold School Division website.



Maria Villa & Board Chair Eckert



Julie Dakin & Board Chair Eckert



Mark Templeton on behalf of Sofia Bariak & Board Chair Eckert

Monthly Calendar		Teacher Stude	Dates & Details
AUGUST 2024 4 5 6 7 11 12 13 14 18 19 20 21 25 26 27 26	1 2 3 7 8 9 10 4 15 16 17 22 23 24	5 3	August 26 & 27 - Teacher Workdays (No Students) August 28 - School Commences for ALL Grades 1 - 12 Students
SUN MON TUES WEE EPTEMBER 1 3 4 2024 8 9 10 11 15 16 17 18 22 23 24 28 29 20 20	5 6 7 12 13 14 19 20 21	19 18	September 2 - Labour Day (Schools Closed) September 20 - PD Day: (No Students): (AM) Welcome Back & LSA Ceremony (To follow) PD Day September 30 - National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (Schools Closed)
SUN MON TUES WEE 2024 6 7 8 9 13 44 15 16 20 21 22 23 27 28 29 30	3 4 5 9 10 11 12 6 17 18 19 8 24 25 26	22 21	October 11 - PD Day (No Students) October 14 - Thanksgiving Day (Schools Closed) Diploma Exam
OVEMBER 2024 3 4 5 6 10 17 18 19 20 24 25 26 27	1 2 7 8 9 8 4 5 16 0 21 22 23 7 28 29 30	16 15	November 12 - 15 - Midterm Break (Schools Closed) Diploma Exam
SUN MON UES WED	5 6 7 12 13 14 8 19 20 21 1 26 2 28	15 14	
2025 5 6 7 8 12 13 14 15 19 20 27 28 28	9 10 11 16 17 18 2 23 24 25 30 31	20 19	January 30 - Semester 2 Commences Diploma Exam & Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT) Diploma Exam
Semester 1: Aug. 28, 2024 - SUN MON TUES WEE SUN MON TUES WEE 2025 2 3 4 5 9 10 11 11 11 16	THUR FRI SAT 1 6 6 7 8 2 13 14 15 2 20 21 22	95 88 19 17	February 6 & 7- ATA Teachers' Convention (No Students) February 17 - Family Day (Schools Closed)
MARCH 2025 2 3 4 5 9 100 111 112 116 17 18 19 23 24 25 26 30	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	20 19	March 9 - Daylight Savings Time (clocks forward) March 10 - PD Day (No Students) March 31 - Spring Break (Schools Closed)
APRIL 2025 6 7 8 9 13 14 15 16 20 22 23 27 28 29 30	5 9 10 11 12 6 17 19 19 8 24 25 26	16 15	April 21 - Easter Monday (Schoools Closed) April 22 - PD Day (No Students) Diploma Exam
SUN MON TUES WEE 2025	1 2 3 7 8 9 10 1 15 16 17 22 23 24 29 30 31	21 20	
JUNE 1 2 3 4 2025 8 9 10 15 16 17 12 22 23 24 929 29 30 Semester 2: January 30 - J	5 6 7 12 13 14 8 19 20 21 5 26 27 28	20 18	Diploma Exam Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT) Diploma Exam & Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT)
OTAL = Operational Days-Teachers / Students		97 91 193 17	26 Nace Microsoft integral integral integral interpretability and the integral displaced Microsoft Microsoft Anthropy

Updated Diploma Exams & PATs - April 12, 2024

Approved - February 22, 2023