



New Myrnam School

Striving for Excellence

5105 - 50 Street Box 160 Myrnam, AB T0B 3K0 Phone: (780) 366-3801 Cell: (780) 646-3800



MYRNAM OUTREACH & HOMESCHOOL CENTRE

PROMOTING CHOICE IN EDUCATION

Box 160 Myrnam, Alberta T0B 3K0 Phone: 780-366-3801 Fax: 780-366-2332

February

Important Dates

February

- 2 - Groundhog Day
- 2 - PLC Day (No School)
- 12/13 - Senior high curling zones in Lloydminster (hosted by Kitscoty)
- 14 - Mukluk
- 14 - Early dismissal @ 2:00 p.m.
- 15 - 16 - Teachers' Convention
- 19 - Family Day (No School)
- 28 - Pink Shirt Day

23 - Kinosoo Ridge Ski Trip for Grade 4-12 students

March

- 1 - PLC Day (No School)
- 22 - Elementary Report Cards Go Home
- 25-29 - Spring Break (No School)
- 29 - Stille Freitag (Good Friday)

Stay up to date

with information:

Website:

www.newmyrnamschool.ca

 Facebook:

New Myrnam School SPERD

 Instagram:

newmyrnam



Principal's Message



Danielle Eriksen

Principal
New Myrnam School

Happy start of semester 2! I have always felt fortunate to work in a school. We seem to get a lot of fresh start moments. September 1 is a start to a new school year when we get the opportunity to dream bigger than the year before. January 1 can work into setting new goals for personal and professional lives with the rest of the world. And just when I'm starting to forget about those goals, February hits and it's the start of a new semester with new schedules and new students in my classes. I

hope students take advantage of the fresh start and re-examine their goals for the year. If their goals revolve around school achievement, the staff of NMS and MOHC are ready to help them succeed.

If you have not checked out the new school website at newmyrnamschool.ca, please do so and check in regularly. We are updating the calendar and blog posts weekly with information about what is going on in the school. We released two videos in January as blog posts. The first was created as a result of our Emerald Award win last June. Hoopla media and members of the Emerald Foundation team came out and interviewed staff and students and put together a really nice snapshot of what happens at the school. Last fall Mr. T had been contacted by the AMA who had heard about what was happening at the school with the project based learning. As a part of their video series, This is AMA, they wanted to highlight Mr. T (as an AMA member) and the work he and the students are doing at the school. They came to interview students and staff last fall as well. The video was fun and light and is well worth the 5 minutes. Both videos can be found on our website in the blog posts link on the homepage or via the links provided in the digital newsletter.

The Alberta Education Assurance survey random access codes have been mailed out to parents from Alberta Education. Every year, Alberta Education surveys students, their parents and all teachers on behalf of schools and school authorities to assess what is working well and where there is room for improvement. NMS and MOHC students and their parents from grade 4-12 will be asked about their thoughts, feelings and experiences in school. The survey is open until March 1, 2024. These surveys are completely anonymous. The only identifying information on the random access code is whether it is a student, parent, or teacher completing the survey. It takes very little time and provides the school and St. Paul Education's central office with important information. Thank you for taking the survey and providing your anonymous feedback. If you have any questions regarding the survey, please give me a call at the school.

Concession Menu

Grilled Cheese (with Vegetables or Pickle) \$2.50
Crackers, Cheese, Sausage and Pickle Plate \$3.00

Mini Sub (Pizza or Hoagie) \$3.50

Pizza Pop \$1.00

Taco in a Bag \$6.00

Mr. Noodle (Chicken/Beef/Spicy) \$2.00

Hot and Spicy Noodle Bowl \$3.00

Boiled Egg \$0.50

Water \$2.00

Juice Box \$1.00

Gatorade/Powerade \$2.50

Iced Tea \$2.50

Sparkling Ice Drink \$2.50

Italian Ice \$2.00

Veggie Straws \$1.00

White Cheddar Popcorn \$2.00

Assorted Trail Mix \$2.00

Almonds \$2.00

Breadsticks & Nutella \$2.00

Ritz \$1.00

Made Good Cookies \$0.75

Twizzlers \$3.00

Corn Nuts \$2.00

Gum \$1.00

Thank You!

NMS would like to say thank you to the members of the Two Hills Farmer's Golf Committee who donated \$1000 towards our nutrition program. Our nutrition program feeds all students a healthy breakfast, snacks during exam week, and free hot lunches periodically through the year. The golf tournament is the second weekend of June each summer.



Gr 1/2 - Learning About Fractions and Coding



The grade one and two class began learning about fractions in math. The students learned that fractions are parts of a whole unit, and those parts must be exactly the same size. To practice this concept in a fun way, they got to make the fraction $\frac{1}{2}$ with play-doh! First, each group got some play-doh to roll out and cut into various shapes with cookie cutters. Then, they used plastic knives to attempt to cut each shape into two equal-sized pieces. The students soon discovered that there were some shapes that couldn't be divided evenly, and some shapes could only be divided in half if they were cut in the right direction. Plus, it was a bit tricky to get the two halves exactly the same, so some students tried testing their halves by putting the two pieces together like a sandwich to see how close they were!

In science, our class is learning about energy and movement, the way objects move, and how to make them move. Students are beginning to learn simple coding, by creating coding strings, fixing coding errors, and making loops and functions in their codes. We are using a coding game website on our ipads, and we are learning to code with robotic toys that we have to program to move the way we want. Students are learning to think about where they want their robot to go, and how it needs to move in order to get there. When they test it out, their robot might not go where they had intended, so they quickly find out how to change their code to get their robot to move to the right location. Oh, what fun coding can be!



Barons Athletics - Basketball



Barons Athletics - Curling

The senior high and junior high mixed curling teams competed in their respective SPAA competitions the week of January 29 at the St. Paul Curling Club. The junior high mixed team was composed of lead; Briggs Matthews, second; Faith Cribb-Martinez, third; Mason Phillips, and skip; Harper Matthews. They did not walk away with any wins under their belts, but they learned so much and grew as curlers.

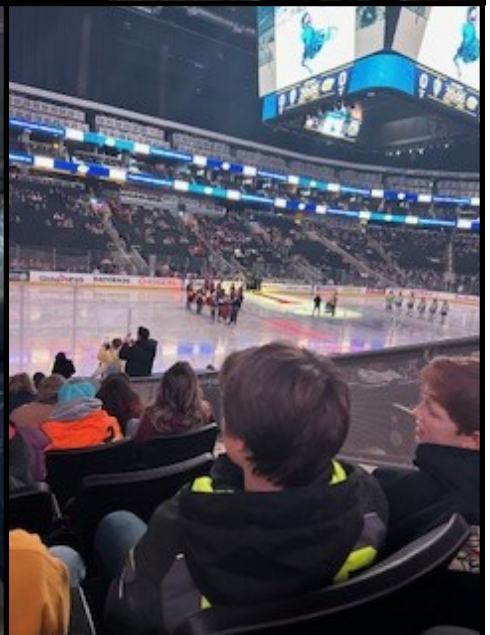
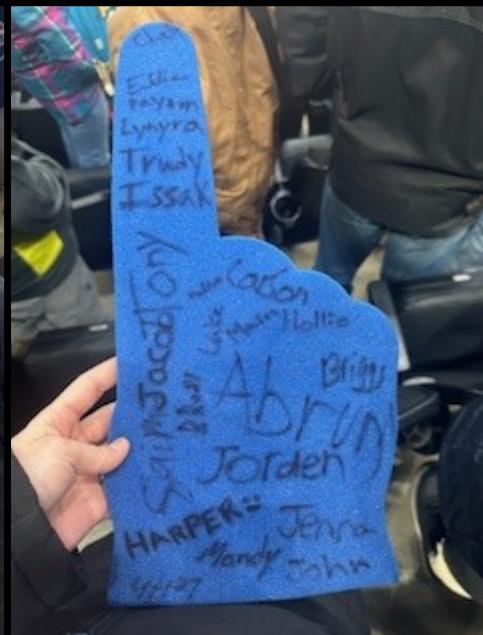
The senior high mixed team is composed of lead; Trystn Sakowsky, second; Cassie O'Reilly, third; Noah Jacula, skip; Caitlin Clyke, and alternate; RaeBecca Pashulka. The team had an extremely successful first half of the competition overcoming tough teams from Two Hills and St. Paul Regional High School. In the end, they met up against Regional for a final game and lost earning second place. This solidified a spot at zones February 13 and 14 in Lloydminster. Good luck!

A huge shout out has to go to the community volunteers who committed practice time and committed to being at competitions with these teams. Jessica Clyke and Rick Mackenzie have coached the junior high and senior high teams, respectively. They provided skilled expertise in rock delivery, game strategy, sweeping and the rules of the game. These teams learned a lot and grew over the course of the competition. Thank you for your dedication to the junior program at the Myrnam Curling Rink and thank you for taking our teams under your wings.





Oil Kings Game



Save the Date

Date, Time

Monday, April 15

9 - 10:30 am



Announcements



Now that the winter weather is upon us, it's time to remember to dress warmly for recess and for the ride into school on the bus. Dress in a jacket, snow pants, a toque, gloves or mittens, and boots to stay nice and warm.

REMINDER! There is a School Council meeting at 5:30 p.m. on February 21

If you cannot attend in-person there is a link to join remotely

<https://meet.google.com/vhm-zhik-uqw>

NMS is so grateful to be supported by incredible community members who have reached out to support the school financially. Whether it is our nutrition program or project based programming, we are appreciative of the support. For information on charitable donations to St. Paul Education schools, please see the St. Paul Education website.
<https://www.stpauleducation.ab.ca/about-us/charitable-donations>

I AM IN
CHARGE
OF HOW I
FEEL AND
TODAY I AM
CHOOSING
HAPPINESS.



On the second Friday of each month the Village of Myrnam will host a community movie night in the school gymnasium. Doors will open at 6:00 and the movie will start at 7:00.

Concession provided by different groups each month

Career Counsellor Dates

February - 6, 14, 23, 29



Rumor has it that GREMLINS 3 may be coming out in theatres soon.

**Have you seen the first GREMLINS movie?
Here's your chance!**



**Everyone is welcome
to our monthly community free movie night!**

**February 9, 2024
New Myrnam School Gym**

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Movie starts at 7p.m.

**Hosting Organization: To be determined
Movie: Sponsored by ATCO**

Alberta Education Assurance Survey

Information for parents and guardians

About the survey

Every year, Alberta Education surveys students, their parents and all teachers on behalf of schools and school authorities to assess what is working well and where there is room for improvement. The survey asks students in grades 4, 7 and 10, and their parents, about their thoughts, feelings and experiences in school. The survey will be administered between January and March 2024. In some schools, all students in grades 4 and above and their parents will be surveyed.

Participants will be asked questions on a variety of topics, such as welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments; student learning engagement; and parental involvement. The survey does not ask for names and cannot be used to identify individual participants.



Why is the survey needed?

Alberta's Assurance Framework requires school authorities across the province to report their performance according to a number of different measures that provide key information about how the education system is doing. A provincial survey allows all school authorities to be measured on the same things at the same time.

Participation in the survey is voluntary:

- All participants may opt out of taking the survey at any time with no repercussions and/or skip any questions they do not wish to answer.
- All responses are anonymous. The survey does not collect personally identifiable information and Random Access Codes will be used to group responses by survey type, school and authority.
- Only grouped data where there are more than six responses are reported.
- All data collected will be managed in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.
- If you have any questions regarding the survey or your child's participation, please contact your child's school directly.



How will I take the survey?

- Parents or guardians are issued a single-use Random Access Code mailed through Canada Post to complete the survey online.
- The code must be used to access the survey and helps Alberta Education group your response as being from a parent/guardian. It **is not** used to identify individuals.
- Monitor your Canada Post mailbox starting late-January 2024 for the survey invitation package from Alberta Education.
- Parents or guardians with more than one student in an eligible grade will receive a separate survey invitation package for each child.
- Paper copies of the survey can also be requested through your school principal once the survey opens.



How will students take the survey?

- Students complete the survey at school.
- Before the survey begins, your child's teacher or school staff will explain to the students that the survey is not a test – there are no right or wrong answers. They will also explain that there are no repercussions for opting out of participating and that they may skip questions they do not wish to answer.
- Responses are submitted anonymously. Random Access Codes will be used to group responses by survey type, grade, school and school authority only.

Details about the assurance measures and how to obtain results are available online at www.alberta.ca/alberta-education-assurance-survey

If you have questions or concerns about the survey, please contact your school principal.

Provincial Achievement Test Schedule

Grade 6 and 9 Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT's) are scheduled for May and June 2024. PAT's are required to be written by grade 6 and 9 students and are written in person at the school. There is more information from Alberta Education about the grade 6 and grade 9 PAT's in the QR Codes. Exam dates are provided for each grade below.



Grade 6
QR Code

Grade 9
QR Code



<u>Grade 6</u>	
May 15	ELA & Literature Part A
June 12	ELA & Literature Part B
June 13	Math Part A
June 19	Social Studies
June 20	Math Part B
<u>Grade 9</u>	
May 13	ELA & Literature Part A
June 12	ELA & Literature Part B
June 13	Math Part A
June 18	Math Part B
June 19	Social Studies
June 20	Science

Links Page

St Paul Education Charitable Donations

<https://www.stpauleducation.ab.ca/about-us/charitable-donations>

New Myrnam School Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/newmyrnamschoolsperd?fref=nf>

Power School

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

Our Project Videos/Articles

<https://www.newmyrnamschool.ca/project-s-videos>

School Cash Online

<https://sperd.schoolcashonline.com/>



WE ALL BELONG IN St. Paul Education!

All students, staff and parents encourage, value, and support one another to create a safe and caring school community where no one is excluded for any reason.

Be Kind to everyone!

Please speak to an administrator, teacher, Family School Liaison Worker or other staff member for support of any kind.





WE NEED YOUR HELP FINDING BUS DRIVERS!



Dear Parents,

We're on the lookout for new bus drivers, and we need your help!

Finding regular and casual school bus drivers is proving to be quite challenging. So, we are turning to our parent community to help us navigate our recruitment journey.

Why become a bus driver? Well, besides being the captain of the coolest ride in town, here are a few perks:

- Work just a few hours a day
- No evenings and weekends
- Same holidays as students
- Preschoolers can ride with you
- Paid training and safety courses
- Health Benefit Spending Account
(dependent on eligibility)

If you know someone with a passion for safety and a knack for keeping the good vibes rolling, please encourage them to apply. It could be a neighbor, a friend, or even yourself – no prior bus-driving experience required, just a willingness to embrace the adventure!

To express interest or learn more, please contact our transportation department at 780-645-3323.



EXTREME WEATHER

Is my child's bus running? Coming home early?

Throughout the winter, weather and road conditions are constantly monitored with the safety of students and staff at the center of all of our decisions. We strive to inform parents of any delays or cancellations as quickly as possible. Here's how you may be notified:

- Bus driver contact
- Call/text from your school
- Local radio stations
- Bus Status app
- Division social media (Facebook and Instagram)
- Division website
<https://www.stpauleducation.ab.ca/transportation/bus-status>



How we decide:

When temperatures and/or wind chill is -40 or colder, buses are CANCELLED. Notice may be given the night before or in the morning.

-40°C



Buses may run in the afternoon during extreme cold weather under certain circumstances.



Weather checks start very early with The Weather Network and phone calls to designated staff living in each local area.

Even if buses are cancelled schools remain **OPEN**.

- If your child attends: meaningful learning still occurs
- If your child is absent: efforts will be made to ensure they do not fall behind



Decision is based on:

- Local road conditions
- RCMP travel advisories
- Weather and wind warnings
- Local municipality

Your bus driver also has complete discretion to cancel a route should they feel travel is unsafe.



If a decision is required around temperature and/or road conditions, the Director of Transportation consults with:

- Local bus drivers
- School principals
- Superintendent of Schools



Parents always have the final say about their child's safety and well-being and can always choose whether or not to have their child take the bus.



The Nations of Saddle Lake, Whitefish Lake and Frog Lake make independent decisions about their buses. Please contact them directly for any questions regarding their transportation policies.

HOW SICK IS TOO SICK FOR SCHOOL?



SEND TO SCHOOL

- A runny nose or just a little cough but no other symptoms.
- Sore throat but no other symptoms.
- No fever in the past 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine.
- No vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours.



KEEP AT HOME

- Fever higher than 100.4 degrees F (38 degrees C).
- Sore throat, with other symptoms such as a persistent cough.
- Vomiting or diarrhea in the past 24 hours.
- Eyes are pink and crusty.
- Has been exposed to an illness where isolation is recommended.





SchoolMessenger Mass Notifications System

Information for Parents

What is SchoolMessenger?

SchoolMessenger is a mass notification system used to deliver information to families. These mass notifications are referred to as 'Broadcasts' due to SchoolMessenger's capability to simultaneously send messages to a vast number of destinations. Available broadcast destinations include phone, email, and SMS text.

Message recipients' contact data for parents comes from the PowerSchool Student Information System (SIS) database. This data is updated every evening so that any changes to phone numbers, emails and contact preferences will be current on every broadcast.

During phase one of implementation, the Division will begin using SchoolMessenger to communicate information to parents and guardians about safety alerts and school closures. Schools may also use this tool to share newsletters and information about special events and activities. Phase two, which includes activating the attendance reporting feature 'Safe Arrival', is expected to begin in early 2024.

Phone Messages



- Phone calls will be reserved for emergencies such as safety alerts or early dismissal due to inclement weather.
- Phone calls will be sent as an automated message (computerized or human voice) and will come from the school phone number.
- In addition to a phone call, text and email messages will also be sent in emergency situations.

Email Messages



- School newsletters and information about fundraising, hot lunch programs and other school activities will be shared via email.

Text Messages



- In addition to being used for emergencies, your school may also use text messages to communicate important information regarding sports and other after-school activities, field trip delays, etc.
- Under federal law originally designed to protect consumers from telemarketers, we have to get your permission to send messages to a mobile phone by SMS text. It is also just a good idea so that we're sure that message is going to the right phone number for the right person. Therefore, to receive texts you will need to opt-in.
- On **October 18, 2023** an opt-in invitation text to participate in this free service* will be sent to mobile phone numbers of all primary contacts uploaded from our Student Information System (SIS). Recipients have to reply 'Y' or 'Yes' to the invitation text message to 'opt-in'.

Additional Information

- Existing school-to-home communication tools currently used by classroom teachers (e.g. Seesaw, ClassDojo) may still be utilized.
- Schools will have flexibility in how they use SchoolMessenger. Stay tuned to your schools website and social media to learn more about how this new tool will be used at your child's school.
- All messages can also be viewed on the SchoolMessenger app. Parents are not required to download the app at this time, however, the Division will be asking all families to download the app when we move forward with the SchoolMessenger attendance reporting feature 'Safe Arrival'.
- Parents have the option to request that additional contacts, such as a child care provider, receive text and email messages from their child's school. Please call the school to make this request or if you have any questions about SchoolMessenger.



- If you did not receive the invitation text message or want to ensure you are registered, you can simply send a text message as follows:

To Opt-In: Text 'Y' or 'Yes' to our short code number (978338)

**Standard Message and Data rates apply*

- You can also opt out of these messages any time by simply replying to one of our messages with '**Stop**'.



BUS STATUS

A product of  rally



St. Paul Education is pleased to offer a new bus notification system commencing in the 2023-24 school year!

Download the Bus Status 4 App and choose your preferences to stay updated.



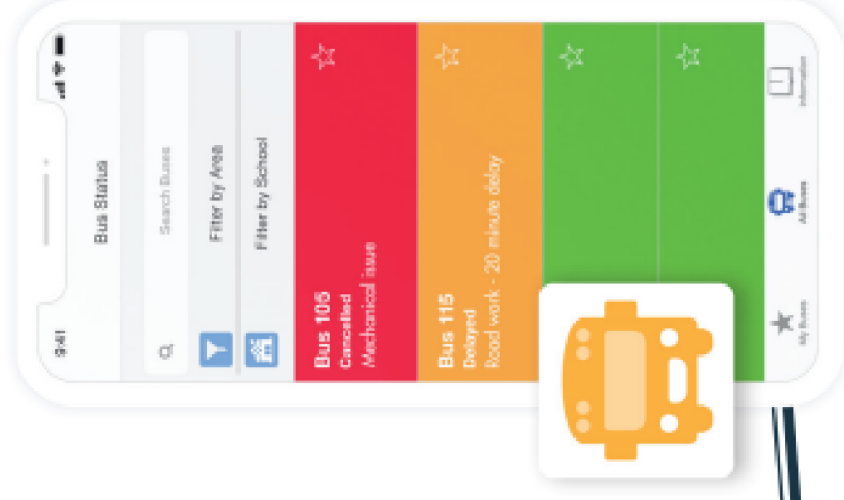
ios (Apple)



Android

Access the full instructional document at <https://bit.ly/47Aakkg>.

Please note that the Bus Status App is replacing the Alertus App used in the past.



St. Paul Education Learning Calendar 2023-2024

August 2023							September 2023							October 2023							November 2023						
M	T	W	T	F			M	T	W	T	F			M	T	W	T	F			M	T	W	T	F		
1	2	3	4				1							2	3	4	5	6			6	7	8	9	10		
7	8	9	10	11			4	5	6	7	8			9	10	11	12	13			13	14	15	16	17		
14	15	16	17	18			11	12	13	14	15			16	17	18	19	20			20	21	22	23	24		
21	22	23	24	25			18	19	20	21	22			23	24	25	26	27			27	28	29	30			
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29			30	31												

December 2023							January 2024							February 2024							March 2024						
M	T	W	T	F			M	T	W	T	F			M	T	W	T	F			M	T	W	T	F		
					1		1	2	3	4	5			1	2						4	5	6	7	8		
4	5	6	7	8			8	9	10	11	12			5	6	7	8	9			11	12	13	14	15		
11	12	13	14	15			15	16	17	18	19			12	13	14	15	16			18	19	20	21	22		
18	19	20	21	22			22	23	24	25	26			19	20	21	22	23			25	26	27	28	29		
25	26	27	28	29			29	30	31					26	27	28	29										

April 2024							May 2024							June 2024						
M	T	W	T	F			M	T	W	T	F			M	T	W	T	F		
					1		1	2	3	4	5			3	4	5	6	7		
4	5	6	7	8			8	9	10	11	12			10	11	12	13	14		
11	12	13	14	15			15	16	17	18	19			17	18	19	20	21		
18	19	20	21	22			22	23	24	25	26			20	21	22	23	24		
25	26	27	28	29			29	30	31					27	28	29	30	31		

LEGEND						
Instructional Day						
PLC Day						
Schools Closed						
Early Dismissal 2 pm						

Days of School Operation			
	Instructional	Staff Only	
August	0	3	
September	19	1	
October	20	1	
November	19	1	
December	15	1	
January	17	0	
Semester 1	90	7	
January	1	0	
February	17	3	
March	15	1	
April	20	1	
May	20	1	
June	17	2	
Semester 2	90	8	

Total Instructional Days	180
Total Non-Instructional Days	15
Total Operational Days	195

First Day of Classes:	September 5
First Day of Second Semester:	January 31
Last Day of Classes:	June 26

Instructional Hours			
	Days	Min./Day	Hr./Year
Elem./Jr High	180	317	950
High School	180	333	1000

Important Dates	
August 29, 30, 31	PLC Days
August 31 (a.m.)	Catholic Education Formation
September 1	PLC Day/Division Day
September 4	Labour Day
September 5	First day of school
September 30	Truth & Reconciliation Day
October 6	PLC Day
October 9	Thanksgiving
November 9	PLC Day
November 10	Schools Closed
November 13	Remembrance Day (Nov 11)
December 8	PLC Day
Dec 25 - Jan 5	Christmas Break
January 31	First day of second semester
February 2	PLC Day
February 2 (a.m.)	Catholic Education Formation
February 14	Early dismissal - 2 pm
February 15 & 16	Teachers' Convention
February 19	Family Day
March 1	PLC Day
March 25 - 29	Spring Break
March 29	Good Friday
April 1	Easter Monday
April 19	PLC Day
May 16	PLC Day
May 17	Schools Closed
May 20	Victoria Day
June 14	PLC Day
June 21	National Indigenous Peoples Day
June 26	Last day of classes
June 27	PLC Day

Calendar Approved: February 8, 2023

Approved School Holidays						
Labour Day	Sept 4					
Family Day	Feb 19					
Thanksgiving Day	Oct 9					
Spring Break	March 25-29					
Remembrance Day	Nov 13					
Good Friday/Easter Monday	Mar 29 & Apr 1					
Christmas Vacation	Dec 25-Jan 5					
Victoria Day	May 20					

Professional Learning Community - PLC days provide opportunities for staff to work together on topics such as: school opening and closing, professional learning, sharing best practices, assessment, and supports for students.

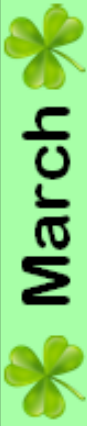
Catholic Education Formation (CEF) - August 31 and February 2, mornings

Diploma Exam Schedule 2023-24 - October 26, 27, 30, 31 November 2, 3, 6-8 January 10-12, 19, 22-26, 29, 30 April 4, 5, 8-12, 15, 16 June 11-14, 17-20, 24-26

Provincial Achievement Test Schedule 2023-2024 - In draft format as per Alberta Education

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Day 2	2 PLC Day (No School)	3
4	5 Day 3 (K Day)	6 Day 4	7 Day 5 (K Day)	8 Day 6	9 Day 1 (K Day)	10
11	12 Day 2	13 Day 3 (K Day)	14 Valentine's Day Mukluk Early Dismissal 2 pm Day 4	15 Teachers' Convention (No School)	16 Teachers' Convention (No School)	17
18	19 Family Day (No School)	20 Day 5 (K Day)	21 Day 6	22 Day 1 (K Day)	23 Kinosoo Ridge Ski Trip Day 2	24
25	26 Day 3 (K Day)	27 Day 4	28 Pink Shirt Day Day 5 (K Day)	29 Day 6		



March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 PLC Day (No School)	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Day 1 (K Day)	Day 2	Day 3 (K Day)	Day 4	Day 5 (K Day)	16
10	11	12	13	14	15	
	Day 6	Day 1 (K Day)	Day 2	Day 3 (K Day)	Day 4	23
17	18	19	20	21	22 Elementary Report Cards go Home	
	Day 5 (K Day)	Day 6	Day 1 (K Day)	Day 2	Day 3 (K Day)	30
24	25	26	27	28	29	
Spring Break! See you April 3rd!						
31						