



# New Myrnam School and Myrnam Outreach & Homeschool Centre



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

## Upcoming Events

### March

- 7 - National Day of Unplugging
- 10- PLC Day (No School)
- 11 - 15 - Substitute Teacher Appreciation Week
- 19 - Jump Rope for Heart
- 20 - Mennonite Hot Lunch
- 21 - NMS/MOHC Science Fair
- 21 - Elementary Report Cards Go Home
- 24 - 28 - Spring Break

### April

- 12 - Regional Science Fair at Portage College
- 16 - Report cards go home
- 18 - Good Friday (Stille Freitag)
- 20 - 22 - Ostern (Easter)
- 21 - Easter Monday
- 22 - Earth Day
- 22 - Administrative Professionals Day
- 24 - Spring Showcase
- 30 - Try a Trade in Lloydminster




## March



Stay up to date  
with information:

Website:  
[www.newmyrnamschool.ca](http://www.newmyrnamschool.ca)

 Facebook:  
New Myrnam School SPERD

 Instagram:  
newmyrnam



# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Each principal message in the newsletter throughout the 2024-2025 school year has thus far focused on a different aspect of the school's Education Plan. You can find it on our website under quicklinks at the top of the page and here <https://shorturl.at/rSRZJ>. NMS teachers worked collaboratively in the spring of 2024 to create the goals and strategies which became the focus of our professional development time together and guided decisions on how to spend funds. It created the guiding principles we used in all other discussions. If an initiative did not foster a healthy learning environment, improve literacy or numeracy capacity, build cultural awareness, or prepare students to be 21st century learners and prepare them for the workforce, we didn't implement it. This year, I am excited to begin the process of creating our Education Plan goals and strategies with our support staff included. We should get an even better product out of the collaboration with more voices at the table.

As we enter into March and begin preparing for the 2025/2026 school year, I have taken the time to reflect on our Education Plan goals from this year; What went well? What initiatives should we continue? What initiatives should be scrapped? Which ones are okay, but could be great with some adjustments? What data can we collect to give us a sense that we are on the right track? We did some reflection in the January newsletter. You can see this quick reflection on our website at

<https://www.newmyrnamschool.ca/home/news/post/education-plan-midyear-check-in>.  
How did our actions as a school land with the rest of our school community?

This is where you come in, dear reader! Parents with a student in grades 4-12 at NMS and MOHC will receive a letter from the school about the Alberta Education Assurance (AEA) survey. This is administered by Alberta Education through the school. The survey is available online from February 18 - March 21. If you have a student in the grades being surveyed, your letter will include information about how to access the AEA online survey and a random access code. There is a parent information sheet later in this newsletter as well. Please complete the survey on time. The data we collect from multiple sources including the AEA are used when reporting on our school's success in the Annual Education Results Report (AERR) also found on our website under the quicklinks tab <https://www.newmyrnamschool.ca/download/489086>. This survey data is analyzed by admin and then staff. We then look at what are areas we need to improve on and what strategies can be implemented.

It is important to note that completion of the survey is voluntary including for any individual questions in the survey. The school does not track which parents have completed the survey. The data collected is very important. Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. Call the school if you have any questions.



# Dear parents/guardians:

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing a world-class education for Alberta's children, Alberta Education will again be conducting our annual survey of grades 4, 7 and 10 students and their parents or guardians. The survey will gather important information about students' and parents' school experiences and will help to inform continuous improvement in our education system.

The survey will also be sent to all teachers in the province. In some schools, all students in grades 4 and above – and their parents or guardians – will be surveyed.



## Your input supports improvements in our education system

This year's survey will take place from February to March 2025, and we strongly encourage all eligible parents or guardians to participate and share your feedback on your child's or children's education.

Survey participants will be asked questions on a variety of topics, including:

- welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments;
- student learning engagement; and
- parental involvement in their children's education.

Survey participants are not required to provide their names or personal details, and all survey responses are confidential.

By completing the survey, you are helping both Alberta Education and your local school authority identify areas of strength and areas for improvement. When the results are in, Alberta sends them to school authorities, who in turn share them with their local school community and use them to inform their annual education plans.



## Surveys will be provided by your school

Completing the annual education survey is easy. Your principal or school administrator will provide you with a unique, single-use access code on behalf of Alberta Education that you can use to log in and complete the survey online confidentially.

- Parents or guardians with more than one student in an eligible grade will receive a separate random access code for each child.
- Paper copies of the survey can also be requested once the survey opens.
- Participants can skip questions for any reason and may opt out of the survey at any point.



## Students fill out their surveys at school

Students are surveyed during the same time period as their parents or guardians, but they typically fill out their surveys at school.

- Like their parents or guardians, students are provided with a random access code to log in and complete the survey confidentially.
- Students can skip questions for any reason and may opt out of the survey at any point.

Additional details about Alberta Education's quality assurance measures and framework for monitoring performance in the education system are available at

[www.alberta.ca/alberta-education-assurance-survey](http://www.alberta.ca/alberta-education-assurance-survey)

Please contact your school principal if you have any questions or concerns about your child's participation in the survey.



# FASPA



**THANK YOU TO  
EVERYONE WHO JOINED  
US FOR OUR SECOND  
FASPA!  
WE HAD A WONDERFUL  
TIME SHARING SNACKS  
AND STORIES!**







## WHO'S READY FOR SOME JUMP ROPE!!

On Mar 19, 2025 Our school will participate in Jump Rope for Heart. We will be having an afternoon in the gym full of movement, fun, and door prizes! Moving our bodies and enjoying a healthy afternoon snack will be our #1 goal.

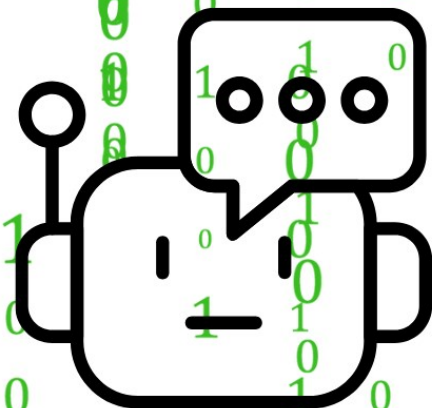
*If you are able to bring \$2 to put towards a donation to the Heart and Stroke Foundation that would be greatly appreciated. Any parents or grandparents willing to come and help out for the afternoon would be incredibly beneficial.*

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at the school 780-366-3801 😊

**Mrs. Matthews**

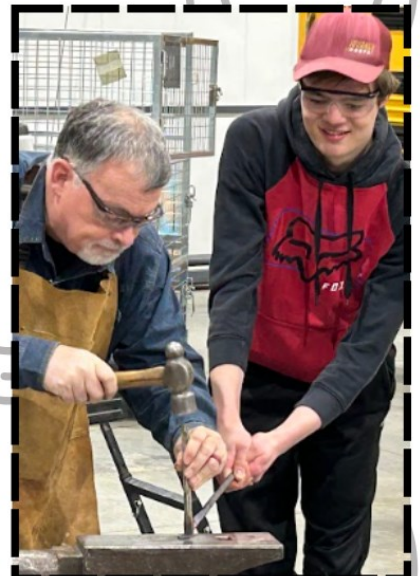
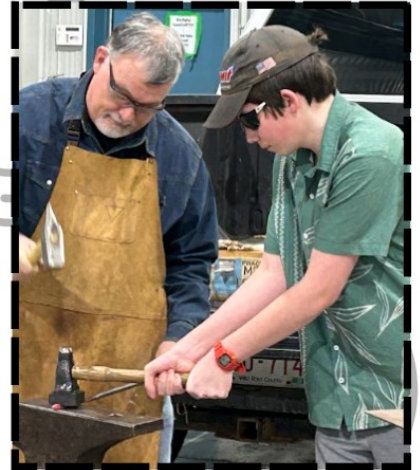


# Grade 1-2 Coding with Mrs. Gratton





Thank you to Mr. Jones for visiting our school and showing us Blacksmithing. It was really amazing how he could turn a rebar into a leaf keychain!

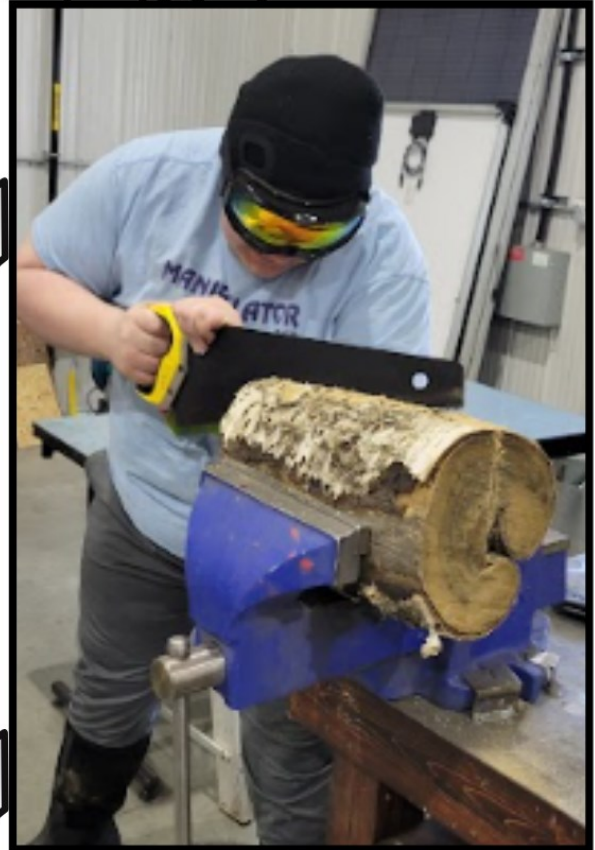






Helping a classmate retrieve a stuck item

Sawing with eye protection!



Helping get the tractor unstuck





LET'S GO RURAL!



How Do I Get There?

# ALBERTA PHARMACY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

This free interactive Zoom session is available to rural Alberta high school students, parents, and teachers.

**MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025**  
**6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

Join us to learn more about a career as a pharmacist after high school. In this session, ask questions and engage in conversation around education pathways with representatives from the Alberta Pharmacy Students Association. Hear firsthand experiences that will inspire you to take the next step towards your dream career.



Scan to register.



**RhPAP.ca** | [info@rhpap.ca](mailto:info@rhpap.ca)

This free interactive Zoom session is available only to rural Alberta high school students  
\*Financial contribution for RhPAP has been provided through Alberta Health



The Alberta SPCA

# T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

Use your creativity to design original artwork that highlights how you have learned from or been inspired by an animal. Three winning designs will be selected and printed on t-shirts that will be made available to purchase! Proceeds from t-shirts will go towards helping animals across Alberta. Entries will be reviewed by a panel of Alberta artists. Visit our website to read the artist bios.

## ALBERTA ARTIST PANEL



MACHA ABDALLAH



GLORIA HO



AIMEE MOVOLD

WIN A T-SHIRT WITH YOUR DESIGN ON IT!



### Judging Criteria:

- Creativity and originality
- Connection to theme
- Suitability for a t-shirt
- Quality of design appropriate to grade level of student

### Eligibility:

- Alberta student (K-12)
- Submission must be by a teacher or parent/guardian

Deadline to enter: April 15, 2025

Full contest details including information on how to enter can be found at:

[everylivingthing.ca/TSHIRTCONTEST](http://everylivingthing.ca/TSHIRTCONTEST)



## Welcome to Lunchbox!

We are pleased to share that Lunchbox will be offered at your school for this upcoming year.

Your ordering calendar is open and will include the following options:

### Delivery Day Featured Restaurants

Tuesday Boston Pizza

- The ordering deadline for the first scheduled lunch delivery is: **Sunday, January 12, 2025 at 12:00 PM**

- Orders may be placed weekly or in advance for any number of days within the school year.

### How to Order

1. Login to your SchoolCash Online account using your existing credentials. If you don't currently have an account, contact the School to set one up.
  2. Go to the Items Page in your child's SchoolCash Online account, scroll to the Lunchbox banner, and click 'Order Now'.
  3. Confirm your phone number and student allergy information then click 'Update'.
  4. Press the 'Order Now' button beside your child's name.
  5. Place your child's lunch order(s) on your school's ordering calendar by clicking the blue date for the scheduled vendors.
- The following credit cards are accepted: Visa, MasterCard, Discover, Debit MasterCard, or Visa Debit.

Visa and MasterCard prepaid cards are also accepted.

### Reminders

- The weekly deadline to place lunch orders for the upcoming week is Sunday at 12:00PM; we are unable to accept any orders after this deadline.
- If you need to make any updates or changes to your lunch orders, please do so before Sunday at 12:00PM for the upcoming week.
- For any order cancellations, please notify us 2 days prior to the delivery date. If this is not possible, please contact your school to make alternate arrangements for the meal.
- If there is a school closure, lunches will be cancelled, and a credit will be issued to your Lunchbox account within 3 business days.
- We have updated our Refunds and Credits Policy; please review the updated terms at <https://identity.schoolcashonline.com/Account/Terms>.

Boston Pizza Menu (Tuesdays)	
Cheese Quesadilla	\$6.85
Chicken & Cheese Quesadilla	\$8.06
Veggies with Ranch	\$5.58
Garden Salad with Ranch	\$6.21
Pint Sized 6" Pepperoni Pizza	\$6.85
Pint Sized 6" Cheese Pizza	\$6.85
Pint Sized 6" Halal Chicken Pizza	\$6.85
Personal 8" Cheese Pizza	\$8.75
Personal 8" Pepperoni Pizza	\$8.75
Orange Juice Box	\$2.92
Apple Juice Box	\$2.92
Baked Chicken Fingers with Carrot Sticks	\$6.85
Chicken Ceasar Salad (No Bacon)	\$6.85
Halal Chicken Fingers	\$6.85
Bugs N Cheese Pasta	\$6.85
Penne with Parmesan & Butter	\$6.85
Penne Bolognese	\$6.85
Penne Marinara	\$6.85
Gluten-Wise Cheese Pizza	\$8.75

### CJ's Café:

We will be continuing the CJ's I Hot Lunch orders in 2025!

\*\*CJ's will be offered on a different day of the week.

Stay tuned for Menu and Pricing!

# St. Paul Education Introduces SafeArrival

Launching Tuesday, September 3, 2024

SafeArrival is an absence reporting system. Beginning, Tuesday, September 3, families can report an absence in three different ways that is most convenient for you using SafeArrival. Visit [stpauleducation.ab.ca/parents/safe-arrival](http://stpauleducation.ab.ca/parents/safe-arrival) for complete information.

## SchoolMessenger App (Free)

Using your mobile device, download and install the "SM Home" app (NOT 'SchoolMessenger' app) from the Apple or Google Play Stores: [home.schoolmessenger.ca](http://home.schoolmessenger.ca). Sign in to create an account using your email address we have on file at your child's school. Select attendance. For more information on the SchoolMessenger app, visit [stpauleducation.ab.ca/parents/safe-arrival](http://stpauleducation.ab.ca/parents/safe-arrival).

## Online

Go to [home.schoolmessenger.ca](http://home.schoolmessenger.ca). Sign in or create an account using your email address that we have on file at your child's school and report your absence. Contact your school if you need to update your email address.

## By Phone

Call the toll-free number 1-844-502-5088 to report an absence using the automated phone system and follow the prompts.

If your student is marked absent and the absence hasn't been explained in advance, our new SafeArrival system will be able to rapidly contact you by automated phone call, text message, email, or mobile app push notification to ensure your child's safety.

# 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.



Visit [stpauleducation.ab.ca/parents/safe-arrival](http://stpauleducation.ab.ca/parents/safe-arrival) or scan the QR code.



[stpauleducation.ab.ca](http://stpauleducation.ab.ca)

## 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.



### 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".

### Email Messages

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



### 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'.



# Announcements

**Please be advised that there have been pricing changes on some concession items**



**Career Counselor Dates**

**March - 7, 14, 21**

**Watch for more information regarding our Adulthood Day**

*Don't forget to....*



*Spring Forward!*

**Remember to set your clocks ahead on Sunday, March 9th for Daylight Savings Time**





# Links Page



## **School Cash Online**

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

## **Our Project Videos/Articles**

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

## **Power School**

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

## **New Myrnam School Facebook Page**

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



# 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>



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

### How we decide:

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

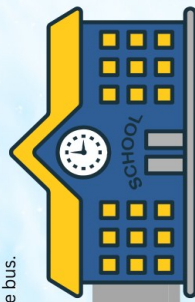
Even if buses are cancelled schools remain **OPEN**.

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

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.



- 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.

*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.*



# 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.**



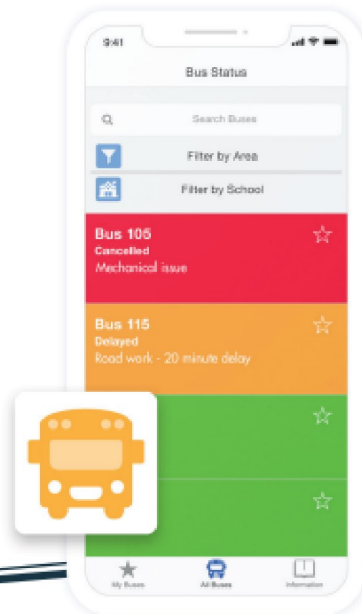
ios (Apple)



Android

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

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





# St. Paul Education Learning Calendar 2025-2026

August 2025	September 2025	October 2025	November 2025
M T W T F 4 5 6 7 8 11 12 13 14 15 18 19 20 21 22 25 26 27 28 29	M T W T F 1 2 3 4 5 8 9 10 11 12 15 16 17 18 19 22 23 24 25 26 29 30	M T W T F 6 7 8 9 10 13 14 15 16 17 20 21 22 23 24 27 28 29 30 31	M T W T F 3 4 5 6 7 10 11 12 13 14 17 18 19 20 21 24 25 26 27 28
December 2025	January 2026	February 2026	March 2026
M T W T F 1 2 3 4 5 8 9 10 11 12 15 16 17 18 19 22 23 24 25 26 29 30 31	M T W T F 5 6 7 8 9 12 13 14 15 16 19 20 21 22 23 26 27 28 29 30	M T W T F 2 3 4 5 6 9 10 11 12 13 16 17 18 19 20 23 24 25 26 27	M T W T F 2 3 4 5 6 9 10 11 12 13 16 17 18 19 20 23 24 25 26 27 30 31
April 2026	May 2026	June 2026	LEGEND
M T W T F 6 7 8 9 10 13 14 15 16 17 20 21 22 23 24 27 28 29 30	M T W T F 4 5 6 7 8 11 12 13 14 15 18 19 20 21 22 25 26 27 28 29	M T W T F 1 2 3 4 5 8 9 10 11 12 15 16 17 18 19 22 23 24 25 26 29 30	First/last day of classes Instructional Day PLC Day Schools Closed Early Dismissal (2 pm) Catholic Formation



## St. Paul Education

Calendar Approved: February 12, 2025

Approved School Holidays				
Labour Day	Sept 1	Family Day	Feb 16	
Thanksgiving Day	Oct 13	Spring Break	Mar 30-Apr 2	
Remembrance Day	Nov 11	Good Friday	April 3	
Christmas Vacation	Dec 22-Jan 2	Easter Monday	April 6	
		Victoria Day	May 18	

Important Dates	PLC Days
August 27-29	Labour Day
September 1	First day of school
September 2	Division PLC Day
September 19	Truth & Reconciliation Day
September 30	Catholic Education Formation (SPECS, Racette, Malliaig only)
October 9	PLC Day
October 10	Thanksgiving
October 13	Schools closed
November 7	Schools closed
November 10	Remembrance Day
November 11	PLC Day
November 28	Early Dismissal
December 19	Christmas Break
Dec 22 - Jan 2	PLC Day
January 28	First day of second semester
January 29	Early Dismissal
February 11	Teachers' Convention
February 12-13	Family Day
February 16	PLC Day
March 9	Spring Break/Good Friday
March 30 - Apr 3	Easter Monday
April 6	PLC Day
April 24	PLC Day
May 14	Schools closed
May 15	Victoria Day
May 18	PLC Day
June 5	National Indigenous People's Day
June 21	PLC Day
June 23	Last day of classes
June 24	PLC Day

	Days of School Operation			
	Public Schools		Catholic Schools	
	Instructional	Staff Only	Instructional	Staff Only
August	0	3	0	3
September	20	1	20	1
October	21	1	20	2
November	16	1	16	1
December	15	0	15	0
January	17	1	17	1
<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>8</b>
January	2	0	2	0
February	17	2	17	2
March	19	1	19	1
April	17	1	17	1
May	18	1	18	1
June	16	2	16	2
<b>Semester 2</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Total Instructional Days</b>	<b>178</b>			<b>177</b>
<b>Total Non-Instructional Day</b>	<b>14</b>			<b>15</b>
<b>Total Operational Days</b>	<b>192</b>			<b>192</b>
<b>First Day of Classes: September 2</b>				
<b>First Day of Second Semester: January 29</b>				
<b>Last Day of Classes: June 23</b>				
<b>Instructional Hours - Public Schools</b>				
Days	Min./Day	Hr./Year		
Elem./Jr High	178	320	950	
High School	178	337	1000	
<b>Instructional Hours - Catholic Schools (SPECS, Racette, Malliaig)</b>				
Days	Min./Day	Hr./Year		
Elem./Jr High	177	322	950	
High School	177	339	1000	

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) - October 9, 2025  
 Diploma Exam Schedule 2025-26: October 27 - 30, November 3-7, January 12-15, 19-23, 26 & 27, April 7-10, 13-17, June 8-12, 15-19, 22-23  
 Provincial Achievement Test Schedule 2025-26: January 15, 19-23, 26 & 27, May 19-22, June 3 & 4, 8-12, 15-19, 22 & 23

# MARCH

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3 Day 6	4 Day 1 (K Day)	5 Day 2	6 Day 3 (K Day)	7 Day 4
10 PLC Day (No School)	11 Day 5 (K Day)	12 Day 6	13 Day 1 (K Day)	14 Day 2
17 Day 3 (K Day)	18 Day 4	19 Day 5 (K Day)	20 Day 6	21 Day 1 (K Day)
24	25	26	27	28
SPRING BREAK!!!!				
31 Day 2				



# APRIL

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	1 Day 3 (K Day)	2 Day 4	3 Day 5 (K Day)	4 Day 6
7 Day 1 (K Day)	8 Day 2	9 Day 3 (K Day)	10 Day 4	11 Day 5 (K Day)
14 Day 6	15 Day 1 (K Day)	16 Report Cards Go Home Day 2	17 PLC Day (No School)	18 Good Friday (No School)
21 Easter Monday (No School)	22 Day 3 (K Day)	23 Day 4	24 Showcase Day 5 (K Day)	25 Day 6
28 Day 1 (K Day)	29 Day 2	30 Day 3 (K Day)		