

January 18, 2019



# École Rocky Elementary News

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## **French Language Discovery Program** **Pre-Kindergarten**

### Mid-Year & 2019/2020 Pre-Kindergarten Registration Is Now Open

- ♦ We have the opportunity to offer a few spaces in this wonderful program for 2018/2019 school mid-year. Children need to be 4 years of age by December 31, 2018
- ♦ We are also now taking registration for 2019/2020. Children need to be 4 years of age by December 31, 2019. Registration/Information evening is on Thursday, January 24th from 6:30—8:00 p.m.

We are excited to be able to offer a play-based pre-Kindergarten French Language Discovery Program running 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon,  
Monday, Wednesday and some Fridays.

You would be responsible for transportation to and from school.  
The teacher is Elyse Morin (our French Kindergarten teacher).  
Please contact 403-845-3541 for information or to register.

### GOALS

- ♦ Develop speech, language and motor skills
- ♦ Learn to share, problem solve and express themselves
- ♦ Discover new experiences, friends and a love of learning
- ♦ Build self-esteem and confidence in a playful and welcoming environment
- ♦ Early exposure to the French Language

### BENEFITS

- Improved ability to socialize and play with others
- Increased opportunities to share and celebrate a variety of cultural backgrounds with classmates
- Increased opportunities for families to connect with the school community



## Kindergarten & Pre-K Registration/Information Night for the 2019-2020 School Year Thursday, January 24th from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

École Rocky Elementary School is a dual-track school offering both English and French Immersion Kindergarten programs to our students. All parents considering enrolling their children in one of next year's E.C.S. programs are encouraged to attend our information/registration night on Thursday, January 24th.

Children must be five (5) years of age on or before December 31, 2019 to be eligible to register for Kindergarten for the coming school year.

We will require a copy of your child's Birth Certificate before your child starts school in September. For your convenience, a photocopy can be made for you at the school. If you do not have your child's birth certificate you must sign a **Temporary Declaration of Legal Name And Age** form. The approximate cost of obtaining a birth certificate in Canada is \$40.00. In order to obtain an Alberta Birth Certificate, it is required that the legal parent or guardian provide the registry office with Valid Photo Identification and Court/Guardianship orders. Processing time varies, depending on whether Vital Statistics has the correct information on file at time of the original Registration of Birth.

### Application forms are available at the office.

We invite you to attend a presentation on the French Immersion program at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 24th, 2019.

- ♦ English Kindergarten                      Learning Commons (Library)
- ♦ French Immersion Kindergarten      McCabe Room
- ♦

**You are invited to drop in and register your child anytime during the school day (8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.) or on January 24th between 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the Library/McCabe Room.**



### STUDENT LATES—IMPORTANT

If your child arrives late, they must report to the office for a late slip before going into class. Attendance is taken by teachers shortly after announcements which is just after the second bell. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.





## SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM FOR ATTENDANCE

**1-855-756-2797 or <http://wrsd.schoolconnects.com>**

Just a reminder École Rocky Elementary has an automated service for reporting student attendance.

We are asking parents/guardians to report student absences prior to 9:00 a.m. for the current day, as well as planned future absences via the internet or telephone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (i.e. medical appointments, vacation, etc.). If you child is going to be late, please call it in as an absence. When he/she arrives at school, your child must come to the office for a late slip at which time their absence will be changed to “late.”

This program allows parents/guardians to report their child’s absence in advance, or before a cut-off time of 9:00 a.m. for the current day in one of two ways:

1. **Logging onto the Safe Arrival Parent Portal website: <http://wrsd.schoolconnects.com>**
2. **Calling the Safe Arrival toll free phone number: 1-855-756-2797**

**The school’s answering machine is no longer used to communicate messages from parents/guardians about attendance. Parents/guardians calling into the school with an attendance will be asked to call the Safe Arrival line.**  
**Please use one of the two methods mentioned to report your child(ren)’s absence.**

The Safe Arrival Program uses an automated notification system to contact parents/guardians who have not reported their child absent. The automated notification system will contact parents/guardians at multiple contact numbers until one of the designated contact is reached. By reporting your child(ren)’s absent in advance using the **1-855-756-2797** number or **[http://wrsd/schoolconnects.com](http://wrsd.schoolconnects.com)**, you will not receive a call. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school

## SWIMMING

Swimming for Kindergarten to Grade 3 will start in April. More details in the March newsletter.



### École Rocky Elementary Home Business & Craft Fair

#### Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, March 19th & Wednesday, March 20th, 2019

Front Foyer & Hallway 4:30–7:30 p.m.

Great time to do some spring shopping!

Table rental proceeds will go towards enhancement of student education.



A big thank you to the following people and organizations for their generous monetary donations or gift of time:

- ♦ on behalf of all the staff for the Christmas wishes and goodies received during the holiday season. They were greatly appreciated by all.
- ♦ Sr. Margie for her ongoing role as a Peace Educator in our school and training our grade five students in conflict management.
- ♦ to those who supported the Peace Gram fundraiser before Christmas. The Grade four team raised \$118.25. This money went to help The Olinda Children Association.
- ♦ to those who donated at the Christmas Concert for The Food Bank—\$20 was raised along with food collected (see newsletter for further details).
- ♦ to all those students who participated in our choirs.
- ♦ to those who donated books for the book sale.
- ♦ to the student leadership group who raised \$77 from the used book sale which was forwarded to The Olinda Children Association.
- ♦ to Mrs. Lougheed for her dedication to the singing and hand bell choir.
- ♦ to the Kindergarten and Grade 1 teachers for putting on a successful Christmas Concert.
- ♦ to those who have brought in children's clothing, shoes, boots, winter wear for our Coats for Kids program, etc.
- ♦ to the vendors from the Christmas Mini-Market for their support through table rentals. We received \$992.14 in proceeds from the raffle baskets and table rentals! Money raised will go towards enhancing childrens' education.
- ♦ to Misty Jacowishen for organizing the Christmas Mini-Market and raffle.
- ♦ to parents who volunteer for the Breakfast Program.
- ♦ to all the people who have donated skates and helmets to the school—it is greatly appreciated.
- ♦ Aaron Dorey for helping out with photocopying, laminating and other jobs for school staff.
- ♦ Mac's Store for their donation of coffee cups.
- ♦ School Council for their donation towards the staff coffee fund.



Congratulations to the winners of the raffle baskets. Each basket was valued over \$430 each.

Basket #1 Kim Holbein (Value \$487.00)

Basket #2 Sasha Connelly (Value \$432.00)

**Proceeds of \$587.14 from these sales go to the enhancement of children's education.**

**Thank you to all for your support!**



## **AFTER SCHOOL TELEPHONE MESSAGES—IMPORTANT**



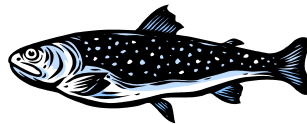
Parents/guardians are asked to make arrangements ahead of time with their child regarding after school activities. Send a note or write in your child's agenda explaining after school arrangements. In case of an urgent situation where after school plans need to change, contact the school as soon as possible. Please keep in mind it is sometimes difficult for office staff to get a message to your child, especially if the call is received when the final bell has rung, or if a class is outside or not in their classroom at the end of the day. Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

**We do not allow students to use the school phones during the school day to make arrangements to play at a friend's house after school or change arrangements that parents have made for them. Please discuss this with your child.**

### **FinS (Fish In Classrooms)**

Our grade three students are participating in the FinS program, that is, Fish in Schools. FinS is an Alberta based project to teach students about the trout life cycle and their habitat in both indoor and outdoor settings. Over the course of 4 to 5 months, our students will monitor the development of rainbow trout from egg to fry in our classroom aquarium. Our "eyed eggs" have arrived and will be hatching shortly.

Students have ample incentive to learn because they soon understand that survival of their fish depends on their ability to maintain a healthy environment in their aquarium. The class selects a release site for their fish with the assistance and approval of Alberta Environmental Protection (AEP) fisheries staff. Our class will also participate in the release of their fish to complete the program.



## **FEES PAST DUE NOTICE—IMPORTANT**

**Invoices have been sent home and are now overdue (except for those students who did not go swimming). Swim fees may be paid when the permission slip goes home in April. Students in grades one to five received agendas - \$7 each.**

**School fees outstanding from previous years are carried over and are still due.**

**Should you have any questions regarding your invoice, please call Mrs. Zalasky at (403) 845-3541.**

**Cheque made be payable to... École Rocky Elementary.**



## SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

Following are the dates for our monthly upcoming school assemblies—all beginning at 11:55 a.m.

January 30th  
March 22nd  
May 29th

February 28th  
April 30th  
June 24th



## SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETINGS

Become part of what happens at your child's school by attending the School Council meetings. Take an active role in decisions that affect your child's educational environment. There is not a huge commitment of time required. Please put this meeting on your calendar and plan to attend!

School Council Meetings for the remainder of 2018/2019 will be held on January 30th, February 28th, March 22nd, April 30th and May 29th at 1 p.m.

All parents/guardians are encouraged to attend.  
*Hope to see you there!*



## LOST & FOUND ITEMS

Although we have two large Lost and Found boxes in the school, they both tend to overflow on a regular basis. In order to keep the school sanitary and organized, we are required to empty and clean these boxes several times each year. The Lost and Found boxes were emptied and cleaned over the Christmas holidays. They will be emptied again following the next parent-teacher interview week. Parents and students are encouraged to check through these boxes on a regular basis. Unclaimed items are donated to the Next to New so that they can be recycled.



## ADMazing SAVINGS TICKET PACKS



There are just a few ADMazing Savings Ticket Packs are still available for sale at the school office at a reduced cost.

We have a few books for Red Deer and one Calgary book  
*The cost per book is now \$15/book.*

Sample books are available for your perusal at the office.





## SKATING

### Grade 5K & 4/5O

January 7	1 - 2	Bunch
January 8	10:45 - 11:45	Quick Lane
January 9	1:30 - 2:30	Quick Lane
January 10	1:15 - 2:15	Bunch

### 4S & 3/4G

January 14	1- 2 p.m.	Bunch
January 16	1:30 - 2:30	Quick Lane
January 23	1:30 - 2:30	Quick Lane
January 30	1:30 - 2:30	Quick Lane

### 4/5M

February 14	10:45 - 11:45	Quick Lane
February 19	1:15 - 2:15	Quick Lane
February 21	10:45 - 11:45	Bunch
February 26	10:45 - 11:45	Quick Lane

### 3H & 2/3K

January 21	1 - 2	Bunch
January 28	1:00 - 2:00	Bunch
February 7	10:45 - 11:45	Bunch
February 12	1:15 - 2:15	Quick Lane

### 2R & 2S

January 17	1:15 - 2:15	Bunch
January 24	1:15 - 2:15	Bunch
January 31	1:15 - 2:15	Bunch
February 5	1:15 - 2:15	Quick Lane

### 1G & 1 M&M

February 6	10:30 -11:30	Bunch
February 12	10:45 -11:45	Bunch
February 19	10:45 -11:45	Bunch
February 28	10:45 -11:45	Bunch

### KKT/KMT (Tuesday/Thursday)

January 15	10:45 -11:45	Quick Lane
January 22	10:45 -11:45	Quick Lane
January 29	10:45 -11:45	Quick Lane
February 5	10:45 -11:45	Quick Lane

### KKM/PRE-K (Monday/Wednesday)

February 6	10:30 -11:30	Quick Lane
February 13	10:30 -11:30	Quick Lane
February 20	10:30 -11:30	Quick Lane
February 27	10:30 -11:30	Quick Lane



**Students should be dressed appropriately for the  
walk to and from the arena!  
Subject to change-watch classroom newsletters.**



## FOOD BANK



Congratulations...

**1G class for collecting the most items for the food bank!  
Their class has won a pizza party!**

**A total of 1687 items in total were collected from all classes.**



Thank you very much to the Leadership Group for organizing this event! What a wonderful way to give to the community! Also, the staff at ÉRE participated in a group activity and also collected food for the Food Bank.

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## BICYCLE WINNERS

A local group "The Secret Seven" got together and anonymously purchased a large number of beginner bikes to be donated to children in our community. ÉRE received 25 of these bikes. Twenty-five names were drawn from our ECS to Grade 2 classes. Thank you to The Secret Seven for this very generous donation of bikes through Rocky Co-Op for students at ÉRE! Thank you to the CO-OP in Rocky for delivering these bikes to the students. What an awesome surprise!

***Congratulations to the many students who received these bikes!***



## WHAT IS BULLYING?

"Bullying is when someone repeatedly and on purpose says or does mean or hurtful things to another person who has a hard time defending himself or herself." Olweus Bully Prevention Program

What are the components of bullying behaviour?

- 1) Involves an aggressive behaviour
- 2) Typically involves a pattern of behaviour repeated over time
- 3) A physical, emotional and/or verbal imbalance of power or strength

**What are the types of bullying?**

- direct (i.e. hitting, taunting, name calling)
- indirect (rumors, exclusion, cyber bullying)

**What can we tell our children about bullying?**

1. We will not bully others.
2. We will try to help students who are bullied.
3. We will try to include students who are left out.
4. If we know that somebody is being bullied, we will tell an adult at school and an adult at home.

It is important that we work together to end the cycle. Have open and frank discussions with your child.



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## **BULLYING**

Bullying can happen at any time, at any age and any where. This is a problem that is not only the responsibility of the students and staff at École Rocky Elementary School, but the parents and the community as well. We thought that we would provide some useful information for parents in order to help create a “Bully Free Environment at École Rocky Elementary.

### **HOW TO HELP IF YOUR CHILD IS HAVING BULLYING BEHAVIOURS:**

1. When a child does something wrong, intervene, immediately with discipline not punishment. Discipline involves the child taking ownership of the problem (no excuses) and the child solving the problem or ‘fixing’ the problem through restitution, resolution or reconciliation. Restitution involves “fixing” what he/she did – replacing item, apologizing, etc. Resolution means to figure out a way to keep the incident from happening again – what can he/she change about his/her behaviour. Reconciliation is a process of healing with the person and can involve extending the hand of friendship to participate in a fun activity together or to help the other person with something.
2. Create opportunities to “do good”. Provide opportunities for him/her to help a neighbour with yard work or a brother/sister with homework, or volunteer at a community/church activity.
3. Nurture empathy. It is important to be able to look at others’ perspectives and to understand their feelings. This can be done by “putting ourselves in their place”, processing their nonverbal and verbal cues and understanding their life experiences. This skill can be developed by asking questions on how you think someone might be feeling and why – discuss how to respond to help them, or use a TV show to discuss the feelings.
4. Teach friendship skills. It is important to help our child learn to be assertive, respectful and to relate to others in peaceful ways. A discussion about friendship can be prompted with the saying, “To have a friend, you must first be a friend.” Ask your son/daughter what he/she values in a friend, make a list, and then encourage him/her to be living up to their list in being a good friend to others.
5. Closely monitor TV, Computer activities, and music. Be aware of all of the influences in our society for some may not be in agreement with your value system. In addition, too much media involvement and too little “real life” social interaction and engagement stifle the development of social skills necessary to relate in a caring, responsible way.
6. Engage in more constructive, entertaining, and energizing activities. Children’s’ needs can be met in a healthier, appropriate, way of a fun activity; rather than the hurt of bullying someone.
7. Teach your child to “will good”. Encouraging our children to have moral integrity to do what is right even in difficult situations.

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## **AFTER SCHOOL MESSAGES**

Just a reminder to parents/guardians to write down after school arrangements in agendas for teachers. We have been getting a lot of repeat phone calls to give messages to students at the end of the day which is disruptive to classroom learning.

## HOW TO HELP IF YOUR CHILD IS BEING BULLIED:

Parenting is always a challenge. When our children are upset our emotions seem to automatically “kick-in”; therefore, it is important to, first, calm down and be in control of your own emotions. Caution yourself not to let your own personal bullying experiences from your past influence your ability to help. Be careful that you don’t take over to try to ‘solve’ the problem; this sends the message that your child is not strong enough to handle the situation on his or her own. It is also important to not send a blaming message by asking questions like, “What did you do wrong? What are you doing to cause this?” The following provides some strategies for parents to support their child when they are upset:

- ◆ Be a good listener. Listen without the distraction of computer, newspaper, phone, etc.
- ◆ Ask questions that invite more information such as, “What happened next?” or “What did you do?”
- ◆ Listen to the whole story encouraging him/her to share details. Allowing your child to share the details allowing him/her to vent and get out the story can be therapeutic.
- ◆ Repeat back what you are hearing your child share. This can help clarify the situation. Example “So you’re saying that the girls wouldn’t allow you to sit with them and they told you do not ever sit with them again.”
- ◆ Give your child a hug.
- ◆ Don’t over-empathize – empower him or her. Compliment their abilities. Ex. “I know that this is hard. You’re amazing; to be able to express yourself about this.”
- ◆ Ask if he or she can think of something to say or do that would be helpful. Encourage assertiveness. Role-play for practice. Help him/her rehearse the messages in his/her head to build confidence.

If an isolated incident occurs, show your child support and encourage him or her to figure out her own solutions. If the behaviour occurs a second or third time, he or she needs to act on his or her own behalf. When bullying persists or is extreme, it’s time to intervene. Don’t take action behind your child’s back, if you’re going to make contact with the school, make sure your child knows ahead of time.

If you would like more information on Bullying and how you can help your child please feel free to contact Shandee Cinnamon, Family Wellness Worker, at École Rocky Elementary.



**PINK SHIRT  
DAY  
WEDNESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 27TH!  
WEAR PINK!**



## December Assembly Awards

### E.C.S.

**Emilee Campbell**- for always working hard at center time and being a kind and helpful friend.

**Maksim Myhr**-for being an enthusiastic learner and for always contributing to our circle time discussions.

**Hugh Allen**- for being a great listener and for always following directions and working hard in all of our activities.

**Jonas Anderson**- for improvement in his work habits and for his amazing math skills

**Jack Robertson**- for being an independent worker and for completing his important centers first

**Oliver Spoor**- for the overall great quality of his work and for his interest in learning new French vocabulary

**Daylen Truman**- for his conscientious work habits and for his interest in learning new French vocabulary

### Grade One

**Blayze Fillinger**- for amazing printing and for showing enthusiasm for learning in all subjects

**Brody Combres**- for awesome effort in sounding out words and for always having a positive attitude

**Isabelle Sheridan**-for terrific work habits and for always being kind towards others

**Kye Gemmell**- for being responsible on the playground and knowing when to get help from a supervisor to solve issues that arise.

**Jacoby Vassallo**- for continuing to participate more in class and showing a keen interest in learning French.

### Grade Two

**Charlie Molnar** - for always being organized and prepared for learning and displaying excellent effort and neatness in all his work.

**Kassandra Thode** - for sharing her energetic personality in class and making many positive relationships with all her peers at her new school.

**Lily Robertson**- for great improvement in reading and always being a responsible student.

**Vienna Smith**- for always completing her work with care and her attention to details.

**Tristan Hamilton** for improved effort and attitude in all subject areas. Way to go,Tristan!

### Grade 3

**Rhylea Davis** for her great effort and consistently putting 100% into her assignments.

**Terin Kingsbury** - for his excellent story writing and for his cheerful attitude.

**Kolten Phillips**- for his excellent improvement in being focused, getting his work done and for his great effort in all of his work.

**Grady Kleinschroth Skoven** - for excellent improvement in reading and spelling in both languages and a constant positive response to challenges

### Grade 4

**Hannah Githu** - for being a peacemaker and never being involved in conflicts and for completing her work carefully and thoughtfully

**Ronin Wymenga** - for your strong written prediction of our Christmas story, Coming Home, and for the acts of kindness you demonstrate each day in the classroom.

**Dreydan Buffalo-Janvier** - for being a creative inventor and engineer! Dreydan loves to create and it is evident in his work. Great job with all your drawings Dreydan!

**Marissa Fewchuk** - for her perseverance. Marissa is a very determined student, who doesn't give up easily when things are hard. She is working hard at developing a growth mindset.

**Talon Alderson** - for his excitement and love of learning! Talon loves to be challenged, and loves to make discoveries. He enjoys sharing his learning, and helping his classmates. Great work Talon!

**Gracie Campbell** - for being helpful in class and for showing continuous progress in reading.

### Grade 5

**Aurealia Bolianatz** - for her kind and caring heart. Aurealia always has a positive outlook and attitude in the classroom. She takes responsibility for her learning and always does her best!

**Alysha Mews** - for demonstrating good work ethics and for being consistent in all subjects.

**Madilyn Plante** - for being consistent with her independent reading and for always trying her best.

**Rhiannon McNutt** - for her outstanding artistic abilities and exceptional work habits in all subject areas.

**Max Fillinger** - for being a responsible and powerful learner. Max is always focused and completes assignments with great care and efficiency.

**Mina Whitford** - for being a kind, respectful student and for always putting her very best effort in all assignments.



Take 20 minutes to make learning together part of your everyday.

**ACTIVITY 7**  
**Scientist in the House:**  
Do a kitchen experiment or mix up a batch of slime.



**What you need:**

- 1 cup cornstarch
- ½ cup water
- Food colouring

**How to do it:**

1. Get a large bowl add cornstarch.
2. Add some water to the bowl slowly, mixing with your hands until it feels slimy.
3. Add food colouring to make it any colour you like.

See all Take 20 learning activities at [www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca](http://www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca)




## A MESSAGE FROM THE LEARNING COMMONS

Submitted by Mrs. Allen, Librarian

ABC Life Literacy Canada encourages families to have "15 Minutes of Fun" learning together every day. Engaging in literacy activities as a family improves a child's skills and also helps adults keep their skills sharp. Here are a few ideas to get your family started!

**Try a new recipe together. Reading, math, and it tastes good too.**

**Learn a new song, finger play or poem.**

**Make up a story, have everyone take a turn making a part of it up.**

**Tell stories from your childhood.**

Please keep in mind that all students have access to TumbleBooks through our school website. Grades 4 & 5 students have access to OverDrive on any device. Please contact me if you need help finding either one of these sites. They provide a great opportunity for reading.

**Family Literacy Day®** is a national awareness initiative created by ABC Life Literacy Canada in 1999 and held annually on January 27 to raise awareness of the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family.

**January 27, 2019 is the 20th Anniversary of Family Literacy Day!**

Taking time every day to read or do a learning activity with children is crucial to a child's development, improving a child's literacy skills dramatically, and can help a parent improve their skills as well.

**Barbara Reid, award-winning Canadian author and illustrator, is the Honourary Chair of Family Literacy Day!**

Download the *Take 20* activities with modelling clay illustration by Barbara Reid: [English](#) [Français](#)

[Read a Q&A with Barbara Reid](#)

Check out <https://abclifeliteracy.ca/family-literacy> for family activities.

# Family Literacy Fact Sheet

Family literacy refers to the many ways families develop and use literacy skills, from enjoying a storybook together, to playing word games, singing, writing to a relative or friend, sharing day-to-day tasks such as making a shopping list or using a recipe, and surfing the Internet.

Parents' literacy skills and their ability to engage with their children in ways that encourage literacy at an early age have a lasting and far-reaching impact on children's language development, future success in school and well being throughout their lives. Having a parent read aloud helps children learn listening, vocabulary and language skills, and develop imagination and creativity. Additionally, it's important for adults to continue exercising their reading abilities at all stages of their lives.

48 per cent of adult Canadians have low literacy skills that fall below high school equivalency and affect their ability to function at work and in their personal lives. 17 per cent function at the lowest level, where individuals may, for example, be unable to read the dosage instructions on a medicine bottle. ([OECD Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies](#)\*, 2013).

Over half (54.7 per cent) of adult Canadians score in the two lowest skill levels in numeracy, up from 49.8 percent in 2003. People with inadequate literacy skills are more likely to be unemployed than those who scored higher. ([Skills in Canada: First Results from the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies \(PIAAC\)](#)\* – Statistics Canada, 2013).

Parents' reading habits play a large role in determining how often kids read: 57 per cent of kids who are frequent readers have parents who read books 5–7 days per week, compared to only 15 per cent of kids who are infrequent readers. ([Kids and Family Reading Report](#) – Scholastic, 2017).


Nine in 10 kids and parents say they enjoy/enjoyed read-aloud time, and parents of children ages 0–5 cite reading books aloud, telling stories and talking together as among the most important things parents should do with their children to develop language skills. ([Kids and Family Reading Report](#) – Scholastic, 2017).

Higher reading proficiency by age 15 is associated with higher levels of education attainment, lower levels of unemployment and higher average income levels by age 25. ([Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada](#) – Statistics Canada, 2011).

- Child development researchers agree: children's symbolic play (where an object is used as a stand-in for another object, such as a wooden block representing a car) correlates to cognitive and language development (Edward Fisher, 1992).
- Family play doesn't just encourage reading: a study in the Journal of Music Therapy found that singing correlates with increased language development, math ability and overall improved school grades (1999).


\*The 2013 Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies surveyed adults between the aged of 16 and 65 not residing in institutions or on Aboriginal reserves. It also excludes families of members of the Armed Forces living on military bases as well as residents of some sparsely populated areas.

## Family Literacy



**Taking time every day to read or do a learning activity with children is crucial to a child's development.**

**FAMILY LITERACY DAY**



Inspiring Families to Learn Together

Family literacy programs focus on parents as the means to improve the reading and writing skills of all family members. By reading to children and engaging in fun literacy activities, parents are actively keeping their own skills sharp while at the same time strengthening the relationship between the family which, in turn, encourages lifelong learning. Read the [family literacy fact sheet](#).



## WILD ROSE SCHOOL DIVISION PROPOSED 2019/2020 CALENDAR

The 2019-2020 School Year Calendar has been approved in draft form by the WRSD Board of Trustees. They are looking for feedback, prior to getting full approval of the calendar for next year.

To provide feedback, please use the form available at [www.wrsd.ca](http://www.wrsd.ca). Feedback will be accepted up to February 8, 2019. You may also get a color version of this calendar at the same website.



Division News

2019-2020 WRSD School  
Year Calendar

JANUARY 11

### Wild Rose School Division **South** Staff Calendar 2019 - 2020 V2

August 2019						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
T-3 S-0						

September 2019						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
T-20 S-19						

October 2019						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
T-22 S-21						

November 2019						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
T-19 S-18						

December 2019						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
T-15 S-15						

January 2020						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
T-20 S-18/19						

February 2020						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
T-17 S-15						

March 2020						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
T-22 S-21						

April 2020						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
T-16 S-15						

May 2020						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
T-20 S-19						

June 2020						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
T-21 S-18/19						

Dates to Note						
First Day of School for Students - Sept. 3						
First Day of Second Semester - Feb. 3						
Last Day of School for Students (K-9) - June 25						
Last Day of School for Students (10-12) - June 26						
Last HS Instructional Days - Jan. 22 & June 18						
DCS & RCS Christian Conference - Oct. 24 & 25						

■ Holidays

■ No School for Students & Staff

■ ATA Teachers' Convention

■ Diploma Exams

■ Non-Instructional Day

■ K-9 Non-Instructional Day (10-12 attend)

Number of Days

Teachers: Semester 1 - 99

Semester 2 - 96

Base CAAMSE: The spacing of days will vary dependent on the school and the CAAMSE position.

Students: Semester 1 - 91 / 92

Semester 2 - 88 / 89

Total 195

Total 186

Total 179 / 181

Board Approved:





*The Trusted Platform  
for School Community Engagement*

## Parents and Guardians

### You can take advantage of our Text Messaging Service

Our school utilizes the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.

You can participate in this free service\* just by sending a text message of "Y" or "Yes" to our school's short code number.

For **CANADA-BASED** numbers: **978338**

For **US-BASED** numbers: **61569** (see next page for QR code)

You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with "Stop".

SchoolMessenger is compliant with the Student Privacy Pledge™, so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.



*\*if your number is Canada-based.*

**Opt-In from  
your mobile  
now!**



**Just send "Y" or  
"Yes" to  
978338.**

*(For Canada-based numbers).*

\*Terms and Conditions – Message frequency varies. Standard message and data rates may apply. Reply HELP for help. Text STOP to cancel. Mobile carriers are not liable for delayed or undelivered messages. See [schoolmessenger.com/txt](http://schoolmessenger.com/txt) for more info.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION



Schools in the Wild Rose School Division will stay open all day on regularly scheduled school days regardless of the weather, providing that the building is deemed safe and comfortably heated. The primary consideration in the event of severe weather conditions shall be the health and safety of students. Parents are expected to exercise good judgement and care when deciding whether or not to send their child(ren) to school when weather conditions are extreme.

The following radio stations are designated to receive information in the area served by Wild Rose Public Schools:

- ♦ In the North part of the Division CFCW 790 AM, and CIBW-FM 92.9 FM.
- ♦ In the South part of the Division BIG 105 FM and CKGY 95.5 FM and BIG WEST 94.5 FM.

***When buses do not run, and parents choose to deliver the child to school, the parent shall also be responsible for ensuring safe transportation home for the student.*** It is necessary for children to wear warm clothing (outer) during cold weather, including appropriate footwear. Parents are asked to use good judgment and care when deciding whether or not to send their child(ren) when weather conditions are extreme or when there is danger of roads being blocked. When a route will not operate, the schools are contacted by fax prior to 8 a.m., the information is posted on the website ([www.wrsd.ca](http://www.wrsd.ca)) and the driver is expected to call parents of the students on his/her route. A free transportation App is also available on the [www.wrsd.ca](http://www.wrsd.ca) website. The app is available for Android and iPhone users and can be downloaded at the [iTunes store](#) or [Google Play](#).



### FOOD BANK VISIT GRADE FIVE STUDENTS

In December, students from the Leadership Team volunteered at the Lord's Food Bank in Rocky Mountain House. During our visit, we were able to put together 125 hampers of nonperishable foods for the Food Bank. What a wonderful way to give to the community and to teach kids that the need for food isn't as far away as they think!

The staff at ÉRE also participated in a group activity and collected food for the Food Bank.



**Feeding the  
Community**



## DATES TO REMEMBER



January 24	Kindergarten Open House 6:30—8:00 p.m. (further information in newsletter)
January 25	Pizza Lunch (for those students who have ordered).
January 30	Assembly 11:55 a.m. Gym
January 30	School Council Meeting 1:00 p.m.
January 31	Crazy Hair Day
February 1	Professional Development Day—No School for Students
February 8	Lasagna Lunch (for those who have ordered).
February 14	Valentine's Day
February 15	Hot Dog Lunch (for those who have ordered).
February 18	Family Day—No School for Students & Staff
February 22	Pizza Lunch (for those students who have ordered).
<b>February 27</b>	<b>Pink Shirt Day</b>
February 28	Assembly 11:55 a.m. Gym and Heart & Stroke Kick Off
February 28	School Council Meeting 1:00 p.m.
March 1	Professional Development Day—No School for Students
March 13	Report Cards Go Home
March 14 & 15	Teachers' Convention—No School for Students
March 19 & 20	Parent/Teacher Interviews 4:30- 7:30 p.m. & Spring Mini Market
March 21	World Down Syndrome Day (Lots of Socks)
March 22	Pizza Lunch (for those students who have ordered).
March 22	Assembly 11:55 a.m. Gym
March 22	School Council Meeting 1:00 p.m.
March 23-31	Spring Break
April 1	Back to School
April 2	Autism Speaks Light It Up Blue (wear blue)
April 12	Professional Development Day—No School for Students
April 19 & 22	Good Friday & Easter Monday
April 22	Earth Day
April 26	Pizza Lunch (for those students who have ordered).
April 30	Assembly 11:55 a.m. Gym
April 30	School Council Meeting 1:00 p.m.
May 3	Professional Development Day—No School for Students
May 17	No School for Students and Staff
May 20	Victoria Day – No School for Students & Staff
May 23 & 24	Field Trip: Grade 5 Calgary
May 29	Assembly 11:55 a.m. Gym
May 29	School Council Meeting 1:00 p.m.
May 31	Pizza Lunch (for those students who have ordered).
June 7	Professional Development Day—No School for Students
June 21	Pizza Lunch (for those students who have ordered).
June 24	Assembly 11:55 a.m. Gym
June 26	Awards Assembly
June 26	Last Day of School for Students



## CELL PHONES & ELECTRONIC DEVICES



Students are discouraged from bringing cell phones and any other type of electronic devices to school. Cell phones and other devices are not to be used during the school day (receiving or sending phone calls, text messages, etc.). If students are found using these devices during class time they may be confiscated and parents will be asked to pick them up.