



JANUARY



St. Mary's School Newsletter

Principal: Mrs. Sharon Pardy

FVSD Trustee: Mr. Keith Lambert

Family Literacy Day

Friday, January 27, will be National Family Literacy Day! To acknowledge, celebrate and promote the importance of family Literacy, St. Mary's students will be receiving a book per family, as well as literacy activities/ ideas to do at home. As well, every student will be receiving a book from the FVSD early literacy program, and another book from the Family Literacy Program run by Odell Flett in Fort Vermilion!

This year, parents and guardians are invited to come read with their children at 2:40 pm on Friday, Feb. 27. It will be like a Buddy Reading time, only with families together, all over the school!



Family Literacy Day is meant to bring attention to the importance of Family Literacy, but family literacy activities should happen every day!! Reading with your children is one of the most important things after taking care of their basic physical and emotional needs. Extensive research shows that reading for just 15 minutes a day can have a significant impact on a child's success in the future.

Read with me! 

What are some examples of literacy-based activities to do at home? Well of course, number one is the read aloud! Every child loves to cuddle on a parent's lap to listen to a story! You can do a shared reading where you take turns reading, or you can have your child read to you. Literacy based games are fun too (such as Scrabble, Boggle, or any game that involves reading)! Cooking together involves reading recipes! Rhyming games are fun to play if a book is not readily available, like while you're driving. Thinking of words that rhyme with other words strengthens a child's awareness of word patterns.

It is also very important to model reading. Seeing parents read is a great way of setting a good example, and helping children realize that reading is important. Reading the newspaper, TV guide, or a magazine is just as important as reading a novel.

Bringing attention to signs and posters in stores, and public buildings reinforces the idea that literacy is everywhere, and reading is a basic skill that we all need!



Fort Vermilion School Division #52

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Science in Motion—Telus World of Science



On January 10th and 11th, the Science in Motion people were here to do cool Science Presentations for all of our students. Classes from Kindergarten to grade 6 had interactive sessions on a science topic directly related to their curriculum. This program was sponsored by Telus World of Science, in Edmonton.



Upcoming Events / Important dates:

Jan. 1—Happy New Year!

Jan. 9—Classes resume

Jan. 10 and 11—Science in Motion

Jan. 20—Mass

Jan. 24—School Council Meeting

Jan. 27—Theme Day: Jersey Day

Jan. 30—Month End Assembly

Jan. 31—PD Day (No School)

Feb. 10—Progress Reports sent home

Feb. 10—Mass

Feb. 13—17—No School Teachers' Convention

Feb. 20—Family Day (no school)

Feb. 22 & 23—Parent Teacher Interviews

Feb. 27—CAT Testing begins

Feb. 28—Month End Assembly

Feb. 28—School Council Meeting

Mar. 15—Divisional Science Fair (RLKS)

Mar. 16—Early dismissal 1:45, staff meeting

Mar. 17—PD Day (no school)

Mar. 28—School Council Meeting

Mar. 31—Mass

Apr. 3—Month End Assembly

Apr. 6—Robotics Competition (BHPS)

April 14—23—Spring Break!

April 24—Classes resume



School Spirit!

Show your school spirit by purchasing SMES items such as T-shirts, toques and water bottles. They are available anytime during regular school hours. T-shirts are great for school spirit days and sports activities such as cross country, soccer, basketball and track meet.

T-shirts—\$10

Toques—\$5

Water Bottles—\$5



To receive Bus Cancellation (or late) updates:

- * send a text message from your cell to phone number 21212.
- * Insert the message *follow fvsdbuses*.
- * If you just occasionally want to check the latest on buses, you can find the Twitter updates at www.twitter.com/fvsdbuses or at www.fvsd.ab.ca.



Birthdays!

Birthdays of the Month



January:

Date:	Name:	Grade:
9th	Edge Bulldog	6
13th	Jessica Auger	2
16th	Payten Ward	4
20th	Ray Noskiye	4
22nd	Kylie McLean	3
26th	Kailyn McLean	1

February:

Date:	Name:	Grade:
12th	Madeline Wright	1
16th	Cayde Shelton	4
19th	Keaira Mitchell-McLeod	4
21st	Alesha Doerksen	1
21st	Kayden Mitchell-McLeod	2
25th	Rebecca Batt	6



March

Date:	Name:	Grade:
7th	Ryder Lizotte	3
9th	Easton Clarke	3
10th	Lexi Lambert	2
23rd	Angelique Laboucan	1
25th	Shae-Lynn Bushie	2
28th	Aaliyah Meneen	6



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"Building Success
—One student at a time"



The next SMES School Council Meeting will be on **Tuesday, Jan. 24th** at 6:30 pm. Then in February, the meeting will be on **Tuesday, Feb. 28th**, also at 6:30pm.

Hope to see you there!

Get involved.



Reminders to parents:



- ◆ If your phone numbers change, please let the school know!
- ◆ Please ensure your children are dressed appropriately for the weather. It is very cold outside!
- ◆ Arrangements need to be made ahead of time for a student to get dropped off at a friend's house, and the bus driver will need a note.

- ◆ All parents and students can write Tootles to anyone, anytime!
- ◆ Please sign agendas regularly.
- ◆ Please 'Like' our Facebook page!

Let's work together to help your children learn and grow!



FVSD Parent Connection

Recruitment

Each year the FVSD undertakes to provide the best possible teachers to the 15 schools, 4 Learning Stores and the Northern Home Education Program within our jurisdiction. To do so, every January we begin a recruiting drive that takes us to Edmonton, Fredericton NB, Halifax NS, Thunder Bay ON and St. John's NL. These five trips allow us to meet and interview potential new teachers from 12 different universities. For 2017 we have added a second Edmonton University and scheduled a trip to Saskatoon SK to increase the size of our candidate pool.

Why you might ask, does the FVSD spend this amount of time and money to travel across the country to find teachers when there are teachers in Alberta who are not working full-time? The reasons for this are many and varied but certainly focus on providing a quality education for the children we serve. Reasons include;

- Alberta does not produce enough teachers to fill all the positions available in the province
- Not all graduating students want to leave home and come to our northern environment
- We are striving to hire the best possible teachers and to do that we have to build a pool of strong candidates
- There is competition out there from other boards who have similar needs as ours and are selecting from the same universities.

In 2015 we hired 32 new teachers, and in 2016 the number was 23. The trend of requiring 20 or more new teachers each year has been steady for many years and is one we see likely continuing for some time to come. Without the work our division staff and administration teams, consisting of principals and vice-principals, do during our recruiting drives, we would potentially be filling positions after the school year begins. Our goal of *Building Success - One Student At A Time would be difficult to achieve without the provision of quality instruction for our students through the recruitment process.*

For more information, please contact Kevin Pittman, Assistant Superintendent of Operations at kevinp1@fvsd.ab.ca or 780-927-3766.

FVSD Parent Connection *continued*

Online IPP

In September of 2016, the Fort Vermilion School Division launched a new online Individualized Program Plan (IPP). This new IPP has a number of exciting features that will be helpful for teachers as they develop plans to support students with diverse learning needs.

First of all, the new IPP is accessible anywhere as long as the teacher has access to the Internet. Secondly, the IPP is integrated with Power School, the FVSD Student Information System, which means that student demographic information is automatically entered into the IPP. No longer will the teacher need to access information from one database and then enter it into the IPP manually. Thirdly, the various sections of the IPP provide a wealth of resources for teachers in the form of banks and drop down lists. For example, a wide variety of Instructional, Environmental and Assessment strategies and accommodations have been entered into the database to provide ideas for teachers. The Strengths and Needs sections have been pre-populated with ideas as have a number of other areas within the IPP. Teachers always retain the ability to enter their own ideas in each of the areas that contain banks of suggestions. However, the banks contained within the IPP should provide ideas and be especially helpful for new teachers who may be new to the world of IPPs.

The most significant change is the ability to create an IPP that contains only strategies and accommodations. Some students may not need specific goals beyond the regular expectations of the Programs of Study for their courses. These students may, however, require accommodations or different teaching strategies in order to be successful in their courses. In these cases, the student may have an "Accommodations Only" IPP. It is important to note that these students must be following the regular outcomes for the courses in which they are registered. If there are any modifications, the student would require an IPP with specific goals. The "Accommodations Only" IPP has the potential to streamline planning for students who are successful with accommodations only; however, it is important to track student progress carefully. If a student is not passing his/her courses with just accommodations, the Learning Team should consider the reasons for the student's lack of success and plan changes accordingly. In these cases, the students may need goals in addition to accommodations.

I would like to thank the teachers, Inclusive Education Coordinators, Diverse Learning Coordinators and administrators from around the division who have been involved in the development and testing of this new IPP. Teachers and Inclusive Education Coordinators are to be commended especially for their diligence and perseverance this year. We are still tweaking the IPP to make it as efficient and effective as possible. As with anything new, there have been glitches as we have implemented the new IPP, and teachers have identified areas that need to be changed. At the end of the day, we will have an online tool that harnesses the power of technology to allow teachers to focus on what matters most: identifying goals, objectives, strategies, accommodations and learning tools that will lead students to a high level of success.

For more information, please contact Kathryn Kirby, Assistant Superintendent of Inclusive Education at kathrynk@fvsd.ab.ca or 780-927-3766.