

School News



LOBSTICK ZONE

Grand Trunk High School, Evansburg

The Grand Trunk High School staff hopes everyone had a safe and happy summer break!

The first day of school is Tuesday, September 5th following the Labour Day long weekend. School pictures are scheduled for Monday, September 18th – so dress your best on that day! If you are a high school student interested in trying out for the volleyball teams, make sure you come ready for tryouts during the first days of school. The senior high seasons will be off to a fast start this year. For any junior high students wanting to play volleyball, information on tryout dates and practice times will be available during the first couple weeks of September so stay tuned.

The School Council's Annual General Meeting will take place on Monday, September 25th at 5pm. We encourage all parents and guardians to come out and get involved in our School Council. Sports fees and any other applicable fees can now be paid by e-transfer to the email address: paygt@gypsd.ca.

Through the work of last year's GYPSD Youth Symposium, students will be taking on the project of creating a living wall in the student lounge as well as investigating other project ideas to help brighten up our school environment.

Our graduation ceremony will take place on Saturday, September 23rd at 3:30pm at Grand Trunk with a banquet to follow at the Wildwood Hall starting at 5:30pm. The Grand Trunk High School Awards' ceremony will take place on Thursday, September 28th in our Theatre Hall at 1:45pm. Both our graduation and awards ceremonies celebrate the accomplishments of our students from the past school year.

Evansview School, Evansburg

Welcome back to all our students, valued parents and supportive community members! We hope you all had a safe and enjoyable summer, and are ready for another exciting and event-filled year of learning. This fall we welcome a new, passionate Grade 5 teacher to join our strong team, as well as see some returning faces to start a fresh new year. We are excited to see our classrooms come alive with enthusiastic, engaged learners.

Evansview School staff will be using our school's hand logo to introduce student attributes that will guide our focus and activities this year, along with a growth mindset theme. Staff will also continue to promote and encourage the love of reading in our students and we all gratefully appreciate the support of our volunteer community readers. Invited parents and community members come to our school to read with students who teachers feel would benefit from having some one-on-one reading time. This program has been quite successful in the past and we look forward to its continued impact of building strong readers, solid relationships, and a developed love of reading.

Evansview staff will continue to focus on academic reading school-wide, but we are also increasing efforts to improve math results this year. With a focus on timely interventions for students who need them, in a daily Response to Intervention period, students will be fully supported at their individual levels to promote growth and mastery of academic skills. Self-regulation will also be a focus this year as our school learns and promotes growth in supporting and encouraging students to regulate their own behavior to independently plan, monitor, and successfully assess their own learning and actions.

We are also pleased to provide additional Levelled Literacy Intervention for one hour per day as well as the continued support of a Learning Support Teacher to assist with success for all students. Kindergarten students will have an incredible opportunity each week to spend a day in the outdoor environment and jump into a journey of learning with nature. We are excited to see where this will lead our school.

Evansview students will once again have the chance to be involved in some extracurricular programs and leadership opportunities. Cross-graded opportunities and activities where students can experience as many new learning activities as possible are guiding principles for our staff at Evansview this year. We look forward to seeing the excitement and wonder in each and every student as they take on new challenges.



EVW, cont'd

We are extremely grateful to our strong School Council group for continuing to support us throughout the year ,and we look forward to the partnering with them to ensure students receive every opportunity available to them. Evansview staff is enthusiastic to move into a new year where student success and growth is encouraged, guided ,and supported in an actively engaging learning environment.

Join us...we anticipate a rewarding year and want to wish our family community a wonderful 'back to school' experience. We look forward to working with you and your child!

EVW Events for September

5	First Day of Classes
15	Presentation
18	No School for Students
20	Individual and Group Photos
28	Terry Fox Walk and Run

Wildwood School, Wildwood

The new school year is upon us and we are excited to begin. We welcome a new principal, Mr. Mike Gray, and invite everyone to keep informed about our many events and celebrations throughout the year so you can enjoy with us the great things that happen at our school. Welcome back!



Niton Central School, Niton Junction

As we gear up for what promises to be another terrific year, we are very excited to welcome Jacey Bura as a new member of our school team. Jacey came to us last January and quickly became part of our team. Her role consisted of teaching both junior high and elementary classes. This year, she will be an integral part of our junior high team. We were very happy to welcome her back, along with all other returning staff members.

After having a very successful Welcome Back BBQ last year, we have decided to make it an annual event. This is a great way to bring parents and teachers together in the first week of school, to kick off the year, start on the right foot and open positive lines of communications. We have many newer teachers at our school, so it is a great way to introduce them to the families of the students they will be teaching, as well as to give parents the opportunity to get to know their child's new teacher. It is also a wonderful way to show how much we appreciate all of our families and all they do to help make our school, and our students, successful.

To round off the month, our Grade 2/3 class will be hosting our annual Terry Fox Run. Every year we spend the month of September learning about Terry Fox, his childhood, what led to him running across Canada, and what his memory represents. Then we create a Terry Fox banner and each child colors an Adidas running shoe to add to the banner, in order to unite our students for the cause. In the afternoon, we set out for a 45-minute run/walk. This event is near and dear to many, so it is a great way to start the year and a great way for students to work together for a good cause.

Niton Events for September

5	First Day of Classes
8	Welcome Back BBQ
11-29	Aimsweb/HLAT/Mathletics Assessments
22	Terry Fox Walk and Run



EDSON & AREA

Mary Bergeron Elementary (MBE) School

Welcome to MBE! Education in our school is about making a difference in the lives of children. It is about helping them to gain the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to enable them to fully embrace challenge, respect diversity, and to pursue personal and academic excellence. Whether you've been a part of one of our feeder-school communities for several years now, or if you are a new arrival to our 'family', you will find that here at Mary Bergeron Elementary you are now part of a special community that places a high priority on quality teaching and learning, a community where good character matters, and a community that, above all else, values its most prized resource – our students! Our staff wishes everyone a very successful, enjoyable and memorable school year.



École Pine Grove Middle School

The beginning of a new school year is an exciting time, but it can bring its fair share of nervous energy as well. As you begin your new year at Pine Grove, here are a few things to keep in mind.

First, everyone starts the year with questions about what's to come, even the staff! So, if you have questions, ask! Your teachers and educational assistants will be happy to help you out so you can feel more comfortable with your new classes.

Next, try to get yourself organized right at the beginning of the year so it's easier to stay on top of things as the year progresses. Your teachers will be helping get your books and binders set up so that you know where to put things each class. Take some time every day to make sure a little mess doesn't blow up into a big one!

École Westhaven School

At Westhaven School, we look forward to another year filled with exciting events and lots of learning. We hope that you will be able to join us for many of these throughout the year. It is always exciting to begin a new school year. The students meet their new teachers, renew friendships, and share their summer adventures with classmates. It is a time of excitement for students, parents, and teachers alike.

The staff at Westhaven looks at each individual student and the curriculum that they will learn over the year. We plan, as a school team, how to overcome any challenges and help each student achieve their highest potential. This is achieved through working in cooperation with the parents, school personnel, and sometimes accessing assistance from outside agencies. We know that by working as a team, our students will benefit in countless ways. We welcome you into the school and your child's classroom to become involved in this very important aspect of your child's life. We know what a crucial role you play in helping us to create the best learning environment for all students.

Welcome Back - we look forward to working with you and your child.

Westhaven Events for September

5	Staggered Entry for ECS/ Gr 1-5 First Day of School
6	Staggered Entry for ECS
7	Meet The Teacher
11	PAC Meeting
19	Picture Day
21	Walk-A-Thon



École Pine Grove Middle School, cont'd

Finally, there will be lots of activities in September to help you get acquainted with new classmates and routines. In 2017-18, we will be having a 15 minutes homeroom period every day so you have a chance to get to know your homeroom better and work out any problems you might be experiencing. At the end of September, we will also have the annual school Walk-a-Thon: a great chance for you to get to know students in all grades. We look forward to another great school year at Pine Grove in 2017-18 - welcome back!

PGMS Events for September

5	First Day of Classes
18	Picture Day
28	School Walk-a-Thon



Parkland Events for September

5	Welcome Back/ Picture Day
5-8	Textbook Week
8	Welcome Back BBQ (tentative)
21	Career Fair from 1-3pm

Fulham School

As we begin a fresh school year, our staff is eager to welcome students, old and new, to Fulham School! We have many exciting plans for the 2017-2018 school year for our students to create, explore, and have fun learning. Our teaching staff for the year is:

- Kindergarten/LLI/LST - Mrs. Anne Walker
- Grade One/Two - Mrs. Emily Dennison
- Grade Three/Four - Mr. Clay Beck
- Grade 5/6 - Mr. Guy Becker

Kindergarten students will attend Tuesday through to Friday starting the first week of school, and continuing throughout the year.

Fulham Events for September

5	First Day of School
13	Back to School BBQ
28	Terry Fox Run
29	No Kindergarten Classes

Parkland Composite High School

Picture day will take place on the first day back on September 5th in the gymnasium. Students, wear your finest clothes and come ready to get your smile on!

The first week back marks 'textbook week'. Students must return their overdue books before signing out new ones for Semester One. Letters were sent home in July with report cards, so please return outstanding books, or talk to us about payment arrangements. Also, if a Grade 9 student has yet to return their books to Pine Grove, they are more than welcome to bring them to Mrs. Day at Parkland. One less hassle to worry about!

Principal Mark Maris welcomes new and returning students, as well as new and returning staff. This year marks Parkland's 50th anniversary, celebrating past-present-and future Pacer alumni. Stay tuned for future events that will celebrate our amazing milestone for PCHS, 'We Are ALL Pacers'. Parkland's annual career fair takes place on Thursday Sept ember 21st. Students will be able to meet with local businesses to gauge where their interests may reside regarding a future career. Edson has many fascinating career options, and hosting a career fair for our students will assist with their decision-making process for their future.



HINTON

Crescent Valley School

Welcome Back!

École Mountain View School

Welcome Back!

HCHS Events for September

5	First Day of Classes
8	Ken Prosk Memorial Pancake Breakfast
14	Smile! School Photos
19	School Council Meeting @7pm
23	2017 Graduation Ceremony @2pm
28	Terry Fox National School Run Day



Harry Collinge High School (HCHS)

Welcome back to school! We trust that everyone enjoyed a well-deserved summer break and are returning for the 2017-18 school year as excited as we are. All of us at Harry Collinge High School are proud to welcome back four HCHS graduates in their new roles. Mr. Ryan Maguhn will be returning to teach but will also be joining our administrative team as the second assistant principal. Mr. Paul Stenhouse will also be returning and we are thrilled to welcome Mrs. Lea Bamsey and Mrs. Emma Bauer, both graduates of our French Immersion program. Mrs. Bamsey will be taking over as lead teacher in the physical education program and Mrs. Bauer will be looking after math and science in the French Immersion program.

We welcomed all Grade 8's and their parents to a Grade 8 Orientation on Wednesday, August 30th from 9 - 11am. This was a great opportunity for students to get to know the school without the hustle and bustle of the first day of school. Students met in the gym for a brief presentation and then went to their classrooms where they received their timetables prior to setting off on a scavenger hunt designed to help them get to know the school better. We wrapped up in the cafeteria just before 11am with a couple of draw prizes, juice and granola bars.

The beginning of the school year also brings with it lots of opportunity to get involved. Football will be up and running, soon to be followed by cross-country running and volleyball. Our Students' Union is always looking for young leaders who are enthusiastic and keen to make HCHS better for everyone.

The staff is very excited to implement some of the suggestions coming from our students who participated in the Youth Symposium this past year. As a result of the work by these students under the guidance of Mr. Stenhouse, we will be implementing a daily Flex block, and students will be distributed into home rooms according to their house colour.

As always, parents are invited to contact the school at their convenience with any questions they may have.

GRANDE CACHE

Sheldon Coates School

Welcome back to a great day of learning and leading at Sheldon Coates. We are looking forward to some amazing learning and we are really excited about the great work of our School Council. We want parents to know about a special presentation from a member of the Alberta School Councils' Association. This presentation will be on Monday, September 11th. Welcome Back night this year will be on September 12th at 6:30pm. School photos are on September 26th. Our first STAR Assembly will be on Wednesday, the 27th at 2:30pm. Parents are always welcome to join us during any of our STAR assemblies where we recognize student learning and success.

As in the past, students will be signing up through September to join a 'Leader Team'. Please watch for notices identifying the teams that will be running next year. Welcome back!

Grande Cache Community High School, (GCCHS) SonRise Christian Program

Welcome back! We hope you all enjoyed a restful summer and are as excited as we are to begin the 2017-2018 school year. Grande Cache Community High School and the SonRise Christian Program are beginning our first full year in our beautiful new building.

We know the entire community is excited to see the new building as many people in the community are asking how they can arrange a tour. We will be hosting an open house and grand opening on September 12th complete with ribbon cutting and full tours of the school. Everyone in the community is welcome, and we encourage you to come see the exceptional transformation. More information to come! We want to thank our students and staff, as they have been patient, helpful, and truly remarkable, as we moved classrooms and lockers - several times. Our school community dealt with outside hallways and the constant barrage of construction noise but it was well worth it. This could have proved very difficult and frustrating, but our students and staff rose to the challenge with an end vision in mind. Thank you!

We are excited to announce that we will have a breakfast program beginning early this fall. GYPSD received provincial grant funding for a nutrition program for both SonRise and Sheldon Coates, which will fund a five day a week free breakfast for all elementary students who choose to use the program. We have also applied for grants through Breakfast Clubs of Canada and other agencies to fund breakfast for the entire school. Therefore, this news helped us along this path, and we are grateful for it. We are still waiting to hear back but it is our goal to try to find the funds so that high school students as well can benefit from having breakfast at school.

The high school will be continuing our journey through Alberta Education's project 'Moving Forward with High School Redesign'. This project focuses on a multitude of areas for student success. These are mandatory blocks designed to help students succeed, allow access to tutorials during the school day, and minimize the amount of homework outside of the school day. GCCHS is a small high school; we offer a great number of complimentary classes and a variety of extra and co-curricular experiential learning opportunities. The option choices available to our students include ELITE, French, Foods, Cosmetology, Outdoor Education, Recreational Leadership, Yoga, Abnormal Psychology, Personal Psychology, Construction Technology, Art, Media Studies, General Music, and Forensics. We are also bringing two new courses into the timetable this year: drama and fitness.

SonRise will continue our successful Leveled Literacy Program. SonRise will also be working on the Response to Intervention program where students will be placed in cross graded groups to work towards mastery in literacy at their particular level. New for SonRise this year, all students will receive lessons in self-regulation from our learning support teacher on how to manage their own body's reaction to stress and difficult situations. SonRise students will all continue to take French this year as a second language.

It will be nice settling into our new home. Our staff is excited and committed to make SonRise and Grande Cache Community High a great place to learn. Welcome back!



Summitview School

At Summitview Middle School, we are looking forward to an exciting new school year full of learning and positive experiences. We are continuing to grow as a staff and school in the learning opportunities that we can provide, while adapting to changes in education and our society. As a staff, we are constantly striving to improve our practice and the educational experience for our students as they grow from young children into young adults. Our students are our main focus as we build a school climate that better supports engaged thinkers, ethical citizenship and an entrepreneurial spirit.

We will be looking at a few changes this year at Summitview. Our school day will be starting at 8:30am this year and we will be dismissing our students at 3:20pm. We decided last year, in consultation with our Parent Council, staff and our Central Office, that we would be moving to a closed campus policy this year. This will mean that students are to remain on campus for the entire day, including the 45 minute lunch recess. Our reasons for moving to a closed campus are student safety and increased student learning.

We would like to welcome a few new teachers to our teaching staff. Rebecca Fitzgerald will be teaching Grade 6 for us this year. She comes to us from Parkland County and is excited to start the upcoming school year. Anna Politacha will also be joining us in Grade 6. Anna finished her student teaching here at Summitview last year, and we are excited to have her continue with us in her first year of teaching. We also welcome another teacher who also finished her student teaching last year at Summitview, Brittany Sopko, who will be teaching Grade 7, which is the same grade that she did her student teaching in. We are also excited to announce that Trina McKay will be taking on the role of Vice Principal of Summitview School as well as continuing to be our Learning Support Teacher, and Grade 7 and 8 math teacher. We are excited to have these fantastic individuals as a part of our staff, and as a part of our community.

Effective communication is essential to providing a positive, effective learning environment for our students. Please join us at our annual welcome back BBQ in September to meet your child's teacher and our school staff. We will also be setting up 'beginning of the year' parent teacher interviews for you to be able to discuss your child's education, and the expectations of the school and classroom with your teacher. You will also be receiving phone calls and emails through our synvoice system that we will be using to pass on information to you about events that are happening at Summitview. Please 'like' our Facebook page as well since we use this to pass on information about events that are happening in our school. You can also use our website to look at the calendar of upcoming events, contact the teacher or principal, or to learn more about our school. Your child's teacher will also be using their planner in Grades 4, 5 and 6 as well as weekly emails in all grades to let you know what you need to be aware of as we go through the year. You can contact your child's teacher whenever you feel it is necessary: by email, or by phoning the school and leaving a message for the teacher to phone you back. Education is a partnership between the child, teacher, parent and school/district supports. We encourage you to contact us whenever you feel it is necessary to address your child's safety or education.

Parents are encouraged to volunteer in any way that they are able. We need parents to help by volunteering in the classroom, reading with students, supervising field trips, being a part of our school council, writing grants, supervising dances and many other roles. If you are interested please contact your child's teacher or attend our School Council meetings.

Welcome back to an exciting and rewarding school year. Students will be welcomed back on September 5th by all staff as we work collaboratively to provide the best education possible, academically and socially. It is important that we work together, as a team, with parents, students, and staff to provide a safe and caring environment with high expectations for student success.

JASPER

Jasper Elementary School (JES)

We wish to extend a warm welcome to the 2017-18 school year at Jasper Elementary School. JES is a dual track school that offers English and French Immersion programming for children in kindergarten through Grade 6. Our caring staff members strive to create a stimulating and inclusive learning environment where everyone is welcome.

The new school year will bring one new staff member to JES. I am pleased to welcome Cristin Murphy as our B.E.S.T. coach; this stands for Bringing Empowered Students Together. Grande Yellowhead Public School Division has a focus on building resiliency with our students and staff. Having a B.E.S.T. coach at JES will allow us to put this goal at the epicentre of all we do.

Another change to note this year is a school-wide 'Drop Everything and Read Time'. This D.E.A.R. time will take place daily after lunch from 1:05 – 1:25pm. Our staff believe that providing students with an opportunity to select books based on their interests, and time to enjoy these in school, will empower and encourage them to read beyond the school day. Please help us at home by discussing books with your child and leading by example.

We will be kicking off our school year with a celebration of all things Canadian! Join us on Thursday, September 14th from 5:30 – 6:30pm for this welcome back event. During the event, parents are encouraged to go to their child's classroom from 5:30 – 6:00pm to meet their teacher and discuss curriculum and field trips for the year. At 6pm, families and staff members will gather outside near the playground for Bannock treats and drumming.

Please continue to check our school website for updates on news and events!

Jasper Junior/ Senior High School (JJSHS)

JJSHS is excited to be back in the swing of things. September is a busy month with a plethora of academic, sporting, and social events planned. The first day of school is September 5th and then all the action starts. Our annual Grade 10 stewardship trip leaves on September 11th for three nights out at the Palisades. Check out our online calendar at www.jasperhigh.ca for updated events and key dates as they are posted throughout the year - welcome back!



**THE LEARNING CONNECTION
(TLC) - WELCOME BACK!**