

"What lies behind you and what lies in front of you, pales in comparison to what lies inside of you."
— Ralph Waldo Emerson

2024 Valedictorian Profiles



GRANDE CACHE

Sheldon Coates School
Summitview School
Grande Cache Community High
The Learning Connection Grande Cache



JASPER

Jasper Elementary
Jasper Junior/Senior High
The Learning Connection Jasper

HINTON
Crescent Valley School
Ecole Mountain View
Harry Collinge High
The Learning Connection Hinton

FULHAM

Fulham School

WILDWOOD

Wildwood School

EDSON

Ecole Pine Grove Middle
Ecole Westhaven
Mary Bergeron Elementary
Parkland Composite High
The Learning Connection Edson

NITON

Niton Central School

EVANSBURG

Evansview School
Grand Trunk School
The Learning Connection Evansburg

At Grande Yellowhead Public School Division, Student Learning is the first Board Priority. We are proud of our students and invite you to celebrate their accomplishments. Help us recognize our 2024 Grade 12 Valedictorians from across GYPSD!

Jasper Junior/Senior High School

Congratulations JJSHS Valedictorian for the class of 2024, Ayesha Penas!

Ayesha will be attending the University of Alberta in the fall in order to complete a Bachelor of Science. She plans on majoring in psychology with the ultimate goal of being a psychiatrist one day.

Ayesha and her family are first generation immigrants to Canada from the Philippines. Upon her arrival to Canada, Ayesha quickly settled into life in her small mountain town.

This year Ayesha began volunteering at the Jasper Education and Employment Centre and assisted in teaching new immigrants English. In terms of extracurricular activities, Ayesha was part of the GYPSD Superintendent Youth Council and advocated for increased fitness room access for fellow students.

Her advice to others is to live life to the fullest and take risks. Ayesha enjoys swimming, badminton, and creating digital and traditional art.

Next year Ayesha says she will miss her family, friends and teachers.



Grande Cache Community High School

Congratulations GCCHS Valedictorian for the class of 2024, Juliett Bullock!

Juliett is a truly outstanding student who loves to learn and challenge herself. She is a pleasure to teach and her drive to succeed will serve her well as she moves on to the next steps in her life.

Juliett and her family will spend the next year traveling in Europe and Japan. They have been planning their trip for quite some time and are excited to broaden their horizons and experience different parts of the world. Juliett hopes that she will build greater independence and confidence on her travels so that when she returns to Canada, she will be better prepared to pursue her success.

She wishes to thank all of the teachers who devoted themselves to their craft and provided her with the resources needed to excel. She also thanks her parents, who encouraged her curiosity from a young age and to this day.

Juliett's positive attitude and love of learning will be missed in her school and the staff look forward to seeing her return from her travels to further her future education, and see where life will take her.



Harry Collinge High School, Hinton

Congratulations HCHS Valedictorian for the class of 2024, Easas Frias!

Easas arrived in Canada when he was in Grade 6 and faced the challenge of learning a new language while adapting to a new culture.

Undeterred by these obstacles, Easas embraced every opportunity for growth and learning. During his time at Harry Collinge High School, Easas set high standards for himself and worked hard academically, with a focus on the sciences and creatively as a member of the band program. Easas has also enjoyed extracurricular activities such as volleyball and badminton.

Looking ahead, Easas is excited to begin a new chapter at the University of Alberta, where he will pursue a Bachelor of Science degree with aspirations of becoming a dental surgeon.

Easas is respected by staff and students alike and appreciated for his quiet determination and inclusive mindset. We wish him all the best in the future!



Parkland Composite High School, Edson

Congratulations PCHS Valedictorian for the class of 2024, Jediah Eslao!

Jediah plans to use the upcoming year to work in preparation for pursuing a degree in Pharmacy, hopefully at the University of Alberta.

Jediah looks forward to having her own family in the future and supporting her parents to ideally retire early, returning the favor to them for their years of support while she pursues her passions.

Jediah would like to thank her teachers this year: Mr. Andersen, Mrs. Bencz, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Sommerfeld, for their support through the academically tough year, and will fondly remember her Grade 12 Physics trip to Edmonton, spending time with her peers.

Jediah shares her best wishes to the class of 2024, and offers the advice to "take it slow, and never stop learning".



Grand Trunk High School, Evansburg

Congratulations to the Grand Trunk High School Valedictorian for the Class of 2024, Monica Blahun!

Next year, Monica will be enrolling at NAIT for Introductory Medical Laboratory Procedures starting in September. She has already completed the Anatomy and Physiology and Medical Terminology courses at NAIT during her Grade 12 High School year.

In September 2025, she will be enrolling in Medical Radiology Technology, planning to pursue a career in hospital radiology departments.

Monica was an important part of many facets of Grand Trunk High School, participating in all sports while maintaining a strong academic standing. She is a responsible, dedicated student whose commitment to her academic success is admirable. Demonstrating leadership qualities, both in the classroom and on the various sports teams, Monica worked to empower those around her, challenging everyone to be the best version of themselves in all situations.

When asked about her high school career, Monica said, "This year and also in the past has been a challenge not just for me but also for my classmates and peers who had to overcome the pandemic, fires, and our school being under construction. It all taught me a valuable lesson about the importance of overcoming struggles that bring you down and being stronger when you get up."

