



Tracy Beattie – Principal/directrice

Carroll Glidden – Assistant Principal/directrice adjointe

## Principal's Message

It is hard to believe that the beginning of February is here and that our school year is half over. This month will be a very busy one as staff have planned many exciting events for our students. We are also busy preparing for the coming school year making transitions as we say goodbye to some staff and welcome others to our team.

During the month of January we have been busy filling several staffing positions at the school to cover for staff away on leaves. As indicated in my recent email, we are very sad to announce that Madame Bonzi will be leaving our staff to take on a position at the Division Office. We are very excited for her in this new opportunity and wish her all the best. We will really miss her and appreciate how she has supported our school community over the past six years. We are excited to welcome Dana Read to our staff. Mrs. Read joins us from the Ohaton area and we know she will make a great addition to our staff. I would also like to thank and say goodbye to Mrs. N Kelly. She has taken on a new position in her hometown of Daysland. We wish her all the best in her new position.

We would also like to welcome Madame Martinson and Mrs. Olson to our staff. Madame Martinson was recently hired to teach our grade four French Immersion class. She is a great addition to our staff and we are very excited to have her teach our grade four class. Mrs. Olson is working as an educational assistant and comes to us with a great deal of experience in supporting students. Finally we would like to say congratulations and send all our best wishes to Madame Rostad who will be out on a leave shortly. We are so excited for her and her family as they wait for the newest addition to their family. We are excited to welcome Madame Alton Snow back to our staff. She will be covering for Madame Rostad for the rest of the school year and the relationship she has already built with this class is going to make this a smooth transition for our students.

Basketball season is now underway for our grade four and five students. Each group has had an opportunity to participate in a few practices. Our grade five had their first game last week and our grade four class will take to the court for the first time this Wednesday, February 1st. Mr. Heidt is coaching the grade five team this year and I have been very fortunate to get to coach the grade four students. Our season is a short one with the final tournaments taking place on Saturday, February 25th. We will host the grade five teams and our grade four team will travel to Jack Stuart School for their tournament. We look forward to seeing our families out to cheer us on at the upcoming games.

In addition to the start of basketball season, students will be involved in many other activities this month. Next week (Feb. 8th and 9th) all of our students will have the opportunity to go skating. Please watch for messages from teachers regarding the opportunity to help tie skates and supervise at the hockey arena. Our grade two and four students will have the opportunity to take part in swimming lessons starting at the end of February. Please watch for further information from your child's teacher around times and dates for swimming.

Students and staff are both excited for the return of Carnaval d'hiver this year which will run from Feb. 22nd to 24th. Activities this year will return to the regular schedule including daily assemblies to start that day, pancake breakfast being provided for all students on their assigned days and a full day of activities on Friday, February 24th including the return of a student's favorite, la tire. Thank you to our French Immersion teachers for planning this event and to our parent council and the Canadian Parents for French for their support and organizing of la tire this year.

A reminder that students will have an extra long weekend this month. Teachers' Convention takes place on Thursday, February 17th and Friday, February, 18th. Family Day follows this on Monday, February 21st and there is a staff Collaboration Day on Tuesday, February 22nd. There is no school on any of these days. We hope that you all are able to take advantage of these days and enjoy time with your family.

This is the time of year that we start making plans for the coming school year. Mrs. Glidden and I will be meeting with members of the Senior Leadership Team and Finance department at BRSD later this month to begin discussions on staffing for the fall. As our enrollment is similar to last year, we do not anticipate any big changes in staffing for next year.

As the Family Day long weekend approaches we would like to take this opportunity to thank all our families for their support throughout the school year. We hope all our students, staff and their families have a great long weekend.



### **Hot Lunch Fridays**

February 3 Boston Pizza

February 10 Fat Burger

February 24 Boston Pizza

### **Orders for March will be open from Feb 2-14**

March 3 Subway

March 10 Metal Kettle

March 17 EDO Japan

March 24 Booster Juice

### **Kindergarten /Maternelle Fridays**

#### **Monday/Wednesday Classes**

February 3

February 24

March 24

#### **Tuesday/Thursday Classes**

February 10

March 3

March 17

### **Important Dates**

Feb 1 - Kindergarten & Early Learning Registration Opens online at <https://www.brsd.ab.ca/learning/pre-k-and-kindergarten>

Feb 16 & 17 - Teacher's Convention no school

Feb 20 - Family Day schools are closed

Feb 21 - Professional Learning Series no school for students

Feb 22-24 - Carnaval d'hiver Parents are welcome to join us from 8:35-9:05 on Feb 22 & 23 and anytime on Feb 24

Feb 25 - Gr 5 Basketball Tournament at Sifton 9-12

Feb 25 - Gr 4 Bball Tournament at Jack Stuart 9-12

Feb 27 - Grade 4 & 5 Ski Trip to Rabbit Hill

March 2 - Early Dismissal at 2:15

Mar 20 - Staff Collaboration Day No School for Students

Mar 27-31 - Spring Break

We are looking for volunteers to assist with a pancake breakfast on February 22 & 23 from 8:30-12 and on February 24 to help make and serve la tire. If you are available for one or more days please let your child's homeroom teacher know. Thank you!

Kindergarten and PreK Registration is open! Head to <https://www.brsd.ab.ca/learning/pre-k-and-kindergarten> for more information. Please contact us with any questions.



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Respect  
Ownership  
Achievement  
Responsibility



Our December ROAR draw was held on Friday, December 16. These lucky recipients had their names drawn from the overflowing bucket of ROAR tickets. Well done to all of our students for remembering to show their ROAR each and every day at school!



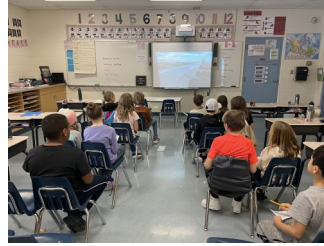
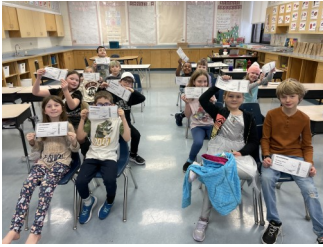
## Grade 3-5 taking in the Pinty's Grand Slam of Curling



## Sifton SWAT Christmas Party



### 3M FIM Virtual Field Trip to Peru



Tuesday, January 17 our grade 1-5 students visited the Jeanne & Peter Lougheed Performing Arts Center to watch the ÉCCHS production of Disney's *The Newsies!*

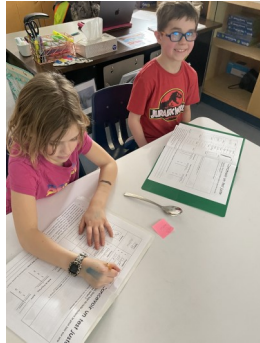
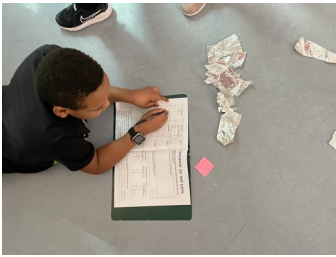


A group of BRSD's Japanese exchange students came to visit us at École Sifton .





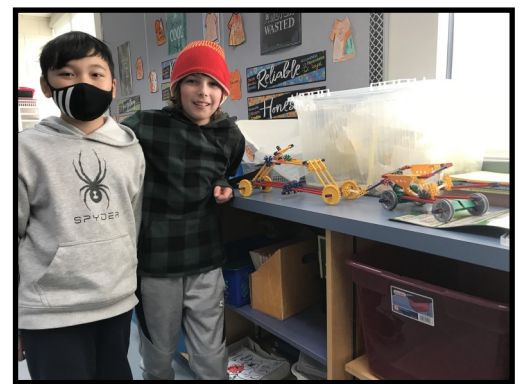
### 3M Inspecting different building materials



### Grade 5 field trip to Renoylds-Alberta Museum



### Grade 4 Future Engineers at Work



### What is kindness?

Kindness is sharing the best parts of our hearts with those around us.

Kindness is seeing the good in others and celebrating it.

Take time to share random acts of kindness this month; be creative and have fun practicing kindness.

Celebrate Random Acts of Kindness Day on February 17.

Kindness matters.

### Kindness is teachable and contagious

Kindness benefits you by:

- Increasing your happiness and improving your mood.
- Helping you cope and reduce worry and stress.
- Connecting you to others in a positive way.

Research shows kindness helps students be more respectful, empathetic, and positive about school.

**Self-kindness** is taking actions and reactions you would have for others and applying them to yourself. Self-kindness leads to self-acceptance and greater satisfaction. When we embrace self-kindness, we offer ourselves better care.

Try these strategies:

- Participate in self-care strategies
- Pay attention to your internal dialogue
- Feel your feelings
- Magnify your strengths
- Find solutions
- Use positive affirmations daily

### Tips to help your family nurture kindness

Talk with your children about ways to show kindness.

Practice and role model kindness at home and in your community.

Take notice of others' acts of kindness and receive kindness when it's offered.

Learn from each other by sharing good things that have happened.

### MORE RESOURCES

[Random Acts of Kindness](#)  
[Help in Tough Times](#)

Information on mental health, community supports, programs and services in your area:



Addiction Services Help Line  
1-866-332-2322

Mental Health Help Line  
1-877-303-2642



Health Link  
Health Advice 24/7





# The 2023-2024 School Calendar

## Battle River School Division

2023-2024 School Calendar - Approved by BRSD Board November 24, 2022

August 2023						
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		

September 2023						
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

October 2023						
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				

November 2023						
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		

December 2023						
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						

January 2024						
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			

February 2024						
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		

March 2024						
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						

April 2024						
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				

May 2024						
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	

June 2024						
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						

July 2024						
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			

- Holidays (Schools Closed)
- Day-in-Lieu of Parent/Teacher Interviews (Schools Closed)
- Staff Collaboration (No School for Students)
- Non-Instructional Planning Day (No School for Students)
- Teachers' Convention (Schools Closed)
- Staff Meeting (Early Dismissal)
- Professional Learning (No School for Students)
- Schools Closed
- Last Operational Day (No School for Students)
- First and Last Day of School for Students

**Rationale**

**Professional Learning and Staff Collaboration Days** - As an organization that learns, we are ensuring sacred time for staff professional development and skill enhancement, using research-based practice and opportunities for collaboration to support mastery of our Critical 2 priorities and to support student needs.

**Staff Meeting Days** - We have incorporated a 1/2 day staff meeting every month except September. Early dismissal times may vary depending on school timetables.

Revised January 09, 2023





# The 2023-2024 School Calendar

Revised January 30, 2023

**Battle River School Division  
2023 - 2024 School Calendar  
Approved by BRSD Board November 24, 2022**

<u>Month</u>	<u>Date</u>		<u>Total Days Oper</u>	<u>Sr High Instr</u>	<u>Elem/Jr High Instr</u>
AUGUST	29	PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SERIES (No School for Students)			
	30	PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SERIES (No School for Students)			
	31	NON-INSTRUCTIONAL PLANNING DAY (No School for Students)			
SEPTEMBER	1	NON-INSTRUCTIONAL PLANNING DAY (No School for Students)			
	4	LABOUR DAY (Schools Closed)			
	5	FIRST DAY FOR STUDENTS			
	25	STAFF COLLABORATION DAY (No School for Students)	23.0	18.0	18.0
OCTOBER	5	STAFF MEETING / EARLY DISMISSAL			
	9	THANKSGIVING DAY (Schools Closed)	21.0	21.0	21.0
NOVEMBER	1	PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SERIES (No School for Students)			
	2	STAFF MEETING / EARLY DISMISSAL			
	13	NON-OPERATIONAL DAY IN LIEU REMEMBRANCE DAY (Schools Closed)			
	14&15	DAY IN LIEU OF PARENT / TEACHER INTERVIEWS (Schools Closed)			
	16&17	FALL BREAK (Schools Closed)	19.0	16.0	16.0
DECEMBER	7	STAFF MEETING / EARLY DISMISSAL			
	11	STAFF COLLABORATION DAY (No School for Students)			
	20	LAST DAY OF CLASSES			
	21	CHRISTMAS BREAK BEGINS (Schools Closed)	14.0	13.0	13.0
JANUARY	4	SCHOOL RESUMES			
	11	STAFF MEETING / EARLY DISMISSAL			
	31	PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SERIES (No School for Students)	20.0	19.0	19.0
<b>TOTAL SEMESTER 1</b>			<b>97.0</b>	<b>87.0</b>	<b>87.0</b>
FEBRUARY	1	SEMESTER 2 BEGINS			
	8	STAFF MEETING / EARLY DISMISSAL			
	15&16	TEACHERS' CONVENTION (Schools Closed)			
	19	FAMILY DAY (Schools Closed)			
	26	STAFF COLLABORATION DAY (No School for Students)	20.0	17.0	17.0
MARCH	7	STAFF MEETING / EARLY DISMISSAL			
	18	SPRING BREAK BEGINS (Schools Closed)			
	25	SCHOOL RESUMES			
	29	GOOD FRIDAY (Schools Closed)	15.0	15.0	15.0
APRIL	1	EASTER MONDAY (Schools Closed)			
	4	STAFF MEETING / EARLY DISMISSAL			
	15	PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SERIES (No School for Students)	21.0	20.0	20.0
MAY	2	STAFF MEETING / EARLY DISMISSAL			
	6	STAFF COLLABORATION DAY (No School for Students)			
	20	VICTORIA DAY (Schools Closed)	22.0	21.0	21.0
JUNE	6	STAFF MEETING / EARLY DISMISSAL			
	27	LAST INSTRUCTIONAL DAY			
	28	LAST OPERATIONAL DAY (No School for Students)	20.0	19.0	19.0
<b>TOTAL SEMESTER 2</b>			<b>98.0</b>	<b>92.0</b>	<b>92.0</b>
<b>TOTAL FOR YEAR</b>			<b>195.0</b>	<b>179.0</b>	<b>179.0</b>

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