



VERMILION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS



Being the Best We Can Be **September 2021**



Virtue of The Month
Goal Setting



School Picture Days

Tuesday
September 14th
KB & Gr 1-3

Wednesday
September 15th
KA & Gr 4-6

BTPS self-screening App



**Stay Connected with VES on
our website, Facebook, or
email the principal by clicking
on the following buttons**



I sincerely hope each and every one of you had an amazing summer break and are eager to be starting another school year here at VES. The excitement of the first day of school never really goes away, whether it be for students or staff. We are sure it's much the same for parents. While Covid-19 has not gone away, we will start the year under a different set of restrictions than we had last year. The staggered re-entry was very much welcomed by our staff last year, so we opted to go with it again. It was much easier for teachers to get students settled into their classrooms and make those positive connections with a smaller group of students. For those students new to our school, we hope you feel welcome. We are happy to have you join our VES family.

I believe that a strong school is a result of cooperation and collaboration between educators, students, parents and the community. I believe that respecting and appreciating the efforts of every single individual within a school is essential if a 'family' culture is to be reinforced. I believe in life-long learning and acknowledging and supporting individuals who seek to broaden their knowledge or experience. They, in turn, make a school stronger. I believe that communication is the single most important element required for successful leadership. I believe that children are the reason that I want to be at Vermilion Elementary School. I believe everyone can learn and everyone can be successful. I believe our school needs to be a safe and caring place that students and staff look forward to coming to every day.

It is with mixed emotions that I announce that I will be leaving Vermilion Elementary School. I have accepted a position in another school jurisdiction with a Nov. 1, 2021 start. My last day at VES is yet to be finalized, but should become more clear in the coming weeks.

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Vermilion Elementary School Mission Statement:

Within a safe and nurturing community, we at Vermilion Elementary School, will foster personal and academic excellence, while treating each other with dignity and respect.

As a team, we will be the best we can be.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the past 3+ years at VES and will greatly miss all the wonderful students and families. I have gotten to greet all bus students at the start of each day and send them home at the end of each day. I have taught all the students in one of their physical education classes each week and have thoroughly enjoyed the many wonderful connections. The challenges throughout the pandemic have made these different times for everyone. It is my hope that we are all able to get the school year off to a successful start and continue those same experiences throughout the remainder of the year. My replacement will be coordinated by BTPS and further information will be forthcoming in the coming weeks.

As part of our regular routine as a school, each year we practice emergency drills at various times during the school year. These are not announced in advance and are intended to prepare both staff and students should a real emergency arise. We evaluate the success of each emergency drill to determine if there are ways we can improve our practice.

We look forward to having a great year at Vermilion Elementary School. We encourage students, staff and parents to *Be The Best We Can Be* in all that we do. We encourage open communication amongst all educational stakeholders as we strive to provide the best learning opportunities possible for our students. By working together, we believe we will be able to provide the most optimal learning environment possible and create a place where staff and students look forward to coming each and every day.

Mr. Calvin Anhorn

Principal



STAFF LIST

Administration

Principal: Mr. Calvin Anhorn

Assistant Principal/Inclusive Learning Coordinator: Mrs. Sheila Doherty

Instructional Staff

Kindergarten: Mrs. Hallie Zaharko

1A Mrs. Tracy Long

1B Mrs. Janna McLaughlin

2A Mrs. Jessica Heinrich

2/3 Mrs. Raelene Tupper

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3A Mrs. Phyllis Tomkins

4B Mr. Brian Harvey

4/5 Mr. Greg Haslehurst

5B Mr. Colin Beecroft

6A Mrs. Adrienne Joa

6B Mrs. Deirdre Myshaniuk

Music: Ms. Karen King

Support Staff

Administrative Assistants: Mrs. Gerri Cameron, Mrs. Erinn Baldwin

Educational Assistants: Mrs. Kelly Bykowski, Mrs. Pam Fuller, Mrs. Sharleen Moses, Mrs. Jean Murie, Mrs. Kristin Page, Mrs. Ruth Prill, Ms. Pam Pentelichuk, Mrs. Corinne McPhee

VIBE Coach: Mrs. Ramona Mathison

Social Emotional Coach: Mrs. Tanya Laye

Hot Lunch Cook: Ms. Karen Hughes

Custodians: Mr. Calvin Decker, Mr. Rocky Berscht

Bus Drivers: Allen Clark (4), Lionel Quickstad (6), Sheldon Quickstad (7), Dawn Woywitka (11), Cindy Munro (13), Candice Holowaychuk (15), Wayne Hobbis (16), Ken Newton (17), Laura Davidson-Arcand (18), Randy Borysiuk (20), Leah Clark (22), Katy Clevenger (24), Connie Elder (25), Lenoa Atkinson (26), Phil Dunning (27), Jackie Johnson(28).



STUDENT ATTENDANCE

If your child is going to be absent/late, even if buses are not running please let your child's teacher know or call the office to notify us. If you have not contacted the school office or teacher to inform us if your child will be absent/late, we will call you to ensure your child is safe.



PARKING

Parents and visitors are able to park on 49 Avenue, as well as south of the crosswalk on 44 Street. **Please ensure that you are not parking in front of the school in the bus loading/unloading zone from 8:00-9:30 am and from 2:30-4:00 pm.** We ask that parents & visitors also refrain from parking in the staff parking lot as this is reserved for staff members and for safety reasons students may not be dropped off or picked up in the parking lot.

IMPORTANT

PICK-UP/DROP-OFF COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

Parents/Guardians/Caregivers/Visitors Entering the School

All visitors to the school must wear a mask, use proper hand hygiene upon entering, and complete the BTPS [daily screening app](#). Visitors, students or staff who feel ill or have symptoms of COVID-19 cannot enter the school.

As you enter the building through the main entrance ONLY, you will follow the visitor protocol outlined here.

- **Complete the BTPS COVID-19 app on the ipad provided or use your own device to complete the app. To open the app, scan the QR code with your device camera.**
- **Sanitize your hands with the provided sanitizer.**
- **Sanitize the IPAD after use with the provided wipes.**
- **Wear a mask at all times in the school.**
- **Please maintain physical distance of 2m from others where possible.**
- **Please follow the directional arrows for travel within the school.**

All visitors, including those coming for Vermilion Play Development and Before/After School Care, MUST use the front entrance to enter the building and must follow the visitor instructions in the front entrance. Visitors will exit the building using the closest exit.



BOSTON PIZZA OPERATION EDUCATION

Operation Education began in 1984 as a way to support schools to raise funds for school-related ventures. Families can turn in original Boston Pizza receipts dated from September 1, 2021 through to December 31, 2021. Please send to school with students or bring to the office. We will submit these receipts to Boston Pizza and they will issue a rebate cheque to the school for 5% of the total before tax! Thank you for participating!!



VIBE NEWS

Welcome back, I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer filled with connection and new memories. I am Ramona Mathison, the VIBE Coach at VES. VIBE is a Mental Health Capacity Building program funded by AHS. We focus on mental health prevention within the school typically through programming within the classrooms, community activities, etc. Over the year, your child may come home with notes, crafts, activities, or stories from the VIBE program. I encourage you to ask your child what they have been learning with VIBE throughout the year.

Help your child "reconnect"

As your child returns to school and activities this fall, you both may be feeling a variety of emotions; joy, excitement, fear, worry, confusion, nervousness - all are normal.

- Help them to understand and name their emotions.
- Explore together how to create strategies and build skills to manage those emotions.
- Support your child to have a plan to reconnect safely. This will help them be confident through this time of transition.

Be a positive role model

Model good coping behaviors, be calm, honest and caring.

Implement a daily routine and sleep schedule for the whole family.

Support your child - and others - if they wish to wear a mask.

Continue to practice good hand hygiene.

Help them rehearse how to reconnect with their teachers and classmates. Share how you have reconnected and do role plays to support them to reconnect successfully.

Talk openly

Transitions can be stressful. Taking time to talk openly can help ease the stress.

Regular time for conversations, like at the dinner table, will provide opportunity for each family member to share what is going well and what they are concerned about.

Listen, validate their experience, and express empathy and understanding.

Let them know you are there for them. Brainstorm together to identify other trusted adults they can reach out to for support.

Be compassionate

Be kind to yourself and to others.

Recognize that each person will move forward with change at their own pace.

Make a plan as a family to :

- pay attention to how you are doing
- notice how others are doing
- take things one day at a time and allow yourself to be flexible with change.

Encourage your child to be considerate, thoughtful and respectful of others, even when they have different opinions or practices.

MORE RESOURCES

[Preparing for a new school year | Alberta.ca](#)

[My-Back-to-School-Checklist-During-COVID-19.aspx \(jack.org\)](#)

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





FROM THE BUS LANE

STUDENT SAFETY IS OUR GOAL!

- **All students and drivers are required to wear a mask. Students will not be allowed on the bus without a mask.**
- **Seating Plans: There will be seating plans on the bus, however this year, the first one on the bus does not have to load at the back of the bus.**
- **Buses will be cleaned after each bus run.**
- **Food/Drinks are not permitted at this time.**

LARGE ITEMS and SCHOOL PROJECTS ON SCHOOL BUSES: Large band instruments and sports equipment such as skateboards, hockey sticks, hockey bags, bats, curling brooms, skis, etc. are not allowed on the bus. Small band instruments and skates in a properly secured bag (i.e. not plastic) with skate guards will be transported on school buses. Students must be able to hold all of his or her school items on his/her lap without them projecting out of their seating area, into the aisle or into another student's space. Items no larger than 13" x 13" x 23" can be carried on the school busses. This applies to regular bus runs. School projects that are too large to fit on a student's lap or perhaps contain dangerous materials (i.e. cut glass, chemicals, etc.) are not permitted on the bus. Please transport these projects yourself to school for your child(ren) and we have asked teachers to be aware that transportation of such projects may be an issue for some rural students.

SCHOOL BUS RULES: Please remind your children of the school bus rules. The rules are established to keep the children safe on the school bus. The bus driver's attention needs to be on the road. If they have to continuously turn around to address student behavior they are putting the bus at risk. Thus, student misbehavior on the school bus will be addressed through our Student Conduct/Discipline on School Bus and Student Suspension administrative procedures. The Board has amended the Student Misconduct on School Bus Administrative Procedure to ensure that bus related misconducts serve bus related consequences. This year more than ever following the rules on the school bus is so important for student safety due to COVID-19. Sitting in assigned seats, wearing masks because we can't social distance on the school bus, and not eating and drinking are important to reduce the risk of getting and/or spreading COVID-19.

A commercial vehicle inspector provided Transportation Directors in Alberta with the following information from the Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation regarding the fine for children standing on the school bus:

The fine for a violation of Section 29 of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation (standing on a moving school bus) is \$310.00. As per the Provincial Offence Procedures Act of Alberta, Section 29 is directed to the offender if the offender is 16 years old or older. If the offender is under the age of 16, then the violation ticket would be issued to the person responsible for the child at the time of the offence, which would be the driver of the vehicle (bus driver).

The avoidance of the fine is one thing, but the avoidance of having a child hurt when the bus suddenly stops is the most important reason students are asked to remain seated on the school bus and not to distract the bus driver's attention from the road.

BUS EVACUATIONS: As per Board administrative procedures, bus drivers are responsible to conduct practice bus evacuations to prepare students for an emergency. Due to COVID-19 we will not be conducting actual bus evacuations, but the bus drivers will be explaining the process and doing front door evacuations with the students. We have also asked the schools to show videos of proper bus evacuations so students are prepared in the event of an emergency. If there was an emergency, bus evacuation protocol would of course be the priority versus COVID-19 transmission. Bus evacuation drills are much like fire drills in the school. Should there be immediate danger for staying on the bus, students are taught the safest methods for exiting the school bus. For more information on the bus evacuation drills, please refer to the Administrative Procedure on Safety

<http://www.btps.ca/documents/general/701-10AP%20-%20Safety%20Admin%20Procedures.pdf>

BUS DRIVER NOTIFICATION: Please inform your bus driver when your child(ren) will not be on the bus. Bus drivers are not to be on their phones during their route, so please ensure you are informing your bus driver of changes to your child's schedule before the bus driver starts out on their bus route in the morning and in the afternoon. Ask your bus driver for their start times, so you know when you must notify them that your child will not be on the bus. When they have to stop and answer a text or phone call at a safe location it adds time to the bus route and it is a distraction.

TEMPORARY SCHOOL BUS SERVICE: Due to COVID-19 there are no guest riders allowed for the 2021-2022 school year.

CROSS WALK SAFETY: Please remind your children to use marked crosswalks and the pause, point and proceed method to cross the street to the schools or an intersection if there are no marked crosswalks. It is important that students are not walking through parked cars or school buses as they are not visible to passing motorists. It is the parent responsibility to have their child get safely to and from their designated bus stop.

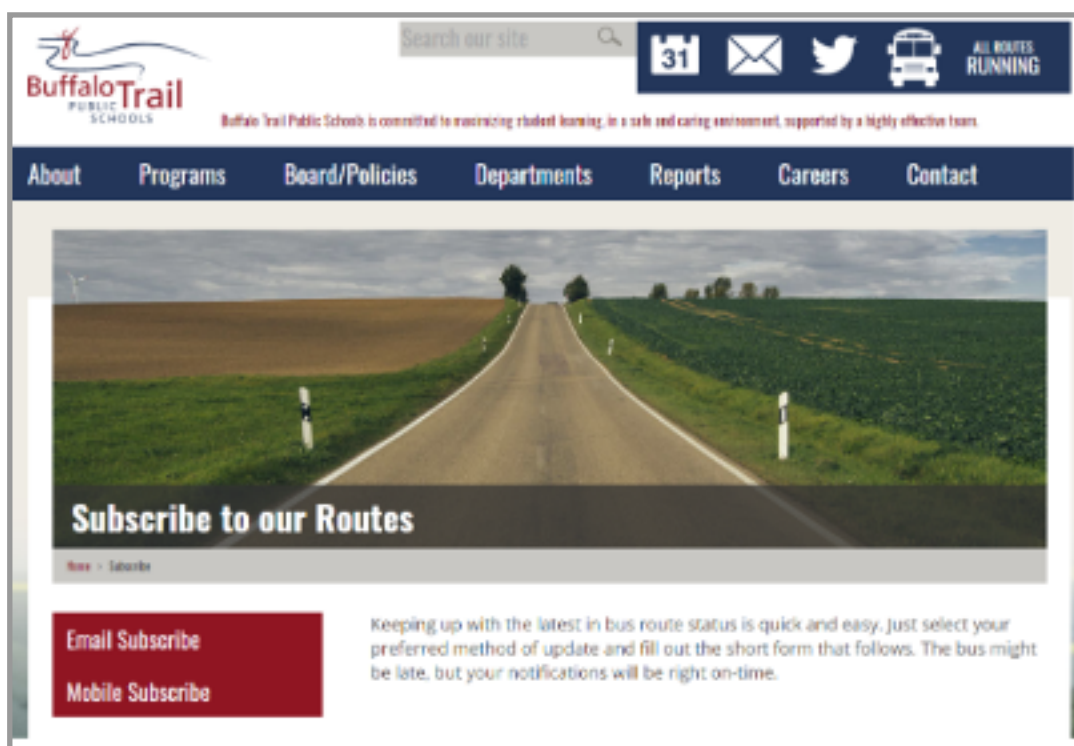
PARKING: Please park in designated parking areas and do not park in the bus loading zones or handicapped parking stalls (unless you have a permit).

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHIC UPDATES: Parents, please complete the student demographic update forms that the school sends home with your child so we can ensure the information we have in Power School and Bus Planner is correct.

BUS FEE PAYMENTS: Parents and guardians can now pay their bus fees online. The button to pay fees is on the parent page of the school website and labelled "PAY FEES". If they need help they can email transportation@btps.ca. We also accept e-transfers. The email is vivian.locher@btps.ca, and in the message you put your child's name, bus route number and bussing service you are paying for (i.e. Vermilion Intown, Wainwright Intown, Yard Service, etc.). The parent/guardian will need the Alberta Student Number in order to complete an online payment. The Alberta Student Number can be found in BTPS Parent Portal or on the fee invoice.

BUS ROUTE UPDATES AND SUBSCRIPTION: The BTPS Inclement Weather [701.11AP](#) and [701.12AP](#) includes a -40 °C clause. If the temperature with or without a windchill factor reaches -40 °C buses will not run. The temperature will be read at 6:00 p.m. the night before and based on the next day projected temperatures (with windchill) between 6:00-9:00 p.m. for the morning run and from 3:00-5:00 p.m. for the afternoon run. Regardless of the temperature, students should always wear or carry with them appropriate winter attire when riding the school bus.

On mornings when weather conditions are poor, parents will be advised by their bus driver and/or by an emergency announcement regarding bus cancellations on the [BTPS Website](#). Parental cooperation is essential when using the fan out system during inclement weather or emergency situations. Parents are asked to provide the school with a current home, cell, email, and/or business telephone number, and to advise their bus driver of an alternative drop off place that is on route for emergency situations. If you have already left for work before your children get on the bus you can check the BTPS website at <http://www.btps.ca/Section%207.php>. We try to update the website as soon as we are notified by the bus driver. Parents can now subscribe to the website to be notified when their bus is not running at <http://www.btps.ca/Subscribe.php>.





VES SPIRITWEAR

Looking for VES Spiritwear clothing to wear to show your school pride? Visit the official Vermilion Elementary School shop online at ves.entripyshops.com to place an order. Choose from a variety of products and brands that you can customize with our VES logo! Everything from t-shirts, hoodies, polos, jackets, shorts, pants, hats, toques, and bags. Orders will be shipped directly to you and 10% of sales is donated back to the school!



\$25.00



\$13.00



\$45.00



\$40.00



**Alberta Health
Services**



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FOR MORE RESOURCES, search:

Preparing for a new school year | [Alberta.ca](https://alberta.ca)

[My-Back-to-School-Checklist-During-COVID-19.aspx](https://alberta.ca/My-Back-to-School-Checklist-During-COVID-19.aspx) (jack.org)



Every time a Co-op member uses any recyclable bag at a Cornerstone Co-op store, 3¢ is donated to local school breakfast programs. VES encourages our parents to use recyclable bags to reduce our collective impact on the environment and to help support our breakfast program.

OPERATION EDUCATION FUNDRAISER

- REBATE PROGRAM -

Operation Education brings Boston Pizza and local schools together.

From September 1 to December 31, 2021, visit your local Northern Alberta Boston Pizza* and help your school earn 5% cash back of the pre-tax total of your receipt.

Let staff, students and other families know to go to Boston Pizza, save their original receipts and submit them to your designated school representative by January 31, 2022.



**valid for registered schools at participating NAB Boston Pizza locations.
Only original receipts are accepted.*



BUFFALO TRAIL SCHOOL DIVISION

Nominations are open for the 2021 School Board Election.

The 2021 School Board Election Nomination Period is open and will remain open until 12:00 noon on Monday, September 20, 2021. The positions for 9 Trustees are open for nominations.

Please contact the Returning Officer, Faye Dunne to make an appointment to submit nomination papers between the hours of 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Nominations are required to include a \$200.00 cash deposit.

For more information check out the Buffalo Trail Public School website at www.btps.ca then click on Board/Policies then click on Election 2021.

Faye Dunne, Returning Officer

Buffalo Trail School Division

1041 – 10A Street

Wainwright, AB T9W 2R4

780-842-6144

Email: faye.dunne@btps.ca

It's Time Promotions - Every Child Matters

<https://itpromo.ca/product-category/every-child-matters/>



Youth & Adult T-Shirts available!

Order deadline is **September 7, 2021**

Two delivery options:

- Choose to have your order delivered to one of the schools listed. BTPS family orders will then be sent home via students. Community members who order this way will need to make arrangements to pick their orders at the selected school between September 27-29, 2021. **In the Order Notes section, please make sure to indicate your school.**
- Choose to have your order ship directly to you by providing your shipping address.

Order Form for the Orange Shirt



A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT BETWEEN BTPS AND THE PARK PLAINS
EAST ATA DIVERSITY EQUITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

ORANGE SHIRT DAY

SAVE THE DATE!

September 30 is a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

We wear orange shirts to recognize the harm done to generations of children by Indian Residential Schools and is an affirmation of our commitment to ensure that every child matters. On September 30, and everyday we commit to taking action toward Truth and Reconciliation.

"Empathy is compassion in action" Kevin John

"One small action can make a big difference" Sam Demma

On September 30, students across Buffalo Trail Public Schools are invited to attend a **virtual event featuring keynote speakers including Sam Demma and Kevin John from They Build Bridges.**

Stay tuned for more information this fall!



Sam Demma



They Build Bridges

2021-2022 BTPS SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Buffalo Trail Public Schools is committed to maximizing student learning, in a safe and caring environment, supported by a highly effective team.

AUGUST							SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER							NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	1	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
29	30	31												31													

LEGEND						
 Holiday	 Day-in-Lieu	 Self Directed Teacher Day	 Celebration Day	 Convention / ATA PL Day	 First Student Day of Semester	 Central Office Closed

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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					

MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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				

The first day for students is September 1, 2021. February 2, 2022 is the first day of Term 2. June 29, 2022 is the last day of school for students.

Please be reminded that when inclement weather does not allow us to operate our buses, schools will be open, classes are occurring and student learning continues. As with any absence, students who miss material will be provided with an opportunity to receive instructional material through an alternate means or catch up on missed school work upon return to school.

Students are required to be in attendance until the last day of school as identified by the BTPS Board Approved Calendar. Final exams at the Grade 7 to 9 level will occur during the last five student days each semester. During non-examination times, tutorials, course review and alternate activities will occur. Final exams in non-diploma courses at the Grade 10 to 12 level will occur during the last five student days each semester. During non-examination times, tutorials, course review and alternate activities will occur. Final exams in diploma courses will occur as described in the Alberta Education Diploma exam schedule (www.education.alberta.ca) and submission of marks will occur the day the diploma marks are due to Alberta Ed. During non-examination times, tutorials, course review and alternate activities will occur.

The 2021-2022 school calendar provides for instructional time for students that exceeds the requirements set by Alberta Education for instructional hours at the Grade 1-9 levels of 950 hours and at the Grade 10-12 levels for 1000 hours. The total student days in this year's calendar equals 181 days.

STUDENT NON-ATTENDANCE DATES

Date	Event
August 2	Heritage Day
August 26	Self Directed Teacher Day
August 27	BTPS Learning Day
August 30	Self Directed Teacher Day
August 31	School Based PL
September 6	Labour Day
October 8	Celebration Day
October 11	Thanksgiving Day
October 22	School Based PL & Support Staff PL
November 8	School Based PL
November 9	ATA Professional
November 10	Designated Day-in-Lieu (Staff Meeting)
November 11	Remembrance Day
November 12	Designated Day-in-Lieu (Parent Teacher Interviews)
December 20 - 31	Christmas Break
January 31	Self Directed Teacher Day
February 1	School Based PL
February 17 & 18	ATA Teachers' Convention
February 21	Family Day
March 4	BTPS Learning Day
April 15	Good Friday
April 18 - 22	Easter Break
May 6	School Based PL
May 19	Designated Day-in-Lieu (Staff Meeting)
May 20	Designated Day-in-Lieu (Parent Teacher Interviews)
May 23	Victoria Day
June 30	Self Directed Teacher Day

** Central Office Closure will be July 18th - July 29th, 2022



Vermilion Elementary School

Being the Best We Can Be

September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 Students' First Day Last Name A-K 	2 Students' First Day Last Name L-Z 	3 School Assembly 9:30 	4
5	6 Labour Day No School 	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 KB & Gr 1-3 School Photos 	15 KA & Gr 4-6 School Photos 	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Orange Shirt Day 	1	2
3	4	5 School Assembly 9:30 	6	7	8 Celebration Day No School 	9