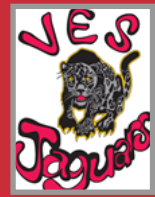




VERMILION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS



Being the Best We Can Be

April 2021



Student Registration

**Accepting Registrations
for the 2021-2022
School Year**

**Kindergarten Registration
packages are available
at the office.**

**If you require further
information please stop by
or call the office at
(780) 853-5444**

BTPS self-screening App



Virtue of The Month *Self-Control*

**School Council Meeting
will be on Monday,
April 19 at 7:00 pm.
*More information to come.***

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



Just when we thought winter was gone, we were reminded that spring storms can be some of the worst ones! Our recent snow storm created some havoc for everyone, but hopefully we won't have any more of that. I'm sure everyone is hopeful that spring will be just around the corner, especially in such a different year. The month of April is bound to pass quickly with our Easter break falling where it is. The month will be almost half over by the time we return on April 12.

The provincial budget was released on Feb. 25, but the Education Budget was not released as part of that announcement. It was delayed until the end of March. As such, we expect we will receive our school budget for 2021/2022 around mid- to late April. Our planning for next school year has begun and will continue into the spring. We recently held our ECS Orientation and Registration event (virtual) to inform our parents and any new ones of what we can offer for a program at VES. If anyone knows of anyone in need of information on our ECS program, we ask that you have them contact our school. A copy of the event has also been placed on our school website and our VES Facebook page.

With many events not happening at our school this year, as well as many people not going to events as they would have in the past, our spending at school has been somewhat different as well. As a result, we have some extra funds available that we wouldn't normally have. With the extra funds, we have purchased some additional resources, some furniture and some interactive panels. The interactive panels will begin to replace our aging Smartboards. We expect more Smartboard replacements over the next few years.

As with many events this year, we were unable to hold our annual spring book fair in the same fashion as we usually do. We are all missing many of the regular events we have grown accustomed to having as part of life at VES and we certainly hope we are able to return to some sense of

continued on Page 2

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.

continued from on Page 1

normalcy soon. We would like to thank everyone for their patience and cooperation in following all of the COVID-19 protocols to help keep everyone safe. We understand that these are challenging times for everyone and thank you for your continued kindness. We sincerely hope everyone has a wonderful Easter break and we look forward to everyone's return after the Easter break.

Mr. Calvin Anhorn

Principal



SPRING SCHOOL PICTURES

Spring photos (Individual & Class Group) & Kindergarten Grad photos will be on Monday April 19th and Tuesday April 20th. Monday will be KA & Gr 1-3 and Tuesday will be KB & Gr 4-6. Group photos will be different this year as we will be doing the class group photos outside, with students social distanced to ensure we are following protocols.



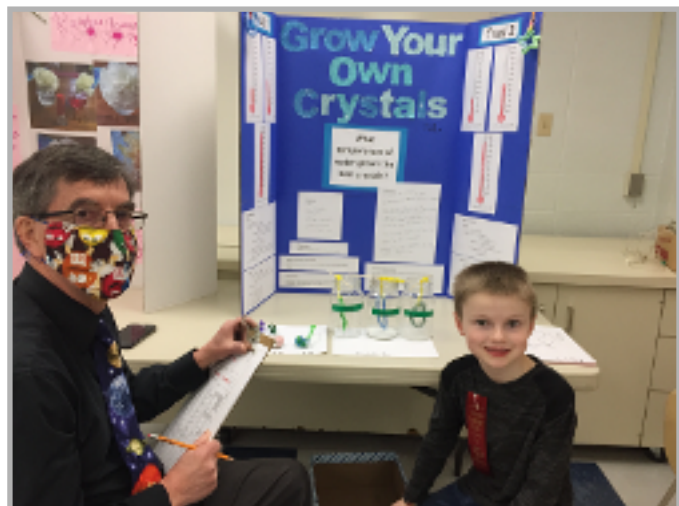
SCIENCE FAIR

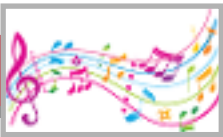
On Tuesday, March 9, Vermilion Elementary School held its 22nd annual Science Fair.

Fifteen students presented their projects. New this year, some students chose to present their experiments in a google slide presentation. All students earned a ribbon for completing a project with eleven projects being recognized for receiving a score of excellence.

Once again, there were a variety of great questions and discoveries at this year's Science Fair. Research topics included dolphins, flowers, space and the solar system. Experiments had to test a scientific question. Topics and materials involved shuffling playing cards, oil and water, eggs, paper towels, melting ice, soap bubbles, computer passwords, growing crystals and coloring flowers. Congratulations to all our participants for putting forth interesting projects and sharing your enthusiasm for science. Thank you to our judge Geoff Faull for volunteering his time and talent to support these budding scientists.

Pictured L-R Geoff Faull and Jace Leahy





SPRING CONCERT

The Spring Concert will proceed this year, only slightly different. Each class will be performing one song that will be recorded and posted on Facebook. The songs will then be randomly posted (only one per day) near the end of April and the beginning of May. We hope you can tune in to each and every selection!



YEARBOOK ORDERS

VES 2020/2021 yearbooks are on sale now until April 30th. Such a wonderful keepsake to treasure for years! Don't miss out on your chance to purchase a copy as we are ordering a limited number of books based on the order forms returned to the school. If you would like to order please complete the order form that was sent home with students and submit with payment to the school before the end of April. The price per book is \$20 and they will be delivered in September and sent home with students.



HOT LUNCH

Vermilion Elementary School Hot Lunch Program has been providing warm, nutritious meals to students since 1999. Since the beginning, our goal has been to provide access to healthy meals regardless of a family's financial circumstances. The Hot Lunch Program subsidizes meal costs for those who need it.

This year more than ever, families are facing challenging times. Our lunch program has also had to make some significant changes to the way we are providing lunch to students in order to meet provincial COVID guidelines for both food handling and school safety. This has come at additional operating costs.

We want to continue to ensure all students have access to hot, healthy lunches no matter the challenges their families are facing this year. For the remainder of the school year, we will be accepting donations to sponsor a VES student's Hot Lunch. Please consider supporting our VES family by giving the gift of a healthy lunch so we can continue to Be the Best We Can Be!

Donations can be made online at ves.hotlunches.net, or by contacting Chantel Betz betzchantel@gmail.com to make arrangements. Mail-in donations can be sent to 5017 63 St. Vermilion, AB T9X 1X4. Charitable receipts are available for donations over \$50.

A sincere thank you to those who have already donated.



STUDENT ATTENDANCE

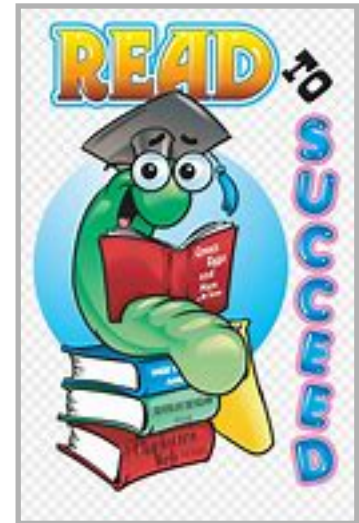
If your child is going to be absent/late, even if buses are not running please let your child's teacher know or call the office to notify us. If you have not contacted the school office or teacher to inform us if your child will be absent/late, we will call you to ensure your child is safe.



LEARNING COMMONS

Thank you for taking care of our books so that they can be read by many other students!

March 23rd would have been our Scholastic Book Fair. Even though we will not be hosting a book fair, and having Book Fair Bucks Rewards, we still plan to reward our students for all the hard work they have been doing by reading to reach goals! Stay tuned, and ask your children what they received for a reward this year.



SOCIAL DISTANCING

We would like to thank all parents and guests of VES for adhering to all the extra protocols that are required while we navigate through the Covid-19 pandemic. We want to remind everyone to social distance when dropping off or picking up their child(ren). We also want to thank everyone for wearing a mask when entering the school and for completing the app either on their phone or using the iPad at the front door.



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.



FOUR YEAR PLAN

Please see [BTPS Four Year Plan](#) for our BTPS Mission, Vision, and Values. This document also includes other important information such as the current BTPS Calendar, Map, Contact Information and some fun facts about BTPS.



BTPS STUDENT FEES

BTPS sends invoices out on the 27th of each month by email for Transportation, Tech & Supplemental Support Fees. Fees can be paid at VES with cash or cheque (**payable to BTPS**) or you can make an online payment via PayPal. You can find the link to pay fees online on the parent page of the Vermilion Elementary School website by clicking on the Parents tab and then [Pay Fees](#). You will need your child's Alberta Student Number to complete the online payment.

IMPORTANT

PICK-UP/DROP-OFF COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

Parents/Guardians/Caregivers/Visitors Entering the School

Due to Covid-19 restrictions and to minimize risk on a day to day basis we are minimizing the number of people entering our building. Parents/guardians and caregivers should remain outside the school to pickup and drop off their children at their designated doors for entry/exit. If parents/guardians, caregivers, or visitors need to enter the school you will need to enter through the main entrance only and go through our visitor protocol. If you are required to visit the school more than once in one day you will need to complete the app each time that you enter. When you exit the school please go out the nearest exit to you. VES students entering the building do not need to complete the app.

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 below with your device camera.

- Sanitize your hands with the provided sanitizer.
- Sanitize the ipad with the provided device wipes.
- Wear a mask at all times.
- Maintain a physical distance of 2m from others where possible.



VES Students Self-Assessment (prior to coming to school)

Each morning before sending your child to school you will need to review the [Self-Assessment](#) questionnaire to determine if they should attend school. You do not need to submit this questionnaire to the school but we are depending on families to be honest about their child's self-assessment and to make this a part of their new morning routine. If your child is able to answer "NO" to each question he or she is allowed to attend school for the day. If your child is ill with common cold, influenza or symptoms listed on the Self-Assessment they must stay home and contact 8-1-1 for guidance to determine if testing is required.



SHARED SNACKS

In previous years, some parents have chosen to send a shared snack on their child's birthday or during other celebrations. This year with COVID Restrictions we are unable to share food in the same way we would have in the past. We all appreciate the homemade goodies, but at this time, we are asking that all snacks be individually, pre-packaged (store packaged). We understand this may not be what we are used to, but in order to keep everyone safe, it is what we need to do at this time. If you have any questions, please call the school.



MICROWAVES

In the BTPS/VES re-entry plan, microwaves were taken out of the classroom for the month of September. The BTPS re-entry committee has met and has left this decision up to individual schools. We are continuing to evaluate the use of microwaves at VES, but at this time, we have not made any changes to the microwave section of the re-entry plan.



VES SPIRIT DAYS

**Have fun
Get involved!**

To help you remember, dress up days
are on Assembly days.

April 13 Changed to April 14	Mustache or beard	Crazy socks
May 5	Future	Past
June 1	Dress for any season	Dress for any holiday



VES SPIRITWEAR CLOTHING

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 (Under Armour, Champion, Puma, and more) that you can customize with our VES logo! Everything from t-shirts, hoodies, polos, jackets, shorts, pants, hats, toques, and bags. Free shipping on orders over \$75. Customers can earn 1 Air Mile reward per \$40 spent when they purchase online. Orders will be shipped directly to you and 10% of sales is donated back to the school!

Youth Closed Bottom Sweatpant



\$7.50

Youth Adjustable Mask



\$4

Champion Carry Sack



\$25

Gildan Youth T-Shirt



\$13

Youth Zone Performance Long Sleeve



\$22

Youth Zone Protect Lightweight Jacket



\$35

Mindfulness

The Benefits of Mindfulness

Scholarly research finds that mindfulness practice decreases stress and anxiety, increases attention, improves interpersonal relationships, strengthens compassion, and confers a host of other benefits. Below is a summary of research findings on the benefits of mindfulness particularly relevant to educators.

Improved Attention

Numerous studies show improved attention, including better performance on objective tasks that require an extensive concentration span.

Emotional Regulation

Mindfulness is associated with emotion regulation across a number of studies. Mindfulness creates changes in the brain that correspond to less reactivity, and better ability to engage in tasks even when emotions are activated.

Greater Compassion

People randomly assigned to mindfulness training are more likely to help someone in need and have greater self-compassion.

Reduction of Stress and Anxiety

Mindfulness reduces feelings of stress and improves anxiety and distress when placed in a stressful social situation.

Benefits for Students

Studies find that youth benefit from learning mindfulness in terms of improved cognitive outcomes, social-emotional skills, and well-being. In turn, such benefits may lead to long-term improvements in life.

Shapiro SL, et al. The Art and Science of Mindfulness: Integrating Mindfulness into Psychology and the Helping Professions. 2nd ed. Washington,

D.C.: American Psychological Association; 2017

Submitted by Tanya Laye, your school's Social-Emotional Coach. If you'd like further information or have any questions, please contact your school's SEC to follow up.





FROM THE BUS LANE

PLEASE ENSURE YOU ARE FOLLOWING COVID-19 PROTOCOLS:

Complete the [COVID-19 Checklist](#) or use the [Self-assessment tool](#) prior to boarding the school bus daily. Do not ride the school bus if you are not well.

- Wash hands before you get on the school bus and before you board the bus in the afternoon.
- Social Distancing is not possible so students must wear masks. For K-3 students it is not mandatory, but strongly encouraged especially during the loading and unloading process. Gr 4-12 students must wear a mask at all times on the school bus.
- No eating or drinking on the school bus.
- Stay in your assigned seat.
- No guest riders are permitted.
- Let your bus driver know if you will not be on the bus.

**STUDENT SAFETY IS
OUR GOAL!**

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](#)”. For assistance please email transportation@btps.ca. We also accept e-transfers. The email is vivian.locher@btps.ca, and in the message include your child’s name, bus route number and bussing service you are paying for (i.e. Vermilion Intown, Wainwright Intown, Yard Service, etc.).

TRANSPORTATION BUS REGISTRATIONS:

Transportation Registration information can be found online at <https://sites.google.com/a/btps.ca/btps-transportation-registrations/> Choose the service on the left that you want to register for.

2021-2022 TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION PAMPHLETS:

Here is the [link](#) to the 2021-2022 Transportation Information Pamphlet. Due to COVID-19 and everything being electronic and/or virtual, we will not be having the pamphlets printed.



5 Ways to Experience Joy Through Your Senses

The past year has been challenging. Take time to truly experience joy, a feeling of great pleasure and happiness.

When we add moments of joy into our life it helps us manage stress, to feel less overwhelmed and to foster resilience.

The best part is that you don't need anything fancy, just your five senses: Touch, Sight, Sound, Taste, and Smell.

Slow down today and notice how your senses can help you to experience joy.

Sight and Sound

Spending time outdoors, looking and listening to everything around us, positively impacts both our physical and mental well-being.

Go outdoors and take notice of:

- what do your eyes see that bring you joy? Perhaps it is children playing or all of the colours found in nature.
- what the weather is like, warm or crisp?
- what is beneath your feet and the sounds you hear with each step you take?
- what your mood is like and what feelings you are experiencing? Make a playlist of your favourite songs to walk with! Does fresh air, music and movement improve your mood and help you experience joy?

Touch

When we are mindful about the world around us, it may improve our mood and allow us to experience joy.

- Feel the warm sun, or a warm cup of your favorite beverage.
- Soak up the warmth and snuggle with kid, pets, or other loved ones.
- Tickle fight with kids, or try a foot massage
- Create a sensory guessing game: Close your eyes and feel roughness or smoothness of different objects in the house. i.e. sandpaper, feather, ice cube, rice. Play a guessing game and try to stump one another.

Taste and Smell

Taste and smell are vital to our experience. Our body's ability to provide nourishment is related to how we experience these senses. When we slow down and pay attention to what we are eating we can experience the feeling of joy.

- Think of warm cookies fresh out of the oven - imagine the smell and taste.
- Scents can remind us of past joy. The familiar scent of a candle or perfume can bring calm and serenity
- Dip fruit into melted chocolate. Eat slowly and savour.
- Cook food in a slow cooker and savour the aroma that fills your home.

MORE RESOURCES

www.ahs.ca/helpintoughtimes

www.ctrinstitute.com/blog

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





• PRESENTS •

SUPPORTING 2SLGBTQ+ YOUTH

Join Michael from The altView Foundation on May 7th from 1-2pm for a presentation and Q&A online via Zoom to help you understand why and how to support LGBTQ+ students. Please email pat.calyniuk@btps.ca or Ariel.Haubrich@btps.ca to register for the Zoom link.

40%

LGBTQ+ youth with 1 or more supportive adults were 40% less likely to attempt suicide

33%

A third of LGBTQ+ students missed at least one day of school in the past month for feeling unsafe.

75%

Three-quarters of LGBTQ+ students heard homophobic language in school often.

17%

17% of LGBTQ+ students reported having changed schools due to safety concerns.

9%

Less than a tenth of LGBTQ+ students said school staff frequently intervened when students used homophobic remarks.

42%

Only 42% of students could identify more than 10 supportive school staff members, a factor directly linked with feeling safe.

References: <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/2019/06/27/research-brief-accepting-adults-reduce-suicide-attempts-among-lgbtq-youth/>
https://www.glsen.org/sites/default/files/2020-10/NSCS-2019-Executive-Summary-English_1.pdf

REGISTER FOR FREE ART KITS

FREE ART KITS & MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Pick up times: Tuesday May 4th to
Thursday May 7th

3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

School of Hope (East Entrance)
5212 Railway Avenue, Vermilion

VIBE believes creativity is important. In lieu of our in-person Mental Health Art Gala during mental health week (May 3rd to 7th), we are offering free art kits and resources for families to pick up from us.

To register to pick up free art kits for your family click the link and fill out the google form:

<https://forms.gle/3XkqoC22mUkYeFFd9>

**Deadline to register for free art kits:
FRIDAY APRIL 23rd, 2021**

In partnership with:



County of Vermilion River FCSS
Village of Kitscoty FCSS
Village of Marwayne
Mannville, Minburn, Innisfree FCSS
Town of Vermilion FCSS



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

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				

SEPTEMBER

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		

OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

FEBRUARY

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

APRIL

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

MAY

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

JUNE

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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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						

STUDENT NON-ATTENDANCE DATES

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)

Dec 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

LEGEND

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

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 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.



Vermilion Elementary School

Being the Best We Can Be

April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 Yearbook Sales Begin 	2 Good Friday No School	3
4	5 Easter Break No School	6 Easter Break No School	7 Easter Break No School	8 Easter Break No School	9 Easter Break No School	10
11	12 	13 School Assembly rescheduled to tomorrow	14 School Assembly 9:30 am  Dress Up Day Mustache/Beard or Crazy Socks	15	16	17
18	19 KA Grad & Gr 1-3 Spring Pictures (Individual & Class Group)  School Council Virtual Meeting 7:00 pm	20 KB Grad & Gr 4-6 Spring Pictures (Individual & Class Group) 	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Last Day of Yearbook Sales 	May 1
2	3	4	5 School Assembly 9:30 am  Dress Up Day Future or Past	6	7 School Learning Day No School	8