

# VERMILION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS Being the Best We Can Be





Kindergarten Virtual Information Night for 2021-2022 School Year will be hosted on Monday, March 8, 2021 from 7:00-8:00 pm.

Please contact the school (780) 853-5444 to provide an email address for us to send the virtual meeting invite to.

If you are not available for the virtual meeting we will have a video of information available for you.

You are currently welcome to register at any time, please call the school (780) 853-5444.

Please provide a copy of your child's birth certificate.

Your child is eligible to attend if he/she is 5 years of age prior to December 31, 2021.

To access the online registration form go to the BTPS website www.btps.ca

> Virtue of The Month Sportsmanship

School Council Meeting will be on Monday, March 15 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

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Wow, it is hard to believe March is here already! We survived the cold snap that had us all bundled up for a few days, and now the spring like weather has arrived. Spring is just around the corner!

Teachers spent time in February at the Virtual Endless Skies Teacher's Convention. It was a time for learning as teachers engaged in sessions around First Nation, Metis and Inuit knowledge, mental health strategies, language arts and mathematics instruction just to name a few. Teachers are always eager to apply their learning in their classrooms.

We will be holding our Virtual Kindergarten Information Night on March 8, 2021 from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm. The link will be shared with those who contact the school with their emails, but you will also find the link on our website (ves.btps.ca) and our facebook page.

We are beginning to prepare for next year and will continue to add to our plan as we move forward. With the provincial budget being released February 25, we will wait to see exactly what that will mean for our school in terms of impact on our VES school budget. We anticipate at least a few weeks to pass before BTPS is able to provide our school with a budget for 2021-2022. Once the budget is in place, we will examine our staffing needs and determine our staffing arrangement and numbers for next year.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our families for the support we have felt through the COVID-19 pandemic. As we are approaching a year of the pandemic and all the changes that came with it, we are so appreciative of all the understanding, trust and words of encouragement from our parents.

Have a wonderful March!

Mrs. Sheila Doherty

**Acting Principal** 

## 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.

# Interview 👸

Parent Teacher Interviews will be coming up later in March. Typically, for Spring Parent Teacher Interviews we have one night of interviews and they are booked by parent or Teacher request only. This year in lieu of canceling our Celebration of Learning in February, we will be adding another night of interviews as we would like to connect with all families. Interviews will be conducted over the phone and we will be using School Conference Manager for parents to book a time that is convenient for your family. Please watch for more information coming home next week on session dates and instructions on how to book .



## 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 will be doing the class group photos outside, with students social distanced to ensure we are following protocols.



## 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.



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.



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.

### 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.
- Sanitze 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.

# 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.

# 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.



Thank you everyone for returning your books and looking after them so they remain in good condition. Just to let you know, when I check in the books that are returned by students or staff, I place them aside for 4 days minimum, as per the COVID guidelines. After that, I reshelve the books for all to enjoy once again.

As you are aware, we promote kindness in our school, as well as a lot of other virtues. Our collection in the Learning Commons includes many books promoting these virtues. Students and staff have been circulating these books a lot lately. I am happy to see our students using these lessons of kindness, responsibility, fairness, etc in our school. I hope they continue their good manners at home as well.

Our AR Wall of Fame is filling up! Our mid point for the year was January 31st. Most students have reached that goal and 100 students succeeded in achieving their year end goal by January 31st. Those who reached their YE goal were rewarded by choosing a new book for our Learning Commons. All those books have been ordered, however I have been informed that COVID has also affected the availability of books. Publishers are way behind in their processing, as well as companies who gather the requests to package and ship them to our school. Staff and students are aware of the delays, and I have expressed my despair to them all, knowing how excited they are to receive their new book and be the first to read it. Those students also have their name on the inside cover to show they chose the book for our Learning Commons. Great accomplishments deserve rewards! Also, the Grade One classes have a goal to read 100 books! We already have a few of their pictures on the AR Wall of Fame. They are rewarded with a desk pet! So cute and so proud of these little ones!

We are doing our best to continue rewarding all our students. In the past, we rewarded all students for their reading success by giving them Book Fair Bucks. This was a credit for every student to be able to buy something when we hosted the Scholastic Book Fair. Unfortunately, we have been unable to host the Fall and Spring Book Fairs, so we are trying to think of another way to reward them for their reading efforts. Again, since we are unable to host the Scholastic Book Fairs, this means the money raised for these fundraisers has been zero, which in turn means less new books for our collection. So sad, although, we have been fortunate to have the Vermilion Credit Union continue to donate funds to our school that we put towards the AR (Accelerated Reading) program. Through their generosity we are very thankful to reward our students for their reading success.

Sincerely,

Mrs. MacMillan

Be Kind, Be Safe, and Read to Succeed!



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.



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.



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.



Have fun Get involved! To help you remember, dress up days are on Assembly days.

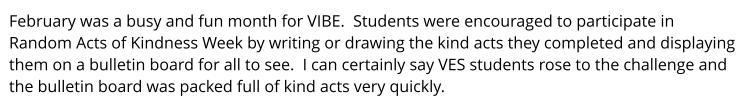
March 3	Superhero	Super hero	
April 13	Mustache or beard	Crazy socks	
May 5	Future	Past	
June 1	Dress for any season	Dress for any holiday	



## 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!





The beginning of March signals the start of VIBE's Mental Health Art Celebration. Students at VES are encouraged to create an art piece that expresses what mental wellness or mental illness means to them. All entries will be displayed during the month of May in the school and all participants will receive a prize. The deadline for entries will be April 26, 2021.

### Important events happening in March

**IBE NEWS** 

<u>All of March</u> - Nutrition Month <u>March 1-April 26</u> - Mental Health Art Celebration entries can be submitted <u>March 15-21</u> - Brain Awareness Week <u>March 19</u> - World Sleep Day



Youth must attend a school in: Vermilion, Clandonald, Mannville, Kitscoty, Innisfree, Marwayne, Paradise Valley, Dewberry, School of Hope or attend Blessed Sacrament School or Blessed Sacrament Outreach School (Wainwright) or St. Thomas Aquinas (Provost)

#### HOW DO I ENTER?

- Theme for art entry: What does Mental Health or Mental Illness mean to you?
- Paper/Photography entries are limited to: 8 x10, 12x12, 11x14, 16x20, 18x24, 24x36
- No size limit on canvas entries.
- Submit your art entry to your VIBE Coach or your school office by deadline.
- Top 3 Cash Prize Winners from grade 10-12 categories may become property of VIBE.
- One entry of art per artist either photography or paper/canvas.

EVERYONE WHO ENTERS WILL RECEIVE A PRIZE! Art will be displayed in your own schools during the month of May to celebrate Mental Health Week. Top Three Grade 10-12 will receive cash prizes: 1<sup>st</sup>: \$250.00 2<sup>nd</sup>: \$150 3<sup>rd</sup> \$75.00

## Deadline for Art Submissions: April 26th, 2021

In partnership with:

County of Vermilion River FCSS Village of Kitscoty FCSS Village of Manwayne Manwille, Minburn, Innisfree FCSS Town of Vermilion FCSS



#### Family resiliency: your family's ability to cope with life's challenges and to bounce forward from difficult times.

A family is two or more people who depend on one another.

Each family has its own challenges and strengths; there are some things all families can work on to build their resilience.

Talk together to identify your family's strengths and make a plan to "grow" your family's resiliency. Communication strengthens your family's resilience.

- Listen with understanding and empathy.
- Talk about problems and brainstorm solutions together.
- Laughing together is a great way to build connection.
- When you are not sure what to say, remember a hug may be more powerful than words.

Build a sense of togetherness to help your family create closer relationships where everyone feels they belong.

Tips to build your sense of togetherness:

- Eat together as a family when you can.
- Play games together.
- Take turns planning a family activity.
- Practice daily rituals, like reading together at bedtime.

These suggestions may keep your family strong and help you get through the tough times. Building connections with extended family widens your family's network of support.

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Extended family members can be mentors and can lend a helping hand. Connect your children with their elders; supportive caring relationships with trusted adults help children to be healthy and resilient.

#### Simple ways to connect:

- Use technology to chat, play games, share stories, and hang out together.
- Create a family photo album and tell stories about all the family members.

MORE RESOURCES Visit: ahs.ca and search Simple Connections, Stronger Families Toolkit

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





### Youth Mental Health Reality: The Difference We Can Make

SEC

Social Emotional

Coach

- 1. An estimated 1.2 million children and youth in Canada are affected by mental illness yet, less than 20% will receive appropriate treatment. By age 25, approximately 20% of Canadians will have developed a mental illness. Youth who are engaged in child and adolescent mental health services, and who require continued services, are also often not well supported as they prepare to enter the adult mental health system.
- 2. 70% of mental health problems have their onset during childhood or adolescence.
- 3. Young people aged 15-24 are more likely to experience mental illness and/or substance use disorders than any other age group.
- 4. In 2016, suicide accounted for 19% of deaths among youth aged 10-14, 29% among youth aged 15-19, and 23% among young adults aged 20-24.
- 5. An estimated 75% of children with mental disorders do not access specialized treatment services.
- 6. A growing body of international evidence demonstrates that promotion, prevention, and early intervention initiatives show positive returns on investment.
- First Nations youth die by suicide about 5-6 times more often than non-Aboriginal youth. Suicide rates for Inuit youth are among the highest in the world, at 11 times the national average.
- 8. Unicef Canada Report Card 14 finds that in general, boys are more likely to die by suicide than girls 3 times more likely, on average. Girls however, attempt suicide twice as often as boys though they generally choose methods that are less lethal. For Indigenous boys, the rates are higher than the average of any wealthy country. Suicide, as discussed in the report, is defined as the suicide rate for teenagers aged 15-19.

### Adapted from https://ymhc.ngo/resources/ymh-stats/

For more information please see this link: http://teenmentalhealth.org

For help please use these resources:

https://kidshelpphone.ca

https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/amh/page16759.aspx

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.

## SOCIAL EMOTIONAL COACH (SEC)

With Consent	SEC Outside Resources			
The Social-Emotional Coach will work with the students and/or families who agree to receive services. The individuals' guardian must provide written authorized consent.	<b>Good Life Collective</b> 587-872-5667 https://www.goodlifecollective.ca/			
In Confidence	387-872-3007 https://www.goodineconective.ca/			
All information during the sessions will be confidential. Specific information will be provided outside of the family only when written authorization	Hunt Psychological Services 780-870-7227			
has been provided by a parent or guardian, except when the SEC's is legally required to report.	https://www.huntpsychologicalservices.com/			
There is <b>no fee</b> for this service.	Phoenix Counseling Services			
In this area, the Wainwright/Vermilion Local Advisory Group (LAG) partners are:	780-842-3112			
<ul> <li>Buffalo Trail Public Schools</li> </ul>	http://www.phoenixcounseling.ca/about-us.htm			
Children Services				
<ul> <li>Alberta Health Services</li> </ul>	Family and Community Support Services			
<ul> <li>Additional funding from the County of Vermilion River FCSS, Town of Vermilion FCSS, Village of</li> </ul>	Provost 780-853-2542			
Paradise Valley, Village of Kitscoty, Village of Dewberry, and Village of Marwayne	http://fcss.provost.ca/			
School Success	Wainwright - 780-842-2555			
The SEC is directly involved with students	5			
and their parents in the following areas:	https://www.wdfcs.ca/programs/			
Homework Study Skills	Vermillion- 780-581-2413			
Motivation / Focus Relaxation	http://vermilion.ca/local-government/town-depart			
Organization Performance Anxiety	ments/community-services/family-community-			
Problem Solving	support-services-fcss/			
Social Issues				
The SEC Program provides crisis intervention to students and/or their families. The SEC address issues with students and/or families that include:	Alberta Health Services			
Anger management Peer Relationships	Provost- 780-753-2575			
Coping Skills Self Esteem	Wainwright- 780-842-7522			
Stress Management Parenting	Vermilion- 780-581-8000			
Bullying Issues Life Skills	http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/			
Emotion Recognition Grief and Loss	Lloydminster Mental Health & Addictions			
Relationships Friendship Skills	Child and Youth 306-825-6250			
Worry	Catholic Social Services			
Advocates				
The SEC will support families and/or students to advocate for their needs.	Wainwwright - 780-842-6899 LLoydminster- 780-875-9084			
SEC Resources				
The SEC can direct parents to resources in the community.				



# Reminder: If buses are not running, please call the school if your child will be absent so we can ensure their safety.

### Please ensure that you are following COVID-19 Bus 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.

**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 <u>transportation@btps.ca</u>. We also accept e-transfers. The email is <u>vivian.locher@btps.ca</u>, 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.).

**Proper Winter Attire:** Regardless of the temperature, students should always wear or carry with them appropriate winter attire when riding the school bus.

**Inclement Weather:** If the bus is not running due to inclement weather your bus driver will call you. If you have already left for work before your children get on the bus you can check the BTPS website at <a href="http://www.btps.ca/">http://www.btps.ca/</a> We try to update the website as soon as we are notified by the bus driver or the decision is made by the jurisdiction to cancel the bus runs.



### 701-11AP - Inclement Weather - Jurisdictional Bus Cancellations

701-12AP - Inclement Weather - Bus Contractor/Driver Bus Cancellations

Jurisdictional based bus cancellations will be made at 6;00 p.m. the night before based on the projected temperatures (with or without windchill) at 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. for morning runs and for 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for afternoon runs. The Board felt this will give parents more time to make alternate arrangements. The buses will run in the afternoon if the projected temperature is warmer than -40C with or without a windchill.

### Parents can now subscribe to the website to

### be notified when their bus is not running at

http://www.btps.ca/Subscribe.php



### STUDENT SAFETY IS OUR GOAL!



# THE NEST PROJECT



#### · PRACTICES FOR ENHANCED WELL-BEING ·

To register at NO CHARGE please sign up at:

https://thenestproject.ca/join-us

March 9th, 16th, and 23rd. from 7pm–8pm via Zoom ...and FCSS County of Vermilion River invite you to join us to connect, prioritize some much deserved time for YOU, and learn some practices to enhance well-being and increase resilience.

# The Practice of Mindfulness

### Mindfulness:

to be fully present in the moment to the mind, body and surroundings, with a level of curiosity and kindness.

Sessions will be interactive within an environment based on community, compassion, and connection.

For more information on The Nest Project visit:

www.thenestproject.ca.





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.



Come Out and Play the Fastest Game on Two Feet!

#### VERMILION ROAR LACROSSE

Lacrosse is back for the 2021 season!!!!

#### UPCOMING DATES:

February 22nd: Registration opens (please register asap so we can get accurate numbers and split teams in accordance with Covid regulations)

#### March 15th: Practice starts

2021 Season				
Division:	Fces:	Schedule:		
6U(must be between 3-6 on Dec 30, 2021)	\$130	Monday/Wednesday 6-7 pm		
8U(must be between 6-8 on Dec 30,2021)	\$130	Monday/Wednesday 6-7 pm		
10U(must be between 9-10 on Dec 30, 2020)	\$145	Monday/Wednesday 7-8 pm		
12U(must be between 11-12 on Dec 30, 2021)	\$210	Tuesday/Thursday 6:30-7:30 pm		
14U(must be between 13-14 on Dec 30, 2021)	\$235	Monday/Wednesday 8-9 pm		
16U(must be between 15-16 on Dec 30, 2021)	\$245	Tuesday/Thursday 7:30-8:30 pm		

All players are to be registered & paid before going on the surface for regular practice!!

### For More Information contact:

toarregistrar@gmail.com or Ryan Adams at 780.581.8348 or radams2319@gmail.com

Online Registration: Click on the following link to register for the 2020 Season: http://vermilionroar.rampregistrations.com/

We want to get as many registrations as possible therefore are offering all registrations at discounted rate©

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.	Holiday       Day-in-Lieu         Self Directed Teacher Day       Celebration Day         School Based PL       Convention / ATA         PL Day       Convention / ATA         BTPS Learning Day       First Student Day         Central Office       Convention / ATA         PL Day       Conventin tweather does not ata      <	this year's calendar equals 181 days.
22 BTPS SCHOO Is Is committed to maximizing student learning, in a s	S       M       T       W       T       F       S       M       T       W       T       F       S         1       2       6       7       6       9       10       11       12       13         10       11       12       13       14       15       16       17       18       19       20         17       18       19       20       21       22       23       24       25       6       7         24       5       6       7       8       9       10       11       12       13       23       4       5       6       7       8       9       10       11       12       14       15       16       17       18       19       20         13       14       15       16       17       16       14       15       16       17       18       19       20       21       23       24       25       26       23       24       25       26       23       24       25       26       27       28       20       21       23       4       5       17       16       16       17	** Central Office Closure will be July 18th - July 29th, 2022
Buffalo PUBLIC PUBLIC PUBLIC SCHOOLS BUffalo Trail Public Schools is c	S       M       T       W       T       S       M       T       W       T       S       N       T       W       T       S       N       T       W       T       S       N       T       W       T       S       N       T       W       T       S       N       T       W       T       S       N       N       T       N       T       S       N       N       T       N       T       S       N	Lieu (Parent Teacher Inforviews)



Being the Best We Can Be

March 2021

## March Parent Teacher Interview Dates to be announced!

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 School Assembly 9:30 am  Dress up Superhero or Super Hero	4	5 No School	6
7	8 Kindergarten Virtual Information Night 7pm	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 School Council Virtual Meeting 7:00 pm	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2 No School Good Friday	3
4	5 No School Easter Break	6 No School Easter Break	7 No School Easter Break	8 No School Easter Break	9 No School Easter Break	10