



VERMILION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS



Being the Best We Can Be

February 2022



Virtue of The Month
Trustworthiness

School Council
Next Meeting
(Virtual)
Tuesday
March 22, 2022

Assembly
& Dress Up Day
Tuesday,
February 8, 2022
Dress all in one color
or Rainbow



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



Happy February!

It is hard to believe we are half way through another school year. It has been a wonderful first half of the year, and we look forward to making even more memories with our students in the second half.

February is month of surveys. Every year in the month of February, Alberta Education surveys parents in grade 4 to 6. This survey is called the Accountability Pillar Survey. The survey provides parents an opportunity to offer their feedback on a wide variety of topics specific to VES. Parents are encouraged to provide this input, as it is a critical piece in the school's planning, reporting and improvement cycle. We value parental input in this process. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Mrs. Doherty or Mrs. Joa.

As the Acting Principal and part of my leadership growth, parents will be asked to give feedback in the form of a survey according to the Leadership Quality Standards. The purpose of the survey is to be able to provide areas of strength and improvement. This survey will be shared with parents via an email from the school. Please watch for that email. Thank you so much for your valued input into my professional growth.

As you are aware, Alberta Education is looking for feedback on the new draft curriculum. If you are looking to provide input, please visit [Alberta Education](https://www.alberta.ca/feedback-on-the-new-draft-curriculum.aspx). For more information, please see the letter emailed to you by the Superintendent on December 13, 2021.

As we have moved through the pandemic, many questions about microwaves have been brought forward. Under the AHS Guidelines for Schools, VES has to be cohorted which means that we have to have staggered recesses and eating times. Students and staff have only 20 minutes to eat their lunch. With student numbers around 25 in most classrooms, this does not allow enough time to heat lunches and eat. Microwaves would have to be disinfected between each student use. We know that when microwaves return to classrooms, we will have happy students and families. Thank you for your understanding!

Since January, our students are busy making memories through skating, Hometown Hero visits, science fair, Robert Munsch Day and dress up days. Still to come this month we have swimming lessons, Valentine's Day, Purple Pinkie Day, Hundreds Day and so much more.

Have a wonderful month!

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.

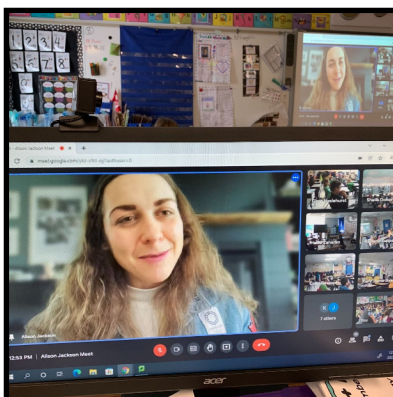
As a team, we will be the best we can be.



Community Connection: Hometown Hero

Alison Jackson

Our visit with Alison was a rare treat. She told us stories about her journey to **be the best she can be**. Alison answered question after question after question with more stories. Alison talked about hard work right from growing up doing chores on the farm to training and riding a bike for six hours a day. She talked about being brave enough to try new things so you can find out what you are passionate about. She talked about perseverance and grit. We loved the stories of her riding in close and bumping in to other riders, falling in the mud and getting up, and stopping to get the bee out of her helmet. Alison shared that to be chosen to be on the Olympic Team you have to be one of the top athletes, and you also have to have specific skills the team needs. But even more than those skills, you need to be a team player, kind, fun, and have a positive attitude. Without a doubt, this is exactly why Alison was chosen to be on the Olympic Team for Tokyo Summer Olympics 2021. VES hometown hero, teaching our students through her stories and success to **be the best we can be**.



HOT LUNCH

The VES Hot Lunch Program would like to extend a huge **THANK YOU for your generous donations** from our families, community members, and organizations over the past few months. Our program relies on these donations to ensure that all students have access to hot lunches. Our community has stepped up in a big way to support us through another challenging year.

We are excited to announce that we will soon be starting **FUNdraiser Fridays** twice per month starting in March. Families will be able to order lunch on these days with the net proceedings going to support the VES Hot Lunch Program. FUNdraiser Friday menus will include our (dearly missed) Hot Dog Days, and a new option: Booster Juice. Watch for these new options when you complete your March orders!

Our Kitchen staff is anticipating some supply shortages in the upcoming weeks and months. **Be sure to like our Facebook page** for daily updates on what's for lunch, and any last minute changes to our lunch plans. For example, if you need to pack extra condiments with your child, or if kitchen staff is off sick.



V.E.S HOT LUNCH Program

<https://www.facebook.com/VES-HOT-LUNCH-Program-289665581439881>

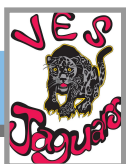
Are you interested in being part of our Hot Lunch Program executive? We are looking for new members to join our team. Send us an email at veshotlunch@gmail.com.



DATES & THEMES

To help you remember, dress up days are on Assembly days. There are a few other seasonal days included below. Have fun and get involved!

February 8	All in one colour	Rainbow of colours
March 2	Superhero	Super hero
April 5	Mustache or beard	Crazy socks
May 4	Star Wars	Aliens
June 7	Beach wear	Inside out or backwards



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



\$22.00



\$13.00



\$25.00



\$40.00

Every Friday is wear VES Spirit Wear or School Colours

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.



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.



STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Parents and caregivers must access their children daily for symptoms of cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school. Anyone showing symptoms listed on the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) must remain home.

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. Please note if you are emailing a teacher during the school day, they may not always get them in time to avoid a call from the automated system.



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.

BUS FEE PAYMENTS:

Parents and guardians can now pay their bus fees online. Go to your school website, Parents tab, Pay Fees. You will need your child's Alberta Student Number to make the payment. It can be found on the invoice. For assistance please email transportation@btps.ca. We also accept e-transfers. The email is vivian.locher@btps.ca, and in the message include: school name, 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.

BUS DRIVER NOTIFICATION:

When the weather is cold it is very important that you let your bus driver know that you will or will not be on the bus so they can adjust their stop times so students are not waiting longer than necessary at their bus stop.



BUS STATUS APP:

Buffalo Trail Public Schools launched their new website www.btps.ca in October. With the new website comes the Bus Status App that allows parents to subscribe to their child(ren)'s school bus route. The division will use the Bus Status App to alert parents when a bus is delayed or cancelled. Bus drivers will continue to notify families of bus cancellations, but this will aid in the communication process to ensure no one gets missed. You can download the new Bus Status App by Box Clever on your smart phone or device.

< Search



Bus Status
Box Clever

Tap on "All Buses" to find and star the buses you want to receive status notifications for. Then select the district in the lower right corner and select "Buffalo Trail Public Schools".  To choose your bus route to get notifications and status alerts, select the bottom middle icon "All Buses" on the main page. Then you can search for your bus route number or driver's name to find your child's bus route. Click on your child's bus route and the star should turn white.  You have now selected your bus route. When there is a change in that bus route's status you will be notified by an alert on the BUS STATUS APP. Please email transportation@btps.ca if you have any problems with the process.

10 ways to beat the January blahs through outdoor play

1. Try winter stargazing

[Bundle up the family](#) in snowsuits, hats, toques, and the whole kit-and-kaboodle, and head outside on a clear evening for some winter stargazing.

Don't just make it any casual neighbourhood walk. Avoid areas with streetlamps and head out to a conservation area or a dark field close by to take in all the beauty the sky has to offer. Bring headlamps to guide you along your path until you find the perfect place to stare upward.

Don't be intimidated by the idea of stargazing. Even if you can't name more than a few constellations, you can appreciate a starry sky on a clear night. There are also a plethora of [apps and websites to help you find planets and patterns in the stars](#).

2. Try a new winter sport

Is there a winter sport that you've always wanted to try that you've never gotten around to? Perhaps this is your year! From skiing and snowboarding to ice skating or tobogganing, there are many snow sports that you can dive into.

While equipment for some of these sports can seem costly and overwhelming, there are plenty of facilities out there that offer rentals and lessons. If that's not an option, check out second-hand stores for [already used and lower-priced items](#).

3. Try some summer fun in the snow

There are certain outdoor activities we tend to associate with the summer months, like playing lawn darts, horseshoes, or setting up a fun obstacle course during a Sunday family picnic. With that said, these and many other outdoor activities can still be done in the winter months too! Make it a game to see which summer games can be adapted for ice and snow.

There are plenty of ideas for children's [winter obstacle courses](#) online. Plus you can replace hula hoops, pool noodles, and other "props" with colourful [snow paint](#)!

4. Hop on a fat-tire bike

Speaking of summer fun in January, [a fat-tire bike](#) is just like a regular bike, but with oversized tires and rims designed to allow for bike riding in the snow, as well as mud, sand, and bogs. It's a perfect way to shake your blahs with a good workout, and ideal for avid bike riders who don't want to give up what they love because of a little snow. Why not see if there are some available for rent in your area?

5. Blow ice bubbles

For those with little ones, blowing and chasing bubbles in your front or backyard in the snow is a great way to get outside and stay active. They'll enjoy the activity, running around, fresh air, and watching those beautiful bubbles freeze and stick to the snow!

6. Play frozen freeze tag

Pardon the pun, but you'll do anything but "freeze" with a good old-fashioned game of freeze tag in the snow. Head to an open area in your neighbourhood, and let the games begin! You'll be active, outdoors, and create some great family memories.

7. Be a good neighbour

Do something this January that's good for your body, mind, and soul! Sometimes the best way to beat the blahs is by doing a good deed. Bundle up the family after a hefty snowfall, grab your shovels, and clear up your drive, as well as others on your street. The feeling of knowing you've made someone's life a little easier will add a bounce to your step. Plus, the physical activity itself is sure to help build some arm muscles. Make sure to stretch before and after!

8. Go on a winter scavenger hunt

Preschoolers love to keep busy and they love being outdoors. Scavenger hunts are a go-to activity for birthday parties and other gatherings, so why not do the same in January? Search for [winter scavenger hunt printable sheets](#) online—there are plenty to choose from these days.

9. Go for a snowy hike

[Bundle up](#), find your nearest wooded area, and explore! There's nothing more stunning than being outdoors after a fresh snowfall. Bring a camera to capture your postcard-like surroundings, and even bring unsalted sunflower seeds to sprinkle on snow. Chickadees love to snack on these, and if you stay still enough, you can place them in the palm of your hand. If you're lucky, you can [experience seeing this sweet little bird](#) up close and personal!

10. Go to the park

Most families love a nice day at the park in spring, summer, or fall, weather-permitting; however, it can be just as fun in January! Just make sure to pack snow pants for the kids, which will make barreling down that snowy slide that much more fun.

Remember that the winter weather may change what your kids can and can't do on a play structure. While the swing sets will probably be okay to use, if the slides, monkey bars, and other areas of the structure are too icy for play, your kids will have to think of other creative ways to enjoy the park!

If the structure can't be properly played on, your kids can still have fun at the park in January! They could build a snow fort under the structure, or have a snowball fight in and around it. You could build a snowman in the sandbox, or even create a "target" on the play structure where your kids can aim with snowballs. They can have just as much fun at the park in January as they do in July!

What is hope?

It's an expectation of a good that is yet to be. It's an inner knowing that the future holds positive things.

It is a trust that no matter the current circumstances the days to come will reveal happiness.

Why build hope?

The pandemic has been stressful. Hope helps us expect that something good will happen and that we have some control over it.

Hope has benefits for children

Hope builds resilience which is our ability to bounce forward from challenging events.

Hope helps us feel optimism through:

- Improving school performance & motivation to achieve goals
- Enhancing mental well-being
- Improving overall life satisfaction & relationships with friends & family

Tips to help children build hope

Practice gratitude: each day write down 3 things you are grateful for.

Practice mindfulness: pause, take 3 breaths, listen to sounds & focus on the present moment.

Make a collage of words or pictures that symbolize hope.

Practice acts of kindness & include positive affirmations to yourself.

Ideas for nurturing hope in your family:

- Acknowledge how you feel; accept what is in your control and what is not & focus on solutions.
- Encourage positive coping skills; maintain your self-care routine.
- Borrow hope from others; ask what makes them hopeful.
- Surround yourself with positive people.
- Find something you are passionate about.
- Make a list of your successes, strengths and resources.

Subscribe to Text4Hope
Text **COVID19HOPE** to 393939

MORE RESOURCES

<https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/>

search: Hope

<https://kidshelpphone.ca/>

search: Fostering Hope

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





2022-2023 BTPS SCHOOL YEAR

	Students	Teachers
Semester 1	90	101
Semester 2	91	98
TOTAL	181	199

Holiday	BTPS Learning Day	Teacher Directed
First Day of Semester	School Based PL	Lieu
Convention/ATA PL Day		

August 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	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 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
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25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2022						
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30	31					

November 2022						
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2022						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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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 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	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				

March 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
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April 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

May 2023						
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	1	2	3	4	5	6
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	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 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	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					



**Come Out
and Play the
Fastest Game
on Two Feet!**

**VERMILION ROAR
LACROSSE**

**We are doing our best to bring lacrosse back for the 2022
season!!!!**

Registration opens February 1st

2022 Season		
Division:	Fees:	Schedule:
6U(must be between 3-6 on Dec 30, 2022)	\$130	TBA
8U(must be between 6-8 on Dec 30,2022)	\$130	TBA
10U(must be between 9-10 on Dec 30, 2022)	\$145	TBA
12U(must be between 11-12 on Dec 30, 2022)	\$210	TBA
14U(must be between 13-14 on Dec 30, 2022)	\$235	TBA
16U(must be between 15-16 on Dec 30, 2022)	\$245	TBA

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

For More Information contact:

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

Online Registration:

Click on the following link to register for the 2022 Season:

<http://vermilionroar.rampregistrations.com/>




**No payment is being requested until season is confirmed, however registration
is required prior to March 1st/22 to ensure the \$50 discounted registration
fee☺**



Vermilion Elementary School

Being the Best We Can Be

February 2022

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 School Based PL Day No School	2	3 AR Celebration Robert Munsch Day 	4 Science Fair 	5
6	7	8 School Assembly 9:30 <div>Dress Up All in one Color or Rainbow</div>	9	10	11	12
13	14 Food Drive Feb 14-25 	15	16 100th Day of School 	17 ATA Teacher's Convention No School	18 ATA Teacher's Convention No School	19
20	21 Family Day No School	22	23 Pink Shirt Day 	24 Celebration of Learning 5:00-7:30 pm 	25 Food Drive Ends -- Community Connection Home Town Hero Jolan Wong 	26
27	28	1	2 School Assembly 9:30 <div>Dress Up Superhero or Super Hero</div>	3	4 BTPS Learning Day No School	5