



Principal's Corner

Welcome back, I hope everyone had a restful and peaceful Christmas break and a happy start to the new year. January is a very busy month for us. First, I want to inform parents of students in Grade 7 and 10 that you will be receiving an email from the school with information about the Alberta Education Assurance Survey that you will be asked to participate in. Parents and guardians will then receive in the mail from Canada Post a survey access code and survey information from Alberta Education. Students and staff at the school will also complete this survey. The survey provides the government information to assess what is working well and

where there is room for improvement at the school and school division level. The survey asks students in grades 4, 7 and 10, and their parents, about their thoughts, feelings and experiences in school. The survey will be administered between January and March 2024.

As I have stated in previous newsletters, junior high students do not have an exam week in January. While some teachers are having midterm exams, these are being conducted during regular class time. We **do not stop** classes for junior high students in January. The senior high school exam schedule has been

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Around the School



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Want to know what is happening in the school? Follow our Pirate Crews Instagram:

@jrrpiratecrews

Website:

jrrps.ca
School Calendar
<http://jrrps.ca/Calendar.php>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/JRRobsonSchool/>
App
<http://bit.ly/JRRapp>



Principal's Corner Continued

released so I encourage parents to help your student(s) study by providing uninterrupted study time at home leading up to and during exam week. It can be a challenge for some students to juggle schoolwork, home life and part-time jobs during final exams so please help your student create a healthy balance.

I do want to congratulate three of our high school teachers on being selected by Alberta Education to mark Diploma exams at the end of the month in Edmonton. Mr. Maier (Social Studies 30-2), Mr. Atkinson (Math 30-1) and Mrs. Boulay (Math 30-2) have again been selected to mark this semester's Diploma ex-

ams. The opportunity allows the teachers to gain valuable insight and professional development regarding the assessment processes associated with these exams.

Finally, as a reminder, there is no school for students Jan. 31 and Feb. 1-2 as teachers participate in professional development and semester end wrap-up.

Yearbook 2024

J. R. Robson's '23-'24 yearbook is already under construction. As usual, the hard-cover book will feature the current year's memorable moments in 68 full-color pages. There are 3 ways to order:

- Visit the [Friesens Store](#)
- Fill out a paper form at the office.
- Scan this:



ALL Graduates of 2024 will automatically receive a book of their Grade 12 year! (Grade 12s do not have to order one.)

There are also a few copies remaining of the '22-'23 book available for purchase at the office for \$40 each.

Explore, Create, Achieve



Above: Grade 8 Art students pose for the camera

Below: On December 15th, Mr. Maier and Mrs. Polishuk went to watch the movie Napoleon with most of the grade 11 class at the Alma theatre in Wainwright.



Counsellor's Corner

Welcome Back! We hope you have had a restful, relaxing holiday and are ready to hit the books for the final month of Semester 1.

If there are any **grade 12 students** who are having trouble applying for post-secondary study, need scholarship information, or need further information about attending a postsecondary school, please contact Mrs. Hart, who would be happy to assist you. Alexander Rutherford Scholarship and Student Loan applications are available online at <https://studentaid.alberta.ca/> and applications need to be in the semester prior to you attending post-secondary schools. For students who are entering the Registered Apprenticeship Program, you too qualify for scholarships as we have had many students earn the Registered Apprenticeship Scholarships. Here is the RAP Scholarship information: <https://tradesecrets.alberta.ca/apprentice-services/get-financial-support/scholarships/high-school-apprenticeship-scholarships/>

For Grade 12 Students who are looking for extra resources for preparation on your Diploma Exams, **Diplomax** may be for you. Diplomax involves in-class or online Diploma Preparation Classes for Students in Alberta. Students from Buffalo Trail

Public Schools have used these resources in the past and have found them very helpful. Check out this website for more details: <http://diplomax.ca/> **Grade 10-12 students** are encouraged to make sure your MYPASS account is active, as this is where you will receive your diploma exam marks, and explore options of remarking or rewriting the exam if required. <https://public.education.alberta.ca/PASI/myPass/Welcome/Index> Please remember to use your home email address and contact information as your BTPS account will cease to exist after graduation.

As counsellors, we would like to encourage **all grade 10/11 students** to attend open houses or arrange buddy days at post-secondary institutions, job shadow people in fields that interest them, find part-time employment in areas in which they may have career aspirations, and do career research into potential careers. If you can narrow down the post-secondary institution that is right for you, it is one step further along the career decision-making pathway. See the link below for contact information to arrange buddy days: <https://elaa.b-cdn.net/uploads/pdf/DAGdocx.pdf>

Upcoming Winter Open Houses

Please check websites prior to attending for time and date changes.

Ambrose University (Calgary)	Virtual - January 26, 2024
Bow Valley College (Calgary)	March 9, 2024
Burman University (Lacombe)	March 10, 2024
Concordia University (Edmonton)	March 7, 2024
Lakeland College	March 7, 2024 (Lloydminster Campus) March 8, 2024 (Vermilion Campus)
Lethbridge College (Lethbridge)	March 2, 2024
Norquest College (Edmonton)	May 18, 2024
Olds College (Olds)	May 15, 2024
Portage College (Cold Lake, St. Paul, Lac La Biche)	March 4-6, 2024
Prairie College (Three Hills)	May 25, 2024
King's University (Edmonton)	March 16, 2024
St. Mary's University (Calgary)	May 15, 2024

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Counsellor's Corner

To access **scholarships**, students should start searching and gathering data to apply for these in grade 10. Here is the website link to all of the scholarships that we are aware of at the school level. Applying for scholarships is an individual task as so many of them pertain to certain situations. Having some kind of community involvement is important when applying for scholarships. A link to this website will also be posted on the J. R. Robson website

<https://jrrobson.btps.ca/students/scholarships>

Timetable changes: The end of January marks the completion of the first semester. The J. R. Robson timetable was created based on student demand, so the opportunities to switch classes may be challenging. With this in mind, if you require a timetable change for the second semester, please contact Mrs. Scully or Mrs. Hart during exam week to check out the possibilities, as we like to have students begin semester 2 in the right classes.

For **grade 11 students**, who are still searching for a career path, the **Strong Interest Inventory** is a tool we use to assist you on your career planning journey. Please see Mrs. Scully, or Mrs. Mathison for more details on how to access this tool.

For **Work Experience students** please make use of the online format which has been created to make the evaluation of work experience easier for all. Please see Mrs. Kaye or Mrs. Hart if you need additional help getting started in the online environment.

Amy Olobayo, our **Social Emotional Coaching Coach** is available to work with our students on Monday (all day), Wednesday (all day) and Friday mornings. JR Robson is fortunate to have a Social Emotional Coach for our students. Don't be afraid to stop by Room 206 and say, Hi!

For **Junior High Students**, you will begin **new complimentary classes** when you start semester 2. Come prepared for another semester of fun. Continue doing your best and enjoy your semester.

Remember Mr. Woodward is still trying to re-schedule the ski trip but with limited snow we may not be able to go this year. Stay tuned for more information.

A copy of the **Exam Schedule** is attached to this

newsletter. Preparing for final exams can be a stressful experience and can create a lot of anxiety. Here are some **Quick study tips:**

- ⇒ Have a place to study. Avoid studying in your bed, have a desk or table where you can study
- ⇒ Take frequent breaks. Work for 15 minutes take a 5 minute break
- ⇒ Have all materials you might need to study -- make a basket with necessary study items (pens, pencils, markers, highlighters, post it notes, cue cards, etc)
- ⇒ Study a little every night to prepare for your upcoming exams
- ⇒ Attend review sessions or complete review booklets
- ⇒ Get plenty of rest
- ⇒ Stay hydrated and eat nutritional foods
- ⇒ Put away all electronic devices that may be a distraction

VIBE has introduced each of you to a number of strategies to **reduce test anxiety**. For the day of your exam here are some helpful techniques:

- ⇒ Stay hydrated -- have a bottle of water with you
- ⇒ Get plenty of rest the night before the exam
- ⇒ Practice mindfulness activities
- ⇒ Do some chair yoga while you are waiting for the exam to begin
- ⇒ Practice deep breathing prior to the exam -- helps relax your muscles so you can relax
- ⇒ Visualize a positive result
- ⇒ Positive Self-Talk
- ⇒ Do all the questions you know first and come back to the harder questions

Hello January

- Journey of a thousand miles
- Always starts somewhere.
- Nothing will be achieved
- Unless you take
- Action. Momentum plus
- Repeated efforts will take
- You further than expected



SEL Spotlight

Welcome back ! I am wishing you all a joyful 2024. During the New Year, I like to take time to reflect on the previous year. Reflection helps us learn through our experiences, and can build our self-awareness and self confidence. I invite you to join me in reflecting on: 4 favourite memories, 3 things you are grateful for, 2 things you are proud of and 1 lesson you have learned.

For the 2024 year the SEC room (room 206) is open to all students grade 7-12 during noon hours on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. It is a chill space to hang out, have lunch, chat with friends, play a game, colour or craft.

Over the past semester, the Diversity Club and friends have purchased comfy seating options for the space, and a hot water cooler for tea and hot chocolate. Yummm! The students involved in the project received funds and support from VIBE and the AHS Strengthening Opportunities for Adolescent Resilience, Inclu-

sion and Growth (SOARING) Grant to develop this youth-led project. The students decided to make the SEC room into one of their projects. Students said, “there aren’t too many places to go at lunch or break. Especially if you don’t play basketball in the gym.” The Diversity Club wanted the space to feel “calm, cozy, relaxing, safe and welcoming,” and it is! Thank you to the youth for taking initiative to create a safe space for your school community.

As many students know, we have had an ongoing vote to rename room 206 to be more reflective of the new space created by students. I am excited to announce our new space is now called the ZEN DEN! Thanks again to everyone involved, and we invite all students (and teachers) to come and enjoy the space with us.

As always, my door is open to students, staff and families who would like to connect with the Social-Emotional Coach Program. I can be reached by email at amy.olobayo@btps.ca.

Christmas 2023

Students were treated to our annual Pancake Breakfast on the last day of classes before the Christmas Break in the morning and they ended the day with activities including bingo, cookie decorating, coloring, board games and a movie.



January 2024 Final Exam Schedule

Last day of classes for Grade 12 students will be on Friday, January 19, 2023
Last day of classes for Grade 10 and 11 students will be on Tuesday, January 23, 2023

All exams will start at 9:00 am on their scheduled day.
Second semester for high school students will begin on February 5.

Date	Exams
Wednesday, January 10	ELA 30 - 1 Diploma Part A ELA 30 - 2 Diploma Part A
Thursday, January 11	Social 30 - 2 Diploma Part A
Monday, January 22	Math 30 - 2 Diploma Math 30 - 2 Diploma
Tuesday, January 23	ELA 30 - 1 Diploma Part B ELA 30 - 2 Diploma Part B
Wednesday, January 24	Social 30 - 2 Diploma Part B Social 20 - 1 Math 10 - 3 Math 20 - 3
Thursday, January 25	Biology 30 Diploma Science 10 ELA 10 - 1 Social 20 - 2
Friday, January 26	Chemistry 20 Social 10 - 1 Math 10C
Monday, January 29	Physics 20

Thank You!

Thank you for the very generous donation from the Vermilion & Area Volunteer Crisis Line to our school. We plan to use it in an area where it will have the greatest impact.

Vermilion and District Rotary Music Festival

SAVE THE DATE

The 2024 Festival will be held April 15th to 20th, 2024.

Registration will open the first week of January! Visit our Website often for updates and information.

<https://www.vermilionmusicfestival.ca/>

January Hot Lunch

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
~~~~~Christmas Break~~~~~						
7	8 First Day back to school in 2024! Perogies & Sausage	9	10 Tortellini & Pasta Sauce	11	12 Fries, Poutine, Chicken Burgers	13
14	15 Burger & Onion Rings	16 Booster Juice Day	17 Chicken Ceasar Salad	18	19 Fries, Poutine, Chicken Burgers	20
21	22 Chili Dogs or Hot Dogs	23	24 Chicken Dinner	25	26 Fries, Poutine, Chicken Burgers	27
28	29 Grilled Cheese Sandwich & Soup	30	31			