

January 2024
ESBCHS Principal's Report



January 31	PD Day (No School)
February 1	First Day of Semester 2
February 8/9	Teachers Convention (No School)
February 19	Family Day
March 1	Assurance Plan Survey Deadline for Parents/Students/Staff

- Pertinent Dates for Spring Registration
 - Mid-March - Evening Open House
 - Mid-March - Feeder School ESBCHS Visit Option Tours
 - Mid- April - Out of District Registration
 - Dates will be selected and advertised shortly
- Early projected enrollment for 2024/25
 - Grade 10 - 449
 - Grade 11 - 396
 - Grade 12 - 350
 - **Combined - 1195** (increase of +120 from 23/24)
- All of our varsity basketball teams are in full swing! Good luck to our athletes and thanks to our coaches for providing these wonderful opportunities for our kiddos! Our Senior Boys basketball team is off to the "Coal Bowl" on Cape Breton Island in early February. Good luck to our athletes!
- For those of you parents who have a student in Gr. 10, the deadline to complete your Assurance Survey is March 1. AB. Ed will have mailed you out a means to access the online survey. Your feedback is valuable and helps to inform us on future school goals and areas where we can improve. Thanks for completing the survey.
- Semester 1 Exams are going well! Examining nearly 1100 students over 8 days is a challenging detail-oriented process. That said, next month we will be seeking your feedback on some possible changes for future exam sittings. (Part A written sittings, etc)
- Congratulations to Mrs. Neustaeter (Accounting Technician), Mrs. Busenius (Student Services secretary) and Mrs. Blinn (Foods EA) on their retirements! We will miss you. As well, Mrs. LeRoux in the main office is off to pursue new opportunities. Congrats and welcome to Mrs. Vekved (Accounts Technician), Mrs. Tomkins (SS secretary), Mrs. Guzak (secretary) on their new positions.
- Our [School Assurance Plan](#) is now completed and posted! Please take some time in the next month to review this very detail oriented document. It speaks to our proud accomplishments, challenges, and goals for the future. This is a very rich document full of explanations of the carefully crafted direction that our school is heading. Our two main goals are:
 - Ensure student academic success at all levels
 - Highlights - department goals, exam room, accommodations, etc
 - Increase student connection/engagement with their school and with the greater school community
 - Highlights - making the student experience more comfortable, Mental Health plan, focused support for the Grade 10s, mental health
- My annual budget has been balanced and finalized. Curious about how much it costs to operate our fantastic school? Please see the following chart :

Certificated (Teachers , Admin)	\$5, 586, 823
English as a Second Language	\$15, 599
Inclusive Education (EAs, support time)	\$350, 479
Nutrition Program	\$11, 880
School Based Services, Contracts, Supplies	\$255, 752
Special Needs Staffing / Instructional Support	\$303, 111
Secretarial, Accounting, Library	\$383 880
Total Expenditures	\$6, 907, 525

- BGSD needs your opinion on the 2026/27 school calendar.

The Board of Trustees is asking for your input on two possible Draft versions of the 2026 - 2027 school year calendar.

Each year, Labour Day falls on different days in September. In September 2026, Labour Day falls on September 7th and as such makes it almost impossible to start the school year after that date and still meet the requisite number of instructional hours into the first semester.

The Fall Break was originally inserted into the calendar a few years ago for mental health reasons. It is a means of providing students and staff with an opportunity to rest and refocus as the time change brings us into the long winter months with shorter days. It was also intended to be a good break as it is in the middle of flu season and it would allow both students and teachers the opportunity to experience or recover from illness without missing too much valuable school time. It balances the spring break that begins the last week of March.

The difference between a 3 day Fall Break (Draft A) and a full week Fall Break (Draft B) is the start of the school year.

- [Draft A](#)
- [Draft B](#)