



Canadian Rockies Public Schools' Board Meeting Digest February 21, 2024

Learning Calendars for 2024/25 & 2024/26 School Years Move Forward

Canadian Rockies Public Schools (CRPS) Board of Trustees approved the Division's Learning Calendar for the 2024/25 school year, Feb. 21, 2024. Approved in principle last March, the calendar reflects a balanced academic year with 193 operational days and 179 days dedicated to classroom instruction. Notably, the calendar will see students return from their summer break on Aug. 26, 2024. Fall conferences will be held Nov. 6 and 7 in the evening and Nov. 8 in the morning, while Spring conferences will be held in mid-March. The calendar also allocates a winter break from noon on Dec. 20, 2024, to Jan. 6, 2025, with an extended spring break from April 14 to 25. In addition, the calendar incorporates 15 half-days and 4 full days for professional learning. In anticipation of future planning needs, a 2025/2026 learning calendar also was approved in principle, outlining a similar timeline featured in 2024/25, with the exception of spring break, which will run from March 30 to April 10, 2026. Both calendars will be posted to [CRPS' website](#) shortly. ■

Learning Needs Drive School Reconfigurations

CRPS will enhance student learning experiences by reconfiguring grade levels at Elizabeth Rummel School (ERS) and Lawrence Grassi Middle School (LGMS). Beginning September 2024, ERS will welcome students from Kindergarten to Gr. 4, fostering a nurturing early learning environment that aligns with students' developmental stages, while LGMS will educate Gr. 5 to 8 students, allowing for a more focused middle school experience. This shift aims to optimize educational settings for different age groups, supporting both academic and social-emotional development. Both parents and staff have been consulted on this shift, with 93 out of 94 survey respondents supporting the reconfiguration. Moving forward, the Division will continue to work closely with parents and staff at both school to ensure a smooth transition. The Division also plans to increase opportunities for ERS students and parents to visit LGMS ahead of time, allowing them to become familiar with the new environment, meet future teachers, and see firsthand the exciting learning opportunities awaiting them. ■

CRPS' Board of Trustees (left to right): Dale Craig, Arlene Rheame, Luke Sunderland, Carol Picard, Brian Callaghan

CRPS' Board Adds Battery Storage to its Sustainable Energy Use Strategy

In a pioneering move to enhance sustainable energy use, the Board of Trustees has agreed to join hands with Jurassic Solar LP to invest in an innovative battery storage solution. Since January 2014, CRPS, as a part of a school board consortium, has proudly sourced electricity from the Bull Creek Wind Power Project. With a 25-year commitment made back in 2012, the partnership has been a forward-thinking venture into renewable energy. Facing increasing costs due to exceeding the wind farm's supply, a proactive approach was taken in 2022 by the consortium to address the challenge of 'firming exposure'—the need to buy additional electricity on the open market. After

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signing a letter of intent to investigate solar and battery storage possibilities, the group, in 2023, voted to invest in a dedicated battery storage facility provided by Jurassic Solar LP. This strategic collaboration signifies CRPS' ongoing dedication to environmental stewardship and fiscal responsibility. The battery storage facility will

serve as a vital buffer, storing excess energy on high-production days to be utilized when the wind farm's output is insufficient. This not only ensures a consistent and reliable power supply but also solidifies CRPS' role as a leader in the adoption of green initiatives. ■

Board's Public Meeting in March Moved

Due to conflicting commitments, the date of the Board's March 2024 Regular Public Meeting was changed from Wednesday, March 20, 2024, to Monday, March 18, 2024. ■

CRPS Tidbits

Important Calendar Date

The Board of Trustees' next regular meeting is set for March 18, 2024, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Exshaw School.

LGMS Teacher Ups His Robotics Game

Lawrence Grassi Middle School's (LGMS) Charlie Hiles has been honored by the Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia with a FIRST Tech Challenge Classroom Pack, supported by a grant from Alberta Education. This educational bounty includes a Mini Game Kit and six cutting-edge REV Robotics Education Kits, opening new horizons for hands-on learning. The package further comprises Alberta Learn Boards for strategic planning, student modules, and teacher lesson plans. Complementing the equipment, Charlie will participate in an initial workshop and ongoing mentorship to integrate this tech adventure into the curriculum.

Kindergarten Open Houses Continue

Join CRPS schools for a season of discovery at their Kindergarten Open Houses! From Alpenglow's

nature-integrated learning on Feb. 28 to the play-based educational foundation at Banff Elementary on Feb. 29 to exploring Exshaw's vibrant classroom March 7, each school offers a unique, enriching start to your child's educational journey. Meet our passionate educators, experience our dynamic classrooms, and see how CRPS nurtures the head, hands, and heart of every young learner. Don't miss these windows into a world of growth, connection, and lifelong learning joy. Learn more at crps.ca

Host an International Student in 2024/25

Say "yes" to hosting an international student next year! CRPS' International Student Program is seeking host families for the 2024/25 school year, offering a unique opportunity for cultural exchange. Families in the community are encouraged to welcome an international student into their homes for 5 or 10 months, aligning with the school semesters. Hosts are expected to provide a private bedroom, share three meals a day, and include the student in everyday family life and special occasions. As a token of appreciation, host families receive a monthly stipend of \$1,300, contributing to

the student's educational journey and enriching their own familial dynamics. To become a part of this rewarding program, please visit the CRPS International Student web folder for further details.

Grade 10 Student Earn Avalanche Skills Training Level 1 Certification

In perfect harmony with CRPS' vision of creating a better world through transformative education, all Gr. 10 students are now adept in avalanche awareness, having completed the Avalanche Skills Training Level 1. With the backing of the Wim and Nancy Pauw Foundation, students from Feb. 5-14, 2024, delved into the AST 1 course, a pivotal segment of the Outdoor Learning Centre's WimWe program. They engaged in theoretical lessons at Canmore Collegiate and Banff Community High Schools and then applied their knowledge practically at Lake Louise Ski Resort. Thanks to the foundation's generosity, students accessed this critical training free of charge, thereby bolstering their confidence and connection to the mountainous terrain they call home. This year marks the third year of this important program, allowing every Gr. 10 to 12 CRPS students to be certified in AST Level 1!

"Inspiring Hearts and Minds" - CRPS' Board of Trustees

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