



# September 2025

Welcome to the 2025 - 26 school year! We are so happy to welcome back our returning students and excited to welcome our new students to our Exshaw family! We hope that the summer break provided all a wonderful time to relax, enjoy time with family and friends and adventure. Can you believe that we are already entering the 2025 - 26 school year?!

## IMPORTANT DATES:

- **Mon Sep 1 - NO SCHOOL**
- **Thu Sep 11 - Back to School BBQ**  
from 5-6:30
- **Fri Sep 19 - Early Dismissal**
- **Tue Sep 30 - NO SCHOOL**  
(National Day of Truth & Reconciliation)

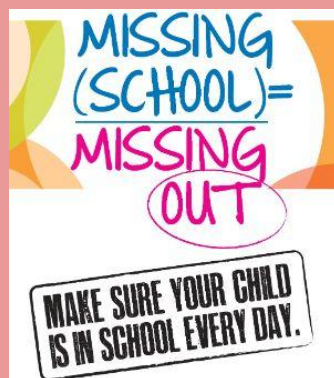
## Attendance

Who is going to make it into the **90 and above attendance club**? At Exshaw School, an expectation for all students is that each student attend at least 90%.

This means that if there is 20 school days in a month. They must attend at least 18 days in a month.

We want to set each student up for success and to do that, they must be at school on time each day. We miss them when they are not here!

With a strong connection between home and school, we can do the very best for our students. Attendance is very important to support growth.



## Contact Info

Please if your contact information changes, please contact the office immediately so that we can update our records.

We want to make sure that we can keep in contact with you to celebrate successes and let you know about very important events!



## Welcome Back BBQ

Please join us for our Welcome Back BBQ.

This is a chance to meet the staff and enjoy dinner with us! Please save the date and time for us.

It is on **September 11th from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.**



## Hot Lunch Vendors

A huge thank you to all of these amazing vendors for providing meals for the hot lunch program!



**IRON GOAT**

## Fun Reading Tips!

Reading is a super important skill for all kids. Here are some fun ways to help your child become a great reader.

### For Kindergarten to Grade 3:

Your child is still learning how to read. They are learning letters, sounds, and new words.

- Solve the Mystery Word! Read a book out loud, but leave out one word that is used a lot, like "because." Give your child clues, like how many letters it has. When they guess the right word, clap every time you read it!
- Write a Story to Read a Story. Ask your child to tell you a short story. You write it down, and then you can both read it together.
- Write Silly Sentences. Play a game where you try to make the silliest sentences you can with a certain sound or spelling.

### For Grade 3 and Up:

1. At this age, kids are reading to learn new things. They are learning to understand what they read and write.
2. Talk About the Book. Before your child starts a new book, talk to them about what it's about. For example, if the book is about Canada a long time ago, talk about what life was like back then.
3. Ask Questions. After reading a story, ask your child questions about it. This helps them think about what they read.
4. Read Everywhere! Encourage your child to read whenever they have a spare moment—in the car, in bed, or on the couch. Just 20 minutes a day makes a big difference!
5. Let Them Choose! Kids are more likely to read if they get to pick the books they want.
6. Read Together. You can take turns reading pages out loud with your child. Talk about the story as you go to help them understand it better.
7. Do a Reading Play! Have everyone in the family act out a story from a book. One person can be the director, and others can be the characters. This makes reading fun for everyone!

## Shared Vision of Learning

Have you heard about the Shared Vision of Learning? At Canadian Rockies Public Schools (CRPS), we are committed to Inspiring Hearts & Minds. This Shared Vision of Learning defines our collective beliefs about learning that guide our actions. In what ways will we strive to empower learners to be critical, creative thinkers, innovators, problem solvers, effective communicators and collaborators, who are globally aware, independent, responsible citizens?

The foundational keys to the Shared Vision of Learning are the following:

- We believe instructional excellence and leadership are essential to ensuring each learner will flourish in our complex, exponentially changing and interconnected world.
- We believe in and embrace the importance of whole child education in the development of each learner.
- We believe positive relationships foster effective and engaging learning experiences.
- We believe that exemplary teachers consistently design and assess to ensure that all learners develop, create and find joy in learning.
- We believe that diversity of experiences and connections in nature and community enhance learning beyond the classroom.
- We believe in the direct relationship between professional learning, personal commitment, and instructional excellence.

Each following newsletter will create examples of how the Shared Vision of Learning is being brought to life. Stay tuned!

## Bus Etiquette

Nakoda Bus Lines has requested that food is not be eaten on the buses. Please if you have leftover food keep it in your backpacks until you are home. In addition, in the 2024 - 25 there was considerable damage to the buses. Please be respectful of the bus property. We appreciate it. A final thank you to families for ensuring that children are dressed for the weather. We definitely realize living in the mountains we can have all four seasons of weather in one day. Thanks for being prepared:)



## Knowledge Keepers

We are excited to continue working with our wonderful Elders and knowledge keepers to build our understanding of culture and language. We are looking forward to embarking on this continued journey! Please talk to staff and your child(ren) about when the knowledge keepers and Elders are coming to their class.

Throughout the month of September and throughout the year, we will be highlighting our continual learning and educating of Truth and Reconciliation. Please stay tune to learn about the events and activities to acknowledge what Exshaw School is doing to learn and move forward.

## Cell Phones

Thanks so much for your continued support in ensuring that cell phones, tablets, etc, are not used during the school day. We have devices that students can use for learning purposes.



## Staffing

The staff for Exshaw School for the 2025 - 26 school year is as follows:

### Office

- Craig Kestle (principal)
- Nadine Dack-Doi (principal & Indigenous Services Coordinator)
- Scott Dunbar (office administrator)

### Teachers

- Brooke Smyth (kindergarten / grade 1)
- Michelle Bachman (grade 2)
- Barb Schneider (grade 3)
- Jon Krohe (grade 4)
- Chelsea Waite (grade 5)
- Megan Beardwood (grade 6)
- Stephanie Kish (grade 7)
- Noori Khan (grade 8)
- Amy Gnutel (music)
- Gillian Booth (reading intervention)
- Rosie Ellis (learning support)
- Gen Soler (success teacher)

### Counsellor

- Sarah Cumming (counsellor)
- Maddy Pasemko (wellness worker)

### Custodian

- Rowel Acain (day)
- Ronnie Del Rosario (night)

### Educational Assistants

- Joanne Pasemko
- Heather Cressman
- Pat Zawada
- Isabella Goodstone
- Deb Penninga
- Samantha Abraham
- Rexanne Twoyoungmen
- Joy Twoyoungmen

### Snacketeria

- Wilma Roeterink
- Lynne Ward

### Librarians

- Carole Shea (Mon-Thu)
- Jodi Frezell (Fri)

## Thanks!







Thanks for creating a strong community between home and school where each child can reach their full potential. We are excited for another year to learn about your child(ren) and have them reach their highest potential.

Isniyes. Yours in Education,  
Craig Kestle and Nadine Dack-Doi

# September

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| Sun | Mon  | Tue   | Wed   | Thu   | Fri   | Sat  |
|-----|--|---|-------|---|---|--|
|     | 1<br> | 2   | 3     | 4<br>Gr 8 Pauw Transition Program                 | 5<br>House Teams         | 6  |
| 7   | 8  | 9   | 10    | 11<br>2:30pm Assembly<br><br>5pm Welcome Back BBQ | 12<br>House Teams        | <b>Half-day Fridays</b><br><i>(dismissal at noon):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sep 19</li> <li>Oct 3</li> <li>Oct 17</li> <li>Nov 21</li> <li>Dec 5</li> <li>Dec 19</li> <li>Jan 30</li> <li>Feb 13</li> <li>Mar 6</li> <li>Apr 17</li> <li>May 1</li> <li>May 29</li> <li>Jun 5</li> </ul> |
| 14  | 15<br>International Dot Day (Wear your dots)   | 16  | 17    | 18  | 19<br>Terry Fox Run<br> |  |
| 21  | 22   | 23  | 24    | 25  | 26<br>House Teams      |  |
| 28  | 29   | 30<br> | Oct 1 | 2   | 3<br>                  |  |
|     |  |   |       |   |   |  |

- No School:**
- Tue Sep 30
  - Mon Oct 13
  - Fri Nov 7
  - Mon Nov 10
  - Tue Nov 11
  - Dec 20-Jan 4**
  - Feb 16-20
  - Fri Mar 20
  - Mar 28-Apr 12**
  - Fri May 15
  - Mon May 18