

Jan 15, 2025

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[auguston.abbyschools.ca](http://auguston.abbyschools.ca)

## Principal's Message

Happy New Year everyone and welcome back.



We hope that you all had an amazing break and are ready for some really solid learning time ahead. There are typically fewer events and interruptions in January and February, and we often see students making big gains in their learning in second term as routines and expectations are well established and we can focus more on our studies. Spring Break will be here before we know it, but we have lots to do and accomplish before then.

With the Winter weather comes a reminder about warm jackets and waterproof boots, and also a reminder of our sledding rules and guidelines – in case we do ever get any snow! More information on those things and more are below.

The most exciting update we have to share is that we are finally – slowly – getting to move into the new classrooms in our expansion. Yes – we are almost done! Two classrooms will be moving over this week to make way for the daycare renovation to start. Over the next couple of weeks, we will move even more classes over and hopefully be fully settled with all the classes that are moving in there by the end of February. We are excited to be able to share our new school with you all and look forward to showing it off during our next set of parent teacher conferences coming up in February. This has been a long project for us to learn and grow into, but we are excited to be getting closer to full completion and to getting our school and full playground back!

We are happy to be back and ready to learn – January is looking great so far!

## Kindergarten Registration

Do you have a child that is turning 5 in 2025?

**Families residing in Auguston's catchment have priority for registration.**

**Kindergarten  
registration for the  
2025-26 school year  
will commence on  
Monday, January 20,  
2025, at 8:30 am.**



Additional information:

- See the District website for how to register: [Kindergarten Registration](#) **\*Note that Auguston is a catchment school and is NOT part of the lottery draw for district programs for Kindergarten**
- Parents/Guardians are encouraged to register online! [Online Registration](#) (requires a computer, not a cell phone) - link opens Monday, January 20th, 2025 at 8:30 am. A Parent Guide is available for [new families](#) or [returning families](#) using this software.
- Please provide all necessary documentation **EVEN IF you have a currently enrolled older sibling at Auguston**. In addition, please provide your **child's immunization records**.
- Registration will not be **COMPLETE** until all necessary forms and documentation are received.

## Afterschool Programs



We are lucky to have partnered with the Abby Community School Society once again to bring some awesome after school programs to students here at Auguston Traditional. With the recent break and the busy-ness of December there has been a bit of a lag in our registrations, but we don't want to miss out on these amazing

opportunities for our students! Our offerings this term are Sports for grade 4/5 boys (*DOVE program for grade 4/5 girls has been CANCELLED due to low registrations*) on Monday afternoons, and Drama for our grade 2/3 students on Wednesdays after school. Information on how to sign up is on the website:

<https://auguston.abbyschools.ca/announcement/acss-winter-programs>

## Pink Shirt Winner!



Congratulations to **Maddi Felser** who designed our winning entry for our Pink Shirt Contest. Her 'Donut Bully – Sprinkle Kindness' design follows on our Kindness donut theme and is an awesome shirt that we look forward to wearing on Pink Shirt Day later in February. We are currently working on finding a supplier to get our shirts made and will share information about how to order them soon.

## MDI and Student Learning Surveys coming up

In January and February, some students at our school will be completing these important surveys.

Students in Grade 4 will have the chance in class to fill out our Student Learning Survey over the coming months. Completed by schools across BC, the Student Learning Survey provides the Ministry of Education and Child Care with valuable information on student satisfaction with their school experiences.

Parents and staff are also invited to fill out the survey here:

[www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat\\_survey/access.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm)

Grade 5 students will be completing the Middle Years Development Instrument survey between January 14 and March 14. This is a self-report questionnaire that asks students about their thoughts, feelings and experiences around school and is done in collaboration with the Human Early Learning Partnership through UBC. More information was sent to parents of grade 5 students in December.

## Expansion Project

We are almost ready to move in! The district is doing some final finishing in our new learning spaces and our new desks and furniture are coming soon. We are very excited to make the move and get learning in our new and beautiful classrooms!

Phase two of the project will see two of our former rooms renovated into a daycare space with areas for 0-5 care. At this point we do not

yet know who will be running the daycare, or even a potential opening date, so we are not yet ready to start a waitlist for daycare spots. We will keep you updated as we know more.

## Food Drive

Many thanks to everyone in our Auguston Traditional community for your donations of non-perishable food items during December. We were able to fill 6 ½ bins of food for the Salvation Army this year to help those in need in our community.

## Mitten Project

In addition – we also raised funds that covered the entire cost of our Mitten Project – and then some! Just before the winter break, Mrs. Simpson and Mrs. Sward visited the staff at Cyrus Centre where we were able to donate 100 pairs of warm winter mittens that students had packaged up and pinned heart beads and messages onto, as well as a copy of the book *Metis Christmas Mitten* by Leah Marie Dorion and a cheque for \$500. Thank you to everyone who donated funds towards this amazing project which allowed us to show caring and kindness to those in need at Christmas.



## Sickness



The break and some great rest and relaxation was just what our bodies needed to beat the sick bugs floating around, but unfortunately many are still hanging on. Please remember that if your child has a fever or is showing symptoms of sickness, the best place for them to get the rest they need is at home. We are doing what we can to prevent the spread of sickness here at school, including lots of hand washing and keeping our spaces clean. Please help us out by keeping your child home if they are sick and making every effort to pick them up if we call. See [Student Health Policy](#).

## Dress for the weather



With our cold weather coming, please ensure that your children have warm weather gear, rain proof jackets and waterproof boots as we will be heading outside as much as possible at recess and lunch times. Those fresh air breaks do wonders for our growing brains – keeping them clear and ready for learning - so we will continue to go outside every day unless it is really heavy rain or extremely cold. A change of clothes is also helpful to have here at the school and will avoid us calling for some dry clothes to be dropped off on those rainy, wet days.

## Inclement weather guidelines



As we head into our snowy and icy season, please be aware of the inclement weather guidelines found on our website: [Winter Weather Procedures](#). If schools are closed, emails (and text messages if you have signed up for them) are sent out by the School District office. School closure information will also be posted on our website, on social media and broadcasted by local radio stations. If you wake up to snow, please check there first to see if a snow day has been called.

## Sledding rules



Just a reminder of our sledding guidelines – the kids have reviewed these as well. We want to ensure that the students are having fun out there but of course safety is our number one priority. Our rules around sledding on school grounds are as follows:

- Our grade 5 sledding hill beside the gym is **permanently** closed due to the construction project and our storage bin being at the bottom. There is also no sledding on the hill above the school near the garden area. These closures are in place during school hours and within the duty times before and after school.
- Helmets are preferred for all sledders.

- The grade 4/5 area is on the hill closest to the baseball dugout, with grades 2 and 3 between the trees and K/1s farthest from the school on the smallest, shortest slope.
- Only students with sleds are allowed on the hills. As some families will choose not to send their kids with sleds for safety reasons, sharing of sleds is not allowed unless it is between siblings.
- Students are to sled down alone (no doubling up) and one sled at a time, giving the previous sledder time to move away from the bottom of the hill before going.
- Students at the bottom are to move to the side of the hill or in line with the trees to make their way back up.
- No standing at the bottom of the hill unless you are out of the slide zone.
- It can get icy and slippery out there, so caution while around the sledding areas is important!
- No skis or snowboards please, just sleds.
- If conditions become too icy, sledding will be closed. This closure will be decided on depending on conditions on a daily basis.

Also:

- Students are asked not to eat the snow in and around the school pavement areas as we use rock salt and chemical product to reduce the ice and make our surfaces less slippery.
- We have a no throwing snow rule – not at each other, not at trees or buildings, not up in the air - as there may be rocks and ice chunks mixed in.



## Dogs on school grounds

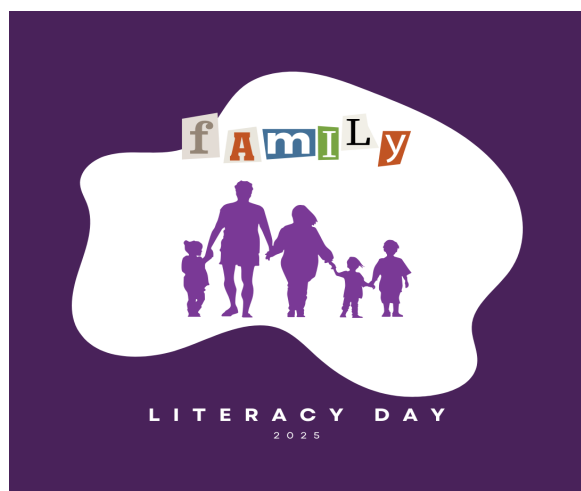
Recently we have had a number of dog messes to clean up on our field again. Though we are good neighbours and are happy to share our space, our students safety and cleanliness is our first priority. If you bring your dogs to the school field for a run, please do so when students are not present on the field or playground. This is for safety reasons as we don't know every dog and if they are safe around large groups of noisy kids. We also ask that you don't allow our students to pet or come near your dog and that you clean up after your dogs, too, if they do their business on the field – that is not fun to step in!! Please also share this information with your friends and neighbors who may not have students who attend our school but who also want to use our field.

## No Parking Zones



Please continue to be mindful of our no parking zones out front of the school along Stephen Leacock Drive. Things can get really busy around our school during our drop off and pickup times, and we appreciate you keeping all of our families safe out there. Please remember to GO SLOW and be aware of our students as they are moving around our school property and crossing the road. If you are dropping off or picking up in one of our bus loops, please be mindful of everyone's

time and DO NOT PARK in either loop. You must remain in your vehicle in order to keep traffic moving and get everyone safely on their way. If your child(ren) aren't there ready when you pass through the bus loop – please do another loop so that the traffic behind you can move through. The 'no parking zones' are coned off and we appreciate you keeping sight lines in mind as you approach our crosswalks. Thank you!



## Family Literacy Week January 26 - February 2

### What is family literacy?

**"Family literacy refers to the way parents, children, and extended family member use literacy at home and in the community. Family literacy occurs naturally during the routines of daily living and helps children and adults *get things done.*" – Hayden, R. & Sanders, M. (2007).**

The theme for Literacy Week this year is "Learn to be Green Together". Decoda Literacy Solutions has many resources that can be shared with families or used in classrooms during literacy week. You can be promote both literacy

and being green at the same time with this initiative. Resources and activities range from Babies - Older School-aged children. See link for more information and resources.

[Family Literacy Week - Decoda Literacy Solutions](#)

### In Abbotsford on January 25, 2025 Family Literacy Week Kicks Off



The Clearbrook Library, the Reach Gallery Museum, Literacy Matters Abbotsford, and their 19 community partners are excited to host Family Literacy Day this year! On January 25, 2025 the day begins at the Library with the ever popular, Norton the Magician at 11:00 a.m. Community partners will have stations at both locations with free crafts, treats and activities for all ages. Visitors will have the opportunity to view works by local artists at the Reach Gallery Museum as they follow Abbotsford Children's Theater actors who will be performing story walk live at 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. The walk will lead visitors to Literacy Matters Abbotsford's puppet shows at 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. Come and join us for a fun and informative day with family and friends.

#### Website:

<https://www.literacymattersabbotsford.com/>

## Upcoming Dates in January

Wed & Thurs Jan 15 & 16	<a href="#">Strong Start Closed for Move to New Addition</a> – reopens Friday in Room 128
Fri, Jan 17	<a href="#">Lockdown Drill</a> 10:30am
Mon, Jan 20	<a href="#">Kindergarten Registration</a> begins Afterschool programs start up the week of Jan 20 <a href="#">Multi-Sports - Gr. 4/5 Boys</a> 2:35-4pm
Wed, Jan 22	<a href="#">Drama Explorations - Gr. 2/3</a> 2:35-4pm <a href="#">Skittle Ball Game</a> 3:15-4:15pm
Fri, Jan 24	<a href="#">Decades Day - No Uni</a> (dress like your favourite decade) <a href="#">Taco del Mar Hot Lunch Day</a>
Mon, Jan 27	<a href="#">Multi-Sports - Gr. 4/5 Boys</a> 2:35-4pm <a href="#">Popcorn Orders Due</a> 3pm
Tues, Jan 28	<a href="#">Gr. 5s to The Reach</a> 9:30-12:20pm
Wed, Jan 29	<a href="#">Drama Explorations - Gr. 2/3</a> 2:35-4pm <a href="#">Skittle Ball Game</a> 3:15-4:15pm <a href="#">Traditional Advisory Committee meeting (TAC)</a> at Abby Traditional (Middle/High) School at 3:30pm <a href="#">Auguston PAC Meeting</a> 7pm

## School Photos



See **school photos** on the website at:

<https://auguston.abmyschools.ca/blog>

Thank you, **Tina Howe**, (parent and teacher) for taking many of our school photos!

## Weekly Events

(taking place at lunch, after the eating period)



## BOOK CLUB

[Reading Link Challenge](#) for Gr. 4/5 on Mondays in the LLC



[Chess Club](#) for Gr. 1-2 on Tuesdays & for Gr. 3-5 on Wednesdays in the LLC (or possibly in the gym, depending on space)



Skittle Ball practices for Gr. 4/5 on Thursdays

See <https://auguston.abmyschools.ca/announcements/skittle-ball>

## Pay for School Activities and Give Consent Online



Consent forms are **ONLINE** in [SchoolCash](#). Consent includes Request for Email Address Consent, Photograph/Video and Media, Permission off Grounds and for Field Trips.

We would like to encourage **ALL families** at our school to utilize the online option for consent & payments **EVERY** time! We are currently at **99.70%** who have signed up. Let's make it 100% Auguston and **PLEASE USE the online option every time!**

*\*The Reach field trip for Gr. 5s \*Skittle Ball for Gr. 4/5*

*\*No Uni for a Toonie \*Damaged or Lost Library Books*

*\*Email Consent \*Extracurricular School Sports \*Kindergarten school supplies \*Off Grounds*

*\*Photo/Media \*School Planners*

Thank you to parents who have set up your schoolcash account and utilize this option. You will be receiving reminders and messages about new items being added to your child's 'cart' when field trips and other items arise. A suggestion is to purchase a **prepaid credit card** to make purchases if you are concerned about online shopping. The district site is a secure site which does not hold account information.

**SchoolCashOnline** limits the amount of cash/cheques handled in schools, reduces paperwork, and results in more focused instructional time in the classroom. The Abbotsford School District now uses SchoolCashOnline for all schools. With SchoolCashOnline, parents have the convenient and secure option of paying for school items using their credit card online, 24/7. You can pay for school items such as trips, club/athletic fees, and spirit wear. It will save you time too! **Register for Schoolcashonline in 4 simple steps! If you haven't yet done so, please click on the link below to sign up TODAY!**

## Pay School Fees Online

Secure credit card payment

24/7 convenience

Easy registration

[Click Here!](#)

SchoolCashOnline

