



# AvaNews

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.”  
~Ecclesiastes 3:1

Friday,  
Sept. 29,  
2023  
Issue #4



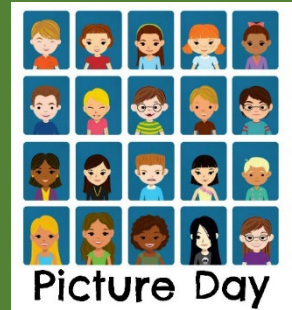
STAT Monday, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>  
No School



September/October 2023				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	5 <i>First Day of School!</i> <i>WELCOME BACK</i> 😊	6	7	8
11	12	13 <i>K-8 Choir Club</i> 3:15-3:30PM	14	15 <i>4-8 Sports Club</i> 1:00-1:45PM
18	19 <i>4-8 Sports Club</i> 3:15-4:00PM	20 <i>TERRY FOX RUN</i>	21 <i>HOT LUNCH</i> <i>4-8 Board Game Club</i> 3:15-4:00PM	22
25	26	27 <i>K-8 Choir Club</i> 3:15-3:30PM	28 <i>Orange Shirt Day</i>	29 <i>4-8 Sports Club</i> 1:00-1:45PM
2 <i>Truth &amp; Reconciliation Day – NO SCHOOL</i>	3 <i>4-8 Sports Club</i> 3:15-4:00PM	4 <i>K-8 Choir Club</i> 3:15-3:30PM	5 <i>HOT LUNCH</i> <i>4-8 Board Game Club</i> 3:15-4:00PM	6



**School Pictures**  
We will take and offer school photos this year due to unreliable photographers, recently. Each student will have a couple of free digital pictures with 2 different poses and backgrounds for you to send, save or print off for keepsakes and sharing with family. Stay tuned for the date and more details!



**HOT LUNCH**  
**Mac & Cheese**  
GREEN SALAD  
COOKIE  
JUICE

Thursday, Oct. 5th

Hot Lunch on Thursday →

Fri., Sept. 29, 2023

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**ORANGE SHIRT DAY**  
THURSDAY, SEPT. 28TH





**Mr. C. came and joined us in BG Club!**



Mr. C.'s class is selling "Fire" Sauce a Taco Bell classic hot sauce for \$10. Proceeds to his 6-8 classroom, or workshop! Feel free to send your money with your child to school, and Mr. C. will send a bottle home!



Grateful to have a lovely garden welcoming our families, students & staff to school each day! Thank you Cara!

Thank you Mrs. Oickle for the beautiful artwork we get to enjoy!



“Art is not what you see,  
but what you make others see.”

*Edgar Degas*



A big thank you  
To Mrs. Walkus for  
filling in and taking  
care of our Littles!!



**Odeemin (Oh-deh-min) — Strawberry**

Odeemin is a sacred gift from the Creator. It is the first berry to arrive after the bear comes out of hibernation. It is a woman's berry. "Gookmis, why is the Odeemin a woman's berry?" Gookmis says softly, "It represents the heart and the fertility of a woman. The strawberry is a medicine that provides nourishment not only to the bear but also for the woman who eat it upon finishing their berry fast. This is what I've been told."

**Dewegan (De-weh-gun) — Drum**

I've been told that the dewegan was a gift from the women during a time of war amongst our men. Today, Mishoomis sits at the dewegan carrying forward the songs of the past and creating new ones for the future. Mishoomis says the dewegan is the heartbeat of our people in terms of healing, in ceremony, and in social gathering. It can be heard across Turtle Island, leading one another in a common journey.

**Gookmis (Go-k-miss) — Grandmother**

Gookmis is a special teacher in our lives. She is a storyteller and knowledge keeper who shares her experiences and teachings with all who will listen.

"Gookmis, why do you share your teachings with me?" Gookmis holds me close and says in her quiet, humble voice, "Because this is what I've been told, by my Grandmother."

**Migweg kendaaswin (Meeg-weng ken-daws-win) — Giving Knowledge**

Ojibway people gather in both small and large groups to take care of one another. Sharing their knowledge is a way of survival and a gift they give others. I've been told that sharing is a way to ensure our culture and language lives from the seven generations before to the next seven generations to come.

**Midewewin (Mid-eh-we-win) — Good-Hearted Way**

Gookmis and Mishoomis spend a lot of time in the Lodge, learning from the Midewewin people. I've been told by Gookmis that the Midewewin is a group of good-hearted people dedicated to learning and keeping the teachings of our great Creation story alive. Mishoomis says in the Lodge, stories are shared, language is spoken, and teachings are passed on from one generation to the next through sacred ceremony, in a good-hearted way.

Grade 4~5 class did a walk through the hall learning new indigenous words this week! We also had the pleasure of a special guest speaker, Willie Walkus, join us for assembly to share a bit about Truth & Reconciliation to our students! Thank you, Mr. Walkus!

Information for Parents and Caregivers



# All about the Foundation Skills Assessment

## What is the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA)?

The FSA is a learning assessment for all grade 4 and 7 students. It focuses on the areas of **literacy** and **numeracy**.

FSA results are one way of measuring how the education system is doing in these key areas. It assesses how students think, communicate and reflect - not just the facts they know.

The FSA is not intended to be used to rank students, teachers, or schools. The FSA is a snapshot of student learning at a moment in time. For parents and caregivers, it tells you where your child is at in their literacy and numeracy development, as well as areas where they may need support. When all students participate, it also gives the Ministry of Education and Child Care a clear picture of how the education system is performing as a whole.

## Why is the FSA important?

The Ministry of Education and Child Care sets the standards for what your child learns and, along with teachers, figures out ways to measure how well they are learning. The goal is for your child (and all students in BC) to get a great education that readies them for life after graduation and helps them become educated citizens.

One way the Ministry ensures the quality of student learning is through the FSA. The FSA helps us understand what learning looks like across the entire province. It lets us see how different groups of students are learning and find out where they might need extra help. It also helps us understand how well BC is doing over time.

The Ministry uses this information to make sure that your child's learning is "on track" and that they don't fall behind. This data also allows us to know how BC students are doing in relation to students in other provinces in Canada and the rest of the world. The FSA provides both the Ministry and parents and caregivers with the assurance that students possess the literacy and numeracy skills necessary for their future.

**Literacy** is your child's ability to understand language and communicate in a variety of ways.

**Numeracy** is your child's ability to apply important math skills, solve problems, and communicate solutions.

## The FSA:

- Is **not** a high-stakes assessment
- Is **not** meant to be used for ranking students, teachers, or schools
- Does **not** impact student marks or report cards
- Provides valuable information about student learning
- Ensures all students are developing a strong foundation in literacy and numeracy
- Guides improvements to BC's education system

## Information for Parents and Caregivers



### How will your child participate?

The FSA will be completed by your child as part of their regular classroom learning. Your child does not need to prepare for the assessment. The FSA has five parts that can be spread out over several days or weeks during the fall of your child's grade 4 and 7 school year. Each component of the assessment will never be longer than an hour, so it won't take too much time away from classroom learning. Here is what your child can expect:

Component	Description	Time
<b>Paper-based literacy task</b>	A collaboration activity and 3 written response questions	60 minutes
<b>Online literacy task</b>	30 questions	60 minutes
<b>Paper-based numeracy task</b>	3 written response questions and 1 self-reflection question	45 minutes
<b>Online numeracy task</b>	30 questions	60 minutes
<b>Self-reflection</b>	1 selected-response question and 1 written-response question	5 minutes

Some students may feel nervous about tests. Talking about the FSA at home can help your child understand the purpose of the assessment. It can also help your child feel more confident writing it.

You will receive your child's test booklet back after it has been marked. Marking is done by teachers using the provincial proficiency scale, the same scale used for report cards for kindergarten to Grade 9. For FSA, "Developing" and "Proficient" have been combined on the scale into a single category, so that you know if your child is "On Track" in their literacy and numeracy learning.

Emerging	On Track	Extending
means your child is beginning to understand the expected concepts	means your child mostly understands the expected concepts	means your child is able to apply their learning in new and different ways

Along with written comments from teachers and the proficiency scale on report cards, the FSA results can be another helpful source of information to see where your child is in their literacy and numeracy development and where they can go next in their learning.

### How are the FSA results used?

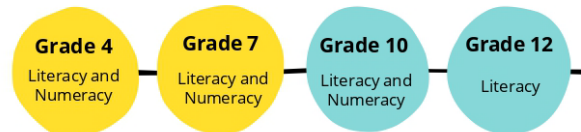
The FSA results offer insights to parents, caregivers, teachers, schools, districts, and the Ministry. They provide valuable information to all levels of the education system that help improve student learning.

- For parents, caregivers, and teachers, these results can show how students are doing in literacy and numeracy.
- Teachers, schools, and districts can use the FSA results to help support classroom teaching. They can see where students are doing well and where they might need more help.
- Schools, districts, and the Ministry can use the FSA results to help make the education system better. The Ministry also relies on the FSA to uphold high learning standards to help all students develop their literacy and numeracy skills.

It's important to know that the FSA results aren't for ranking students, teachers, schools, or districts. Rankings don't help learning and don't make BC's education system better. The FSA is just one data point and doesn't reflect all the teaching and learning that happens in a school. That's why the Ministry doesn't make, share, or support any rankings.

### When are literacy and numeracy assessed?

Foundation Skills Assessments      Graduation Assessments



### Contact Us

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 [Curriculum.gov.bc.ca](http://Curriculum.gov.bc.ca)

