

# Mustangs Monthly Memos JAN/FEB 2025



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## Principal's Report – January/February

As we step into the second half of the school year, it's the perfect time for students to set new goals, reflect on their progress, and stay committed to finishing strong. A fresh semester brings new opportunities for learning, growth, and achievement.

First and foremost, I want to express my sincere **gratitude to our dedicated teachers and staff** for their hard work in preparing report cards and assessments. Their commitment ensures that students receive valuable feedback to guide their learning. Report cards have been sent home with students in Grades 7-12 and have also been mailed out. We encourage parents and guardians to review them with their children and discuss strategies for continued success.

## Exciting Student Activities

Despite the cold weather, our students have been actively participating in school events and extracurricular activities:

- **Junior Basketball** is in full swing! Our teams have been demonstrating great teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship. Thank you to our coaches for their dedication and to our athletes for representing our school with pride.
- **Kindergarten to Grade 7 students** recently took a trip to Cold Lake for a **tubing/ skiing adventure**.
- Up next, we are looking forward to an **ice fishing trip at Silver Birch in Kikino**. This will be a wonderful opportunity for students to engage in outdoor learning, develop patience, and enjoy the natural beauty of winter.

## Attendance Matters!

As winter continues, we recognize that cold temperatures and bus cancellations can present challenges for students getting to school. However, **consistent attendance remains essential for academic success**. Every day in class is an opportunity to learn, grow, and connect with teachers and peers. We encourage families to do their best to ensure students attend school regularly, as missing lessons can impact progress.

As always, we would love to hear from you. Please call the school 780-636-3651 or email [joe.harrington@asperview.org](mailto:joe.harrington@asperview.org), if you have any questions or concerns.

**Important Dates & Upcoming Events**

**Feb:**

13th-14th - Teacher Convention  
17th – Family Day – School Closed  
26th - Pink Shirt Day  
26th- Student vs RCMP basketball game  
28th- School sweat in Saddle Lake

**March:**

5th -Jr Basketball Final  
5th-7th- Ice fishing rescheduled trip to Silver Birch Resort in Kikino

**Other Information:**

-New permission forms for the rescheduled ice fishing dates will be available soon.

-If any of your child's school information needs to be updated, please contact the school office at 780-636-3651 or email [lily.hunter@asperview.org](mailto:lily.hunter@asperview.org)



Choose  
**KINDNESS**

PINK SHIRT DAY

**feb 26** 2025



**Pink Shirts can be ordered for pink shirt day. QR code available or order online at: [www.madebyka.ca](http://www.madebyka.ca) Please have online orders in by Feb. 19th**



# *Jr./Sr. High Option classes*

## **Sewing**

Students will learn basic and advanced sewing techniques, including hand stitching, machine sewing, and pattern reading. They will complete projects such as hand embroidery, pillows, tote bags, stuffed animals or simple clothing items. This class helps develop fine motor skills, patience, and creativity.

## **Foods**

In this course, students will explore essential cooking skills, kitchen safety, and nutrition. They will prepare a variety of dishes, from simple snacks to full meals, while learning about food science and meal planning. This hands-on class is perfect for fostering independence and healthy eating habits.

## **Music**

Students will have the opportunity to explore music through instruments, singing, or digital music production. They will develop their understanding of rhythm, melody, and harmony while building confidence in performance and creativity.

## **STEM/Robotics**

In Jr. STEM students explore various disciplines including CAD (Computer Aided Design), 3D printing, coding and robotics. In the first half of the course students are introduced to CAD software through Tinkercad. This allows them to create their own 3D designs and projects. Some projects that students completed this year include: custom rings, keychains, bookmarks, and many others. These projects are then 3D printed and students can take them home. The second half of the course students begin exploring coding through a device called a Micro Bit. This helps prepare them for a quick introduction to educational robotics at the end of the course.

In Sr. STEM students explore concepts in technology and design through Alberta's CTS framework. They choose from three specialized pathways:

- **Electro-Technologies (ELT):** Students explore soldering, circuit boards, components and robotics.
- **Design (DES):** Students develop creative problem-solving skills through graphic design, 2D and 3D design, CAD software, and 3D printing..
- **Computing Science (CSE):** Students build programming skills, algorithms, and computational thinking for real-world applications.

## **Outdoor Education** 🌲

Students explore the historical aspects of wildlife in Alberta and Canada, examining the impact of human activities on wildlife populations and their significance in society. They analyze the evolving relationships between humans and the natural world while developing the attitudes, skills, and knowledge necessary for responsible participation in a variety of outdoor activities and survival situations.

## **Beading** 🎨

A culturally enriching course where students learn traditional and contemporary beading techniques. They will create jewelry, keychains, and other decorative pieces while exploring the significance of beadwork in different cultures, particularly Indigenous traditions.

## **Individual Options** 😊

Students have the opportunity to choose from 25+ different options in a variety of subject areas. We have courses on Financial Management, Law, Psychology, Word Processing, Keyboarding, Nutrition & Wellness, Health Services, Photography, Aboriginal Studies, and Forestry. Students are also able to obtain their safety tickets needed to work in the trades such as H2S, Confined Spaces, Ladder Safety, and Electrical Safety

***Each of these options provides students with unique skills and experiences, helping them discover new interests and talents!*** 🎉



# *My Child's*

## *Attendance SUCCESS PLAN*

### *Possible Strategies to Reach MY Child's Attendance Goals*

*I will talk to my child about how going to school every day will help my child do well in school and achieve my child's hopes and dreams.*

*I will keep an attendance chart at home to track absences.*

*At the end of the week, I will recognize my child for attending school every day with \_\_\_\_\_ (i.e. a visit to the park, a new book, a break from doing chores, a special treat, etc.).*

*I will make sure my child is in bed by \_\_\_\_\_ p.m. and the alarm clock is set for \_\_\_\_\_ a.m.*

*I will find a relative, friend or neighbor who can take my child to or from school if I can't.*

*I will set up medical and dental appointments for weekdays after school.*

*If my child cannot avoid missing school, I will contact the teacher for tips and resources to keep my child learning.*

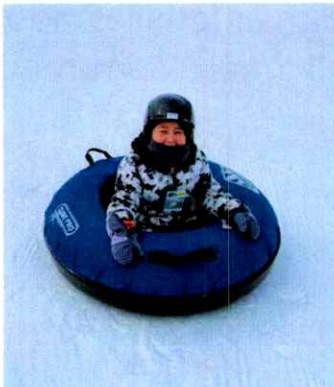
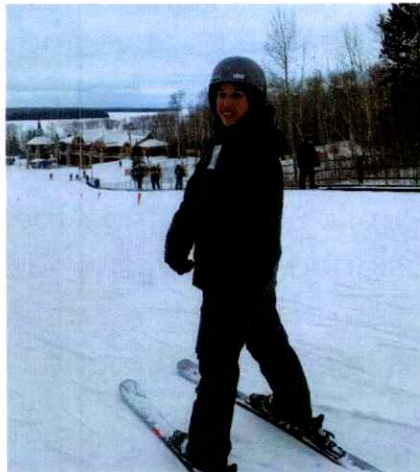
*To improve my child's attendance, I commit to the following:*

1.	
2.	
3.	

*We will review progress to meet this goal in two months.*

*Family Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_*

**Outdoor fun with Vilna School!**



## **STUDENT SUPPORT TEAM**

Did you know that Vilna School offers a number of in-school supports for students?

**School Counselor:** A school counselor plays a crucial role in supporting the academic, social, emotional, and career development of students. Their responsibilities vary, but generally include the following: Academic Support: Identifying and addressing academic challenges, such as learning disabilities or behavioral issues. Collaborating with teachers and parents to create academic intervention plans. Social and Emotional Support: Offering support during difficult times, such as family problems, peer conflict, or emotional struggles. Counselors are also able to help work on building self-esteem, self-confidence, boundary setting, and goal setting. Crisis Intervention: Responding to immediate crises, such as accidents, violence, or other emergencies affecting the school community. Advocacy: Advocating for students' needs and rights within the school system. Collaboration with Stakeholders: Working closely with teachers, administrators, and parents to support students holistically. Collaborating with community resources, such as mental health agencies, to provide additional support. Overall, the role of a school counselor is multifaceted and aims to create a positive and inclusive school.

**Family School Liaison:** The Family School Liaison Program is a free-of-charge, client-based, goal-focused program provided through local municipalities. This program is also supported by Aspen View Public Schools and Alberta Health Services - Mental Health. The program is designed to meet the social and emotional needs of children and youth who are experiencing difficulties. It provides support, encouragement and ideas in a non-judgmental, confidential manner.

**Indigenous School Liaison:** typically serves a similar role to a family school liaison, but with a focus on supporting Indigenous students and their families, addressing the specific cultural, social, and emotional needs that Indigenous communities may experience.

**Success Coach:** Our Success coach can answer questions regarding high school planning, courses or graduation requirements.