

Wihinemne School

Wah-ye-umba Wahzee

Awa Kisep̄sim

Cold Moon

JANUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	31	1 WINTER BREAK	2	3
4	5 Back to School	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 PD day no school	31

www.GrabCalendar.com

Literacy Challenge

How many words can you make out of the letters below?

W - I - N - T - E - R

$$\text{Juice} + \text{Juice} + \text{Juice} + \text{Juice} = 28$$

$$\text{Cup} + \text{Cup} + \text{Juice} = 17$$

$$\text{Cup} + \text{Cup} = 9$$

$$\text{Juice} + \text{Cup} + \text{Cup} - \text{Juice} = ?$$

Math Problem

PRACTICE STONEY AND CREE

"Who is your relative?"

"My relative is ..."

Oduwe Ni Tah goo cha wahh
Tah goo cha wah ...

Awîna kiwahkomakan

Ni wah ko mâ kan...

Cree Stoney English

Message from the Principal:

Welcome back and Happy New Year to our students, families, and staff. We hope everyone had a restful and meaningful winter break filled with time for connection, reflection, and renewal. January is a natural time to reset routines, refocus our goals, and move forward together with a positive mindset.

As we return to learning, our school is placing a strong focus on January's theme character: Perseverance so attendance, engagement, and resilience are at focus! 😊 Being present every day matters—not only for academic success, but for building relationships, confidence, and a sense of belonging. We appreciate families' continued support in ensuring students arrive on time and ready to learn.

This month, classrooms will be re-establishing learning routines and continuing to build foundational skills, particularly in literacy and numeracy. Our staff remain deeply committed to supporting every student's growth and well-being, and we are proud of the care and dedication shown daily across our school.

January is also a time when we remind students of our shared expectations around respectful behaviour, safe choices, and positive communication—both in person and online. We continue to encourage students to speak up, seek help, and treat one another with kindness and respect.

We are grateful for the ongoing guidance of our Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and cultural staff, who help ground our learning in culture, community, and connection. These teachings strengthen our school and remind us of the importance of walking together in a good way.

Thank you to our families and community partners for your continued trust and collaboration. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions, concerns, or ideas—strong schools are built through strong partnerships.

We look forward to a successful and positive start to 2026.

Warm regards,
Adrienne Cleary
Principal

Message from Makushin T: Waheyemba Wazee, January.

January brings frost, Trees, from the frost bring
breathtaking glitter Which nature has given us.
The day has given us cold. Children come running
in from the cold with rosy red cheeks.

That is life.
Enjoy WInter,
Makushin T.



K4 Hello January!

We hope everyone had a very fun and exciting winter break! When we left the K4s had just decided they wanted to start writing their own names on their work instead of teacher! So exciting. We celebrated 67 days in school with a 6-7 party. After the long break we will start with some review and strengthen our transition skills to get back into our routines. Then we will work on growing our number sense, continuing the letter of the week where we left off, the Letter li, and using our Winter Animals theme to keep the kids engaged with fun stories, sensory bins to build their fine motor skills and hopefully spend some more time outside for some snow exploration.



K5 Happy New Year! Another exciting month ahead in K5. We will start to work on our story writing unit. We will continue to work on mastering our alphabet and letter sounds and continue to strengthen our beginning reading skills. In numeracy we are finishing up sorting and classifying and will be moving onto comparing numbers from 1-10. We are finishing our science unit on the senses and will move onto a Social unit on mapping. The kids are really starting to catch on to blending and being able to read more fluently. It is so exciting to see as we still have lots of time to build these skills! We will be planning a few exciting field trips ahead so stay tuned for more information!



GR.1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We had a great December and hope you liked our song "All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth" at the Christmas concert! The visit and gifts from Santa to our school were so fun! We are all so excited to be back in school and are looking forward to learning so much this month! We are continuing to learn about how animals hibernate, migrate and adapt in Winter. We've talked about how even kids adapt by changing what they wear to stay warm in the winter - warm jackets, snowpants, mittens, toques and boots! We love to play outside so please be sure your children wear these to school each day. Our favourite subject right now is Math where we are recognizing patterns, skip counting by 10's 5's and 2's all the way to 100! We are adding and subtracting and measuring and weighing things, we love to learn about numbers! This is going to be a great month for learning and growing and building and adventuring!



GR.2

Hello Super Grade 2 Families! Happy New Year! Welcome back to our routine and schedules of 2026! We are working on reviewing our classroom expectations and need help being reminded of home and school behaviours. Please assist your future leader by reminding them to ensure a safe, fun and respectful learning environment.

As you will note in our class weekly update, our class will need to ensure your child is wearing winter gear for outside recess (winter coat, snow pants, gloves, toque and boots). <3

We are finishing off place value to thousands as well as counting to 1,000 by 1s at any starting point. For ELA we are focusing on reading books at our level and practicing every day. We are also learning to read sight words fluently. In Science we are completing our Material (Matter) Unit and focusing on what the materials are used for and when they can be used in combination. In Social Studies we are completing our Communities, Community Helpers, and landmarks to identify an area.

GR.3-

Tansi and Happy New year! We hope we all rested to begin the next piece in our studies and ready to fulfil some goals for the new year of 2026!

We are happy to be back working on the routines and procedures at school. At this time, we would like to remind parents to be sure to dress their children warm. Winter boots are a must, with the deep snow. Many of our friends need indoor shoes for safety during gym and if, we have fire drills.

We continue to work on writing stories in Language Arts and regrouping in math. For Science, we will continue our unit with Energy & Forces. Social studies we will focus on Landforms in Alberta unit.

We hope to have a very productive month and focus on any learning, that we may have overlooked during the past Christmas season.

Thank you!!:)



GR.4

Welcome back, everyone, and Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a splendid break filled with family, fun, and (most importantly) food! January is going to be a fun-filled month. In English Language Arts, the Grade 4s will be working on paragraph and opinion writing, developing editing skills, punctuation, and parts of speech. Guided reading groups will continue to fill our mornings with new and challenging books, providing time to hone our reading comprehension and fluency skills. In Math, we will continue to develop our understanding of fact families, rounding, and adding and subtracting multi-digit numbers. In Science, we will be finishing our Energy unit. Lastly, in Social Studies, we will continue exploring the regions of Alberta and our provincial parks.



GR.5

What a wonderful and well needed break we all had! We have started the new year strong with a new unit in science. We will be studying astronomy, and its impact on our daily lives. In social studies, we are still answering the questions; "In what ways were societies organized in history?" In our first week back, we dove right into Rome. We have continued our unit of shapes, lines and length in math. Our daily writing has continued and we are now looking into how our writing changes or is impacted by audience and intent. I look forward to cheering on these wonderful students as they progress!



Gr.6

Welcome back and Happy New Year. Grade 6 students are eager to be back at school as we settle in to begin the new year to learn with focus and enthusiasm. January's theme is perseverance, learning and seeing the rewards of not giving up in anything in life. In Language Arts, students are strengthening their reading comprehension and writing skills with descriptive language. In math, students will be building upon number sense skills, with fractions and division, and problem-solving strategies. In Social Studies, students are exploring democracy and responsibility, how the Canadian government functions. Science the students are eager to be exploring the Sun, Moon, and planets in our solar system.



JUNIOR HIGH

MR. FOWELL

I had a new baby over winter break, but am back and ready for more science! All the Jr. High will be wrapping up their second unit before the end of the month, with activities coming in the second week of January for sure. Upcoming units will be heat and temperature for grade 7, light and optics for grade 8, and environmental chemistry for grade 9! I'm looking forward to the end of our current units and doing iodine clock reactions, plant identification, and maybe even some dissection of eyeballs! I saw lots of good work in December and hope to see continued improvements from Jr. High in the new year!

MR. C

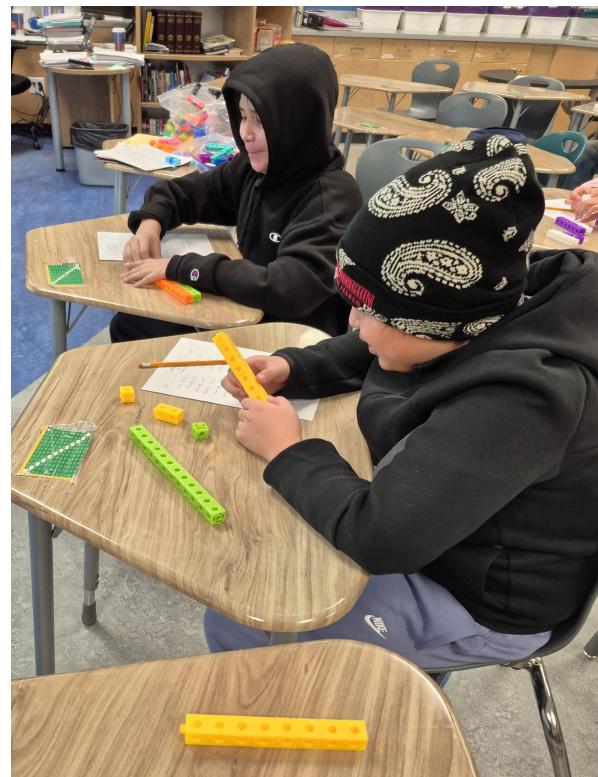
January will be a busy and exciting month in Junior High Social Studies. We are excited about this new year and all the opportunities to showcase our learning. Grades 7, 8, and 9 have all completed Chapter Three and are now actively working on their term projects. I am looking forward to seeing the upcoming presentations and the creativity and effort students are putting into their work.

This month, all three grades will be completing their Chapter Three quizzes and beginning Chapter Four. Grade 7 students will be learning about the fur trade and exploring how it played a key role in the development of Canada. Grade 8 will be finishing their study of the Renaissance, while Grade 9 will be focusing on the Numbered Treaties as they continue their learning this year.

As we settle into the new year, students have shown great focus and enthusiasm, and I'm excited to see their learning continue to grow throughout the rest of the term.

MRS. MURRAY

The grade 9 students have been working hard in math to learn about estimating and finding exact square roots of non-perfect squares and will be finishing the current chapter by completing the topic of surface area. Both the grade 7 and 8 classes finished their last units before the Christmas break and have begun learning about integers. Grade 7 students are learning to add and subtract integers using manipulatives for support, while the grade 8 students are learning about multiplying and dividing with integers. They will then apply those concepts to order of operations questions. I am proud of all of the hard work and learning I am seeing every day.



JUNIOR HIGH

ACADEMIES

Academies are ongoing amid busy schedules, and we are hoping that there will be enough time to support our high performing athletes.

SHOP

In the Shop this month we are going to be starting some simple woodworking projects with a focus on measuring, cutting, and shaping wood. As always, we will be learning and practising safety to make sure we have a healthy and productive New Year!



FOODS

Students successfully planned and cooked their meals in December. They were able to enjoy consuming their creations and sharing them with family and friends. Foods class is now completed and another session will begin after Spring Break with a new group of students.

ART

A new section of Art will be beginning with Mrs. Murray in January with a new group of students. Topics covered will depend on student interest and skill level.

OUTDOOR ED

We struggled a bit with outdoor activities before winter break due to the lack of proper clothing by many students. Come prepared to be out in the weather and we can continue to have some fun learning together!

MUSIC

There is now a collection of different instruments available for students to practice with. The academy schedule before winter break made it difficult to get lots of practice in, but there will be some changes in January that should allow students more opportunity to practice their musical skills!





LANGUAGES/CULTURE

Cree-Nehiyawewin:

Tansi Kakiyaw (Hello to all). January 1st - Ocemokisikaw Oskaskiwan Mina (It's a new year). Ahkameyimok kaya pomek awa pisim (Perseverance is the focus for this month). Maskawatisik sihkimitok kamiskaman kikway kotamihkoyin (encourage one another to find something to do). Wicitok kamiyowataman oma koskaskiwak (help one another to enjoy this new year). Ekosi pitama nitotemak (that's all for now my friends)! Sakihitok (love one another) Kohkom Yellowbird does!

Eethka:

Abawathdded dadugcuwa, mitoodebi (good day my relatives, community). Waheba Manige Kudin exbaawan (Fall is changing into winter). Igdduth yaawan Wanidu tish-nah, i-hnuu,ha-beh ga-pe-pee nabii-p-tah (It's time of year again winter hats, coat, boots, gloves are required). Ddoshdamins eeth-key-um (The children are learning and getting more comfortable speaking the stoney).



WELLNESS

January has been a month of warmth, growth, and reconnection in our wellness class. As we settled back into routines, students continued building confidence, connection, and a strong sense of community within our classroom.

Our programming remains fully individualized so every student feels supported, successful, and included. Whether children need sensory breaks, movement-based learning, quiet regulation time, or hands-on exploration, our routines adapt to meet their unique needs.



This month, our classroom has been filled with cozy, winter-themed learning, including creative art projects, fine-motor st calming sensory experiences, and peaceful story times. We've also focused on teamwork and collaborative activities that encourage communication, problem-solving, and friendship.

We are incredibly proud of our students for trying new things, supporting one another, and bringing their individual strengths into everything they do. We look forward to continued growth, learning, and meaningful moments as the year continues

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Tanisi! Welcome to 2026 which promises to be very exciting. We begin the new year with a floor hockey tournament for elementary school at Alexander on the January 13, 2026. This will follow by basketball tournament early February for the Junior Highs, and the busy schedule will continue. The Academies are ongoing amid busy schedules, and we are hoping that there will be enough time to support our high performing athletes. The lower elementary kids are continuing their exploration of different challenging but exciting games from last year. They are also working on teamwork and body strength among other things. I am so excited for what 2026 holds for gym program and will let you know all about it.

WIHNEMNE OUTDOORS: MR. RAIN

December was an exciting and memorable month in our classroom as we explored what we fondly called **“Dead Critter Month.”** Students had the opportunity to closely examine a variety of animals, including an ermine, flying squirrel, red squirrel, fisher, and pine marten. Through hands-on observation, guided discussion, and curiosity-driven questions, students learned about animal characteristics, habitats, adaptations, and the important role these animals play in our ecosystem.

This unique learning experience sparked incredible engagement and enthusiasm. Students showed respect, curiosity, and excitement as they explored real-life specimens, deepening their understanding of the natural world while building observation skills and confidence in asking thoughtful questions.

In January, we will be shifting our focus to an exciting new theme: **glamping!** Students will explore the concept of outdoor living with comfort, learning about shelters, design, planning, and creativity. This unit will encourage imagination, problem-solving, and collaboration as students explore what makes a space both functional and inviting. We're looking forward to another month full of hands-on learning, creativity, and meaningful experiences!



TRANSALTA CHRISTMAS

