

# F.E.S. FAMILY CONNECTIONS

F.E.S students will be passionate life-long learners who contribute as responsible leaders in the global community

## Week At A Glance

Jan. 19th-23rd

### Monday, Jan. 19th

-Grade 5 Open Gym  
Student Led Clubs for  
Kindergarten and Gr. 3

### Tuesday, Jan. 20th

-Grade 4 Open Gym  
-Student Led Clubs for Grade 1  
- French Second Language  
Program Virtual Information  
Session at 6:30

### Wednesday, Jan. 21st

-Grade 3 Open Gym  
-Kindergarten-Gr. 2- Skating

### Thursday, Jan. 22nd

-Grade 2 Open Gym  
-Grade 2 Student Led Clubs



### Friday, Jan. 23rd

- Grade 1 Open Gym  
-Deadline to return volunteer  
form

## Upcoming Dates

- Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>- Calendar Pilot Day
- Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>- French Second Language Program Virtual Information Session at 6:30
- Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>- Kindergarten-Grade 2 students
- Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>- Curling Grade 4
- Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>- Home and School meeting @ 7pm
- Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>- PBIS and Kindness Bingo Kick Off assembly
- Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>- Indoor Track and Field Meet
- Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>- Curling Grade 4
- Feb. 12- Curling Grade 4

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## Information Items

- There are two options for upcoming **French Second Language Virtual Program Information Nights** for current Kindergarten and Grade 5 English Prime families - Tuesday, January 20th at 6:30 p.m. and Tuesday, January 27th at 6:30 p.m. Please select the one that works better for you. Please see the attachment for more details including links and QR codes.
- We recognize that many students wear **smartwatches** to school and appreciate the convenience they can provide for families. During the school day, however, smartwatches are to be used as watches only. Students may not use them to play games, send texts, make calls, or communicate with others. All communication between home and school during the day should continue to go through the school office or classroom. This policy helps minimize distractions and supports student focus on learning. Students who require smartwatches for documented medical reasons are the only exception to this expectation.
- Saint John Track Club is organizing an **Indoor Track and Field meet** for grades 3-8 at the Field House. This is a great event to introduce track and field to our students. The meet is being held on Friday, Jan 30th from 2pm-4pm. It's free. Parents can sign up their child online. Please see the attached for more information.
- A new **volunteer form** was sent home Tuesday outlining opportunities for volunteering for the second half of the year. Please complete and return by Friday, January 23rd.
- We are very excited to offer **curling for our Grade 4 students** again this year! This experience provides students with the opportunity to learn new skills, work as a team, and enjoy an iconic Canadian sport in a fun and supportive environment.

This year, we have moved from the Hampton Curling Rink to Thistle St. Andrews Curling Club, which offers additional ice availability. This change allows all Grade 4 students to participate together, making the experience even more inclusive and enjoyable.

### Curling Dates

- Thursday, January 29
- Thursday, February 5
- Thursday, February 12

### Schedule

- Curling Time: 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.
- Board Bus at FES: 12:00 p.m.
- Arrival at Curling Club: 12:25 p.m.
- Pick-Up from Curling Club: 1:40 p.m.
- Arrival Back at FES: 2:00 p.m.

### A Huge Thank You ❤️

We would like to extend a very special and heartfelt thank you to **Mrs. Judy Blanchard**, a retired F.E.S. teacher and world champion curler, for securing this wonderful opportunity for our students. Mrs. Blanchard also generously coordinated the support of other experienced curlers to help facilitate the sessions and ensure a high-quality, memorable experience for our learners.

**Once a Falcon, Always a Falcon!**

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## Information Items

### School Skating Program - Thank You & Important Reminders

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to the many parents who are helping to tie skates and skate with the children. This is our largest group of parent helpers yet, and your support is greatly appreciated. Most students enjoyed our first skating session. As we move forward, it is important to remember that our **students have a wide range of skating experience**. For some children, their only exposure to skating is through our school program, while others skate regularly through figure skating, hockey, or family skates.

As part of our ongoing work around **resilience and persistence**, staff have been using this language to prepare students especially those who are new to skating. We remind them that trying something new can be challenging at first, and that it is okay to feel unsure. With practice, encouragement, and a willingness to keep trying, we can do hard things. This message helps students build confidence and supports a positive mindset on the ice.

Safety and fun along with learning and practicing a new skill are our top priorities. Students and adults are asked to be mindful of the different skill levels on the ice. **All skating takes place in a clockwise direction, and chase games are not permitted.**

To support this:

For our **second group** (1 Batt, 1 Martell, 2 Hume, 2 Tai, and 2 Winchester), the **rink will be divided in half using pylons**. Novice skaters will use one side of the ice, and more experienced skaters will use the other. For our **first group** (Kindergarten classes and 1 Savoy/Reevy), skill levels are currently more similar, so the ice will not be divided at this time. This may change in week three if needed.

Please note the following reminders:

All skaters must wear **helmets, gloves or mittens, and winter jackets or extra-warm long-sleeve sweaters**.

All skaters will **enter the ice from the entrance closest to the visitors' bench and exit through the door closest to the home bench (near the upper lobby)**.

The **second group will enter the ice only after the first group has completely exited**.

Designated dressing rooms:

First group:

Room 1 – Mrs. Creamer

Room 2 – Mrs. O'Connell

Room 3 – Mrs. O'Keefe

Room 4 – Mrs. Savoy

Second group:

Room 1 – Mme Batt and Mme Martell

Room 2 – Mme Hume

Room 3 – Ms. Tai

Room 4 – Mrs. Winchester

Thank you again for your cooperation and support as we work together to make this a safe, enjoyable, and positive skating experience for all students.

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## Information Items

### Professional Learning – January 16 Calendar Pilot Day

Today staff engaged in professional learning focused on strengthening instruction and supports for all learners.

#### Classroom Teachers:

- Teachers deepened their understanding of the new numeracy curriculum, supported by district math coaches. Sessions focused on building strong number sense and mathematical understanding across grade levels, including composing and decomposing numbers, understanding mastery of skills, number sense in multiplication and division, fractions and decimals, patterns, and using games, manipulatives, and stretch tasks to support student learning.

#### Physical Education Teachers:

- Physical Education teachers collaborated on common planning for an upcoming dance unit, gathering necessary materials and resources. They also worked toward completing the Outdoor Learning Certificate offered through the Take Me Outside initiative and participated in an Outdoor Learning Certification webinar.

#### Educational Assistants & ESS Teachers (and interested classroom teachers):

- Staff participated in learning focused on Communication Supports for Diverse Learners, facilitated by a Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) and Educational Support Teachers specializing in Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Blind/Visually Impaired learners. Topics included understanding and using AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) systems, supporting communication throughout the school day, responding to all forms of communication, and using practical strategies to engage students with hearing and visual impairments in inclusive and respectful ways.

Overall, the day strengthened instructional practices, enhanced communication supports, and ensured staff are well equipped to meet the diverse learning needs of our students.

- **Morning supervision** begins at 7:45 a.m. To help us keep all students safe, please avoid dropping your children off before that time, as staff are not outside to supervise earlier arrivals.
- **Outdoor play is essential** for children's well-being. Research shows it supports physical health, boosts mood, strengthens social skills, and enhances learning. To ensure students benefit from this valuable time outdoors, they will go outside each day except during heavy rain or when temperatures fall below  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Please help your child enjoy their time outdoors by making sure they are dressed comfortably and appropriately for the weather.

# Photo Gallery



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