**NOTES FROM THE OFFICE - November 2nd, 2026**

**A Fond Farewell to Mrs. Cara Dirks** It is with mixed emotions that we share that **Tuesday, November 3rd, will be Mrs. Dirks' last day at NSCHS**, as she moves to École Leduc Junior High School to begin an exciting new chapter as a full-time School Counsellor. While we are happy for Cara and this wonderful opportunity, we are going to miss her! Cara has been an incredible source of support, encouragement, and compassion for our students, families, and staff for the past 3 years. Her dedication to helping students navigate challenges, recognize their strengths, and experience success has made a meaningful difference in the lives of so many.

We would like to share the following personal message from Cara to our NSCHS families:

*It has been an absolute honor and privilege to support your children, witness their growth, and work alongside such a caring community. Every day spent guiding students through challenges, celebrating their achievements, and helping them build confidence has been deeply rewarding.*

*To ensure a smooth transition, I am working closely with our administration team and my replacement, Mrs. Ostapek. We will continue to be in communication going forward and we are working diligently to continue support for our students and families.*

*I will always hold my time at NSCHS close to my heart. Leaving is very bittersweet and I will truly miss the students, staff and families here. Thank you so much for trusting me with your children.*

*-Cara Dirks*

From all of us at NSCHS, thank you, Cara, for everything you have done for our students, staff, and families! We wish you every happiness and success in this exciting next chapter. You will be greatly missed!

**Welcoming Two New Staff Members to Our Saints Family!**

We are pleased to share that we have successfully filled both of our recently advertised positions and are excited to welcome two new educators to NSCHS!

**Mrs. Nicole Ostapek – Learning Support Teacher & School Counsellor**

Mrs. Ostapek joins us from École Leduc Junior High School, where she has served as both a teacher and acting school counsellor. She has been teaching with Black Gold since 2017 and brings experience teaching in both French and English, along with a background in coaching volleyball and rugby. She is also currently completing her Master of Counselling in Counselling Psychology. Mrs. Ostapek will spend time transitioning with Mrs. Dirks today and will officially begin her permanent position at NSCHS on **Monday, November 23**. We look forward to the experience, enthusiasm, and dedication she will bring to supporting our students and families!

**Miss Rylee MacLennan – Junior/Senior High Teacher**

Miss MacLennan will join our teaching staff on **Monday, November 16**, including taking over Mrs. Dirks' two Grade 7 English Language Arts classes. A University of Alberta graduate, Miss MacLennan brings a wonderful combination of skills, interests and experiences to our school, including developing youth literacy programs and mentoring high school students from across Canada as a Teacher Fellow with Shad Canada. She is also a published poet with interests in robotics and archery! Having previously taught as a substitute at NSCHS, Miss MacLennan shared that her positive experience with our students and staff inspired her to pursue the opportunity to join our Saints family.

**Please join us in extending a warm Saints welcome to Mrs. Ostapek and Miss MacLennan!** We look forward to the contributions both educators will make to our school community.

**Junior High Quarter 2 Options Begin Wednesday!** A reminder to our Junior High families that **Quarter 2 option classes begin Wednesday, November 4**. Students are encouraged to log in to their **PowerSchool accounts** to review their new option courses and schedules. Requests for option course changes must be submitted **by email to Mrs. Haveroen** and will be considered on a **first-come, first-served basis**, subject to availability. Please note that students selected their option courses for the entire school year in May, and these selections were used to build their schedules. As a result, requests to switch into courses students have already selected, or requests based solely on wanting to be in a class with friends, are unlikely to be approved.

**Parent-Teacher Conferences & Report Cards** A reminder that **Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place on Thursday, November 5**. We look forward to connecting with our families and discussing student learning, progress, and successes. **Quarter 1 / Mid-Semester 1 Report Cards** will be available online through PowerSchool on **Friday, November 6, at 4:00 p.m.** We encourage families to review their child's report card together and celebrate achievements while identifying goals for continued growth.

**Remembrance Day Service – Friday, November 6th** NSCHS will be hosting our annual Remembrance Day Service on Friday, November 6, from 10:30–11:30 a.m. in the school gymnasium, in partnership with New Sarepta Elementary School. We warmly invite families and community members to join our students and staff as we come together to honour and remember the brave men and women who have served, and continue to serve, our country. Poppies will be distributed to students prior to the service and donations in support of the Royal Canadian Legion's Poppy Campaign will be gratefully accepted. We look forward to gathering as a school community for this meaningful occasion of remembrance and reflection.

**Lest We Forget.**

**School Council – An Opportunity to Get Involved** Our NSCHS School Council is looking for new members to help support our school community! Following our recent Annual General Meeting, the positions of School Council Chair and Secretary remain vacant, and we are hoping to welcome some new faces to help fill these important roles. We are incredibly grateful to our current Vice-Chair, Mrs. Tamara Morris and Treasurer, Mrs. Michelle Kadatz, who have generously agreed to continue serving in their positions. However, in order for our School Council to continue functioning effectively, we need additional parent involvement to fill the two remaining executive positions. We are currently seeking volunteers for two positions:

- School Council Chair: Helps organize and lead monthly meetings, works with school administration, and supports communication between families and the school.
- School Council Secretary: Takes meeting minutes, maintains council records, and helps keep members informed and organized.

No previous School Council experience is necessary! Meetings are typically held once a month for approximately 1.5–2 hours, and support and guidance will be available from our existing council members and school administration. Whether you are interested in taking on a position or simply want to learn more about the School Council, we encourage you to attend. Please Join Us at Our Next Meeting!

**Wednesday, November 18**
**Time: 6:30 p.m.**
**Location: NSCHS Staff Room**

**Bike Rack Reminder – Winter Is Here!** With winter weather upon us, we are asking families to ensure that any bicycles remaining on our school bike racks are taken home before November 6. Any bicycles left on school property after this date will be removed and disposed of. Thank you for helping us keep our school grounds clear and ready for winter!

**Parent Advisory Annual Gatorade and Granola Bar Initiative** - The NSCHS Parent Advisory Association is once again **requesting ongoing donations of Gatorade and granola bars** throughout the school year. The goal is to provide each student participating in various student groups, teams, and field trips throughout the year, courtesy of the amazing parents and guardians of NSCHS students. Thank you in advance for helping us continue this special treat for our students—they absolutely LOVE it!

**School Clothing 2026-2027** Saints Wear is available to order online! Visit Lil Buckaroo, find our school, and place your order!

**Follow us on our social media accounts!**

- Facebook: New Sarepta Community High School
- Instagram: NSCHS_SAINTS

**Important Upcoming Dates:**

- November 3rd — Mrs. Dirks' last day at NSCHS
- November 3rd — Band Parents Meeting 6:30 PM
- November 4th — First Day of Quarter 2 Option Classes
- November 5th — Parent Teacher Conference Scheduler Closes 12:00 pm
- November 5th — Parent / Teacher Conferences 4:00-7:00 pm
- November 6th — NSCHS & NSES Remembrance Day Service 10:30 am - 11:30 am
- November 6th — Report Cards Published 4:00 pm
- November 6th — Last Day to Pick Up Bikes from the Bike Rack!
- November 9-12 — Midterm Break (Schools Closed)
- November 11th — Remembrance Day (Schools Closed)
- November 16th — PD Day (No Classes)

- November 18th — School Council Meeting 6:30 - 8:30 PM
- November 19th — M.A.D.D. Canada Presentation
- November 20-21 — Sr. High North Central Volleyball Zones
- November 26-28 — Sr. High Volleyball Provincial Championships
- November 27th — Due Date for Student Verification Forms 2026-2027
- November 27th — Bus Evacuation Drill Day 3:15 pm (Buses will be a little late in PM)
- December 4th — PD Day (No Classes)
- December 8th — Band Parents Meeting 6:30 PM
- December 9th — Winter Band Concert 6:00 - 7:00 pm
- December 13&14 — NSCHS School Advisory Casino Fundraiser Evenings in Camrose
- December 22nd — Last Day of Classes before Christmas Vacation
- Dec. 23 - Jan. 5th — Christmas Vacation (Schools Closed)
- January 6th — School Resumes
- January 12th — Band Parents Meeting 6:30 PM
- January 19th — Diploma Exam - Social Studies 30-1/30-2 Part A
- January 20th — Diploma Exam - Math 30-1/30-2
- January 20th — Last Day of Senior High Classes
- January 22nd — Diploma Exam - Social Studies 30-1/30-2 Part B
- January 22nd — Last Day of Junior High Classes
- **January 25th-28th** — **NSCHS Exam Week**
- January 29th — PD Day (No Classes)
- February 1st — Semester 2 Begins / First Day of Quarter 3 Option Classes
- February 4 - 5 — ATA Teachers' Convention (No Classes)
- February 9th — Band Parents Meeting 6:30 PM
- February 15th — Family Day (Schools Closed)
- March 2nd — Band Parents Meeting 6:30 PM
- March 5th — Maintenance Workers Appreciation Day
- March 8-12 — Substitute Teacher Appreciation Week
- March 11th — Evening of Sweet Melody 7:00 - 8:30 pm
- March 15th — PD Day (No Classes)
- March 18-20 — Sr. High Basketball Provincial Championships
- March 26th — Good Friday (Schools Closed)
- March 29th — Easter Monday (Schools Closed)
- March 29 - April 2 — Spring Break (Schools Closed)
- April 5th — School Resumes
- April 5th - 9th — Leduc Rotary Music Festival
- April 12-16 — Education Week / Teacher Appreciation Week
- April 13th — Band Parents Meeting 6:30 PM
- April 14th — First Day of Quarter 4 Option Classes
- April 14th — Sr. High Sturgeon Badminton Conferences (Saville)
- April 15th — Parent / Teacher Conferences 4:00-7:00 pm
- April 16th — Report Cards Published 4:00 pm
- April 19-23 — Support Staff Appreciation Week
- April 21st — Administrative Professionals Day
- April 21st — Sr. High North Central Badminton Zones (Saville)
- April 23rd — PD Day (No Classes)
- April 30th — BGSD Celebration of the Arts - Northern AB Jubilee Auditorium 7 PM
- May 1st — Principal Appreciation Day

- May 3rd — Bus Driver Appreciation Day
- May 7-8 — Sr. High Badminton Provincials (Sunridge Badminton Centre - Calgary)
- May 11th — Band Parents Meeting 6:30 PM
- May 12th-14th — Senior Band Trip / Banff (Tentative)
- May 19-20 — Jr. High Band Trip / NakaMun
- May 21st — PD Day (No Classes)
- May 24th — Victoria Day (Schools Closed)
- June 3rd — Gr. 9 PAT Language Arts & K&E Exam Part A 9:00 am-11:00 am
- June 3rd — Year End Band Concert 6:00 - 7:00 pm
- June 4-5 — Sr. High Track & Field Provincials (Edmonton)
- June 8th — Gr. 9 PAT Language Arts & K&E Exam Part B 9:00 am - 11:00 am
- June 8th — Band Parents Meeting 6:30 PM
- June 10th — Grad Group Cap & Gown Photo 9:15 am
- June 10th — Grad Walk at NSES 10:00 am
- June 11th — Convocation Ceremony 7:00 PM (*Tentative Date)
- June 15th — Diploma Exam - English 30-1/30-2 Part A
- June 15th — Gr. 9 PAT Math Exam Part A 9:00 am - 10:00 am
- June 17th — Gr. 9 PAT Math & K&E Exam Part B 9:00 am - 11:00 am
- June 17th — Last Day of Senior High Classes
- June 18th — Diploma Exam - English 30-1/30-2 Part B
- June 18th — Gr. 9 PAT Social Studies Exam 9:00 am - 11:00 am
- June 21st — National Indigenous Peoples Day
- June 21st — Last Day of Junior High Classes
- **June 22-25th** — **NSCHS Exam Week**
- June 22nd — Gr. 9 PAT Science Exam 9:00 am - 11:00 am (*Last Exam Day for Gr. 9 students)
- June 23rd — Diploma Exam - Biology 30
- June 25th — Diploma Exam - Physics 30
- June 28th — Diploma Exam - Science 30
- June 28-29 — Teacher / Office Work Days