

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**May:**

- 5—Kernels Fundraiser Pickup
- 6—Spring Fling
- 13—Talent Show
- 15—Classroom Placement Forms Due
- 19—Victoria Day—No School
- 20—PL—No Classes
- 21—Hot Lunch Order deadline @ 10:00 p.m. (Boston Pizza)
- 22—Family Gym Night
- 26—Council Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
- 27—Hats Theme Day (Hats off for Mental Health)
- 27—Courage Awards Assembly @ 2:30 p.m.
- 28—Hot Lunch Day (Boston Pizza)

**June:**

- 17—School Spirit Day
- 17—School Council Mtg @ (6:00 p.m.)
- 19—Final Courage Assembly (9:30 a.m.)
- 17—Year-End Swimming
- 24—Family BBQ—3:30 p.m.
- 24—Gr 5 Farewell & Year-End Assembly 2:30 p.m.
- 25—Last Day of School

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Dear Buchanan Families,

We are excited to begin the planning process for the 2025-2026 school year. If you wish to share with us specific information about your child as it pertains to a placement for your Buchanan student in a class for next year, we would ask that you complete our "Classroom Placement" form.

This form allows parents to share information that could be considered when their child is placed in a class for the following year. There is much to consider in the creation of the composition of each class for the upcoming year and this takes us several weeks to work through all the specific needs. We look at physical, academic, second language and behavioural considerations. We consider children's personalities and how well they have worked together in the past. Finally, student numbers are considered so that each grade level class is similar in size. Our current teachers play a large role in creating classes based on their experience working with the children in the school. The key is to find the best balance for all of those factors within each class to help ensure that each child, and teacher, has the most successful year possible. Additionally, teacher staffing processes is not completed at this time. Teachers may transfer in and out or request a grade level change within the school and this process evolves even through the summer. Given all of these factors, it is not possible to grant requests for specific teachers.

Note the following projected Grade Level configurations for 2025-2026. Again, note that this is subject to change. As part of the multi-aged philosophy, we make best attempts to keep a core group of students together with the same teacher for a two-year rotation.

Kindergarten – 1 x AM class, 1 x PM class with alternating Fridays  
 Grade 1 – 2 classes  
 Grade 2/3 Multi-Aged – 4 classes  
 Grade 4/5 Multi-Aged - 5 classes

**The Classroom Placement form has been emailed and is available at the office. They MUST BE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED by Thursday, May 15, 2025. Please return them to the office or email them to: [lenee.fyfe@lethsd.ab.ca](mailto:lenee.fyfe@lethsd.ab.ca).**

**Late forms will not be accepted as it causes disruption in creating and maintaining balanced lists.**

Please reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Lenée Fyfe & Bob White (Administration)

### **No School May 19-20**

Schools will be closed on Monday, May 19 for Victoria Day and Tuesday, May 20 for Professional Learning Day. Classes resume on Wednesday, May 21.

### **Kindergarten Registrations for 2025-26**

We are now accepting Kindergarten registrations for September 2025. We are offering a morning class Monday through Thursday with alternating Friday mornings and an afternoon class Monday through Thursday, with alternating Friday morning classes. Students must be five years old as of December 31, 2025. The registration link is available on our school website. Our morning class is now full and have started a waitlist for mornings. If you wish to be put on the waitlist for mornings, please contact the school office.

### **Returning Students Registrations for 2025-26**

We have many returning registrations which have not yet been submitted by parents/guardians. Alberta Education requires that we have a new registration for every student each year with updated information and consents.

Please submit your child's registration if you have not done so yet. If you have any questions or need assistance, please call the office at 403-327-7321.

If your child is not returning to Senator Buchanan next year, please let the office or their teacher know.

### **Kernels Fundraiser**

Our Kernels fundraiser wrapped up at the end of April. Notices have been sent home and pick up will be **Monday, May 5 between 3:15-4:45 at the gym door on the west side of school**. Thank you so much for your continued support. All monies raised from Kernels fundraiser will go towards the year-end school swim trip to Henderson Pool.



### **Spring Fling!**

We are excited to partner with several community businesses to support a fun and engaging day for our students, staff, and parents/guardians.

Activities will be scheduled in the afternoon (12:30 - 3:30 p.m.) **Tuesday, May 6, 2025**. All staff, students and participating parents are invited to enjoy lunch (includes juice box, popcorn & hot dog), as well as engage in some fun outdoor activities. Any parents wishing to participate in our fun afternoon. If you are hoping to enjoy lunch with your child, please try to visit during your child's scheduled eating time.

Kindergarten parents/guardians – As we are hosting this event in the afternoon on May 6, any morning Kindergarten students that would like to attend must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Morning Kindergarten students will be dismissed at the regular time.

Please let your classroom teacher know if you are planning on attending in the afternoon.



# Apistsisskitsaato'si (Ah-bis-stis-ghits-saa-do-see)

Flower Blossom Moon

Blackfoot Word & Value of the Month

**BLACKFOOT  
MONTHLY  
VALUES**

MAY, 2025




## Save the Date

May 5th Red Dress Day

May 10th Jordan's Principle: Bear Witness Day

May 11th Mother's Day

(Mom: na'a  Sounds like: na ahh)

May 15th Moose Hide Day

May 19th Victoria Day- No School

May 20th Indigenous Graduation Ceremony @  
WCHS

May 29th Middle & High School Indigenous  
Honour Night @ G.S Lakie



## Test your knowledge



- What constellation is referred to in the Blackfoot star story, The Seven Brothers?
- What is the Milky Way referred to in Blackfoot?
- There are a few things in Blackfoot culture that indicate spring has

## Lethbridge School Division Powwow!

1pm-3pm @ Probe

This is a free come and go as you please event! We can't wait to see our student dancers shine!

**Lethbridge School Division  
Elementary West Side**

**TRADITIONAL POWWOW**

**Wednesday June 11th**  
1pm-3pm  
120 Rocky Mountain Blvd. West  
Lethbridge, AB T1K 7J2



Highlighting  
Indigenous  
dancers from  
across  
Lethbridge  
School  
Division

**Dr. Gerald B. Probe Elementary School**

**Dancer registration:**  
Fill out the registration form and give it to your teacher.  
Registration forms can be sent to Melanie and Shawnee at the Ed Center by May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**Inquires can be sent to:**  
melanie.morrow@lethsd.ab.ca  
shawnee.bigbull@lethsd.ab.ca  
joel.tailfeathers@lethsd.ab.ca

## Moose Hide Day

Click here for information and resources!



Moose Hide Campaign Website



THIS YEARS LETH SD MOOSE HIDE THEME:

### **PROTECTION**

MOOSE ARE KNOWN TO PROTECT THEIR YOUNG FIERCELY.  
WHO OR WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU WANT TO PROTECT?



Click on the photos to view & ready to go lesson plans to support Blackfoot learning! Keep smiling for images of Indigenous resources!



Click to read the Blackfoot story of the Wolf Trail

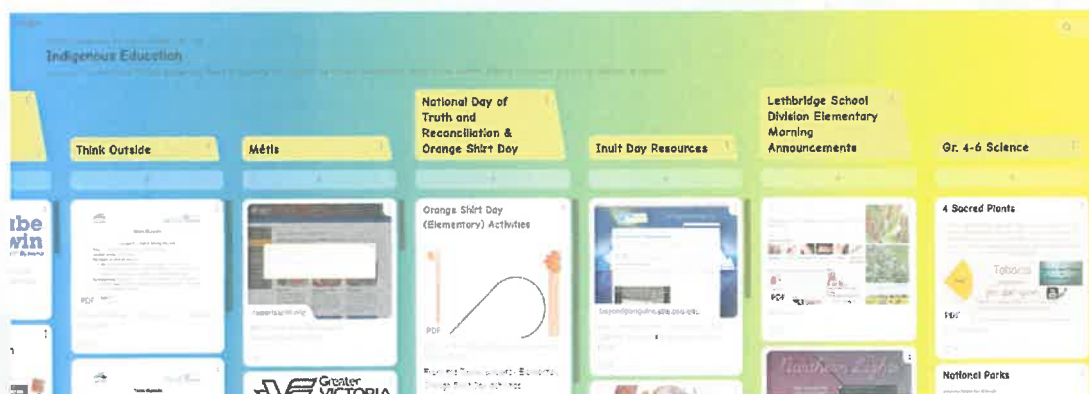
## Trivia



- What constellation is referred to in the Blackfoot star story, The Seven Brothers?
  - **The Big Dipper**
- What is the Milky Way referred to in Blackfoot?
  - **The Wolf Trail**  
**(Makoyohsokoyi)**
- There are a few things in Blackfoot culture that indicate spring has arrived! Can you name one of them?
  - **The arrival of the prairie crocus**
  - **The sound of thunder**

## Indigenous Education Padlet

There are new grade 4-6 science resources on the padlet! We are continuously revamping and adding resources to this page! Check it out!





MAY 2025

## MONTH-LONG OBSERVANCES

- Asian Heritage Month (**Canada**)
- Asian Pacific Heritage Month (**USA**)
- Jewish Heritage Month (**Canada, USA**)
- National Older Peoples Month (**USA**)



May 1

### Labour Day/May Day (**International**)

International Labour Day, also known as May Day, is celebrated on May 1st in many countries around the world. It honours the labour movement and the contributions of workers to society. The day is observed with parades, protests, and public gatherings, where workers and labour unions often demand better working conditions, fair wages, and workers' rights. In Canada, May Day is not a widely recognized public holiday, but is observed by some labour unions, social groups and activists. Canadians and Americans observe Labour Day in September.

May 1

### Beltane Festival (**Wicca**)

Beltane is a Celtic celebration marking the start of summer, traditionally held on April 30th to May 1st. It originated from ancient Gaelic traditions and is associated with fire, fertility, and renewal, linked to pagan beliefs particularly honouring nature, deities, and spirits. It was celebrated in Ireland, Scotland, and the Isle of Man. Large fires were lit to protect and purify people, animals, and crops. Jumping over flames was believed to bring good luck, fertility, and protection. Today, neo-pagans and Wiccans celebrate Beltane with fire rituals, feasts, and dancing.



May 5

### Cinco De Mayo (**Mexico**)

Cinco De Mayo ("Fifth of May") is a holiday that commemorates the Mexican victory over French forces at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. The underdog victory against the French Empire symbolizes Mexican resistance and patriotism. It is celebrated with military parades, reenactments of the battle, and cultural events including Mariachi music and traditional dancing.



May 5

## Kodomo no Hi (Japan)

Kodomo no Hi is Children's Day in Japan. It is a national holiday to celebrate the health, happiness, and growth of children, particularly boys. Originally called Tango no Sekku, it dates back to the Heian period (794-1185) and was a boys' festival. In 1948, the Japanese government declared May 5th as Kodomo no Hi, officially celebrating all children (both boys and girls) and honouring parents and families. Families raise colourful carp-shaped windsocks outside their homes. The carp represents strength and perseverance. The largest black carp represents the father, the red carp represents the mother, and smaller carps symbolize children.



May 5

## African World Heritage Day (UNESCO)

This day was proclaimed by the 38<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference of UNESCO in November 2015. It offers the opportunity for people around the world, particularly Africans, to celebrate the Continent's unique cultural and natural heritage and to promote its preservation. It is a day to showcase the diversity of African heritage sites and traditions. Celebrations include Educational Programs and Workshops, Cultural Events, Exhibitions, and Social Media Campaigns.

May 5

## National Day for Awareness of Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls (Canada, USA)

Also known as Red Dress Day in Canada, this day brings attention to the high rates of violence, abduction, and murder faced by indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people. It is marked by awareness campaigns, marches, and the display of red dresses to symbolize those who are missing or have been lost.



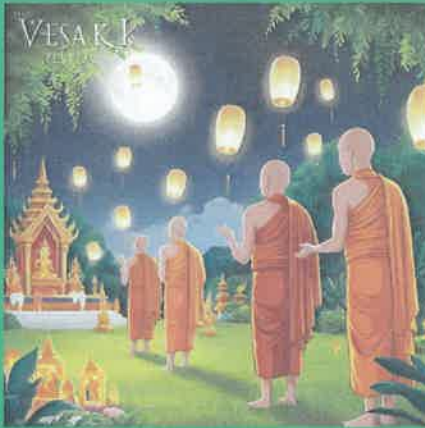
May 11

## Mother's Day (Canada, USA)

In Canada and the United States, Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of May. It is a day to honour mothers, grandmothers, and maternal figures for their love and sacrifices. The modern Mother's Day was first celebrated in the USA in 1908 when Anna Jarvis held a memorial for her mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis, who had cared for wounded soldiers during the Civil War. Jarvis campaigned to make it a national holiday, and in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson declared the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day. Canada adopted Mother's Day from the USA. It is not a statutory holiday, but it is celebrated across the country.



# MULTICULTURAL AND DIVERSITY NEWSLETTER



May 12

## Wesak (Buddhist)

Wesak, also known as Vesak, Buddha Purnima, or Buddha Day, is the most significant Buddhist festival celebrated worldwide. It commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and death of Buddha as one event. It reminds Buddhists of Buddha's teachings on compassion, wisdom, and mindfulness, encourages self-reflection and spiritual growth, and promotes peace, harmony, and kindness among communities. Devotees visit Buddhist temples to offer prayers, meditate, and listen to teachings. Many engage in Dana (giving) by offering food, donations, and aid to monks and the needy. Captive animals are released as a symbolic act of kindness and compassion for all living beings.

MAY 2025

May 16

## Lag BaOmer/Ba'Omer/B'Omer (Jewish)

Lag BaOmer is a Jewish holiday that occurs on the 33<sup>rd</sup> day of the Omer (the 49-day period between Passover and Shavuot). According to medieval tradition, a plague that struck the students of Rabbi Akiva ended on the 33<sup>rd</sup> day of the Omer. It is also associated with the passing of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai and his teachings. It is a day of celebration and joy, marking a break from the semi-mourning period of the Omer. It is customary to hold weddings, have picnics, and celebrate with bonfires. In Israel, it is celebrated as a symbol for the fighting Jewish spirit.



May 19

## Victoria Day (Canada)

Victoria Day is a Canadian public holiday celebrated on the last Monday before May 25<sup>th</sup> each year. It honours Queen Victoria's birthday (May 24, 1819). It has been observed in Canada since 1845 and became an official holiday in 1901 after her death on January 22, 1901. Victoria Day is a statutory holiday in most provinces and territories except Quebec, where it is celebrated as National Patriots' Day (Journée nationale des patriotes). Many cities hold fireworks displays (especially in Toronto, Ottawa, and Vancouver). Some communities host parades, particularly in Victoria, British Columbia.

May 21

## World Day for Cultural Diversity (UN)

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2002, following UNESCO's adoption of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity in 2001. The day aims to promote cultural diversity as a means of enriching societies, encourage dialogue among different cultures, highlight the role of cultural diversity in sustainable development, and combat stereotypes and discrimination related to cultural differences. The day is not a public holiday in Canada but is observed in line with the country's commitment to multiculturalism and diversity. Various organizations, government bodies, and community groups use this day to promote cultural awareness and inclusion.





# MULTICULTURAL AND DIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025

May 25

## African Liberation Day (International)

African Liberation Day or Africa Day commemorates the foundation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on May 25, 1963, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The OAU was later succeeded by the African Union (AU) in 2002. This day celebrates the collective struggle of African nations against colonialism, apartheid, and all forms of foreign domination; honours the efforts and sacrifices of African countries in their quest for independence throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and promotes unity and cooperation among African nations in political, economic, and social development.

May 31

## Dragon Boat Festival (China, Hong Kong)

This day honours the patriot poet Qu/Chu Yuan who drowned himself in the Miluo River in protest against political injustice in 277 B.C. The villagers raced to the river and jumped into dragon boats but never found him. As they searched, they beat drums to scare off fish and dragons that might eat his body. It is a holiday celebrated by races. Long, narrow boats in the shape of dragons are powered by teams of paddlers, symbolic of community spirit. The festival is also tied to themes of loyalty, sacrifice, and the battle between good and evil.



### OTHER OBSERVANCES:

- May 3 - World Press Freedom Day (UN)
- May 4 - Mother's Day (Portugal, Spain)
- May 8 - World Red Cross Day (International)
- May 13 - Our Lady of Fatima (Portugal)
- May 15 - San Isidro Labrador Festival (Spain)
- May 15 - Int'l Day of Families (International)
- May 23 - Declaration of Bab (Bakal)
- May 25 - Mother's Day (France, Sweden)
- May 26 - Yom Yerushalayim (Israel)
- May 26 - National Sorry Day (Australia)
- May 29 - Ascension Day (Christian)
- May 30 - Joan of Arc Day (France)
- May 31 - World No-Tobacco Day (UN)

### NATIONAL & INDEPENDENCE DAYS:

- May 1 - Independence Day (Israel)
- May 1 - National Day of Prayer (USA)
- May 3 - Constitution Day (Japan, Poland)
- May 4 - Memorial Day (Netherlands)
- May 5 - Liberation Day (Netherlands)
- May 9 - Victory Day (Russia)
- May 14/15 - Independence Day (Paraguay)
- May 17 - Constitution Day (Norway)
- May 20 - National Day (Cameroon)
- May 22 - National Day (Yemen)
- May 23 - Labour Day (Jamaica)
- May 23 - Bermuda Day (Bermuda)
- May 24 - Independence Day (Eritrea)
- May 25 - Independence Day (Jordan)
- May 25 - Revolution Day (Argentina)
- May 26 - Independence Day (Guyana)
- May 28 - Republic Day (Azerbaijan, Nepal)

#### Disclaimer:

In creating this newsletter, we aim to honour and celebrate the diversity of our community. While we strive to acknowledge a wide range of cultural and religious holidays and observances, we recognize that we may not be able to include every holiday or tradition. This is not a reflection of the value or importance of any holiday or tradition. We deeply respect all cultural, religious, and personal celebrations and appreciate your understanding.

#### Reference:

Multicultural Calendar 2025:  
Sheena Singh, Creative Cultural Communications,  
Toronto, ON.