



John Allison Elementary School

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UPDATES October 2025



IT TAKES A COMMUNITY TO HOST A FESTIVAL! We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our incredible **garden angels** for their dedication and care in making our school garden flourish—your contributions truly brought the spirit of the harvest to life! Thank you to our **Hot Lunch Coordinator** Rebecca Stauffer and our **Kitchen Kids' Grandmas** for the soup, muffins and cookies. Thank you to **PSS Indigenous Student Advocate** Kristi Rees for bringing some PSS students to volunteer to help serve the food. Finally, we want to send a huge shout out to **Highway 40** for providing the perfect soundtrack to our celebration. Your music added joy, energy and a whole lot of fun to the festival!



At JAE our learning focus includes **Guided Reading & Leveled Literacy Instruction**, which are key components of a differentiated literacy approach designed to support all learners. We offer small group instruction to help students improve their reading fluency, comprehension and accuracy. Our grade 1—3 teachers, Support Services Teacher, Education Assistants and volunteers are providing Guided Reading four times per week. Students receive small group instruction based on their reading level. You can support your child by letting them practice reading at home with you!



We also want to extend our appreciation to everyone who joined us for our **Halloween Family dance!** From the amazing costumes to the fantastic dance moves, your energy and community spirit made the evening truly magical. Special thanks to our **PAC volunteers** for organizing such a fun and festive event—it wouldn't have happened without you. Our gratitude is also extended to the **Princeton Posse** for volunteering to help run the event, and **Mrs. Hodder** for serving as DJ Dia-beats. We are so grateful to be part of such a supportive and spirited school community!

JAE is situated along the river valley, and the fall colours have provided an incredibly beautiful backdrop for our learning. Our students have been outside engaged in learning on the land. Ms. Caron takes her students for weekly nature walks. Ms. Chypyha and Ms. Kemp investigated trees and collected leaves as part of the grade 1 living and non-living unit. They discussed why leaves change color, why they fall down, parts/ features of plants and their jobs, scars on trees and reasons why. Ms. Wilscheck has also been learning about fall changes, and her class gathered rosehips to make tea with Mrs. Unrau and observed plants under the microscope with Mrs. Atkinson.



Exploring Local Treasures: Sanderson Farms Market & The Grist Mill



Our curious Kindergarteners and K-1s had a wonderful time touring the **apple packing facility** at **Sanderson Farms**. They learned how apples are sorted, packed, and prepared for markets near and far. The children tasted a variety of **locally grown apples** and learned about the many types of fruits and vegetables grown right here in our region. Each child picked out their very own **pumpkin** to take home—perfect for fall decorating! The fun continued at the **Grist Mill**, where students explored a piece of history dating back to **1877**. They saw a **water wheel-powered flour mill** in action and discovered how people used to cook using traditional methods. Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who made this trip possible.



I LIVE FOR THE -BER MONTHS



September



October



November



December

Bundle Up for the Cold Weather!

As the temperatures drops, it's important to ensure our children stay warm and comfortable throughout the day. Please make sure your child comes to school dressed appropriately for the season. This includes:

- A warm jacket
- Mitts or gloves
- A toque or warm hat

Staying cozy helps kids enjoy outdoor activities and stay focused in class. Thank you for helping keep our students safe and warm!



Upcoming Dates:

November 4	Photo Retake Day
	PAC meeting 6:00 pm
November 8	National Indigenous Veterans Day
November 10	Remembrance Day Assembly
November 11	Remembrance Day (no school)
November 23	Purdy's orders due
November 26	PJ / Bedhead / School Spirit Day
November 28	Learning Updates (report cards) sent home
December 2	Parent Teacher Interviews 5:00—7:00 pm
December 16	Christmas / Winter Concert 6:00—7:30 pm Princeton Secondary School
December 19	Red and Green / School Spirit Day
December 22—January 2	Winter Break
January 5	Welcome back to School



Thank you for sharing your children with us, *Crystal Larsen* JAE Principal

Thank You to the Breakfast Club of Canada

We are incredibly grateful to the **Breakfast Club of Canada** for their continued support of **John Allison Elementary School**. Their generous funding helps us provide **nutritious breakfasts** to our students **every morning**, ensuring they start their day ready to learn and thrive. A heartfelt thank you also goes to **Teacher Erin**, who lovingly purchases and prepares the food each morning. Her dedication makes a real difference in the lives of our students.



Did you know that **1 in 5 Canadian children and youth** are at risk of attending school on an empty stomach? With the help of programs like this, we are working to change that—one meal at a time.

As the Breakfast Club of Canada says, we're proud to be part of the mission to provide **"a better start for every child"** and to help **"nourish their potential."** Together, we're making mornings brighter and futures stronger.

Expanding Our School Food Program with BC Feeding Futures



We're excited to share that our school has been receiving support from the **BC Feeding Futures Grant**, a provincial initiative aimed at strengthening student nutrition through funding for school food programs. This grant has allowed us to expand our efforts to ensure that **nutritious meals** are available to students who need them most.

A special thank you goes out to **Rebecca Stauffer**, our dedicated **Hot Lunch Coordinator**, for leading the pilot phase of this program. Her commitment to preparing healthy and delicious meals has made a meaningful impact on our students.

munchalunch.com

Our goal is to offer **hot lunches** with a variety of nutritious options at an affordable cost of approximately **\$5 per day**. As we continue to explore menu choices and manage food costs, we're working toward building a **self-sustaining lunch program** that supports the well-being of our school community. Stay tuned for updates as we grow this initiative!

DONATE: If you would like to sponsor another student's lunch, please reach out to the JAE Office 250-295-6727



Children Across BC are Hungry

Families are in crisis. The ever-increasing cost of rent, household expenses and childcare has created an affordability crisis for families. One in four children experiences food insecurity. For those that depend on school meal programs to help feed their children, every weekend brings renewed stress to keep food on the table.



147,570

BC children live in poverty



29%

of BC children face food insecurity



47%

increase in grocery costs since 2020



44%

of children in single parent families live with food insecurity

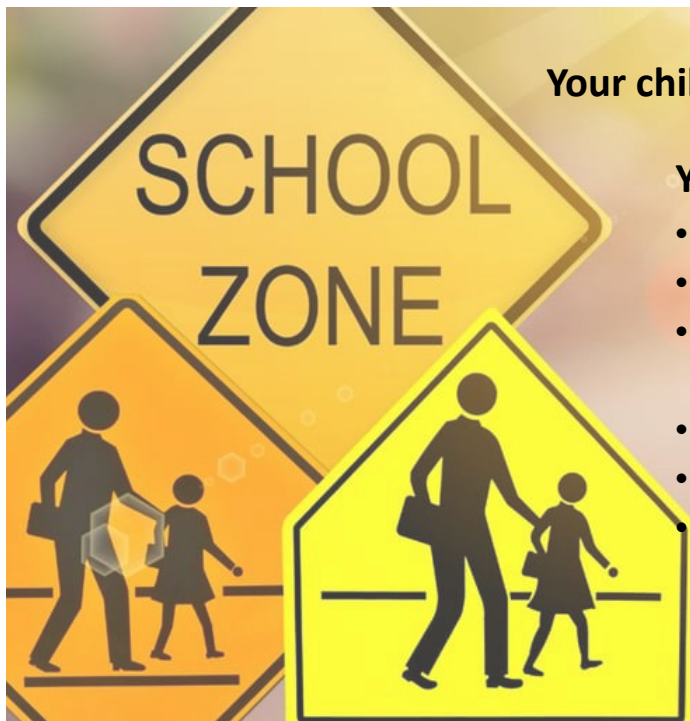
Backpack Buddies: Supporting Students Beyond the School Week

We are thrilled to share a new partnership that's helping us support students even after the school bell rings. Thanks to the efforts of **Lisa Nelson-Smith**, our **Healthy Schools Coordinator**, both **VFE** and **JAE** have been connected with **Backpack Buddies**—an incredible organization working to combat weekend hunger for children across British Columbia.

Every **Friday**, Backpack Buddies delivers bags of food to thousands of BC's most vulnerable children, ensuring they have access to **meals and snacks** throughout the weekend when school-based food programs are unavailable.

This initiative is a meaningful step toward ensuring **no child goes hungry**, and we are deeply grateful for the support it brings to our school communities.

To learn more or support this cause, visit: **Backpack Buddies | Feed Children Across BC**



Your child's SAFETY is our number one PRIORITY

You can help us:

- Obey school zone speed limits
- Follow yellow traffic arrows
- Park your car for student drop off and pick up
- Escort you child across the parking lot
- Use the cross walk if appropriate
- Do NOT park in the no parking zone in front of the school entrance

VOLUNTEER Criminal Record Check Reminder

We love having parents involved in our school events throughout the year! To ensure the safety of our students, all volunteers are required to have a current criminal record check before participating.

Please submit your criminal record check online at:

<https://justice.gov.bc.ca/eCRC/>

Use the access code: **3F696WFBWZ**

**Criminal
Record
Check**

PLAYGROUND

Our school hours are from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM. For the safety of our students, **visitors without a completed CRC are not permitted on the playground during school hours.**

Thank you for helping us maintain a safe and secure environment for everyone!

WE'RE HIRING: NOON HOUR SUPERVISORS AT JOHN ALLISON ELEMENTARY!

John Allison Elementary is currently seeking **casual Noon Hour Supervisors**. If you—or someone you know—are available for **one hour per day** and would enjoy working with students in a supportive school environment, this could be the perfect opportunity!

- **Position:** Casual Noon Hour Supervisor
- **Hours:** 1 hour per school day
- **Rate:** \$22.06/hour
- contact Crystal Larsen, Principal at clarsen@365.sd58.bc.ca or 250-295-6727

