



March 2- 6, 2026

Report your child's absence here - [home.schoolmessenger.ca](https://home.schoolmessenger.ca)

## Week at a Glance

**Monday** -

**Tuesday** - Jr. Ski Day at Pakenham, Pizza Day

**Wednesday** - Jr. Ski Day at Pakenham

**Thursday** - Subway & Mucho Burrito, Welcome to Kindergarten Open House 4:30 - 5:30

**Friday** - Boys Tchoukball Tournament, Popcorn Day, French Pathway Selection form for Gr. 4 and Gr. 7 due

## March Math Madness: The Quest for Automaticity!

This March, we're focusing on helping our students build a rock-solid math foundation. We are officially launching **Math Fluency Month**.

For the first 10 minutes of every math block, students will practise quick recall of basic math facts. Our goal is automaticity. We want students to recall their facts as naturally as breathing. When math facts are automatic, students free up valuable "brain bandwidth" to tackle multi-step problems, problem-solving tasks, and deeper mathematical thinking later in the lesson.

There is undeniable power in speed and accuracy. Improving fluency helps:

- **Reduce Cognitive Load:** Less time spent counting on fingers = more time for critical thinking.
- **Boost Confidence:** Nothing feels better than knowing the answer instantly.
- **Level Up Performance:** Fluency is foundational for success in fractions, algebra, and beyond.

If you wonder how to help build your child's math confidence, you can:

- Practice skip counting in the car
- Play card and dice games that involve addition, subtraction, or multiplication.

Short, frequent practice builds strong neural pathways. Think of it like practising free throws in basketball - repetition builds confidence and skill!

## St. Stephen Lenten Project

### Grassy Narrows First Nation - a community that has been fighting for water justice for years

As part of our **Lenten Project**, we are excited to announce a **school-wide Logo Contest!** All students are invited to take part by designing a logo that reflects this year's theme: **Change Makers**. We are encouraging students to Build Bridges in Our Community through acts of service.



Students are encouraged to submit their logo ideas **all week**. Designs can be hand-drawn or created digitally using **Canva**. We want to see creativity shine in all forms!

The **winning logo(s)** will be printed on **T-shirts**, which will be sold at our **Annual Craft Fair during Education Week**. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to share their talents while supporting a meaningful cause.

We encourage all **Stallions** to participate, take a creative risk, and think about how small acts of service can make a big difference in our community.

## Let Them Try, Let Them Grow

The school has set goals to help students develop the skills of RESILIENCE & PERSEVERANCE, as we see many students struggle when faced with challenges.

### Building Resilience Tip:



Games are a great way to teach children how to handle losing and keep trying. When parents always let kids win, children miss the chance to practice perseverance and manage disappointment.

### At home:

1. Pick a board game, card game, or dice game with your child.
2. **Play fairly** - don't let your child win every time.
3. Model good sportsmanship: celebrate effort, stay calm, and show how to handle setbacks gracefully.
4. After the game, ask: "What was challenging?" or "What would you do differently next time?"

By allowing children to experience both winning and losing, you're helping them build confidence, patience, and resilience that lasts a lifetime.

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## Mental Health Presentation from Wednesday Night's Mindful Moments

If you're interested, feel free to look at or keep for later - [Mental Health & Well-Being](#). This is the presentation that we had at school on Wednesday evening as part of our Mindful Moments presentation for parents.

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## Jr. Ski Trip and Pizza Day

Any student participating in Ski Day this Tuesday who also receives pizza on Tuesdays, can pick up their pizza at the school upon their return at 5:15 to take home, if they wish. Please remember to send your child with lunch on Tuesday so they have food at the ski hill.

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## New Fernbank School 2027 - Reminder of Public Meeting this Thursday

A public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 7:00 pm. In the St. Martin De Porres School gym. Although not required, we ask that you register for the public meeting beforehand so that we can effectively plan for numbers and obtain contact information for follow-up communication. [Register before noon on March 5th using this form.](#)

## Proposed Boundary Changes

The proposed attendance boundary for the new school affects the existing boundaries for St. Martin de Porres and St. Stephen schools.

- [Existing elementary attendance boundaries](#)
- [Proposed elementary attendance boundaries](#)

Full details of the proposed changes can be found in [New Fernbank North CES \(2027\) - Proposed Attendance Boundary Consultation Document](#)

Smiles this Week





Wed. March 11 - Gr. 6 visit to Sacred Heart HS, Gr. 5 Girls Tchoukball Tournament,  
Gr. 6 Parent Info Session at Sacred Heart 6:00 pm

Thurs. March 12 - Gr. 6 Milestone photos retakes

March 16 - 20 - March Break

Mon. March 23 - School Crossing Guard Appreciation Day

Thurs. March 26 - The Great Big Crunch - a crunchy snack for all

Fri. March 27 - Earth Hour at St. Stephen

Fri. April 3 - Good Friday - No school

Sun. April 5 - Easter Sunday

Mon. April 6 - Easter Monday - No school

Tues. April 8 - Dental Screening - JK, SK, Gr. 2

Wed. April 9 - Dental Screening - JK, SK, Gr. 2

Thurs. April 16 - Gr. 2 Field Trip to Aquatarium

[OCSB Calendar and Dates for 2025-2026](#)

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