



Yellowknife Education District No. 1

District Newsletter

June 2025

Dear Students, Staff, and Families,

As the school year draws to a close, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the dedicated staff of Yellowknife Education District No. 1 (YK1) for another successful year. Your commitment, expertise, and passion for education continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our learners.

This spring, that dedication was on full display as students took part in exciting opportunities beyond the classroom—from national debate and music competitions to a cultural trip to Quebec and athletic Track & Field competition in Hay River. These experiences wouldn't be possible without the support of our amazing staff and volunteers—thank you!

To our parents and caregivers—thank you for your continued partnership. Your support plays a vital role in our students' success. We're also deeply grateful to our many community partners who have provided rich, hands-on learning experiences beyond the classroom. These collaborations help shape well-rounded, engaged learners.

I also want to acknowledge and celebrate the leadership within our schools. Our principals and assistant principals are instrumental in guiding YK1 toward being a forward-thinking and inclusive district, and their dedication does not go unnoticed. The teacher leaders provide collegial support for important work on curriculum renewal, assessment change and community connections and partnerships.

As we look ahead to the summer months, I hope everyone has the opportunity to enjoy time outdoors, soak up the sunshine, and reconnect with the land. We're especially proud of our Grade 12 students who are completing this chapter and stepping into the next phase of their journeys. Whether you're continuing your studies, entering the workforce, or exploring new paths, we wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Over the summer, our schools will be busy with important projects such as refinishing gym floors and deep cleaning to ensure welcoming and refreshed learning spaces for the fall.

Wishing everyone a safe, restful, and joyful summer.

Warm regards,
Shirley Zouboules
Superintendent - YK1 Schools



Shirley Zouboules
Superintendent

UPCOMING EVENTS

June

- 09** STIP Day: JK-8 No School
- 10-13** Hide Camp (MHS)
- 16** Committee of the Whole (District Office 12:00pm)
- 17** Board Meeting (District Office 7:00pm)
- 21** National Indigenous Peoples Day
- 23** No School
- 25** SJF Last Day of School
- 26** JK-8 Last Day of School
- 27** Last Day for School Staff

PAC Meetings

- ITLO** 6/14, 6:30 PM
- NJM** 6/17, 7:00 PM
- WMS** 6/18, 6:30 PM
- MHS** 6/25, 6:30 PM

End of Year Ceremonies

- SJF** 6/7, 12:00 PM in gym
6/24 Formal Grad, 7:00 PM
6/25 Academic Grad, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- WMS** 6/19 Gr. 8, 6:00 PM
6/20 Gr. 6-7, 1:00 PM
- MHS** 6/19 Gr. 8 (Time TBD)
6/20 JK- Gr. 7, 10:00 AM
- ITLO** 6/25, 2:00 PM in gym
- NJM** 6/26, 1:45 PM in gym
- RLN** 6/26, 12:20 PM gym

Thank you to the following sponsors for their support throughout the 2025-2026 school year:

- Canadian Tire
- Rochdi's Independent Grocer
- United Way NWT
- NWT Literacy Council
- City of Yellowknife
- Aurora College
- College Nordique
- SWIS
- Canadian Parents for French
- MACA
- On the Land
- Canadian Heritage
- ENR: Take a Kid Trapping
- Ecology North
- SPCA
- Yellowknife Gymnastics Club

A Message from the Board Chair

As I'm writing this, the days are starting to get longer and it's clear the end of the school year is fast approaching. Across YK1, spring concerts and end-of-year celebrations are happening as we head into June. Trustees are meeting regularly to review the draft budget and Operating Plan for the next school year.

In May, we held our second education-focused board meeting, where we received an extended presentation from the Inclusive Schooling team. They shared valuable insights into their vital work, including both successes and the challenges they face. We are planning to continue these monthly education-focused board meetings in the fall to get in-depth presentations that just aren't possible at regular board meetings.

We are also taking a closer look at how we engage with the community and parents by re-examining long-standing activities and exploring new opportunities. The goal is to get more input throughout the year and make sure that our community has a strong voice through your Trustees. For example, this spring we are renewing our meetings with student councils in the middle and high schools to hear directly from students.

Don't forget - we'll be celebrating 85 years of YK1 this June! On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I encourage everyone to take part in the events being organized!

Stay safe and have a fantastic June and summer break! We look forward to seeing you again in August!

David Wasylciw
Board Chairperson



David Wasylciw
Chairperson



Curiosity Takes Flight Beyond the Classroom

NJ Macpherson School's Junior Kindergarten class proved you're never too young for adventure! The students learned all about air travel and aviation in the North during their visit to Buffalo Airways.



Chamber of Commerce Trade Show

Thank you to our amazing volunteers and everyone who stopped by to support us at the Chamber of Commerce Trade Show! YK1 gifted around 600 books to community members!



MHS Culture Camp

Students and staff spent a week outdoors participating in a variety of cultural learning experiences, including hide preparation, traditional games, wood chopping, and making bannock.

Summer Camp Opportunities in Yellowknife

Here are some local camps offering a range of activities. **Please note:** this list does not include camps that were already sold out at the time of the newsletter's distribution. If you are reading this online, click the name of each camp to visit their website for more information and registration details:

Montessori Camp: Ages 3-5

Stanley Boxing & Fitness Camps: Ages 5-12

Yellowknife Gymnastics Camps: Options for Ages 5-12

City of Yellowknife Camps: Options for Ages 5-12

NWT Judo Association Camps: Ages 7-12

Bella Dance Academy: Ages 6-11

Yellowknife Summer Reading Club: Ages 3-12 with weekly one hour meetings

Foster Family Coalition Camp Connections: Ages 7-18 for youth in foster or adoptive homes, or who are receiving social services.

NWT Disabilities Council Experience Summer: Service for one-on-one support to ensure every child can participate in any Yellowknife camp. Spots are filling up quickly, so call to reserve accommodations.



**Thank you to all
of our staff for a
great year!**

**We would like to wish
all the best to staff
retiring from YK1:**

Shirley Beaulieu
Janice Daly
Veronica Huber
Jean-Marie Mariez
Huong Nguyen

Staff Spotlight

Congratulations to Jeff McConomy, this year's recipient of the NWT French Immersion & French Second Language Education Leader of the Year Award from Canadian Parents for French!



Grade 8 Quebec Trip

By Jaime MacKay

Grade 8 Post-Intensive French students from WMS & RLN spent a week in Quebec City and Montreal at the beginning of May and had a blast learning all about the history, language, culture and food of the region. The pride they showed in speaking French in authentic situations was incredible to witness as it showed that their hard work over the last three years in the Intensive French program is paying off!



From basilicas to the Biodome, students explored historic landmarks above and below ground, visited a traditional Huron site, took in modern malls, stunning landscapes, and vibrant cities — all with curiosity and awe.

All while getting their steps in, they enjoyed getting to know one another too! There were lots of laughs, many ooh la las, and above all an appreciation for the opportunity they had to travel and stay with classmates as well as new friends... all while learning en français!



A Message From Transdev

Hello YK1 Families,



My name is Rami Kaur, and I recently joined Transdev as the General Manager in Yellowknife. My focus has been on building a strong and transparent relationship with YK1 and the families we serve.

Over the past two months, we've added a dedicated dispatcher to improve communication with parents, schools, and drivers. We've hired two new school bus drivers, recruited 15 more, and have 10 currently in the certification process.

Unfortunately, certification is delayed due to limited availability at the local Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), which currently has only one examiner. We're actively working with the DMV and the schools to speed up this process so we can consistently cover all routes.

We understand how frustrating delays can be for families. Please know that we are committed to improving service reliability every day. For real-time updates, visit our Facebook page: YK School Buses by Transdev.

Thank you for your patience and trust.
Warm regards,
Rami Kaur
General Manager, Transdev Yellowknife

**Register for
your '25-26
Bus pass Now!**



**Applications close
June 30, 2025**

Canada Day Parade



All children with bikes are invited to join the Canada Day Parade Bicycle Portion on July 1. All kids who decorate their bikes and enter the parade will receive \$10.

Rotarians will be providing decorations for the bikes at the decorating area by the Yellowknife Aquatic Centre parking lot from 10 am. Parents are invited to ride along with their kids.

For further information contact:
Brian George, Rotarian
867 446 7566
bfgeo99@hotmail.com

Grades 9 to 12 2025 - 2026 École Sir John Franklin High School											
August '25			September '25			October '25			November '25		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
Notes:											
Yellowknife Education District No. 1											

Get ready for the 2025-2026 School Year!

The first day of class is August 28, 2025 — we can't wait to welcome everyone back!

Find the calendars on the [YK1 website](#)

Please note that the YK1 District Office will be closed to the public July 28th to August 8th, reopening Tuesday, August 11th. School offices will be open as of August 14th.



Enter this month's Giveaway

Small Choir, Big Impact: Sir John Franklin Places at Provincials

On Friday May 23, the Sir John choir went down to Edmonton to compete in the Alberta Provincial Music Festival. After having received a Silver ranking at the Yellowknife Music Festival, they were recommended to go on to the next round of competition. They just made the requirement of 13 members and were up against some very tough competition and choirs with 30 - 60 members each. After each choir performed the church erupted in cheers and applause - like they were at a sports event!

Congratulations to all choir members on their remarkable performance and well-deserved third-place finish! Many thanks to Peter Curran for chaperoning and to music teacher Susan Shantora for her musical leadership and trip planning.



"Last weekend, our choir competed in a competition in Edmonton and proudly placed third. It was an amazing experience filled with so much fun, and our performance reflected the hard work and progress we've built over time. For this being my first year in choir, I had so much fun and would recommend others to join choir!"

Maya



"Going to Edmonton to compete with the choir was a highlight of my semester. The fun we all had just walking around Edmonton together was one of the best parts of the trip. It was great to hear and learn from the other choirs we were competing against. The feeling of getting third place with how small we are, was amazing. Getting to spend time with some of my best friends and making memories was great!"

Kaden



"I had a wonderful time at the 2025 Alberta Provincial Music Festival. It was a great learning opportunity, as we got to sing in a competitive environment, and get adjudicated by a renowned vocal adjudicator. It was so neat to both perform and hear all of the other choirs sing! So happy that we did well, and hope to go again next year."

Anna

Voices from the North: SJF Debate Club Makes Their Mark at Nationals

The Sir John Franklin Debate Club proudly sent four teams to the Senior High School National Debate Championships in Saskatoon. The SJF students were strong, competitive, and gracious representatives of the Northwest Territories. YK1 extends thanks to Yellowknife Elks Lodge #314 and McLennan Ross LLP, whose support made this opportunity possible!



**Congratulations to all the
debate teams**



**Logan Doll won top speaker
from the NWT**



**Debate coaches Peter Curran
and Tomiko Robson**



École Itlo (JK-5)
 5700 51A Avenue • X1A 1G7
 (867) 873-3477 • itlo@yk1.nt.ca
 Website: www.yk1.nt.ca/itlo
 Facebook: @yk1itlo



N.J. Macpherson School (JK-5)
 525 Range Lake Road • X1A 3X1
 (867) 873-4372 • njm@yk1.nt.ca
 Website: www.yk1.nt.ca/njm
 Facebook: @yk1njm



Mildred Hall School (JK-8)
 5408 50 Avenue • X1A 1E5
 (867) 873-5811 • mhs@yk1.nt.ca
 Website: www.yk1.nt.ca/mhs
 Facebook: @yk1mhs



Range Lake North School (JK-8)
 170 Borden Drive • X1A 3R1
 (867) 920-7567 • rln@yk1.nt.ca
 Website: www.yk1.nt.ca/rln
 Facebook: @yk1rln



École William McDonald Middle School (6-8)
 50 Taylor Road • X1A 3X2
 (867) 873-5814 • wms@yk1.nt.ca
 Website: www.yk1.nt.ca/wms
 Facebook: @yk1wms



École Sir John Franklin High School (9-12)
 4701 52 Avenue • X1A 2N8
 (867) 669-0773 • sjf@yk1.nt.ca
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 Facebook: @yk1sjf