

JANUARY 2026

# NEWSLETTER



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE Mr. Dean MacInnis

### WELCOME BACK!

I hope everyone had a wonderful and safe holiday break. Students should be finishing up any class assignments and preparing for their final assessments. Final Assessment Week runs from Monday, January 19th to Monday, January 26th. See inside for more study tips and for the final assessment schedule. As we get closer to this time, remember that teachers are here to assist if you need additional support.

Congratulations to our Badminton Team! 20 of our athletes collected medals at the Badminton Tournament, and SJF was awarded the overall banners for both 19U and 15U divisions. Congrats Falcons!!! See inside for a full summary of results!

Staff and students enjoyed a wonderful Winter Holiday assembly and luncheon on the last day before winter break. Inside the newsletter you will see photos of it and other great events that occurred during the month of December.

There will be no classes on Tuesday, January 27th, as teachers finish report cards and prepare for the next semester. The first day of classes for Semester Two is Wednesday, January 28th and report cards for Semester One will be available on PowerSchool on Monday, February 2nd. The parent portal of PowerSchool will be shut down from January 16th to February 2nd.



**Yours sincerely,**  
Dean MacInnis

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### January 5

First Day of Class

#### January 16

Final Day of Regular Classes for Semester 1

#### January 19-26

Exam Week

#### January 28th

The first day of Semester 2

#### February 2nd

Report Cards posted on PowerSchool

### STAY CONNECTED:

4701-52nd Avenue,  
Yellowknife, NT. X1A 2N8

Phone: (867) 669-0773 Fax: (867) 873-3630

Email: sjf@yk1.nt.ca



# CONGRATULATIONS!



**Annabella Churchill**

Governor General's Medal



**Cyrus Walton**

English 30-1, Mathematics 30-2



**Chizuko Robson-Hamilton**

French Language Arts 30-1, Mathematics 30-1



**Yu Ham Wu**

Social Studies 30-2

Every year, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment presents the Minister's Awards to high school students achieving the top marks on the Alberta Diploma Exams. Last year, awards were given to students for performance in ten core academic subjects.

We are pleased to announce that in 2025 our students have won a total of five awards out of a possible ten.

This is an impressive achievement, and the SJF staff is very proud of the young people recognized.

Each recipient will receive a \$500 scholarship from YK1 for each Minister's Award earned.



SJF would also like to acknowledge **Annabella Churchill** for being awarded the Governor General's Award. This award is presented to the graduating student who has maintained the highest average over her final two years of high school.





# WINTER HOLIDAY ASSEMBLY & LUNCHEON





## WINTER CONCERTS

**SJF Choir students** shared beautiful Christmas Carols and winter holiday classics at the **40 Below Christmas Show!**

With their beautiful voices and festive **red** and **green** outfits , they truly helped warm the hearts of Yellowknife residents during this special community celebration.



# ÉCOLE SIR JOHN FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL



## WINTER CONCERTS



For more photos, visit our  
Flickr Page [HERE!](#)





## TREE ORNAMENT DECORATING



For more photos, visit our  
Flickr Page [HERE!](#) 



## COOKIE DECORATING



Sweet moments in the foyer! Students had a great time decorating cookies during lunch. Thanks to the **Green Team** for hosting this fun and festive activity. We also learned how to better sort our recycling, waste, and items to reuse or donate during the holiday season.





## BADMINTON TOURNAMENT



**Huge Congratulations to our Badminton Team!**

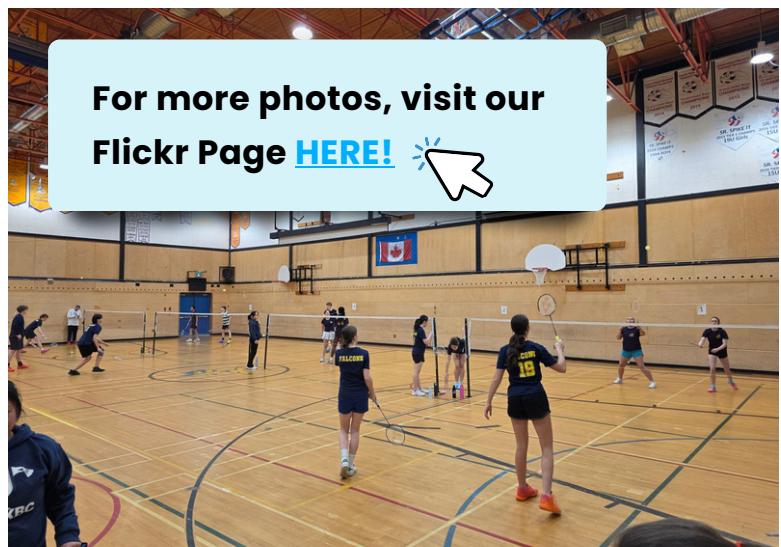
**20 of our athletes collected medals at the Badminton Tournament, and SJF was awarded the overall banners for both 19U and 15U divisions.**

We were very well represented in finals and the athletes did very well representing the school for all of their games. There were athletes there from St. Pat's, École Alain St. Cyr, Hay River, Behchokò, and Whatì.





# BADMINTON TOURNAMENT





## DEBATE CLUB



The **Debate Club** hosted its Fifth Annual Winter Tournament on December 6th!

Check out the action and celebrate our talented winners:

- 🏆 Top Speaker: Nina Slagter
- ⭐ Top Rookie: Areeba Amir
- 🏅 Top Team: James Smillie & Neve Mahon





# DEBATE CLUB



Access the full album on our school's  
Flickr Page [HERE!](#) 

The Debate Club always welcomes new members – if you like arguing, come check out one of our lunch hour meetings on Fridays in Room 40.





## WILDLIFE GALLERY



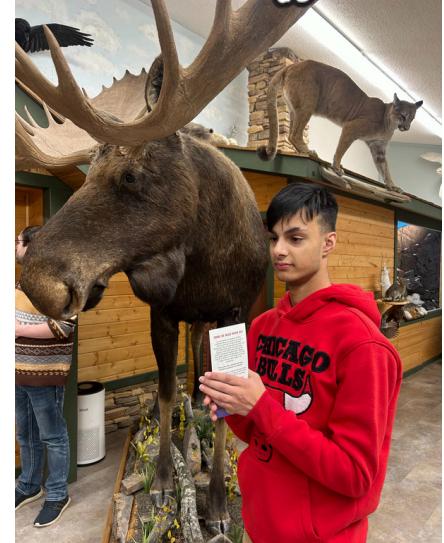
Ms. Martin's class explored the **Nature's North Wildlife Gallery**, an immersive experience featuring stunning taxidermy displays of animals from across the Northwest Territories.

Created by world-renowned artists Greg and Dean Robertson, the gallery captures animals in lifelike moments that tell powerful stories about northern wildlife and their natural habitats.





## WILDLIFE GALLERY



For more photos, visit our  
Flickr Page [HERE!](#) 



# EXAM SCHEDULE

## January 2026 Final Assessment Schedule

	Monday January 19			Tuesday January 20			Wednesday January 21		
	Course	Teacher	Room	Course	Teacher	Room	Course	Teacher	Room
9:00-12:00	Chem 30	Wilson	22	ELA 30-1 Part A	Curran	40	SS30-1 (P3)	Traynor	35
	Chem 30	Kirkham	28	ELA 30-1 Part A	Robson	27	SS30-1 (P5)	Traynor	36
	Math 11Found	Kielstra	30	ELA 30-2	Hagen	34	SS30-2	Bauldry	39
	Math 11Prec (P1)	Schlosser	34	SS11	Koymans	39	ELA 11	Robson	40
	Math 11Prec (P5)	Schlosser	33	SS11 (Fr)	Drouin	30	ELA 11	Hagen	28
	Math 11Work*	Ryan	29	SS10 (P2)	Koymans	36	FLS11	Drouin	32
	ELA 10 (P1)	Hagen	26	SS10 (P4)	Koymans	35	PIF 10	Hubert	31
	ELA 10 (P5)	Hagen	27	SS10 (Fr)	Drouin	32	Math 10Work*	Ryan	29
	ELA 10	Traynor	40	SS9 (P2)	Griffin	26	Science 9	Wilson	27
	ELA 9	Koymans	35	SS9 (P4)	Griffin	28	Science 9	Julian	26
	ELA 9	Traynor	36				Science 9 (Fr-P2)	Longchamps	33
	ELA 9	Griffin	14				Science 9 (Fr-P4)	Longchamps	34
	ELA 9	Bauldry	39						
	FLA 9	Drouin	32						
	FLA 9	Hubert	31						
1:00-4:00				ELA 30-1 Part B	Curran	40	SS 30-1 (P3)	Traynor	35
				ELA 30-1 Part B	Robson	27	SS 30-1 (P5)	Traynor	36

\*see teacher for specific times; may extend into the afternoon

	Thursday January 22			Friday January 23			Monday January 26		
	Course	Teacher	Room	Course	Teacher	Room	Course	Teacher	Room
9:00-12:00	Math 30-1	Schlosser	34	Bio 30	Young	28	Physics 30	Kirkham	28
	Math 30-2	Schlosser	36	Chem 11 (P2)	Magee	23	Life Science 11	Young	40
	Physics 11 (P3)	Kirkham	28	Chem 11 (P5)	Magee	26	Life Science 11 (Fr)	Longchamps	33
	Physics 11 (P4)	Kirkham	27	NS11	Waugh	27			
	Math 10F&P	Kielstra	30	NS11	Griffin	39			
	Math 10F&P	Ryan	29	NS11	Hamilton	34			
	Math 10F&P (Fr)	Lamarche	24	Science 10	Wilson	40			
	PIF 9 (P4)*	Hubert	31	Science 10 (Fr)	Longchamps	33			
	PIF9 (P2)*	Hubert	31	Math 9*	Ryan	29			
	ELA 9F (P2)	Bauldry	40	Math 9*	Kielstra	30			
	ELA 9F (P4)	Bauldry	39	Math 9 (Fr) *	Lamarche	24			

\*see teacher for specific times

We kindly request all students to be present at their designated exam location at least **20 minutes PRIOR to the scheduled start time**.

Your timely presence not only reflects responsibility but also sets the stage for success. Best of luck to all our students in their upcoming examinations!





# STUDY TIPS



## GET READY FOR EXAMS BY FOLLOWING THESE TIPS:

Having trouble getting serious about studying for a test?

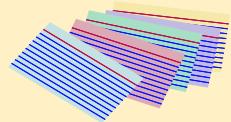
These high school study tips will get you in the right mindset to get prepped for your final exams, or just for your average, everyday quiz.

### 1. STUDY ALONE

Unless you've got a couple of friends who are super serious about getting down to business, stay away from group study sessions because they tend to get off-topic pretty quickly. Save the social time till after you've handed in your test.



### 4. TURN YOUR NOTES INTO FLASH CARDS



Now that you've got all your notes in front of you, open up a pack of index cards. As you read through the important facts, rewrite them in **Q&A form** on the cards.

For instance: to study historical facts, write the historical fact on one side of the card and the key details on the other side. To study geometry formulas, write the name of the formula on one side and the formula itself on the other side.

### 2. CREATE YOUR PERFECT STUDY AREA

The place where you study should be quiet, comfortable and free from distractions. Go to your room, close the door and kill as many distractions as possible – like music, television, and even the internet on your phone. If you don't have your own room that you can sneak away to, consider studying at the library instead.

### 3. GET IT ALL OUT

Your study materials, that is. Before you dig in, make sure you have all your books, notes, study guides and writing utensils in front of you. Don't give yourself another excuse to get up and rummage around.



### 5. SNACK HEALTHY WHILE YOU STUDY



If you want to stay sharp while you study, stay away from junk food. Instead, snack on dark leafy greens, whole grains, peanut butter, milk and seafood.

Feeling sluggish? Caffeine or energy drinks won't help you in the long run. Get your energy boost instead by eating a banana or an apple.



## STUDY TIPS (CONTINUED)



### 6. NARROW IT DOWN

If you try to study every single thing your teacher has ever said, you'll go crazy. Instead, focus on the most important topics. If you're not sure what those are, read the study guide (if there is one), or ask your classmates. Once you've nailed down the important stuff, if there's still time left before the test, you can move on to finer details.



### 7. TAKE A BREAK



Your brain can only take so much hard work at one time. For every hour that you study, take about 15 minutes to do something mindless, like taking a walk, listening to music or playing a computer game.

(You can even take a 15-minute nap, if you're confident you can wake yourself up and give your brain a chance to let all that information sink in.)

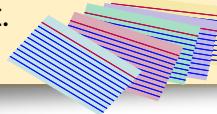


### BONUS TIP!

Be present at their designated exam location at least **20 minutes PRIOR** to the **scheduled start time**. Your timely presence not only reflects responsibility but also sets the stage for success. Best of luck to all our students in their upcoming examinations!

### 8. PUT YOURSELF TO THE TEST

Once you've got your set of flash cards, test yourself with them. If you don't trust yourself not to cheat, give the cards to your parents and have them test you. Don't stop till you've made it through the whole stack without any mistakes. And be sure to bring your flash cards to school with you on the day of the test: you'll be amazed at how much more you can retain if you run through the cards right before your teacher hands out the test packet.



### 9. GET SOME SLEEP

You might be tempted to pull an all-nighter, but if you do, you'll only be hurting your chances of getting an A. Get a full 8 hours of sleep so your brain is in good shape on test day.

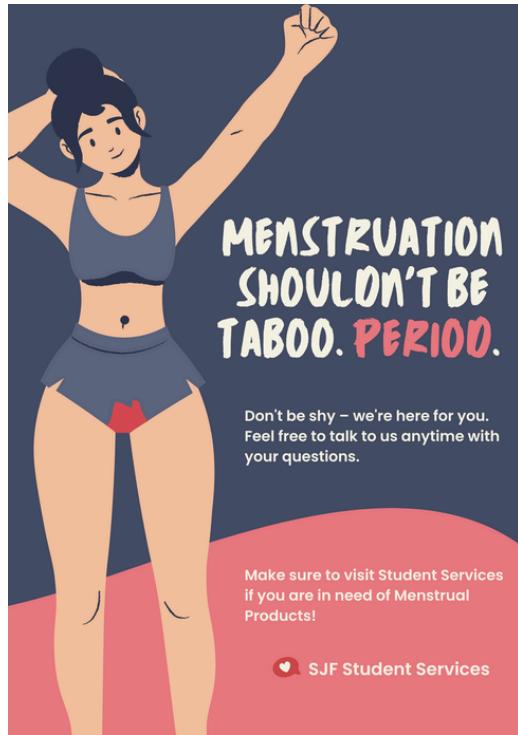


### 10. STUDY ALL SEMESTER LONG

It's tempting to hold off on studying till the last minute, especially if you tell yourself that anything you try to memorize earlier on won't really stay in your brain. That's not true. Take some time throughout the semester to review all of your notes and re-read important passages in your textbook. It might seem tedious, but it'll really keep all those facts in your brain on test day.



# STUDENT SERVICES



**We are well stocked with all kinds of personal hygiene and menstrual products!**

**Please feel free to take whatever you need, and ask us if you have any questions!**





# NEW GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS



What do  
you need to  
graduate?



New NWT graduation  
requirements for students  
entering Grade 10 in the  
2025-2026 school year.

**English  
Language  
Arts**

10, 11, 12 Level  
(4 credits each)

**12**

Total Credits

**Social  
Studies**

10,  
11 or 12 Level  
(4 credits each)

**8**

Total Credits

**Mathematics**

10,  
11 or 12 Level  
(4 credits each)

**8**

Total Credits

**Science**

10,  
11 or 12 Level  
(4 credits each)

**8**

Total Credits

**Northern  
Studies**

11 Level

**4**

Total Credits

**Career  
Education**

Career Life Education  
(4 credits each)  
Career Life Connections  
(4 credits each)

**8**

Total Credits

**Physical  
Education  
& Health**

10 Level

**4**

Total Credits

**Applied Design,  
Skills &  
Technologies  
or Arts Education**

- ADST Courses
- Fine Arts Courses

**4**

Total Credits

**Additional  
Credits**

**16**

Total Credits

**Additional  
Grade 12  
Credits**

**8**

Total Credits

**A minimum of 80 credits is required  
for NWT graduation.**

For more information, please contact your SJF Academic Counsellor.





# NEW GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS



Government of  
Northwest Territories

## NWT Minimum Graduation Requirements

*The NWT will be moving from a 5-credit to 4-credit system; this simply means that the credit values for courses will change and does not reflect reduced academic expectations of students.*

Current Requirements		NEW Requirements	
Credits must be earned in the following subject areas or courses:		Credits must be earned in the following subject areas or courses:	
• A Language Arts 10 (5 credits)	5	• A Language Arts 10 (4 credits)	4
• A Language Arts 20 (5 credits)	5	• A Language Arts 11 (4 credits)	4
• A Language Arts 30 (5 credits)	5	• A Language Arts 12 (4 credits)	4
• Northern Studies 10 (5 credits)	5	• Northern Studies 11 (4 credits)	4
• A Social Studies 10 (5 credits)	5	• Social Studies 10 (4 credits)	4
• A Social Studies 20 (5 credits)	5	• A Social Studies 11 or 12 (4 credits) <i>(NEW Northern Studies 12 included as a Social Studies 12 option)</i>	4
• A Mathematics 10 (5 credits)	5	• A Mathematics 10 (4 credits)	4
• A Mathematics 20 (5 credits)	5	• A Mathematics 11 or 12 (4 credits)	4
• A Science 10 (5 credits)	5	• Science 10 (4 credits)	4
• A Science 20 (5 credits)	5	• A Science 11 or 12 (4 credits)	4
<b>Required Core Courses - Subtotal</b>		<b>Required Core Courses - Subtotal</b>	
• Career & Life Management 20 (3 credits)	3	• Career Life Education (4 credits)	4
• Career & Program Plan (1 credit)	1	• Career Life Connections (4 credits)	4
• Community Service (1 credit)	1	<i>(includes 30 hours of community service)</i>	
• Physical Education 10 (3 credits)	3	• Physical & Health Education 10 (4 credits)	4
• Career & Technology Studies (5 credits) <i>(At any level)</i>	5	• An Arts Education and/or an Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies 10, 11, or 12 (4 credits)	4
• A Fine Arts (3 credits) <i>(At any level)</i>	3		
<b>Additional Required Courses - Subtotal</b>		<b>Additional Required Courses - Subtotal</b>	
• Electives (34 credits) at any level and in any course areas. <i>Once the credits for required courses have been met, additional courses in that subject area count as elective credits.</i>	34	• Electives (24 credits) at any level and in any course areas. <i>Once the credits for required courses have been met, additional courses in that subject area count as elective credits.</i>	24
<b>Total # of Credits Required for Graduation</b>		<b>Total # of Credits Required for Graduation</b>	
<b>Level 30 Credits</b> (15 credits) - <i>Of the 100 total credits, students must complete a minimum of 15 credits at the 30-level including a required English or Français 30 course.</i>		<b>Grade 12 credits</b> (16 credits) - <i>Of the 80 total credits, students must complete a minimum of 16 credits at the grade 12 level including a required Language Arts 12 course and Career Life Connections.</i>	
<b>Departmental Exams</b>		<b>Provincial Graduation Assessments</b>	
• English 30-1, 30-2	• Chemistry 30	• Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment	
• FLA 30-1, 30-2	• Physics 30	• Grade 10 Literacy Assessment	
• Français 30-1, 30-2	• Biology 30	• Grade 12 Literacy Assessment	
• Mathematics 30-1, 30-2			
• Social Studies 30-1, 30-2			
<i>Note: A passing mark in English 30-1 or 30-2 is required to graduate (combination of exam and classroom mark).</i>		<i>Note: Completion of all assessments is required to graduate; however, a passing mark is not required.</i>	





# GET INVOLVED AT SJF!



Clubs/Teams	Day of the Week	Time	Location	Contact
Art Club	Friday	Lunch	Rm. 15	Mx. Ellie
Choir	Monday	3:30-4:30pm	Music Room	Ms. Shantora
	Tuesday	Lunch	Music Room	Ms. Shantora
Concert Band	Monday	Lunch	Music Room	Ms. Shantora
Concert Band	Wednesday	3:30-4:30pm	Music Room	Ms. Shantora
Debate Club	Friday	Lunch	Rm. 40	Mr. Curran, Ms. Robson, Ms. Griffin
Fiddle Folks	Friday	Lunch	Music Room	Ms. Bettger
Fitness Club	Everyday (Except Thursday)	3:45-5:00pm	Fitness Room	Mr. Skauge
Gender & Sexuality Squad	Monday	Lunch	Rm. 22	Ms. Wilson
Grad Council	Thursday	Room	Rm. 36	Mr. Traynor
Green Team	Thursday	Lunch	Rm. 32	Mr. Drouin
Intramurals	Monday to Friday	Lunch	Gym	
Knitting and Crochet	Wednesday	Lunch	Rm. 41	Ms. Griffin, Ms. Lafferty
Music Council	Thursday	Lunch	Music Room	Ms. Shantora
Rock Band	Thursday	2:40 -3:40	Music Room	Mr. Robson
Science Surfers	Wednesday	Lunch	Rm. 28	Mr. Kirkham
Social Studies Club	Wednesday	Lunch	Rm. 36	Mr. Traynor
Student Council	Tuesday	Lunch	Rm. 14	
Sunshine Club	Thursday	Lunch	Rm. 29	Mrs. Oldford, Ms. Martin Ms. Ryan
Weight Lifting	Wednesday	3:40-4:45pm	Rm. 13	Ms. Waugh



## Yellowknife Education District No. 1 2025-2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR Grades 9 – 12 SJF

### Important dates at a glance

School office open: Aug 14, 2025

**First day of classes:** Thursday August 28, 2025

Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews: November 12 and 13, 2025

(4-7pm) **Winter Break:** Monday Dec 22, 2025 - Friday January 2, 2026 Semester 2 start: Jan 28, 2026

**Spring Break:** Monday March 9, 2026 – Friday March 20, 2026

Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews: April 15 and 16, 2026 (4-7pm)

**Last day of classes:** Wednesday June 24, 2026

Last day for school staff: June 26, 2026

**Student total days: 178   Staff total days: 192**

### Statutory and Scheduled School Holidays

**Labour Day** ..... Mon Sept 1, 2025

**Truth and Reconciliation Day** ... Tue Sept 30, 2025

**Thanksgiving** ..... Mon Oct 13, 2025

**Remembrance Day** ..... Tue Nov 11, 2025

**Winter Break**..... Mon Dec 22, 2025-  
Fri Jan 2, 2026

**Spring Break**..... Mon Mar 9, 2026-  
Fri Mar 20, 2026

**Good Friday** ..... Fri Apr 3, 2026

**Easter Monday** ..... Mon Apr 6, 2026

**Victoria Day** ..... Mon May 18, 2026

**National Indigenous Peoples Day**.....  
..... (day in recognition) Mon Jun 22, 2026

### Professional Development Days\*

Early dismissal on most Thursday afternoons  
(STIP time)

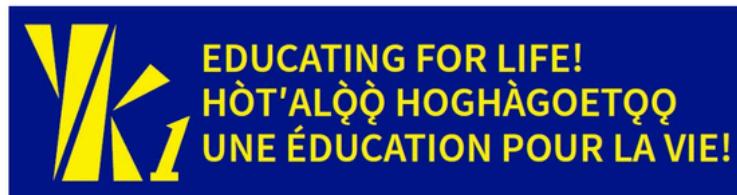
All SJF students have no school on the  
following dates:

Mon Aug 25, 2025 (STIP)  
Tue Aug 26, 2025 (Culture)  
Wed Aug 27, 2025 (STIP)  
Mon Nov 3, 2025 (STIP)  
Fri Nov 28, 2025 (P/S/T)  
Tue Jan 27, 2026 (STIP)  
Wed Feb 18, 2026 (PD)  
Thu Feb 19, 2026 (PD)  
Fri Feb 20, 2026 (PD)  
Fri Mar 6, 2026 (P/S/T)  
Fri Apr 10, 2026 (STIP)  
Fri May 1, 2026 (Culture)  
Thu June 25, 2026 (STIP)  
Fri June 26, 2026 (STIP)

\*Professional Development Days include:

- Strengthening Teacher Instructional Practices (STIP)
- Professional Development (PD)
- Time in lieu of evening Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews (P/S/T)
- Cultural Orientation days (Culture)

Number of instructional days per month		
Aug: 2	Sep: 20	Oct: 22
Nov: 17	Dec: 15	Jan: 19
Feb: 17	Mar: 11	Apr: 19
May: 19	Jun: 17	Total: 178





# SCHOOL CALENDAR



EDUCATING FOR LIFE!  
HÔT'ALÔÔ HOGHÀGOTÉQ  
UNE ÉDUCATION POUR LA VIE !

## Grades 9 to 12 2025 - 2026

École Sir John Franklin High School



EDUCATING FOR LIFE!  
HÔT'ALÔÔ HOGHÀGOTÉQ  
UNE ÉDUCATION POUR LA VIE !

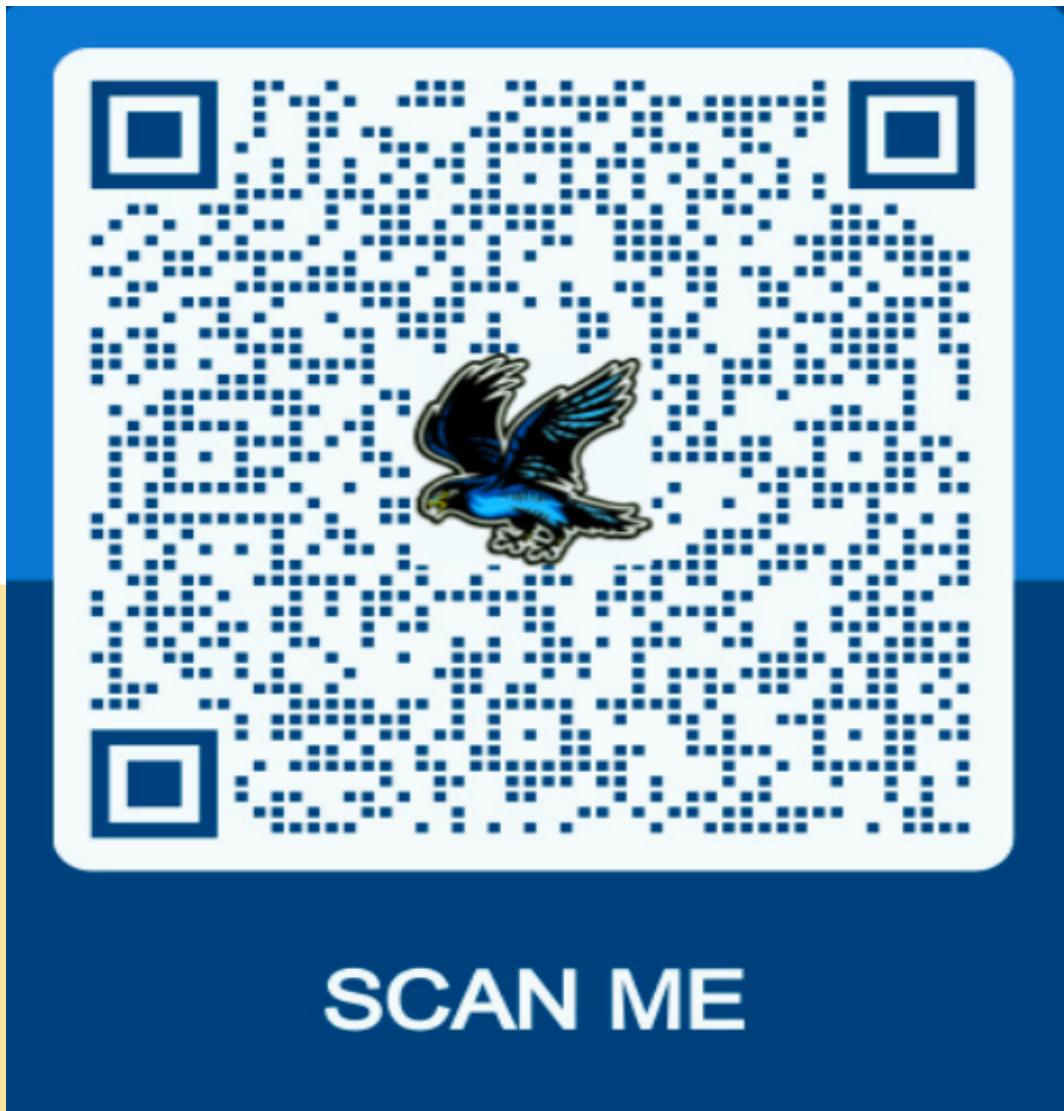
August '25							September '25							October '25							November '25							Notes:
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
1	2						1	2	3	4	5	6		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31										
24	25	26	27	28	29	30									5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
31															12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
School Office Opens							First Day of Classes							No Classes for Students							Non-school Day							
December '25							January '26							February '26							March '26							
1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31				4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Non-school day							Semester 2 start							No Classes for Students							Early Dismissal							
April '26							May '26							June '26							July '26							
1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
26	27	28	29	30			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Non-school day							No Classes for Students							Last Day of Classes							School Office Closes							

### Yellowknife Education District No. 1

5402 50 Avenue, PO Box 788 Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N6  
Phone: 867.766.5050 Email: [info@yk1.nt.ca](mailto:info@yk1.nt.ca) Website: [www.yk1.nt.ca](http://www.yk1.nt.ca)



**WANT MORE INFO?**



**SCAN our QR CODE and  
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**STAY CONNECTED:**

 4701-52nd Avenue,  
Yellowknife, NT. X1A 2N8

Phone: (867) 669-0773 Fax: (867) 873-3630

Email: [sjf@yk1.nt.ca](mailto:sjf@yk1.nt.ca)