

APRIL 2026

NEWSLETTER



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE Mr. Dean MacInnis

I hope everyone had a fantastic March break!

It's already report card season! The time seems to be flying by! Mid-term report cards will be posted in PowerSchool at the end of the day on Monday, April 13th and Parent-Student-Teacher Interviews will be held online April 15th & 16th from 4pm to 7pm. PowerSchool will be shut down from April 9th to 13th. As a reminder there will be no classes on Friday, April 10th as teachers prepare for report cards. Instructions on how to book appointments has been sent to your emails. If you are unable to book an appointment with your child's teacher, please call the school at (867) 669-0773 to make arrangements to meet with them at a different time.

SJF Reading Challenge is over! 78 staff and student readers participated and read a total of 847 books, for an average of 10.86 books per participant. It's a big win for READING... and for our school! We won!

Super Soccer is back! Our SJF teams will be participating in the tournament from April 29th to May 3rd. Practices for all teams are now underway. Watch for updates on how they did on social media and in our next newsletter.

Graduation 2026 is a little over two months away. We will be hosting a Parent-Grad Information evening on Tuesday, April 28th at 7pm to 8pm in our gymnasium. We will be reviewing each of the grad ceremonies, dates of special events, scholarships applications, etc.



Yours sincerely,
Dean MacInnis

IMPORTANT DATES

April 9

PAC Meeting

April 11

STIP Day - No Classes

April 14

Report Card posted on PowerSchool

April 15 & 16

Parent Teacher Interviews

April 28

Grade 8 Parents Info Evening 6-7pm
Grad 2026 Parent Info Evening 7-8pm

April 29 - May 3

Super Soccer Tournament

STAY CONNECTED:



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Email: sjf@yk1.nt.ca



www.yk1.nt.ca/sjf



Sir John Franklin High School



@sirjohnfalcons



ARCTIC WINTER GAMES 2026

TEAM SJF, TEAM NWT!



We are incredibly proud of our over **100 SJF students** who represented **Team NT** across **15 categories** at the **Arctic Winter Games 2026** in Whitehorse from March 8–15!

Stay tuned for a special edition newsletter highlighting our SJF medalists and celebrating their achievements at the Games!





READING CHALLENGE 2026 ROUND UP

**The 2026 Reading Challenge
ran from FEB 1 to MAR 31!**

**The Challenge is to get all
SJF Students and Staffs
hyped about reading!**



Way to go Falcons...

WE WON!



HERE ARE OUR 2026 RESULTS:

- **847 books read**
- **78 readers**
- **10.86 books/reader**

Background:

The Reading Challenge was born as a competition between Sir John and St. Pat's during the 2020 COVID lockdown and then was the premier (and only) sporting event in 2020-21 and 2021-22.

In the end, whichever school has the highest average reading (number of books read divided by the number of participants) wins.



The top student readers were Neve Mahon and Rowyn Hamblin-Cobb, who together read 100 books!



Your top staff readers, tied with 22 books apiece, were Ms. Martin and Ms. Robson.



A special shout-out goes to Mr. Kooymans's competitive spirit and all the reading his ELA 9s did in support of our challenge.



And...the winner of the 2026 Reading Challenge is...US! We won!

Thanks everyone, for all your support!



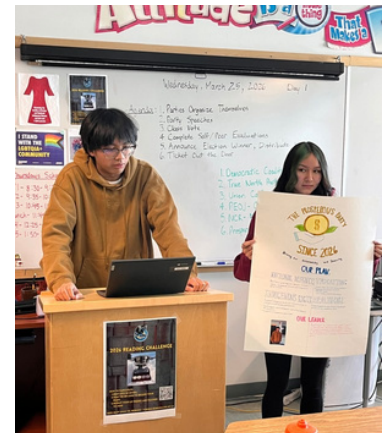
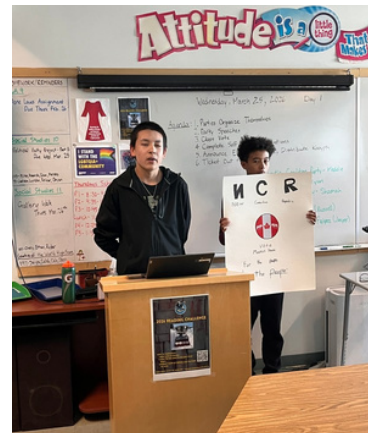
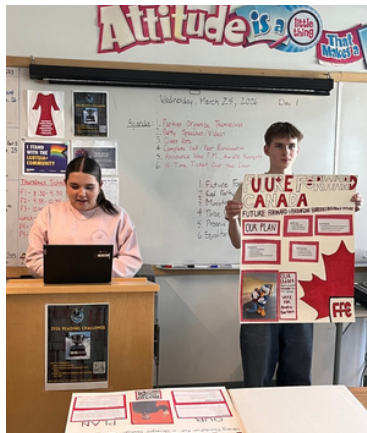
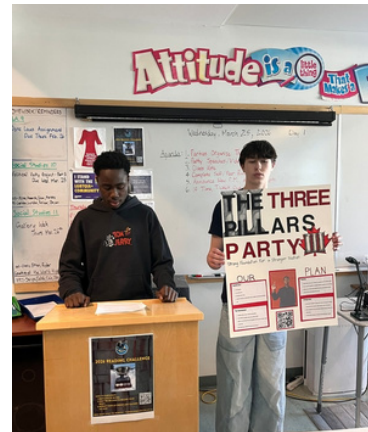
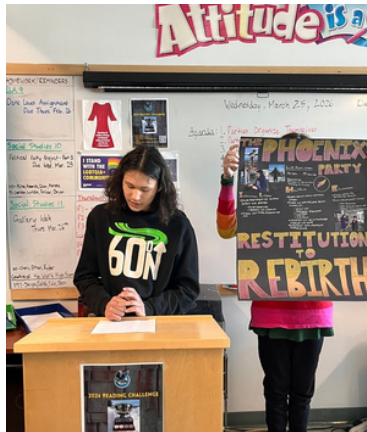
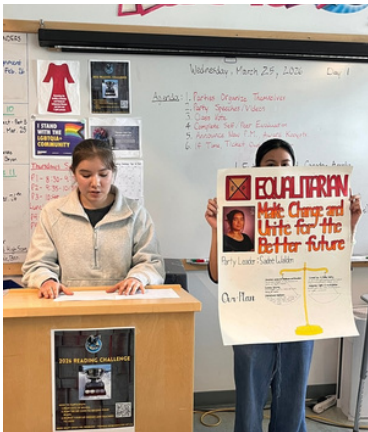
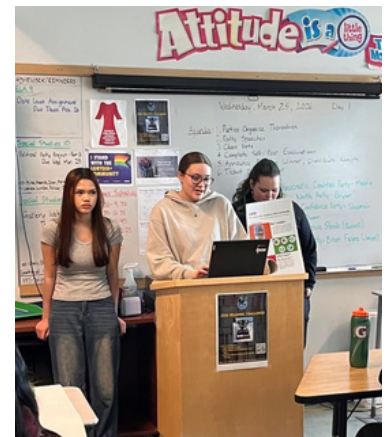
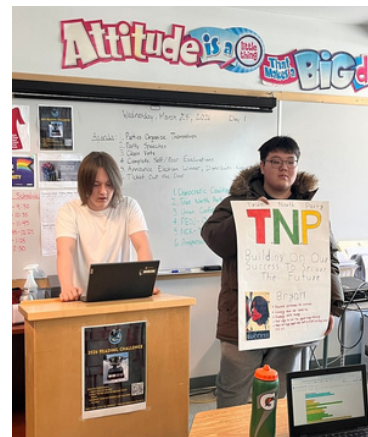
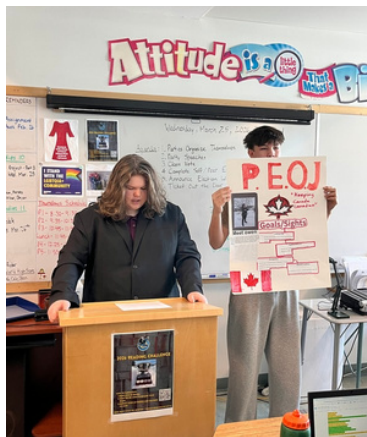


SOCIAL STUDIES



Mr. Kooyman's **Social Studies 10** classes held their own class elections, with students nominating their peers for leadership roles.

In Period 3, Bryan Bromley was elected Class Prime Minister, with Owen Ridgely and Shamah Nhengu serving as Opposition Leaders. In Period 5, Fareed Niniola was elected Class Prime Minister, with Sadee Walden as Opposition Leader.



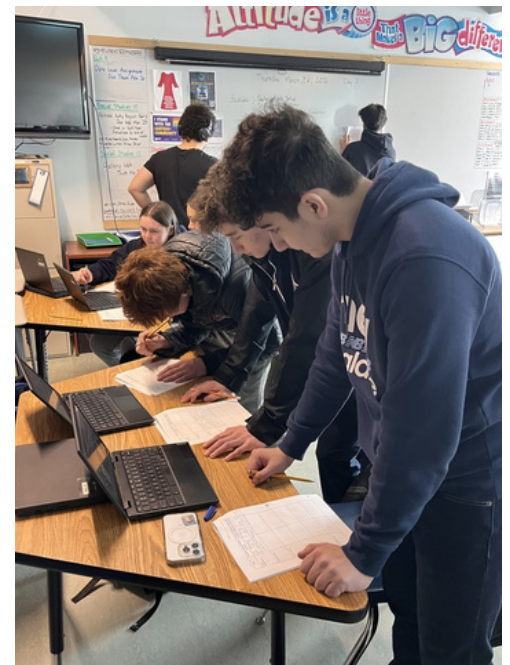
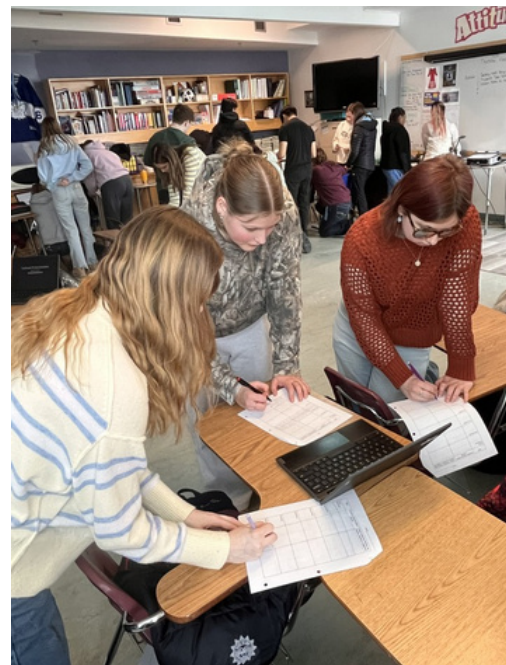


SOCIAL STUDIES



Students in Mr. Kooymans's **Social Studies II** class completed a Gallery Walk assignment focused on globalization. Each group researched a unique topic, created their own slideshow presentation, and then walked around the classroom to explore and learn from what others had created.

What a fun and interactive way to share ideas, practice presentation skills, and dive deeper into global issues!





Five Yellowknife schools participated in the Choral portion of the **Yellowknife Music Festival** held from February 26–March 2. This was the 18th year for the Festival and as always, ensembles and soloists are marked according to a standard that is based on their performance. This year's adjudicator was **Dr. Tara Laberge** of Calgary.

Sir John Franklin High School Concert Choir, conducted by **Susan Shantora** and accompanied by grade 12 student **Luke Bui**; **Mildred Hall Choir**, conducted by **Dana Merrigan** and accompanied by **Brendan Callas**; **NJ MacPherson Choir**, conducted by **Elizabeth Brace** and Sarah Power and accompanied by **Kerry Wheler**; **École Itlo**, conducted by **Susan Shantora** and accompanied by **Kerry Wheler**, ALL received a GOLD certificate.

Range Lake Choirs (Junior and Senior) conducted and accompanied by **Robert Lynn**, entered as non competitive and received feedback on their excellent performance. For the students of **Range Lake** this was their first performance at the festival in a very, very long time. For **Itlo** school it was their very first performance as a group.

Mildred Hall School Choir as well as the **Sir John Concert Choir** have been recommended to go on to compete at the **Alberta Provincial Music Festival**, which is held in Edmonton each May.

In addition to our choirs, four Sir John students who competed as soloists have been invited to compete at the Provincial level:

- **Connor Burns (Musical Theatre)**
- **Sadee Mitchell (Classical Vocal)**
- **Scarlett Anderson (Contemporary Vocal)**
- **Maya Fuentes (Musical Theatre)**

Following the Choral Festival, there was a **Strings and Fiddle festival**. **Sir John Franklin's Fiddle Folk** made an excellent showing in their inaugural performance earning a GOLD certificate.

Funding for fiddle instructor **Andrea Bettger** was made possible through a grant that Sir John's music teacher, **Susan Shantora**, received from the **Yellowknife Community Foundation**. The grant is intended to support the creation of a **Fiddle ensemble** and a **Rock Band** program.

Congratulations, YK1 students and music teachers!





GREEN TEAM



The Sir John Franklin Green Team is a climate initiative group that meets every Thursday during lunch. Our mission is to promote climate awareness among the student body and the broader community.

We focus on setting achievable climate action goals that, cumulatively, will have a significant impact, such as reviving the school's composting system. Beyond our efforts at Sir John Franklin, we also visit other schools to deliver engaging, educational activities on climate change and the environment.

Reduce Reuse Recycle





GREEN TEAM



1. Environmental Good News

Eastern migratory monarch butterfly populations have shown a promising comeback in 2026.

Two new reports, both released by WWF (world wildlife fund)-Mexico and its partners, estimate a 64% increase in the species population and a significant decrease in forest degradation. This recovery is driven by favorable weather conditions and successful conservation initiatives. This year, scientists found monarchs occupied 7.24 acres of forest compared to 4.42 acres the previous winter, according to the Forest Area Occupied by Monarch Butterfly Colonies in Mexico During the 2025-2026 Hibernation Season. The monarch butterfly population has dramatically dropped in recent decades. Threats to migratory monarchs include not just forest degradation in Mexico, but the impacts of extreme weather in Canada, the US and the loss of breeding habitats there due to the use of herbicides and insecticides. These reports show that, despite challenges, conservation efforts are making a difference!

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/news/stories/monarch-butterfly-population-increases-64-percent/>

2. The do's and don'ts of composting at our school

Dos	Don'ts
Paper towel Tissues Pencil shavings Fruit Veggies Bread Peels Any other food waste	Plastic bags Plastics of any sort Metal objects Styrofoam Glass

By putting only organic waste into our composting bins around the school, we will help diminish the harmful methane emissions produced within landfills when organic waste and inorganic trash are not separated. Sorting our waste at the school level can help us create nutrient-filled soil, as opposed to the methane that is increasing our carbon footprint along with the Earth's temperature. Composting is an important step towards creating a more sustainable and ethical world, and it is so quick and easy. So please take the extra few seconds to walk down the hall and separate your waste; we owe it to our Earth!





GREEN TEAM

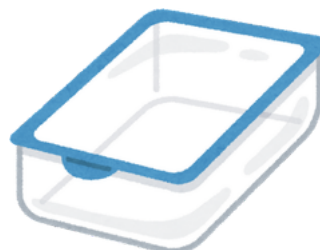
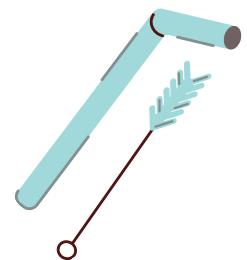
3. Tip of the month

Here's a tip to help us work towards a greener future. You often hear people say that recycling and composting really helps the environment, and although this is true, it is important to remember that reducing and reusing will give you more bang for your buck in terms of minimizing your environmental impact. For example, bring your own cutlery instead of using disposable plastic utensils! You can reuse the same fork and knife thousands of times and keep all that unnecessary waste out of the landfill!

Other easy ways to reduce and reuse:

- Using long-lasting reusable shopping bags, instead of the plastic ones.
- Using a refillable water bottle
- Using reusable silicone bags or beeswax paper instead of ziploc bags.
- Using reusable straws or none at all.
- Bringing your own tupperware when picking up take-out food.
- Making your own lunch instead of eating out.

**REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE**





EA APPRECIATION DAY



March 30 is Educational Assistant (EA) Appreciation Day. Please see the message from our YK1 District Superintendent, Shirley Zouboules.

thank you

Subject: A huge thank you to our YK1 Educational Assistants!

Dear YK1 Educational Assistants,

On behalf of our students, staff, and families, I wanted to reach out and simply say thank you. We see the incredible amount of heart you put into every single day. Whether you're zipping up jackets, wrestling with stubborn boots, keeping everyone safe at recess, or pulling together a quick lunch—those "small" moments are actually huge. They are the foundation of our students' wellness and comfort.

Your commitment to the wider school community doesn't go unnoticed, either. Whenever there's a need, you're the first to pitch in. From setting up assemblies to making sure school dances and tournaments run smoothly, you are the reason these events are such a success for our kids and their families. Beyond the logistics, we rely so much on your knowledge and intuition. You have that unique ability to know exactly how to motivate a frustrated student, how to bring someone back to "ready-to-learn", and how to keep the joy in the classroom.

Whether you've been with YK1 for a few months or a few decades, we are incredibly lucky to have you on our team.

I hope your day is filled with the same smiles and kindness you give to our students every day.

Sincerely,

Shirley Zouboules,





EA APPRECIATION DAY



Let's take a moment to recognize and thank our incredible EAs at SJF for the care, dedication, and support they bring to our students every day!



Berna Horozlar



Brandon Pellerin



Brent Currie



Carol Cleary



Carrie Lauder



Dylan Eastcott



Evelyne Straker



Jade Stewart



Lea O'Keefe



Lugano Kasyupa



Michelle Julian



Millie Marsh



Sean Robson



Stephen Offredi



Thaasha Buckley





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 REQUIRMENTS



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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
Required Core Courses - Subtotal	50	Required Core Courses - Subtotal	40
• Career & Life Management 20 (3 credits)	3	• Career Life Education (4 credits)	4
• Career & Program Plan (1 credit)	1	• Career Life Connections (4 credits) <i>(Includes 30 hours of community service)</i>	4
• Community Service (1 credit)	1	• Physical & Health Education 10 (4 credits)	4
• Physical Education 10 (3 credits)	3	• An Arts Education and/or an Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies 10, 11, or 12 (4 credits)	4
• Career & Technology Studies (5 credits) <i>(At any level)</i>	5		
• A Fine Arts (3 credits) <i>(At any level)</i>	3		
Additional Required Courses - Subtotal	16	Additional Required Courses - Subtotal	16
• 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
Total # of Credits Required for Graduation	100	Total # of Credits Required for Graduation	80
Level 30 Credits (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>		Grade 12 credits (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>	
Departmental Exams		Provincial Graduation Assessments	
• 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>	



ÉCOLE SIR JOHN FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL



Grad Student-Parent Information Evening



Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 7-8pm

 **SJF High School Gynasium**

We will be covering the following:

- **Path to Graduation**
- **Post-Graduation Options**
- **Graduation Ceremonies**

If you have any question please email us at sjf@ykl.nt.ca

MARK YOUR CALENDAS!





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

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

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)





SCHOOL CALENDAR



EDUCATING FOR LIFE!
HÓT ALÓQ HOGHÁGOTÉQ
UNE ÉDUCATION POUR LA VIE!

Grades 9 to 12 2025 - 2026

École Sir John Franklin High School



EDUCATING FOR LIFE!
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UNE ÉDUCATION POUR LA VIE!

August '25	September '25	October '25	November '25	Notes:																																																																																																																																																																																						
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Yellowknife Education District No. 1

5402 50 Avenue, PO Box 788 Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N6
Phone: 867.766.5050 Email: info@yk1.nt.ca Website: www.yk1.nt.ca





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,
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. 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	Mrs. Oldford, Ms. Martin
Sunshine Club	Thursday	Lunch	Rm. 29	Ms. Ryan
Weight Lifting	Wednesday	3:40-4:45pm	Rm. 13	Ms. Waugh





WANT MORE INFO?



SCAN ME

***SCAN our QR CODE and
FOLLOW us on SOCIAL MEDIA!***

STAY CONNECTED:

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

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

Email: sjf@yk1.nt.ca

 www.yk1.nt.ca/sjf

 Sir John Franklin High School

 @sirjohnfalcons