

September 29, 2025

Reminders

**No School
TOMORROW
Tues., Sept. 30th**

*National Day
of Truth &
Reconciliation*

EVERY



**CHILD
MATTERS**

Fall Pictures!

Students' picture proofs have arrived and will be going home today.

Easy Ordering Options: Enjoy the convenience of ordering your child's pictures with two simple methods:

Online Ordering: Visit mylifetouch.ca and use your child's Portrait ID and access code located on their picture proof page.

Paper Order Form: Complete the order form, and return it along with payment to the school office.

Picture Retake Day is Oct. 21st!

Retake Requests

If you would like your child to have retakes, please indicate your preference on the order form and return it to school as soon as possible.



Gateway Christian School's Parent/Teacher Interviews

Gr. 9-12: Oct. 7 & 8, 2025

Kinder – Gr. 8: October 9, 2025



Let's Connect...

Parent/Teacher Interviews are an opportunity to engage in conversation about your child's learning. Let's connect...Let's talk!

► **High School Parent/Teacher Interviews on Tuesday, October 7 from 4:00 – 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday, October 8 from 4:30 – 7:00 p.m.**

► **Kindergarten – Gr. 8 Parent/Teacher Interviews on Thursday, October 9:**

Mrs. Lodewyk conducting interviews: 9:00 a.m. – noon & 12:30 – 7:30 p.m. (supper break 5 – 5:30 pm)

Mrs. Capton and Gr. 1-8 teachers conducting interviews: 12:30 – 7:30 p.m. (supper break 5 – 5:30 p.m.)

Thursday, Oct. 9, Friday, Oct. 10 & Monday, Oct. 13: No school for all kindergarten – Gr.12 students.

The link to book your Parent/Teacher Interview will be emailed to you later this week.



READ ✓
Mark it ~~Red~~ for Dyslexia

This Thursday, October 2nd students & staff are encouraged to wear something

RED

to show support and understanding for those with dyslexia.

October 8th is International Dyslexia Awareness Day!

October is Dyslexia Awareness Month! It's a month to shed light on dyslexia, which is a specific learning difference that makes it difficult to read, write and spell. 10-20% OF CHILDREN IN Canada have dyslexia.

Abby, a Gr. 7 student at Gateway, along with her mom will be sharing her story with our Gr. 3 students and shedding light on Dyslexia – what Dyslexia is and how we can support people with Dyslexia.

October is Dyslexia awareness month!

"Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is neurobiological in origin. It is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge." (International Dyslexia Association, 2022)

A letter to my teacher



You make a difference!

What is dyslexia?



TED-Ed

Did you know **Dyslexia is a superpower?**

"Dyslexic thinking" is now listed on LinkedIn!

What can you do in the classroom?



Use different colors on the board



Give choices



Talk to text



Verbal responses



Affirmations



More time

Large FONT

Strengths of Dyslexic Thinking!



Creative



Problem Solving



Innovative



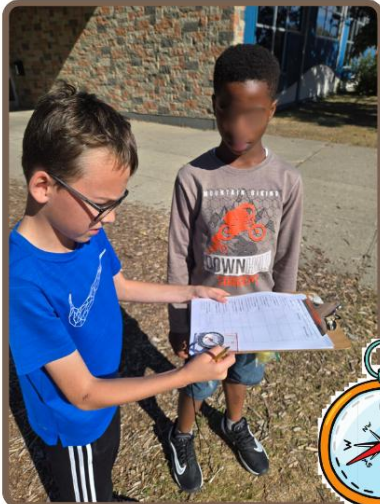
Storytelling



Poster created by: Natalie Ford
- parent of an amazing child with dyslexia

Gr. 7/8 Outdoor Ed: Orienteering with Mrs. Carruthers

Last week, in 7/8 Outdoor Ed, Mrs. Carruthers introduced students to the exciting world of orienteering by creating a challenging course around the school grounds. Armed with compasses, students navigated from one point to the next.



Navigation is important when you're on any kind of outdoor trip. Most of the time, it's not too hard because we usually have a good idea of the area in our heads.

However, when you venture from places you know well to those you don't, it becomes harder to stay on track. In areas that don't have many landmarks, or when visibility is poor, knowing how to use a compass becomes crucial.

Knowing how to use a compass is an invaluable skill for our Outdoor Ed students to learn.

October 2025 Hot Lunch Menu

Please visit gateway.hotlunches.net to place your order(s).

The access code is GCSRD

High school students: please note your hot lunch pick-up time is 11:50 a.m. ** Please note that if a teacher strike occurs on October 6, any orders affected by the strike will be cancelled. The credit will remain on your hot lunch account and will be automatically applied to any future orders.** Unfortunately, we are unable to provide any refunds.

TUESDAY, OCT. 14 - OPA!

ORDER DEADLINE: FRI., OCT. 3 @ 4 P.M.

MONDAY, OCT. 20 - BOOSTER JUICE

ORDER DEADLINE: FRI., OCT. 10 @ 4 P.M.

MONDAY, OCT. 27 - POPEYES

ORDER DEADLINE: FRI., OCT. 17 @ 4 P.M.

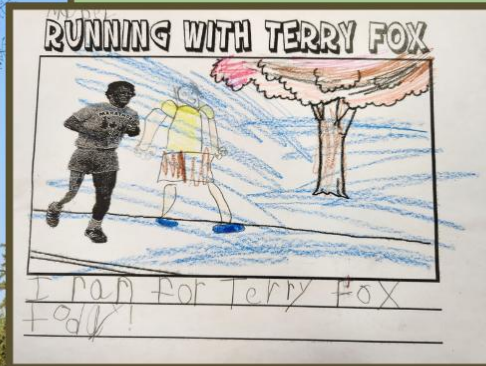


Terry Fox's Legacy Inspires Our Students!

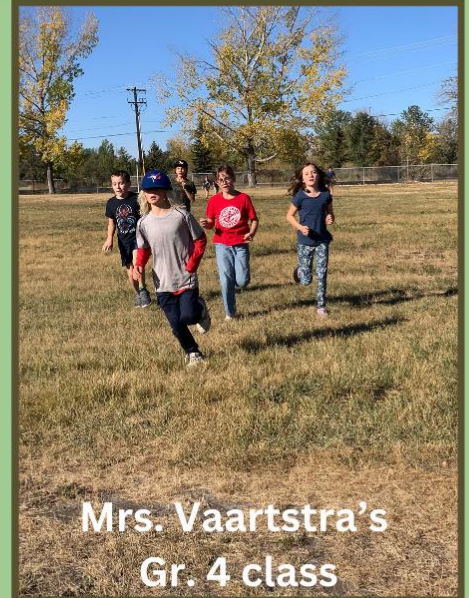
In honour of Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope, our students laced up their running shoes and took part in our 'Toonies for Terry' run. This event allowed students to learn about one of Canada's most beloved heroes while raising funds for a cause that impacts so many families. Thank you to all the parents for your generous contributions to the Toonies for Terry campaign, supporting a cause that inspires hope and change. Together we raised \$492.00



Mrs. Moltzahn's Gr. 1 class



Mrs. Moltzahn's Gr. 1 students created pictures of themselves running alongside Terry.



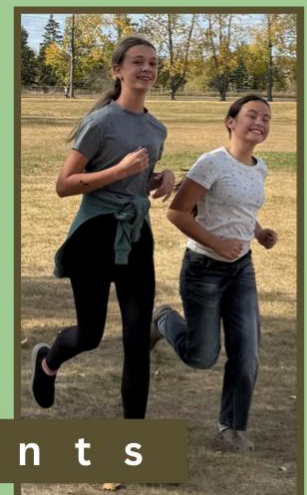
Mrs. Vaartstra's Gr. 4 class



Gr. 5 students

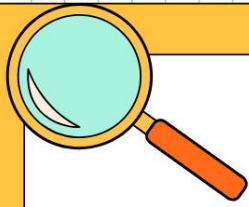


Mrs. Lodewyk's T/T kinders and Mrs. Prins' & Mrs. McAllister's Gr. 5 class



G r . 7 s t u d e n t s

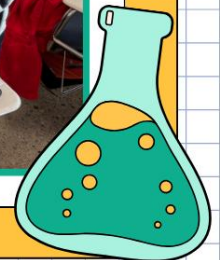
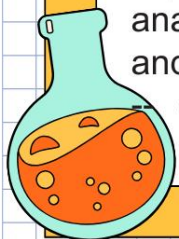
This year marked the 45th anniversary of Terry's Marathon of Hope and a powerful testament to Terry Fox's legacy.



8R SCIENCE CLASS



Mr. Rand's Gr. 8 students designed and conducted their own science experiments, showcasing their creativity and scientific skills. Students followed the steps of the scientific method, which involved asking a specific question, forming a hypothesis, designing and conducting the experiment, testing it, analyzing the results, and drawing a conclusion.



The Joy of Storytelling

Everyone loves to be whisked away on an adventure through the pages of a story, and Mrs. Parsons knows just how to captivate her Gr. 7 students with each turn of the page.

Mrs. Parsons read 'The Great Dinosaur Sleepover'! The fun children's book is about a group of kids who throw a sleepover with dinosaurs, highlighting friendship, imagination, and adventure.

As you can see, the students enjoyed the book.



Our Gr. 12 Co-Impact Service Team – Growing in Their FAITH While SERVING Others!

Our 2026 Gr. 12 Co-Impact Team, comprised of 19 students and 4 staff members, is delighted to announce that they will be embarking on a service trip to the Dominican Republic over Spring Break (April 4 - 11, 2026).

Through EduDeo Ministries, they will SERVE and IMPACT the people of the Dominican Republic! While there, they will build relationships with our partner school and work on a school project to help provide Christian education for those who are less fortunate. This will be a Christ-centered, life-changing trip full of meaningful service projects and opportunities.

Participating in the Co-Impact trip includes taking an accredited International Studies course and participating in all aspects of preparing for and going on the trip. Part of preparing for the trip is raising funds. The team graciously asks for your prayers and support. There will be several opportunities for our Gateway community to support our team. Our 1st fundraiser is selling popcorn to our Kindergarten – Gr. 8 students. Check out the info below and thank you for your support! Please watch for more ways you can support our team.

GUESS WHAT'S POPPIN'?

We are going to be popping up a storm of delicious popcorn for our K-Gr. 8 students. It's crunchy, it's fun, and it's a perfect treat!
Order today!

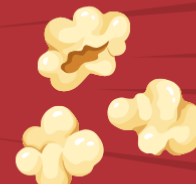
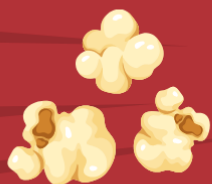


**\$1.50
/bag**

For a copy of the order form, please click [HERE](#).

Orders due Friday, October 3rd.

Orders will be delivered to classrooms on specified dates.



Gr. 3-5 Swimming Lessons

In October & November, our Gr. 2/3W and 3-5 students will have the opportunity to participate in swimming lessons at the Recreation Centre!

Permission forms are now available for you to submit on your PowerSchool Parent Portal Account under Rycor/School Fees. For complete instructions, please click [HERE](#).

Dates: October. 7, 14, 21, 28 and November 4 & 18

Homeroom	bus leaving GCS	Bus arriving @ Rec Centre	Lessons	students leaving the pool	arrive back @ GCS
3H & 3S	8:45 a.m.	8:55 a.m.	9 - 9:45 a.m.	9:55 a.m.	10:15 a.m.
5PM & 5M	9:30 a.m.	9:40 a.m.	9:45 - 10:30 a.m.	10:40 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
2/3W & 4T	10:15 a.m.	10:25 a.m.	10:30 - 11:15 a.m.	11:25 a.m.	11:35 a.m.
4V & 5V	11:00 a.m.	11:10 a.m.	11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	12:10 p.m.	12:20 p.m.

If teachers go on strike, we have been told that we can extend the lessons to one extra week (Nov. 25); unfortunately, no weeks are available after that date. If students do not receive all six lessons, the fee will be pro-rated on their student account.

We are looking for approved volunteers to assist in the dressing rooms and with safely guiding students off the bus and back on the bus at the Red Centre. We are in urgent need of a couple of dads or grandpas to help support our boys in 4V & 5V from 9-9:45 a.m. and/or 11:15 a.m. – noon. If you are available and willing to help, please contact Mrs. Mottus-Landry (cathy.mottus-landry@rdpsd.ab.ca). Thank you!



Jr. boys' & girls' volleyball Teams - For a copy of the game schedule, please click [HERE](#).

- Coaches: Carol Graham (carol.graham@rdpsd.ab.ca), Lynette Loonstra (lynette.loonstra@rdpsd.ab.ca) & Cassie Marquart (cassie.marquart@rdpsd.ab.ca)

Sr. girls' volleyball Team - For a copy of the game schedule, please click [HERE](#).

- Coaches: Justin Moltzahn (justin.moltzahn@rdpsd.ab.ca) & Emily Huizing (emily.huizing@rdpsd.ab.ca)

Sr. boys' volleyball Team - For a copy of the game schedule, please click [HERE](#).

- Coaches: Lukas Erickson (lukas.erickson@rdpsd.ab.ca) & Dawson Strome (dawson.strome@rdpsd.ab.ca)

Gateway Teachers and EAs attending PCCE Teachers' Convention

Gateway teachers and EAs will be participating in PCCE's (The Prairie Centre for Christian Education's) Teachers' Convention on Oct. 23rd and 24th, hosted by Central Alberta Christian High School and Lacombe Christian School.

The Prairie Centre for Christian Education (PCCE) is a community of 20 Christian school communities in Alberta and Manitoba, representing approximately 6,460 students from K-12, 350 teachers, and 40 administrators.



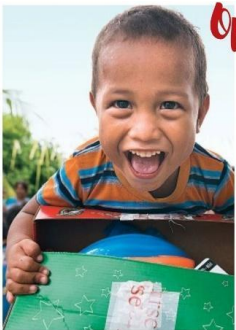
The convention's keynote speaker, Dr. Dave Mulder, will lead participants through three sessions. Dr. Dave Mulder serves as a professor and the department chair in the Education Department at Dordt University in Sioux Center, Iowa. Dr. Mulder teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses, sharing his expertise in effective teaching through classroom and online instruction, educational technology, curriculum and instructional design, and professional development. His scholarly work focuses on AI in education, technology integration, and social presence in online learning.

"I'm so grateful that I have the opportunity to be part of the formation of distinctively Christian teachers who see their work as part of building Christ's kingdom," says Dr. Mulder.

Dr. Mulder is the author of *Always Becoming, Never Arriving: Developing an Imagination for Teaching Christianly*, which considers how "teaching Christianly is a journey, a process of growing as a more faithful disciple and more closely following Jesus day by day."



Gateway Christian School invites your family to take part in "Operation Christmas Child"!



Operation Christmas Child!



You have the opportunity to get involved &

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Operation Christmas Child is a hands-on project that brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes packed by Canadians. It is one way to remind children suffering as a result of war, poverty, famine, disease, and disaster that they are loved and not forgotten.

How can we help?

Everyone can help by filling a shoe box with little gifts for a girl or boy. Shoeboxes will be available in the school foyer, and parents can return their filled shoeboxes to the school office. Watch for more information coming soon.

Red Deer Public School District Foundation LIFE CHANCES 50/50 Raffle

GET YOUR 50/50 TICKETS!!!! Winner could take home up to \$25,000!!! IN SUPPORT OF Red Deer PUBLIC SCHOOLS!

The Foundation for Red Deer Public Schools supports programs that have a significant impact on the **LIFE CHANCES** of students across the Division. By purchasing a ticket to support our 50/50 cash lottery you are giving students opportunities to have better life chances.

Ticket packages include:

- 25 for \$50 / 10 for \$25 / 1 for \$10



From giving kids a Bright Start to school to reconnecting with students so they graduate and cross the Finish Line, the Foundation helps students who face challenges in school and makes things better. We motivate struggling students and inspire them to read and write through Reading College. For students who come to school without basic needs, we give them that needed Step Up.

With the support from The Foundation's 50/50 Life Chances Raffle, you are providing a student with opportunities that will improve their life. They can't always control the situations they're in but with your help students will continue to have these chances.

link: <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/rdpsd-5>

This raffle is open to all community members in Alberta who are over the age of 18.

Community News...



The **READING** **CLINIC** Literacy Dyslexia Language



IS YOUR CHILD STRUGGLING WITH READING OR SPELLING?

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Reading success begins with the right support. Led by a speech-language pathologist specializing in literacy, our programs provide evidence-based approaches to build skills, confidence, and lifelong results.

CONTACT US TO LEARN MORE

EDEN.MOLINEUX@COMMUNICATIONOPTIONSINC.CA

Eligible for SLP Insurance Reimbursement

What is Stigma? / Family tips for building communication and language skills / Ways to help your family reduce stigma / Tackle stigma through the words you choose

Resources:

[Language Matters](#)

[Mental Illness Awareness Week](#)

[Resources – FamilySmart](#)

[Why Words Matter](#)

Addiction & Mental Health News

October 2025

What is Stigma?

One of the biggest reasons people don't get help for substance use or mental health is stigma. That means they're judged or treated unfairly because of false beliefs or stereotypes. This can further isolate someone who is struggling with substance use and/or mental health.

Words matter. Changing our words can encourage more compassion.

Stigma is not only hurtful, but it has real-life consequences.

Family tips for building communication and language skills

- Keep messages simple
- Help your children get the facts
- **Be calm** when speaking to your kids
- **Be prepared** before having a difficult conversation
- **Don't assume** you know what is going on or has happened
- **Check in** regularly with your kids to connect better
- **Look for the good** in each other
- **Empathy and listening** helps to see each other's perspective and to increase understanding.
- **Be kind** - to yourself and others

Ways to help your family reduce stigma:

- Encourage your family to talk openly about addiction and mental health
- Use supportive language
- Speak out to correct myths and stereotypes
- Educate yourself, your family, and others

Tackling stigma is important as it creates trust and encourages people to express their feelings and seek treatment.

Tackle stigma through the words you choose

- Use positive and respectful language
- Avoid stereotypes and labels
- Use person-first language to focus on the individual rather than the illness, disability, condition, or behaviour

Stigmatizing Language:

This drives me crazy

This is nuts

Mentally ill/insane person

Addict or junkie

Respectful Language:

This bothers me

This is interesting/strange

Person living with a mental illness

Uses substances or person with a substance use disorder

MORE RESOURCES

[Language Matters](#)

[Mental Illness Awareness Week](#)

[Resources - FamilySmart](#)

[Why Words Matter](#)

Information on mental health, community supports, programs and services in your area:




MyHealthAlberta.ca

Addiction Services Help Line
1-866-332-2322

Mental Health Help Line
1-877-303-2642



Health Link
Health Advice 24/7



Recovery Alberta
MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES

This week's Reminders:

Monday, September 29th

- Orange Shirt Day (all students, staff & parents were encouraged to wear an orange shirt).
- High School Retreat @ Gull Lake Centre.
- Jr. boys' & girls' volleyball practice @ lunch recess in the main gym 12:27 – 12:57 p.m.
- Gr. 4-8 Cross-Country Running Club from 3:30 – 4:15 p.m.
- Sr. boys' volleyball practice 3:30 – 5 p.m.

Tuesday, September 30th

- **No School for K-Gr. 12 students & staff – National Day of Truth & Reconciliation.**

Wednesday, October 1st

- Gr. 12 Co-Impact Team meeting @ 7 a.m.
- Sr. boys' volleyball practice from 7:00 – 8:15 a.m. in the main gym.
- Parent Prayer Time 8:45 – 9:35 a.m. All parents/guardians warmly invited.
- K-Gr. 8 Worship @ 9:40 a.m. in the main gym. All parents/guardians warmly invited.
- Jr. boys' & girls' volleyball practice @ lunch recess in the main gym 12:27 – 12:57 p.m.
- Gr. 4-8 Cross-Country Running Club from 3:30 – 4:15 p.m.
- Sr. girls' volleyball practice from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. in the main gym.

Thursday, October 2nd

- **Mark it read (RED) Day! All students & staff are encouraged to wear something RED in support of Dyslexia Awareness Month.**
- Gr. 3 Dyslexia Presentation in the Den from 9:40 – 10:15 a.m.
- Mr. Rand's Rec Ed classes going bowling.
- Middle School volleyball intramurals @ lunch recess.
- Sr. girls' volleyball game @ Gateway vs. Central Middle School.
- Sr. boys' volleyball game @ Central Middle School.

Friday, October 3rd

- Monday/Wednesday kinders: Classes.
- Tuesday/Thursday kinders: No School.
- Popcorn orders due.
- High School Christian Studies 25 @ Reach #1 @ 1:15 p.m.
- High School Christian Studies 35 @ Reach #1 @ 1:15 p.m.
- 4 p.m. deadline to order Opa! Hot Lunch.

Monday, October 6th

- Lifetouch picture orders due.
- Jr. boys' & girls' volleyball practice @ lunch recess in the main gym 12:27 – 12:57 p.m.
- Gr. 4-8 Cross-Country Running Club from 3:30 – 4:15 p.m.
- Sr. boys' volleyball practice from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. in the main gym.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call the office. We'd be happy to help,

Have a great week ahead,
Cathy