



Key Communiqué

News for School Councils

Issue | March 18, 2022

One of the most significant ways parents and community members can make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students is through school councils. By connecting students, schools and communities, school councils help nurture and inspire our students to achieve their full potential.

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Feel free to contact us with any suggestions or comments.

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March 16 COSC Meeting Materials

The presentation from the March 16, 2022 Council of School Councils (COSC) meeting is now posted on our [COSC meeting page](#). The video will be completed and posted soon. Please check the [website](#) for updates.

[March 16 COSC PowerPoint Presentation pdf](#)

Final COSC Meeting for 2021-22

The final Council of School Council (COSC) meeting for the 2021-22 school year will be held on **Thursday, June 2, 2022**

Invitations and information will be sent out by email prior to the meeting. Please save the date in your calendars!

Minister of Education – Youth Council Recruitment

Student voice is essential to a strong, robust education system. One of the main priorities of the Minister of Education is to listen to the thoughts, experiences and ideas of the more than 700,000 students across Alberta. One way this can be achieved this is through the Minister's Youth Council.

Recruitment for the 2022-23 Minister's Youth Council began on Feb. 14, 2022. The Education Minister is looking for approximately 40 junior and senior high school students between the ages of 14 and 19, with diverse interests, identities, backgrounds and perspectives from across Alberta to join the Youth Council.

Participating in the council will give students the opportunity to make a real impact on Alberta's education system, build their leadership skills and leave a legacy that will last for generations to come.

The deadline for students to apply is **March 25, 2022**. For more information, please visit alberta.ca/student-engagement.

If you have questions, please contact Jaclyn Landry, Consultant, Strategic Engagement Branch, at jaclyn.landry@gov.ab.ca or 780-289-1352 (toll-free by first dialing 310-0000).

Province Announces: CBE to get New Middle School in Evanston

On March 4, the [province announced funding](#) for the design and construction of a new middle school (Grades 5-9) in the community of Evanston. The new middle school was the top priority on last year's Three-Year School Capital Plan. This school will allow students to attend school closer to home. The CBE currently has [five new school construction projects](#) under development that will open in the next couple of years.

The Board of Trustees will submit its capital priorities to the province by April 1 and the updated capital plan will be posted on the CBE Website.

Alberta Education Survey Mailed to Parents of Grades 4, 7 and 10 Students

Each year, Alberta Education sends an important survey to all parents and legal guardians of students in Grades 4, 7 and 10. Called the Alberta Education Assurance survey, it gathers information on the quality of education provided by school authorities and their schools. We encourage you to complete the survey by **March 25, 2022**.

Nominate a Great Kid Today!

Nominations are now open for the [Great Kids Award!](#)

The Great Kids Award honours children and youth who inspire and change the lives of others, and help to build stronger communities. These great kids exemplify the qualities of resiliency, leadership, determination and strength, and have often overcome a wide variety of challenges to make a positive impact in our province. **Nomination deadline is March 25.**

ASCA Online Learning Resources

ASCA has digital resources, virtual interactions and opportunities for school councils to use. School council members can access these webinars using their ASCA membership.

1. ASCA hosts [Meeting Mondays](#) – online engagements, creating a forum for school council parents to learn, share information, and support each other.
2. [Webinar Wednesdays](#) present interactive online training sessions, focused on topic areas specific to the work of school councils.

ASCA Workshops 2021-22

Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA) offers a number of workshops that can be paid for through the ASCE grant. See the [ASCA website](#) for a list of available workshops.

School Councils Conference & Annual General Meeting: April 22, 23, 24, 2022

The 2022 Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA) annual provincial conference and General Meeting (AGM) will be presented online utilizing the Zoom web platform.

Providing development sessions, information sharing and resources for the school community, the event offers opportunity to engage in provincial education and network with others on school council.

Cultivating Compassion: “Compassion promotes meaningful connections, facilitates problem solving and improves overall wellbeing.”

The 2022 event will consider “School Councils: Cultivating Compassion”, promoting the work of school council and wellbeing in the school community to benefit student success. Sessions will offer elements of inclusion, resilience, student wellbeing, curriculum, assessment, healthy schools and leadership.

Please see the [ASCA conference website](#) for details, information and registration.

Call for Nominations

The ASCA Board of Directors election will be held at the AGM on April 24, 2022. Deadline to submit a candidate nomination is **April 9**.

An ASCA member in good standing may nominate an ASCA member to run for an election position on the Board of Directors. Nominees must be present at the AGM in order to be elected. The Board of Directors will be looking to fill three position for Director.

See the [ASCA website](#) for more information.

ASCA Membership

If your school council does not have an [Alberta School Councils' Association](#) 2021-22 membership, please fill out [this form](#). ASCA memberships are paid for by the Board of Trustees. However, memberships need to be renewed, by the school council, each school year (July 1 – June 30).

Loonies for Literacy

Loonies for Literacy is EducationMatters' system-wide fundraising event to help schools purchase the literacy resources their students need the most. For every dollar a school raises for its own initiative, a dollar will also go to a school in need through the generosity of community sponsors and contributions.

Please go to the [EducationMatters website](#) for more information on how you or your school can be involved.

Join the Gentle Revolution

ASCA along with Strategic Alliance for Alberta Students with Learning Challenges Society presents: Join the Gentle Revolution, Parent Engagement with Dr. Debbie Pushor on Thursday, March 24 from 7 – 8:30 p.m.

As an educator with more than 40 years experience, Dr. Debbie Pushor has been a mother for more than 30 of those years and a parent engagement researcher for more than 25 of those years. Drawing from all three perspectives, Debbie will share her knowledge of what parent engagement is – and what it isn't.

Tickets for this online event can be [purchased on eventbrite](#).

Important System Calendar Dates

The following upcoming dates apply to all schools. It is **very important** to check your school website for other dates specific to your school.

Monday, March 28, 2022

Classes resume after spring break for schools following the traditional calendar.

Monday, April 4, 2022

Classes resume after spring break for schools following the modified calendar.

Friday, April 15, 2022

Good Friday
All students do not attend school

Monday, April 18, 2022

System wide non-instructional day
All students do not attend school

Friday, May 20, 2022

System wide non-instructional day
All students do not attend school

Monday, May 23, 2022

Victoria Day
All students do not attend school

Tuesday, June 28

Last day of school

Wednesday, June 29, 2022

Appeals Day
System wide non-instructional day
All students do not attend school

Thursday, June 30, 2022

System wide non-instructional day
All students do not attend school

Nutrition Programs for Families

If you require nutrition support for your child(ren) you can access various community supports.

- Brown Bagging for Calgary Kids has programs to support families with lunch. You can sign-up via their website: <https://bb4ck.org/help/>
- The Calgary Food Bank
<https://www.calgaryfoodbank.com/needfood/>
- 211: <https://ab.211.ca/>
 - [Food hampers](#)
 - [Free or low cost meals](#)
 - [School meal programs](#)
- Calgary Meals on Wheels: Offers a service (My Choice Menu) where meals (individual and / or family) can be purchased frozen and delivered free to their doorstep, to support instances where perhaps someone is recovering from surgery or dealing with a family emergency.
<https://www.mealsonwheels.com>
- [Calgary Free food services](#)

Free AHS Webinars Offered

The Community Education Service (CES) provides parents/caregivers and other community members with opportunities to access **free**, public [education sessions](#) on child and youth emotional wellness and health topics throughout the year.

Some of the upcoming webinars include:

- Earth Play: The Benefits of Outdoor Exploration
- Part Two: Building Resiliency in the Family Unit
- LGBTQ2S+: What grandparents need to know and do
- ADHD & Executive Functioning: For Children & Youth

Registration is required. For a full list of upcoming webinars: <http://community.hmhc.ca/sessions/?p=webex>