

# NOVEMBER EDITION

## STEMIA SCOOP



GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL TEAM  
TAKES HOME GOLD!  
SPARKS FOR THE  
WIN!

# GIRLS VOLLEYBALL WIN!

With every serve, spike, and cheer, the senior girls' volleyball team displayed great teamwork throughout the whole season. A key part of their teamwork was they were all friends. "It was a good group of girls," Abigail and Harlow recalled. Both girls had a difficult time when asked for a teammate who deserved special recognition for their time on and off the court. In fact, when asked for one or two teammates they refused, and listed several!



"Mickela was an amazing leader who was always willing to help her teammates. She was such a positive player!" This leadership role was shared with Eleri who was "a supportive, intense player." She was always counted on by her teammates for her "goofy remarks on the bench, or a slam to the face of an opposing player." I sure am glad to not have been on the receiving end of that move! Finally, Olivia was not only the team's setter, but "had the most consistent serve who also looked out for her teammates... on rotations."

# GIRLS VOLLEYBALL WIN!

(continued)

Overall, everyone did an amazing job and one Grade 9 Sparks player remarked that she, “wishes she could fail Grade 9 and be on the team again next year.” Maybe her teachers should hear about this?!

Congratulations to the Sparks Girls Volleyball team of 2024-2025 on their GOLD League Championship win!

Written by Amaya and Miss. Higden

# BOYS VOLLEYBALL UPDATE

STEMIA’s Boys volleyball team found their rhythm while navigating both challenges and highlights throughout their season. Elliott, Souta, and Ridhvan shared their thoughts on the journey. The team focused on serve receives, improving communication, and emphasizing three touches per play. “Everyone was too humble at first,” Souta noted, but confidence built with each game.

# BOYS VOLLEYBALL UPDATE

## (continued)

The team had standout moments, including their first win in a thrilling third set and a tournament experience that, while challenging, left them with valuable lessons. Playing in a Tier 1 tournament as a Tier 2 team was no small feat, and their efforts were rewarded with respectable points on the board.

As the season wrapped up, shoutouts went to Toby for his leadership in communication, Ridhvan for his consistent plays, and Dylan, who earned the nickname “Ace Demon” for his serving skills. With a mix of determination and camaraderie, STEMIA’s volleyball squad was one for the books, and the Grade 9 players are officially “passing the torch” to next year’s team as they move onto the STEMIA high school Volleyball team.

Written by Kent

# Remembrance Day

November 11 is a solemn day to honour our military, past and present. The assembly that was planned was a labour of love and respect. Spearheaded by Mr. Hoffman, the event featured a Colour Guard of students who are current cadets. The group moved with the precision and poise that reflected hours of practice and dedication. Our guest speaker, Mr. JJ Martin, spoke of his respect for peers who fought for our country and are now fighting for equal rights to be recognized as soldiers by our Canadian government. The questions posed by students in our assembly were thoughtful. His responses were tempered, as war is a difficult thing to discuss.



# Remembrance Day

## (continued)

Our school is only four years old. We are still finding our way in how we incorporate recognition and days of respect like this. Mr. Hoffman, along with Mr. Butler and Ms. Ochitwa, have worked to make this a meaningful experience for students. We are in a position where direct relatives of some of our teachers and parents were involved in war. It changes a family dynamic and reverberates for generations. We recognize those who served before us and hope that history does not repeat itself. Our young people need to understand and to do right by our nation. Listen well, Sparks.

Written by Ms. Witte



# Field Trip - THE IMPERIAL OIL!

The Grade 9 students went on a field trip to The Imperial Oil offices. Here they learned what the company is and how they function. All students were organized into groups, and each group learned about a different area. We were fortunate enough to interview a Grade 9 student who discussed what she experienced!

For Take Your Kid to Work Day, employees at Imperial Oil brought their kids with them so that they could learn about different types of jobs. This opportunity allows students, who may soon enter the workforce, an opportunity to see some of the day-to-day realities. Our STEMIA Grade 9 students were able to join the company, as well!

A fun fact mentioned in the interview: Did you know that the workers have a robot dog?! It doesn't look like a dog, however! This Robot Dog helps with sending messages and information from worker to worker.

# Field Trip - THE IMPERIAL OIL!

## (continued)



The Grade 9 student we interviewed learned about two main focuses of the company: Social Economics, and Procurement.

Social economics are when workers focus on the relations between their company and Indigenous People. The focus of this relationship is that their land is being used properly, and that the land would be restored to the way it was. The goal is for the land to return to when it had vegetation and animals, before the extraction of oil began.

Procurement is when they want to buy machines or tools for the company or sell machines or tools. They do so through negotiations with other companies.

Written by Tejaswini



# Grade 8 Classes Win Haunted Hallway

## Decoration Contest!

For Halloween, the whole school participated in decorating our hallways. Each grade was judged by Mr. Ackerman and Mrs. Riddick. This Halloween the grade 8 classes won with a team effort! Viktor, a grade 8B representative whose role in the haunted hallway project was to decorate the cardboard trees, says that the hardest part was “putting the branches on the 3D trees. We did not know how to put them into the tree bark, and the top was bald. We ran out of time and did not get to finish it how we imagined.” He also said that his class “worked good together – amazing – everyone had their part. Some were cutting branches and then I would take them and put them into the tree.”



# Grade 8 Classes Win Haunted Hallway

## Decoration Contest! Cont'

A representative of class 8A, whose role was to put fake tests and assignments on the wall, said that she “used AI resources and went back and made errors.” What would be scarier than failed tests? She said that the hardest part of the hallway project was “the lightning clouds because it was in the middle of the hallway and there was a lot going on.” The student from 8A also stated that her class worked quite well because she “felt like all Grade 8s were able to work together when we had combined roles rather than just walking past each other.” She says that her group completed everything, but “there was a group that was supposed to make something with hummingbirds, but I do not think it happened.”

How would you – reader – decorate a haunted hallway?

Written by Archer

# GINGERBREAD HOUSE

## Holiday Sale

Student Council is happy to announce the sale of Gingerbread Houses for the holiday season! Pre-order your gingerbread house package for \$25 on Microsoft Forms. All proceeds will support Student Council activities throughout the school year. Pre-sales run from November 22nd - December 5th, and will be distributed on December 12th. Happy Holidays!

### Gingerbread House Package Includes:

- Gingerbread House and Icing Kit
- Extra Candies
- Decorating "Add-On" Crafts
- Holiday Card from Student Council



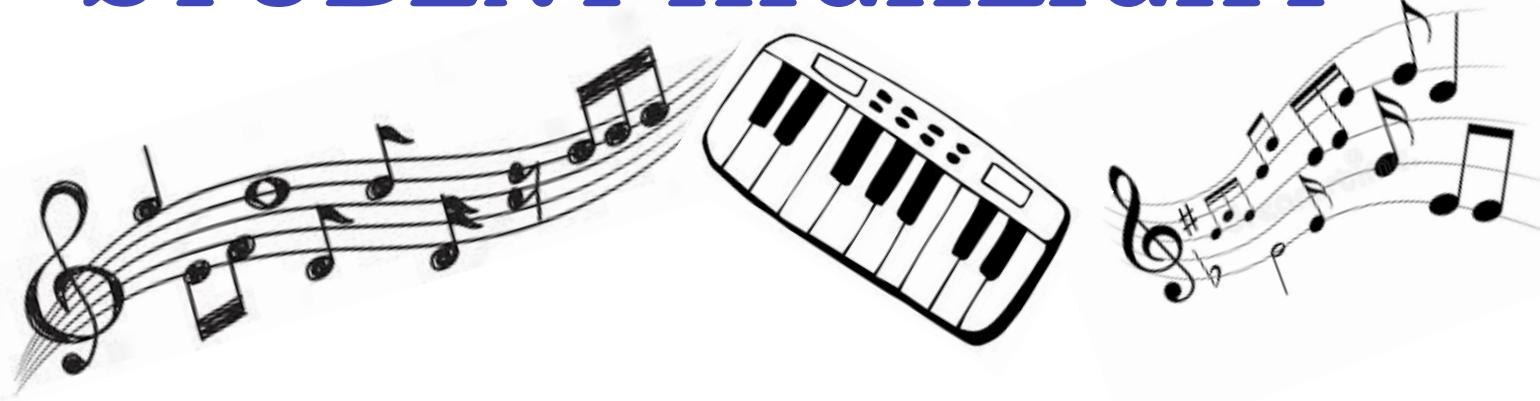
### BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING FIELD TRIP RECAP

On Thursday, November 14th, the biomedical engineering students participated in an exciting field trip to the University of Calgary. The day's focus was to introduce the students to nanoscience, preparing them for the upcoming unit on nanoscience and nanotechnologies in our course. During the visit, students had the opportunity to engage with Dr. Anikovskiy, Dr. Musgrove, and several graduate students from the Faculty of Science. Our STEM IA students took part in hands-on activities, including extracting DNA from strawberries, observing how ethanol-based solutions ignite into different-colored flames based on dissolved solutes, and exploring how magnets influence rust formation, all under the expert guidance of these inspiring academics. Additionally, the students enjoyed a walking tour of the Schulich School of Engineering complex and other parts of the university's vibrant campus. It was a dynamic and enriching day filled with learning, discovery, and real-world application.



# STEMIA SCOOP

## STUDENT HIGHLIGHT



This is a new section of the Newspaper Club. Our intention is to celebrate students who are accomplishing awesome things outside of our school. We will always celebrate those within our walls, but we have heard of some wonderful things happening beyond that we want to make sure STEMIA is aware of! If you have a friend, student, or classmate worth celebrating, please fill out the QR code that is linked. We will always check with the nominated student to ensure they are comfortable.

For our first edition of Student Highlight, we would like to celebrate Angela! Angela plays piano at Rebec Studio. She has been doing it since she was 4 years old, which is great! I hope she continues to improve her piano playing skills, since she is already at Level 7. If she is already here, I can't imagine how she will grow and improve with continued practice, support, and dedication. As her friend, I am proud of her, and I have a strong feeling that she will continue to be a great piano player. Great job, Angela!

Written by Erin

# CHESS CLUB UPDATE

*The Chess Club has been putting in tremendous effort over the past few weeks, preparing for the upcoming chess team tryouts.*

*Leader of the chess team Brian Choi and the tournament director Connor Craig have been setting up the schedules for each game ensuring that each group plays an equal match.*

*The Chess Team will soon be decided and all the members hard work will soon pay off!*



# YEARBOOK CLUB UPDATE

The Yearbook club was created one year after the school first opened in 2022. Since then, it has been bringing together incredibly talented and creative students making memories that will last lifetimes. Ms. Fordham oversees the Yearbook Club; last year was her first time organizing Yearbook Club. In an interview, Ms. Fordham shared her fun experience of looking back at her own yearbook in high school and university. This inspired her to want other students to have that opportunity.

## GOOD TIMES

An exciting change this year has been that younger student in grade 7 and 8 joining the club. Ms. Fordham is hoping they will return in the coming years to help mentor new students interested in the club. There have not been any challenges so far this year, but last year a major challenge was a lack of participants. However, this year the yearbook club is full of many amazing and dedicated students! The highlights of the club so far have been teaching students how to use the cameras and watching them improve quickly.

Finally, this year there is a new program being used in designing the Yearbook Club. This is very exciting for the Club and Ms. Fordham. She believes that with so many great designers will bring the yearbook together so well by the end of the year!

Written by Maya

# Open House

November 21

Stemia Scoop

# STEMIA OPEN HOUSE

## ACTIVITIES



On November 21, STEM Innovation Academy held an Open House, giving the local community a chance to learn more about our school. Visitors were able to walk around the school, meet teachers, and talk with current students about the STEMIA. There were also demonstrations from the Chess Club, Science Team, Math Club, Student Council and more. These activities allowed visitors to see the wide range of opportunities students can participate in outside the classroom. From watching a chess match to learning about frog dissections, or solving math challenges, there was something for everyone to enjoy!

## OPEN HOUSE IS GREAT FOR ALL

### PURPOSE

The event was a great way for families to get a closer look at the school and see how STEM Innovation Academy supports learning and growth in many different areas. The overwhelming response from families was how excited they are for the opportunity to learn in such an environment. We hope to see many of their faces in our school community in the coming years!



Written by Samara

# CUTENESS 101: TIPS

## ★ FOR FUTURE BABY SPARKS!

As the newest members of the Riddick and Wood families arrive soon, we would like to share some advice to help them begin their journey through babyhood.



1. Cry strategically. Want a cuddle? Hungry? Bored? Cry like you mean it—they'll come running every time.
2. Remember: Diapers are for amateurs. Poop during the diaper change for maximum shock value.
3. Master the "middle of the night party." Parents love being woken up for your exclusive 2 a.m. cooing concerts.
4. Perfect the "I'm the cutest thing ever" smile—no one can resist it. It's your ultimate superpower.

These tips will help you charm everyone around you! You've got this, Tiny Spark. The world is your innovative playground!