



Austin O'Brien Braided Journeys



Fall 2026 Newsletter



Tansi & Welcome to Braided Journeys!

Whether you are returning to Austin O'Brien or joining our school community for the first time, welcome! My name is Amanda Phillips, and I am the Braided Journeys Graduation Coach at Austin O'Brien. I am honoured to support our vibrant community of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students by providing academic, career, cultural, and transition supports throughout each student's educational journey.

Throughout the school year, the Braided Journeys room will offer a variety of resources, events, and opportunities, including:

- Academic Support
- Career Development
- Cultural Enrichment
- Leadership Development
- Transition Support

This newsletter will share important updates, upcoming events, and opportunities available through Braided Journeys. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or stop by the Braided Journeys room—we are here to support you and celebrate your journey!

Grad Coach



Amanda Phillips



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Important AOB

Information



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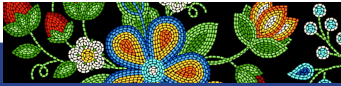


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Programming



Smudge

We are very fortunate to be able to offer cultural enrichment within the Braided Journeys program, for those students who wish to learn more about their ancestry. Preston Huppie, our wonderful Cultural Facilitator, will be joining us on Tuesday at 11:27am-12:09pm to lead us through a Smudging ceremony and gathering circle. Smudge day is by far the most popular day in the Braided Journeys room!

Wednesday Tutoring

On Wednesdays after school from 3:08pm-4pm, teachers from AOB will volunteer their time to tutor students in most courses. More information to come!

Thursday Leadership

Students who participate in Braided Journeys are often natural born leaders! Braided Journeys Leadership will take place most Thursdays after school, and students will have the chance to earn volunteer hours, go on field trips, and learn valuable skills!

Monthly Meet and Mentors

My favourite part of my job is when I get to have meaningful conversations with individual students. This typically takes place through monthly Meet and Mentors. During this time, we discuss academics, careers, resumes, and wellness as a few examples. Together, we keep track of successes and create strategies to combat challenges.



Important Upcoming Dates



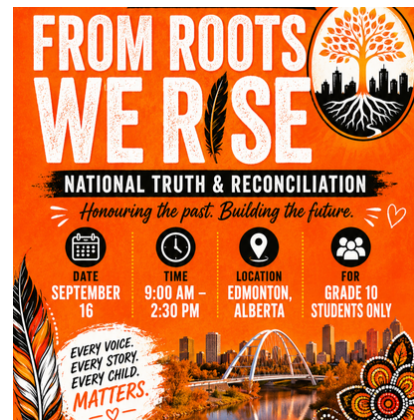
Note: Dates are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, please check the following below:



[School Website/
Calendar]

September 2026

- **September 2nd** - Grade 10 First Day of School
- **September 3rd** - Grade 11/12 First Day of School
- **September 7th** - **Labour Day**
No School
- **September 16th** - From Roots We Rise Conference
- **September 17th** - Leadership Starts - OSD Planning
- **September 29th** - Orange Shirt Day
- **September 30th** - **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** **No School**



First Day of Operation
August 31, 2026
First Day of Instruction
September 2, 2026
Last Day of Instruction
June 28, 2027
Last Day of Operation
June 29, 2027

Labour Day	Sept 7
Truth & Reconciliation Day	Sept 30
Thanksgiving Day	Oct 12
Election Day	Oct 19
Remembrance Day Wknd	Nov 11-13
Christmas Vacation	Dec 21 to Jan 1
Family Day	Feb 15
Faith Development Day/PD	Feb 24
Teachers' Convention	Feb 25- 26
Professional Development Day	Mar 25
Spring Break	Mar 26 to Apr 2
Good Friday	Mar 26
Easter Monday	Mar 29
Victoria Day Wknd	May 20-24

Looking ahead



Stay tuned and watch your email inbox for Braided Journeys monthly highlights and important upcoming dates for each month!

