

FRIDAY | APRIL 4, 2025

# THE BEACON ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



## LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Dear BA Community,

We find ourselves at a pivotal point in the school calendar. The mock exams for our seniors just ended, and in just 14 days, the BA Pathway exams will commence, followed by the IB Exams in 21 days. The deadline for the core requirements of Grade 12 students is fast approaching—set for April 15—adding another layer of urgency for our seniors. For Grade 10 students, the final papers for the Personal Project are currently undergoing moderation, marking a key milestone in their MYP journey. Meanwhile, students in Grades 7 to 9 are preparing for their first-ever End-of-Year exams, an important academic transition and a new experience that will shape their learning journey going forward. Seven weeks from now, the MYP End-of-Year exams will officially begin. These are challenging times for our academic community—times that call on every member of the BA Leadership Team to consider how best to rally our students and staff to stay strong and persevere.

This moment in time is being framed by two sacred events in two of the world's major religions. On April 1, the Muslim community celebrated the end of Ramadan, a month of fasting. Ramadan also commemorated the revelation of the Qur'an to Muhammed. On April 13, Palm Sunday, Roman Catholics will begin Holy Week with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, marking the beginning of His Passion. These spiritual milestones are not only significant in religious life—they also coincide with actual school holidays, when classes are suspended and work is paused. These built-in breaks offer our entire community a much-needed opportunity to pause, reflect, and recover amidst the rush of academic demands. Within our own school, 32 students and one teacher recently completed weeks of spiritual preparation that culminated in their Confirmation on March 29—a deeply meaningful step in their faith journey. Taken together, these moments of sacred observance and school-wide rest remind us that even in the busiest seasons, space for stillness, renewal, and spiritual grounding is essential.

In light of this, perhaps the call to simply "power through" needs tempering. Perhaps we are invited to reflect on balance. The drive to persist—to not give up in the face of exams, papers, and deadlines—is expected from teachers, parents, and peers alike. And rightly so. At this stage, the finish line is near. To quit now would be to forgo all the progress made so far.

Both faiths value perseverance and endurance. As Christians are reminded in Romans 5:3-4: "We also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope." And likewise, Muslims hold fast to the assurance in Surah Al-Inshirah 94:6: "Indeed, with hardship [will be] ease."

*(continued)*

## WHAT'S IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

**Letter to the Community:**  
**Deputy Head of School**

**Important Dates**

**BA Open House**

**BASC Merch Available**

**Grade 8 Math Summative**

**Sacrament of  
Confirmation**

**Athletics Updates**

**Book Review by Ms. Z**

**BA Calendar AY 2024-  
2025 & 2025-2026**

## LETTER TO COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

Still, wisdom also lies in knowing when to pause. When does pushing forward cross the line into burnout? When does perseverance begin to deplete rather than strengthen? When the body begins to tire, the mind starts to blur, and motivation gives way to mere survival. Perhaps those are signs that the call to endure must be matched with a call to rest. This isn't weakness; it's discernment. It's the kind of wisdom that understands human limitations—not as failures—but as built-in reminders that we need community, grace, and replenishment. A "pause" doesn't mean abandoning one's goals. Rather, it's a strategy for sustaining the journey. The voices calling students to keep going must also be the ones that give them permission to slow down when their well-being is at risk. Teachers, parents, and peers share in this responsibility—not only to cheer from the sidelines, but also to offer refuge when the race feels too long.

Sacred texts speak to this balance. The Quran reminds us in Surah At-Talaq 65:2-3: "And whoever fears Allah – He will make for him a way out and will provide for him from where he does not expect." Similarly, Ecclesiastes 3:1 tells Christians: "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."

When students of faith feel torn between enduring and resting, they can find reassurance in these words: "Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous be shaken" (Psalm 55:22 NIV), and "Allah does not burden a soul beyond that it can bear" (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:286). These verses remind us that divine compassion considers our frailty. Striving is noble, but so is knowing when to give in to care—both self-care as well as the care we extend to and accept from others.

As we move toward the final stretch of this academic year, we urge our students to aim high, finish strong, and bring their best selves to the work ahead. But we also emphasize this: academic excellence should never come at the cost of one's physical or mental well-being. The journey of learning is not a sprint—it is a marathon that requires endurance, pacing, and rest. As always, our teachers, advisers, and counselors will not push students forward without first walking alongside them. We are here not only to guide and to teach, but to steady and to support. We believe in hard work, yes—but we also believe in holding space for breath, for recovery, and for grace. Let this be a season of strength, but also of compassion—for our students, for each other, and for ourselves.

Sincerely,

**Vic Villanueva**

Deputy Head of School  
The Beacon Academy

## IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, April 7	No Classes: Faculty Professional Development
Wednesday, April 9	Regular Holiday: Araw ng Kagitingan (No Classes)
Thursday, April 10	College Visit   York University, Canada
Saturday, April 12	Open House of the Beacon Academy Campus
April 16-20	Easter Break (No Classes)
Monday, April 21	Classes Resume (4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter)



## PLEASE SHARE: BEACON ACADEMY OPEN HOUSE

The Beacon Academy will be hosting an Open House on Saturday, April 12, from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM at the Beacon Academy campus.

This event offers a wonderful opportunity for prospective parents and students to learn more about our dynamic International Baccalaureate curriculum for grades 7-12, vibrant school life, and take a guided tour of our green campus.

Please note that registration is required to attend this event. Interested participants must complete the RSVP form below to secure their spot. Spaces are limited, so we encourage everyone to register early:

<https://forms.gle/Cp6Uwoy22XXQnfaH7>

Please share this event with your friends, family, and networks.




## BEACON ACADEMY OPEN HOUSE

**APRIL 12, 2025 SATURDAY**  
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

**OPEN TO ALL INTERESTED PARENTS AND STUDENTS FOR GRADES 7-12**

Learn about our curriculum and active school life, meet our community, and take a tour of our green campus.

[www.beaconacademy.ph](http://www.beaconacademy.ph)

**REGISTER HERE**



## BASC MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE FOR PRE-ORDER

The Beacon Academy Student Council is proud to announce the launch of a brand-new line of BA Merchandise! If you're interested in getting your hands on a hoodie, t-shirt, or tote bag, simply fill out the pre-order form linked below.

<https://forms.gle/U45STXfmpq8fVZBR8>

Want to check out the designs or try on the sizes? No problem! We'll have samples displayed outside the School Life Office later this week, so stop by and take a look. Don't miss out on this awesome opportunity to show your BA spirit!



## SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION | RECAP

Last Saturday, 32 students and one teacher from the Beacon Academy community celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation. While Beacon Academy is a non-secular institution, we were honored to support the parents who wished for their children to receive this important sacrament.

The Confirmation ceremony marked a significant spiritual milestone in the lives of our students, who had spent several weeks in preparation for this moment. As part of their faith journey, they were accompanied by family, friends, and members of the Academy, all united in support and celebration.

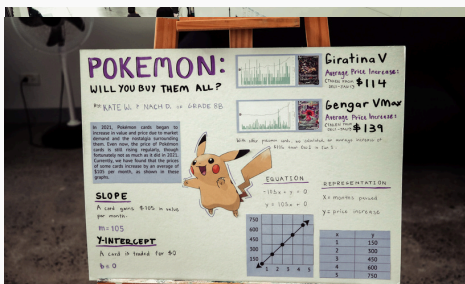
At Beacon Academy, we are committed to fostering a community that respects and supports the diverse faiths and traditions of our families, and it was a privilege to be part of this meaningful experience.



## GRADE 8 MATH SUMMATIVE | RECAP

Our Mathematics 8 Summative Assessment: Equation Expedition was a success! Students presented the world of slopes and intercepts, unraveling the mysteries behind each equation.

Thank you to everyone who participated and made this event an exciting journey into the world of math for our 8th graders.





## ATHLETIC UPDATES

It's been an exciting end to the month for sports in the Griffin community! Here are some updates on what's happened over the last few weeks and what's coming up ahead.

Last Saturday, March 29, Happy A. participated in the BSM Leg 2 Swimming Tournament, competing in the 50-meter freestyle, backstroke, and breaststroke, here she demonstrated great enthusiasm and true Griffin spirit.

The following day, March 30, the Griffin chess team competed in the "MISAA Chess Leg 2: Individual Tournament," with student-athletes participating in both the 14u and 19u categories. The Griffins performed exceptionally well, with all players in both divisions placing in the top 15. Notable performances included Zach C. (Grade 7), who earned a gold medal, Zac J. (Grade 8), who finished 5th in the 14u category, and Sandro Mendoza (Grade 10), who placed 4th in the 19u division.

On April 3, the Griffin football team played their final preliminary game of the MISAA 5v5 Football Tournament against Domuschola International School. The Griffins emerged victorious with a 5-2 win, securing second place in the rankings.

Lastly, other sports teams will be competing this Saturday, April 5, at Beacon School and Chinese International School Manila! Our Griffin basketball team will play their final game of the preliminary round against CISM. Later in the day, our Griffin volleyball teams will compete in the knockout rounds of their respective tournaments. The girls will face Domuschola International School (DIS)/Chinese International School Manila (CISM), the boys will go up against Fountain International School (FIS), and the mixed team will play against the third-ranked team.

With our teams vying for the top seed, the Griffins are soaring into the final stretch of the season with pride and determination—let's keep the momentum going! Go Griffins!

GAME  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**MISAA  
BASKETBALL**

APRIL 5, 2025

@ BEACON SCHOOL  
8:00 AM BA VS CISM**MISAA VOLLEYBALL**

APRIL 5, 2025

@ CISM

11:15 AM BOYS BA VS FIS  
1:45 PM GIRLS BA VS DIS/CISM  
4:15 PM MIXED BA VS #3

GO GRIFFINS!

## BA WOODPUSHERS CONQUER 2<sup>ND</sup> LEG OF MISAA CHESS

On March 30, 2025, 13 Beacon Academy chess players came prepared and ready to compete, playing their way to the top of the rankings. Jimmy M. (Grade 12), Patrick Dg. (Grade 11), Ysabel Dg. (Grade 11), Enzo C. (Grade 11), Phoenix G. (Grade 11), Nico F. (Grade 11), Sandro M. (Grade 10), and Criston Y. (Grade 10) all competed in Division 1. After five grueling rounds of chess, Beacon Academy finished with the most cumulative points, securing their place at the top.

In Division 2, the 14-and-under section, Zach C. (Grade 7) dominated with a perfect score of 5 out of 5. Zac J. (Grade 8) placed 5th with 4 points, while Joshua G. (Grade 7) and Nigel A. (Grade 7) finished in the 8th-14th range.

Leading up to the event, the chess team was trained and coached by Beacon Academy faculty members Roy Villegas and Josh Bersamina. Over 120 students from more than 10 schools participated in the event.



## BOOK REVIEW BY MS. Z

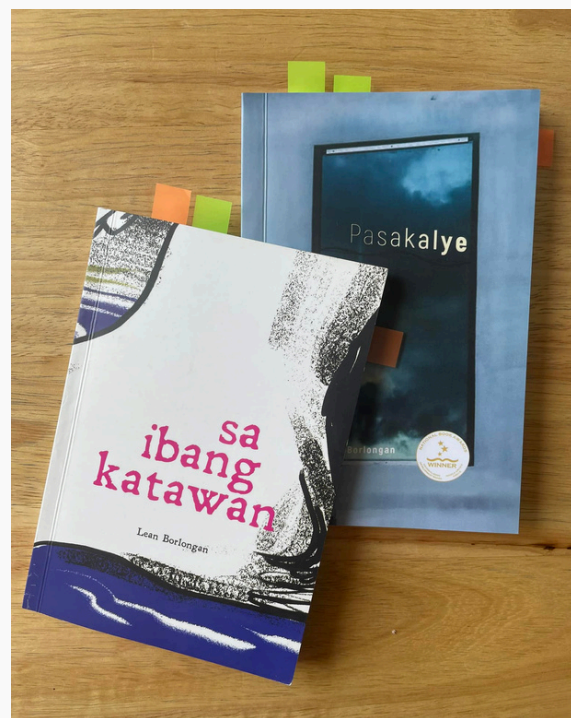
Natuwa ako nang makilala si Lean Borlongan sa Philippine Book Festival noong kamakalawa. Panelista kami sa isang talakayan tungkol sa pagkakasama-sama (inclusion) na inorganisa ng Indie Collab PH. Naging masaya at makabuluhan ang diskusyon.

Bago magsimula, bumili ako ng dalawa niyang aklat—mga koleksyon ng tula. Nagustuhan ko ang Pasakalye dahil maayos ang pagkaka-curate ng mga tula. May direksyon; may patutunguhan. Sa kanyang mga tula, dinala ako ni Lean pabalik sa aking pagkabata. Bumalik ang mga alaala ng hinagpis at saya sa aking paglaki at pagkamulat. Nakakaantig.

Isinunod ko ang Sa Ibang Katawan. Sa dedication page pa lang, kinilabutan na ako. Bumilib ako sa intertextuality ng aklat dahil, para sa akin, natumbok nito ang layuning ipakita at ibahagi ang buhay ng makata. Ang husay!

Makapangyarihan ang aklat na ito—kaya nitong buksan ang pusong sarado sa pang-unawa sa iba. Kung hindi man, guguluhin nito ang isip ng status quo. Sumakses ito sa layunin nito.

Mahihiram ninyo ang mga aklat ni Lean Borlongan sa ating aklatan! Malapit na!





## Beacon Academy Communications Protocols AY 2024-2025

Matters relating to....	Department / Email
<b>Students</b> Academic, School Life, Learning Support	Faculty Advisers / Homeroom Teachers
<b>IB Diploma Programme</b> Senior High School (G 11-12)	Iris Morga / DP Coordinator dpcoordinator@beaconacademy.ph
<b>IB Middle Years Programme</b> Junior High School (G 7-10)	Roy Villegas / MYP Coordinator mypcoordinator@beaconacademy.ph
<b>College &amp; Career Counseling</b>	Maricar Pascual / C&C Counselor maricar.pascual@beaconacademy.ph  Chinny Inumerable / C&C Counselor chinny.inumerable@beaconacademy.ph
<b>Mental Health &amp; Well-Being</b>	Din Mendoza / JHS Counselor din.mendoza@beaconacademy.ph  Vian Erasmo / SHS Counselor vian.erasmo@beaconacademy.ph
<b>Curriculum, Exams, &amp; Faculty</b>	Ceci Francisco / Dean of Faculty dof@beaconacademy.ph
<b>Student Conduct, Support, &amp; Activities</b>	Lui Morano / Dean of Students dos@beaconacademy.ph
<b>Health, Safety, &amp; Bus Services</b>	Luvim Encinares / Student Services Asst. studentservices@beaconacademy.ph
<b>School Records</b>	Marnell Lagan / School Registrar registrar@beaconacademy.ph
<b>Finance</b>	Lorna Sabino / Finance Manager finance@beaconacademy.ph
<b>School Leadership &amp; Policy</b> Child Protection Committee Committee on Decorum and Investigation	Mark Escaler / Head of School mark.escaler@beaconacademy.ph  Victor Villanueva / Deputy Head of School victor.villanueva@beaconacademy.ph

## Important: Eid al-Fitr has been moved to April 1

THE BEACON ACADEMY  
ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2024-2025

Semester 1 JULY 2024							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30	31			
Total No. of Days: 0							

AUGUST 2024							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2	3
1	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
3	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
4	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Total No. of Days: 19							

SEPTEMBER 2024							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
7	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9	29	30					
Total No. of days: 21							

OCTOBER 2024							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							1
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
3	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
4	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
5	30	31					
Total No. of Days: 17							

NOVEMBER 2024							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							1
4	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
6	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
7	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8	30						
Total No. of days: 20							

DECEMBER 2024							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30	31				
Total No. of days: 12							

Semester 2 JANUARY 2025							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
2	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
3	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
4	26	27	28	29	30	31	
Total No. of Days: 19							

FEBRUARY 2025							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
5	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
7	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8	23	24	25	26	27	28	
Total No. of days: 18							

MARCH 2025							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
9	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
2	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
3	30	31					
Total No. of days: 18							

APRIL 2025							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
4	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
5	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
6	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
7	27	28	29	30			
Total No. of days: 17							

MAY 2025							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
8	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
11	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Total No. of days: 21							

JUNE 2025							
Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30					
Total No. of days: 5							

## IMPORTANT DATES

Jun 10 - Jul 5

Jul 1

Jul 4

Jul 8 - Aug 1

Aug 2

Aug 2

Aug 5-9

Aug 13-14

Aug TBA

Aug 21

Aug 26

Sep 11

Sep 30 - Oct 4

Oct 7-11

Oct 14

Oct 15

Oct 21-26

Nov 1

Nov 2

Nov 20

Nov 30

Dec 8

Dec 9 - Dec 13

Dec 18 - Jan 3

Jan 6

Jan 20-25

Jan 29

Jan TBA

Feb 3

Feb 10

Mar 10 - 12

March 13 - 14

March 17

Mar 24 - Apr 4

Mar 31

Apr 7

Apr 9

Apr 16 - 20

Apr 21 - 25

Apr 28 - May 21

May 1

May 12

May 19 - 23

Jun 6

Campus Break

In-Service for All New Faculty

BA Leadership &amp; Management Returns

All Faculty In-Service

Start of Quarter 1

Parent and New Student Orientation

Classes Begin for All Students; Foundation Days

National Career Assessment Examination (NCAE) for Grade 10

National Achievement Test (Grade 11)

Special Non-Working Day: Ninoy Aquino Day

Regular Holiday: National Heroes Day

Early Release: Faculty Professional Development

MYP Exam Week

No Classes: Quarter Recess

No Classes: Faculty Professional Development

Start of Quarter 2

Parent-Teacher Conferences (Online)

Special Non-Working Day: All Saints' Day

Special Non-Working Day: All Souls' Day

Early Release: Faculty Professional Development

No Classes: Bonifacio Day

Special Non-Working Day: Feast of the Immaculate Conception

MYP/DP mid-year exam week

No Classes: Christmas/New Year Break

Start of Quarter 3

Parent-Teacher Conferences (Online)

No Classes: Chinese New Year

National Achievement Test (Grade 12)

No Classes: Binan Day

No Classes: Faculty Professional Development

MYP Exams

Quarter Recess

Start of Quarter 4

Grade 12 Mock Exams

Eid al-Fitr (TBC)

No Classes: Faculty Professional Development

Regular Holiday: Araw ng Kagitingan

No Classes: Easter Break

Grade 12 BA Pathway Exam Week

IB Diploma Examinations 2025

Regular Holiday: Labor Day

Philippine Elections 2025

MYP/DP Year-End Exam Week

Graduation Day; Last Day of School

Number of Class Days in the 1st Quarter: 44  
 Number of Class Days in the 2nd Quarter: 45  
 Number of Class Days in the 3rd Quarter: 45  
 Number of Class Days in the 4th Quarter: 53  
 Total Number of Class Days: 187

Updated 23 July 2024





## THE BEACON ACADEMY ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2025-2026

### Semester 1

Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			I	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30	31			

Total No. of Days: 0

### Semester 2

Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						I	2
1	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
3	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
4	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Total No. of Days: 19

### IMPORTANT DATES

**Campus Break**  
**BA Summer Program TBC**  
**BA Leadership & Management Returns**  
**BA New Faculty Orientation**  
**All Faculty In-Service**  
**Parent and New Student Orientation**

#### Start of Quarter 1

**Foundation Days**  
**Special Non-Working Day: Ninoy Aquino Day**  
**Regular Holiday: National Heroes Day**  
**MYP (Grades 7-10) 1st Quarter Examinations**

#### Quarter Recess

**Professional Development Day (No Classes)**

#### Start of Quarter 2

**Parent-Teacher Conferences (In-Person)**  
**Special Non Working Day: All Saints' Eve**  
**Special Non-Working Day: All Saints' Day**  
**Regular Holiday: Bonifacio Day**  
**Early Release: Faculty Professional Development**  
**Special Non-Working Day: Feast of the Immaculate Conception**  
**MYP (Grades 7-10); DP (Grades 11-12) Midyear Examinations**

**No Classes: Christmas/New Year Break**

#### Start of Quarter

**Parent-Teacher Conferences (Online)**  
**Professional Development Day (No Classes) \*\***  
**No Classes: Binan Day**  
**Chinese New Year TBC**  
**Early Release: Faculty Professional Development \*\***  
**Eid al Fitr TBC**  
**MYP (Grades 7-10) 3rd Quarter Examinations**  
**Easter Break**

#### Start of Quarter 4

**Regular Holiday: Araw ng Kagitingan**  
**Professional Development Day (No Classes) \*\***  
**IB Diploma Examinations 2026 TBC**  
**Regular Holiday: Labor Day**  
**MYP (Grades 7-10); DP (Grade 11) Year-end Examinations**

#### JHS Moving Up Day

**Graduation Day; Last Day of School**  
**Last Day of School**

Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							I
1	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
3	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
4	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31						

Total No. of Days: 17

Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							I
5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
7	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Total No. of days: 17

Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							I
5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
7	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9	29	30					

Total No. of days: 22

Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							I
9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
12	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30	31				

Total No. of days: 21

Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							I
10	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
12	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
13	26	27	28	29	30	31	
	0						

Total No. of Days: 18

Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							I
13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
15	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
16	26	27	28	29	30		
17							

Total No. of days: 17

Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							I
14	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
17	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30						

Total No. of days: 20

Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							I
19	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
20	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
21	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
22	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31						

Total No. of days: 20

Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							I
18	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
19	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
20	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30	31				

Total No. of days: 11

Week	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							I
23	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30					

Total No. of days: 9

Number of Class Days in the 1st Quarter: 44  
 Number of Class Days in the 2nd Quarter: 44  
 Number of Class Days in the 3rd Quarter: 57  
 Number of Class Days in the 4th Quarter: 46  
 Total Number of Class Days: 191

Updated 9 January 2024