



# Uncie's Update

**September 12, 2017**

## Principal's Message

Hello Everyone, and welcome back to another year at Uncas Elementary School! Our kids are settled in their new classrooms and already hard at work and play. I would like to send out a special 'welcome' to our new students and families, and am looking forward to getting know them in short order! We continue to grow, with over 200 students enrolled!

Our school community was very pleased to reveal the new Div 1 playground last week, and it along with our kids are getting a good workout together! It is a great addition to our school and we thank the PAC, our parents, Strathcona County, and the Alberta government for making it happen.

## PAC MEETING

The first meeting of the year is the Annual General Meeting, and will be held on Tuesday, September 12 at 6:15 – 6:45 pm in the library.

## MEET THE TEACHER

After the PAC meeting, parents and students are invited to Meet the Teacher in their classrooms and to tour the school from 6:45 – 7:45 pm.

## STAFF LIST

ECS	Mrs. Cordoviz, Ms. Gaumont
Grade 1	Mrs. Wyllie, Mrs. Siemens
Grade 1	Mrs. Hart
Grade 2	Mrs. Stokes
Grade 3	Miss Wiley
Grade 4	Ms. Hayes
Grade 5	Mrs. Hurl
Grade 5	Mrs. Chabot
Grade 6	Mr. Epp, Ms. Sawchuk, Mrs. Deacon
Music & Gr 5	Mrs. Hill
Counsellor	Mr. Cooper
Library	Miss Gamache
Office	Mrs. Miller
Principal	Mr. Keil
Noon Hour	
Supervisors	Mrs. Ewing, Ms. Davis

## TWITTER

Our school continues to utilize Twitter this year in our ongoing effort to enhance communications with families so follow us on Twitter @UncasSchool or, you can scan the QR code to set yourself up as a follower of the school Twitter system.



**Handouts sent home last week to be returned by Friday, September 8, 2017.**

### 1. Student Information Update

It is important for the school to have the current contact information about each student and family.

During the year, please advise the office of any changes in: address, babysitter, emergency contact, parent names, home or work phone numbers, or medical information.

### 2. Volunteers

We welcome volunteers to Uncas School. Each Volunteer must fill out a 'Confidentiality Undertaking For Volunteers' form

We have volunteer tags and lanyards for everyone and these can be picked up in the office. When you arrive to volunteer in the school, please ensure that you have signed in at our office and that you wear one of these tags. This helps us keep track of all the people in our school and to identify anyone quickly. Thank you for your cooperation.

### 3. Website Consent Forms

Consent on these forms is required to post student photos, grade or first name, last initial to the school website or social media accounts.

### Uncas Website

Just a reminder to check out our Uncas Elementary School website. It is located at [www.uncas.ca](http://www.uncas.ca). This website is updated regularly. As a result, you will be able to access photos, the Uncas Handbook, the School Education plan, Parent information, teacher web pages and current newsletters.

### IMPORTANT DATES

- Sept 12: PAC – AGM 6:15 pm  
Meet the Teacher  
6:45 – 7:45 pm
- Sept 18: **Entire School Picture Day**
- Sept 19: Bus Evacuation practice
- Sept 22: **ECS Yellow Team Picture Day**
- Sept 28: Terry Fox Run – 12:42 pm
- Oct 4: Early Dismissal 1:31 pm
- Oct 5: **No School** - Staff PD Day
- Oct 6: **No School** - Staff PD Day
- Oct 9: **No School** - Thanksgiving
- Oct 10: Tuesday - 1<sup>st</sup> Day Bus to Swim
- Oct 12: Thursday - 1<sup>st</sup> Day Bus to Swim
- Oct 16: ECS Red Team Bus Evacuation practice
- Oct 17: Tuesday - Bus to Swim
- Oct 18: P/T/S Interviews & Book Fair
- Oct 19: Picture Retake Day (AM only)
- Oct 19: P/T/S Interviews & Book Fair
- Oct 19: Thursday - Bus to Swim
- Oct 24: Tuesday - Bus to Swim
- Oct 26: Thursday - Bus to Swim
- Oct 27: Hallowe'en Dance
- Oct 31: Hallowe'en Parade 8:00 am
- Oct 31: Parent Sponsored Lunch
- Oct 31: Tuesday - Bus to Swim

### Student Absences

Please leave the necessary information on the **school answering machine**. If your child is absent and you have not phoned us by 8:30 a.m., Mrs. Miller will contact you. By keeping us informed of your child's school absence, you will assist us in efficiently dealing with all absences.



### Scent & Nut Related Alert

At Uncas we strive to be a “**Nut Aware & Scent Aware School**” as we have people with **Severe Nut and Scent allergies** in our building. All students are asked to refrain from bringing to school nut products (either peanut or tree nuts or nut substitutes such as WOW Butter or Nutella) to school. Thank you for respecting this initiative and sending nut free lunches to school!

### O Canada

We will be playing *O Canada* every morning during announcements. Just a reminder to students, staff and visitors that we need to stand quietly and respectfully in the halls while *O Canada* is playing.



### Sick Students at Recesses

In general, we encourage students who are too sick to go outside for recess to stay home until they are feeling better. In order to provide proper supervision for students who are feeling sick and come to school with a note to stay inside at recess, those students will spend their recesses in the infirmary doing their school work or reading a book.

### Student/Parent Handbook

Please refer to the first pages of your child's agenda book for more information related to the school. The agenda acts as a handy reference for bell times, school holidays, closure days, etc.

We hope students get in the habit of sharing the agenda with you on a daily basis, as it is a good communication tool between teachers and parents. It is also a great way for students to enhance their planning, organizational and study skills.

### Terry Fox Run

“In 1980 Terry Fox taught us a memorable lesson that: even in this complex world of ours, a single individual with a worthy cause and with sufficient courage and determination can have an enormous impact on the world about him. Terry had that kind of impact.” Brenda McClell, International Director of the Terry Fox Foundation.

Our traditional Terry Fox Run for Cancer Research will be held Thursday, September 28th. Students are encouraged to ‘bring a toonie for Terry’ in support of cancer research. Of course, any donation is welcomed. Students will start the run at 12:42 pm. Parents are welcome to participate or to volunteer in manning our route.

Please feel free to come and join the students for the Terry Fox Run.





**Bell Schedule – Regular day**

Period 1	7:58 – 8:30
Period 2	8:30 – 9:02
Period 3	9:02 – 9:34
Recess	9:34 - 9:47
Period 4	9:47– 10:19
Period 5	10:19 – 10:51
Period 6	10:51 – 11:23
Lunch	11:23– 11:40
Lunch Recess	11:40 – 12:10
Period 7	12:10– 12:42
Period 8	12:42 – 1:14
Recess	1:14 – 1:27
Period 9	1:27 - 1:59
Period 10	1:59 - 2:31

**Bell Schedule – Early Out Day**



Period 1	7:58 – 8:25
Period 2	8:25 – 8:52
Period 3	8:52 – 9:19
Recess	9:19 – 9:32
Period 4	9:32 – 9:59
Period 5	9:59 – 10:26
Period 6	10:26 –10:53
Lunch	10:53 –11:10
Lunch Recess	11:10 –11:30
Period 7	11:30 –11:57
Period 8	11:57– 12:24
Recess	12:24 –12:37
Period 9	12:37– 1:04
Period 10	1:04 – 1:31

**Transportation**



If you need to make special bussing arrangements for your child, **please contact the Student Transportation Department at 780-417-8151 and they will forward the request to the bus driver** as we **CANNOT** accept notes or phone calls as official requests.

Please call the school **before 2:00 p.m.** so that we are aware of the changes as well.

**Quick Facts: EIPS buses are all equipped with video surveillance**

Did you know each EIPS bus is equipped with video surveillance? The video surveillance and equipment helps:

- ensure the safety of all students, drivers and property; and
- deter from destructive acts.

On a regular basis, EIPS Student Transportation reviews the video recordings, in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIP). The recordings assist the department with monitoring student and driver conduct, and may be used as evidence in a disciplinary matter.

For more information about the collection, use and disclosure of personal information, contact the EIPS FOIP co-ordinator at 780-464-3477.



## Safety Reminders

At Uncas School, we do whatever we can to ensure that our students are safe.

- Please ensure that the office has current emergency phone numbers.
- Please ensure that you have advised the office about any medical conditions (including allergies). If your child requires special medication at school, please submit a 'Medication/Personal Care Request and Authorization Form' to the office.
- Please call the school office if your child is going to be absent or late. We do a child check, but it is very time-consuming to call the homes that have not telephoned in advance.
- The main doors will always be open during school hours. The main doors will be locked at approximately at 3:00 pm. The side doors are always locked during the school day.
- Unfamiliar visitors will be approached by staff to verify their purpose in the school.
- Volunteers working in the school will complete a volunteer form as required by Elk Island Public Schools and will wear a volunteer name tag for identification.
- All visitors are asked to check in at the office prior to proceeding to classrooms.
- Emergency drills for fire, severe weather, toxic spill and lock-

down will take place during the course of the year.

## Student School Supplies and Personal Property

As part of your back to school planning and shopping we hope you are taking the time to use a permanent marker to label all of your child's belongings. Trust us when we say all the boots look the same! It is always amazing at interview time to see all of the lost items displayed. Without labelling, it is often difficult to help our forgetful little ones find their jackets and boots. We also appreciate the purchasing of indoor running shoes that do not leave rubber streaks on floors.



We do not encourage the bringing of electronic MP3 players, game systems, cell phones and toys to school. We cannot guarantee that these items will not be stolen or damaged. Students who do bring these items to school need to take full responsibility for them. They may be used on the bus only, and stored in lockers throughout the day unless the teacher okays the item for occasional educational applications in the classroom.



### Pay School Fees Online!

School fee information for the 2017-18 school year is expected to be posted on the PowerSchool Parent Portal by early October. All fees are due within 30 days of being posted. To access your fee information, simply log in to the PowerSchool Parent Portal and go to "Student Fees." There you can view your fees and pay them online using Visa, MasterCard or INTERAC Online—when available from your financial institution.

Don't forget to log in to the PowerSchool Parent Portal regularly throughout the year. Fees are often added to your child's account to cover the cost of various school activities such as field trips, class projects, athletic-team fees and more.

If circumstances exist where you are unable to pay your student fees you can apply to have fees waived by submitting an Application for a Waiver of Fees. The application deadline is Dec. 15, 2017.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines visit [www.eips.ca/schools/fees](http://www.eips.ca/schools/fees). Alternatively, contact Mrs. Miller at Uncas Elementary at 780-922-4025.

### Sync the School Calendar to Your Personal Calendar

Did you know you can sync the school calendar to your own personal calendar? You can. Just visit [uncas.ca](http://uncas.ca) and click on one of the following calendar options you want to subscribe to:

- Add to Google Calendar
- Subscribe to Calendar (Outlook)
- Download iCal

**NOTE:** Using a mobile device, these options are located above the calendar. Using a computer, these options are located below the calendar.

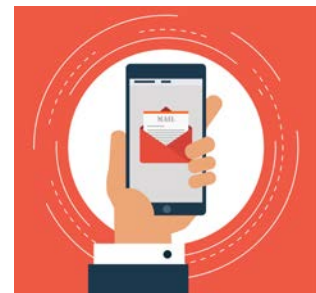
Once you click on the calendar option you want to subscribe to, follow the instructions. Within seconds, your personal calendar will contain all of Uncas Elementary important dates including holidays, school-closures days, planned activities, events and more.

### Stay Connected:

#### Subscribe to our news

Want to stay up-to-date on the latest news and events taking place at your school? Make sure to subscribe to Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) email distribution list. Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) now requires the Division to have direct consent before engaging in electronic communication with its families. If you haven't yet subscribed, simply visit [www.eips.ca/contact/synrevoice](http://www.eips.ca/contact/synrevoice).

As soon as you sign up and confirm, you'll begin receiving Division- and school-related news—newsletters, information about upcoming events, parent and community engagement opportunities, important school-based updates and more.



**NOTE:** Even if you're not subscribed, you will continue to receive emails regarding emergency situations and financial matters. Those who received notifications about high school attendance will also continue to receive those messages.

EIPS appreciates your co-operation in ensuring its distribution lists are compliant with CASL and you continue to receive only the information you feel is important

### Improving Home-School Communication

To enhance communication between families and schools, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) has developed a how-to guide entitled, "Communication Protocol for Schools." Topics include appropriate channels to use, standard formats and structures, timing and sequencing for regular and ongoing home-school communication, and ways to bring forward questions or concerns.

Additionally, the manual offers useful tools and resources schools and families can use to enhance face-to-face meetings, emails and any social media efforts. The "Communication Protocol for Schools" is available at [www.eips.ca/download/40981](http://www.eips.ca/download/40981).

### Enhancing literacy and numeracy

As part of Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) ongoing efforts to enhance the literacy and numeracy of students in all grade levels, the Division is once again planning to administer two assessment tools during the 2017-18 school year—STAR 360 and Math Intervention/Programming Instrument (MIPI). The tools focus on literacy and numeracy, are digitally based and offer an opportunity for students to demonstrate their learning. The goal: to

provide timely information to teachers, help enhance classroom instruction and ensure student learning needs are identified.

In September and May, EIPS students in grades 2 through 12 will complete the STAR 360 assessment, which evaluates reading comprehension. Grade 1 students will take the STAR 360 exam in October. The assessment takes approximately 20 minutes and can be taken on any digital device. Also in September, students in grades 2 through 10 will complete the MIPI assessment, which is a mathematic screening tool used to inform teachers about a student's math skills. For students in grades 7 through 10, the MIPI takes approximately 50 minutes and for students in grades 2 through 6 it takes approximately 20 minutes. The results of each offers the teacher a clearer picture about a student's learning needs and helps determine if subsequent instructional planning is required.

The scores of the assessments are not used towards a student's grade and there is no need to study ahead of time. They simply provide the teacher with information to better understand where each student is in terms of reading comprehension and mathematic ability. If, after analyzing the results, it's determined a student can benefit from extra support, the teacher will contact the family to discuss possible support strategies.

For more information about the Division's STAR 360 and MIPI assessment tools, contact Deb Barron, the director of Learning Supports, at 780-464-3477.

