



Uncie's Update

October 4, 2017



Important Dates

- Oct 4 - Early Dismissal 1:31 pm
- Oct 5 & 6 - No School – PD Day
- Oct 9 - No School - Thanksgiving
- Oct 10 - Hot Lunch
- Oct 10 - Tuesday Bus to Swim begins
- Oct 10 - PAC Meeting 6:15pm
- Oct 12 - Thursday Bus to Swim begins
- Oct 17 - Hot Lunch
- Oct 17 - Tuesday Bus to Swim
- Oct 18 & 19 - P/T/S Interviews & Book Fair
- Oct 19 - Picture Retake (Morning only)
- Oct 19 - Thursday Bus to Swim
- Oct 24 - Hot Lunch
- Oct 24 - Tuesday Bus to Swim
- Oct 26 - Thursday Bus to Swim
- Oct 27 - Hallowe'en Dance 6:30 - 9:00 pm
- Oct 31 - Hallowe'en Parade 8:00am
- Oct 31 - Parent Sponsored lunch
- Oct 31 - Tuesday Bus to Swim
- Nov 1 - Early out 1:31 pm
- Nov 1 - Pizza Day
- Nov 2 - Thursday Bus to Swim
- Nov 3 - Movie Night
- Nov 5 - Daylight Savings Ends: "Fall Back"



Principal's Message

It has been a great start at Uncas School this year, and we are growing! Our enrolment at the end of September was 206 students!

Our Parent Advisory Council Executive was chosen at the AGM in September to serve in their leadership roles for the upcoming year. Many thanks to Laura Rasmussen and Tiffany McDonald (Co-

Chairs), Elyse Chatterton (Secretary) and Cassandra MacLean (Treasurer) for their service to our school community. The next PAC meeting Tuesday, October 10 at 6:15 pm in the Library. Hopefully you can come out and join us.

The Running Club participated in it's third and final cross country race of the season today. Approximately 40 students under the guidance of coaches Miss Wiley and Mrs. Stokes got in shape, competed, and enjoyed being part of our team. Way to go runners and we look forward to the Running Room games in the early spring. The Club lead the way in our annual Terry Fox Run, and all students and staff as well as many parents took part in the run. We also raised \$530.30 for the Terry Hope Foundation!

Thank you to all special guests, many of whom were parents, who joined us for ReadIn Week, which was celebrated in schools across Alberta in the first week of October. Any time we can celebrate and emphasize the life skill of reading is an opportunity that we like to share!

Online Interview Booking

Please go to our school website (<http://www.uncas.ca>), and on the 'Home page' you can click on the link provided to book your upcoming Parent / Teacher / Student interviews online. If you have an questions about the process, please contact the office! Interviews go

October 18 and 19th, from 3:00 to 7:20 pm. We also have our Book Fair on those dates, so be sure to drop by the library and view the wealth of exciting reading materials and other items available for sale as a fundraiser for the school library collection!

Emergency Drills to Keep Us Safe!

1. Emergency Drills

At Uncas School we work diligently to keep our students and staff safe by discussing and then practicing a variety of emergency drills. Most likely, parents would recall Emergency Evacuation Fire Drills in which they participated when they themselves were students. There are however other drills that deal with Weather, Chemical, and Intruder scenarios. Our entire school gathered in the gym to discuss the situations that could lead to each emergency and how we would deal with them, followed by a practice of the related drills.

At the end of September our school underwent Bus Evacuation Drills, and ECS students participated in the Little Elk Island Bus Adventure, designed by our District to introduce them into bus safety do's and don'ts.

Uncas students and staff are prepared!

2. School Bus Safety Week: October 15–21

Schools throughout Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) are celebrating School Bus Safety Week October 15–21. The theme: Rider Rules = Safe to School, which is all about teaching children about proper school bus safety. Throughout the week, various activities are planned including information sessions, bus safety lesson plans and bus-evacuations drills.

As part of School Bus Safety Week, we'd like to remind our students and our families all EIPS school buses are equipped with both a bus-pass scanner and GPS technology, which allow Student Transportation to better monitor and manage its more than 170 buses and 600 bus routes. Thanks to this technology, parents and students also have access to the Versatrans My Stop app, a mobile tool to help determine the location of a bus, projected arrival times and when a child scanned onto a bus.

More information about School Bus Safety Week and EIPS Student Transportation services can be found by visiting www.eips.ca/transportation or by contacting Student Transportation (780-417-8151, st@eips.ca) directly.

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.



3. Allergies and Medical Alerts

If your child has a severe allergy or medical condition which could lead to an emergency during the school day, please inform the school office so that we may notify the staff.

4. Medication

If medication is to be administered to your child at school, a form must be completed by the parent/guardian. The medication must be brought to school in the **original** container. Please request a form from the office. Forms must be completed on a yearly basis, even if your child has taken the same medication during previous years.

5. Cold Weather

The cold weather will soon be upon us. It is important that children are dressed

appropriately for the weather. Students will go outside for all three recesses unless the temperature is below -20 C. We will also take into account the wind chill factor to determine the danger of frostbite in the colder weather.



Messages in the Office

Please remember that if you are calling to leave a message for your child, especially one regarding a change of plans for after school care or transport, it would be sincerely appreciated if you could call **BEFORE 2:00 p.m.** It can become very busy after this time and thus, extremely difficult to deliver messages.

Student Transportation

Just a reminder that students only ride on their assigned bus. Exceptions may be granted upon written request from the parents to the Director of Student

Transportation for child care purposes. In emergency situations, parents need to contact Student Transportation to request alternate arrangements.

Halloween Reminders

As we look to October, Halloween is fast approaching. Here are a few things to think about ...

Remember that many candy and chocolate bars contain nuts, so we would ask you to remember to avoid sending these treats to school in keeping with our "NUT AWARE" policy. This will also cut down on the amount of litter in our school and on our school ground.

Our costume parade will take place at 8:00am on Tuesday, October 31. Children are invited to wear their costumes to school and will be encouraged to take them off after the parade.



Please remember that we do not allow weapons or guns of any type to accompany student's costumes. We also encourage "fun" costumes and discourage violent or bloody character costumes.

The **Uncas Halloween Dance** will be held on **Friday, October 27th!** Information from the Parent Committee has been sent out.



Uncas Book Fair



YEEHAW!! The Wild West book fair is coming to Uncas on October 18-19 from 3-7 pm. Come support our library and wrangle up some books that kids love.

There is also a chance for a student to win \$25 in books and \$25 for their classroom! The winner will be announced during morning recess on Thursday, so please get those entries in early to the library. Can't wait to see you there!

Pay School Fees Online!

School fee information for the 2017-18 school year is now posted on the PowerSchool Parent Portal. 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 also 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. Alternatively, contact Mrs. Miller at Uncas Elementary at 780-922-4025.

SAY CHEESE!



Picture Retakes

Photo retakes will take place on **October 19th** in the morning. Please mark this date on your calendar.

Please return your child's picture form indicating that you would like your child to have picture retakes.

Follow us on Twitter!



At Uncas School we are connecting with students and families via Twitter! Receive **INSTANT** updates on our school and your Div 2 child's class on your Smartphone without having to search the web!

Here are some easy steps to help you get connected:

- Download the free Twitter app
- "Follow" us:
 - @UncasSchool,
 - @UncasLibrary,
 - @UncasGrade4,
 - @UncasGrade5,
 - @UncasGradeSix
- On your Smartphone, be sure to allow Notifications to receive updates right away!



Celebrating World Teachers' Day: October 5

October 5 is World Teachers' Day! Launched in 1994 by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Teachers' Day is celebrated annually around the world as a way to recognize teachers and the integral role they play in providing quality education to students. On October 5, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) encourages all of its students, parents and community members to show their appreciation for their teachers and the positive impact they make on our lives.

EIPS extends its heartfelt thank you to all its teachers for their dedication, hard work and commitment in guiding and educating our students through their Kindergarten to Grade 12 years.

Read In Week takes place October 2-6

Read In Week 2017 returns on October 2-6. The theme for this year is I'm a Reader! I Read for Me!. Through various activities, students will spend the week learning how stories have the power to teach lessons, broaden perspectives and foster empathy. Some of the activities planned for Read in Week include: Volunteer Readers from the community are coming in to read in the classrooms. Students have "Buddy Read" time as well as the D.E.A.R. (drop everything and read) 15 time period during the day.

Read In Week is a Division-wide initiative held annually to encourage a lifelong love of reading and to enhance literacy awareness among students, staff, parents and community members. We invite all our families to participate in

Read In Week with us either by reading yourself, with your child or with someone in the community.

And, don't forget to share what you've learned throughout the week using the hashtag #eipsreads. We hope you discover some amazing stories.

Literacy and Learning Day

This year's Literacy and Learning Day Conference takes place at the Northlands Expo Centre on October 28. The event is a fun-filled day for both parents and teachers, and includes various keynote speakers and free workshops. Participants are guaranteed to walk away with new strategies, tools and resources to support children as they grow and learn. The conference is free and everyone is welcome. For more information, or to register, visit www.literacyday.ca.



REMINDER: Make head checks for lice a regular routine!

Head lice is one of the most common problems faced by school-aged children and their families. Typically, head lice are tiny, greyish brown insects that live on the scalp and lay their eggs, or nits, in the hair close to the scalp—itching is the main complaint. Lice don't jump from head to head nor are they dangerous. Having a head lice infestation, however, can cause stress, anxiety and hardship for staff, students and parents. As such, it's essential each of our families do their part at home by undertaking weekly routine head checks and, if head lice and nits are found, physically removing them.

While head lice prevention and control is primarily the responsibility of the parent, the school does work discreetly with the teacher, students and families to prevent further transmission. To prevent the spread of head lice, we strongly encourage you to speak to your child about preventative behaviour such as avoiding head-to-head contact and not sharing combs, hats, pillows and hair accessories. It's also important to teach children not to tease other students about head lice—anyone can get head lice. If head lice are found on your child, notify the school, physically remove the lice and nits using the proper lice comb, and keep your child home until all signs of active head lice are gone.

For more information about head lice prevention and treatment, visit www.eips.ca/parents/health-safety-information/head-lice. Alternatively, you can contact the school at 780-922-4025.

Municipal Election 2017: Vote October 16

Strathcona County's Election Day is Monday, Oct. 16, 2017. Polls open as early as 9 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. If you can't vote during those times, there's also the option of advance voting and voting by special ballot. To learn more about the election and candidates running—for mayor, reeve, councillor and public school trustee—visit:

Fort Saskatchewan:

www.fortsask.ca/city-government/city-council/2017-municipal-election

Lamont County:

www.lamontcounty.ca/Election-2017

Minburn County:

<http://minburncounty.ab.ca/2017-election/>

Strathcona County:

www.strathcona.ca/election

EIPS School Trustees:

www.eips.ca

