



Uncie's Update

October 4, 2018

Important Dates

- Oct 2 - Hot Lunch
- Oct 2 - PAC Meeting 6:15pm
- Oct 3 - Early Dismissal 1:31 pm
- Oct 3 - X-Country Run Rundle Park 4:45pm
- Oct 4 - 1st Bus to Swim
- Oct 5 - No School - PD Day
- Oct 8 - No School - Thanksgiving
- Oct 9 - Picture Retake
- Oct 9 - Hot Lunch
- Oct 11 - Bus to Swim
- Oct 15-19 Strathcona Shoe Drive
- Oct 16 - Hot Lunch
- Oct 17 & 18 - P/T/S Interviews & Book Fair
- Oct 18 - Bus to Swim
- Oct 18 - Ambulance Visit
- Oct 18 - EIPS Bus Evacuation 1:30
- Oct 23 - Hot Lunch
- Oct 25 - Bus to Swim
- Oct 26 - Hallowe'en Dance 6:30 - 9:00 pm
- Oct 30 - Hot Lunch
- Oct 31 - Hallowe'en Parade 8:00am
- Oct 31 - Parent Sponsored lunch
- Nov 1 - Bus to Swim
- Nov 4 - Daylight Savings Ends: "Fall Back"



Principal's Message

What an excellent start to the 2018-2019 school year! The month of September flew by and had many successful events such as Meet the Teacher, The Terry Fox Run and our Cross Country Team doing great at three races. See deeper in the newsletter for some race

results. 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.

Thank you to all special guests, many of whom were parents, who joined us for Read In 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 it is an opportunity that we like to share!

Looking ahead we have parent teacher interviews October 17th and 18th and the Halloween Dance on October 26th from 6:30 to 9:00.

At this time I would like to thank Parent Advisory Council for all the fantastic things they do for Uncas Elementary and the community as a whole. A month in, and I am still learning the extent of their work including supporting teachers in the classroom, making hot lunch happen, the milk program, many fund raisers, funding field trips, community care in the form of presentations and looking after those in need of support and well the list is too long for this article. Again thank you!



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. 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.

3. 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.

4. School Bus Safety Week:

October 22-26

Schools throughout Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) are celebrating School Bus Safety Week October 22-26. The theme: School Bus...Bully Free Zone, which is all about promoting the importance of healthy relationship among students, staff and school bus operators. Throughout the week, various activities are planned including information sessions, bus-safety lesson plans and bus-evacuation 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.



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 Wednesday, October 31.



Children are invited to wear their costumes to school and will be encouraged to take them off after the parent sponsored lunch.

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 26th!** Information from the Parent Committee has been sent out.





Uncas Book Fair

On October 17 & 18 from 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., come to our enchanted Scholastic Book Fair! Show your support for our library by getting the Scholastic's most magical books and helping us earn \$3,000. As always, we will be having our door prize contest, where one lucky student will win \$25 dollars worth of books for themselves and their classroom! The winner will be announced early on October 19, so please get those entries in early to the library.

If anyone would like to help out with the fair, please contact Ms. Gamache in the library. We would love some extra hands with setting up the fair on the 17th, and taking down the fair on the 19th.

Happy Reading!

Ms. L. Gamache



Picture Retakes

Photo retakes will take place on **October 9th** 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.

Read In Week took place October 1-5.

Read In Week 2018 returned on October 1. The theme for this year was Bringing Books to Life. Through various activities, students learned how stories live on, even when the book is finished. Some of the activities we planned for Read In Week included:

- Volunteer Readers from the community came in to read in the classes.
- Students have "Buddy Read" time as well as the D.E.A.R. (drop everything and read)

Read In Week is a Divisionwide 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.



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/programs-services/healthy-schools/head-lice.

Pay School Fees Online!

School fee information for the 2018-19 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 fees, you can apply to have [fees waived](#) by submitting an [Application for a Waiver of Fees](#). The application deadline is Dec. 15, 2018.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines, visit www.eips.ca/schools/fees or contact Colleen Miller at Uncas Elementary at 780-922-4025.



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 students, families 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.

