



Uncie's Update

September 9, 2016



Principal's Message

Hello Everyone, and welcome back to another year at Uncas Elementary School! I hope that you had a fabulous summer and are ready to rejoin your friends and friends-to-be in your new classrooms! 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!

STAFF LIST

ECS	Mrs. Cordoviz
	Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Engels
Grade 1	Mrs. Wyllie
Grade 1-2	Ms. McIntosh
Grade 2	Mrs. Stokes
Grade 3	Miss Wiley
Grade 3, 4	Mrs. Soltys
Grade 4	Ms. Hayes, Mrs. Siemens
Grade 5	Mrs. Hurl, Ms. Sawchuk
Grade 6	Mr. Epp, Mrs. Deacon
Music & Gr 5	Mrs. Hill
Counsellor	Ms. Fedor
Library	Miss O'Gorman
Office	Mrs. Miller
Principal	Mr. Keil
Noon Hour	
Supervisors	Mrs. Ewing, Ms. Yurko, Ms. Davis

(We are looking to hire a couple of supervisors to serve on a substitute basis, so please contact the office if you are interested.)

PAC MEETING

The first meeting of the year is the Annual General Meeting, and will be held on Tuesday, September 13 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.

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.



WASP TRAPS

Wasps are out in full force this fall, and so we will make some traps out of 2L pop bottles to help control their numbers. If you have any 2L plastic pop bottles you could drop off we would appreciate it.



Handouts sent home this week are to be returned by Friday, September 9, 2016.

1. Student Information Update

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

Please check the information carefully, sign and return the form to the school by Friday, September 9. 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.

4. Report Card iCloud Consent Form



Uncas Website

Just a reminder to check out our Uncas Elementary School website. It is located at 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 13: PAC – AGM 6:15 pm
Meet the Teacher
6:45 – 7:45 pm
- Sept 29: Terry Fox Run – 12:42 pm
- Sept 30: Bus Evacuation practice
- Oct 3: **Entire School Picture Day**
- Oct 3: P/T/S Interview Scheduling open
- Oct 4: **ECS Yellow Team Picture Day (afternoon)**
- Oct. 4: 1st Hot Lunch
- Oct 5: Early Dismissal 1:31 pm
- Oct 6: **No School** - Staff PD Day
- Oct 7: **No School** - Staff PD Day
- Oct 10: **No School** - Thanksgiving
- Oct 11: Hot Lunch
- Oct 11: Tuesday - 1st Day Bus to Swim
- Oct 11: PAC Meeting – 6:15 pm
- Oct 13: Thursday - 1st Day Bus to Swim
- Oct 18: Hot Lunch
- Oct 18: Tuesday - Bus to Swim
- Oct 19: P/T/S Interviews & Book Fair
- Oct 20: P/T/S Interviews & Book Fair
- Oct 20: Thursday - Bus to Swim
- Oct 25: Hot Lunch
- Oct 25: Tuesday - Bus to Swim
- Oct 26: Picture Retake Day (AM only)
- Oct 27: Thursday - Bus to Swim
- Oct 28: Hallowe'en Dance
- Oct 31: Hallowe'en Parade 8:00 am
- Oct 31: Parent Sponsored Lunch

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.



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.

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 McClew, International Director of the Terry Fox Foundation.

Our traditional Terry Fox Run for Cancer Research will be held Thursday, September 29th. 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

**Learning Resource Fees
2015-2016**

Grade 1 – 6

Learning Resource Fee	\$50.00
Noon supervision	\$70.00
Agenda	<u>\$15.00</u>
Total	\$135.00

Kindergarten

Learning Resource Fee	\$25.00
Noon Hour Supervision	\$40.00
Agenda	\$15.00
Activity Fee	<u>\$75.00</u>
Total	\$155.00

Pay School Fees Online

School fee information for the 2016–2017 school year will be available on the PowerSchool Parent Portal by Sept. 19, 2016. All fees are due within 30 days of being posted.

To access your fee information, simply login to your PowerSchool Parent Portal account (<https://powerschool.eips.ca/public/home.html>) and click the tab entitled, “Student Fees.” Once logged in, you will be able to view and pay fees online using Visa, MasterCard or INTERAC Online (if available from your financial institution).

Remember to regularly login to your PowerSchool Parent Portal throughout the year. Fees are often added to your child’s account to cover the cost of various school activities including field trips, class projects, athletic-team fees, and more.



For more information about school fees and payment deadlines visit www.eips.ca/schools/school-fees/acorn. Alternatively, you can contact **Mrs. Miller** at **780-922-4025**.

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 Fact: Student Transportation

All Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) buses are equipped with video surveillance equipment. The equipment helps to ensure the safety of all students, drivers and property; to deter destructive acts and is in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIP). The video surveillance equipment records and stores several days' worth of data. Both video and audio recordings are regularly reviewed by EIPS Student Transportation to help monitor 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, please contact the EIPS FOIP co-ordinator at 780-417-8266.

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.

They're here: New report cards!

Uncas Elementary is pleased to be piloting Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) new elementary report card this year. Developed by EIPS, the report card is exceptionally well-designed and intended to clearly communicate student achievement to parents and guardians. Long-term, the new report card will help to enhance the quality of education within EIPS by building strong partnerships among students, teachers, and parents.

As many of you know, EIPS established a Communicating Student Learning committee in 2014. The committee was made up of parents, teachers, administrators, trustees, and central office staff. Using feedback from close to 1,000 parents and 400 principals and teachers, the committee worked to create an innovative system that reports academic achievement levels and learner attributes.

Similar to the previous report card, students will still be assessed in all areas of the current programs of studies. What will be new is the way in which student learning is reported. The current EPAL scale will no longer be used. Instead, teachers will be using a clear and parent-friendly five-point numeric scoring scale to indicate student achievement.

Additionally, the report card allows teachers to share personalized information about each student in relation to learner attributes, areas of strength, areas for growth, and next steps.

Uncas Elementary is excited about this new method of communicating student learning—it's innovative, inclusive, and based on what stakeholders have indicated they want to see in a reporting system.

An information session about the report card can be found on our school website.

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.

Improving Home-School Communication

To enhance communication between families and schools, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) has created a manual entitled, "Communication Protocol for Schools." The manual provides a framework for communication between EIPS schools and its families, and includes a standard format, structure and sequence for regular and ongoing home-school communication within the Division. It also offers useful tools and resources schools can use when planning their communication efforts, such as face-to-face meetings, email, Synvoice and social media. Additionally, the manual provides a process parents or guardians can use if they need to bring forward a question or concern.

Uncas Elementary encourages all our families to review the document. The "Communication Protocol for Schools" is available by visiting www.eips.ca/download/40981.

Literacy and Learning Day

The 14th annual Literacy and Learning Day Conference takes place on Oct. 22, 2016 at the Edmonton Expo Centre. The event is a fun-filled day for both parents and teachers, and includes various free workshops and keynote speakers.

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.

New to Elk Island Public Schools: Tools to enhance 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 introducing two new assessment tools during the 2016–2017 school year—STAR 360 and Math Intervention/Programming Instrument (MIPI). The assessments focus on literacy and numeracy, are digitally based and offer an opportunity for students to show their learning in ways not possible with paper-based tests. The goal is to provide timely information to teachers, help enhance classroom instruction and ensure all 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 February. The assessment takes approximately 20 minutes and can be taken on any digital device. Also in September, students in grades 2 through 10 will take 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 to complete and for students in grades 2 through 6 it takes approximately 20 minutes. The results of each assessment give the teacher a clearer picture of a student's learning needs and help determine if any subsequent instructional planning is needed.

It's important to note, the results of the assessments will not be used towards a student's grade and there is no need to study ahead of time. The assessment tools simply provide information to the teacher so he or she can 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 parent or guardian to discuss possible strategies to be used to better support students.

No reports of results will be sent home. If parents have a question about their child's results they can contact the school.

Should you require more information about the Division's STAR 360 and MIPI assessment tools, please contact Deb Barron, the director of Learning Supports, at 780-417-8160.

