



# Uncie's Update

October 12, 2016



## Important Dates

Oct 11 - Hot Lunch  
Oct 11 - PAC Meeting 6:15 pm  
Oct 11 - Tuesday Bus to Swim begins  
Oct 13 - Thursday Bus to Swim begins  
Oct 14 - Blue Days for Blue Jays!  
Oct 18 - Hot Lunch  
Oct 18 - Tuesday Bus to Swim  
Oct 19 & 20 - P/T/S Interviews & Book Fair  
Oct 20 - Thursday Bus to Swim  
Oct 24 - Tickets for Hallowe'en Dance due  
Oct 25 - Hot Lunch  
Oct 25 - Tuesday Bus to Swim  
Oct 26 - Picture Retake (Morning only)  
Oct 27 - Thursday Bus to Swim  
Oct 28 - Hallowe'en Dance 6:30 - 9:00 pm  
Oct 31 - Hallowe'en Parade 8:00am  
Oct 31 - Parent Sponsored lunch  
Nov 1 - Tuesday Bus to Swim  
Nov 1 - Hot Lunch  
Nov 2 - Pizza Day  
Nov 2 - Early out 1:31 pm  
Nov 3 - Thursday Bus to Swim  
Nov 6 - Daylight Savings Ends: "Fall Back"



## Principal's Message

It has been a great start at Uncas School this year, and once again we are close to 200 students enrolled!

The following Parent Advisory Council Executive members were returned at the AGM in September to serve in their leadership roles for another year; many thanks to Laura Rasmussen (Chair), Elyse Chatterton (Secretary) and Cassandra MacLean (Treasurer) for

continuing their service to our school community. The PAC met yesterday evening, and will meet again on November 22. Hopefully you can come out and join us.

The Running Club participated in it's third and final cross country race of the season last week. 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 an amazing \$1728.65 for the Terry Hope Foundation!

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 is an opportunity that we like to share!

## 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 17–21

Schools throughout Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) are celebrating School Bus Safety Week October 17–21. The theme: Know the Zone, which is all about teaching children the danger areas surrounding the bus. 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 allows 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/student-tran](http://www.eips.ca/student-tran) or by contacting Student Transportation (780-417-8151, [st@eips.ca](mailto:st@eips.ca)) directly.

## 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.

### 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 any questions about the process, please contact the office! Interviews go October 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 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!

### Picture Retakes

Photo retakes will take place on **October 26<sup>th</sup>** 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:

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

### 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 Monday, 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.

Cut this paragraph out, print your name on it and return it to the office by October 18th for a chance to win a family swim pass to Millennium Place.

The **Uncas Halloween Dance** will be held on **Friday, October 28th!** Information from the Parent Committee has been sent out.

**School Fees**

School fees can now be paid on line by accessing the EIPS PowerSchool Parent Portal.

The following are the total fees that should be paid for each grade group.

**Grades 1 - 6:**

Learning Resource Fees	\$50.00
Noon Hour Supervision	\$70.00
Agenda	<u>\$15.00</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$135.00</b>

**Kindergarten:**

Learning Resource Fees	\$25.00
Noon Hour Supervision	\$40.00
Agenda	\$15.00
Arts & Crafts Fee	<u>\$75.00</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$155.00</b>

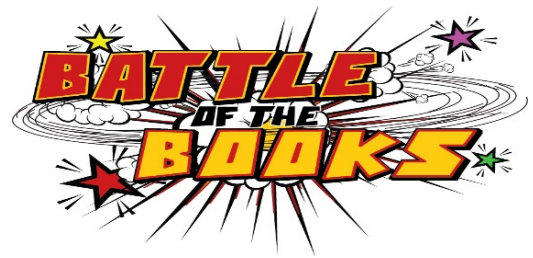
These school fees are due on or before **October 31**. Thank you for looking after these school fees.

**Uncas Book Fair**

ARRRG the pirates will invade the Book Fair on October 19 and October 20 from 3 -7 pm! Please come and support our Library and save the books from the Pirates! If you have a student in preschool please come check us out in the Library when you come pick up your child.

There is also a chance to win \$25 for your family and \$25 for your classroom! Flyers for the Book Fair will come home with students early on in the week. If there are any reorders they will arrive on November 1<sup>st</sup> and Ms. O'Gorman will deliver them to classrooms.

It's never too early to get started on your Christmas shopping.



Dear Parents or Guardians,

We are very excited to announce the return of the Glen Allan Invitational Battle of the Books for the 2016-2017 school year! Once again the competition has been expanded to include other schools in the Elk Island Public Schools district. The Battle of the Books Committee have chosen separate book lists for students in grades 4-6 which contain different genres, themes, and levels of reading so that all students can be successful.



The Battle of the Books is a fun reading club that encourages students to work together and read a wide range of genres and authors. Participating students can read the books at their own pace and then get together to discuss them, quiz each other on the content, and compete to correctly answer questions based on the books. The questions used all begin with "In what book..." so that the answer will always be the title of a book.

There are multiple copies of the Battle Books available for checkout in the Uncas library. Alternatively, students may wish to purchase the books themselves or borrow them from the public library.

The Battle of the Books begins the week of October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016, with a school level competition happening in April 2017. The district competition will take place at Glen Allan Elementary School, sometime in May 2017. We will notify students once a date has been selected for both the school and district level competitions.

Below are the six books chosen for each of the grades;

#### Grade 4 Book List

- *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate DiCamillo
- *The Dragon in the Sock Drawer* by Kate Klimo
- *James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl
- *Mary Poppins* by P.L. Travers
- *Mr. Popper's Penguin* by Richard Atwater

- *Pippi Longstocking* by Astrid Lindgren

#### Grade 5 Book List

- *The Fourteenth Goldfish* by Jennifer L. Holm
- *Matilda* by Roald Dahl
- *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* by Chris Grabenstein
- *Chasing the Falconers* by Gordon Korman
- *Circus Mirandus* by Cassie Beasley
- *Among the Hidden* by Margaret Peterson Haddix

#### Grade 6 Book List

- *Airborn* by Kenneth Oppel
- *The Girl Who Could Fly* by Victoria Forester
- *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio
- *Firegirl* by Tony Abbott
- *The Night Gardener* by Jonathon Auxier
- *When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead

#### Literacy and Learning Day

The 14<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.literacyday.ca).

## Celebrating World Teachers' Day

October 5 was 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) encouraged 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.

## No Child Without: Free MedicAlert for students

In our ongoing effort to provide safe and caring schools for our students, Uncas Elementary is once again participating in the Canadian MedicAlert Foundation's No Child Without program. The program is a national initiative that provides children—between the ages four of 14—who have chronic health conditions with MedicAlert services, at no cost. The goal is twofold: to help children with severe allergies, medical conditions or special needs and to assist schools with medical-emergency plans for students.

Once a child is registered, their school is provided with advice on a medical-emergency plan for that student and given a list of medications, allergies and medical conditions the student has. If your child has a serious medical condition or allergy and would benefit

from MedicAlert services, please visit [www.nochildwithout.ca](http://www.nochildwithout.ca) to learn more about the No Child Without program.

## REMINDER: Make head checks for lice a regular routine!

As many of you are aware, 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. Anyone can get lice and they are commonly detected on school-aged children—itching is the main complaint. As such, head lice can appear in school communities at any time.

While head lice prevention and control is primarily the responsibility of the parent, the handling of it is a shared responsibility between the parent/guardian, school and community. 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. We also ask you to check your child's hair weekly for any signs of head lice or nits. If your child has head lice, notify the school, treat the lice using both a treatment solution and lice comb and keep your child home until all signs of active head lice are gone. The school will support you by working discreetly with the teacher, students and families to prevent further transmission.

For more information about head lice prevention and treatment, visit

[www.eips.ca/parents/health-safety-information/head-lice](http://www.eips.ca/parents/health-safety-information/head-lice).

