

Uncie's Update



November 4, 2016

Important Dates

- Nov 6: Daylight Savings Ends-Fall Back
- Nov 8: Hot Lunch
- Nov 8: Tuesday Bus to Swim
- Nov 9: Hep B shot for Grade 5 students
- Nov 10: Remembrance Day Observance
10:30 a.m.
- Nov 10: Thursday Bus to Swim
- Nov 11: **No School** - Remembrance Day
- Nov 14-18: **No School** - Fall Break
- Nov 21-25: National Bullying
Awareness week
- Nov 22: Hot Lunch
- Nov 22: Tuesday Bus to Swim
- Nov 22: PAC Meeting 6:15 pm
- Nov 24: Wear a Pink Shirt
- Nov 24: Thursday Bus to Swim
- Nov 25: Report Cards go home
- Nov 29: Hot Lunch
- Nov 29: Tuesday Bus to Swim
- Nov 30: Start of Food Bank
Christmas Giving
- Dec 1: Thursday Bus to Swim

Principal's Message

The weatherman is predicting temperatures in the low teens for this weekend, and so dressing up for the cold weather normally associated with this time of year most likely isn't on everyone's mind at this time. However, we would like to thank in advance all parents for keeping their eye on the weather and ensuring that their child has proper winter clothing for dealing with the cold. Toques, mitts, a warm jacket,

boots and snow pants for our younger kids are a must! When the mercury dips below minus 20 degrees Celsius we keep our students inside or have a shorter outdoor recess.

I would like to remind everyone that Hot Lunch and Bus to Swim falling on school bus cancellation days are themselves cancelled. Thank you for your adjustments to those situations.

In October we had our first Character Education assembly. On our website there is a page dedicated to our *7 Habits of Happy Kids* program, and what character traits we are working on with our students this year. The October theme was 'Excellence'.

Today was a red letter day for the Uncas School Community. At our assembly we welcomed MLA Estefania Cortes-Vargas and our Board Trustee Skip Gordon in a ceremony where MLA Cortes-Vargas presented our school with a \$75,000 cheque from the provincial government toward the construction of a new division one playground structure! Those monies will combine with the \$20,000 that our school community raised and then was matched by Strathcona County. We are very thankful to the efforts of the PAC and Uncas community in raising these funds, and to Strathcona County and the province of Alberta for their support in this wonderful project for all kids in our community. Details about the planning

phase of the playground will be shared by the PAC in the upcoming months.

Remembrance Day Observance will be held on November 10th. We will honor of our men and women, both past and present, who sacrificed so much for us and our democratic, free way of life. We are always proud of how our children respect the ceremony, and invite all parents to join us in our observance of this solemn occasion.

November 21 - 25 is *Bully Awareness Week* throughout Alberta. Uncas School is celebrating the week with classroom presentations on positive relationships, and *Wear Pink Day* on November 24th to challenge bullying.

November is report card month. This is the first opportunity for our students and parents to experience the revised reporting format, and we encourage all parents to provide feedback on the new report card by completing an EIPS survey online at: bit.ly/CSL16-17

Names Please!

We need your help in making sure students' clothing doesn't go missing or *get mixed up*. Please label your child's winter clothing because often two items of clothing can look exactly the same.



Our lost and found box is beginning to fill up, so next time you are in the school check to see if any lost items from your home have found their way into the box.

Celebrating the Season of Giving

Christmas is upon us and the time of giving is alive. Uncas needs your help collecting donations for the Strathcona Christmas Bureau.

Our Christmas Giving begins on Wednesday, November 30 and we will work together bringing articles until the final day on Friday, December 9.



Here are the items we would like to collect each day:

November 30 – Pasta and Pasta Sauces

December 1 – Cakes mixes

December 2 – Cereals: hot or cold

December 5 – Jello and puddings

December 6 – Jigsaw puzzles and games

*If you are buying toys requiring batteries, please include them!

December 7 – Pancake mix and syrup

December 8 – Canned stew and chili

December 9 – Scarves, mitts, toques and socks (one size fits all).

If possible ... please donate food in tin cans or plastic containers instead of glass jars for safety in the hampers. Thank you!

Your child is not expected to participate every day. Participation is voluntary



Library Update

We had a very successful "Bookaneer" Book Fair! Thank you to everyone who supported us. We now have over \$1700 worth of new books for the Library! The next book fair will be in February!

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 Battle of the Books Committee from the participating Elk Island schools 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. There will be a school based competition in the Spring of 2017 and then a District competition following after that.

There will be some special events throughout the year in the Library for those students who choose to participate.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter
@Uncas Library!

Ms. O'Gorman

Follow us

If you are following the school on TWITTER @UncasSchool, please cut this paragraph out, print your name on it and return it to the office by Wednesday, November 18th for a chance to win a family swim pass to Millennium Place.

If you are not following us on Twitter, 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!

**Coming this November:
New report cards**

We want to you remind you we will be sending home our new report cards on Friday, November 25, 2016. As you know, Uncas Elementary is one of 25 elementary schools within Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) piloting the new report card this year. Developed by EIPS, the report card is 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.

In 2014, EIPS established a Communicating Student Learning committee, 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, which 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. However, the way student learning is reported is new.



The previous EPAL scale is no longer being used. Instead, teachers are 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 its 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.

If you require more information, or have questions about the new report card, please contact your child's teacher. Alternatively, you can also contact Deb Barron, the director of Learning Supports at EIPS.

Download the PowerSchool App

Did you know there is a PowerSchool app? Download PowerSchool Mobile today on your Apple or Android device to stay connected with similar information available on the PowerSchool website. The same app can be used by both parents and students. You'll have real-time access to attendance, upcoming assignments, grades and more. Sign-up for push notifications to stay up to date.

Links to download PowerSchool Mobile are available from the PowerSchool parent or student portals or directly from the App Store or Google Play. Use the Elk Island Public Schools district code, HXWF, and your PowerSchool portal username and password to login to the app. The first time you login, or if you haven't used the app in a while, it may take three to five minutes for the app to

load completely as it accesses all of your data from the PowerSchool server.



More information, links to download the app and a copy of the PowerSchool Mobile app user guide are available at www.eips.ca.

Share your Thoughts on Alberta's Curriculum

What do you want to see in Alberta Education's new curriculum? Recently, the province launched a survey to find out exactly that.

As many of you know, Alberta Education is currently reviewing and updating its provincial curriculum for students in Kindergarten to Grade 12. The goal: To ensure all students receive the best possible education to meet 21st century needs.

Currently, the province is developing a new curriculum for the following subjects: arts, language arts, mathematics, social studies, sciences and wellness education. It's expected to take six years to fully implement. During this development, Alberta Education is exploring various opportunities to gather valued and meaningful feedback from all Albertans. Most recently, the province launched a fall 2016 online survey to help with decisions relating to the content for future curriculum.

There are two parts to the survey. Part A is about the general direction for the new curriculum and takes roughly five minutes to complete.



Once finished, there is a Part B section that focuses on the strengths and gaps in the current curriculum. Part B is more detailed and will take anywhere between 15 minutes and 60 minutes to complete—depending on the number of subjects and grade-specific questions you choose to answer.

In addition, face-to-face engagement sessions are being hosted by the Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia (ARPDC) from October 18 to November 18. These sessions allow parents and community members to meet and discuss the topics identified in the survey. In the Edmonton region, two sessions are being offer—on November 3 and November 10.

<http://erlc.ca/programs/details.php?id=6485>

<http://erlc.ca/programs/details.php?id=6484>

TO TAKE THE SURVEY visit
<http://curriculumsurvey.alberta.ca>
Survey closes Nov. 18, 2016

The survey and engagement sessions are two of many feedback opportunities the province plans to conduct. For more information

on the provincial curriculum development, visit
<https://education.alberta.ca/curriculum-development/>.

Play Safe...Stay Off the Ice!

Cooler temperatures will soon be causing ice to form on storm water management ponds, dugouts, lakes, streams and river throughout Strathcona County.

Canadians are famous for their enthusiasm for winter recreation activities but we all need to remember

that you cannot judge the strength or the safety of ice by appearance alone.

In the fall when ice is forming, its' strength is affected by many factors: air temperatures, road run off, springs that feed into the water body, sun, win, snow and overall thickness.

At this time of the year, remember to:

Play Safe...Stay Off the Ice!

For more information on ice safety, go to:

Lifesaving Society: www.lifesaving.ca

Cut this paragraph out, print your name on the back and return it to the office by November 9th for a chance to win a family swim pass to Millennium Place.



Inclement Weather

With the winter season already here, we want to remind parents to dress children appropriately for the weather when getting ready for school or the bus. The weather often changes unexpectedly throughout the day, so please select suitable outerwear and ensure your child is prepared for changing conditions.

If inclement weather conditions occur, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) will advise parents of any bus cancellations using various communications tools including: automated-telephone messages, alerts posted on www.eips.ca and school websites, Twitter, Facebook, local radio stations and on Versatrans My Stop. All morning bus cancellations will be posted on www.eips.ca by 6:30 a.m.



**WINTER STORM
WARNING**

Decisions regarding bus cancellations are guided by EIPS administrative procedures that states:

“school bus service may be suspended... [when]

Environment Canada reports a temperature of -40 C.” Other reasons for suspending or delaying school bus services include adverse weather and poor road condition.

When school bus services are suspended, schools will remain open to students. EIPS believes parents have the right and responsibility to make choices for their children based on their beliefs and perceptions of safety during times of inclement weather.

For more information, contact EIPS Student Transportation at 780-417-8151.