



www.pinestreet.ca

PH: 780-467-2246

Pine Street Report



Administration

Principal: Jeff Huculak

Assistant Principal: Shelby Hines

SEPTEMBER 2017 "A TRADITION OF PRIDE AND EXCELLENCE"



From the Principal's Desk...

My name is Jeff Huculak and I am honored to have been selected as Pine Street School's new principal. I would like to welcome everyone to a new school year. I am gradually getting settled in and already have a sense of what a great place Pine Street School is for students, staff and parents.

I would like to take this opportunity to briefly introduce myself. I am married and live in Sherwood Park. My wife, Carrie, is also a teacher and we have two wonderful children, Aiden – nine years old, and Gabriella – seven years old. We also have a 10 month old puppy named Oakley. Family is very important to me!

I graduated from the University of Alberta in 1998 with a Bachelor of Elementary Education Degree and received a Diploma in Secondary Mathematics in 2002. In 2009, I earned my Master's Degree in Educational Leadership through the University of Portland.

This will be my twentieth year in education. I spent the first fourteen years with Edmonton Public Schools where I served as a teacher, curriculum coordinator and assistant principal. Since joining Elk Island Public Schools in 2012, I have been an assistant principal at both Ardrossan Junior Senior High School and Lakeland Ridge School. During the past two years, I served as the principal of Bruderheim School.

Pine Street School was a busy place in July and August. I am pleased to report that part of the school roof was repaired and that they poured new stairs on the east side of the school. Our custodian, Michael Exconte, has done a terrific job cleaning our school and getting it to look its best. Thank you Michael!

August 28 and 29 were the first two operational days of the school year for staff. During this time staff took part in professional learning, attended meetings, and worked in collaborative teams. Both days were very productive and provided staff with a great start to the new school year.

I look forward to meeting all of you at our Welcome Back BBQ on Tuesday, September 12 from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm. Information regarding this event can be found in this newsletter.

I look forward to a productive year working with students, staff, parents and the entire Pine Street community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Huculak M.Ed.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sept. 5—Parent Council Meeting
6:30 pm
Sept. 6—Early Dismissal
Sept. 7—Picture Day
Sept. 8—ECS Tu/Fri Picture Day
Sept. 12—Meet the Staff BBQ
Sept.13—Cross Country Run
Sept. 15—Terry Fox Run
Sept.27—Cross Country Run

Bell Schedule

<i>Entrance Bell</i>	8:20
<i>Classes Begin</i>	8:35
<i>Noon Dismissal</i>	11:32
<i>Afternoon Classes</i>	12:18
<i>Afternoon Dismissal</i>	3:15
Early Dismissal	
<i>Noon Dismissal</i>	11:32
<i>Afternoon Classes</i>	12:18
<i>Afternoon Dismissal</i>	2:15



Nut AWARE School

We are proud to be a nut aware school. Because nuts can cause severe, life-threatening reactions in some of our students and staff, we ask that you **do not send** food items that contain peanut butter/peanuts/all tree nuts and sesame seeds. Thank you for helping us provide a safe environment for all in our school community.

Staffing

We are pleased to welcome the following new staff to our school:

- Mrs. Comeault—ECS AM & PM
- Ms. Kihn—Grade 1
- Mrs. Wheeler—Grade 4
- Mr. Versteegt—Grade 6
- Mr. Huculak—Principal

For a complete staff list, please visit our website, click on the About Us page, and then click on Staff.

Welcome BBQ and Meet the Staff—Tuesday, September 12th

Pine Street School, along with our terrific School Council, are hosting a "Welcome Back" BBQ on Tuesday, September 12 from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm. This is a great opportunity to meet the staff including our new school principal. The format for this event will be a little bit different than in the past. We recognize that families are very busy and want to honour your time. Therefore, there will be no formal program for the evening. Families are invited to visit their child's classroom, speak with their son's/daughter's teacher(s), meet the new school staff and enjoy some tasty burgers and chips. Our School Council will have information describing how you can get involved in school events. We will have tables set up in the gym highlighting some of the programs and clubs at Pine Street School. All Pine Street families are welcome to attend. We look forward to meeting you and hope to see you there.

School Newsletters /Information

Communication between the school and home is extremely important. Pine Street School serves approximately 600 students and we want to ensure that all of our families know where to find timely information about what is happening in their child's classroom as well as events taking place at school. This year, all teachers will be using their 'eTeacher page' which can be found on our school website @ <http://pinestreet.ca/>. Teachers have been asked to update their information regularly. In addition, links to articles from EIPS will be added. Please be aware that monthly newsletters will not be generated.

Please check our school website regularly for up to date information.

From the Counselling Corner

Welcome to the new families of Pine Street! Welcome back to our returning families. My name is Suzanne Stevens and I am the counsellor and a registered psychologist. Counselling varies in each school largely based on the needs and culture of the school. At Pine Street we currently have over 600 students registered from kindergarten to grade six, and as such, I am unable to provide therapeutic counselling. I am, however, able to provide a place for students to come and share ideas, concerns and anything else they may wish to share. I provide support to teachers in classrooms. I also provide the opportunity for families to be connected with resources that Strathcona County provides.

The question of psycho-educational assessments comes up from time to time. The answer to this of course depends on many factors. The first assessment of any child comes from you, parents, as you see your child grow and develop. The classroom also provides a place where children learn and teachers use a variety of assessment practices which are reflected upon by the teacher and sometimes the school team (parents, counsellor, administration, consultant). In most situations, the strategies put in place are effective in supporting the child's learning. There are some circumstances when more information is needed to provide further support in the classroom. This may mean more classroom assessments; it may also be a time where a psycho-educational assessment is presented. As education is our field, learning/not learning is the key consideration to all forms of assessment that occur within the school. In other words, psycho-educational assessments are one form of assessment that may be considered when other observations, classroom assessments, strategies, indicate the need for additional information with regards to learning.

In terms of contact, I may be reached during regular school hours. This year I am fortunate to be teaching French in Mrs. Lockwood's classroom in the afternoons and therefore, will be unavailable to meet during those times. You may pop in and I will do my best to see you, however, I cannot promise I will be available or have the time to appropriately address the nature of your call. I may, therefore, ask you to set a time and date to come in.

What does counselling look like at Pine Street? The answer is complex and it is also very simple. My philosophy is that I am here to support the learning of every child. Support varies depending upon the needs of the child which may be more comprehensive in nature.

I can share that I truly believe in the hope and resiliency of all children. At Pine Street, I am part of the Student Council where children present their ideas and with support, lead us as a school. Last year, Student Council decided upon Social Justice as being their key philosophy. All students participated in making the definition of Social Justice and decided upon the area of focus this year for Pine Street which is food. What will this entail? Student Council will arrive, with support from all students, with a plan and we look forward to sharing this with you in the near future.

Here's to a great 2017-18.

Student Drop off and Pickup/Parking

In order to create a safe environment for our students, we have developed a streamlined pick-up/drop-off process for all Pine Street Elementary students, whether they walk, take the bus, or catch a ride with parents. The key points in the streamlined traffic safety process are:

- School doors open in the morning at 8:15 am to help decrease the bottleneck of vehicle and pedestrian traffic all arriving at the same time, and supervision commences at 8:20 am.
- The parent drop-off/pick-up zone is located on the south side of the school across from the green area/Cottonwood Park. Cars are to move steadily through this area to allow for drop-off/pick-up only. Parking is not permitted in order to ensure quick access and departure and to keep the line moving safely and efficiently.
- Parking lots are for staff parking and handicapped/specialized transportation only.
- Parents wishing to come into the school with students are asked to please use the limited parent parking available on the south side of the school by Cottonwood Park or the street parking available further along Pine Street, Conifer Street or along Cottonwood Avenue and Evergreen Street. Be sure to follow posted parking signs in these areas.

For parents walking their children to school, please use the crosswalks at the corner of Pine Street/Conifer Street or Pine Street/Evergreen Street.

Stay Connected: Subscribe to our news

Want to stay up-to-date on the latest news and events taking place at your school? Make sure to subscribe to Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) email distribution list. Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) now requires the Division to have direct consent before engaging in electronic communication with its families. If you haven't yet subscribed, simply visit www.eips.ca/contact/synrevoice. As soon as you sign up and confirm, you'll begin receiving Division and school related news such as: newsletters, information about upcoming events, parent and community engagement opportunities, important school-based updates and more.

Emergency Preparedness

Safety is essential to the learning environment. Pine Street, in consultation with Hour Zero and Elk Island Public Schools, has created a comprehensive emergency plan.

When a school is confronted with an emergency situation there are a few possible courses of action the school may take depending on the specifics of the incident. All staff members are well versed on the various types of drills and procedures and will be practicing them with the students throughout the school year. Our first school evacuation drill will take place later this month to ensure our students are comfortable in the procedures that would be followed in case of a fire or other threat that would necessitate leaving the school building.

School Forms

Students will be bringing home the following package of forms ***to be signed, dated and returned to your teacher by Thursday, September 14th.***

- Correction form—add/delete/change information/sign and date
- [User Agreement form](#)
- [Website form](#)
- Parent Portal letters (to NEW students only)

We appreciate your cooperation in returning the signed forms in a timely manner.

Parent Volunteer Sign in

Parent Volunteers are always welcome at Pine Street School. The success of all of our students revolves around the collaborative teamwork that we have with parents, staff and our community helpers. Parent volunteers offer the precious gift of time whether they help within the classroom, on field trips or special events.

We ask parent volunteers to sign in at the office and pick up your volunteer lanyard that should be worn while working in the school. When finished, please return the lanyard to the office and sign yourself out. The purpose of this procedure is to ensure that we have a record of all individuals in our school building and can locate you, if needed. Thank you for continuing to make Pine Street School a safe learning environment for our students.

Parent Council

Pine Street School Parent Council & Society welcomes you to a new year at Pine Street School!

If you have a child at Pine Street Elementary, you are already a member of Parent Council. Parent Council is responsible for the betterment of the school community, while the Society is the fundraising branch of the parent community. We meet monthly, usually on the first Tuesday of the month and our meetings are a wonderful opportunity to interact with administration, teachers, and other parents. Parent Council is your way to have a say in what goes on at Pine Street Elementary and to keep informed about what is going on in Elk Island Public Schools, and how decisions made at the Provincial level impact our kids. Parent Council is also a great way to get involved with Pine Street School by learning about volunteer opportunities at the school.

We would love to send you more information about what we do, but we need your permission! Please email us at pinestreetsvp@gmail.com and you are welcome to follow us on Facebook by searching Pine Street School Parent Council and Society. We look forward to a successful school year and hope to see you at our first meeting on September 5, 2017 at 6:30 pm in the school library.

Medication/Personal Care of Students

If your child has a medical condition that may require medication or personal care by staff at Pine Street School, the following forms are required:

- [Anaphylaxis Emergency Form](#) - [Asthma Emergency Form](#)
- [Child/Student Medication Consent](#)

Forms can be obtained from the office. Please deliver completed forms and medications to be administered at the school to the office. The safety and care of our students is our first priority. Please contact the office if you have any questions or concerns.

Hot Lunch

The Parent School Council at Pine Street School is pleased to offer a Hot Lunch program for the upcoming school year. This will be offered about once a month with the first Hot Lunch being held on Friday, Oct. 27th. Detailed information regarding ordering will be sent home with students soon.

Student Property

As part of your back to school planning and shopping, please take 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 names being written onto personal property, it is often difficult to help little ones find their jackets and boots.

Our Pine Street school lockers are located in the hallways and are an open style locker. The responsibility for the safekeeping of personal property brought onto school premises rests with the owner of the property. Staff strongly discourage the bringing of electronic goods/toys and other items of some expense. We don't recommend that students bring cell phones to school. After school, students who occasionally require the use of a phone, are welcome to drop by the office and ask to use a phone. In this way, the loss or damage to expensive personal items can be reduced.

Student Transportation

All families using EIPS' student transportation services for 2017/18 should have already received a tentative route. Those required to pay applicable fees should have received a separate invoice outlining payment information. We encourage parents to pay their transportation fees online.

If you do not have a bus pass, or have lost or damaged your bus pass, or have any transportation questions, please contact [EIPS Student Transportation](#) department at 780-417-8151 or via email at studenttran@eips.ca. Please note that the replacement cost for a lost bus pass is \$20.00.

Video Monitoring on School Buses

In accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIP Act), Section 33 and in conjunction with the enforcement of Student Transportation bus rules, video monitoring equipment is in place on all Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) buses. Video/audio recordings of individuals on buses are for the safety and security of all passengers, drivers, and property, and may be used as evidence in a disciplinary matter.

If you have any questions about the collection, use, and disclosure of personal information, please contact EIPS' FOIP Coordinator at 780-417-8204.

School Fees

Please pay your school fees online using the ACORN Online Quick Pay system via the parent Portal. Login to your Parent Portal account (<https://powerschool.eips.ca/public/home.html>) to access the ACORN online payment system, and visit www.eips.ca/fees for more information and a complete list of key dates. Please also be aware that during the school year fees may be added to your child's account (e.g., field trip fees, athletic team fees, etc.). **Be sure to check your account often throughout the year in case new fees are added.**

If for some reason you are unable to access Acorn, please call Lisa Waselenkoff in the school office at 780-467-2246 to discuss your options.

Tools for School Supplies Available for Students

Do you need help to give your children the basic tools they need to succeed in school? Look no further than the United Way's *Tools for School* program. Pine Street School is participating in the 2017-2018 *Tools for School* campaign.

Tools for School is a United Way initiative providing families who may have limited resources with essential school supplies to help students achieve success in their studies. A number of backpacks filled with supplies have arrived at our school for students who might need support this year. Contact the office at 780-467-2246 to request a backpack.