

# Pine Street Report



780-467-2246, [www.pinestreet.ca](http://www.pinestreet.ca)

## Administration

Principal: Jeff Huculak

Assistant Principal: Shelby Hines

**JANUARY 2018**

**" A TRADITION OF PRIDE AND EXCELLENCE "**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Jan. 15— ECS Registration starts  
@ 6:00 PM

Jan. 22—Swim Lessons start—  
check the calendar to see when/  
if your child swims

Jan.26—Hot Lunch

## From the Principal's Desk...

Happy New Year! I hope all of you had a restful break and had the opportunity to spend some quality time with family and friends. Between hockey tournaments and kids' activities, Christmas time was very busy at the Huculak household. We did, however, manage to take some time to rest and relax.

Pine Street School closed out December with our annual Christmas concerts. Division 1 presented "The Grumps of a Ring-A-Ding Town" and Division 2 entertained us with "Christmas in Jeopardy?" at The Park Church, while our kindergarten students treated parents and grandparents to a wonderful performance in our school gym. Our kids did a fantastic job and all of our concerts were a huge success. Thank you to all staff and parent volunteers who helped out. The concert was a perfect way to get us all into the Christmas spirit! I am also pleased to say that our Pine Street school community came to together and donated plenty of food to the Strathcona Food bank as well as gifts for families for the Christmas Bureau. Way to go Pine Street!

January promises to be another busy month as we settle back into school routines. There is a lot of things happening in both our school and district. You will find much of this information in this newsletter, but I encourage everyone to subscribe for updates by going to our website and clicking on the "Stay Up-To-Date" message. In order to ensure that we continue to comply with federal anti-spam legislation, parents/guardians are required to subscribe in order to receive routine emails from schools and the division. Please note that those who are not subscribed risk missing important school and district deadlines, information on activities and projects including school-based events, fundraising activities, graduations, dances, etc. I also encourage parents to visit the school website regularly and check their child's eTeacher pages.

For more information, please visit the school website at: <http://pinestreet.ca>.

Sincerely,

Jeff Huculak M.Ed.

Principal



## Bell Schedule

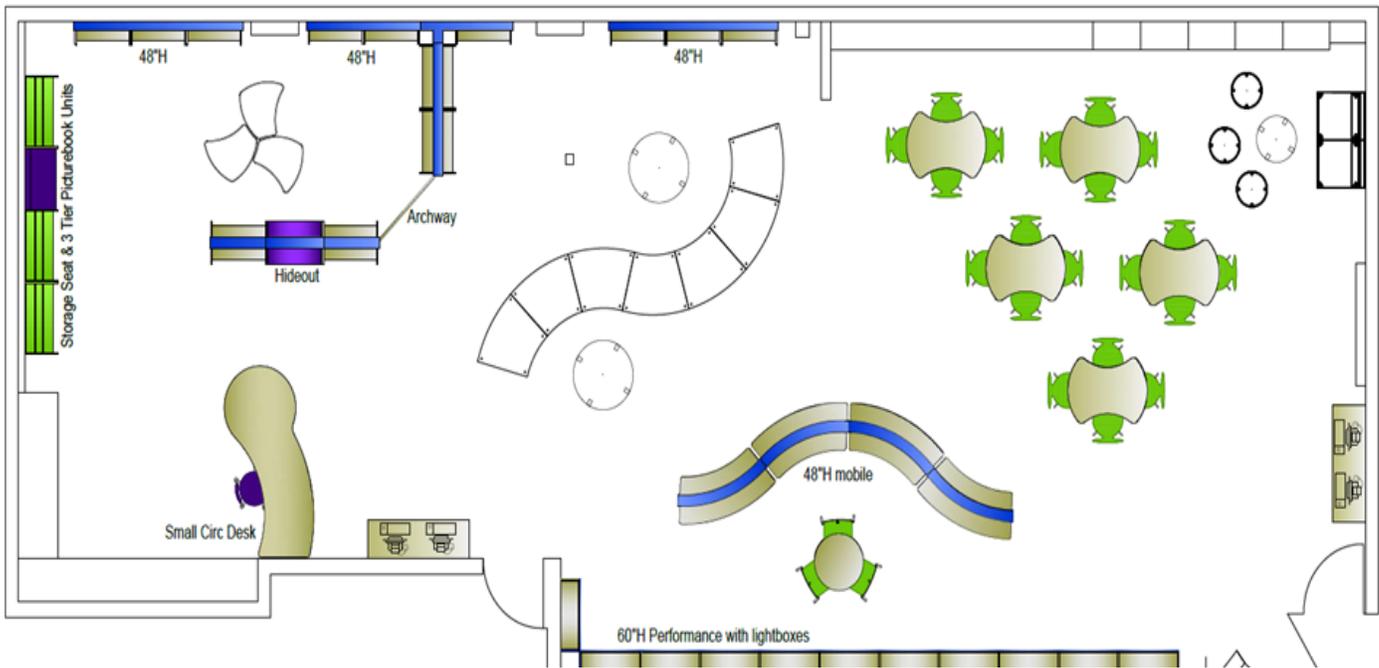
<i>Entrance Bell</i>	8:20
<i>Classes Begin</i>	8:35
<i>Noon Dismissal</i>	11:32
<i>Afternoon Classes</i>	12:18
<i>Afternoon Dismissal</i>	3:15
<b>Early Dismissal</b>	
<i>Noon Dismissal</i>	11:32
<i>Afternoon Classes</i>	12:18
<i>Afternoon Dismissal</i>	2:15

## Bottle Drive

As you know, Pine Street School held a Bottle Drive on January 6. Together, we were able to raise \$1695.00. Our two winners for the Bottle Drive were: Riley S. (Mrs. Wlos' class) and Jaxon R. (Mrs. Choo's class). Riley and Jaxon each received a \$25 Mastermind gift certificate. Thank you to everyone who helped make our Bottle Drive a success. Special thanks to Darrell Bradley for contacting the bottle depot company and for spending his time at school on Saturday. Mr. Bradley was joined by Gian and Paige who helped load the truck throughout the day. As well, a special thank you goes out to Kevin Sembaliuk, owner of Wild Wing in Sherwood Park, who donated a truck load of bottles for our bottle drive. As an added bonus, if you visit Wild Wing in the month of January and mention "Pine Street School", Kevin will give customers 10% off. Great work Pine Street!

## Library Redesign and Math-A-Thon

We are pleased to let you know that we are looking at making changes to our library. Much of the shelving in the library is original or in need of a face-lift. Pine Street School Parent Council and Society, along with our Library Redesign Committee and school administration have been examining ways of updating our library. After many months of planning, several drafts and consultation, we have come up with a *NEW* design for our library that we would like to share with all of you. The *NEW* design includes creating a distinct space for both division one and two students, updating some of the furniture and making our library more user-friendly and welcoming. Due to the cost, we will redesign the library in phases. We currently have some funds available (that were raised in previous years) for the library. Our Parent Council, along with staff, will be doing a Math-A-Thon on January 26. Proceeds from the Math-A-Thon will go towards redesigning the library. Information about the Math-A-Thon is being sent home along with this newsletter. Please ask your son/daughter about it. We have included a few pictures of our library redesign below to give you a better idea of our vision.





## **NEW Request to attend a Non-Designated School**

Effective for the 2018-19 school year, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is changing the way in which students apply to attend a non-designated school. From March 1 to 15, 2018, parents of all EIPS students are being asked to pre-enroll their children online and indicate whether their child will be attending their designated school or if they wish to register at a different school. Acceptance at a non-designated school is based on available space—families will be advised of the outcome by April 13, 2018. Because of high enrolment numbers, some schools won't be accepting any non-designated students. Schools with closed boundaries will be identified prior to the pre-enrolment process.

Please note that should you request a non-designated school for your child and need busing, there are fees associated with this choice. Visit [Transportation Services](#) for more information.

As part of the pre-enrolment process, parents are also asked to check and update phone numbers, email addresses, mailing address and other important data – doing so will both make sure that the Division has the most current information available and eliminate the need to fill in the paper Correction Form that has traditionally been sent home every fall. Better yet, families will be able to go online and update their child's data throughout the year as circumstances change.

To determine your child's designated school, please check [EIPS school boundary maps](#).

## **Nutrition – Healthy Schools**

With the start of every New Year, many people make "New Year's resolutions". One of the most common resolutions that people make is to try and eat better and become more active. As many of you know, this year EIPS created an Administrative Procedure for nutrition in schools. We are committed to creating supportive school environments for good nutrition and lifelong well-being by encouraging healthy eating for all students and staff. We certainly respect and support parents in their role as providers and decision makers in the home for the kinds of food they serve to their children and what they send to school for individual consumption by their children. However, we encourage parents to send alternatives to sugary food treats for celebrations including birthdays and special events. Healthy eating is an integral part of growth and development and good nutrition is conducive to student learning. Moving forward we will continue to examine ways in which to make our school environment a healthier one for students and staff.

## Hot Lunch (Round 2 Now Open)

The Parent Council at Pine Street School is pleased to continue the Hot Lunch program once a month, with the first Hot Lunch of the new year being held on Friday, Jan. 26. Round two of the program is now open. Please visit our website and select the Parents tab at the top of the page and proceed to the "Hot Lunch" tab. Orders close Feb 2.

## **NEW** Kindergarten Information and Registration

Kindergarten registration starts for the 2018-19 school year on Jan. 15, 2018. Families who have a child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2018 are invited to register for the next school year by completing the online form at [www.eips.ca](http://www.eips.ca).

Registration officially opens at 6 p.m. on January 15—the same as Elk Island Catholic Schools—to accommodate parents and guardians who work during the day. Prior to registering, families are encouraged to view the 2018-19 Kindergarten Calendar. Two kindergarten schedules are available for the 2018-19 school year, [Group A](#) and [Group B](#). (These calendars can be accessed on the website.) When registering online, families can indicate what option they prefer. While EIPS attempts to accommodate each family's preference, placement depends on enrolment numbers.

### Steps to registering your child:

Go to [www.eips.ca/parents/registration](http://www.eips.ca/parents/registration).

- Complete the online registration form.

Determine your child's [designated school](#).

- Determine your 2018-19 Kindergarten Calendar option preference.
- Scan and upload all required documents—proof of name, residence, date of birth and citizenship.
- Other additional documents to scan, if applicable, include: Guardian Letter and Parental Custody Agreement if restrictions on access.
- Once the online registration is complete and submitted, a confirmation notice is sent to the given email address.

All registrations for the 2018-19 school year must be completed online—printed registrations are no longer available.

To help families prepare, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) has also put together an online toolkit to make the transition as smooth as possible. The kit includes information on registration, important dates, programming options, what to expect, eligibility, how to find your designated school, transportation and more. Find it by visiting [www.eips.ca/programs-services/kindergarten](http://www.eips.ca/programs-services/kindergarten).

### Several Surveys

We recognize that people do not generally get too excited about completing surveys, however we do have a few surveys that we are asking people to complete. Your participation in completing both surveys helps provide important information on the quality of education your child is receiving. I encourage you to complete the surveys. Thank you for your continued support.

Please see the following list of surveys and information regarding each survey.

## Accountability Pillar Survey

As an annual check-up on the education system, the Accountability Pillar provides an opportunity for Alberta Education and school authorities to ensure that we are equipping students for success.

The Accountability Pillar uses a set of 16 indicators. Data on these indicators consists of surveys of students, parents and teachers on various aspects of education quality, student outcomes such as dropout and high school completion rates, and provincial assessments of student learning.

From January to the end of February, Alberta Education will be conducting the annual Accountability Pillar Survey.

In January, parents of students in grade 4 will receive a survey from Alberta Education.

In February, students in grade 4 and all teachers will be completing their surveys online at school.

All surveys are anonymous and ask questions about experiences with your school. In addition to English and French, the parent survey is available in Chinese, Punjabi, Arabic, Blackfoot, Dene, Cree, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog and Urdu.

Your participation in the survey helps provide important information on the quality of education your child is receiving, so we encourage you to return your survey promptly.

Survey results will be available to school authorities in May 2018, and will be reported publicly as part of their 3-Year Education Plans and Annual Education Results Reports.

## Fees Survey

Planning for next year has begun. We would like your input on school fees. The purpose of this survey is to get a better understanding about your thoughts regarding school fees and field trips. Teachers select field trips that they feel will be beneficial for students and that are aligned with the Alberta curriculum. They work hard to ensure that we receive the best value for our dollar. All fees are "cost recovery", meaning that the school does not make money from supervision or field trip fees. Bill 1 'An Act to Reduce School Fees' was put in place this past year by our government and is meant to help reduce school fees for parents. Fees can only be increased by a maximum of 5% per year. Information from this survey will be used to assist us with setting our school fees for the 2018-19 school year. We do value your opinion and want to hear from parents. This survey will remain open until January 31, 2018. Please visit our website to complete the [short survey](#).

## School Fees

School fees are now overdue. If you need to make arrangements to pay your school fees, please contact Mrs. Wase-lenkoff in the school office at 780-467-2246 to discuss your options.

## EIPS 2018-19 Division Calendar: Now available!

The official 2018-19 EIPS calendar is now available online. The calendar includes important dates during the 2018-19 school year such as school-closure days; breaks; the first and last day of classes; professional learning days; and early dismissal days. To view the 2018-19 calendar, visit [www.eips.ca](http://www.eips.ca). Also available online: the current school calendar and the 2019-20 calendar.

**Did you know you can sync the Division calendar to your own personal calendar?** You can. Simply, visit [www.eips.ca/calendar](http://www.eips.ca/calendar) and click on "subscribe to calendar." It's that easy.

## 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.

## **Inclement Weather**

With the winter season upon us, we would like to take this opportunity 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.

Should 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](http://www.eips.ca) and school websites, Twitter, local radio stations, and on Versatrans My Stop. Any morning bus cancellations will be posted on [www.eips.ca](http://www.eips.ca) by 6:30 a.m.

Decisions regarding bus cancellations are guided by EIPS administrative procedures, which says: School bus service may be suspended when Environment Canada reports a temperature of -40 C including wind chill factor, in one or more regions. School bus services may also be suspended or delayed due to adverse weather or road condition and on a region-by-region or route-by-route basis.

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. Parents must use discretion when sending children to school during inclement weather, even when buses are running and schools are open.

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

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## **Social Media**

Another way to stay connected: Follow EIPS on Twitter and Facebook

With 42 schools and close to 17,150 students there's a wealth of events, activities and stories taking place across the Division every day. You can find these stories and more by following Elk Island Public Schools on both [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Each use the combination of news articles, videos and photographs that showcase the latest news, updates, events and alerts taking place across the Division.

Plus, if you're a member of an EIPS school community and want to share in the storytelling, simply tag the Division using the hashtag #EIPS.

Stay in the loop, follow EIPS on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

*NOTE: The Division Facebook and Twitter accounts are managed by EIPS Communications Services. The account is updated and monitored intermittently during regular office hours from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. The Division welcomes feedback and ideas from followers but does ask everyone interacting on the EIPS Facebook page to be respectful. Personal attacks and offensive language will not be allowed and may be deleted.*

## **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.