



www.pinestreet.ca

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Pine Street Report



Administration

Principal: Jeff Huculak

Assistant Principal: Shelby Hines

SEPTEMBER 2018 "A TRADITION OF PRIDE AND EXCELLENCE"

From the Principal's Desk...

My name is Jeff Huculak and I am honored to serve as the principal of Pine Street School. I would like to welcome everyone to a new school year and briefly introduce myself to our new Pine Street families. I am married and live in Sherwood Park. My wife, Carrie, is also a teacher and we have two children, Aiden – ten years old, and Gabriella – eight years old. We also have a 2 year old puppy named Oakley.

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 twenty-first 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. I served as the principal of Bruderheim School for a couple of years and I am beginning my second year as principal at Pine Street.

Last year was an absolutely fantastic year, and I am confident that Pine Street School will continue to provide our students with a world class education. With huge support from our School Council and Pine Street families, we redesigned and renovated our school library. We now have a very bright and welcoming learning space. I want to share a few other highlights. We have made a large investment in literacy, upgraded our technology and have made other changes throughout our school. Some of these improvements include:

- Purchased new literacy resources for our teachers to help support reading and writing in our school.
- Purchased new "high interest" leveled reading books for students.
- Purchased 110 new Chromebooks. These Chromebooks, along with the 30 new Chromebooks we purchased earlier last year equates to 140 new Chromebooks in total. We also bought an additional 5 IPADS. Pine Street will now have a 1 to 1 student / technology ratio.
- Purchased and installed a new sound system and projector in our school gymnasium.
- Installed 2 water bottle filling stations for students to use throughout the day.
- Replaced the boot racks in the division one area.

As always, our custodian, Michael Exconde, has done a terrific job cleaning our school and getting it to look its best. Thank you Michael!

August 30 and 31 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 11 from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm. Information regarding this event can be found in this newsletter.



DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sept. 5—Early Dismissal 2:15pm
- Sept. 10—Picture Day (except ECS Tues/Fri)
- Sept. 11—ECS Tues/Fri Picture Day
- Sept. 11—Meet the Staff BBQ 5:30-7:30pm
- Sept.12—School Council Meeting 6:30pm
- Sept. 14—Terry Fox Run

**Welcome Back BBQ and Meet the Staff—
Tuesday, September 11th**

Pine Street School, along with our terrific School Council, are hosting a ‘Welcome Back BBQ’ on Tuesday, September 11 from 5:30pm – 7:30pm. This is a great opportunity to meet staff and visit your child’s classroom. 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 school staff and enjoy some great food. We will also have information describing how you can get involved in school events. All Pine Street families are welcome to attend. We hope to see you there!



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

Pine Street School Council

Pine Street School council welcomes you to a new year at Pine Street.! We would like to thank the following individuals who have been elected to serve on our School Council for the 2018-19 school year:

- Chair - Lesley Bowman
- Vice Chair - Nasreen Banman
- Secretary - Lorena Ellsworth
- Treasurer - Cara Kern

If you have a child at Pine Street Elementary, you are already a member of School Council. School 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. School 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. School 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 Wednesday, September 12 at 6:30 pm in the school library. All parents are welcome to attend.

From the Counselling Corner

Welcome to Pine Street! My name is Suzanne Stevens and I am the counselor at Pine Street School. This year I will be counselling half-time and teaching half-time. Essentially, I am in the building for counselling matters from 8:20 am until 11:30 am, Monday through Friday. Often these hours are good for students, however, not so much for families who are working. When you come in, I may ask a lot of questions. The purpose of these questions is not to be intrusive. The purpose of the questions is for me to gain an understanding and/or awareness of the situation in order to provide a more comprehensive response. Often I may say "I need to look into this more" as I do not know the answers to the questions provided. The bottom line is that I appreciate working with families.

I encourage you to phone ahead should you wish to speak with me about your child/children so that we can arrange a time that works for us outside of the hours noted. You are more than welcome to pop by, however, I want to give you the heads up that I may not be able to speak with you at that moment as I may be meeting other students, staff, parents or teaching. I realize how valuable time is and can certainly work with you to find a time that works to meet. Phoning is a better way for me to connect with you as it allows me to clarify my understanding. Thus, I will contact you via phone to set up an appointment.

I am a registered psychologist and I often get asked if I can counsel children on a regular basis. Due to the nature of a school, this is not possible. I can check in to see how your child is doing and we can work on goals/ideas/plans throughout the year (ie: How can I get to class on time every day?). However, I am not able to provide therapeutic counselling. For regular therapeutic support, I recommend that you phone the College of Alberta Psychologists at 780-424-5070 and identify the needs for your child/children so they may provide contacts for you to consider or please refer to this website <http://www.cap.ab.ca>.

Below are a few questions that are asked about counseling in a school setting:

What does a counselor do in a school? A counselor's role will vary from school to school. At Pine Street, the counselor's role is comprised of but not limited to:

- Seeing students, supporting students and their learning
- Observations of students
- Providing programs (I Care Cat)
- Completing specialized program application packages
- Working with staff in supporting students who have an Instructional Support Plan
- Acting as a liaison between Central and Pine Street for students who require additional support in the transitional process
- Acting as a liaison between school and community supports
- Chairing meetings with parents for students who present with complex learning needs
- Liaison with specialized services
- Assisting in the classroom
- Building resiliency
- Speaking with parents
- Review of student record files

Can anyone come and see me? Of course! *What does 'checking in' mean on a more regular basis?*

If a student is working on a goal (ie: paying more attention in class) it may be advantageous to meet regularly to assist the child in developing tools to pay more attention. If this is the case, both parents sign a form indicating that they are okay with me seeing their child on a more regular basis. In this way we are working towards keeping the lines of communication open and transparent.

Do you tell parents everything that you have spoken about with their child?

If a child comes to see me, it is up to the child to determine if he/she wishes to share the information with parents except if: Someone is hurting him/her, the child wants to hurt him/herself, or The child wants to hurt someone else. In these cases, there is duty to report (who it is reported to may vary depending upon the nature of the situation).

The important thing to remember is the safety and well-being of the child. In most cases, the child will note that he/she does want to share with a parent and/or parents. One of the most common reasons a child may come to me is because of something that has occurred during recess times. I thank-you for sharing your child/ children with us and look forward to working with you at Pine Street this year.

Changes in Enrolment Over the Summer

As we mentioned in our June newsletter, we would be monitoring our class sizes closely as we begin the 2018-19 school year. We have had several students enroll over the last couple of weeks. Keeping in mind with, "what's best for kids", we have made the decision to add another class in division one. As a result we will now have two classes at each grade level. Ms. Heather Ferguson will once again teach grade two this year and we welcome Mrs. Woodbeck back to Pine Street as she returns to teaching grade four.

We are excited to welcome Mrs. Lisa Leitch to Pine Street. Mrs. Leitch is coming to us from Clover Bar School. She is taking over for Mrs. Susan Shephard in the office.

We also have nine new staff who will be working with the PALS program. These staff are listed below and on the next page and are joining us from Brentwood, Glen Allan and Millshaven.

Office Staff and Library

Mrs. Lisa Leitch (Office)
Mrs. Lisa Waselenkoff (Office)
Mrs. Darlene DeMarco (Library)

Classroom Configuration & School Staff for 2018-19

Grade/Class	Teacher
PALS	Mrs. Shauna Birtles
PALS	Mrs. Rachelle Gagnon
PALS	Miss Elissa Lyttle
Kindergarten – Group A	Ms. Jennifer Appleby
Kindergarten – Group B	Ms. Jennifer Appleby
Grade 1	Mrs. Jocelyne Kavalinas
Grade 1	Mrs. Lorna Magnan
Grade 2	Ms. Heather Ferguson
Grade 2	Mrs. Wendy Forbes
Grade 3	Mrs. Pegi Brown
Grade 3	Mrs. Kerri Remeika
Grade 4	Mrs. Debbie Bessette
Grade 4	Mrs. Susan Woodbeck
Grade 5	Mrs. Deneen Zielke
Grade 5	Mrs. Heather Weber
Grade 6	Mrs. Cheryl Hawryluk
Grade 6	Mrs. Heather Lockwood
Music (K – Grade 3)	Mrs. Michelle Vetro
Music (Grades 4 – 6)	Mrs. Linda Kerr
Counselor	Ms. Suzanne Stevens
Assistant Principal	Ms. Shelby Hines
Principal	Mr. Jeff Huculak



Educational Assistants

Mrs. Janet Alty (PALS)
Ms. Anne Bohach (PALS)
Mrs. Janelle Caldwell
Mrs. Denise Conrad
Mrs. Keltie Herzog (PALS)
Mrs. Tracy Kent (PALS)
Mrs. Linsey Marwick
Mrs. Leanne Rosko
Mrs. Nikki Rufenack (PALS)
Mrs. Leanne Strong
Ms. Dawn Sutton (PALS)
Mrs. Louise Wall
Mrs. Mellissa Willisko
Mrs. Heather Wright

PALS Program

Pine Street School is excited to be the designated site for the PALS (Play and Learn at School) program for Sherwood Park beginning this year. PALS programming supports children between the ages of 3 and 5 in reaching emotional, social, intellectual and physical developmental milestones. Students attend Monday to Thursday in either the morning or afternoon. Class sizes are small and consist of one teacher and two educational assistants, along with access to speech pathologists and occupational therapists. Pine Street will have six PALS classes this year. Welcome to all of our PALS students and their families!



PALS Morning Schedule

PALS Afternoon Schedule

BUS ARRIVAL 8:25

BUS ARRIVAL 12:15

CLASSES 8:30 - 11:25

CLASSES 12:20—3:15

BUS DEPARTURE 11:30

BUS DEPARTURE 3:20

EARLY DISMISSAL DAY (FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH) - NO PALS CLASSES

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, medical forms are required. Please go to <http://pinestreet.ca/parents/health-link>

Please contact the office if you have any questions or concerns.

School Newsletters/Information

Communication between the school and home is extremely important. Pine Street School serves approximately 370 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 once again be using their 'eteacher page' which can be found on our school website <http://pinestreet.ca/>. Teachers have been asked to update the information monthly. In addition, links to articles from EIPS will be added. Parents are encouraged to check our school website regularly for up to date information.



Stay Up to Date

There are a lot of things happening in both our school and district. We 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. As already mentioned, we also encourage parents to visit the school website regularly and check eTeacher pages.

Student Transportation

- If students lose or damage their bus passes, there is a replacement fee of \$20. If you have any questions about your child's transportation, please call 780-417-5181 or email st@eips.ca
- Did you know each EIPS bus is equipped with video surveillance? The video surveillance and equipment helps ensure the safety of all students, drivers and property.



On a regular basis, EIPS Student Transportation reviews the video recordings, in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIP). The recordings assist the department with monitoring student and driver conduct, and may be used as evidence in a disciplinary matter.

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 or "may 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.



Our School Logo

A school logo is one of the primary visual elements that distinguishes schools from each other. It tells a story about a school and what they represent. We want to hear from stakeholders regarding our current logo. Over the next few months, staff and students will be engaged in discussions about whether we should modify our logo. We look forward to any thoughts you may have. Please watch for information on our website. As you know, Pine Street School has a long standing tradition of excellence. We want to ensure we honor that past, while looking toward the future.

School Logo



Enhancing 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 once again administering the STAR 360 and Math Intervention/Programming Instrument (MIPI) assessment tools in the 2018-19 school year. The tools focus on literacy and numeracy, are digitally based and offer an opportunity for students to demonstrate their learning. The goal: to provide timely information to teachers, help enhance classroom instruction and ensure student learning needs are identified.

In September and May, EIPS students in grades 1 through 12 will complete the STAR 360 assessment, which evaluates reading comprehension. The assessment takes approximately 20 minutes and can be taken on any digital device. Also in September, students in grades 2 through 10 will complete the MIPI assessment, which is a mathematics 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 and for students in grades 2 through 6 it takes approximately 20 minutes. The results of each offers the teacher a clearer picture about a student's learning needs and helps determine if subsequent instructional planning is required.

The scores of the assessments are not used towards a student's grade and there is no need to study ahead.

Improving Home-School Communication

To enhance communication between families and schools, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) has developed a how-to guide entitled, "Communication Protocol for Schools." Topics include appropriate channels to use, standard formats and structures, timing and sequencing for regular and ongoing home-school communication, and ways to bring forward questions or concerns. Additionally, the manual offers useful tools and resources schools and families can use to enhance face-to-face meetings, emails and any social media efforts. The "Communication Protocol for Schools" is available at www.eips.ca/download/40981.

Pay School Fees Online!

School fee information for the 2018-19 school year is expected to be posted on the PowerSchool Parent Portal by the end of September. All fees are due within 30 days of being posted. To access your fee information, simply log in to the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) and go to "Student Fees." There you can view your fees and pay them online using Visa, MasterCard or INTERAC Online—when available from your financial institution.

Don't forget to log in to the PowerSchool Parent Portal regularly throughout the year. Fees are often added to your child's account to cover the cost of various school activities such as field trips, class projects, athletic-team fees and more. Please contact Lisa Waselenkoff in the office at 780-467-2246 with questions.

If circumstances exist where you are unable to pay your student fees you can apply to have [fees waived](#) by submitting an [Application for a Waiver of Fees](#). The application deadline is December 15, 2018.

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 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.

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.

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.

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! Without names being written onto personal property, it is often difficult to help little ones find their belongings.

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. We 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 are welcome to drop by the office and ask to use a phone.

