

Monthly Update



Principal's Message

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 second week of October. Any time we can celebrate and emphasize the life skill of reading it is an opportunity that we like to share!

Looking ahead we have parent teacher interviews October 28th and 29th and the Halloween Dance on October 25th from 6:30 to 9:00.

I would like to thank Parent Advisory Council for all the fantastic things they do for Uncas Elementary and the community as a whole. Their work includes supporting teachers in the classroom, making hot lunch happen, the milk program, Pizza Day, Popcorn Day, many fund raisers, funding field trips, community care in the form of presentations and looking after those in need of support and well the list is very long. Thank you!

Emergency Drills to 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. 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.

3. 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.

4. School Bus Safety Week: October 21-25

Schools throughout Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) are celebrating School Bus Safety Week October 21-25. The theme: Ready to Ride, which focuses on being a responsible rider. Throughout the week, various activities are planned, including information sessions, bus-safety lesson plans and bus-evacuation drills.

In addition, students are participating in the Alberta Student Transportation Advisory Council's provincewide poster contest, open to students provincewide in Kindergarten to Grade 6. Each winner—one from each grade level—whose poster best illustrates the theme, Ready to Ride, will receive a \$25 gift card, a framed original of their poster, an engraved plaque and \$100 for their classroom.

As part of School Bus Safety Week, we'd like to remind students and families all of the Division's school buses are equipped with a bus-pass scanner and GPS technology, which allows Student Transportation to better monitor and manage its more than 156 buses and 594 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 is scanned onto a bus.

For more information about School Bus Safety Week and EIPS Student Transportation services visit www.eips.ca/transportation or contact Student Transportation (780-417-8151, st@eips.ca) directly.

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 childcare purposes. In emergency situations, parents need to contact Student Transportation to request alternate arrangements.



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 Thursday, October 31. Children are invited to wear their costumes to school and will be encouraged to take them off after the parent sponsored lunch.

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.

The **Uncas Halloween Dance** will be held on **Friday, October 25!** Information from the Parent Committee has been sent out.

Uncas Book Fair

Get ready to get chilly with the return of the Scholastic book fair on October 28-29 during Parent-Teacher Interviews! Let’s reach our goal of selling \$2,850 worth of books! As always, we will be having our door prize contest, where one lucky student will win \$25 dollars’ worth of books for themselves and their classroom!

The winner will be announced early on November 1st, so please get those entries in early to the library.



If anyone would like to help with the fair, please contact Ms. Gamache in the library. We would love some extra hands with handling the cash during the fair, setting up the fair on October 25, and taking down the fair on the November 1st.

Happy Reading!

Ms. L. Gamache

Phone: 780-922-4025

Email: lucie.gamache@eips.ca

Pay School Fees Online!

School fee information for the 2019-20 school year is now posted on the PowerSchool Parent Portal. 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 also 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.

If circumstances exist where you are unable to pay your fees, you can apply to have [fees waived](#) by submitting an [Application for a Waiver of Fees](#). The application deadline is Dec. 15, 2019.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines, visit www.eips.ca/schools/fees. Alternatively, contact Mrs. Miller at Uncas Elementary at 780-922-4025.

Read In Week

Read In Week 2019 returns, marked its 30th anniversary. The theme this year is “30 Years of Read In: Celebrate with Stories/Célébrons avec des Histoires 30 Anniversaire de Read In.” Through various activities, students spent the week learning how stories have the power to teach lessons, broaden perspectives and foster empathy

Read In Week is a Divisionwide initiative held annually to encourage a lifelong love of reading and to enhance literacy awareness among students, staff, parents and community members. We had many of our families participate in Read In Week. Thank you to all who came and read in our classrooms.

