

BISON TALES



September 2016 Update

So... the journey of building a new school begins with the demolition of the old. It seems fitting, somehow, that a quote from Lao Tzu, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step," was located in the former Ardrossan Primary School "wing" currently under demolition. We extend tremendous appreciation to all families who have paid heed to the heads up regarding traffic issues. Your proactive decisions made a caring difference in support of students during school opening. Thank you!

After so many months of planning, some signs of replacement school development will finally begin. The school website <http://ardrossanelementary.ca/> is the best location to find updated information and [pictures](#) of the progress. Please click on <http://ardrossanelementary.ca/about/new-build> for the most recent developments.

Our newsletter format is also undergoing some changes. The Table of Contents provides titles and brief descriptions of the news articles. Many of the articles include links for further information. In an effort to access the school information quickly, please feel free to customize your viewing needs by scrolling to those articles which may be of most interest specifically to your family.

Growth happens everywhere around us. We see it in our children. We see it in ourselves. We will see it as the demolition and construction of the new school transforms before us. What a journey we are on together! Great Happens Here!

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Calendar of Events

Subscribe to our school [Calendar of Events](#). Reminders will sent automatically to your personal devices. This is a great way to stay in touch with a very busy event calendar. You are also able to print off the monthly calendar at a glance.

School Council Message – Get involved!

The first meeting of the school year will be held on September 13th immediately after Meet the Staff at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. We look forward to you joining a great group of parent volunteers! Please see <http://ardrossanelementary.ca/council/meetings> on the school website for School Council Minutes and up to date information.

Updating Your PowerSchool Information

During the first week of school, families will receive a PowerSchool Correction Form for each student enrolled at **Ecole Ardrossan Elementary**. The form ensures the school has the most up-to-date information regarding each of its students. When you receive the form, please review it carefully and make sure all the information is correct. If any changes need to be made, please update the form and add any new details you think are necessary. If you have any technical questions regarding PowerSchool, please contact the school office at 780.922.2066. Thank you for your assistance.

Pay School Fees Online

School fee information for the 2016–2017 school year will be available on the PowerSchool Parent Portal by September 19, 2016. All fees are due within **30 days** of being posted. To access your fee information, simply login to your PowerSchool Parent Portal account (<https://powerschool.eips.ca/public/home.html>) and click the tab entitled, “Student Fees.” Once logged in, you will be able to view and pay fees online using Visa, MasterCard or INTERAC Online (if available from your financial institution).

Remember to regularly login to your PowerSchool Parent Portal throughout the year. Fees are often added to your child’s account to cover the cost of various school activities including field trips, class projects, athletic-team fees and more.

For more information about school fees and payment deadlines visit www.eips.ca/schools/school-fees/acorn. Alternatively, you can contact Shauna Hart, Business Manager at 780.922.2066.

Terry Fox Run

Terry Fox is a Canadian hero. He gives us hope and inspires us to continue to strive to find a cure for cancer. In his memory, our students will be participating in the Terry Fox School Run scheduled for **Friday, September 30 at 2:15 p.m.** Students will have the choice of walking or running the course and, of course, all our parents are invited to participate too!! We are encouraging students to bring a “Toonie for Terry”. Donations will be

accepted at the General Office until October 5th with funds going to The Terry Fox Foundation. Our goal is to raise student awareness for cancer research as well as to enjoy some physical activity. Please bring your runners!

Literacy and Learning Day

The 14th Annual Literacy and Learning Day Conference takes place on Oct. 22, 2016 at the Edmonton Expo Centre. The event is a fun-filled day for both parents and teachers, and includes various free workshops and keynote speakers. Participants are guaranteed to walk away with new strategies, tools and resources to support children as they grow and learn. The conference is free and everyone is welcome. For more information, or to register, visit www.literacyday.ca.

Tidbits from the Lunchbox

Please get Online and Register at www.aeslunchbox.com
Click [here](#) to find out more.

Community Events

Strathcona 4-H District Rally

Sunday, Sept 25, 2016, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Ardrossan Greenspace

Club Information and Registration will be available, but attendees are not required to register in a program...just come and have fun!

- Penny Carnival Games
- Canine Agility (bring your own leashed/controlled dog to try it out)
- Canine Costume Contest
- Petting Zoo
- Displays about Clubs in the Area
- MORE...

All ages welcome; food bank donations are welcome

Questions: please contact Kathy Corcoran at 780.221.0167 or Donna Zons at 780.903.1424
For further information, please visit www.4h.ab.ca

Please Welcome Our New Staff for 2016-17

A Bison Welcome ☺ to the following staff : Ms. Jackson will teach Grade 1 French Immersion until Mme Olsen returns from maternity leave. Mrs. Jordan will be team teaching with Mrs. Ruptash in Grade 3. Mr. Campbell will be teaching Grade 4. In addition, Monsieur Jean-Paul will be teaching Grade 5 French Immersion and Ms. Sarah Thompson will be our Library Technician. Please click here for the [list of teaching staff](#) and their current assignments.

Leader in Me – Parent Information

The 7 Habits is a combination of universal, timeless principles in support of personal and interpersonal effectiveness, such as responsibility, vision, integrity, teamwork, collaboration and renewal, which are common to all people and cultures. For further information please visit [Leader in Me](#).

Icon Picture Day

The ICON EXPERIENCE photographers will be taking individual student photos for students in Grades K – 6 on **Thursday, September 22** and alternate ECS classes on **September 23**. This service allows you the opportunity to have quality studio-style portraits of your children. The purchase of pictures is optional; however all students

will have their picture taken. Please note: in keeping with personal hygiene, send along a comb or brush for your own child if necessary as students will not share.

Student Safety

- Throughout the course of the year, a variety of emergency drills take place. These drills include: emergency evacuation, shelter in place, lock down and hold and secure. Students, with practice, become familiar with school procedures so as to enhance their personal safety as well as those of their classmates. For more information visit our website or see [Emergency Procedures Information](#).

Student Health and Wellness

Check [No Child Without](#) for information regarding a free program for those students who require a medic alert bracelet.

- **Severe Allergies to Peanuts/Nuts**
 - [Food allergies](#) are a growing concern in schools.
 - In addition to avoiding peanut and nut products in the school we also discourage all students from trading lunches. Please feel free to contact the office if you have any questions or concerns.
- **Student Medication & Personal Care**
 - Safe administration of medication, personal care and management of severe/life-threatening medical situations requires communication and planning between the family and the school to support the safety of students. Please see the following link if your child requires medication or a medical action plan: [Student Medication & Personal Care](#)
- **Common Childhood Conditions**
 - Regular information regarding common childhood illnesses and conditions such as conjunctivitis (pink eye), pediculosis (head lice), fifth disease, etc., will be shared as needed. For further information, please access: <https://myhealth.alberta.ca/Pages/default.aspx>

Parents Make the Difference

The online magazine, **Parents Make the Difference**, provides parents with advice and suggestions regarding supporting children at home and within the school environment to be capable learners and caring citizens.

Please check out the following topics that may be of interest to you:

[Make attending school a priority for your child](#)

[Help your child get this new school year off to a great start](#)

[Teach your child to persevere when faced with challenges](#)

[Questions and Answers – What about Math?](#)

Assessment: Tools to Enhance 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 introducing two new assessment tools during the 2016–2017 school year—STAR 360 and Math Intervention/Programming Instrument (MIPI). The assessments focus on literacy and numeracy, are digitally based and offer an opportunity for students to show their learning in ways not possible with paper-based tests. The goal is to provide timely information to teachers, help enhance classroom instruction and ensure all student learning needs are identified.

In September and May, EIPS students in Grades 2 through 12 will complete the STAR 360 assessment, which evaluates reading comprehension. Grade 1 students will take the STAR 360 exam in February. The assessment takes approximately 20 minutes and can be taken on any digital device. Also in September, students in Grades 2 through 10 will take the MIPI assessment, which is a mathematic 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 to complete and for students in Grades 2 through 6 it takes approximately 20 minutes. The results of each assessment give the teacher a clearer picture of a student's learning needs and help determine if any subsequent instructional planning is needed.

It is important to note, the results of the assessments will not be used towards a student's grade and there is no need to study ahead of time. The assessment tools simply provide information to the teacher so he or she can better understand where each student is in terms of reading comprehension and mathematic ability. If, after analyzing the results, it is determined a student can benefit from extra support, the teacher will contact the parent or guardian to discuss possible strategies to be used to better support students. Should you require more information about the Division's STAR 360 and MIPI assessment tools, please contact Deb Barron, Director of Learning Supports, at 780.417.8160.

Quick Fact: Student Transportation

All Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) buses are equipped with video surveillance equipment. The equipment helps to ensure the safety of all students, drivers and property; to deter destructive acts and is in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIP). The video surveillance equipment records and stores several days' worth of data. Both video and audio recordings are regularly reviewed by EIPS Student Transportation to help monitor student and driver conduct, and may be used as evidence in a disciplinary matter. For more information about the collection, use, and disclosure of personal information, please contact the EIPS FOIP Coordinator at 780.417.8266.

Improving Home-School Communication

To enhance communication between families and schools, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) has created a manual entitled, "Communication Protocol for Schools." The manual provides a framework for communication between EIPS schools and its families, and includes a standard format, structure and sequence for regular and ongoing home-school communication within the Division. It also offers useful tools and resources schools can use when planning their communication efforts, such as face-to-face meetings, email, Synervoice and social media. Additionally, the manual provides a process parents or guardians can use if they need to bring forward a question or concern. **Ecole Ardrossan Elementary** encourages all our families to review the document. The "Communication Protocol for Schools" is available by visiting www.eips.ca/download/40981.

Welcome Back to the Learning Commons!

Our new Library Technician's name is Miss Sarah Thompson. She is a recent graduate of Grant MacEwan University's Library and Information Technology Program. Her belief has always been: "Never limit a child's imagination through limiting how many books they can take out and how often....as long as the books are returned before they are late and overdue." Students may choose to exchange their library books at any time or stay in at both recesses and at noon for quiet reading. Stay tuned for an opportunity to join Library Club.

If students would like to search for library books at home they can access our library by using the following address:

<http://cen-destiny.educ.eips.ca/>

Username: ael student

Password: student

It's a new year and a new adventure. Make the Learning Commons your go to destination!

Things to Remember

- **Lost and Found** - Label your child's clothing, personal items – Lost and Found is donated at least 3 times a year to local charity. If the item is labelled, it is much easier to return to a child. We would love to have an empty Lost and Found this year. You can help us by ensuring that all clothing items and school materials are labeled with your child's first and last name.
- **Campbell's Labels** – Please save the full label from eligible Campbell products and send them to the school. Contact our parent program coordinator, Mrs. Terri-Ann Trohubiak, to volunteer. Visit www.labelsforeducation.ca for more information about the program.
- **Family/Student Handbook** – all students in Grades 1-6 have a school agenda. The front section explains school policy and procedures. Parents/guardians are requested to “sign off” in the parent acknowledgement portion of the agenda and return to their child's teacher. There is also a spot to sign up for volunteering at the school. Click here for the [online version](#).
- **Dress Code** - Thank you for helping us establish and maintain a respectful tone in the school by monitoring your child's clothing and ensuring that it is appropriate.
 - The following is **inappropriate** school and work attire:
 - spaghetti straps
 - bare bellies
 - muscle shirts
 - very short shorts or skirts
 - bare feet
 - inappropriate slogans on clothing
 - see-through clothing
- **Staff Dress Code** - Fridays are "casual days" for staff at École Ardrossan Elementary. Staff pay \$2.00 to our Denim for Dollars fund. Over \$1 000.00 was donated to Red Cross Fort McMurray Fire Relief during the 2015-16 school year.