

SCA Elementary Newsletter



Our Mission: To challenge students, through Christ-centered education, to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord in order to pursue a life of godly character, personal and academic excellence, and service to others.



www.scaelementary.ca

September 2019 Edition



FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL INFORMATION

First Day - The first day back for the 2019-20 school year is Tuesday, September 3. Each year on the first day of school students find out which homeroom and teacher they have. Our teachers take great care and planning in placing each child in the proper class. Some of the variables include: boy-girl ratios, special program groupings and education assistant time. Parents are asked to please refrain from requesting specific teachers or homerooms except for reasons of special education (i.e. learning or physical disabilities). On Tuesday, September 3, our staff will be in the rotunda with grade signs to help students find their new classrooms.

Parking - Parking will be an issue the first day of school. Our parking lot cannot accommodate all driving parents who may wish to park and walk their children into the school. Our visitor parking lot can only accommodate 25 vehicles. We would ask parents to please consider parking at SCA Secondary and enjoy the three minute walk to the elementary school if you are walking your child into the school. This will alleviate a great deal of possible frustration. The drop-off-loop is still in effect for parents dropping their children off and proceeding into their day. **No parking** in the drop-off-loop will be permitted.



School Pictures

Our annual school pictures will happen on Monday, September 16 for all KA/KC students only and on Tuesday, September 17 for all KB/KD to Grade 6 students.

Reminders:

Wednesday, September 4 - Early Dismissal at 2:15 pm

Tuesday, September 17 - Picture Day

Wednesday, September 18 - Meet the Teacher Night at 7:15 pm



Strathcona Christian Academy Elementary School
52362 Range Road 231, Sherwood Park, AB, T8B 0A3
Phone: 780-449-2787 Email: general.sce@eips.ca

Principal: Mr. Francis Poole
Assistant Principals: Ms. Darlene Janzen & Mrs. Jaime Peters





The School Theme for 2019-2020 is...

“The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing”.

Shuttle Bus Service

In an attempt to relieve some of the school parking pressures at our elementary school, we are once again providing a free shuttle bus service, before and after school, to and from our secondary school. Parents will drop off their children in the morning at the secondary school and pick them up at the secondary school from the shuttle in the afternoon.

If you signed your child(ren) up for the shuttle service for this year (completed at the end of the last school year), please refer to the confirmation letter sent via email with the newsletter which outlines the details of the shuttle service including what time to drop off and pick up your children at the secondary school and when the service begins.

If you did not sign up your child(ren) for the shuttle service and would like to, please contact the school office.

We are encouraging any elementary families who have children in our secondary school and are currently picking them up by car, or any families who find the parking lot congested and would like a larger parking area to retrieve their child(ren) to consider using this service. Families considering using the shuttle service must agree to be committed to using the service daily both in the morning and in the afternoon.

NOTE: Students who are signed up for regular EIPS bussing should NOT sign up for the shuttle bus. Students on regular EIPS buses can get off their bus at secondary with a parental note (sent to the bus driver).



Staffing News

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

- **Mrs. Shawna Jenkins - Teacher (3B)** - Mrs. Jenkins is an experienced teacher who previously taught grades K-3 at Fort Saskatchewan Christian School. Most recently she worked at Alberta Education in assisting the writing of the new Language Arts curriculum.
- **Mr. Jackson O'Brien - Teacher (5B)** - Mr. O'Brien previously taught at SCA Secondary School. Besides teaching, he was involved in coaching basketball. In his spare time, he loves being a worship leader at his local church.
- **Rev. Tim Cook** - This year SCA Elementary will have a full-time Campus Pastor. Previously, Pastor Cook served for many years as Senior Pastor at Southgate Alliance Church. Tim was raised on the mission field in South America and is fluent in Spanish!

We are pleased to welcome back the following staff members to our school:

- Mrs. Lisa Mol - Teacher (1C)
- Mrs. Julia Dawe - Teacher (2A - afternoons)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

At the end of last school year, our Business Manager, Cathy Dawe retired. Our lead secretary, Charlene Gagne has moved to the Business Manager position and we are now looking for a Secretary III to replace Mrs. Gagne's previous position. The position is posted on the Elk Island Public School (EIPS) website (www.eips.ca) and closes at noon on September 12, 2019. Should you be interested in the position and would like more information, please visit the EIPS website or contact Jaime Peters, Assistant Principal at 780-449-2787.

PAY SCHOOL FEES ONLINE!

School fee information for the 2019-20 school year is expected to be posted on the PowerSchool Parent Portal by mid 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.

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

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines, visit www.eips.ca/schools/fees. Alternatively, contact Charlene Gagne at the school at 780-449-2787.

Student Information Correction Forms - Changes are Coming!

Processes for registration and student data verification have changed as Elk Island Public Schools transitions to a paperless records system, and paper correction forms **WILL NOT BE SENT HOME** for the 2019-20 school year. Online corrections forms will be sent out in the near future to all parents for review/amendment. Stay tuned for further information from Elk Island Public Schools. Please continue to login through your Parent Portal account to make changes to personal information (including medical history) throughout the school year to ensure we have the most up to date information in our system. Thank you for your cooperation.

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING CLUB 2019

ATTENTION: All students who are in Grades 3-6

Our Cross Country Running Club starts the first week of school (Thurs. Sept. 5, first recess). Parents watch for the bright pink info sheet coming home on Thursday. Registering for XC will be done online. Check the school website for the link or go to:

<https://forms.gle/CqiyqMFEcUmPUGVkJ7>

Practices are Mondays - Sept. 9, 16, 23, and Oct. 7 @ 3:15-4:30 pm (attendance is **not** mandatory but highly recommended) and **mandatory** practices are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday first recess. If you like to run this is a club for you. You can compete in up to 4 races from September to the middle of October; or just come out and run for exercise.

1. There are three Thursday races starting with the grade 6's at 5:15 pm (Sept. 19, 26 & Oct. 3) behind Wes Hosford Elementary School/Glen Allen Recreation Centre here in Sherwood Park. Parents will need to transport their athlete(s) to and from these races. This series includes up to junior high school and the racing begins with the older athletes down to the younger ones. This is the Sherwood Park Cross Country Series.
2. The last race is on Saturday, Oct. 19 (noon-3:00) - at Hawrelak Park. This is the Autumn XC Classic. Parents will need to transport their athlete(s) to and from this race. Parents would you please consider participating on the Teacher/Parent team at this race (race goes at 2:15 pm). Let Mrs. Doupe know if you are interested. Much appreciated!



Compete in as many or as few as you are able. Just come and run!!

Coaching for His Glory!
Mrs. Sue Doupe, Mr. Jackson O'Brien and Mrs. Evelyn Burns

Note about yearbooks...

Please make sure that if you would like to purchase a 2019-2020 yearbook that you include it with your school fees. It is an additional fee that you choose. Yearbooks can be found under the optional fees on your Parent Portal account. The deadline for ordering yearbooks online for this school year is December 31, 2019 and they will be delivered to the students in June of 2020.

SCA Elementary T-Shirts

On many occasions it serves students well to have an SCA T-Shirt, for instance, wearing the school t-shirt on a field trip. During the year, we will often have a "Sea of Blue" day and staff and students will be asked to wear their school t-shirt. If you are new to the school and need a t-shirt, one can be purchased for \$17.00 at the school office anytime throughout the year or through your Parent Portal account until November. If cost is in any way prohibitive to your child having a shirt, please contact Mr. Poole at 780-449-2787.

Terry Fox Run Friday, September 27, 2019

It continues to be such a great success that we're doing it again!!!

Our students, parents and staff will once more have the opportunity to participate in the annual Terry Fox School Run. Together with schools from across the country, Strathcona Christian Academy Elementary will run to raise money and hope for those who are battling cancer.

The event is planned for: Friday, September 27, 2019.

Each student, staff member and any interested parents/family are invited to take part in the run itself, here on school property. We will be looking for parent helpers! Please sign up in the main office beginning in September.

Again we encourage everyone to bring a loonie or toonie or as much as they like. Please make cheques out to 'The Terry Fox Foundation'. Receipts will be sent directly from the Foundation. Online donations are also accepted at <http://www.terryfox.ca/StrathconaChristianAcademyElementary>.

It is our prayer that this special event will help to fulfill the vision of Terry Fox by giving hope to those stricken with cancer, raising dollars for cancer research, and inspiring students and others to volunteer action.

Coordinators:
Mrs. Doupe and Mrs. Stadnyk



Quick Facts: EIPS buses are all equipped with video surveillance

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; and
- deter from destructive acts.

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.

For more information about the collection, use and disclosure of personal information, contact the EIPS FOIP co-ordinator at 780-464-3477.

SYNC THE SCHOOL CALENDAR TO YOUR PERSONAL CALENDAR

Did you know you can sync the school calendar to your own personal calendar? You can. Just visit:

<http://scaelementary.ca/about/calendar>

Click on one of the following calendar options you want to subscribe to:

- Add to Google Calendar
- Subscribe to Calendar (Outlook)
- Download iCal



NOTE: Using a mobile device, these options are located above the calendar. Using a computer, these options are located below the calendar.

Once you click on the calendar option you want to subscribe to, follow the instructions. Within seconds, your personal calendar will contain all of SCA Elementary's important dates including holidays, school closure days, planned activities, events and more.

Important Reminders for Parents

1. Please remember to check in at the Main Office before heading to any classroom. One of our secretaries will call students to the office. We want to do everything we can to avoid any unnecessary interruptions to the classroom. There are lanyards and a sign-in book in the Main Office for all volunteers and visitors to the school.
2. We appreciate the continued support of our parents as we continue to maintain a modest dress code standard for our students. We would ask grades 4 – 6 parents especially to review the dress code at the front of their child's agenda book.
3. Students should be seated in their desks when the "Warning Bell" rings at 8:39 am. **Classes begin at 8:40 am.** Students not in their desks at the 8:40 bell will be asked to pick up a late slip from the office and will be marked as "late". We ask parents and students to do your best to have students arrive on time so all classes can have a strong start to the day.

School Supplies (Grade 1-3 Students)

In June, a letter was sent to all Grade 1-3 parents indicating that school supplies would be purchased by the school. This practice provides for continuity and ready access to supplies here at school. Parents are required to pay a fee to cover the cost of the supplies. This fee will be included in the school fees on Parent Portal.



Missionaries are a Comin'!

We are delighted to announce that this coming fall, we will again have visitors from our partnership orphanage in Mexico. Johnny & Addy Deras served as house parents to a group of orphans, but now serve as coordinators for all of the house parents. We love it when our Mexican guests come as they provide such insights into a different culture and the needs of the children who are far less fortunate. Johnny and Addy will be visiting and sharing with each and every classroom. We can't wait to host them. Monies from our bottle collection this year have helped to pay for flights for our Mexican friends.

Thanks to everyone who hauled bottles into the school!

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

Volunteers in Schools

The policy regarding volunteers requires that all volunteers annually sign a form including a declaration that they do not have a criminal record or child welfare record as well as agreeing to a confidentiality undertaking. Forms will be available at 'Meet the Teacher Night' or through the main office and we ask that if you are planning on volunteering at the school this year, that you complete the form and return it to your child's homeroom teacher. All visitors to the school must sign in at the office and wear an identification tag provided each time you volunteer. Thank you.

School Emergency Response Plan (SERP)

SCA Elementary staff and students will be practicing emergency response procedures in the event of an emergency. We will practice emergency evacuation, lockdown and shelter-in-place procedures throughout the 2019-20 school year.

After School Supervision

Just a reminder to parents, after the final dismissal bell at the end of the day, children who are not bus students must be picked up or be on their way home within 10 minutes. After this time, we do not provide after school supervision.

Footwear

Students in K-6 are required to have separate footwear for use inside of the school. Please make note of the following:

1. Shoes left at school must be kept in the student's homeroom.
2. Shoes that mark or damage floors in any way are not to be worn.
3. A pair of **athletic running** shoes for PE are required (NOT skateboard, backless, platform or "roller" runners. Runners must be able to be tied tightly, support the foot and flex properly.) These shoes can be used as the indoor footwear.



FUNDRAISING FOR MISSIONS

This is the seventh year of our "Wheels in Motion" Missions Project. This project involves supporting an orphanage in Vicente Guerrero, Mexico. The monies go toward buying wheelchair and wheelchair parts, along with supporting a classroom of special needs students. Each SCA Elementary classroom completes one fundraiser each year in their class to support this cause. Each of our classes will be brainstorming on how to fundraise \$100 per classroom for missions for this year. Stay tuned for more information from your child's teacher.

Parents in Partnership



The mandate of Parents in Partnership is to pray in the schools for one hour each week and to support the staff and teachers in prayer. We invite you to join us in prayer on Monday mornings from 9-10 am. We meet in the elementary office and then proceed to the conference room to pray. All are welcome to join us as often as your schedule allows. For a further explanation of how you can get involved in staff and teacher encouragement or crisis meals, please contact Aileen Bozic at parentsinpartnership@hotmail.com.

In His Service, Parents in Partnership

MEDICATIONS ADMINISTERED AT SCHOOL

As per our medication policy, if your child will be requiring medication to be kept in the office for the 2019-20 school year, or if they require medication to be administered to them while at school, a **Medication/Personal Care Request and Authorization** form (available in the office) must be filled out. Medication must be in the original container, labeled with their name, dosage and times. If it is prescription medication, the pharmacy label must be intact and the label must have an expiry date. If the label is not legible or is missing, or if there are medications mixed in the same bottle, the medication cannot be used. **We do not give out “stock” medication to students.** Thank you for your co-operation.



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, 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 the students in our school community.

Monthly Newsletters Online

On the last day of every month we post the newsletter for the upcoming month on our website. Please visit www.scaelementary.ca to view our calendar and newsletter to find out about important information and upcoming events at SCA Elementary.

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 planning to administer the STAR 360 and Math Intervention/ Programming Instrument (MIPI) assessment tools in the 2019-20 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 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 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 of time. Both simply provide the teacher with information to better understand where each student is in terms of reading comprehension and mathematic ability. If, after analyzing the results, it's determined a student can benefit from extra support, the teacher will contact the family to discuss possible support strategies.

For more information about the Division's STAR 360 and MIPI assessment tools, contact Deb Barron, the Director of Learning Supports, at 780-464-3477.

September Prayer Focus:

Please pray for your child's homeroom teacher.



September



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2 Labour Day	3 First Day of School	4 Staff Meeting - Early Dismissal 2:15pm	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Grade 6 Campout	12 Grade 6 Campout	13 Grade 6 Campout	14
15	16 Picture Day (KA/KC only)	17 Picture Day (K-6)	18 Meet the Teacher Night Grades 1-6 7:15 pm New Students Lunch	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Chip Day	26	27 Terry Fox Run	28
29	30 October Newsletter Online					

2019