

# 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](http://www.scaelementary.ca)

September 2021 Edition



## **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL INFORMATION**

**First Day** - The first day back for the 2021-22 school year is Wednesday, September 1. 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 Wednesday, September 1, 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.

**Mask Information** - Please be aware that Elk Island Public Schools require all persons entering Elementary schools to wear a mask. This applies to all staff, parents and students.

We appreciate your compliance to this policy. The complete EIPS COVID Relaunch plan can be found at [www.eips.ca/download/361973](http://www.eips.ca/download/361973).

## **Reminders:**

**Wednesday, September 8 - Early Dismissal at 2:15 pm**

**Tuesday, September 14 - Picture Day**

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

**Wednesday, September 29 - Orange Shirt Day**

**Thursday, September 30 - No School**



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

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







## School Pictures

Our annual school pictures will happen on Monday, September 13 for all KA/KC students only and on Tuesday, September 14 for all KB/KD to Grade 6 students.

## 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 did not sign up your child(ren) for the shuttle service and would like to, please contact Mrs. Box at 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).



## New Playground

Our playground has been under construction for most of the summer as crews have been here installing new equipment and also replacing the sand and borders on our existing playground. We are very excited to have the new playgrounds up and operational for our students this fall. Highlights include a new play structure for our grade 3 students, additional equipment in our grade 4-6 playground and new swings for all students. A big thank you to our School Council who spearheaded this project and also to Sherwood Park Alliance Church for helping to facilitate the installation.

## Staffing News

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

- **Mrs. Jaden Shannon - Teacher (5B)**
- **Mr. Jon Alstad - School Counsellor**



## **The School Theme for 2021-2022...**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23



## **PAY SCHOOL FEES ONLINE!**

School fee information for the 2021-22 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.

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

### **Student Information Correction Forms**

Online student information corrections forms will be sent out in the near future to all parents for review/amendment. 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.

## **Traffic Change**

Starting on August 30, vehicles will no longer be able to make a left turn into the SCA Elementary school parking lot when coming north on Range Road 231. A little background to this change is necessary.

Last year many individual parents and school council voiced strong concerns about the safety of exiting our parking lot, especially when turning left. The concerns were expressed to both school administration and the County of Strathcona Transportation Department. A transportation engineering company was contracted to conduct a study to determine the severity of the problem and to provide real solutions to improve safety. The engineering company, Bunt and Associates, conducted a lengthy study involving cameras, car counting, foot traffic, peak hour pressure and many other traffic variables on our site. They came back with a number of suggestions to better impact our site. Some of the suggestions were too cost prohibitive, some were impractical for our site at this time, and some were not doable due to provincial traffic regulations. After weighing all considerations, the single best option that would immediately impact greater safety for vehicles transporting our students was to limit the northbound left turn into our site. The decision to make this move was not considered lightly as it will inconvenience some of our families who utilized the left turn option. Please be assured that many options were considered but the decision in the end was to significantly improve safety at our entrance in order to prevent the possibility of a major accident and to potentially ease traffic flow.

## **Note about yearbooks...**

Please make sure that if you would like to purchase a 2021-2022 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.

## **Orange Shirt Day - Thursday, September 30, 2021**



On Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, SCE will be participating in Orange Shirt Day. Orange Shirt Day is an annual Canada-wide event to commemorate the history and legacy of residential schools. It grew out of a gathering of survivors held in Williams Lake, British Columbia in 2013, where Phyllis Webstad, who attended St. Joseph Mission residential school, shared her experience of having her new orange shirt taken from her on her first day. As a school, we are choosing to participate in

Orange Shirt Day as a way to remember, and as an act of reconciliation with the Indigenous people of Canada.

If your child is able to wear an orange shirt on September 30<sup>th</sup>, that would be great!



## **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.

## **SCA Elementary Hoodies**

Another initiative by our School Council last year was the sale of SCA Elementary hoodies. Hoodies can once again be ordered this year for a cost of \$32.00 each. Hoodies can be purchased at the school office anytime throughout the year or through your Parent Portal account until November. We have most sizes in stock and are hopeful that we can provide you or your child with a hoodie shortly after payment has been made.

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## **Terry Fox Run Friday, September 24, 2021**

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 24, 2021.

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.

Coordinator:  
Ms. Vanderlinde



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## **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.

### **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.

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### **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 2021-22 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 ninth year of our Missions Project in Mexico. 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.

## MEDICATIONS ADMINISTERED AT SCHOOL

As per our medication policy, if your child will be requiring medication to be kept in the office for the 2021-22 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](http://www.scaelementary.ca) to view our calendar and newsletter to find out about important information and upcoming events at SCA Elementary.

September Prayer Focus:

**Please pray for your child's homeroom teacher.**





# September



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 First Day of School	2	3	4
5	6 Labour Day	7 ECS Begins KB/KD	8 Early Dismissal 2:15 pm  ECS Begins KA/KC  Grade 4 Retreat	9 Grade 5 Retreat	10	11
12	13 Picture Day (KA/KC only)	14 Picture Day (K-6)	15 Meet the Teacher Night Grades 1-6 7:15 pm	16	17 Grade 6 Retreat	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Terry Fox Run	25
26	27	28 Grade 1 Literacy Night 7 pm	29 Orange Shirt Day  October Newsletter Online	30 NO SCHOOL- National Day for Truth & Reconciliation		

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