

# 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.**



September 2023 Edition



# WELCOME

## Back to School!



## First Day of School Information

**The first day back for the 2023-24 school year is Thursday, August 31.**

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).

## 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.

## NO After School Supervision

**After the final dismissal bell (3:20 pm) 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.**

## Morning Arrival

- School starts at 8:40 am. Please make sure to have your child at school before that time. School doors open at 8:20 am.
- On Thursday, August 31, our staff will be in the rotunda with grade signs to help students find their new classrooms.

## Afternoon Dismissal

**School is dismissed at 3:15 pm.**

**Our parking lot and loop line are very busy in the afternoons. Please plan accordingly.**

**Parents are not permitted to park in the staff parking behind the school.**

## REMINDERS

- Monday, September 4 - No School - Labour Day
- Wednesday, September 6 - Early Dismissal at 2:15 pm
- Monday, September 11 - School Picture Day (KA/KC)
- Tuesday, September 12 - School Picture Day (K-6)
- Wednesday, September 13 - School Council Meeting at 7:15 pm
- Wednesday, September 20 - Meet the Teacher Night at 7:15 pm
- Friday, September 22 - Terry Fox Run
- Friday, September 29 - Orange Shirt Day (In lieu of 30th)



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: Mrs. Jaime Peters & Mr. Jon Alstad



# 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.

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).

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.



## School Pictures

Our annual school pictures will happen on:

- Monday, September 11 for all KA/KC students
- Tuesday, September 12 for all KB/KD to Grade 6 students.



## Staffing News

We are pleased to welcome some new staff members to our school:

**Mrs. Briscall – Grade 4**

**Mrs. McCune – Grade 6**

**Miss Schaar – Grades 5/2**

**Mrs. Skaret – ECS Educational Assistant**



## PowerSchool Parent Portal Correction and Verification Form

Every year, EIPS requires that families review and update their personal information. By the end of this week, an email will be sent to all current school families from EIPS requesting **all families to complete a Correction and Verification Form for each student.** Even if there has been no changes to your information, please log in to your Parent Portal, review the information and submit a form to us.

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.

**New to our school?** An account has been created for all new students and instructions on how to access the account were emailed out on August 24 by EIPS Communications.

## Pay School Fees Online

School fee information for the 2023–24 school year will be posted on the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) in late 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 online using a credit card.

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 certain school activities such as field trips, class projects, athletic–team fees and more. Additionally, junior high and senior high fees can change as courses are added and deleted.

If you’re unable to pay your school fees, you can apply to have certain [fees waived](#) by submitting an [Application for a Waiver of Fees](#). The application deadline is Dec. 15, 2023.

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, Business Manager, at the school at 780-449-2787.





## Orange Shirt Day - September 29

On Friday, September 29, 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 29, that would be great!



## Terry Fox Run - September 22

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 22, 2023.

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!

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>

## SchoolMessenger App

SCA Elementary and the Division use the SchoolMessenger platform for communicating with families—through both phone and email. Be sure to add [communications@eips.ca](mailto:communications@eips.ca) and [general.sce@eips.ca](mailto:general.sce@eips.ca) to your safe sender list to avoid having important messages funneled into your junk mail folder.

You can directly manage your phone and email subscription preferences through [SchoolMessenger](#). Simply log in to your account—or create one if you don't already have one—and select the message types you'd like to receive to each phone number and email address on file.

The easiest way to stay connected is to download the SchoolMessenger app. Get the latest updates direct to your mobile device and enable push notifications to never miss a message. Families can also check back on past messages—for up to 30 days—directly in the app rather than searching to find an old message buried in your inbox. Download the SchoolMessenger app from the App Store or Google Play today.



## Yearbooks

Would you like to purchase a yearbook for the 2023-24 school year? You will have the opportunity to order one when you pay 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 option will be available from when school fees are posted until March 31, 2024.



## 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.

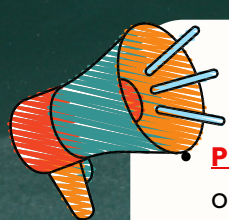
If you are new to the school and need a t-shirt, one can be purchased for \$20 at the school office anytime throughout the year or through your Parent Portal account. If cost is in any way prohibitive to your child having a shirt, please contact Mr. Poole at 780-449-2787.

## School Theme for 2023-24



Taste and see that the Lord is good,  
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

Psalm 34:8



# Important Reminders for Parents

- **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.
- 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 before going to class 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.
- 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.

## Sync the School Calendar to Your Calendar

**Did you know you can sync the school calendar to your own calendar?**

Simply visit:

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

Click on the applicable subscription option:

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

NOTE: Options are located above the calendar



Once you click on the desired subscription option, follow the instructions. Within seconds, your calendar will contain all SCA Elementary's important dates including holidays, school-closures days, planned activities, events and more

## 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 2023-24 school year.

## 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.



## Medications Administered at School

As per our medication policy, if your child will be requiring medication to be kept in the office for the 2023-24 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.

**Please note:** We do not give out "stock" medication to students (ie. Tylenol, Advil, etc.)



## Fundraising for Missions

This is the tenth 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

## 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. PLEASE LABEL Outdoor and Indoor shoes.
3. Shoes that mark or damage floors in any way are not to be worn.
4. 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.

## Quick Fact: EIPS buses Video Surveillance

Did you know each EIPS bus is equipped with video surveillance?

Video surveillance and equipment help:

- ensure the safety of all students, drivers and property; and
- discourage destructive acts.

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

The goal: To enhance safety, improve communication, increase efficiency and provide oversight. These tablets allow bus drivers to stay on time with turn-by-turn route directions and show student pictures and information when bus drivers get to stop locations. To ensure students get where they need to go, there are now two distinct audible tones when students scan their bus pass boarding or leaving the bus. One tone indicates they're getting on the correct bus or at the correct stop, and the other tone indicates they're on the incorrect bus or leaving at the incorrect stop. By using live information, Tyler Drive tablets provide more accuracy than paper schedules.

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

## Facebook Group

Did you know we have a school Facebook Group?

Find us on Facebook under:

**SCA Elementary Parents**

## 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



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				First Day of School KB/KD Orientation	KA/KC Orientation	
3	4 NO SCHOOL Labour Day	5	6 Early Dismissal 2:15 pm	7	8 Grade 5 Retreat	9
10	11 Picture Day KA/KC	12 Picture Day K-6	13 School Council Meeting 7:15 pm	14 Grade 4 Retreat	15 Grade 6 Retreat	16
17	18	19	20 Meet the Teacher Night Grade 1-6 7:15 pm	21	22 Terry Fox Run	23
24	25	26 Grade 1 Literacy Night 7:15 pm	27	28	29 Orange Shirt Day October Newsletter Online	30 National Day of Truth & Reconciliation

# September Prayer Focus

Please pray for your child's homeroom teacher.

A cartoon illustration of an eagle mascot. The eagle has a white head and neck, a yellow beak, and is wearing a blue jersey with white trim. It is holding a brown football in its talons. The eagle is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide.

Please pray for your child's homeroom teacher.



2023

