

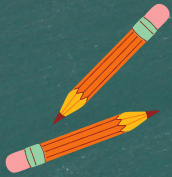
SCA Elementary Newsletter



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 2024 Edition



WELCOME

Back to School!



First Day of School Information

The first day back for the 2024-25 school year is Thursday, August 29.

Effective August 28 after 9:00 am, parents can find out which teacher their child will have on their PowerSchool Parent Portal. 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 29, 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 afternoon. Please plan accordingly.
- Parents are NOT permitted to park in the staff parking behind the school.

REMINDERS

- **Monday, September 2 - No School - Labour Day**
- **Wednesday, September 4 - Early Dismissal at 2:15 pm**
- **Monday, September 9 - School Picture Day (KA/KC)**
- **Tuesday, September 10 - School Picture Day (K-6)**
- **Wednesday, September 11 - School Council Meeting at 7:15 pm**
- **Wednesday, September 18 - Meet the Teacher Night at 7:15 pm**
- **Friday, September 20 - Terry Fox Run**
- **Friday, September 27 - Orange Shirt Day (In lieu of 30th)**
- **Monday, September 30 - No School - National Day of Truth & Reconciliation**



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. Jonathan Elzinga
Assistant Principals: Mrs. Jaime Peters & Mr. Jon Alstad



Shuttle Bus Service



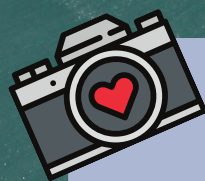
In an attempt to relieve some of the school parking pressures at our elementary school, we are once again providing a free shuttle bus service, before and after school, to and from our secondary school.

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 9 for all KA/KC students
- Tuesday, September 10 for all KB/KD to Grade 6 students.

Staffing News

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

Mr. Elzinga - Principal

Mrs. Rehill - Grade 4

Mrs. Taylor-Mehta - Grade 4

Mr. Hagen - Grade 5

Mr. Foster - Grade 6

Mrs. Hughes - EA



Update Your PowerSchool Information

The EIPS Correction and Verification Form is available online through your [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#)—at the top of the left-hand menu. Use the form to access and update your child's records information—including address, parent and guardian information, emergency contacts and medical information. Reviewing the form and submitting updates ensures the school has the most up-to-date information regarding your child.

When reviewing the form, pay close attention to all listed phone numbers, email addresses and emergency contact information. Also, if you recently moved, now is the time to ensure the Division has your updated address. Throughout the year, the Division and school use the listed information to communicate with families about important information, including updates, the latest news and events.

[PowerSchool Correction and Verification Form](#)
Review and update the form by Sept. 25, 2024

If you have questions about the form or your Parent Portal account, contact the school office at 780-449-2787.

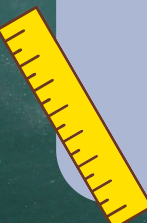
Pay School Fees Online!

Wondering when and how to pay for school fees?

[School fee information](#) for the 2024-25 school year will be posted on the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) in late September. All fees are due within 30 days of being posted.

If you're unable to pay your school fees, you can apply to have certain [fees waived](#). The application deadline is Dec. 16, 2024.

For more information, visit the [SCA Elementary School Fees page](#) on the school website. Alternatively, contact Charlene Gagne, Business Manager at SCA Elementary at 780-449-2787.





Orange Shirt Day - September 27

On Friday, September 27, 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 27, that would be great!



Terry Fox Run - September 20

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 20, 2024. 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 <https://schools.terryfox.ca/71932>

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 and 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 2024-25 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, 2025.



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. Elzinga at 780-449-2787.

School Theme for 2024-25



The Lord is my Shepherd, I lack nothing.

Psalm 23:1



SCA Elementary Daily Door Locking Procedures

The safety of students and staff is of paramount importance to Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS). To improve safety and security in schools, the Division has implemented a new initiative to keep student safety and learning a top priority. For some schools, this new division wide process aligns with current practice, for other schools it will be something new.

Effective for the start of the 2024–25 school year, all school exterior doors, including the front door, will remain locked during operation hours.

The front doors will be opened during designated supervision times:

In the morning between: 8:20 – 8:50 am

In the afternoon between: 3:05 – 3:35 pm

Students will enter and exit the school using their designated doors, and parents/caregivers will continue to meet their children outside their dismissal doors.

Students who arrive after the entry bell—as well as parents/caregivers, volunteers, school visitors and other guests—will be welcomed into the office through the front door after ringing the front doorbell/video-monitored intercom entry system. Upon arrival, all visitors must report to the school office, sign in on the tablet (new) and take a lanyard to wear.

The video-monitored intercom entry system will enable office personnel to determine who's at the door and admit arrivals without having to leave the front desk. The video camera will display the individual's image on a screen in the office, and once admitted, the individual will sign in at the office as they have in the past. This new procedure enables staff to know who's in the building and helps prevent trespassers from entering the premises. Students will continue to come and go from the school at the start and end of the day and at recess and lunch as they have in the past. Parents, caregivers and volunteers are still welcome and appreciated for your visits to and involvement with the school.

We ask that families please assist school staff with reminding your children, for safety reasons, not to open any locked doors for individuals attempting to enter the school. When the doors are locked, all individuals must approach the front door and follow the new procedures.

For any food service deliveries throughout the school day, parents/caregivers or students must inform the school office staff in advance, so staff know to expect the applicable delivery at a specified time, and all deliveries will come through the main school entrance.

For extracurricular, after-hours or community use, one designated door will be unlocked for the applicable times as specified in the agreement when the space is booked.

Refer to the new [Administrative Procedure 538: Building Security and Door Locking](#) on the Division website for more information. These changes are one more step EIPS is taking to support the ongoing safety and wellbeing of everyone in Division schools. If you have any questions about the new procedure, contact the school directly at 780-449-2787.



Important Reminders for Parents

- **If entering the school, please remember to check in at the Main Office before heading to any classroom.**

We want to do everything we can to avoid any unnecessary interruptions to the classroom.

- 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. More information for grade 4-6 parents can be found 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 2024-25 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 2024-25 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 eleventh 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.

Stay tuned for more information regarding some upcoming fundraiser days.

We are so pleased to have two visitors from the Foundations for His Ministry Children's Home in Mexico come to visit us on October. They will be sharing with our staff and students about Mexican culture and the challenges many of the children face that come to the orphanage.

Video Surveillance at Schools and on Buses

Did you know each EIPS bus is equipped with video surveillance, and many school sites have video monitoring equipment?

Video surveillance and equipment help:

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

As needed, EIPS school administration and Student Transportation staff review video recordings, in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. The recordings assist schools and the Division 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.

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.

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

September Prayer Focus

Please pray for your child's homeroom teacher.



2024