



FIREWIRE

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Guardians,

August 31, 2017

Principal's Message

Welcome back to Fultonvale School, or if you are new to us, we are pleased you have joined the Fultonvale Elementary Junior High School community. Day 1 was a bustling time and place! Staff have been preparing for students the past week to welcome each child into their class. We know that students come the first day with varying levels of anticipation and excitement. As I visited each class I was aware that students were settling into their new class with a level of calmness.

Early Dismissal Days

The first Wednesday of every month students will be dismissed at 1:53 p.m. **Please note on your calendar, our first early dismissal is Wednesday, September 6th.**

Some important events coming up very soon:

- School Council Meeting and School Advisory Committee Meeting - Wednesday, September 20th at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Sync the School Calendar to Your Personal Calendar

Did you know you can sync the school calendar to your own personal calendar? Just visit www.fultonvale.ca and 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 Fultonvale Elementary Junior High School's important dates including holidays, school-closure dates, school activities and events, and more.

Updating Your PowerSchool Information

During the first week of school, families will receive a PowerSchool Correction Form for each student enrolled in **Fultonvale Elementary Junior High School**. The form ensures the school has the most up-



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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 **Mrs. Katie Jones** at 780-922-3058. Thank you for your assistance.

Pay School Fees Online

School fee information for the 2017-18 school year is expected to be posted on the PowerSchool Parent Portal by early October. 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. Additionally, junior high and senior high fees can change as courses are added and deleted—the course change deadline is Friday, Sept 15th, 2017.

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 Dec. 15, 2017.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines visit www.eips.ca/schools/fees/fees. Alternatively, contact Michele Edmundson at Fultonvale School, 780-922-3058.

Class Assignments and Timetables

All class assignments and timetables will be tentative until we have received all registration and budget information required to make a final decision regarding our class sizes. We will make any necessary changes as soon as possible and will hopefully finalize class lists and Junior High timetables early next week. Any decisions made will reflect the best interests of all Fultonvale students. Thank you for your patience and support.

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 two assessment tools during the 2017-18 school year—STAR 360 and Math Intervention/Programming Instrument (MIPI). 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 2 through 12 will complete the STAR 360 assessment, which evaluates reading comprehension. Grade 1 students will take the STAR 360 exam in October. 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. They 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.

Report cards (Elementary & Junior High)

Like last year, Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) elementary and junior high report cards will be available online. Developed by EIPS, the elementary report cards are exceptionally well-designed and intended to clearly communicate student achievement to parents and guardians. Long-term, the report card will help to enhance the quality of education within EIPS by building strong partnerships among students, teachers, and parents. For Junior High, parents will now be able to print an actual report card rather than a marks sheet.

Fultonvale School is excited about this new method of communicating student learning—it's innovative, inclusive, and based on what stakeholders have indicated they want to see in a reporting system. The first report card for elementary & junior high will be available **November 24th, 2017**.

Improving Home-School Communication

To enhance communication between families and schools, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) has developed a how-to guide entitled, "Communication Protocol for Schools." Topics include appropriate channels to use, standard formats and structures, timing and sequencing for regular and ongoing home-school communication, and ways to bring forward questions or concerns. Additionally, the manual offers useful tools and resources schools and families can use to enhance face-to-face meetings, emails and any social media efforts. The "Communication Protocol for Schools" is available at www.eips.ca/download/40981.

Noon Supervision

Fultonvale is in need of supervisors during our 11:39 am to 12:30 pm noon hour break. If you are interested in working with a great group of students in a rewarding environment please contact Mrs. Tsiclas at 780-922-3058.

Tools for School Supplies Available for Students

Do you need help to give your children the basic tools they need to succeed in school? Look no further than the United Way's *Tools for School* program. Fultonvale School is participating in the 2017-2018 *Tools for School* campaign.

Tools for School is a United Way initiative providing families who may have limited resources with essential school supplies to help students achieve success in their studies. A number of backpacks filled with supplies have arrived at our school for students who might need support this year. Contact the Fultonvale School office at 780-922-3058 to request a backpack.

2017-2018 Bell Schedule

Please find the 2017-2018 bell schedule attached.

Character Education - Friendship

Fultonvale School will be exploring friendship for the next two months during character education classes. True friendship multiplies the good in life and divides the evils says Baltasar Gracian. Friendship is a treasure and there are many ways to grow this treasure including being friendly and smiling at others. Look approachable and be interested in those around you. Be the friend that you would like to have - make others feel good and stay positive. Give others space - ask to them to play and if the answer

is no let them have some alone time. Take the lead – invite others to join you and notice when others look lonely. Join us as students and staff practice our friendship skills.

Allergy Alert

We would like to inform all parents about several children and staff in our school with severe life-threatening food allergy (anaphylaxis) to peanuts and nuts. This is a medical condition that causes a severe reaction to specific foods and can result in death within minutes. Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, we want to inform you so that you can choose to send foods to school with your child that are free from peanuts or nut products. More information can be found on our website under Nut Aware, about anaphylaxis or by contacting the school at 780-922-3058. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation in keeping all of our kids safe.

Student Medication and Medical Concerns

If a parent/guardian requests that their child be administered medication while at school, he/she must complete a "Medication/Personal Care Request and Authorization" form. The completed form and medication should be brought to the school's main office. This form needs to be completed for every change in medication and dosage. Non-prescription drugs such as acetaminophen, cold remedies and inhalants may not be administered to students without written permission of the parents/guardians. If your child has a dangerous anaphylactic allergy to a particular substance, parents/guardians must complete an "Emergency Anaphylactic Allergy Alert" form. Parents/guardians are advised that the preferred location for the storage of epi-pens and inhalers is in fanny packs worn by the student. If parents prefer that epi-pens and/or inhalers be located in alternative locations, they must specify this on the form and sign the request.

For the well-being of students, Elk Island Public Schools requires parents to complete medical forms on an ANNUAL basis. If a form regarding medication or allergy alerts was completed in the previous school year, please contact Mrs. Jones in the office to have a new form sent home with your son/daughter.

Keeping Safety Top of Mind This Fall

As students return to the classroom, it is an opportune time to review standard personal safety measures to practice in and around the school and community.

We encourage you to remind your child(ren) of the following safety measures:

- Being aware of surroundings when playing at recess, as well as when walking to and from the school;
- Always walking with a friend or group of friends;
- Never talking to strangers, even if they call your child by name;
- Attracting attention by any means necessary (kicking, yelling, and screaming) if approached by a stranger;
- Telling a trusted adult if approached by a stranger; and
- Observing traffic safety rules.

We continue to provide appropriate and stringent supervision.

Student Transportation

Students are reminded that they are responsible for their conduct on the bus. The safety of all students requires that bus operators are able to give their full attention to watching the road. Parents and students are encouraged to review the School Bus Transportation Rules for Student Conduct in the student agendas which have been sent home with each student. These rules will also be reviewed by classroom teachers the first week of school.

On the first day of school, EIPS bus drivers will be asking students to show their bus pass prior to entering the bus. All students who do not have a bus pass are asked to contact EIPS Student Transportation department at 780-417-8151 or by email at studenttrans@ei.educ.ab.ca.

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.

Video Monitoring on School Premises

In accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Section 33 and in conjunction with EIPS' Administrative Procedures and school rules, video monitoring equipment will be in place in and around Fultonvale School. Video/audio recordings of individuals are for the safety and security of all students, staff, and property, and may be used as evidence in a disciplinary matter.

If you have any questions about the collection, use, and disclosure of personal information, please contact Mr. Cooksley at 780-922-3058 or EIPS' FOIP Coordinator, Mr. Antymniuk, at 780-417-8123, 683 Wye Road, Sherwood Park, AB T8B 1N2.

Attendance Checks/Student Pick-up & Drop-off

In order to ensure the safety of the students and maintain accurate records, we request that parents please inform the school if children will not be in attendance for the day or portion of the day. We officially account for each student twice daily. If a student will be absent for the morning attendance we require a telephone call to the office personnel or simply leave a message on the answering machine. A parent/guardian should make the call. If we have not been notified of an absence/late, we will call you at home or work to confirm. In cases where a child must leave the school during the day, a parent/guardian must come in to the office to sign out the child.

If you are dropping off your child, please keep the Bus Lane in front of the school clear from 7:45 - 8:30 a.m. and from 2:45 p.m. to 3:10 p.m. and as we are a transfer station, also from 3:50 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. If you are picking them up in front of the school, students cannot cross the front lot. **Please pick up your child on the east side by staff parking in the Olympiette parking lot at the end of the school day.**

Home/School Communication

Communication between home and school is critical to your child's success at school. At Fultonvale we encourage you to keep in close communication with your child's teachers as well as the school office. This can occur through personal pre-arranged visits and meetings, e-mail, newsletters, notes and phone calls. Please visit our school website often. Also our website provides an easy access point to contact any of the staff directly. Please use the "contact us" on the right hand side of our homepage and choose the staff member you would like to contact and fill in your message. We look forward to hearing from you. This is a great way to keep up to date and informed. Our website can be found at www.fultonvale.ca Each of our teachers has an e-teacher page where you can keep up to date with what they are learning. Please keep an eye out for the weekly "Firewire" newsletter letter that will be emailed out each week.

Curriculum Summaries

Curriculum summaries for all grade levels and subject areas are available on the Government of Alberta Education website under Parent Resources or on our homepage at www.fultonvale.ca in My Child's Learning. Please take a look to understand the outcomes of your child's learning this year. Summaries will also be available at the school.

Consent Forms

Your child will be coming home with a booklet of consent forms. Please return the entire booklet with your child to their homeroom teacher by **Friday, September 8th**. If you have any questions about the forms, please contact Miss Nam. Thank you for cooperation in advance.

Volunteers in Schools

With a responsibility of protecting all of the students in its care, Elk Island Public Schools has a volunteer policy which states that all volunteers, regardless of scope, will be required to annually sign a form including a declaration that they do not have a criminal record or a child welfare record, as well as agreeing to a confidentiality undertaking. Volunteers who have an increased level of personal contact with students, such as a coach or supervisor on an extended (overnight) field trip will also be required to complete an application form and provide the results of a Criminal record check and Child intervention check. The fee for the criminal record check is waived for all EIPS' volunteers. EIPS values and appreciates the efforts of all volunteers. **Forms are included in the consent booklet. Please fill out one for each awesome volunteer.** Thank you in advance for volunteering @ Fultonvale.

Visitors in Schools

Visitors, including volunteers, are welcome at Fultonvale but we ask that they sign in at the office and obtain a visitor or volunteer badge which should be worn while in the building. Visitors are asked to respect the importance of instructional time and not interrupt classes by asking to speak to the teachers or students during this time. Teachers are pleased to make appointments outside of class hours. Thanks in advance for helping us keep Fultonvale a working environment.

Counsellors' Corner

The start of a new school year brings with it much expectation and excitement for staff, students and parents. Everyone wants a great start to the school year because it sets the tone for the whole year. What can we adults do to help our students have a great beginning?

Start with a positive attitude. Try to keep your comments about other students, staff and the school enthusiastic and supportive. This will encourage your child to look forward to school and the opportunity to learn. If we adults have concerns, these are best expressed directly with other adults in a constructive and mature way.

There are lots resources available to parents about helping your child get a great start. KidsHealth has a number of articles for parents of children from Kindergarten to Grade 12 on topics as varied as backpack safety, homework tips and ways to help your child get organized.

<http://kidshealth.org/en/parents/homework/back-school/?WT.ac=en-p-homework-help-h>

For some students the transition from summer fun to schoolwork is a little more complicated. Younger students may find the change harder to handle. Anxiety BC has a lovely, short video directed towards Kindergarten parents but has some helpful hints for parents of anxious or worried children of any age. This website is invaluable as a resource for anyone with anxiety issues.

<https://www.anxietybc.com/resources/video/helping-your-kindergartener-separation-anxiety>

And for parents of teens struggling with emotional or behavioural problems, Strathcona County Family and Community Services is once again offering a 10 week attachment based program called Connect Parenting. Parents meet in small groups with two trained group leaders for 90 minutes each week. Each session provides parents with a new perspective on relationships and adolescent development. Rather than teaching one way of parenting, this program helps parents see alternatives in dealing with their teens in ways which support healthy relationships while setting limits and helping their teen to move forward.

To register or for further information contact Lisa Watters (780-410-6584) or Brad Oates (780-464-8208). Connect Parenting starts September 20.

Learning Commons

Welcome to the Learning Commons at Fultonvale!

Watch this newsletter space (and our website) for news over the year about literacy and technology. We have a beautiful multipurpose space where students can checkout reading materials and engage in shared learning. We hope everyone enjoys the Learning Commons.

How can I access the Learning Commons catalogue?

Type the following address into an internet browser:

<https://destiny.eips.ca/>

(Google Chrome is recommended. Internet Explorer may show an error. If so, it is safe to click on "Continue to this website (not recommended)").

- On the District level page, click on "Fultonvale Elementary-Junior High School" under the K-9 section on the right-hand side.

- Each student can log in at the top right of the next page with FirstnameLastname (no spaces) as their username and the last four digits of their Alberta Student ID as their password.

- Once logged in students can manage their account by seeing which items they have out, when those items are due and if they have any fines.

(The preceding information is also on our school website at <http://fultonvale.ca/lc/learning-commons-faqs>)

Feel free to stop by or email (Michael.Papineau-Couture@eips.ca) if you have any questions regarding the library, borrowing policies or volunteering.

The Bookmobile Returns!

Fultonvale students will have access to books and services provided by the Bookmobile beginning mid-September. Students who wish to borrow books must have their renewed cards with them prior to going to the Bookmobile. If a student card has expired, please do not discard it - cards can be renewed, and arrangements are being made to have student cards renewed in the school.

Welcome Week

Activities are already being planned to welcome our students back to this great school! Welcome Week events will run daily during the week of **September 5-8th**. Our Elementary students will be in activities such as Buddy Lunch, Buddy Reading, Buddy Walk and a Firebird Freeze Dance.

Our junior high students will be participating in their Welcome Week events at the lunch hours and throughout the day on Friday. Events such as Tuesday with Root Beer Chug Relay, Wednesday with Egg Toss and 3 Legged Sack Relay, Thursday with Tug of War and Friday starting with a Welcome Week Assembly, Turkey Trot and finished with the Fultonvale 500!

Picture Day

Now that you have your pencils and books, it's time to capture your back to school look! ICON Experience Photography will be taking the pictures on **Monday, September 11th for ECS-KM and Tuesday, September 12th for ECS-KT to Grade 9**. Don't forget to wear bright colors and your best smile! ICON also offers a sibling photo program which will take place during the lunch hour on the same day. Picture retakes are scheduled for **October**.

Toonies for Turkeys

Our Fultonvale School annual Turkey Trot will take place on Friday, September 8th. This year we would like to give back to those in our community who have come upon difficult times. We will be collecting "Toonies for Turkeys" with all donations going to the Strathcona Food Bank. Families are encouraged to make a Toonie donation before our Turkey Trot on Friday, September 8th. A collection jar will in the school office collecting all donations. Winners of the Turkey Trot will receive a Turkey medal to honor their accomplishments.

Good Luck to all of our Fultonvale Runners!!

September 29 Orange Shirt Day - Why orange shirts? [Find out here.](#)

This is an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come. Several school projects include recognizing Orange Shirt Day this year. This date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year.

Don't have an orange shirt to wear? You can find them for a low cost at Michaels [or order them here.](#)

Or there is a \$2 button that can be ordered at

<http://www.orangeshirtday.net/en/cad/category/7265>

Concession

Our concession will be open for Junior High students on Thursday, September 7th. Mrs. Luneng will be operating the concession over the lunch break. Healthy choices are available such as cheese strings, microwavable meals, fruit snacks, water, juice boxes and various other items. Prices range from approximately 50 cents to \$3.50 (selection subject to change due to availability).

Milk will be available and delivered to grade 1 to 6 students starting September 7th. Milk tickets are available by the sheet for \$17.00 for 20 tickets at the office or \$1.00 each if purchased at the concession. **Also a reminder that microwaves are available in each classroom for student use. We ask that a 30 second warm up for each lunch. Also we ask that students do not use the microwaves for popcorn.**

Pizza Wednesdays

A slice of Panago Pizza is available for students at lunch on Pizza Days. Our first Pizza Day will be on Wednesday, September 20th for a cost of \$3.00. These days are run by our staff at Fultonvale. Please ensure that you bring your monies with you on each of these days and buy your pizza ticket first thing in the morning. Check out the school calendar for future Pizza Days!

Volleyball

All junior high students interested in playing school volleyball should be aware that tryouts are beginning this week. A permission form to stay for try-outs is available from the P.E. office.

Sr. Girls Volleyball Tryouts: Tuesday, Sept 5th and Wednesday, Sept 6th, 3:00 to 4:30 pm

Sr. Boys Volleyball Tryouts: Thursday, Sept 7th and Friday, Sept 8th, 3:00 to 4:30 pm

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Jr. Girls Volleyball Tryouts: Monday, Sept 11th and Tuesday, Sept 12th, 3:00 to 4:30 pm

Jr. Boys Volleyball Tryouts: Wednesday, Sept 13th and Thursday, Sept 14th, 3:00 to 4:30 pm

We are looking for parents to help coach our teams. If you are interested in helping out with one of our teams please contact Mr. Wever at the school.

Terry Fox

Our school is once again registered to participate in the annual Terry Fox School Run on **Friday, September 29th at 12:40 p.m.** The Terry Fox Foundation is the second largest fundraiser for cancer research in Canada, and Terry's inspiring story of hope and determination has had a tremendous impact on the lives of others. All students will participate in a fun run on the school grounds during the afternoon of that day. A pledge sheet that students may use to solicit donations if they choose to do so, or to make pledges online will be coming home soon. Instructions to do so are on the pledge sheet. Tax receipts will be issued automatically for donations of \$20.00 or more, but all donations are welcome. Proceeds go to cancer research. As Terry once said, "Even if I don't finish, we need others to continue. It's got to keep going without me." We thank you for being part of Terry's legacy.

Your Future: It's a Matter of Choice — 40+ Exhibitors. Together in One Place.

Thinking about attending post-secondary school after graduation? Not sure on the career or sector? Plan to attend this year's Your Future: It's a Matter of Choice on October 17.

Hosted by Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS), Your Future: It's a Matter of Choice is an annual post-secondary and career fair that brings together more than 40 colleges, universities, polytechnic and private schools, and sector experts in one place—the largest event of its kind in Alberta.

The event is free and open to all students in grades 9 through 12—from both EIPS and Elk Island Catholic Schools. Both students and family members will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from each attending post-secondary institutions; ask question; talk to experts about various career sectors; learn about future career trends; and much more.

Event Details :

Date: Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2017

Time: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Location: Clarion Hotel & Conference Centre, 2100 Premier Way, Sherwood Park

Visit www.eips.ca/students/your-future-its-a-matter-of-choice for the complete list of exhibitors.