



FIREWIRE

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Guardians,

August 31, 2016

Principal's Message

Welcome back to Fultonvale Elementary Junior High School, everyone! Students and staff have occupied the hallways and are already looking forward to a new year of being on a Firebird team, acting on the stage, renewing friendships and making new ones, and just plain eager to learn some new skills. Mrs. Tsiclas and I are very excited to be at Fultonvale and learning the culture and getting to know each student, staff and many of our community members. It has been an exciting time for both of us these past 3 weeks.

As is evident throughout the building, we are still under construction. Unfortunately, our Learning Commons was flooded and the carpet and shelving units were damaged. These items are being replaced. The good news is that no books or materials were damaged during the flooding. We also hope that our parking lot will be completed in a couple of days so buses can use their regular drop off/pick up spots. We continue to look forward to progress and the end result that will be a fabulous school environment. **With the continuance of modernization, we have decided to postpone the Meet the Teacher Evening and Welcome BBQ until further notice.** I look forward to meeting folks on an ongoing basis. Despite the construction, I encourage all of us to:

GO OUT
THERE
AND DO
AMAZING
THINGS

Have a wonderful year, everyone!
Brad Cooksley



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52029 Range Road 224, Sherwood Park, AB T8C1B5
780 922 3058 Fx 780 922 3061 www.fultonvale.ca

Early Dismissal Days

The first Wednesday of every month students will be dismissed at 2:00 p.m. **Please note on your calendar, our first early dismissal is Wednesday, September 7th.**

Some important events coming up very soon:

- **School Council Meeting** - Tuesday, September 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the Art Room. Attending School Council meetings is a great way to stay involved in your child's education.
- **School Advisory Committee Meeting** - Our fundraising committee will meet on Tuesday, September 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the Art Room. 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, simply follow the instructions that appear on your computer screen or mobile device. Within seconds, your personal calendar will contain all of **Fultonvale 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-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 2016-2017 school year will be available on the PowerSchool Parent Portal by Sept. 19, 2016. All fees are due within 30 days of being posted. To access your fee information, simply login to your PowerSchool Parent Portal account (<https://powerschool.eips.ca/public/home.html>) and click the tab entitled, "Student Fees." Once logged in, you will be able to view and pay fees online using Visa, MasterCard or INTERAC Online (if available from your financial institution).

Remember to regularly login to your PowerSchool Parent Portal throughout the year. Fees are often added to your child's account to cover the cost of various school activities including 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 **September 7th, 2016.**

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

Class Assignments and Timetables



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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 timetables early next week. Any decisions made will reflect the best interests of all Fultonvale students. Thank you for your patience and support.

They're Here: New report cards!

Fultonvale Elementary Junior High School is pleased to be piloting Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) new elementary report card this year. Developed by EIPS, the report card is exceptionally well-designed and intended to clearly communicate student achievement to parents and guardians. Long-term, the new report card will help to enhance the quality of education within EIPS by building strong partnerships among students, teachers, and parents.

As many of you know, EIPS established a Communicating Student Learning committee in 2014. The committee was made up of parents, teachers, administrators, trustees, and central office staff. Using feedback from close to 1,000 parents and 400 principals and teachers, the committee worked to create an innovative system that reports academic achievement levels and learner attributes.

Similar to the previous report card, students will still be assessed in all areas of the current programs of studies. What will be new is the way in which student learning is reported. The current EPAL scale will no longer be used. Instead, teachers will be using a clear and parent-friendly five-point numeric scoring scale to indicate student achievement. Additionally, the report card allows teachers to share personalized information about each student in relation to learner attributes, areas of strength, areas for growth, and next steps.

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.

An information session about the report card and how students are being assessed will be held later this fall. The first report card will be sent home **November 25th, 2016**.

Literacy and Learning Day

The 14th annual Literacy and Learning Day Conference takes place on Oct. 22, 2016 at the Edmonton Expo Centre. The event is a fun-filled day for both parents and teachers, and includes various free workshops and keynote speakers. Participants are guaranteed to walk away with new strategies, tools and resources to support children as they grow and learn. The conference is free and everyone is welcome. For more information, or to register, visit www.literacyday.ca.

New to Elk Island Public Schools: Tools to enhance 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 introducing two new assessment tools during the 2016–2017 school year—STAR 360 and Math Intervention/Programming Instrument (MIPI). The assessments focus on literacy and numeracy, are digitally based and offer an opportunity for students to show their learning in ways not possible with paper-based tests. The goal is to provide timely information to teachers, help enhance classroom instruction and ensure all 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 February. The assessment takes approximately 20 minutes and can be taken on any digital device. Also in September, students in grades 2 through 10 will take the MIPI assessment, which is a mathematics 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 to complete and for students in grades 2 through 6 it takes approximately 20 minutes. The results of each assessment give the teacher a clearer picture of a student's learning needs and help determine if any subsequent instructional planning is needed.



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It's important to note, **the results of the assessments will not be used towards a student's grade and there is no need to study ahead of time.** The assessment tools simply provide information to the teacher so he or she can 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 parent or guardian to discuss possible strategies to be used to better support students.

Should you require more information about the Division's STAR 360 and MIPI assessment tools, please contact Deb Barron, the director of Learning Supports, at 780-417-8160.

Improving Home-School Communication

To enhance communication between families and schools, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) has created a manual entitled, "Communication Protocol for Schools." The manual provides a framework for communication between EIPS schools and its families, and includes a standard format, structure and sequence for regular and ongoing home-school communication within the Division. It also offers useful tools and resources schools can use when planning their communication efforts, such as face-to-face meetings, email, Synrevoice and social media. Additionally, the manual provides a process parents or guardians can use if they need to bring forward a question or concern.

Fultonvale Elementary Junior High School encourages all our families to review the document. The "Communication Protocol for Schools" is available by visiting www.eips.ca/download/40981.

Noon Supervision

Fultonvale is in need of supervisors during our 11:45 am to 12:45 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 2016-2017 *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.

Student's materials should be clearly labeled with the full name, especially items such as indoor running shoes, jackets and boots. Many of the children have similar items, so mix-ups can occur easily.

2016-2017 Bell Schedule and Staff Members

Please find the 2016-2017 bell schedule and staff members attached.

Parking Lot Procedure (once the main lot is completed)

With the size of our school family and also with construction, we are asking that families use the Strathcona Olympiette parking lot. We ask that there is **no parking** at the back of the school by the dumpsters. The Strathcona Olympiette Centre provides ample parking for parents. Please ensure that you walk your child across the parking lot. There is no parking and no drop and go in front of the school due to the bus transfer. Thank you for keeping our kids safe and ensuring that there are sightlines for students and staff.

Character Education - Patience



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Patience - Our First Virtue of the Year:

Patience is the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset. Studies find that a child's ability to control their impulses and delay gratification is highly predictive of future academic success as these skills assist one to listen, attend and learn. Patience can help us develop the ability to think through and resolve problems. Some of us may be exercising our patience with the construction issues in our school but here are some fun ways to build patience in your family. 1. Play games as this requires concentration, turn taking, and following directions. 2. Learn a new dance and practice controlling your body and practice until it comes easily. 3. Practice patience by delaying rewards and use concrete reminders to keep track of how close you are getting to your goal. 4. Provide choice such as having a small treat immediately or a bigger treat later. Join Fultonvale staff and students as we learn more about and practice using patience in the next two months.

Mrs. Tammy Kihn

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.



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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 Fact: Student Transportation

All Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) buses are equipped with video surveillance equipment. The equipment helps to ensure the safety of all students, drivers and property; to deter destructive acts and is in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP)*. The video surveillance equipment records and stores several days' worth of data. Both video and audio recordings are regularly reviewed by EIPS Student Transportation to help monitor 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, please contact the EIPS FOIP co-ordinator at 780-417-8266.

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 is 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 Miss Nam at 780-922-3058 or EIPS' FOIP Coordinator, 780-417-8204, 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.



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This can occur through personal pre-arranged visits and meetings, e-mail, newsletters, agenda 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 "Firewire" newsletter letter on Friday following early dismissal days each month.

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 9th**. 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

Welcome back to the 2016-17 school year!

A new school year is a new beginning for students, parents and teachers. As adults, we are concerned with setting up kids for success. One of the best ways the adults in a child's life can encourage success is to develop a Growth Mindset. This is an attitude that does not focus on perfection; rather, welcoming opportunities to learn via mistakes. Educator Carol Dweck gives some great advice to parents in this RSA Animate: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YI9TVbAal5s>.

September is also a very busy month, with lots of activities gearing up. In the midst of this busyness it is also important to set aside time for family meals. The meal can be very simple, just as long as your children have a chance to touch base with you, share the day or have the important adults in their lives

just be present to them. The rapport that is developed pays off considerably in the long term. If you need any extra motivation check out this short commercial. (And keep a Kleenex handy...)
 #Makedinnertimematter: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2wfbY3i4FY0>
 Let's have a great year!
 Ms. Burkinshaw

Learning Commons

Welcome to everyone!

Unfortunately, our learning commons area is once again under construction. Due to flooding it has been closed off as new carpet and shelving is re-installed. The four skylights are also being installed. There is no confirmed completion date. In the meantime, book exchanges will be held in Breakout Room. Please feel free to stop by or email michael.papineau-couture@eips.ca if you have any questions regarding the learning commons, borrowing policy or volunteering.

The Bookmobile Returns!

Fultonvale students will have access to books and services provided by the Bookmobile beginning on Friday, September 16th. 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 6-9th**. 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 **Tuesday, September 13th for KT to Grade 9. KM will have their pictures the day before on Monday, September 12th**. 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 9. 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 9. 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!!

Agendas

Students in Grades 1-9 purchase a "School Agenda" (included on the Fee Sheet) as part of the required school supplies. The agenda is a record keeping book that contains important items of school policies as



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well as a daily calendar. The calendar (daytimer) is to be used by students to log assignments and record due dates and exams. Students are asked to bring their agendas to each class. The students will be given instructions on how best to utilize the agenda book as an aid and organizational tool for their daily work. Please read through the information pages at the front of the agenda to learn important information about the school. Agendas will be used as our hall passes during the school day so make sure that you keep track of it and your daily schedule!

Concession

Our concession will be open for Junior High students on Tuesday, September 5th. Mrs. Luneng will be operating the concession over the lunch break. Healthy choices are available such as cheese strings, microwavable meals, fruit snacks, water, flavored 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 8th. 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 21st 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.

Grade 7, 8 and 9 Girls: Thursday, Sept 1st, 3:00 to 4:30

Grade 7, 8 and 9 Boys: Friday, Sept 2nd, 3:00 to 4:30

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 30th 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.



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