

Elmer Elson ELEMENTARY

Elmer Elson Elementary
Box 330
Mayerthorpe, AB.
T0E 1N0
www.elmerelson.ca
Phone: (780) 786-2268
Fax: (780) 786-2050

NEWSLETTER - September 2023

ADMIN TEAM MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year!

We are always excited to begin a new year. We want to let our families know we are here to support you and work collaboratively to ensure the success of all our students. As we enter the year we are excited to welcome back our grade 1-6 students and welcome all of our kindergarten and new families to EEE. We love when new families join the EEE team! Kindness, patience, and understanding are key to making 2023-2024 an amazing school year. We promise to respect and care for each and every child in our care and thank you for entrusting them to us.

Our current enrollment in the school is 307 students.

We appreciate the support of our parents and welcome all thoughts and questions. Together we will make this year a rewarding educational experience for your children.

Mr. Andriuk & Mrs. Feser

PARENT AND FAMILY COMMUNICATION

Families are encouraged to stay connected through email, Remind, Powerschool, and by telephone.

If you need to pick up your child early, please call the school and we will make arrangements for them to meet you at the front doors upon your arrival.

If a student arrives late to school, please ring the buzzer outside the main door upon arrival.

If a student is leaving prior to dismissal times, we ask you to please inform the office. For student safety, parents must sign the student out at the office.

Please check the Elmer Elson website and EEE facebook page for updated information.

Teacher emails can be found on the school website. Teachers also encourage families to sign up for their classroom remind.

School Phone Number 780-786-2268

TEACHING STAFF LIST 2023-2024

ECS	Rhonda Bablitz Trisha French
Grade One	Leanna Feser & Lisa Chittick Susan Mattson
Grade Two	Suzanna Patterson Darla Masterson
Grade Three	Amanda Benson, Lisa Chittick, & Nolan Andriuk Ann Unland
Grade Four	Sheryl King Tenille Hagman
Grade Five	Dawn Paquette, Nolan Andriuk, & Katie Mattson Sherry Petersen
Grade Six	Ashley Chayka Katie Mattson
Music (half time)	Amanda Benson

MEET THE STAFF NIGHT

Join us on September 19th at 5:30 p.m. to meet the staff and see your child's classroom.

We ask you to please read the initial pages in your child's agenda about our school philosophy toward education and our behavior expectations.

Please sign the bottom of the document and have your child sign it to be entered to win a prize.

BELL SCHEDULE

The following is the bell schedule for the upcoming school year. This should assist you in being able to contact staff members or your children during class breaks.

8:40	Doors open and buses unload
8:50	Classes begin
10:30 - 10:44	Morning Recess
11:44 - 12:10	Primary Noon Recess & Intermediate eat lunch/DEAR (drop everything and read)
12:10 - 12:34	Intermediate Noon Recess & Primary eat lunch/DEAR
1:54 - 2:08	Last Recess
3:10	Dismissal

STUDENT INFORMATION VALIDATION GREEN FORMS

Each year we are required by Alberta Education to update student information forms.

We know they take time to complete, but it is important that we have accurate information on file for each student. We are asking for e-mail addresses from parents to aid in getting communications out smoothly. Please complete and return the green validation forms as soon as possible so our information is up to date and accurate.

Also, if we do not have your child's birth certificate or proof of residence on file, please bring it in so we may make a copy for our files. Proof of residence can be verified by a utility bill, tax notice, telephone bill or a rental agreement that shows your range road and township road number (blue or green sign). Legal land location i.e. SW-24-56-W5 is not sufficient.

NGPS TECHNOLOGY ACCESS AND MAINTENANCE FEE

Our school division has set a technology and maintenance fee for all ngps students of \$32.00 for full time students and \$16.00 for ECS. This mandatory fee helps to keep up with the expensive, yet important advances in technology and ensure all students have access to a device.

SCHOOL COUNCIL REPORT

We all know that back to school can be very busy, but we hope you can spare some time to join our School Council for the first meeting of the year. The organizational meeting for the School Council will be held on Monday, September 25th, at 5:00 p.m. in the staffroom.

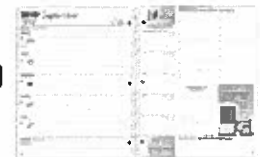
We will elect the new executive for the 2023-2024 school year. We hope you will join us.

SNACK SHOP

Mrs. Rizzoli will be starting the snack shop trolley on September 11th. Items are meant to supplement lunches. Most items are 50 cents each but there are a few big ticket items that sell for \$1.00.

STUDENT AGENDAS

Each student in our school has been given an agenda. This is an excellent way to communicate between home and school. It also helps students take responsibility for organizing homework, Schedules, and important dates. Please send it to school daily with your child.



2023 -2024 BUS FEE SCHEDULE

Please refer to the following information regarding bus fees for urban Mayerthorpe students.

Application for bus service and payment of bus fees must be made as follows: Sign up for [SchoolCashOnline](https://schoolcashonline.com), or go to ngps.schoolcashonline.com. From the Home Page, click on Register to create an account. Follow the prompts to set your password and begin paying all your school expenses easily online! This fee is charged for students who are not funded for transportation by Alberta Learning because they live within 2.4 kilometres of the school.

Access your Parent Portal with [BusPlanner](https://busplanner.ngps.ca) or visit busplanner.ngps.ca. This will take you to the Parent Portal home page. Click on Parent Portal, enter your email address under New Subscribers, check the 'I'm not a robot' box and click submit. Follow the prompts to set up a password and you are ready to go!

Students in the Paddle Heights Trailer Park on the west side of town and north of the tracks by Mayerthorpe Welding will be provided transportation without charge. Students must be registered with the Transportation Department in order to access this service. Please refer to the first paragraph for information on how to register for bus service.

There are no bus fees for students who live more than 1.0 km (Kindergarten to Grade 6) and 2.0 km (Grade 7-12) away from their designated school (proof of address is required).

Bus Fees are as follows:

Students - Kindergarten to Grade 6 under 1.0 km	\$371 per child
Grade 7-12 under 2.0 km	\$371 per child
Kindergarten Half Time	\$185 per half day per child
Kindergarten Full Time	\$371 per child
Family Rate	\$927 (3 or more children)

Regular Fee plus Supplemental Bus Service Fee	\$200 per child (this is in addition to the regular single seat placement fee of \$371 for students who live under 2.4 km from their designated school, for a total cost of \$571)
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Supplemental Bus Service Fee	There is no regular single seat placement fee for students who live over 2.4 km from their designated school; however, students who do reside more than 2.4 km from their designated school, and who wish to access Supplemental Bus Service (alternate seat placement), will be charged the Supplemental Bus Service Fee of \$200 per child.
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Kindergarten Half Time - Supplemental Bus Service Fee	\$100 per child (this is in addition to the regular single seat placement fee for Kindergarten half time students of \$185 per regular daily ECS rate, for a total cost of \$285)
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Family Rate - Supplemental Bus Service Fee	\$500 (3 or more children)
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Replacement Bus Pass	\$6 per pass
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**All measurements for distance calculations will be determined by district Routing Software.*

For any questions regarding bus fees, please contact the Transportation Department at transportation@ngps.ca, Toll-free at 1-800-262-8674, or directly at 780-778-2800.

Pay any of your school and transportation fees conveniently and securely with SchoolCashOnline

BREAKFAST CLUB

Thanks to many community members and businesses we have offered a Breakfast program for all students for many years.

As soon as students arrive at school in the a.m. they can go to the community kitchen to get toast for breakfast before classes begin.

It is open to all students even if they already had breakfast at home.

Thank you to our staff for volunteering their time.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

Imagine if you didn't have to write another cheque or send cash to the school again. We highly recommend that you sign up for School Cash Online. This will allow you to pay any school related fees online rather than submitting money directly to the school. It is really quite easy to use and provides a history of all payments made.

To register please enter the following address:
<https://ngs.schoolcashionline.com>

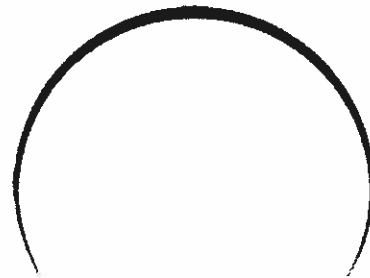
You can also find this link on the Northern Gateway web page

If you need assistance to set up an account please call Mrs. Doris Chittick at the school.

PHOTO DAY

School photos are scheduled for **Thursday, September 28th**. Individual photos will be taken on this day.

Class photos and retakes will be on **Tuesday, October 24th**.



SMART
PHOTOGRAPHY

What to expect on Picture Day at Smart Photography!

- Smart Photography will be at your school on **September 28th**.
- On the day your child is photographed, they will receive an information sheet with their online access code.
- Your child's photos will be loaded online approximately 3-6 business days after the last day of photography.
- Log in to smartorders.ca to view your proofs and place an order.
- After the ship to school deadline, you can still access your photos and place an order to be shipped directly to your home!
- Contact Smart Photography at 780-944-0800 or 877-838-0800 info@smartphotography.ca for questions or assistance with your order!



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SCHOOL REMIND

To strengthen the home-school connection we ask our families to sign up for the school Remind messages. To participate in receiving school-wide message reminders and updates, simply text the number:

(587) 316-2959 (ENTER THIS NUMBER)

@eesch (TEXT THIS MESSAGE)

You will not receive advertisement texts and your phone number will remain private.

If you are already a member you do not have to re-join.

TERRY FOX RUN

On September 21st, 2023 students in K-6 will be taking part in the annual Terry Fox School Run. Students are permitted to wear hats on September 21st.

Any donations collected will be sent to the Terry Fox Foundation.

More information will follow at a later date.

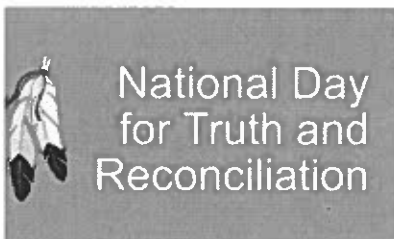


PEANUT ALLERGIES

Our school continues to be **PEANUT SENSITIVE**.

This means students may bring items that contain nuts or peanut butter if their class is free of allergies. Classrooms with a student with an allergy will take extra precautions. This will be revisited each year based on our students.

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION



Staff and students are encouraged to wear an orange shirt on September 29th to recognize National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Reflections on Back to School

I am one of those parents that feel all the things, big, small and everything in between! Perhaps not everyone can relate, so this is for those that also feel big when it comes to their kids. My husband thinks I am strange, being such an emotional human. Yet, I am grateful his feet are firmly planted on the ground. He is my buffer and shield when I feel too much. For those parents who feel all the things, I hope you have someone in your life that gives you a safe place to land, especially at this time of year when there are many new changes, hard goodbyes, see-you-laters, and letting go.

There is a saying that when you become a parent your heart is forever walking outside your body. This is so true, particularly each September when it is time to send kids back to school.

Whether you are dropping your "baby" off for their first day at junior kindergarten, or a new school, to junior high or high school when you are certain you are feeding them to the wolves.

That feeling may come over you when you watch them at their piano recital, at their first race for track and field, at their Christmas concert, or delivering a speech at a school assembly. You may feel it profoundly when you watch them nervously bite their lip or play with their fingers, scanning the crowd for your familiar face and smile.

That feeling may come in strong and fierce when you watch them walk across the stage to receive their high school diploma, or say goodbye at the airport, or leave them at a university campus and drive away.

That feeling is a part of your heart, raw and tender, that is physically outside of your body. It is vulnerable and exposed. That feeling is pieces of your heart which leaks unconsciously out your eyes and down your cheeks. That feeling is love, pride, joy, excitement, heartache, perhaps a little guilt or regret.

I don't know what it is like to not feel these things and I sometimes envy those parents (like my husband) that can meet such milestones with nothing but happiness, elation and relief.

No matter what you feel as a new season starts, know and trust that you have loved, taught and prepared your kids for the next chapter. They are ready. You have done your job and have done it well.

For those like me, I see you with your red eyes, the tissue crumpled in your clenched fists, the deep sighs as you desperately put on a brave face.

I see you.

This article was written by Tammy Charko BA, BSW, RSW. Tammy is Northern Gateway Public School's Student Support Facilitator. She is a support and advocate for students and families promoting wellness and success in school. Tammy has been a Registered Social Worker for more than 24 years and is a mother to 4 children; 1 in high school and 3 in university.

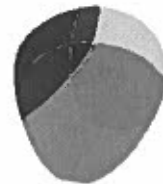


2023-2024 Calendar

AUGUST							SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
OCTOBER							NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		
DECEMBER							JANUARY						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
31													
FEBRUARY							MARCH						
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				1	2	3						1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21	22	23	17	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
25	26	27	28	29			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						
APRIL							MAY						
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	
JUNE							JULY						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
23	24	25	26	27	28	28	29	30	31				
30													

2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

August 30-Sept 1	Staff Planning & Development Days
September 4	Labour Day
September 5	First Day for Students
September 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
October 6	Staff Planning & Development Day
October 9	Thanksgiving Day
November 9	Staff Planning & Development Day
November 10	Day in Lieu of Parent Teacher Interviews
November 13	Remembrance Day "in lieu"
Dec 25-Jan 5	Christmas Break
January 8	First Day Back for Students
January 31	Staff Planning & Development Day/Term End
February 8 & 9	Onoway to Fox Creek only - Teachers' Convention
February 19	Family Day
March 7 & 8	Valleyview only - Teachers' Convention
March 8	Onoway to Fox Creek only - Staff Planning & Development Day
March 25 - 28	Spring Break
March 29	Good Friday
April 1	Easter Monday
April 2	First Day Back for Students
April 12	Valleyview Only - Staff Planning & Development Day
May 16	Staff Planning & Development Day
May 17	Day in Lieu of Parent Teacher Interviews
May 20	Victoria Day
June 27	Last Day for Students
June 28	Staff Planning & Development Day



Northern Gateway
Public Schools