



Elmer Elson ELEMENTARY

NEWSLETTER - September 2025

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

ADMIN TEAM MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2025-2026 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 2025-2026 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 325 students.

This year we welcomed our new Finance Secretary Meagan Black into our office and Ms. Paige Deaon Assistant Principal to our admin team. They are both excited to join the EEE team.

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.

Mrs. Feser

MEET THE STAFF NIGHT

Join us on September 23rd at 6:30 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.

TEACHING STAFF LIST 2025-2026

ECS	Rhonda Bablitz Trisha French
Grade One	Carlie Erion Susan Mattson
Grade Two	Raelyn Rentz Lisa Chittick
Grade Three	Graham Osadczuk & Sheryl Camplin Ann Unland
Grade Four	Tenille Hagman Kristi Mercer & Anika Kuharic
Grade Five	Dawn Paquette & Amanda Benson Sherry Petersen
Grade Six	Ashley Vankleek Katie Mattson
Music (half time)	Amanda Benson

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://ngps.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. Meagan Black at the school.

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 by September 23rd 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.

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

SNACK SHOP

Mrs. Rizzoli has started the snack shop trolley. 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.

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 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 29th, at 5:00 p.m. in the staffroom.

We hope you will consider joining the council. This year our former chairperson, Jill Stoney is passing the torch to someone new. We thank her for her years of service on council.

The Parent Fundraising Society is also looking for new members and help with their upcoming Casino on October 4th & 5th.

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.

Thank you to our Parent Fundraising Society for covering this cost.

PHOTO DAY

School photos are scheduled for **Thursday, September 25th**
Individual photos will be taken on this day.

Class photos and retakes will taken later in **October**.

What to expect on Picture Day at Smart Photography!

- Smart Photography will be at your school on **September 25th**.
- 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!



Elmer Elson
ELEMENTARY

EEE 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, you will need to download the Remind App.

1. Click add class, the join existing class
2. Enter class code @eesch

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

If you are already a member of the EEE School Remind you do not have to re-join.

TERRY FOX RUN

On September 25th, 2025 students in K-6 will be taking part in the annual Terry Fox School Run.

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

September 26th will be Hats on for Terry Fox where kids will be permitted to wear hats.

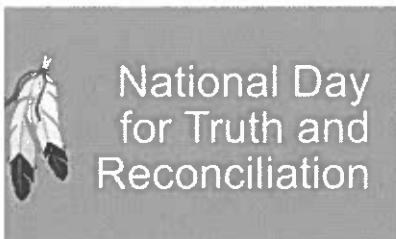


PEANUT ALLERGIES

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.

There will be no school on September 30th.

2025-2026 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://ngps.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](#) 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)
Supplemental Bus Service Fee	There is no regular single seat placement fee for students who live 1.0 km for Kindergarten to Grade 6 and 2.0 km for Grade 7-12 from their designated school; however, students who do reside more than said distances from their designated school, who wish to access Supplemental Bus Service (alternate seat placement), will be charged the Supplemental Bus Service Fee of \$200 per child.
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)
Family Rate - Supplemental Bus Service Fee	\$500 (3 or more children)
Replacement Bus Pass	\$6 per pass

**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

September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 First Day of School - grades 1-6	3 ECS Staggered Entry	4 ECS Staggered Entry	5	6
7	8	9	10 Grade 6 Outdoor Education	11 Grade 6 Outdoor Education	12 Pancake Breakfast	13
14	15 Bus Safety	16 Bus Safety	17 Grade 5 & 6 Mini- Handball Athletics begins 3:15 pm	18 Deadline to order Meal of the Month	19 Grade 4-6 Houseleague Organizational Meeting	20
21	22	23 Meet the Staff 6:30 pm	24 Grade 4-6 Cross Country Running Event	25 Meal of the Month Picture Day Terry Fox Run 2:30 pm	26 Hats on for Terry Fox	27
28	29 Orange Shirt Day School Council Organizational Meeting 5:00 pm	30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation- No School				

POTENTIAL LABOUR DISRUPTION UPDATE

The Provincial Government and the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) have been in negotiations for several months. Recently, the Alberta Teachers' Association announced that **if** a settlement cannot be reached, job action will begin on Monday, October 6th. The job action may take different forms, including a full strike.

If a full strike does occur:

- Kindergarten to grade 6 students will NOT attend school and buses will NOT run
- Little Elmers Childcare will continue to operate
- PUF program at EEE will continue to operate

Northern Gateway School Division hopes the Provincial Government and the ATA can reach a settlement before a strike occurs. You can find the latest information on NGPS.ca, and if you have questions, you can email learn@ngps.ca or call the Division office at 780-778-2800.

2025-2026 Calendar

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

2025-26 SCHOOL CALENDAR

August 27-28	Staff Planning & Development Days
September 1	Labour Day
September 2	First Day for Students
September 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (schools closed)
October 10	Staff Planning & Development Day
October 13	Thanksgiving Day
November 7	Staff Planning & Development Day
November 10	Day in Lieu of Parent Teacher Interviews
November 11	Remembrance Day
November 12	Sangudo Only - Day Off
Dec 22-Jan 2	Christmas Break
January 5	First Day Back for Students
January 30	Staff Planning & Development Day/Term End
February 5 & 6	Onaway to Fox Creek Only - Teachers' Convention
February 16	Family Day
March 5 & 6	Valleyview Only - Teachers' Convention
March 30 - Apr 3	Spring Break
April 6	Easter Monday
April 7	First Day Back for Students (except Sangudo)
April 7	Sangudo Only - Day Off
April 24	Staff Planning & Development Day
May 14	Staff Planning & Development Day
May 15	Day in Lieu of Parent Teacher Interviews
May 18	Victoria Day
May 19	Sangudo Only - Day Off
June 25	Last Day for Students
June 26	Staff Planning & Development Day

A FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS

Northern Gateway Public Schools (NGPS) strives to be the place where students realize their value, discover their talents, and imagine a future where their contribution matters. Our mission is to provide a dynamic and safe learning environment that promotes connection and the authentic application of learning.

With a focus on learning for life, together—at NGPS we value: joy in learning; humility in achievement; satisfaction in giving; gratitude in receiving; and dedication to personal responsibility.