



Brentwood News

September 8, 2011



Principal's Message

The start of the school year is always a good time to invite new friendships. Here are some good reminders to remember whether we are 6 or 60:

- Smile often;
- Create a positive mood and open a conversation;
- Invite others to join a game or activity;
- Be interested in others and ask questions;
- Be friendly.

-Bob Draginda



Meet the Teacher Night

Parents are reminded of the *Meet the Teacher Night* on Thursday, September 8, from 6:30-7:30. Teachers will be doing mini-presentations at 6:30, 6:50 and 7:10 or they may be showing PowerPoint presentations that play continuously. In the gym there will be PowerPoint presentation that will introduce all staff members.

Parent-Teacher-Student Interviews

Normally, the first round on interviews is scheduled in November for the week after report cards have been sent home. This year we are trying something different with scheduled interviews on Wednesday, October 19, and Thursday, October 20, from 5-8.

The reason for the change is to inform parents about progress, upcoming assignments and possible concerns earlier rather than waiting until report cards have been issued. If parents have concerns after receiving the report cards, they may wish to meet with the teachers for a second interview although school-wide interviews will not be scheduled.

This plan for earlier interviews will be piloted this year and we will be seeking parent input at the end of the year.

Terry Fox Walk/Run

The annual *Terry Fox Walk/Run* is set for Wednesday, September 28, at 11:00 (tentatively). This year we are dedicating our walk to Mrs. Marlene Janes, an educational assistant at Brentwood, who is currently undergoing cancer treatment. Mrs. Janes is a fighter, just like Terry Fox and as a Brentwood family we want to give her our support.

Please join us on the walk if you can; feel free to bring younger brothers or sisters. We will be collecting money to help support cancer research so don't forget your toonies.

There will be a collection jar in each classroom and in the general office.

School Council

The Annual General Meeting is from 6:00-6:30 on Thursday, September 8, and the first regular meeting starts at 7:00 on Thursday, September 15.

Art Display

Our first art exhibit of the year will arrive on October 1 courtesy of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts. The display called *Capturing Momentum* features the works of 14 artists who use a variety of media including sculpture, oil painting and pastels. The similarity is that each artist has captured sport as the subject matter and the art depicts movement, speed and action. Chances are that your favorite sport will be represented whether it is golf or hockey, football or skiing.



The work will be displayed in the main hallway by the office.

Noonhour Supervisors—Wanted

Once again, we are in need of one or two lunchroom supervisors who can work from 11:30-12:30 Monday through Friday. The rate of pay is \$19.52/hour.

For the first 20 minutes each person will take attendance and supervise the students while they eat lunch. For the remaining 29 minutes the supervisor will watch students outside on the playground. Inservicing will be provided.

Reminder to Parents

It is very important for students who are not going home on the bus to be picked up quickly after school. The custodian must begin cleaning at 3:30 and it is a safety hazard if students are waiting in halls or bootrooms. It is far too easy for a child to slip on a wet floor or trip on a vacuum cord.

On the odd occasion a parent may be delayed or the child may miss the bus. If so, the student must wait in the office so he or she can be supervised by one of the administrators.

School Fees

Parents are reminded that the following school fees are now due:

- Kindergarten \$100;
- Grade 1-6 \$83 (Learning Resource Fee, Field trip levy and agenda)
- Lunch fee \$90 for one child and \$175 for a family.

Tools for Schools

We do have a limited numbers of backpacks of school supplies for families who may be in need. We want all of our students to be prepared for school. If we can help, feel free to contact Mr. Draginda directly.



Welcome to our Student Teachers

Starting on the first day of school are three student-teachers from Concordia University. Welcome to Kami Wiebe, Brittany Jerama and April Hansen.



NED Returns

The NED Show returns to Brentwood on Thursday, September 22, from 10:30-11:15 after a two-year absence. The presentation features a yo-yo expert who performs cool tricks while communicating an important message for staff and students. This year the theme deals with anti-bullying.

Students will be able to purchase yo-yos from the school at a reasonable price for one week following the show. More information will be sent home later this month.

The name, NED, is an acronym and stands for the following:

- N Never give up;
- E Encourage others;
- D Do your best.

Hot Food Day

Once again parent Council will be offering a monthly Hot Food lunch program. As it was the most popular last year, pizza will be offered every second month, with a variety of items on alternate months. Hot Food Days will be the third Wednesday of every month, with the exception of September which will be on the fourth Wednesday. Order forms will be sent out in September, December and March. Please add the following Hot Food dates to your calendar:

- September 28 Panago Pizza
- October 19 McDonalds
- November 16 Panago Pizza
- December 21 Extreme Pita
- January 18 Panago Pizza
- February 15 Pasta/Salad—Boston Pizza
- March 21 Panago Pizza
- April 18 McDonalds
- May 16 Panago Pizza

A special thanks is extended to Mrs. McDonall for coordinating this program.

Picture Retakes

Icon school photos were taken on Thursday, September 8. Retakes are scheduled for Wednesday, October 19, at 10:00 am. Parents are reminded that sibling pictures can be taken at lunch time.

Logos Society Meeting

The first Logos Society meeting is scheduled for September 14 from 7:00-8:30 at Brentwood School in the library. All Logos parents are welcome to attend.



Your Future in MIND

EIPS is Proud to Announce our New Tagline

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is proud to unveil the new tagline for our division: ***Your Future in Mind***. This new tagline replaces *Excellence by Choice* which we are no longer using.

Your Future in Mind positively represents EIPS as a student-focused organization that recognizes each person as a distinct individual with unique needs. The statement conveys a strong message that decisions made at every level and the programming that is offered throughout the system are designed to intentionally help each student realize a bright future.

With an emphasis on the future as a positive outcome, the tag links to the division's Mission: *to teach students how to learn, to prepare each student to achieve their best, and to assist students in becoming contributing members of our communities, our country, and the world*. It also provides a nod to the division's focus on the importance of lifelong learning, as stated in our Vision: *To set in motion a passion for discovery*.

Connect to Respect

Elk Island Public Schools is pleased to announce the launch of the *Connect to Respect* program in all schools and offices throughout the system. In accordance with Board Policy 19, the program is designed to teach staff to recognize potential harassment and discrimination scenarios while emphasizing that maintaining respectful working and learning environments is a shared responsibility among trustees, employees, students, parents, volunteers, contractors, and visitors.

Staff participated in a training session as part of the school start-up process, and we encourage parents and students to watch for posters and desk signage in the office and around the school as ongoing visual reminders that everyone in EIPS has a responsibility to treat others with respect.

Keeping Safety in 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 children of the following safety measures:

- be aware of surroundings when playing at recess, as well as when walking to and from school;
- always walk with a friend or group of friends;
- never talk to strangers, even if they call your child by name;

More Safety Tips

- if approached by a stranger, attract attention by any means necessary (kicking, yelling, and screaming);
- tell a trusted adult if approached by a stranger; and
- observe traffic safety rules.

We continue to provide appropriate and stringent supervision before and after school, as well as during recess and lunch breaks. We also ask families to take the necessary safety precautions to ensure their children are supervised when using school playgrounds and other play areas in the community.

If you observe a person whose actions you deem not appropriate in a school yard or community playground setting, please contact the local RCMP **780-467-7741**. **Let's** all do our part to ensure our students are safe!



Stakeholder Consultation for Division Calendar

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) values stakeholder input in the development of the division school calendar. Last year, we gathered feedback on the start of the school year and the timing of the fall and Winter Breaks. This information was appreciated and helpful in the development of the 2011/2012 calendar.

For the 2012/2013 – 2014/2015 division calendars, EIPS will be conducting parent, staff, and secondary student focus group discussions and an online survey. The focus group discussions will begin in September. The information gathered in the focus group discussions will inform the development of the online survey and the division calendar.

The online survey will be posted in October on www.eips.ca.

Parents are invited to participate at any one of the following parent focus group discussions:

		Date (7:00 p.m.)
Host School (Library)		
• Lamont County parents:	September 15	Lamont Elementary
• Strathcona County parents:	September 19	Fultonvale Elem/Jr. High
• Sherwood Park parents:	September 20	F.R. Haythorne Junior High
	September 22	Wes Hosford Elementary
• County of Minburn parents:	September 21	A.L. Horton Elementary
• Fort Saskatchewan parents:	September 27	Win Ferguson Community

Parents with questions or requests for additional information about the focus groups can contact Karen Richardson by phone at 780 417-8229 or email at

Karen.Richardson@eips.ca. To ensure we have enough discussion materials and refreshments, an RSVP to Karen Richardson would be appreciated.

The Last Word

Thanks to everyone—staff, students and parents for an excellent start-up to school.

-Bob Draginda

