



EAST ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER

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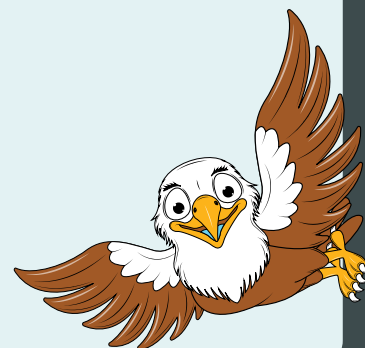
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EAST ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to a fantastic new school year at East Elementary!

As Assistant Principal Caitlin Pedersen and I (Stan Travník) reflect on these first few days, we are absolutely blown away by the incredible start to our year. Before arriving, we heard rumors about how special this school is, and we can now say with absolute confidence that every word is true—this community is truly second to none. We feel so incredibly lucky to be surrounded by such amazing, supportive parents and guardians who partner with us every day. Our students have returned with fantastic energy, filling the halls with joy and proving just how wonderful they are. Add in our incredibly hardworking staff, who have dedicated so much time and heart to ensuring a smooth, welcoming start, and we have the perfect recipe for an outstanding school year.

Thank you all for making East Elementary such a special place to learn and grow!

Stan Travník



Meet the Staff 2026-27

★ Administration

Principal – Mr. Travnik

Assistant Principal – Mrs. Pedersen

Office Staff

Mrs. Bablitz

Mrs. Dashie

Library

Mrs. Bendfeld

Classroom Teachers

Kindergarten AM – Mrs. Metke & Ms. Bryksa

Grade 1D – Ms. Derechey

Grade 2L – Mrs. Lysgaard

Grade 3MD – Mrs. McBride & Mrs. Desautels

Grade 4K – Mrs. Klimaszewski

Grades 3/4G – Ms. Giles

Grades 5M – Ms. Mauger

Grade 5SB – Mrs. Schilling (AM) & Ms. Bryksa (PM)

Grade 6A – Mr. Aasen

Garden Classroom – Mrs. Desautels & Mrs. McBride

Educational Assistants

Mrs. Baril

Mrs. Cameron

Mrs. Chauhan

Mrs. Daly

Mrs. Ehrstien

Ms. Graham

Mrs. Hanson

Mrs. Kobe

Mr. Lee

Mrs. Matchem

Mrs. Miller

Mrs. Peters

Mrs. Romaniuk

Mrs. Schmidt

Mrs. Sikliski

Custodial Team

Mrs. Garceau

Mr. Maygard





EAST

EXPERIENCES



A Special Shout-Out to Our Peace Officers!

If you take a look at the attached photo, you'll see our wonderful Peace Officers (School Resource Officers). They have already been on-site, meeting students, helping with traffic, and just being a friendly, visible presence around the school. Having them as part of our team is a huge asset, and we love the positive energy they bring to our mornings!

Playground Update: Goodbye Wasps!
Thank you for your patience while we handled the wasps on the playground. Our maintenance team and a professional exterminator have both treated the area, and the nests appear to be gone. The playgrounds are now open, and our staff will keep a close eye out to ensure the kids can play safely.



Weekly Character Education Classes

Every week, the admin team will host smaller character education classes with the students. We'll use this dedicated time to build strong relationships, discuss positive character traits, invite guest speakers, and proactively talk through everyday school issues.

Monthly Award Assemblies

Separate from our weekly classes, the whole school will gather at the start of every month for a big, celebratory assembly to recognize outstanding achievements:

"Caught You Being Kind" (CYBK): We will surprise students who have gone out of their way to be extra kind and helpful. If your child is receiving a CYBK certificate, we will secretly contact you beforehand so you can sneak in and celebrate with us!

Golden Garbage Can: We'll hand out this fun, shiny trophy to the class that has done the absolute best job working together to keep their room and our school sparkling clean.



Safety & Weather Reminders

Safety First: Keeping your kids safe is always our top priority. We practice standard Hour Zero emergency drills (evacuations, hold and secure, etc.) throughout the year so our students always feel secure and prepared.

Find out more here: <https://www.blackgold.ca/emergency-response-program-hour-zero>

Dress for the Weather: Fall in Alberta loves to keep us guessing! We send kids outside for fresh air every day unless it's heavily raining or extreme weather, so please make sure they bring coats, layers and appropriate footwear..



Thursday, September 10th

Meet the Family

BBQ & Scavenger Hunt

Join us for our Meet the Family Night on
Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 5:00 PM!

We are excited to welcome everyone to school for an evening of connecting with teachers, meeting other families, and kicking off the new school year together. We will be serving delicious hot dogs, so bring your appetite!

During the event, our Parent Association / School Council (PA/SC) will also be hosting their Annual General Meeting (AGM). All parents are warmly invited and encouraged to attend to hear updates, share ideas, and see how you can get involved in our school community. We can't wait to see you there!

Join us this Thursday evening for a fun, relaxed kickoff to the year! Instead of a sit-down assembly, families can enjoy a room-to-room Scavenger Hunt to organically meet our wonderful teachers.

- 5:00 PM – 5:45 PM: Free hot dogs for families (A huge thank you to the Lions Club!)
- 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM: Scavenger Hunt & Meet the Teacher
- 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM: School Council & Parent Association AGM (Gym)
- Bonus: Scan the QR code during the hunt to enter a draw for a \$25 gift card!
- Office Help: Jenn Bablitz will be in the office from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM to help with PowerSchool and any registration questions.

🎉 Scavenger Hunt Prizes! 🎉

Two lucky winners will each receive a prize:

🎁 \$25 Walmart Gift Card

🔥 Pro Grill Prep Set





Thursday, September 10th

Meet the Family

BBQ & Scavenger Hunt

Meet the Family Night & Annual General Meetings

You are invited to our Meet the Family Night, Thursday September 10th! The Leduc Lions Club will be cooking beef hot dogs outside the north east doors. Our Parents' Association is looking to fill the Vice President or Treasurer roles. Experienced or not, your skills or participation are welcome. Without these roles, our Association and its fundraising efforts cannot continue. This means no hot lunch income and forfeiting our other fundraising efforts which will bring in thousands of dollars to support our school and decrease the cost to parents on swimming lessons, ski days, classroom field trips, agendas, kanga pouches, and subscriptions to name a few. School Council is also looking to fill the Vice Chair role. Please email stan.travnik@gshare.blackgold.ca if you are interested and would like further information.

We are also looking for volunteers to attend the meetings and share their thoughts. We are hoping to grow our parent groups and get more involved! Refer to your class letter, September newsletter or email ees.council@gshare.blackgold.ca for more details.

5:00 - 5:45 Come enjoy a free beef hot dog and water donated by Leduc Florists! (Families will have a chance to mingle outdoors)

5:00 - 6:30 Scavenger Hunt & Meet the Teacher (\$25 dollar gift card will be given to one lucky participating family - winner will be contact the next school day)
- Teachers will be in their classrooms for the duration of the scavenger hunt.

6:30 - 6:40 Parents Association & School Council Info Session & Draw (\$30 Walmart gift card). Learn what we're up to and ways to get involved. Find our clue in the scavenger hunt to find out how to enter the draw. Draw will take place after the info session. Must be present to win.

6:40 - 8:10 Parent's Association & School Council Annual General Meetings in the gym



EAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNCIL & PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

AGM Information - You are Invited!

Thursday Sept. 10, 2026 - School Gym

School Council AGM (6:40-7:25pm)

Election of new executive and coordinators

Parents' Association AGM (7:25pm-8:10pm)

Election of new executive and coordinators, approval of 2025/26 budget, fundraisers announced

WELCOME BACK

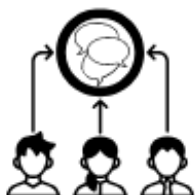
Hello East Families! Welcome new and familiar friends! The new school year is fast approaching. School Council (SC) and the Parents' Association (PA) hope your summer has been filled with memories.... AND!!!!.... we hope your kiddos are super excited with their new teachers.

We are East Elementary's two parent groups that work in collaboration with each other and our Principal and staff. Together our goal is to help you support your child's learning, grow a deeper connection with our school community, stay informed about school activities and have a voice in our school and in education in Alberta.

Our first task is forming our SC and the PA executives for the upcoming year. Voting will take place at our Annual General Meetings (AGMs) following Meet My Family evening activities. All parents/caregivers are members of both SC and the PA at East Elementary. **We have a few vacant positions that must be filled and welcome you to volunteer or nominate** (no experience necessary). Review the enclosed information for ways to get involved. Find the group that fits you best or contribute in both. We are your link to a connected and vibrant school experience and East Elementary is one of the best!

Watch for further SC and PA communications via email, the Class Dojo app, the School Newsletter, the East Parents' Group Facebook page and the Parents section of the school website, .

We look forward to welcoming new faces and we hope it's YOU!



School Council (SC)

SC ADVISORY

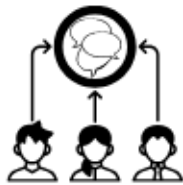
Collaborate with the Principal on school policies and improvement planning. Help foster meaningful connections between the entire school community. The Principal and Staff are core members of the School Council.



Parents' Association (PA)

PA FUNDRAISING

Help raise additional financial resources to enhance student learning, support school activities, classroom and school 'extras', field trips, digital subscriptions and more. The Principal is advisory to the Parent Association.



SC

EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

Chair - Returning Nominee

Collaborates directly with Principal on school policies and SC events, runs SC meetings



Vice -Chair - VACANT

Assists Chairperson as needed, runs SC meetings in the absence of the Chair

Secretary - Returning Nominee

Distributes agenda for upcoming meetings, records and distributes meeting minutes

COMMITTEE COORDINATORS



Lice Busters - VACANT

Organizes head lice check three times annually (Oct. Jan. April)



ASCE Grant Coordinator - VACANT

Researches and advises on best use of \$500 grant to increase SC capacity or parent engagement

Staff Appreciation - Returning Nominee

Organizes Staff Appreciation activities and volunteers. 5 dates throughout school year

CONTACTS

SC and PA General Inquiries ees.council@gshare.blackgold.ca

Treasurer eeпа.treasurer@gmail.com

Hot Lunch Coordinator eastelementaryhotlunch@gmail.com

Bingo Coordinator eastbingos@gmail.com



PA

EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

President - Returning Nominee

Runs meetings, oversees financials and communications of the Association, knows about all aspects of the Association



Vice President - VACANT, MUST FILL

Runs meeting in the absence of the President, assists President with tasks



Treasurer - VACANT, MUST FILL

Handles all financial transactions and banking, prepares for audits, meeting updates and AGLC annual reports

Secretary - Returning Nominee

Prepares and distributes agenda for upcoming meetings, records and distributes meeting minutes

COMMITTEE COORDINATORS

Fundraising - Returning Nominee

Coordinates annual fundraising campaigns, responsible for all orders, payments and forms

Hot lunch - Returning Nominee

Updates & trouble shoots website and orders, contacts vendors, organizes volunteers

Bingo - Returning Nominee

Attends meetings at the Bingo Hall, organizes volunteers for each bingo

2025/26 SUCCESS & HIGHLIGHTS

Shared Success (SC & PA) - Successful AGMs in conjunction with Meet the Family Night. Continued successful election of separate SC & PA executives and hybrid and bring your child to meetings options. Both PA & SC welcomed new volunteer faces and look forward to meeting more.

School Council - Continued engagement with the School Division via the Council of School Councils meetings. Met goals of relaying School Board information at school meetings and collaborating at Division meetings. Hosted 1 Lice Busters Screenings, a successful Staff Appreciation season with 5 events throughout the school year. The ASCE grant was a huge success funding Bingo & games night for 71 participants including students and family members.

Parents' Association - Fundraising efforts raised~ \$11,000. Successful hot lunch and Bingo seasons, with students enjoying continuation of the Bingo Pizza Party Competition. PA sponsored family night food; paid for digital subscriptions and student agenda; hosted the fall movie night and spring dance.; subsidized ski nights, swimming lessons, digital subscriptions; and donated funds for field trips and classroom extras. New this year, PA funded Dragon boating for DIV 2 as an alternate to cancelled ski trips and new set of Eagles Jerseys for sports teams.



TERRY FOX RUN

SEPTEMBER 25



Our school is excited to participate in the Terry Fox Run on September 25! Students and staff will come together to walk/run in honour of Terry Fox and his incredible Marathon of Hope.

We are also collecting donations for the Terry Fox Foundation through our “Twoonie for Terry” campaign. Students can bring in a \$2 donation (or any amount) in cash, or donations can be made through their PowerSchool account or directly through our school’s Terry Fox donation page:

[Donate to the Terry Fox Foundation](#)

Every donation helps support cancer research and continues Terry’s dream of finding a cure. ❤️



SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 NO SCHOOL Labour Day	8  School Picture Day!	9	10  Meet the Family Hot Dog BBQ 5:00	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 PD Day NO SCHOOL	19
20	21	22	23	24	25  Terry Fox Walk	26
27	28	29	30 NO SCHOOL National Day for Truth and Reconciliation			

Absence Reporting/ Student Sign Out

SafeArrival -Reporting Student Absences

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As a reminder, our school uses the SafeArrival system to report and manage student absences. This system helps us verify attendance more efficiently and follow up quickly on any unexplained absences.

How to Report Your Child's Absence

Please remember to report absences in advance using one of the following three methods:

1. Mobile App

- Download the SchoolMessenger Home app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.
- Sign in (or select Sign Up if you have not yet created an account).
- Select Attendance, then Report an Absence.



2. Website

- Visit: <https://go.schoolmessenger.com/#/home>
- Sign in (or select Sign Up if you are a new user).
- Click Attendance, then Report an Absence.

3. Telephone

- Call the toll-free number: 780-955-4526
- Follow the automated prompts to report the absence.

These options are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and future absences can be reported at any time.

If an absence is not reported in advance, the automated system will contact parents/guardians by email, text, push notification, and phone call until a reason is submitted. If there is no response, office staff will follow up.

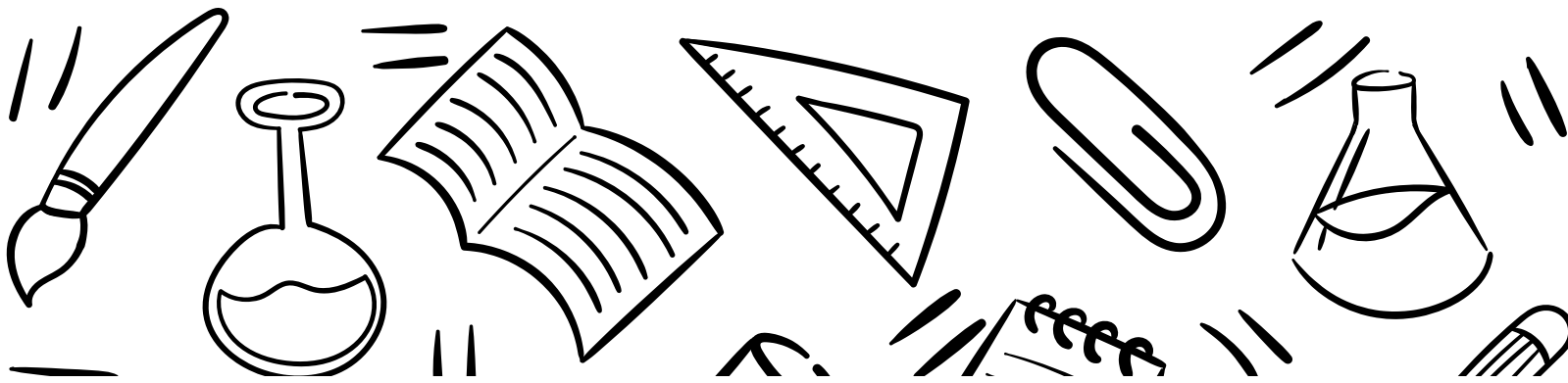
If you report the absence using the SafeArrival app, website, or phone system, you will not receive these notifications.

If you need assistance logging in, please contact the school office.

If you would like to receive text messages from the school and are not currently receiving them, please ensure we have your mobile number on file and text "Y" to 987338 (standard message and data rates may apply).

Thank you for your continued cooperation in helping us keep our attendance records accurate and up to date.

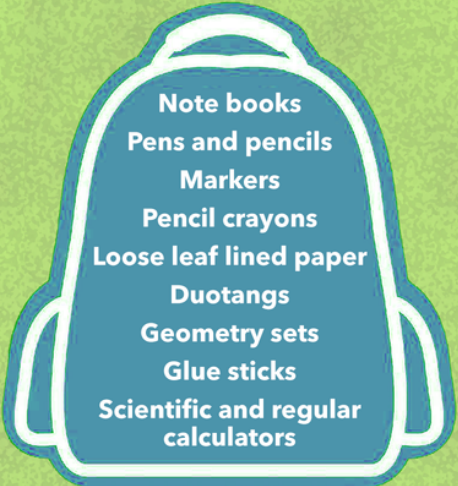
East Elementary School



Tools FOR School

HIGH NEED ITEMS

*Please ensure all supplies donated are new or unused



If your child needs a backpack,
contact the Leduc & District
Food Bank to register:

780-986-5333
Director@ldfb.ca

Tools for School provides
backpacks filled with
school supplies for students
in Kindergarten through Grade 12
for families needing support

For donations,
Leduc Food Bank collection boxes
are located in local grocery stores:



or donate online: www.ldfb.ca

