



HERITAGE HILLS

ELEMENTARY

Heritage Hills Parent Weekly

September 19 - September 26, 2022

Twitter Account: @HeritageHills_

Important Dates This Week at Heritage Hills:

Monday, September 19

- Ms. K School Counsellor at school
- Grades 4 - 6 Ukulele 12:02p.m.

Tuesday, September 20

- Ms. K, School Counsellor at school
- School Photos / Sibling Photos
- Bev Facey Physical Education 30 students working with gym classes
- 10:15 - 11:15 a.m.

Wednesday, September 21

- Ms. K, School Counsellor at school
- School Photos - Kindergarten photos, absent students and any remaining sibling photos

Thursday, September 22

- Hot Lunch Kinder B - Panago
- Bev Facey Physical Education 30 students working with gym classes
- 10:15 - 11:15 a.m.
- Hold & Secure Safety Drill
- Toonies for Terry

Friday, September 23

- Hot Lunch Kinder A & Grades 1-6 - Panago
- Grades 2 & 3 Ukulele - 12:02 p.m.
- Toonies for Terry
- Terry Fox Run - wear Red/White, Terry Fox Shirt or Canada shirt

- Terry Fox Run - Come run with us! More details to come.

Monday, September 26

- Grades 4 - 6 Ukulele 12:02 p.m.

Principal:

Last week was a busy week at Heritage Hills Elementary which included DOT DAY, School Council and our FAHHE Meetings. Thank you to those of you who attended our School Council and FAHHE Meeting on Wednesday. These meetings are another great opportunity to communicate with the school and learn how to participate in school activities. We have many volunteers at Heritage Hills and we value all you do for our school.

Screen Time:

We have had some questions about screen time for students during non instructional time at school. On indoor recess days the students will have alternative activities other than screens and technology. During the afternoon break students are not on screens. During the 30 minute eating portion of lunch hour the smartboard will be off on most days. There may be times when it is for a special reward, etc. Some classes use this as a Friday reward. If you have any questions please ask your classroom teacher as to the practices in their class.

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to call us at (780) 467-7447 or email us at General.HHE@eips.ca. You can also follow us on Twitter [@HeritageHills_](https://twitter.com/HeritageHills) for regular updates and posts.

Counsellor:

The Strathcona County Child and Youth Coalition refers to a group of community partners who believe in improving the support and resources available to children, youth and their families in Strathcona County. They welcome and value all ideas, thoughts and actions on how to support community well-being. Our work is guided by the idea that we can achieve stronger and better outcomes with our community when we work together! [Check out their website.](#)

Elementary school children may be starting to form new friend groups and participate in new activities as they come into their own. As they start to study subjects about the world outside of their homes, they look to teachers as well as to parents to make them feel safe and to help sort it all out. [Here is an article with 10 tips for building resilience in children.](#)

Amazing Things Happen at HHE:

We are off to a great start already this school year. Many opportunities to promote safe and caring schools, citizenship, lifelong learning and parental involvement.

Here are a few highlights already:

- First Day of School
- Meet the Staff Evening and BBQ
- September School Council and FAHHE Meetings
- DOT DAY

COVID-19 Protocol Update- 2022-23 School Year

All remaining mandatory public health restrictions were lifted on June 14, 2022. While COVID-19-related hospitalizations in Alberta are stabilizing, hospitals throughout the country remain under strain due to staffing shortages. For the most part, it will be back to business as usual for the new school year. However, due to the highly transmissibility of current Omicron BA.2 variant, the Division will continue best practices for the prevention and control of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses.

This year, previous COVID -19 protocols have been adjusted to align with the current guidance document: [General guidance for COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses](#) (June 2022).

COVID-19 PCR testing is available to Albertans with clinical risk factors for severe outcomes. Free [rapid tests](#) are available at some pharmacies.

Staff and students should continue to stay home when sick or with symptoms and, if testing positive for COVID-19, follow the recommended [isolation guidelines](#).

New and safer cleaning and disinfection products will be introduced to schools this year. These products, along with hand sanitizer, will continue to be readily available for use in classrooms and work areas.

While supplies last, Central Office has an inventory of medical masks available for persons that need or wish to use them. Alberta Health recommends that people at risk of severe outcomes should wear medical masks when in settings with people outside of their household. Contact your principal if you want masks or have other questions or concerns.

The Division will continue to keep staff and families advised of any changes in protocols. For further information, visit [COVID information for Albertans](#).

School Photos:

K-6 students will have photos taken on **Tuesday, Sept 20**. Students who are absent on Tuesday or who are in the Mon/Wed Kindergarten class will have photos taken on Wed, Sept 21. Families may choose to have the photographer take a sibling photo, but you must complete the [request form](#) by Monday, Sept 19. Last year, it

was very time consuming to gather siblings for a photo, so we are hoping to streamline the process this year.

There was a discussion during the School Council meeting about School Photos. Icon is the photographer again this year. We know there were some concerns in the past, but photographers that can provide photos that integrate with our school software are limited (student photos are used in a number of applications: PowerSchool, Destiny library software, yearbook, etc). Icon staff take over 600 photos in 2 days and with such short timelines, it is inevitable that a few photos do not turn out as hoped. We will connect with the photographers prior to the photo shoot this year and endeavour to get the highest quality product.

Terry Fox Run:

We are excited about the annual Terry Fox Run on Friday. This event began in 1981 and has raised over \$850 million for the Terry Fox Foundation and cancer research. Families can contribute by sending in Toonies for Terry to school on Thursday and Friday.

Students will be running outside on Friday afternoon. Please dress for the weather. Parents are also invited to come run (walk) with us! Watch our website for map details.

School Store:

Gear up with some new back to school clothing from ball caps to hoodies to new colourful t-shirts! The school store will remain open until Tuesday, Oct 4. [Link](#) to the student store.

Read In Week:

We are so excited to be able to welcome readers into HHE for the very first time during READ IN Week! The theme this year is **Choose Your Own Adventure**. A schedule will be put together for classes to come to the Learning Commons. We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to come in for 30-60 minutes to read one or two classes. If you are interested, please contact [Stacey Carruthers](#).

Permission Click

This software is brand new to staff this fall. Please be patient with us as we figure out how to manage digital forms. We have already heard positive comments about how simple it is to sign and return these new forms. The videos and step by step guides are user friendly. The system can send reminders prior to trips. And, parents will be able access trip details and supervisor contact information if needed on the day of the trip.

Absences, Lates, Appointments, Leaving for Lunch and Leaving Early

If your child will be leaving to go home for lunch, leaving school early or absent for the day - please call and notify the office. The school is required to record all student absences accurately, so please advise if your child is ill, or not ill, but away for personal reasons. An agenda note does not always make it to the office. A call to the office ensures everyone will know where your child is to be at all times. Please call us with this information at (780) 467-7447 or email at General.HHE@eips.ca.

Communication 101

Trying to make sense of all the different ways that EIPS and HHE communicates with families? Here's a quick guide:

Brightspace is the primary method of communication that teachers are directed to use to communicate with parents. If parents log in using their child's account, they can see an expanded view of all the teacher posts. If parents would prefer a condensed version of the posts (a simplified news feed that is continuously updated), sign in with a parent log in.

Permission Click is the newest tool launched this fall to simplify the process for parents to sign forms (field trips, media permission, responsible tech use agreements, etc.).

School Messenger - is the system that EIPS uses to send out broadscale phone and email messages to all families. Phone calls from the Division and the school come from 1-833-202-1419. Phone calls from Student Transportation come from 1-833-298-5234. Parents can identify which phone numbers and email accounts receive these communication messages. Settings can be changed in the Parent Portal in PowerSchool.

PowerSchool - is the primary system that manages all student data in the district (student enrollment, attendance, family information, student documents, individual program plans (IPPs), report cards, fees, etc.). There is a parent portal and a student portal (mostly used by secondary students).

Google Suite - all students are assigned a gmail address when they begin schooling in EIPS. They keep the same email address until they graduate Grade 12. This also gives students full access to Google tools (Docs, Sheets, Slides, etc.). As students get older, teachers and students communicate more frequently through this gmail account.

We have also been made aware that EIPS is working on a document to further help parents in understanding the key systems used within the division. This information should be available in October.

Pets on School Property - Correction

Please be aware that there are **NO pets allowed on school property**.

EIPS Administrative Procedure # 255, Section 1.1 reads as follows:

1.1 Animals are not permitted at Division-owned, leased or rented school buildings, grounds or worksites. Exceptions may be given for service dogs, educational assistance animals and animals serving a specific educational purpose such as pet therapy, participation in pet days, short-term educational projects or social events.

While we all love our pets, this procedure was put in place for the protection of all, and we ask that you follow this requirement.

FAHHE UPDATES:

Membership - Every year membership in FAHHE must be renewed. Membership allows you to hold a position on the executive or exercise a vote during meetings. Please click [HERE](#) to complete the membership form for 2022-2023.

Hot Lunch - Did you know there is a universal hot lunch fund to assist families who can't afford the special lunch at this time. If you would like to access the fund, please email Jaclyn at hhehotlunch@gmail.com.

Upcoming Hot Lunch:

Panago

Thursday, September 22 – Kinder B (ordering closes Sept 17th)

Friday, September 23 – Kinder A and Grade 1-6 (Ordering closes Sept 18th)

Order online at www.HealthyHunger.ca

Playground Update

Phase 2 of the playground is estimated to cost between \$180,000-\$200,000. With our fundraisers last year we are slowly on our way and have about \$4000 raised already which equates to about 2%.

Ongoing Fundraisers



Order online through Mabel's Labels and choose support a fundraiser, then a portion of your purchase will go back to FAHHE.



Stop by COBS on Wye Road and tell them you're from Heritage Hills Elementary and a portion of your purchase will go back to FAHHE.

Next Meeting: November 12 @ 7:45pm following the school council meeting.

Enjoy a great week everyone!

“The best index to a person's character is how he treats people who can't do him any good, and how he treats people who can't fight back.”

— Abigail Van Buren