

October 6, 2021



Report to School Council

Elementary Campus

Welcome Back to Everyone

In my June 2021 report to School Council, I was naïve enough to say, *"We hope and believe we will never experience such a year again!"* Unfortunately, we are once again in the middle of a new wave of COVID. While there have been two positive cases at the EC, we have been very fortunate not to have any students in class while infectious.

On October 5, AHS and Alberta Education announced that contact tracing would resume for schools and later encouraged school districts to come up with plans to ensure maximum numbers of staff, volunteers and 3rd party workers are vaccinated.

As of the September 29 government deadline for accounting for our student numbers, we were at capacity, which is ~420 students.

We are fully staffed with a very strong group of teachers, teaching and learning assistance, support staff and office staff. To cover teacher leaves, we are happy to welcome Ms. Abbey Allegro, Ms. Emily Flood and Ms. Makayla Ambrosio on our teaching staff. As well, we have a new music teacher, Ms. Tiffany Nysetvold.



There is a new face in the Main Office this year. Ms. Londie Borsos takes on the role of Office Assistant. We are also delighted to have Ms. Annika Stein-Harries back. She and newcomer, Ms. Cheryl Dueck, are welcome additions to our very strong team of TLAs.

As mentioned in parent meetings in late August, we are, unfortunately, in the Yellow Scenario to start the year.



You may recall in the June 2021 report to School Council, I described three possible scenarios for our return to school. Green was to be a return to the same programming we enjoyed before COVID, Yellow was basically what we left in June, and Red was teaching and learning from home.

Yellow means we are all masked except when outside, our classes are all cohorted, we are distancing as much as we reasonably can, practicing hand hygiene and taking the daily test before we come to school.

We are allowing parents into the school this year, but only by invitation and on a limited basis.

In addition, this year, we are holding Music and Learning Commons classes, with appropriate safety measures in place.

Coffee Talks are back in full swing. We had our first one on September, attended myself, acting Assistant Principal, Ms. Karly Bagnall and 40 EC parents. Our next Coffee Talk is scheduled for October 15. Please plan to join us for a productive time of conversation. School Council will send the link to you.

During the final week of September, classes were busy learning about Indigenous Truth and Reconciliation, capped off by Orange Shirt Day.



Our theme for 2021-2022 is "Rebuilding Stronger." We continue to learn about the impacts on teaching and learning as a result of dealing with this pandemic. Once again this year, we were fortunate to be able to start with some professional development with Jill Foreman, OT, who provided our staff with a great package of activities and wisdom around student care and self-care.

Academic recovery is also a significant feature of 2021-2022. We are beginning to learn where gaps in our students' literacy and numeracy skills are, thanks to many hours of assessment by our Student Services department and a couple of our Learning Leaders. Our academic recovery program will begin very shortly, focusing on closing those gaps. Thanks to generous donations from our parent community, the academic recovery materials required are in place and ready to go.

We continue to practice our safety drills. All the Kindergarten classes learnt fire drills, and we had an Administrative Hold and Secure drill as well. In upcoming weeks, we will have full school fire drills, bad weather drills and lockdown drills.

September was a very full month, filled with much excitement and new learning. October promises to be just the same. Watch the website and notices from Westmount Communications for updates.

From all of us at the EC, have a safe, but satisfying Thanksgiving long weekend! While we continue this long struggle with COVID, we still have so much to be thankful for. We continue to be grateful for our amazing frontline medical staff. We feel how tired you must be and are grateful for you all.



Respectfully,

Hal Curties, Principal