

PINE STREET SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2019

" A TRADITION OF PRIDE & EXCELLENCE "

Administration

Acting Principal:
Shelby Hines

**Acting Assistant
Principal:**
Kerri Remeika

DATES TO REMEMBER

**Sept. 10 School
Council Meeting
6:30 p.m.**

**Sept. 13 PALS FOP
(Wilderness Centre)**

**Sept. 17 Welcome
Back BBQ
5:00-7:00 p.m.**

**Sept. 19 Cross
Country Race**

**Sept. 25 Hot
Lunch**

**Sept. 27 Terry Fox
Run**

**Sept. 30 School
Picture Day**

**Sept. 30 Orange
Shirt Day**

**Oct. 2 Early Dis-
missal 2:15 p.m.**

From the Principal's Desk...

My name is Shelby Hines and I have the honour of continuing in my role at Pine Street School as the acting principal for the 2019-20 school year. I have been an educator for 18 years and most recently completed my Master's Degree at the University of Alberta. I would like to start by welcoming all our students and their families. I know we are going to have an amazing year together.

Last year was a tremendous success for many reasons, and I am confident that Pine Street School will continue along this path this school year. Over the summer we were able to complete our library redesign with the support of our families and School Council. I encourage everyone to stop by to have a peak at the new shelves and lightboxes that were installed over the summer break. This learning space looks magnificent! Some other improvements you may notice as you walk through Pine Street School include:

- Painting has occurred throughout various spaces, but most notable is the feature wall inside the office, as well as just outside the office door.
- 90 new Chromebooks were purchased to continue our commitment to providing a 1 to 1 student / technology ratio.
- 11 new projectors and 4 new audio systems were bought to enhance classrooms.
- There were multiple locations throughout the school that had new decals added to support the rebranding and new logo we introduced last year. The grade one/two boot room and stairwell, along with the gym hallway, have some added Pine Street pizzazz. I invite you to check it out!

I would like to thank our custodian, Mr. Michael Exconde, who completed his summer cleaning and waxing tasks in record time. The pride he takes in his work is inspiring!

On August 29 & 30 staff took part in some professional learning, attended meetings and worked in collaborative teams. These days were both productive and enjoyable and allowed us time to ensure we started the year off right.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our 'Welcome Back BBQ' on Tuesday, September 17 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. More information can be found in this newsletter.

As I think about the upcoming year, I am very excited and am looking forward to working together with students, staff, and families to continue the Pine Street tradition of pride and excellence.

Sincerely,

Shelby Hines, M. Ed.
Principal

Classroom Configuration & Staffing 2019-20

Teaching Staff

Grade/ Class	Staff
PALS	Mrs. Shauna Birtles
PALS	Mrs. Rachelle Gagnon
PALS	Mrs. Christie Harty
PALS	Ms. Zoe Larsen
Kindergarten – Group A & Group B	Ms. Jennifer Appleby
Grade 1	Mrs. Jocelyne Kavalinas
Grade 1	Mrs. Lorna Magnan
Grade 2	Mrs. Wendy Forbes
Grade 2 / 3	Mrs. Heather Ferguson
Grade 3	Mrs. Lisa Bocek
Grade 4	Mrs. Debbie Bessette
Grade 4	Mrs. Susan Woodbeck
Grade 5	Mrs. Heather Weber
Grade 5	Mrs. Deneen Zielke and Ms. Suzanne Stevens
Grade 6	Mrs. Cheryl Hawryluk
Grade 6	Mrs. Heather Lockwood
Music (ECS – Grade 6)	Ms. Michelle Vetro
Counselor	Ms. Suzanne Stevens
Assistant Principal (Acting)	Ms. Kerri Remeika
Principal (Acting)	Mrs. Shelby Hines

Educational Assistants

Mrs. Janet Alty
Mrs. Diane Antoniuk
Mrs. Janelle Caldwell
Mrs. Denise Conrad
Mrs. Keltie Herzog
Mrs. Tonya Kemp
Mrs. Tracy Kent
Mrs. Linsey Marwick
Mrs. Leanne Rosko
Mrs. Nikki Rufenack
Mrs. Louise Wall
Mrs. Mellissa Willisko

Office & Library Staff

Mrs. Lisa Leitch (Office)
Mrs. Lisa Waselenkoff (Office)
Mrs. Darlene DeMarco (Library)

PALS Program

Pine Street School is proud to be the designated site for the PALS (Play and Learn at School) program for Sherwood Park. PALS is specifically designed to support children aged 3 to 5 in reaching developmental milestones. Students attend either in the morning or the afternoon, Monday through Thursday. The first Wednesday of the month is early dismissal. There are NO PALS classes on these days. Class sizes are typically small and consist of one teacher and two educational assistants. Additional support is provided by speech pathologists and occupational therapists. Welcome to our new and returning PALS families!

PALS Morning Schedule

Bus Arrival: 8:25 a.m.

Classes: 8:30—11:25 a.m.

Bus Departure: 11:30 a.m.

PALS Afternoon Schedule

Bus Arrival: 12:15 p.m.

Classes: 12:20—3:15 p.m.

Bus Departure: 3:20 p.m.

Medication / Personal Care of Students

If your child has a medical condition that may require medication or personal care during his or her school day at Pine Street School you are required to fill out medical forms. You can find these forms on our website by going to <https://www.pinestreet.ca/parents/health-link>. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the school office at 780-467-2246.



Nut AWARE School

Pine Street School is a nut aware school because some students and staff have severe life-threatening reactions to nuts. Therefore, we ask that you **do not send** any food that may contain or have come into contact with peanut butter, peanuts, tree nuts and/or sesame seeds. Thank you in advance for helping keep everyone safe!



From the Counselling Corner...

Welcome to Pine Street! My name is Suzanne Stevens and I am the counselor at Pine Street School. This year I will be counselling half-time and teaching half-time. Primarily, I am in the building for counselling matters Monday, Thursday and Friday afternoons. Often these hours are good for students, however, not so much for families who are working. I encourage you to phone ahead should you wish to speak with me about your child/children so that we can arrange a time that works for us outside of the hours noted. You are more than welcome to pop by, however, I want to give you the heads up that I may not be able to speak with you at that moment as I may be meeting other students, staff, parents and/or teaching. I realize how valuable time is and can certainly work with you to find a time that works to meet. Phoning is a better way for me to connect with you as it allows me to clarify my understanding thus I will contact you via phone to set up an appointment.

When you come in, I may ask a lot of questions. The purpose of these questions is not to be intrusive. The purpose of the questions is for me to gain an understanding and or awareness of the situation in order to provide a more comprehensive response. Often I may say "I need to look into this more" as I do not know the answers to the questions provided. The bottom line is that I appreciate working with families.

I am a registered psychologist and I often get asked if I can counsel children on a regular basis. Due to the nature of a school, this is not possible. I can check in to see how your child is doing and we can work on goals/ideas/plans throughout the year (i.e. How can I get to class on time every day?), however, I am not able to provide therapeutic counselling. For regular therapeutic support, I recommend that you phone the College of Alberta Psychologists, identifying the needs for your child/children so they may provide contacts for you to consider <http://www.cap.ab.ca>.

Below are a few questions that are asked about counseling in a school setting:

What does a counselor do in a school? A counselor's role will vary from school to school. At Pine Street, the counselor's role is comprised of but not limited to:

Seeing students; supporting students and their learning; assisting in the classroom; observations of students; building resiliency; working with staff in supporting students who have an Instructional Support Plan; speaking with parents; acting as a liaison between Supports for Students at our Central Office and Pine Street for students who require additional support in the transitional process; completing specialized program application packages; review of student record files; acting as a liaison between school and community supports; chairing meetings with parents for students who present with complex learning needs; liaison with specialized services

Can anyone come and see me? Of course!

What if 'checking in' means on a more regular basis?

If a student is working on a goal (i.e. paying more attention in class) it may be advantageous to meet regularly to assist the child in developing tools to pay more attention. If this is the case, both parents sign a form indicating that they are okay with me seeing their child on a more regular basis. In this way we are working towards keeping the lines of communication open and transparent.

Do you tell parents everything that you have spoken about with their child?

If a child comes to see me, it is up to the child to determine if he/she wishes to share the information with parents except if:

- Someone is hurting him/her
- The child wants to hurt him/herself
- The child wants to hurt someone else

In these cases, there is duty to report (who it is reported to may vary depending upon the nature of the situation). The important thing to remember is the safety and well-being of the child. In most cases, the child will note that he/she does want to share with a parent and/or parents. One of the most common reasons a child may come to me is because of something that has occurred during recess times.

I thank-you for sharing your child/children with us and look forward to working with you at Pine Street this year!

Welcome Back BBQ

Pine Street School, in partnership with our incredible School Council, are hosting a 'Welcome Back BBQ' on Tuesday, September 17 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. We invite all Pine Street families to attend this wonderful event as it is an opportunity to meet our amazing staff, visit your child's classroom, and enjoy some great food. We hope to see you there!



Pine Street School Council & Pine Street Volunteer Parent Society

Pine Street School is very fortunate to have the generous support of our School Council and Volunteer Parent Society. Thank you to the following individuals who have been elected to serve on our School Council and Parent Society for the 2019-20 school year:

Chair—Lesley Bowman

Co-Chair—Cara Kern

Secretary—Lorena Ellsworth

Treasurer—Cara Kern

A message from the Chair...

Welcome to the 2019/2020 school year at Pine Street Elementary! I am proud and happy to be your School Council and Volunteer Parent Society Chair once again. I consider it a privilege to represent Pine Street Parents at the division level as the Secretary for our Committee of School Councils at Elk Island Public School Division and to participate in the Alberta School Council Association annual conference and AGM. Your School Council is an opportunity to learn from and contribute to our Pine Street community.

Within our school and division, there is a commitment to value 'parents as partners' and an understanding that children have the best opportunity for success when home and school work collaboratively. Your School Council supports many important initiatives at Pine Street – the Welcome Back BBQ, Numeracy Videos, Saffron Cyber Second, and other valuable resources for parents.

School Council meetings are a chance for parents to meet other parents, engage with staff and administration, and learn about what is going on in education at a school, division, and provincial level and how this impacts their child. We hope you are able to join us for a meeting this school year; we would love to see you there! If you are unable to make it, please know that meeting minutes and agendas are posted on the school website and you are always welcome to email us at pinestreetsvp@gmail.com if you have any questions or concerns.

Our Volunteer Parent Society is the fundraising engine that drives so many important community building events and School Council initiatives like the Halloween Family Dance, Family Movie Nights, Hot Lunch, Yearbook, Helping Hands, Art Cards, and our recently completed Library Re-Design. It takes many parents dedicating their time and energy to make these events possible. We are always looking for parents to help in whatever capacity they can and your input is always valuable. If you would like to see what kind of opportunities we have, please email us at the aforementioned address or come out to a meeting! We won't make you volunteer, we promise!

We hope to see you at the Welcome Back BBQ and please feel free to email or contact any of the Council members if you have any questions or concerns.

Lesley Bowman

School Newsletters & Information

Communication between school and home is a vital component of collaborating to make this a successful year. It is our goal to ensure that information is delivered in a timely manner so that our families are aware of the events taking place at Pine Street School. To stay informed, I recommend you regularly check out our recently redesigned website at <https://www.pinestreet.ca/>. Interesting links to articles sent out from Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) can also be found here.



This year teachers will continue using the school website to communicate with families in the form of their own 'microsites' which can be found by clicking the 'Sites' tab located at the bottom right on the homepage and then choosing the teacher's name.

Student Transportation



When students get on or off the bus they scan their bus passes to provide information through the 'My Stop' tool. This allows parents to know the location of the bus and its estimated time of arrival. To learn more go to this link <https://www.eips.ca/transportation/my-stop>. It is an expectation that all students have and are using their bus passes. If students lose or damage their bus passes, there is a replacement fee of \$20. If you have any questions about your child's transportation, please call 780-417-8151 or email st@eips.ca.

To ensure the safety of students, drivers, and property, all EIPS buses are equipped with video surveillance. These recordings are reviewed when necessary to assist in monitoring student and driver conduct in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (FOIP).

Pay School Fees Online

Information regarding school fees will be posted on the *PowerSchool Parent Portal*, which can be found on our school website, by the end of September. All fees are due within 30 days of being posted. To access your fee information please log in to the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) and go to "Student Fees". You can view your fees and pay them online using Visa, MasterCard, or INTERAC Online. It is highly recommended that you log in to the *PowerSchool Parent Portal* regularly throughout the year as fees are added to cover costs for various activities such as field trips, class projects, team fees, etc. Please contact Lisa Waselenkoff in the school office at 780-467-2246 if you have any questions.

NOTE: If circumstances exist whereby you are unable to pay your student fees you can apply to EIPS to have the fees waived by submitting an Application for a Waiver of Fees by December 15, 2019. **NO LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Sometimes life is complicated!

Solutions Navigators support individuals and families through life's challenges. They can help with:

Housing Options - Finances & subsidies - Parenting - Relationships - Forms & applications - More

For information about this free service, visit

strathcona.ca or call 780-464-8439.



Student Drop Off and Pickup ~ Parking

To ensure that all children arrive at school safely we have a 30 second student drop off/pick up zone conveniently located at the front doors of the school. Vehicles are to move steadily through this area to keep traffic flow optimized. For this reason, parking is NOT permitted in the drop off zone.

Should you wish to park and walk your child into the school, parking is located across the street beside Cottonwood Park with additional parking available on Conifer Street and Evergreen Street.

Parking lots are for specialized transportation, busses, and staff use only. Thank you for doing your part to keep everyone safe!

Emergency Preparedness

Safety is our top priority and as such EIPS continues to work diligently to have comprehensive emergency plans in place should the need arise. Depending upon the incident, various actions may be taken. Staff members are aware of the drills and procedures that may be required and share this information with students to prepare them for these types of situations. Our first school evacuation drill will occur in September to allow staff and students to practice what they have learned. Additional evacuation drills, as well as other drills, will take place over the course of the year.

Volunteers

Volunteers are extremely valued and always welcome at Pine Street School. To assist us in ensuring we are prepared to keep everyone in our building accounted for and safe we ask that ALL visitors sign in at the school office and wear a volunteer tag while working in the school. Thank you to our incredible volunteers who gift us with their time! It is greatly appreciated!

Student Property

With approximately 370 students, it can be challenging to keep track of everyone's belongings. We strongly encourage ***labelling all of your child's property*** clearly so that we can ensure it is easily identifiable. That way those items that somehow get misplaced can be returned.

School cubbies are located in the hallway and are an open style making them unable to be locked. The responsibility for the safekeeping of personal property rests with the owner. For this reason, we strongly discourage bringing any electronics or toys and/or other items of great expense or value to school.

Cell Phone Policy

With the goal of ensuring that we are promoting a caring and respectful learning environment, Elk Island Public Schools Board of Trustees has approved a new policy regarding cellphones. Students in kindergarten to grade 6 will not be allowed to use cellphones or other personal communication devices (PCDs) during the school day. This includes break periods such as recess and lunch, as well as while on field trips. A PCD is defined as those devices that connect to the internet through WiFi, cellular networks or other mobile devices. Should you allow your child to bring a PCD to school it must stay in your child's backpack which is located in his/her designated, unsecured cubby in the hallway. In the instance whereby students and families require communication during the school day telephone access will continue as it has in the past. With their teacher's permission, students may use the school phone in the office. As well, parents can convey messages throughout the school day to their child/children via our school secretaries. **Pine Street School takes no responsibility for any damages or loss that may occur to these devices.**

Sometimes life is complicated!

Join other parents and caregivers to build on your strengths and learn new skills to support you, your children and your family and continue to enhance your connections!

Stress

Wednesday, Sept. 11 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Connecting With Your Kids

Wednesday, Sept. 25 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

For details or to register, visit
[strathcona.ca/parent support](http://strathcona.ca/parent-support)



www.pinestreet.ca

 **@PNEschool**

