

Dear Pine Street Families,

We are looking forward to the upcoming school year and welcoming students back to Pine Street Elementary next week. Unlike previous years, students are returning using a staggered entry—meaning only certain grades start back on September 1. The staggered entry allows students and families to ease into the new experience of attending school. It also helps schools explain to students the new routines and health and safety measures before a full restart takes place.

Tuesday, September 1, 2020 – Grades 5 and 6 only

Wednesday, September 2, 2020 – Grade 3 and 4 only

Thursday, September 3, 2020 – Grade 1 and 2 only

Friday, September 4, 2020 - All students attend in Grades 1 to 6

Students in our **Kindergarten** and **PALS** programs will be notified by their classroom teacher or the front office team of their child's staggered entry date and time. With the global pandemic and a return to school, we understand there are many questions that families may have around safety protocols and expectations. We encourage you to visit our [school website](#) regularly as this is where new information will be shared. In addition, continue to refer to the [EIPS School Re-entry Plan](#) and the [Parent FAQ document](#) to ensure that you have the most current information on the re-entry plan for Elk Island Public Schools.

Our families will play a crucial role in ensuring everyone's safe return to school. Some key elements of our school re-entry plan include:

- Completing the [COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire](#) every morning.
- Keeping children home if they show any signs or symptoms of illness.
- Sending only necessary items to school, such as snacks and lunches, labelled water bottles, a minimum of two face coverings stored in a paper or cloth bag and tissues. Students are not to bring any unnecessary items (i.e. toys).
- Ensuring your child's Emergency Contact Information is up to date with someone who can be at the school within an hour if required.
- Practicing social distancing, donning a mask, proper hand washing and respiratory etiquette with your child at home.

FACE-COVERINGS/MASKS

All students in Kindergarten through Grade 6 must wear masks at school. Please send two clean masks to school each day in a labelled container. Students can use a lanyard for their mask if it has the breakaway feature. The two reusable government provided masks will be issued to students during the first week of staggered entry.

COHORT GROUPS

Cohorting students into groups is one of our main strategies to protect students and staff and contain any potential outbreaks. Class sizes range anywhere from 22 to 33 students depending on the grade and the number of students who will be participating in out-of-school learning to start the year. We have created **two**

modified timetables which allows us to stagger the morning and lunch recesses to minimize contact between cohorts. Please refer to the modified [Group A and Group B Timetables](#) for the upcoming school year. **Kindergarten, Grade 3 and Grade 4 will follow the Group A timetable. Grades 1, 2, 5 and 6 will follow the Group B timetable.**

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

During our staggered entry dates, classes will be assigned a place outside to line up at one of our 4 entrances and will enter the school as a cohort. When students arrive at school, they must proceed directly to their designated line up area and wait until 8:30 a.m. to enter the school. Please refer to our [Assembly Area and Entry/Exit Map](#). When leaving the school, students must proceed directly to the bus, their vehicle pick up location or off school grounds. **PLAYGROUND USE WILL NOT BE PERMITTED** before or after school even with parent supervision. Students arriving late should enter through the main doors and proceed to the office unaccompanied by an adult to check in.

LUNCH

Students in Group A eat lunch from 11:32 a.m. to 12:02 p.m. and then head outside for lunch recess. Students in Group B start with a lunch recess period and then return inside to eat from 12:02 p.m. to 12:32 p.m. Please send lunch items that students can open easily by themselves to minimize the need for close contact between students and staff. There will be no recycling program this year, so students will be directed to take any recyclable containers home with them. Our hot lunch program also will not take place. Please do not send any shared snacks for special days (i.e. birthdays).

VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

At this time, non-essential visitors, volunteers, and parents are not permitted in the school without an appointment. To arrange an appointment, contact the school directly at 780-467-2246. If during the school day, your child needs an item or has a to leave early, please stay in your vehicle and contact the school office. Our front office team will notify your child and direct him/her out of the school to meet you at your vehicle.

Visitors and families who have arranged a time to enter the school must complete the [COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire](#). If any of the answers to the questions are "YES," do not enter the school. Similarly, if you're feeling unwell or have COVID-19 symptoms, do not enter the school. All visitors must wear a face-covering when entering an EIPS building. Please go directly to the main office when you arrive.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL LEARNING

If you have chosen out-of-school learning, teachers will be in touch with you once the school year has started. Units and materials will be loaded into our Brightspace Learning Management System for families to access. Once units are completed, they can be submitted for assessment and feedback. Staff will not be available to assist or support students at home. Parents/guardians are responsible for guiding their child's learning. More information can be found on page 27 of the [EIPS School Re-entry Plan](#).

If you have any questions, please contact the school office or our administration team at 780-467-2246. We look forward to seeing everyone in September and having a memorable school year together!

Mr. Tracey Arbuthnott
Principal
Pine Street Elementary School

Mrs. Kerri Williams (Remeika)
Assistant Principal
Pine Street Elementary School