

Elijah Smith Elementary School

November Newsletter

Principal's Message – Staff Learning at ESES

It has been an exciting and busy month at Elijah Smith Elementary School! We've celebrated learning, creativity, and community through many wonderful activities — including our Monster Parade, teacher interviews, interim reports, field trips, Book Fair, All-City Band, and Student of the Month celebrations. Thank you to everyone who helped make these events a success!

This month, we're also excited to welcome new team members and introduce positive changes throughout the school:

- Ms. Scott – Grade 2/3 Teacher (replacing Ms. Unrau, who is now in an LAT position)
- Shawna – Learning Assistance Teacher, leading the setup of our Neurodiverse, Sensory, and Self-Regulation spaces
- Ms. Sunny – Educational Assistant in our Primary division

Our staff continue to engage in professional learning as Elijah Smith School takes the next steps toward becoming a Ready to Learn school. Teachers and EAs are developing developmentally responsive practices that support every child academically, emotionally, and socially.

Staff have also participated in training on decodable readers, assistive technology, Nonviolent Crisis Intervention (NCI), and best practices for supporting diverse learners. We are so proud of their ongoing dedication to helping every student thrive.

As we move forward, we look forward to continuing to build a safe, inclusive, and engaging learning environment where every child feels ready to learn and grow.

Warmly,

Jim Snider & Sonja Sebek

Important November Dates

Date	Event
Nov. 3–6	Culture Week
Nov. 3	Elections in the Gym – all gym classes outside
Nov. 4	Staff Meeting (3:20 p.m.), School Council Meeting (6:30 p.m.)
Nov. 4	Fire Drill #3 (9:50 a.m.)
Nov. 6–7	Student Photos – see class schedule below
Nov. 7	Remembrance Day Assembly (10:45 a.m.)
Nov. 10	Professional Development Day – No School for Students
Nov. 11	Remembrance Day – School Closed
Nov. 14	Rock Your Mocs
Nov. 19	National Jersey Day

Photo Schedule:

- Nov. 6: Kindergarten (Ms. Lachance, Ms. Lee), Gr. 1/2 (Mr. Amos), Gr. 2/3 (Ms. Unrau), Gr. 3 (Ms. Crump), Gr. 4 (Ms. Bagaslao), Gr. 5/6 (Ms. Roots), Gr. 7 (Ms. Murphy & Mr. Tyson)
- Nov. 7: Gr. 1 (Ms. Smith), Gr. 2 (Ms. Hogan), Gr. 3 (Ms. Thomas), Gr. 4 (Ms. MacArthur), Gr. 5 (Ms. Bielz), Gr. 6 (Mr. McCooey)

Nov. 7 will also include re-takes or missed photos from the previous day.

Field Trip Reminders

Field trips provide valuable hands-on learning experiences for our students. Please return permission forms as soon as possible to help us plan efficiently and avoid last-minute calls. If

your child chooses not to attend a field trip, they will need to remain home during that time, as their teachers will be away with the class.

Cold Weather Reminder

As temperatures drop, please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for outdoor play — including a warm jacket, hat, mittens, snow pants, and boots. Students go outside for recess, lunch, and class walks daily, as fresh air and outdoor activity are important parts of the school day. Thank you for helping keep your child warm and comfortable!

Family Engagement Opportunities

We love when families get involved at Elijah Smith! You can support our school community by:

- Helping in the Library
- Volunteering to read with students
- Joining School Council (1st Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m., in person or via Zoom)
- Assisting on field trips

If interested, please contact your child's teacher or email ESSES@yukon.ca.

Yukon First Nation Education Directorate (YFNED)

This year, Elijah Smith Elementary is supported by a dedicated YFNED team:

- Hannah King – Lead Education Advocate (Primary)
- Tanya Hope – Education Advocate (Intermediate)
- Kaidence Estrada – Math Advocate (All Grades)

Education Advocates support your child's academic, social, and emotional development, encourage confidence and self-advocacy, and collaborate with families and educators to meet student needs. Math Advocates focus on supporting numeracy skills, confidence, and positive relationships with math.

To connect with YFNED, visit www.yfned.ca or contact:

Hannah.King@yfned.ca | Tanya.Hope@yfned.ca | Kaidence.Estrada@yfned.ca

Safety Reminder

Thank you for keeping our Stop and Drop area running smoothly by limiting time at the curb. Your cooperation helps ensure student safety and smooth traffic flow.

Bell Schedule

- 8:05 a.m. – Staff on duty outside
- 8:28 a.m. – First bell (students enter)
- 10:05–10:25 a.m. – Morning Recess
- 12:00–12:25 p.m. – Lunch Recess (outdoor play)
- 12:25–12:50 p.m. – Lunch (students eat inside)

Community Club – Sock Drive

Our Community Club is organizing a Sock Drive to support local charities. Donations of new socks for men, women, children, and babies can be dropped off in the school office. Thank you for helping those in need!

Share the Spirit Yukon 2025

Share the Spirit Holiday Support Program – organized by the Whitehorse Firefighters Charitable Society – provides holiday gifts (up to \$75 per child under 14) and a Christmas meal (\$150 value) to families in need.

Contact: Anna Currie, School Wellness Specialist
anna.currie@yukon.ca | 867-334-9215

Spots fill quickly, so please reach out soon!

School Council

Elijah Smith Elementary thrives on the strength of our community. School Council is a great opportunity for caregivers to share ideas, ask questions, and help guide our school's growth.

We meet the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the school library (and on Zoom). Everyone is welcome!

Zoom Link: <https://yukonedu.zoom.us/j/66513938473>

Meeting ID: 665 1393 8473

One-tap mobile: +1 647 558 0588,,66513938473# or +1 778 907 2071,,66513938473#

Colour the World Club

MCY Youth Academy



Colour the
World Club



The Colour the World Club is an inclusive club that takes place once a week during the lunch hour.

The club promotes cultural understanding and awareness, while creating a safe and fun environment for all youth. Students will learn about Canada as well as other countries and cultures around the globe. Activities may include traditional games, crafts, and pop culture.

The club will begin the week of October 27-31 and occur weekly until the end of April.

Funded by:  Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Financé par:  Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada



Colour the World Club

If you would like your child to attend the club, please fill out the information below and return the form to your child's homeroom teacher.

Child's full name: _____

Grade: ____ Classroom #: _____

Guardian's full name _____

Guardian's Signature: _____

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Craft Fair – Saturday December 6th @ ESES 9:30 am – 2:00 pm

First Nations Christmas Craft Fair



Saturday December 6, 2025

9:30 am to 10:00 am Open to Elders

10:00 am to 2:00 pm Open to Public

Elijah Smith Elementary School 1399 Hamilton Blvd

Traditional Artwork (carving, beading, etc.), Homemade Baking (must be individually wrapped), Silent Auction, Raffle Baskets, and much, much, more.....

\$30/table, contact 867-667-5992 or caroline.feldman@yukon.ca to book.

Please come out and support our First Nations Artisans, artists, and Elijah Smith Elementary School.

Sponsored by

Elijah Smith Elementary School



Boston Pizza Receipts

Our school has partnered with Boston Pizza for a fundraiser! Bring in your family's Boston Pizza receipts to help our school earn 5% of total receipts for the year! Fundraising efforts will go to fun school activities throughout the year!