

2024 / 2025

Elijah Smith Elementary School

1399 Hamilton Blvd

Whitehorse, YT Y1A 6G3

Phone: (867) 667-5992 Fax: (867) 393-6288

“Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow”



Principal	Paul McFadyen	Paul.McFadyen@yukon.ca
Vice Principal	James Snider	James.Snider@yukon.ca
ESW	Isabel Parkkari	IParkkari@cafn.ca
ESC	Maggie Westberg	Maggie.Westberg@kdfn.net
Administrative Assistants	Holly Legge Caroline Feldman	Holly.Legge@yukon.ca Caroline.Feldman@yukon.ca

Check the ESES website for more information.

www.ese.yukonschools.ca

Elder Elijah Smith

Elijah Smith played many roles during his life. Elijah Smith was born in a small Yukon village, Hutshi in 1912. He was a member of the Crow Clan. He was awarded the Order of Canada, fought in World War II, was elected Chief of the now Kwanlin Dun First Nation in 1966, and helped the Yukon Native Brotherhood write the document called “Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow” and along with the Yukon Native Brotherhood presented it to the Canadian Prime Minister, Pierre Elliot Trudeau in Ottawa in 1973.

He was a mentor. He encouraged First Nations people to stay in school. Many of these students would eventually play instrumental roles in land claims and self-government negotiations.

He was a grandfather. Elijah could touch people with his wisdom, and children were no exception. He became the grandfather of virtually every child he met. He opened his home to help the youth of his people. In the summers, his homestead often served as an outdoor school to many young people.



He was a teacher. He taught First Nations people to chase their dreams and to stand up and fight for their beliefs and traditions. He spent years dedicated to the preservation of native language and culture.

Elijah Smith also taught First Nations people about his people's culture and traditions. He taught everyone to be more understanding and more compassionate towards their neighbors.

A federal building in Whitehorse was named after Elijah Smith as well as our school in 1992. Several grandchildren of Elijah Smith attend our school and his legacy lives on in our children's learning.



Elijah Smith Elementary Staff 2024-2025

Principal:	Paul McFadyen (New)	Counsellor:	Patrick Whyard
Vice Principal:	Jim Snider	Music/Art:	Amanda Bartle
Administrative Assistants:	Holly Legge Caroline Feldman	Outdoor Experiential:	Carrie Harbidge
Kindergarten:	Kristine Lachance Christina Lee	Native Language:	Tadūra (Janet Burns)
Grade One:	Erika van de Velde Weber (New)	PE:	Scott Serroul
Grade One	Sue Smith		Dustin Shewfelt (New)
Grade Two	Lesley Hogan		
Grade Two/Three:	Rosalind Crump (New)	Educational Assistants:	Megan Beauchesne
Grade Three:	Remi Bagaslao		Kelcie Hyatt
Grade Four:	Jane MacArthur	Francisco Punla	Robyn Greer
Grade Four/Five:	Stephanie Young	Jenifer Corpuz	Chantelle Shaw
Grade Five	Rachel Bielz	Rosie Innuraq	Jesalyne Wren
		Che Trinidad	Darryl Tait
		Francisco Punla	Jordan Andrei
		Christine Kopan	Mary Jane Lawson
Grade Six/Seven:	Tyson Snelling (New)		Ky Elliott
Grade Six:	Jill Potter		Chantelle Burns
			Ken Binns
Grade Seven:	Robyn Murphy		Charmain Cabuguason
			Jesalyn Wren
Learning Assistance:	Jill Mason		Olivia Watson
	Crystal Hendriks		Sheila Guevarra (New)
	Lisa Harvey		Carla Cruz (new)
	Mindy Farr		Aislynn Lee (New)
	Kristi Teramura		Reimon Guevarra (New)
	Sonja Sebek		Stephen Ronnin
	Pam Booth		
Reading Recovery:	Lisa Harvey, Crystal Hendriks	Custodian:	Eds/Edward/Luisa
Learning Together:			

ESES School Calendar Key Dates 2024-2025

Monday, August 26, 2024	PD Day
Tuesday, August 27, 2024	First Day of School
Monday, September 2, 2024	Labour Day
Monday, September 30, 2024	National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day)
Monday, October 14, 2024	Thanksgiving Day
Monday, November 11, 2024	Remembrance Day Observed
Friday, December 20, 2024	Last Day of School before Break
<i>Monday, December 23, 2024 to Tuesday, January 3, 2025</i>	<i>Christmas Break</i>
Monday, January 6, 2025	First day back after Christmas Break
Friday, February 21, 2025	Heritage Day
<i>Monday, March 10, 2025 to Friday, March 21, 2025</i>	<i>Spring Break</i>
Friday, April 18, 2025	Good Friday
Monday, April 21, 2025	Easter Monday
Monday, May 19, 2025	Victoria Day
Friday, June 13, 2025	Last day of school

Professional Development Days for Teaching Staff (no classes for students)

Monday, August 26th, 2024
Thursday, September 26th, 2024
Friday, September 27th, 2024
Tuesday, November 12th, 2024
Monday, January 20th, 2025
Monday, May 5th, 2025

2024-25 Communicating Student Learning Schedule

Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences

October 24th, 2024 (evening)
October 25th, 2024 (school hours/no classes)

February 27th, 2025 (evening)
February 28th, 2025 (school hours/no classes)

Celebration of Learning - May 30th, 2025

Reports Home

October 17th, 2024 - Snapshot
January 24th, 2025 – Interim Report
June 15th, 2025 – Final Report

August - Känday Makäy Nanäthän 2024 (moose on it getting fat, August)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Discovery Day					
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		Teacher Training	Teacher Training	Teacher Training	Teacher Training	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	PD Day	First Day of School				

School Council

Our School Council is made up of three elected members from the school community and three members designated by the Kwanlin Dun First Nation. School Council meetings are held the **first Tuesday** of every month at **6:30p.m.** in the Multi-Purpose room, and on Zoom. The meetings are open to anyone who is interested in supporting our school.

The School Council acts as a liaison between the larger parent community and the school itself.

School Council Members

Jessie Dawson (Chair)	jdawson2017@hotmail.com
Jerry Zahora (Secretary Treasurer)	zahora@klondiker.com
Doronn Fox	foxdoronn@gmail.com
Jacine Fox	jacinefox@gmail.com
Sarina Sydney (Guaranteed Rep, KDFN)	sarinasydne92@gmail.com
Sheilah Sutherland (Guaranteed Rep, Ta'an Kwach'an)	sheilahschanel@hotmail.com
Honey Starr Sidney	Honey_starr3@yahoo.ca

Late Slips & Stopping by the Office

1. If students come in after the second bell in the morning or afternoon, **please stop at the office for a welcome to school slip.** This is related to changes in attendance status.
2. If students are leaving the school for appointments or activities during the day, **please stop at the office to check out and also to check in when you return.**

Open School

During Open School (weather dependent) the doors will be open at **8:10 a.m.** The lobby area will available for games and quiet activities.

Notifying School of Absences

Please let both the teacher and the office know if your student will be away for the day or part of the day or will be late. You can call the office **after 8 a.m.** (667-5992) or you can email the teacher and administrative assistants. Email info (*see staff list for spelling*):

Teachers: First Name.Last Name@yesnet.yk.ca

Administrative Assistants: First Name.Last Name@yukon.ca

Daily Schedule

8:05 a.m.	Outdoor Supervision starts
8:28 a.m.	Doors open/First morning bell
8:35 a.m.	Second bell/attendance taken
10:10 – 10:25 a.m.	Morning recess
12:00 -12:55 p.m.	Lunch Recess/Lunch
12:55 p.m.	Afternoon classes start
3:00 p.m.	Dismissal
3:20 p.m.	Outdoor Supervision ends

September - Nt'ay kay Dijel 2024 (leaves on it turn yellow, September)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Labour Day No School	School Council AGM 6:30 pm (Regular meeting to follow)				
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
			Assembly 8:40 am			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Fire Safety Week					
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
			Welcome Families BBQ 4:30 - 6:30 pm Orange Shirt Day Every Child Matters	PD Day No School	PD Day No School	
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation No School					

Cold Weather Policy

All students are expected outside at morning recess and lunch recess, unless they are participating in a school activity.

Yukon Schools do not close due to cold weather. When the temperature drops below -30 Celsius or when there is a high wind chill, the students will stay in the school during the normal outside periods of morning and lunch recess. The bus company does have limitations to when they can run and parents are encouraged to listen to the local radio stations in the event of extreme cold weather.

The parent's responsibility: Ensure your child is equipped with the proper clothing to fit the occasion. Label all individual pieces of winter clothing with your child's name in permanent marker.


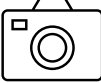
The student's responsibility: Wear the proper clothing, including mitts, hats, scarves and winter boots outside during winter months.



October - Nītāna 2024 (thin ice, October)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
		School Council 6:30 pm	Assembly 9:10 am			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Thanksgiving Day No School					
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
				Parent - Teacher Interviews after School	Parent - Teacher Interviews All Day No Classes	
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
		School Council 6:30 pm		Halloween		

November - Nitän Shäw 2024 (thick ice, November)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
					Remembrance Day Assembly 10:30 am	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Remembrance Day No School	PD Day No School	School Picture Day 	School Picture Day 		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



ESES School Meal Program

The Urban Nutrition Program now provides a school-based breakfast and lunch service for all Indigenous students attending Whitehorse schools. ESES has two cooks operating out of the school preparing nutritious meals for breakfast and lunch.

Partnering with Yukon Food for Learning Association, we are now able to offer select food services to a small amount of non-Indigenous students requiring food.

The Nutrition Program has also developed unique partnerships with specific Whitehorse-based schools to ensure nutritious food services and Indigenous culinary programming is delivered.

Thank you to Stephanie and Glen for all your hard work at ESES!

At Elijah Smith Elementary School, we have *54 minutes for lunch*.

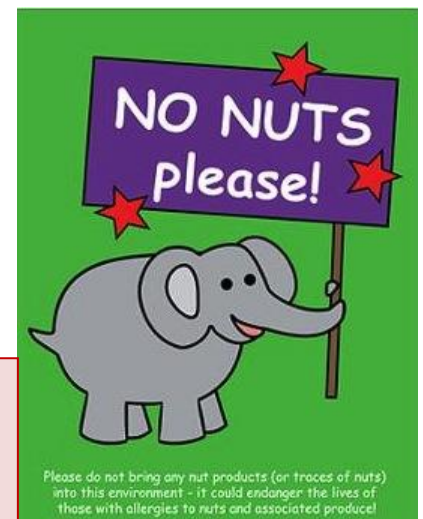
For most students, this short break from their peers is very helpful and sets them up for a more productive afternoon.

We have a reverse lunch at ESES. This means that students go outside for recess first and then they come in to eat their lunch. If you are picking up your student for lunch, you can pick them up at 12:00 so you have the full 54 minutes.




- Recess is from 12:00-12:27 p.m.
- Lunch is eaten in the classrooms from 12:27-12:54 p.m.

If you are dropping off lunches for your students, please drop them off before 12:27 p.m. so your child has time to eat before the afternoon classes.

Please do not include peanuts or peanut products in school lunches.



December - Makäy Kwik'ó 2024 (on it turn cold, December)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		School Council 6:30 pm				Christmas Craft Fair
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal	Christmas Concert		Deck the Halls		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	First Day of Winter Break 		Christmas Day 	Boxing Day 		
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
		New Year's Eve 				

Busing

Students are required to have a school bus registration filled out to use the school buses. For information on bus routes and bus registration, go to the Department of Education website at: [www. http://www.education.gov.yk.ca/schoolbus/index.html](http://www.education.gov.yk.ca/schoolbus/index.html).

Contact information:

- Department of Education: 667-5172 or 393-6973
- Standard Bus: 456-3210

Buses are scheduled to arrive between 8:15 am and 8:30 am each morning and leave between 3:10 pm and 3:30pm. Please check the website as there may be new routes for this school year.

Please note: If you are making changes in busing during the school year, you will need to re-register. Also, please call the school office so we can let the bus monitors know of the changes.

If you are making a last minute change for a single event, please ensure your child has a note for the bus driver. You can also email the school office staff with a note that can be passed along to the student and bus driver. School staff will NOT be writing bus notes for students.

Bus Rules

Rules of Conduct on the bus are largely dictated by safety needs. Each bus has a camera located at the front of the bus.

Children are expected to:

- Remain seated at all times while the bus is moving
- Keep arms and legs inside the windows
- Not throw things around
- Keep noise and distractions to a minimum
- Not cause damage to the bus or others



It is very difficult for a bus driver to drive safely and discipline uncooperative students at the same time. Since no child has the right to endanger the lives of others, the following consequences will be followed:

1. General problems as indicated by the bus driver:
 - 1st complaint—letter sent home for signature by parent
 - 2nd complaint—the child will lose the privilege of riding the bus for one week
2. A serious problem would result in an immediate bus suspension.

Should a child vandalize a bus, a bill for damages will be sent home from the bus company through the school.













January - Manän Gesha Kwitth'yet 2025 (new year again, January)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
			New Year's Day 		Last Day of Winter Break 	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		School Council 6:30 pm				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
			Assembly 10:35 am			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	PD Day No School				Interim Reports Home	
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

February Manän Tl'el K'àlhäts'äanal 2025 (that month string make/play around, February)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rendezvous Reading Challenge All Month	School Council 6:30 pm	Assembly 11:00 am			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
					Valentine's Day	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
					Heritage Day No School	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
				Student - Led Conference after School	Student - Led Conference all Day No Classes	
30	3	4	5	6	7	8

March - Dzenü Makäy Nakwäts'indü 2025 (day on it they get long again, March)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	First Day of Spring Break 					
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
					Last Day of Spring Break 	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5




April - Kàghär İzha 2023 (little gopher hole straight up, April)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	3	3	4	5
		School Council 6:30 pm				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
			Assembly 1:00 pm			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
					Good Friday No School	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Easter Monday No School					
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

May - Tăn Ghär İzha 2023 (ice honeycomb month, May)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
					Red Dress Day	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	PD Day No School	School Council 6:30 pm	Assembly 12:55			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Mother's Day						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Victoria Day No School					
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June - Nt'aya Makäy Känátl'et 2023 (leaves on it come out, June)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		School Council 6:30 pm				
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Kindergarten Graduation 	Sports Day and Family Picnic 		Gr. 7 Farewell 	Last Day of School Awards Day Assembly 2:00 pm Final Report Cards Go Home	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Father's Day	National Indigenous Peoples Day					
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

Elijah Smith Elementary School Song

Together today for our children tomorrow,
Together today for our children tomorrow,
His words inspire us to work together for good.
His spirit will teach us to walk with each other,
His spirit will teach us to share with each other,
His spirit will teach us respect for all of the land.
Together today ... students and teacher,
Together today ... all people and cultures.
Together today ... to honour his memory.
Together today for Elijah Smith School.

