

# Elijah Smith Elementary School

## February Newsletter

---

### Principal's Message – Staff Learning at ESES

The past few weeks at Elijah Smith Elementary have been full of energy and great learning. Students have been busy with Polar Games, enjoying special events like the African Music Festival, and are looking forward to sharing their learning during student-led conferences. It's been wonderful to see their confidence, teamwork, and growth shining through.

This month, we're also excited to welcome new team members and continue introducing positive changes throughout the school. We're especially looking forward to the return of Family Nights and a school-wide breakfast — more opportunities to come together as a community.

As we move through the rest of February and into March, we'll keep focusing on strong learning in literacy and numeracy, building positive relationships, and making sure every student feels connected and supported.

Thank you for your continued support — we're grateful to be working alongside such a caring school community.

Jim Snider & Sonja Sebek

---

### NEW MOUNTAIN BIKES FOR ELIJAH SMITH SCHOOL

Elijah Smith Eagles, we have some big, exciting news! Through the Riding for Focus program, we have received 30 Specialized Mountain bikes for our school. These bikes are not just for exercise; they are an important tool to help students with their wellbeing and focus. Movement helps our brains reset. For many students, riding a bike can help release energy and reduce stress, so they can return to learning feeling calmer and more ready. This generous donation shows a strong belief in the importance of supporting both physical and emotional wellbeing at our school.

Starting in March, we're launching a popcorn fundraiser! For every bag of popcorn you help sell, you're not just selling a tasty snack; you're helping us get our bikes built, maintained, and out on the trails! So, when March rolls around, get ready to buy some popcorn and help POP a kid on a bike!

---

## Important February/March Dates

Date	Event
February 13:	Student of the Month Lunch
February 18:	Opera for Kids (10:45–11:45 a.m.)
February 19:	Primary Lunar Lunch Celebration (MPR)
February 20:	Heritage Day – NO SCHOOL
February 23–24:	Shrek Dress Rehearsals (1:00 p.m.)
February 25:	Pink Shirt Day
February 25:	Shrek Performances (1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.)
February 26: 3:30pm – 7:30pm	Student Led Conferences
February 27: 8:30am – 11:30am	Student Led Conferences (NO SCHOOL)
March 4:	Winterfest
March 5-20:	Spring Break
Upcoming Events:	Family Nights, Family Breakfast, Elders Tea

---

## Student Led Conferences – February 26/27th

We're looking forward to our upcoming Student-Led Conferences! This is a wonderful opportunity for students to share their learning, reflect on their growth, and talk about their goals with you.

Conferences will take place on Thursday, February 26 from 3:30–7:30 p.m. and Friday, February 27 from 8:30–11:30 a.m. Please note there is no regular school on Friday, February 27. **The link will be live on Monday, February 16 at 4pm.**

**Families can book a time using the digital sign-up available on:**

<https://schoolinterviews.ca/code/9umuc>

For Ms. Lee's Kindergarten class, there will be no online sign-up. More details will be shared directly with those families soon.

---

## Lost & Found

Our lost & found is overflowing! Student led conferences is a great time to check for items that belong to your child. We will be donating unclaimed items during the March Break!

---

## Upcoming Drills

We will be conducting a regular scheduled fire drill and a lockdown drill in February and March as part of our ongoing safety procedures. These drills help students and staff practice how to respond calmly and safely in the event of an emergency. Staff will support students throughout the process, and drills will be conducted in a way that is age-appropriate and reassuring.

---

## Our School Survey

Students in Grades 4–7 are participating in the OurSchool Survey. This survey gives students the opportunity to share their thoughts about their learning experiences, sense of belonging, well-being, and overall school climate. Their feedback helps guide our school improvement planning and future priorities.

Parent and caregiver voices are just as important. We strongly encourage all families to complete the survey and share their perspectives so we can continue strengthening student learning, communication, and school culture together.

The survey is open February 12 to March 6.

You can access the parent survey here:

<http://www.ourschool.net/eses2026>

---

## Whooping Cough

The Chief Medical Officer of Health has issued an information bulletin about active cases of Pertussis (Whooping Cough) in the Yukon. Where cases have been identified in school settings, families and staff are being notified directly by school administrators in collaboration with Yukon Communicable Disease Control. For more information on Pertussis, visit [yukon.ca](http://yukon.ca) and search for “Pertussis” or “Whooping Cough.” You can also

find information about Pertussis from the Canadian Pediatric Society:  
[https://caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/health-conditions-and-treatments/pertussis\\_whooping\\_cough](https://caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/health-conditions-and-treatments/pertussis_whooping_cough).

---

## Professional Learning

Behind the scenes, our staff have also been deeply engaged in professional learning. Teachers and support staff have been strengthening their practice through training in the Neurosequential Model in Education, Nonviolent Crisis Intervention, VTRA 2, and best practices for creating effective sensory spaces to better support student regulation and well-being.

We've also been focusing on strong instruction through Reading Revolution, Acadience Reading and Acadience Math, along with Grade 5 Residential School Unit training to ensure learning is responsive, accurate, and meaningful for our students.

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.

---

## Family Engagement Opportunities

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

- Helping in the Library – we can always use a hand shelving books or reading to children
- Volunteering to read with students
- Joining School Council (1st Tuesday of each month, 6:00 p.m., in person or via Zoom)
- Assisting on field trips

If interested, please contact your child's teacher or email [ESES@Yukon.ca](mailto:ESES@Yukon.ca)

---

## Yukon First Nation Education Directorate (YFNED)

Elijah Smith Elementary is supported by a dedicated YFNED team:

- Hannah King – Lead Education Advocate (Primary)
- Tanya Hope – Education Advocate (Intermediate)
- Deeron and Reuben (Math Advocates)

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](http://www.yfned.ca) or contact:  
[Hannah.King@yfned.ca](mailto:Hannah.King@yfned.ca) | [Tanya.Hope@yfned.ca](mailto:Tanya.Hope@yfned.ca)

---

## School Drop Off

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. Please have children exit from the passenger side of the car and always use the crosswalks.

---

## Cross Walks

If your child uses the cross walk – please teach them to press the button, look both ways and then only proceed when the cars have fully stopped.

---

## 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)
  - 3:04–3:20 p.m. – Staff on duty outside
-

## School Council Elections

Elections are scheduled for May 11, 2026, and we invite families and caregivers to think about putting their names forward. Serving on the Elijah Smith School Council is a valuable opportunity to support student learning, strengthen the partnership between home and school, and contribute to decisions that guide the direction of our school.

If you are interested in learning more about what is involved, you are welcome to attend an upcoming School Council meeting. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 3 at 6:00 p.m. You may also reach out to the School Council by email to ask questions about nominations or the election process. A Yukon Government link with additional information about School Councils in the Yukon is included for your reference.

We hope you will consider getting involved. Your voice and perspective help shape our school community.

<https://yukon.ca/en/education-and-schools/plan-elementary-and-high-school/join-school-council>

We meet the first Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. in the school library. Everyone is welcome!

---

## School Fundraisers (see pages below)

### 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!

# Rendezvous Rummage Sale



Saturday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>  
10am - 3pm

@ Elijah Smith  
Elementary School

**\*\* CASH only \*\***

Fundraiser for our grade 7 year end trip to Calgary

---



## Supporting a Cause Never Tasted So Good!

Buy your favourite chocolates to support **YEAR END TRIP - Grade 7RM**



Go to [fundraising.purdys.com](https://fundraising.purdys.com) or Scan QR



Enter campaign ID **000022289** to shop & support.

Place your order by **March 11th, 2026**

Contact **Robyn Murphy** at **667-5992**

for more details.

 CANADA'S CHOCOLATIER SINCE 1907