

Elijah Smith Elementary School

Spring Newsletter

Principal's Message – Staff Learning at ESES

Spring has brought a renewed sense of energy and growth to Elijah Smith Elementary. We hope all our families enjoy a restful and refreshing Spring Break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on **March 23** for the first day of classes. We are excited to reconnect with students and hear about their time away as we begin the final stretch of the school year together.

As the days grow longer, our classrooms continue to be filled with curiosity, creativity, and meaningful learning. This is a wonderful time of year to see the progress students have made and the confidence they are building as learners and leaders within our school community.

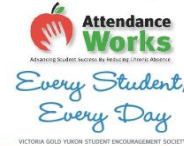
Throughout the spring months, we remain focused on strong literacy and numeracy instruction while continuing to nurture positive relationships and a supportive school culture. Students will be engaging in hands-on learning, collaborative projects, and opportunities to reflect on their growth. It is always inspiring to see their perseverance and pride in their accomplishments.

Spring also brings exciting school events and opportunities for connection. We look forward to coming together as a community through upcoming activities and celebrations that highlight both learning and the joy of being together. We will be hosting a family breakfast after Spring Break, so stay tuned for dates!

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. We are grateful to work alongside such a caring and engaged school community as we head into a busy and rewarding spring season.

Jim Snider & Sonja Sebek

Every Student Every Day



**Help Your Child Succeed in School:
Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early**
School success goes hand in hand with good attendance!

DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your child to her teachers and classmates before school starts to help her transition.
- Don't let your child stay home unless she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make her feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

When Do Absences Become a Problem?



Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.

For more on school readiness, visit attendanceworks.org and reachoutandread.org

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Good attendance = School success! As we enter the second half of the school year, we are focusing on improving student attendance. Many students miss a significant amount of school, and while we realize that there are many reasons students may be absent, these missed days add up to large blocks of learning. Research shows students succeed academically, socially, and emotionally when they have regular school attendance.

We have many supports available to help your child at school. Teachers will be reaching out to discuss your child's attendance and to explain some ways the school might be able to support your family with attendance.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher, an Administrator, or the School Wellness Specialist to discuss options for support.

Anna Currie – School Wellness Specialist
anna.currie@yukon.ca

NEW MOUNTAIN BIKES FOR ELIJAH SMITH SCHOOL

As mentioned in our February newsletter, we have some exciting news! Through the Riding for Focus program, our school has received 30 Specialized mountain bikes. These bikes are more than just equipment for exercise; they are tools to support student wellbeing and focus. Movement helps the brain reset, and for many students, riding a bike can release energy, reduce stress, and help them return to class feeling calmer and ready to learn. This generous donation reflects a strong commitment to supporting both the physical and emotional wellbeing of our students.

Starting in March, our popcorn fundraiser will be launched! 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, after Spring Break, get ready to buy some popcorn and help POP a kid on a bike! Look for information to come home on March 23, 2026!

Important March/April Dates

Date	Event
March 5-20:	Spring Break
March 11	Purdy's Orders Due (Grade 7 Fundraiser)
March 23	Back to School Popcorn Fund Raiser to begin
March 30	Science Fair – In class 1:00 – 3:00 pm (Open to families to attend)
March 31	Science Fair - Judging
April 3	Good Friday – NO SCHOOL
April 6	Easter Monday – NO SCHOOL
April 8	Science Fair – Regional
April 13-17	Book Fair
April 15	Assembly: Mastery
April 17	Spelling Bee
April 20-24	Earth Week Activities

Lost & Found

Please continue to check the Lost & Found for items you might be missing.

Upcoming Drills

We will be conducting a scheduled fire drill on March 27, 2026. The drill will 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 are conducted in a way that is age-appropriate and reassuring.

Professional Learning

Our staff has been participating in Reading Rev. and teacher training in Acadience Literacy Assessments to enhance early identification, targeted instruction, and student reading success. In mathematics, staff have taken part in focused math training to build instructional strategies that promote strong numeracy skills and problem-solving confidence.

Educational Assistants have been expanding their expertise through training in DIR Floortime, supporting relationship-based approaches that meet students where they are developmentally. Additionally, our school counsellors and administrators will engage in professional learning centered on Social Emotional Learning (SEL), further strengthening our commitment to student well-being and positive school culture.

We are proud of our team's dedication to continuous growth to provide the best possible learning environment for every child.

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

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. We have heard from drivers that our students are not using the crosswalk button. This is very dangerous and we want to be sure everyone is safe.

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
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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

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!

Purdy's Chocolates



Supporting a Cause Never Tasted So Good!

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



Go to 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.

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