

## Elijah Smith Elementary School

### October Newsletter

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

At **Elijah Smith Elementary School (ESES)**, our **Learning Assistance Teachers (LATs)** work closely with classroom teachers to support targeted academic and social–emotional support for students.

Here's what's happening in our school:

- **Literacy assessments** have been completed and are now helping guide instruction and support for each learner.
- **LATs have designated blocks each day** to work with specific grade levels, ensuring consistent, focused support across the school.
- **Small literacy and math groups** are underway to provide individualized and targeted instruction.
- **LATs and the admin team** are creating spaces and programs that address the **social and emotional needs** of our students.
- **We're moving toward competency-based Student Support Plans (SSPs)** and Individual Education Plans (IEPs) that highlight student strengths and goals.
- **September 15–19:** LATs participated in IEP and assessment training.
- **October 6-8** LATs were trained in Level B Assessments
- **October 10** – All Staff had a PD Day across a variety of topics. Of note was our opening session on Decolonizing Education and making a welcoming environment for our students and families.

We are all on this incredible journey together to strengthen the supports available for our young **Eagles**.

Jim Snider & Sonja  
Sebek

#### School Wellness Worker

My name is Anna Currie, and I am the School Wellness Specialist at Elijah Smith Elementary School this year. In this role, I work together with both students and families to increase classroom/school engagement. Among other things, this may include providing referrals to external agencies, connecting families to community supports, providing supportive counselling, and being a “go-to” for any questions or concerns that arise about student wellbeing. I am excited about this new position and look forward to the year!

## Teacher Led Conferences

We will have our Teacher Led Conferences on the Night of October 23 from 3:30 to 8:00 and on October 24 from 8:30 – 12:00. There will be no school on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Please use the link below to reserve a spot. You can also call the school and we can set up a time for you. 867-667-5992

Booking Link: <https://schoolinterviews.ca/code/vzmdc>

## Parent Night -- Intentional with Technology

We will also have a guest coming to the school to give a presentation in the MPR for parents. We welcome Kayla to our school for an hour of learning how technology impacts our children and what we can do to support them. Come for an hour of learning, snacks and door prizes. We will have activities for your children in the gym at this time.

## School Council

**Dear Elijah Smith, Elementary School Families,**

Elijah Smith School is built on the strength of our community, and one of the best ways to be involved is through our **School Council**.

School Council is a wonderful opportunity for caregivers to share their ideas, concerns, ask questions, and help guide the ongoing growth of our school. **Your voice matters - together** we make decisions and set goals that support our students' learning, well-being, and sense of belonging.

We meet on the **first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the school library and on zoom**, and everyone is welcome. Whether you're interested in joining discussions, helping with school events, or simply listening and learning more about what's happening at the school, your participation makes a real difference.

I hope you'll consider joining us at our next meeting.

## ZOOM INFO

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

Meeting ID: 665 1393 8473

- One tap mobile
- +16475580588,,66513938473# Canada
- +17789072071,,66513938473# Canada

## Upcoming Dates

- Oct 10 – PD Day - No School
- Oct 13 – Thanksgiving - No School
- Oct 15 – Student of the month Assembly – 11:15am
- Oct 15 – Food Bank Collection @ ESES 8am-6pm
- Oct 17 – Yukon Great Shakeout (10:00 AM)
- Oct 20-24 – Book Fair
- Oct 23–24 – Student-Led Conferences
- Oct 23 – Intentional with Technology, 6pm-7pm, for caregivers @ ESES Multipurpose Room
- Oct 28–30 – Culture Camp
- Oct. 30 – Grade 7 Dance
- Oct 31 – Halloween – Monster Walk in the morning and Costume Parade in the Gym at 1:00
- Nov. 6 – School Photos: Kindergarten Ms. Lachance, Kindergarten 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, Gr. 7 M. Tyson
- Nov. 7 – School Photos: Gr. 1 Ms. Smith, Gr. 2 Ms. Hogan, Gr. 3 Ms. Thomas, Gr. 4 Ms. MacArthur, Gr. 5 Ms. Bielz, Gr. 6 Mr. McCooey – This date will also be available for any re-takes/missed students from the previous day

## Circle of Courage: Belonging

This month, we are continuing with the **Circle of Courage** with our students. The Circle of Courage teaches us four important values: **Belonging, Mastery, Independence, and Generosity.**

In October, we are continuing to focus on **Belonging** - helping every student feel valued, connected, and part of our school community. Students will learn that belonging means being welcomed, respected, and included, whether it's through greeting one another, supporting classmates, or working together in groups.

We invite families to talk at home about what belonging means to them and how we can each make others feel included. Together, we can create a school where everyone feels they truly belong.

## Field Trip Reminders

Field trips are great ways for our students to get out of the classroom for hands on learning experiences. To help make the planning and execution of these trips smooth please return forms as soon as possible so we can avoid last minute phone calls. If your child does not want to attend

a field trip they will need to stay home during the trip as this is their planned program, and their teachers will be away with the students.

## Family Engagement

We would love for families to get involved! Opportunities include:

- Help in the Library
- Volunteer Reading with students
- School Council (first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, in person or on Zoom)
- Joining field trips

If interested, please email your homeroom teacher or contact us at [ESSES@yukon.ca](mailto:ESSES@yukon.ca).

## Other Parent Information

- [Updates to Individualized Education Plans \(IEP's\) and Student Support Plans \(SSP's\)](#)
- [IEP Information for parent and guardians 2025-2026 School Year](#)
- [Intentional with Tech parent night](#)

## Safety Reminder

Thank you for observing our stop and drop area and keeping your time saying goodbye to a minimum. Keeping traffic flowing smoothly and safely is very important as we do not want anyone getting hurt.

## Bell Schedule

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

## School Swag

Our school SWAG shop is now available online until October 26th. Online link is here: <https://eselementaryfall2025.itemorder.com/shop/home/> Paper order forms are available if you need one. These forms have tax and shipping included ☺ Please contact Mrs. Lee at [christina.lee@yesnet.yk.ca](mailto:christina.lee@yesnet.yk.ca)

Stickers are available as well, using the [order form](#) only (not available online).

## 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!

## Whitehorse Schools Annual Food Drive

 *Whitehorse Schools*   
**ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE 2025**

Hey Whitehorse! These bags were dropped off by local students teaming up with the Yukon Food Bank — and now it's your turn to pitch in! Got some shelf-stable food to spare? Fill this bag with non-perishables and help stock the shelves for folks in need. Every can, box, or jar makes a difference!  
Please have your donations ready by:

**WEDNESDAY, October 15**

Please drop off your bags at  
Elijah Smith Elementary School - 8am-6pm

**ITEMS NEEDED:**

- **Canned:** meat, fish, milk, soups, vegetables, fruit, beans
- **Dried good:** KD, meal kits, pasta, rice, cereal, oatmeal, sugar, dry soup mix, coffee, tea, crackers, granola bars
- **Other item:** pasta sauce, peanut butter, jam, cooking oil, baking goods, healthy school snacks, baby formula

**NO PERISHABLE, OPENED OR EXPIRED GOODS, PLEASE**

Monetary donatons can be made online at  
[yukonfoodbank.ca/donate](http://yukonfoodbank.ca/donate)

*Thank You!*

Did we miss your bag?

If your bag was not picked up by 8 pm on Oct 15, we are so sorry! Donations can *always* be dropped off at the Food Bank at 306B Alexander St, anytime between 9-4 Mon-Fri.

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