

Elijah Smith Elementary School

September 2025 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Welcome back to a new school year! We are so excited to see our students settling into routines and engaging in their learning. September is a month of fresh starts, and with **Safety Week**, our **Terry Fox Run**, and the **Welcome Back BBQ**, there are so many opportunities to build community and celebrate together.

Thank you for your ongoing support in making our school a safe, caring, and joyful place for all learners.

— *Jim Snider & Sonja Sebek*

Safety Week (Sept 9–12)

This week, we will be practicing important safety drills. Please talk with your child about why these drills matter and reassure them that these are only practices — so they feel prepared and confident.

- **Tuesday, 11:00** – Hold and Secure
 - **Wednesday, 9:55** – Fire Drill
 - **Thursday, 1:15** – Earthquake Drill
 - **Friday, 11:45** – Lockdown Drill
-

Welcome Back BBQ

Join us on **Wednesday, September 17 from 4:30–6:30 pm** for our annual Welcome Back BBQ!

It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with staff, families, and friends as we begin a new school year together.

Upcoming Dates

- Sept 9–12 – Safety Week
 - Sept 15, 11:00 am – Terry Fox Run
 - Sept 17, 4:30–6:30 pm – Welcome Back BBQ
 - Sept 24 – Assembly: *Introduction to the Circle of Courage*
 - Sept 29 – Orange Shirt Day
 - Sept 30 – No School: *National Day of Truth & Reconciliation*
 - Oct 3 – Interim Reports Go Home
 - Oct 7, 6:30 pm – School Council Meeting (MPR)
 - Oct 10 – PD Day – No School
-

Circle of Courage: Belonging

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

In September, we are focusing 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.

Welcome to Our Staff 2025–2026

We are grateful to welcome back our dedicated teaching team and introduce new faces to Elijah Smith Elementary. Together, they bring passion, care, and creativity to our classrooms.

Classroom Teachers

- **Kindergarten:** Kristine Lachance, Christina Lee
- **Grade 1 & 2:** Mindy Farr (Gr. 1/2), Susan Smith (Gr. 1), Kari Unrau (Gr. 2/3), Lesley Hogan (Gr. 2)
- **Grade 3:** Kari Unrau (Gr. 2/3), Shannon Thomas, Rosalind Crump
- **Grade 4:** Remie Bagaslao, Jane MacArthur

- **Grades 5 & 6:** Galena Roots (Gr. 5/6), Rachel Bielz (Gr. 5), Kyle McCooley (Gr. 6)
- **Grade 7:** Tyson Snelling, Robyn Murphy

Specialists & Support Staff

- **LATS:** Pamela Booth, Lisa Harvey, Crystal Hendriks, Steven Bridwell, Kristi Teramura
- **Arts:** Amanda Bartle
- **Outdoor Education:** Carrie Harbidge
- **Physical Education:** Scott Serroul, Dustin Shewfeldt
- **Counselling:** Patrick Whyard, Dustin Shewfeldt
- **First Nations Language & Culture:** Tadura & Danielle

Educational Assistants

Kelcie Hyatt | Robyn Greer | Chantelle Shaw | Ky Elliott | Ken Binns | Charmaine Cabuguason | Jesalyn Wren | Olivia Watson | Shiela Guevarra | Stephen Ronning | Marvin McDonald | Kirsten Dianne Alba | Taranpreet Singh | Francisco Punla | Jenifer Corpuz | Rosie Innuraq | Che Trinidad | Christine Kopan | Sherrie Ramos | Maria Del Carman Escobar Torres | Bernadette Pangindian | Reimon Guevarra | Stephanie Schorr

Family Engagement

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

- School Council (first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, in person or on Zoom)
- Volunteering with food distribution, the library, reading with students, or joining field trips

If interested, please email your homeroom teacher or contact us at ESSES@yukon.ca

Safety Reminder

Please **use designated parking areas** if you are walking your child into school. The drop-off lane is for quick goodbyes only — this keeps traffic flowing smoothly and safely.

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)
- 3:05 p.m. – Dismissal Bell
- 3:05-3:15 p.m. – Staff on duty outside