



SEPTEMBER 2023 Newsletter

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome back, everyone! It was great to see students and parents on the first day of school. I am sure that everyone is ready for school routines to start again. The first little while will be challenging as we readjust from the wonderful time we had on holidays! It was great to hear about the many camping and travel adventures that students had this summer.

As we start back, it is important to hit the reset button with sleep time, review/homework time, and reading time. All these things, including a healthy breakfast contribute to student success.

It is also important for adults to connect - as communication is key to your child's success. The staff will be spending a lot of time with your child, and they do what they do because they love it. I am thrilled to be working alongside them and look forward to seeing, first-hand, the great strides our students make this year.



Finding the best ways to connect as adults can be tricky, as well. It is my hope that you have that discussion with your child's teacher, so that clear lines of communication can be established.

I would also like to welcome our new families to Win Ferguson School. You have joined a great community school with a solid reputation of expecting great things from students! I know you will enjoy your time here.

All the best to you and on behalf of the Win Ferguson School team – welcome back! The adventure begins again!

Mr. William Korec, M.Ed.,
Principal

NEW STAFF

We are pleased to welcome Mrs. Osicki, Mrs. Buck, Mrs. Reid, Mrs. Resalat, Mrs. Richert, Mrs. Rudiak, Mrs. Simpson, Ms. Vibe, and Ms. Wilson to our school team. As well, Mrs. Bailey Wilson has returned this year to teach grade six. Welcome, all new and returning staff to the 2023-2024 school year.

WIN FERGUSON SCHOOL STAFF 2023-2024

Principal	William Korec
Assistant Principal	Tami Richert
Counsellor	Crystal Hudson
ECS	Nicole Polukoshko Laura Sundell
Grade 1	Crystal Hudson Heather Lavergne Joanne Simpson
Grade 2	Ali Dixon Cora O'Bertos Jennifer Rooke
Grade 3	Shawna Gray Sacha Kupchenko
Grade 4	Tom Klimaszewski Brandi Fokema
Grade 5	Kristyn McGregor Morgan Vibe
Grade 6	Bailey Wilson Sheila Storey
Connections	Kenzie Wilson
Music	Sarah Demers
Registrar	Candace Kereliuk
Financial Secretary	Michelle Campbell
Educational Assistants	Rhonda Bara Kim Buck

Julie Lefebvre
Jennifer St. Louis
Karen Ingram
Amanda Lavallee
Lori McLaughlin
Caroline Harkin
Julie Lefebvre
Amanda Osicki
Stacy Reid
Melanie Rudiak
Candace Crepeau

Noon Hour Supervisor Carolyn Afghanis
Library Technician Natalie Bos

WELCOME

As we settle into a new school year at Win Ferguson, we will continue working together to honour Treaty 6 and develop a shared understanding and mutual respect, as we are all Treaty People. In September, staff and students will be participating in events of learning, reflection, and remembrance of residential school survivors. As a school, we will wear orange on September 29 for Orange Shirt Day and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. In our community, the Indigenous Society of Fort Saskatchewan and the City of Fort Saskatchewan are hosting a Round Dance on September 30 at the Fort Saskatchewan Legion for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day. For more information, please email the Indigenous Society of Fort Saskatchewan at isfortsask@yahoo.com or visit their Facebook page.

Looking for support or more information? Contact Tami Richert, Assistant Principal/ First Nation, Metis, and Inuit Lead Teacher.

ABSENCE CHECK

Parents/guardians are asked to inform the school, whenever possible, if their child is going to be absent. Messages may be left on the school's main number 24 hours a day, email or by a note. If a child is absent and no reason has been received in the office by **8:30 AM**, then the office staff will attempt to contact parents/

guardians or emergency contacts.

EARLY DISMISSAL

Please note that staff meeting days are the first Wednesday of **each** month. Students will be dismissed at **2:12PM**. The next early out will be on **Wednesday September 6, 2023**. Please note that this information is always included in the school newsletter and on our school website calendar.

PLAYGROUND AFTER SCHOOL

Please note that there is no supervision on the playground after school. Students being picked up should immediately wait for parents and guardians at the front of the school or at their exit doors where there is adult supervision. Thank you very much.

QUIET HALLWAYS

We remind all parents that if they are coming to pick up their child, they wait in the main foyer or directly outside of their child's exit. Students who need to leave during the school day must be signed out by a parent/guardian at the main office.

ARRIVAL TIME

Students are not to be at the school prior to 8:15AM. Doors will be locked, and supervision will not be available prior to this time. For your child's safety, please ensure that they are not coming to school earlier than the designated time.

ATTENTION PARENTS

Please note that the September 2023 newsletter is the **only** school newsletter that we will print. Our community school endeavors to be as environmentally friendly as possible. The school newsletter is posted on our WFG school website each month for your reading pleasure and convenience.



SCHOOL MESSENGER APP

Win Ferguson School and the Division use the SchoolMessenger platform for communicating with families—through both phone and email. Be sure to add communications@eips.ca to your safe sender list to avoid having important messages funneled into your junk mail folder. You can directly manage your phone and email subscription preferences through [SchoolMessenger](#). Simply log in to your account—or create one if you don't already have one—and select the message types you'd like to receive to each phone number and email address on file. The easiest way to stay connected is to download the SchoolMessenger app. Get the latest updates direct to your mobile device and enable push notifications to never miss a message. Families can also check back on past messages—for up to 30 days—directly in the app rather than searching to find an old message buried in your inbox. Download the SchoolMessenger app from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#) today.

VOLUNTEERS

With a responsibility of protecting all students in its care, Elk Island Public Schools' Administrative Procedure 490 requires that all volunteers annually sign a Confidentiality Undertaking Declaration for Volunteers and for extended field trips a Criminal Record Check and an Intervention Record Check. All forms are available at the school office. Volunteers are an important and integral part of our school, and we look forward to your continued support and efforts. Signs are posted on all entry doors directing visitors to the office.



SCHOOL FEES ONLINE

School fee information for the 2023-24 school year will be posted on the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) in late September. All fees are due within 30 days of being posted. To access your fee information, simply log in to the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) and go to "Student Fees." There you can view your fees and pay online using a credit card.

Don't forget to log in to the PowerSchool Parent Portal regularly throughout the year. Fees are often added to your child's account to cover the cost of certain school activities such as field trips, class projects, athletic-team fees and more.

If you're unable to pay your school fees, you can apply to have certain [fees waived](#) by submitting an [Application for a Waiver of Fees](#). The application deadline is Dec. 15, 2023.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines visit eips.ca. Alternatively, contact Mrs. Michelle Campbell our business manager at **780-998-1441**.

BUS APPS

Have a child taking the bus this school year? Download the following apps to stay up to date with all the busing information you'll need throughout the year.



WIN FERGUSON NEIGHBOURS

To maintain harmony and demonstrate respectful citizenship to our WFG neighbors, we ask that parents please not park in homeowners' driveways and keep children out of the homeowners' yard. It's all part of the win-win thinking our school is known for. Do the right thing and demonstrate the Golden Rule in our immediate community.

Bus Status

A new version of the Bus Status app is available: Bus Status 4. The app provides the same features and functionality as before, but faster and more reliable for users. Families who previously used the Bus Status 3 app will need to download the new version from the App Store or Google Play. You won't be able to update directly from one version to the next. New users can download Bus Status 4 directly now. Through the Bus Status app, families can access information about buses that are running late or cancelled throughout the year. Simply save your child's bus routes as favorites and turn on push notifications to stay up to date.

Refer to the [Bus Status: Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more information about the update, and plan to download the new version now.

Ride 360

The Traversa Ride 360 website and app enable parents and students to access their own secure data for bus stop location, route, and pickup time. With Division buses equipped with GPS hardware, Ride 360 uses GPS geolocation to let users know when to expect their bus each day. Parents and students log in with their own

information to access their specific routing information and details.

Ride 360 will be updated in the coming year. Families are encouraged to download the current Ride 360 app from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#) for the start of the school year and set up their account. When the update takes place, login information will seamlessly roll over to the updated app. Refer to [additional instructions and the tutorial video](#) on the Division website for more details about setting up your Ride 360 profile. For more information about transportation services, refer to the [Student Transportation section](#) of the EIPS website.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

Did you know each EIPS bus is equipped with video surveillance? Video surveillance and equipment help:

- ensure the safety of all students, drivers, and property; and
- discourage destructive acts.

On a regular basis, EIPS Student Transportation reviews the video recordings, in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. The recordings assist the department with monitoring student and driver conduct and may be used as evidence in a disciplinary matter.

EIPS buses are also equipped with Tyler Drive tablets. The goal: To enhance safety, improve communication, increase efficiency, and provide oversight. These tablets allow bus drivers to stay on time with turn-by-turn route directions and show student pictures and information when bus drivers get to stop locations. To ensure students get where they need to go, there are now two distinct audible tones when students scan their bus pass boarding or leaving the bus. One tone indicates they're getting on the correct bus or at the correct stop, and the other tone indicates they're on the incorrect bus or leaving at the incorrect stop. By using live information, Tyler Drive tablets provide more accuracy than paper schedules.

For more information about the collection, use and disclosure of personal information, contact the EIPS FOIP Coordinator at 780-464-3477.

SYNC YOUR CALENDAR

Did you know you can sync the school calendar to your own calendar? Simply, visit <https://www.winferguson.ca/about/calendar> and click of the applicable subscription option:

- **Download to iCal**
- **Add to Google Calendar**
- **Subscribe to Calendar**

NOTE: Options are located above the calendar.

Once you click on the desired subscription option, follow the instructions. Within seconds, your calendar will contain all of Win Ferguson's important dates including holidays, school-closures days, planned activities, events and more.



WIN FERGUSON SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC)

The WFG SAC provides parents and the school community with a means to consult with and provide advice on school policies to the principal on matters pertaining to the school and its operations. A separate part of the Council – The WFG School Society (PTA), which meets right after the School Advisory Council, facilitates all fundraising activity for the school that can enhance the educational programming for our students. On Monday September 25, 2023, **AGM** elections will be taking place for both the School Council and the School Society. We look forward to seeing some new faces around the table this year. All WFG parents are automatically members of SAC. See you then!



STUDENT DROP OFF

We have concerns for student safety especially as they exit the school at the end of the day. We have numerous students crossing the bus lane to access the parking lot as well as many bike riders heading for home. Parents who park near the beginning of the lane way or those who use that lane way to pick up their children pose a potential risk to our student safety. **Please avoid using the lane way during the high traffic times.** If you are picking up a child, please park in the parking lot. We thank you, in advance, for supporting our goal for a safe place and space for all.



ORANGE SHIRT DAY

Join us and hundreds of others across Canada and wear an orange shirt on **Friday, September 29th** to honour the children who survived the Indian Residential Schools and remember those that didn't.

We will wear orange shirts in recognition of the harm the residential school system did to children's sense of self-esteem and well-being, and as an affirmation of our commitment to ensure that everyone around us matters.

The Story Behind Orange Shirt Day

"I went to the Mission for one year. I had just turned 6 years old. We never had very much money, and there was no welfare, but somehow my granny managed to buy me a new outfit to go to the Mission School in. I remember going to Robinson's store and picking out a shiny orange shirt. It had eyelets and lace, and I felt so pretty in that shirt and excited to be going to school! Of course, when I got to the Mission, they stripped me, and took away my clothes, including the orange shirt. I

never saw it again, except on other kids. I didn't understand why they wouldn't give it back to me, it was mine! Since then, the colour orange has always reminded me of that and how my feelings didn't matter, how no one cared and how I felt like I was worth nothing. I finally get it, that the feeling of worthlessness and insignificance, ingrained in me from my first day at the mission.



TERRY FOX – COMMUNITY WALK

In support of the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope (Terry Fox Walk), we would like to invite you to join us on **Friday September 22, 2023**, beginning at 1:00 pm, for our school-wide walk about. All participants are encouraged to wear red and white to show our Canadian spirit. Families and community members are encouraged to join us. We expect every participant to dress for the weather and to please bring a water bottle.

To raise important funds for cancer research, we are collecting donations from staff and students. Each student who completes and returns the participant permission click form will then be entered in our draw for a chance to win a Terry Fox t-shirt. We thank you for your anticipated support of this worthwhile event and are confident that through our participation, we are teaching our students some valuable life lessons.



SEPTEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				31 First day of school Meet the staff!	1 Flip flop Friday	2
3	4 School Closed Statutory Holiday	5	6 Early dismissal Staff Meeting Day	7	9	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Terry Fox Run RED DAY	23
24	25 SAC @ 6:30 PM Society @ 7:00 PM	26 Gamification Information Night for Grade Six Parents	27	28	29 ORANGE SHIRT DAY	30