



Mills Haven Elementary Newsletter 1 September 4, 2020
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Check us out on Twitter at @MillsHaven



From the Principal's Desk...

I am truly excited and looking forward to this year! A school without students feels hollow and empty, and I am delighted and grateful that students have returned. At the risk of repeating the “u” word, the last several months have truly been “unprecedented”, and we all had to make drastic changes to how we work, live and interact with others.



Even though every school year starts, this start is not like every year. There are new ways to enter the school, recess is staggered, dismissal requires prompt departure, not staying and playing in the parks. There are directional signs on the floor and people are allowed in the school by appointment only. Assemblies or presentations are prohibited at this time.

On a personal note, thank-you for the warm welcome! I have had the opportunity to meet several students and families and the entire staff. I am excited about the possibilities that lie ahead of us and the hope of amazing learning to come. Best of all, we get to start the new year **together**, embracing the hopefulness and joy that brings. Whether we live in unprecedented times or not, a new year is a fresh start, a new beginning that invigorates.

Best wishes for a happy and successful year of Teaching and Learning!
Sven Danzinger
Principal

ALLERGIES ALERT! WE ARE ALLERGY AWARE!

There are people in our building with severe allergies, including allergy to peanuts and other nuts. For the health and safety of all students and staff, please do not send food containing peanuts or other nuts to school in lunches or snacks. Parents can have an active role in this by carefully checking food labels/ingredients. Many food products have the “no nuts” symbol on them. This will be especially important for late October when Halloween approaches.



MEET THE STAFF

Hopefully many or most of you were able to meet your child(ren)'s teacher(s) during the staggered entry. We are unable to host a traditional “meet the staff” event as visitors are not currently allowed in schools. Many teachers are also posting pictures or videos of classrooms, entrances, etc. to help parents “see” where teaching and learning is taking place.

REPORTING LATES OR ABSENCES

A reminder to parents that we require an email General.MHV@eips.ca or phone call (780-467-5556) letting us know when your child will be either late or absent. If no one is available to take your call, please leave a message for the school secretaries.

SEPTEMBER 2020

Sept 1-3	First Days of School – Staggered Entry
Sept 1-9	Staggered entry for Kindergarten
Sept 7	Labour Day – No School
Sept 8	School Council & MHSSES 6 PM (via Zoom)
Sept 15	Dot Day
Sept 25	Terry Fox Run
Sept 29	School Council & MHSSES AGM 6 PM
Sept 30	Orange Shirt Day

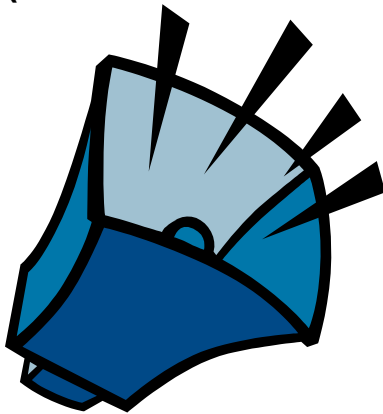


OCTOBER 2020

Oct TBA	Read in Week
Oct TBA	Bus Evacuation
Oct 5	World Teachers' Day
Oct 6	School Photos KB + Div 1
Oct 7	School Photos KA + Div 2 (includes 3/4 classes)
Oct 7	Early Out/Staff Meeting
Oct 9	Professional Learning Day – no school for students
Oct 12	Thanksgiving Day – No School
Oct 27	School Council & MHSSES 6 PM
Oct TBA	Secret Path/Project of Heart with Grade 6 classes



FROM YOUR MHV SCHOOL COUNCIL AND MHSSES (MILLS HAVEN SCHOOL AND STUDENT ENHANCEMENT SOCIETY)



Did you know - all parents are automatically part of School Council? This month's meetings are on **Tuesday, September 8**, and **Tuesday, September 29**. Meetings are at 6 PM and are held via Zoom. Please note September 29 will also be the Annual General Meeting. Please use the link below to join the meeting.

Topic: Mills Haven School Council Meeting
Time: Sep 8, 2020 06:00 PM Edmonton
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82305153081>
Meeting ID: 823 0515 3081

*Annual General
Meeting
September 29
@ 6 PM*

TERRY FOX RUN

Our annual Terry Fox run will be held September 25. This year we are staying on school grounds. Classes will not be outside at the same time to promote social distancing. Rather, classes will be staggered throughout the day. We ask that parents/community members do not attend school to participate for this event.

We will still encourage *Toonies for Terry* to support the Terry Fox Foundation.



In and around the District

QUICK FACTS: VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

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

- 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 Act (FOIP). The recordings assist the department with monitoring student and driver conduct and may be used as evidence in a disciplinary matter. For more information about the collection, use and disclosure of personal information, contact the EIPS FOIP Co-ordinator at 780-464-3477.

UPDATE YOUR POWERSCHOOL INFORMATION

The "Correction and Verification Form" is now available online through your [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). Families can use the form to access and update their child's information—including address, parent and guardian information, emergency contacts and any medical information. Reviewing and updating the form ensures the school has the most up-to-date information regarding your child. In particular, please pay close attention to all phone numbers, email addresses and emergency contact information. We will undoubtedly continue to have important information to communicate with families throughout this school year—whether your child is registered in in-school or out-of-school learning—and we want to ensure you receive this information. If you haven't already done so, we ask all Mills Haven families to review their child's PowerSchool information by **Sept. 20, 2020**. For more information about the PowerSchool Correction and Verification Form, contact the school directly.

ENHANCING LITERACY AND NUMERACY

As part of Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) ongoing efforts to enhance the literacy and numeracy of students in all grade levels, the Division is once again administering the STAR 360 and Math Intervention/Programming Instrument (MIPI) assessment tools for all in-school learners in the 2020-21 school year. The tools focus on literacy and numeracy, are digitally based and offer an opportunity for students to demonstrate their learning. The goal: To provide timely information to teachers, help enhance classroom instruction and ensure student learning needs are identified.

At three points throughout the year, EIPS in-school students in grades 1 through 12 will complete the STAR 360 assessment, which evaluates reading comprehension. The assessment takes approximately 20 minutes and is administered on a digital device. At least once throughout the year, in-school students in grades 2 through 10 will complete the MIPI assessment, which is a mathematic screening tool used to inform teachers about a student's math skills. For students in grades 7 through 10, the MIPI takes approximately 50 minutes, and for students in grades 2 through 6 it takes approximately 20 minutes. The results offer the teacher a clearer picture of a student's learning needs and help determine if subsequent instructional planning is required.

The scores of the assessments aren't used toward a student's grade, and there is no need to study ahead of time. The tools simply provide the teacher with information to better understand where each student is in terms of reading comprehension and mathematic ability. If, after analyzing the results, it's determined a student can benefit from extra support, the teacher will contact the family to discuss possible support strategies. For more information about the Division's STAR 360 and MIPI assessment tools, contact EIPS Supports for Students at 780-464-3477.

MILLS HAVEN STUDENTS STRIVE TO:

*Be Safe, Show Respect, Work Hard,
Finish Strong, Be You!*



Your Future in MIND