

Dear Eliot River Families,

Welcome to our first full week of the 2022-2023 school year. This week will be busy as we are hosting our first in person Meet the Staff night since 2019! Please join us Thursday evening for the opportunity to meet your child's teachers and hear more about our school.

Meet the Staff Evening

When: Thursday September 15th, 2022

Time:

- 6:30pm - Opening Remarks - Gym (Standing Room Only)
- Classroom Session #1 - 7:00pm
- Classroom Session #2 - 7:20pm

Parking: Feel free to park:

- In the parking lots off Terry Fox Place and enter via our temporary Main Entrance
- OR our Hilltop Avenue Staff parking lot and enter via our South End Doors (closest to the Turf Fields).

Cell Phones: just a reminder that, at our grade levels, student cell phones are not permitted at school. We recognize that some parents would like their child to have access to a cell phone for before or after school use. So, if a child has a cell phone at school, it must be turned off and kept in their school bag for the duration of the school day and both bus rides. Students are to use the office phone (with permission from their teacher) to make any calls home to families. If a student has a cell phone out during the school day, they will be given an initial warning by the staff member and asked to return it to their school bag. The second time that student is found with a cell phone, the phone will spend the day in Ms. Doucette's office and will need to be picked up by a parent or guardian.

Valuables: This year, many of our classrooms are using new cubbies to store school bags and lunches outside of the classroom. Although we do our best to monitor hallways, please do not send valuables, including cell phones to school. We cannot be responsible for any lost or stolen items.

Peanut Free School: A reminder that our school is a peanut free school. Please do not send any products containing peanuts in your child's lunch. We are also requesting that peanut butter substitutes like Wow Butter not be sent, as it is hard for our staff to tell the difference and this can cause unnecessary anxiety for our students with peanut allergies.

Attendance: The PSB Student Attendance and Engagement procedures were paused for the past two years due to COVID. With the hope that COVID will have less of an impact this year, there is a need to unpause the procedure with some changes. It will still be important for students to stay home if they have COVID and when they are sick. However, regular attendance is important to school success and school staff need to take steps to intervene when there is an attendance concern that is impacting student learning. As such, the 406.1 Attendance and Engagement Operational Procedures have been updated. The changes to the attendance procedures allow teachers and administrators to use their judgment when acting on student absences. The shift will be to absences that are

concerning to the teacher and are impacting student learning, rather than being automatically triggered at 5, 10, 15, 20 absences. These updates have been approved and are posted on the PSB website: <https://psb.edu.pe.ca/policies>

Food Services: Our breakfast, provincial lunch, and school hot lunch programs started this week. Please see the following links to order for either lunch program.

- Eliot River Hot Lunches (Milk and Hot Lunch orders): <https://eliotriver.hotlunches.net>
- Provincial Lunch Program: www.peischoolfood.ca

As well, our breakfast program is still looking for volunteers for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings. If you are able to assist us, please contact our Breakfast Program Coordinator, Julie Larter at julielarter35@gmail.com.

Upcoming Dates to Add to your Calendar:

- Thursday September 15th - Meet the Staff Night @ 6:30pm
- Friday September 23rd - Eliot River Terry Fox Run
- Tuesday September 27th - Home and School Meeting @ 6:30pm
- Thursday September 29th - Orange Shirt Day
- Friday September 30th - Truth and Reconciliation Day - No School
- Friday October 7th - Professional Learning Day - No School for students
- Monday October 10th - Thanksgiving Holiday - No School
- Wednesday October 12th - Eliot River Hosts the Zone 3 Cross Country Meet
- Monday October 17th - School Photos
- Friday October 21st - Joint Staff Day - No School for students

Student Well Being Team: We are a member of the Bluefield Student Well Being Team. Please see the attached welcome letter from our team. Please also see attached a letter of welcome from our new School Occupational Therapist, Alyssa Reeves.

Home & School News, September 2022

Slow down and watch for students on the road: Another school year begins Sept. 7. Students will be walking, cycling, riding on a bus or in family car to school. It is a strategic time to remind all motorists that with awareness and education, children can get to school and back home again safely.

PEI's Healthy School Lunch Program: It's a new school year and everyone is invited to sign up your child for healthy school food meals that will be served daily in schools. Register and order by Sept. 8 at: [Healthy Lunch for Island Kids! | PEI School Food Program](https://www.peischoolfood.ca) / www.peischoolfood.ca

Meet the Teacher: "Meet the Teacher" Nights are planned for parents to meet your child's teacher at the beginning of the school year. It's an informal opportunity to chat, face-to-face,

say hi, to become acquainted with your child's teacher. Find the date on your child's school website.

Semi-Annual Meeting: The 2022 Semi-Annual will be an in-person meeting held Tuesday, October 18th, 6:00 PM, Central Queens Elementary School, Hunter River, PEI. More details to follow.

School Board Elections Mail-In Ballot Only: Consider putting your name forward **to run as a trustee candidate in your school zone.** **Candidates** submit nomination papers, **Sept. 23.**

Check Candidate Profiles at: www.peihsf.ca , Sept 26

GO to Elections PEI to request your ballot. **NO** in-person voting for this important election.

Eligible voters must request their **ballot** beginning Sept 1. **Fill it out and return by mail to Elections PEI by Oct. 21.** Learn more at:

<https://www.electionspei.ca/school-trustees-elections> /

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/role-of-school-board-trustees>

Community News

Learn to Skate with Us! Speed Skating PEI is currently accepting registrations for our programs starting mid-September. Our Learn to Skate program is aimed at skaters 4 to 8 years old who are just starting to skate or who want to improve their basic skating skills. For those who can already skate and are looking to improve their speed and strength, we also offer a range of programs for all ages and levels. Visit us at speedskatingpei.ca to learn more or sign up today! If you have any questions, please email info@speedskatingpei.ca.

It was a wonderful first week back. Looking forward to seeing you all on Thursday!

Sincerely,

Terra Doucette

Principal - Eliot River Elementary