



Welcome back to the start of another school year!

We hope everyone has had a wonderful summer. The staff has been working hard and are excited to welcome kids back to school this Tuesday August 30th. All grades, Early Learning to Grade 12, will be at Erle Rivers this year.

We are excited to show off our new classrooms and invite families to come for an open house on Monday August 29th from 1-3:30. Please come drop in during that time if you're able. No appointments necessary.

Please remember that during this transition all staff are here to help all students. We're looking forward to a great year!

M.R.E.S. Staff 2022/2023-

Principal – Mrs. Rachelle Miller

Vice-Principal – Mrs. Sandi Hughes

Secretary – Mrs. Sheina Russell

Secretary – Mrs. Karmen Douglas

Custodian – Ms. Becky Toly

Ms. Jessica Fletcher -

Gr. 1 Homeroom - (Gr. 1 Lang. Arts, Math, Science, Social, Phys.Ed., Music, Art & Health)

Mrs. Sandi Hughes – Learning Support Teacher

Gr. 2 Homeroom - (Gr. 2 Lang. Arts & Math)

Mrs. Sharalyn Patching -

Gr. 3 Homeroom – (Gr. 3 Lang. Arts & Math/
Gr. 2/3 Science, Social, Phys.Ed., Health & Options)

Mr. Tyson Niwa -

Gr. 4 Homeroom - (Gr. 4 & 5 Lang. Arts/
Gr. 4/5 Social, Health, Phys.Ed., Drama & Art)

Ms. Kayla McPhillips -

Gr. 5 Homeroom – (Gr. 4 & 5 Math & Science)

Para-professionals:

Ms. Sydney Hacke (Early Learning EA/
EA/Literacy & Numeracy)

Mrs. Nyowa Leffler (Early Learning EA)

Mrs. Theresa McTaggart (Speech/EA)

Mrs. Jody Swanson (Librarian/EA)

Ms. Lisa Wollersheim (Early Learning
Instructor/EA)

Mrs. Amanda Hood (EA)

Mrs. Rachelle Miller – (Gr. 2/3 & 4/5 French)

Ms. Erynn Gordon – Kindergarten

Ms. Gordon will continue as our Kindergarten teacher as well as some Phys. Ed. & Music classes which will allow her to teach a class to every student in the elementary school.

We would like to welcome Mr. Tyson Niwa to our staff - he will be teaching grade 4 & 5 and we are very excited to have him move from the High School to join our elementary team!

Family School Liaison Counselor – Reanne Braun (Monday, Wednesday & alternating Fridays)

Mental Health Capacity Building Wellness Coach – Brianna Souter (Monday & Tuesday)

FNMI (First Nation, Metis and Inuit) Liaison Worker – Lisa Sowinski

Horizon Early Learning Program - Our Early Learning program will run one full day on Wednesdays from 8:45 A.M. – 3:15 P.M. Ms. Wollersheim is very excited to have Ms. Sydney Hacke and Mrs. Nyowa Leffler on the Early Learning team and look forward to a great year!

BELL TIMES:

Monday – Thursday

Preparation Bell – 8:25 A.M.

Classes Begin – 8:30 A.M.

Lunch Begins – 12:05 P.M.

Classes Begin – 12:35 P.M.

Dismissal – 3:20 P.M.

Friday

Preparation Bell – 8:25 A.M.

Classes Begin – 8:30 A.M.

Dismissal – 12:05 P.M.

Monday–Thursday there will be two recesses (9:50 – 10:03) and (1:55 – 2:07). On Friday, there will be one 15-minute break during the morning (10:12 – 10:23).

REMINDERS:

Outdoor supervision will begin at 8:15 A.M. Students will enter the school at **8:25 A.M.** through their designated doors on the east (Kindergarten & Grade 1) and northeast (Grades 2, 3, 4 & 5) side of the school.

We request that if your child will not be attending school, that you please notify the school each time they will be away. We in turn will attempt to phone you if we find your child absent and have not heard from you. It is much easier however, for you to make one phone call or Dojo message than for us to make many!

A monthly calendar and newsletter will be posted on School Dojo at the beginning of each month. Updates and additional information notices will be posted periodically to account for any changes that you need to be informed of.

Our school is really trying to advocate students choosing healthy lifestyles again this year. Students are encouraged to keep fit by exercising and eating and drinking healthy as well. To help students in this regard, Milk River Elementary will not allow pop or energy drinks (Gatorade, PowerAde, and other similar drinks) at school. Students are encouraged to drink milk, juice, and water while at school. ***We are requesting that each student please bring a water bottle to fill at the fountain and keep on their desk!**

We encourage students to bring “**Healthy Snacks**” for recess breaks. On **Fridays**, we encourage all students to please pack a **light lunch** or bring a “**Healthy Snack**” as they seem to be quite hungry by recess and bus students do not arrive home until well after the lunch hour!

We will continue with elementary assemblies this year and they will take place at 11:25 A.M. the first Thursday of each month (birthdays, announcements, Spotlight Students, Reading Awards, Wildcat Willy, etc.). Please make note that our first **school wide** assembly will still take place on Tuesday, August 30 at 11:15 A.M. The first elementary assembly will be on Thursday, October 6 @ 11:25 A.M. and parents are welcome to attend.

School Web Page – Our School web page is continually updated with lots of pertinent information. Please log in at www.horizon.ab.ca and select “Find a School” on the left side at the bottom of the page. Scroll down until you find Milk River Elementary School and double click - voila, there we are – have a look around and become comfortable with the tabs (there is lots of information in the Document area, please take a look)!

School Bus Zone—**WARNING**—Buses with RED lights flashing require the motorist to STOP! This means that when the buses are parked in front of the school (loading and unloading) with their lights flashing you **cannot** go by them!!

Please inform your bus driver if your child/children will not be going home on the bus. In addition, if a bus student will be bringing a friend home on the bus, a note from the parent must be given to the bus driver in advance.

SCHOOL FEES:

*Please note – there will be **NO** school fees collected this year. Early Learning will continue with a **program fee!**

Student Files – update – We are continually updating our student files. **If** you have any change of information for your child, (e.g., phone numbers, (including cellular) **medical alert information**, emergency contact changes, etc.) please include this information on the **Student Registration update form that was sent home with your child and return it to the school by Friday, September 9 (even if you do not have any changes there are yearly updates on the back of the form that need your consent)!** ***Please note** – the Student Registration update form has a section for bus billet information. **Please fill out this area if your student rides the bus!** Thank you.

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, September 8

- **Welcome Back BBQ** — The “Welcome Back BBQ” will take place from 5:30 – 7:00 P.M. Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend!

Friday, September 16

- **Welcome Back “Pancake Breakfast” for staff and students!**
- **42nd annual Terry Fox run/walk.** Our staff, and students will participate in the Terry Fox run/walk.

We will have a **“Toonies for Terry”** donation container at the office and encourage everyone to donate for the cause!

Thursday, September 29

- Our staff and students will be taking part in the **“National Day for Truth and Reconciliation”**. We encourage staff and students to wear an **“orange shirt”** as we promote awareness and education of the history and legacy of Residential Schools.

Tuesday, October 11

- **8:15 A.M. – School Picture Day!**