



September 15, 2023

Laura Prefontaine, Principal

Langham Elementary School

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Principal's Message:

Welcome back to a new school year! The adventures at Langham Elementary School have begun and we are loving all the fun that comes with the start of the school year. As we swing into action, the anticipation and excitement of what is to come is shown in our students and staff as we are all so eager to learn and work together.

Our adventure this year looks a little different with our transition to a Kindergarten to Grade 3 school – but most things feel very much the same as in past years. As usual, we are spending the first month getting to know each other and growing our relationships within and outside of the school. It was so great to see some of you at our Meet the Teacher Night on the 31st of August. There sure was a buzz in the building. It was so wonderful to get to show our families and students the school and have you meet the staff before we started the year. We have begun Care Partner activities and school-wide assemblies and we look forward to a trip to River Ridge at the end of the month to enjoy the wonders of nature in the Fall. So much fun as always!

Our School Community Council (SCC) will be holding its first meeting on Monday, Sept. 18th at 6:00 PM. We would love to have you attend to find out how the SCC supports the school goals and initiatives. We hope to see you there if you can make it!

As a school, we are committed to engaging our community in the work we are doing at Langham Elementary. Families are the first and continual teachers in a child's life. Therefore, our biggest learning partners are our families. We look forward to having family members within our school team and having you involved in our learning experiences. Please share with us any information (big or small) that you think would help us get to know your child as a learner: What do they love to do? What are they interested in? Where do they like to read? Do they have a favorite type of book? What places do they like to visit? We would love to hear from you so that together we can make this an amazing school year.

We ask that you please make sure to be logged into and utilizing our communication/report system, Edsby.

This will be our main source of communication with you. Please check it out if you haven't already.

I want to thank each and every one of you for the positive experiences at Langham Elementary. This supportive community is willing to work together to make learning blossom. I look forward to working with you again this year. Remember that my door is always open, and my ear is ready to listen to suggestions or questions.

Take care,

Laura Prefontaine

Important Dates to Remember

Sept. 18	SCC Meeting at 6:00 PM
Sept. 18	Picture Day (not K-B students)
Sept. 19	Picture Day (K-B students)
Sept. 25	Terry Fox Walk (afternoon)
Sept. 27	River Ridge Trip (K-Gr.3)
Sept. 28	River Ridge Trip (K-B)
Sept. 28	Orange Shirt Day
Sept. 29	No School -Truth & Reconciliation Day
Oct. 6	No Classes – (Prep. Day)
Oct. 9	No School - Thanksgiving Day
Oct. 15-20	Ed. Week: Bright Minds: Bright Futures
Oct. 16	Bus Driver Appreciation Day
Oct. 24	Picture Retakes
Oct. 25-26	Progress Conferences
Oct 27	Day in Lieu (No School)

Staff Transitions

Welcome to LES:

- **Ms. P. Anderson** - Teacher
- **Mrs. A. Laye** - Counsellor



WE WERE SO HAPPY TO MEET YOU!

A big thank you to all those who were able to attend our Meet the Teacher Night that was held on Thursday, August 31st. It was so great to meet you and for our families to get know each other.

Congratulations

We want to congratulate the following staff members for their years of service with Prairie Spirit School Division:

5 Years: Kayla Genoway
10 Years: Jamie Olson and Sheila Wiens-Neufeld
20 Years: Carol Crabb
40 Years: Louise Fehr



Before School:

Students may be at the school **after 8:35** in the morning as there is no adult supervision on the playground before 8:35. Upon arrival at school, students should go to their respective meeting areas.

After School Pick-Up Times:

Bus students are dismissed at 3:01. If your child will not be on the bus, they will be dismissed with the town students at 3:06.

We realize that there are times when students must be picked up earlier so please **make prior arrangements** with your child's classroom teacher for these instances. Town students will be dismissed from their meeting areas.

If picking up your child, please observe the bus parking areas as well as the wheelchair parking zone. Parking spots are available in front of the rink as well as on the side streets around the school. Thank you for your understanding!

Birthdays

Birthdays are always acknowledged and celebrated within our school. We ask that we celebrate birthdays **without treats** as a way to support students with allergies and dietary restrictions. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Updated Student Handbook

We have updated our **LES School Handbook**. The handbook outlines procedures and policies that are within our school. Please check out our website at <http://blogs.spiritsd.ca/les> to get the most recent copy of this information. You can find it at the bottom of the home page of the site. If you have any questions about information found in the handbook, please contact Mrs. Prefontaine. We hope you are informed of practices at LES within this book.

2023-24 Bell Schedule

8:35 AM – Students arrive/go to class pickup/drop off areas.
8:43 – Warning Bell for Classes to Begin
8:46 – Classes Begin
10:30 - Recess
12:15 – Lunch
12:35 – Lunch Recess
1:00 – Classes Resume
3:01 - Dismissal for Bus Students
3:06 - Dismissal for Town Students – from pickup/drop off area.

Communication During the Day

We appreciate parents communicating with their classroom teachers through Edsby and email. During the school day, staff are busy working with our students and are not always able to check their messages.

IF PLANS CHANGE DURING THE SCHOOL DAY, please:

- 1) Call the office (306)283-4455 or
- 2) Email the school at langhamelem@spiritsd.ca. This will ensure the message gets to your child and their teacher.

If your child is a bus student, please also notify any changes to their driver as well.

Picture Day

Picture Day is scheduled for Monday, September 18th for K-Grade 3 and on the 19th for our K-B class. We have a new photographer this year - McMasters. Each child will have their picture taken and families will have the option to purchase pictures afterwards. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns about Picture Day at LES.

Terry Fox Walk

A DREAM
AS BIG AS OUR COUNTRY



On Monday, Sept. 25th, each classroom will take part in the Terry Fox Walk. More details to come on this event in the near future.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

There will be **NO SCHOOL on Friday, Sept. 29th** as we reflect and observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

We will be having **Orange Shirt Day on Thursday, Sept. 28th in recognition of this day.** Classrooms will have discussions and conversations about the significance of it as well.

School Supply Fees

LES again used the bulk purchase of school supplies for stocking classrooms this fall. We hope this made your back-to-school preparations somewhat less stressful. Fees are payable immediately. Payment may be made with credit card on the online payment app, Rycor, or with cash or cheque. Thank you.

	2023-2024 Supply Recovery Fee
Kindergarten	\$18
Grades 1 - 3	\$37



PET-FREE Zone

For the safety of our students and staff, please keep all pets off of the school property including the front area where the busses load. Pets are not to be on school property as per bylaw of the Town of Langham.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

The next SCC meeting will be held on
Monday, September 18th at 6:00 PM
in the L.E.S. staffroom.
Everyone is Welcome to attend!

The purpose of the Council is to serve in an advisory capacity. It is to collaboratively help develop and actively support the delivery of the School's Learning Improvement Plan. In support of the school and its Learning Improvement Plan, the Council may initiate and/or take part in projects and fundraising activities which benefit students, parents and/or the community.

Have any ideas for the council? We would love to hear from you!! Please contact the office for further information.



Before and After School Program

The Boys and Girls Club of Saskatoon is again happy to offer Langham Elementary School a before and after school childcare program. Full of games, crafts, physical activities, and more, this program is designed for children ages 5 – 12 and operates on all school days.

For more information or to register please contact:
Before & After School Programs
306-244-7820
office@bgcsaskatoon.com

Prairie Spirit School Division's Safe and Secure Protocol

Each Prairie Spirit school provides a safe environment for students and staff, while offering a learning environment that is welcoming to visitors. In 2015, Prairie Spirit launched the Safe and Secure Protocol, which promotes safety and restricts unauthorized access to the school building. As a result, during the school day, access to the school will only be allowed through the main entrance doors. If a student is late for school, they are to go to the main doors.

****NEW** Prairie Spirit Volunteer Policy**

A new Administrative Procedure has been developed to help protect student safety and provide guidelines for schools in their work with volunteers.

Here are the new details:

- A Criminal Record Check (CRC) is required for parent volunteers when the volunteer has or might have direct or sole responsibility for providing supervision of students.
- A Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC) is required and will be provided by the RCMP when the volunteer is a coach, supervises students in overnight excursions and/or is a volunteer driver with students.
- Both need to have been completed no more than six (6) months prior to being submitted to the school.
- Valid length of a CRC and VSC will be three (3) years, with an annual compliance report at the start of the school year each year.
- Volunteers are expected to inform the Division if/when there are any criminal charges against them. The school will question all volunteers annually.

Reminder: All volunteers are bound by the same code of confidentiality expected of employees of the Division. It is inappropriate to discuss students collectively or individually outside the school as a result of information gained as a volunteer.

Please contact the office if you are volunteering at the school – a letter can be created so the fee for obtaining your CRC/VSC is waived.

We appreciate our volunteers and look forward to having you within our school!

Remember to check our updated
website at

www.spiritsd.ca/les



Allergy Alert

School staff, parents and students need to work together to prevent allergic reactions from occurring.

Follow these suggestions to make your school safer:

- **Avoid** bringing nuts to school. **Read ingredient lists** when you purchase food products. Avoid products that contain nuts listed as one of main ingredients.
- **Wash hands** with soap and water before and after eating as well as before entering the school.
- **Wash utensils and surfaces** used in food preparation with soap and hot water. This includes cutting boards and dishcloths.
- Place food on a **napkin or paper towel** rather than in direct contact with a desk or table.
- **Teach students** not to trade lunches or snacks that contain nuts. **Explain** why this is important.
- **Always be careful.** Becoming allergy alert does not ensure the school is entirely safe at all times.

Everyone working together can help make a safe environment for students with life-threatening allergies! We realize the extra attention this takes when planning healthy lunches and snacks, and appreciate your cooperation on this matter.

Here are some suggested healthy foods snacks and lunches:

Fresh fruit: Bananas are popular year-round, apples and pears are great in the fall, just to name a few.

- **Cheese.** Most cheese is nut and egg free, including kid-friendly string cheese and convenient cheese cubes.

- **Vegetables.** Baby carrots, cherry tomatoes, broccoli, and cauliflower are among the vegetables some kids will eat raw. Raisins and other dried fruits.

- Air-popped **popcorn.**

- **Applesauce.** The healthiest and most convenient type is unsweetened applesauce in single-serving cups.

- **Fruit**

If you have any questions about this alert, please do not hesitate to contact Laura Prefontaine at any time.

Family Concerns: A Protocol to Follow

Effective communication between the classroom teacher and the parent/guardian is the foundation of a great partnership. If a parent/guardian has a question or a concern, the first contact should be the child's classroom teacher. If the concern is not addressed at the classroom level, the parent/guardian should contact the principal to discuss the problem. If the concern is not addressed at the school level, then please contact the Superintendent of Schools for Langham Elementary who is Peggy Mattila-Bain (683-2835)

Visitors Screening Policy

Schools are places where students and staff are required to be during the school day. It is, therefore, important to be mindful of who is granted access to these spaces to maintain learning spaces that are safe and caring for the whole learning community.

Schools are not open public spaces. All visitors to a school must make their presence known to the school administration. Signage to this effect will be present at the main entrance to the school.

School administration determines right of access to the school premises (classrooms and grounds). If a visitor refuses to comply with the direction of school administration, the visitor shall be treated as a trespasser and necessary safety protocols will be enacted.
(Adapted from Prairie Spirit ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY NO. 412)

Dismissal Policy

-Parents or legal guardians are allowed to pick up their children unless public safety officials have declared that there is some reason why access to the facility is restricted. During any emergency, school personnel will maintain as safe and normal an environment for students within the school as is possible. School is not automatically cancelled in emergency situations.

-Children will not be released to individuals who are not authorized on the student's registration information - unless consent is given. Schools may ask for identification when a student is released. Students will **ONLY** be released to those who have been authorized for pick up.

-Parents or legal guardians are asked not to call the school in emergency situations so phone lines can remain accessible for handling the specific situations.

Note: in the event of a power outage, phone lines are not available.

-No student will be released to parents during a Hold and Secure or Lockdown until the principal has deemed that the situation is "all clear".