



HAVE YOU HEARD...

ABOUT THE GREAT THINGS THAT ARE HAPPENING AT

Mills Haven Elementary

Read all about it in the September 1, 2017 edition!

WELCOME

Welcome Back! The staff at Mills Haven School are looking forward to another great year. See you on September 14th for Meet the Teacher Night!

Important Dates

<http://millshaven.ca/about/calendar>

Staff List 2017 - 2018

We have had a few staffing changes this fall. Please go to the following link for our current staff list. <http://millshaven.ca/about/staff-list>

Parking

There is no visitor parking in our staff parking lot. This map will help you find a place to park. <http://millshaven.ca/download/107401>

Student Handbook

Please review the Student Handbook with your child. You will find helpful information that will help navigate the school year. <http://millshaven.ca/download/107063>

Noon Bussing

Kindergarten and PALS have noon buses that come to pick up and drop off children. Please park across the street to allow for the buses to access the bus lane in front of the school between 11:30 am – 12:35 pm.

Medical Information

If your child has a medical condition that we need to know about, please call our secretary Christa Gawron at (780)467-5556. If you let us know previously, Mrs. Gawron will be sending information home for you to update for this school year.

Attendance Matters

Students are most successful academically when they are at school. Too many absences can cause a student to start to fall behind. For all students, learning to attend school regularly can help them develop the skills of persistence and perseverance which can help them succeed in school.



Examples of excused absences:

- Student illness.
- Death in the student's immediate family.
- Observance of a religious holiday.
- Medical reasons such as a Doctor's appointment.
- Lice
- Pink eye
- Temperature higher than 100 °F even after taking medicine
- Throwing up or have diarrhea
- Examples of unexcused absences include:
 - Babysitting
 - Sleeping In
 - Skipping
 - Vacations (please coordinate your family holidays with the school calendar)

Daily attendance is important for all students. Students who attend school regularly are more engaged in learning, have a greater sense of belonging in the community and are more likely to obtain a high school diploma.

Thank you for bringing your student to school!

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 planning to administer two assessment tools during the 2017-18 school year—STAR 360 and Math Intervention/Programming Instrument (MIPI). 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.

In September and May, EIPS students in grades 2 through 12 will complete the STAR 360 assessment, which evaluates reading comprehension. Grade 1 students will take the STAR 360 exam in October. The assessment takes approximately 20 minutes and can be taken on any digital device. Also in September, 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 of each offers the teacher a clearer picture about a student's learning needs and helps determine if subsequent instructional planning is required.

The scores of the assessments are not used towards a student's grade and there is no need to study ahead of time. They 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 Deb Barron, the director of Learning Supports, at 780-464-3477.

Quick Facts: EIPS buses are all equipped with video surveillance

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

- ensure the safety of all students, drivers and property; and
- deter from 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.

Improving Home-School Communication

To enhance communication between families and schools, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) has developed a how-to guide entitled, "Communication Protocol for Schools." Topics include appropriate channels to use, standard formats and structures, timing and sequencing for regular and ongoing home-school communication, and ways to bring forward questions or concerns. Additionally, the manual offers useful tools and resources schools and families can use to enhance face-to-face meetings, emails and any social media efforts. The "Communication Protocol for Schools" is available at www.eips.ca/download/40981.



Sync the School Calendar to Your Personal Calendar

Did you know you can sync the school calendar to your own personal calendar? You can. Just visit <http://millshaven.ca/about/calendar> and click on one of the following calendar options you want to subscribe to:

- Add to Google Calendar
- Subscribe to Calendar (Outlook)
- Download iCal

NOTE: Using a mobile device, these options are located above the calendar. Using a computer, these options are located below the calendar.

Once you click on the calendar option you want to subscribe to, follow the instructions. Within seconds, your personal calendar will contain all of [INSERT SCHOOL NAME HERE] important dates including holidays, school-closures days, planned activities, events and more.