

EAST ST. MARGARET'S ELEMENTARY

monthly newsletter



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SEPTEMBER 2026

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to a new school year at East St. Margaret's! As the new principal, I am excited to be joining this wonderful school community and have thoroughly enjoyed my first few days getting to know our 91 students and staff.

We are off to a terrific start. Classrooms are already filled with energy, enthusiasm, and a strong sense of belonging. One of the highlights so far has been meeting students throughout the school and being impressed by how many have already mastered the pronunciation of my name!

I am confident that, through collaboration and shared commitment to student success, we will make this a rewarding and memorable year for everyone.

Thank you for the warm welcome. I am excited for the year ahead and all that we will accomplish together at East St. Margaret's Elementary School.

Erica Fuakala

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

Stand Up Against Bullying Day - WEAR PINK!

SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

Professional Development Day - NO SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 29, 2026

Every Child Matters - WEAR ORANGE!

SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

National Day for Truth & Reconciliation
NO SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2, 2026

School Picture Day!

UPCOMING SAFETY DRILLS

A number of safety drills will be conducted in the coming weeks to better prepare our students for any emergency situation that may happen at school. Most notably are the Lockdown and Hold & Secure drills that are scheduled in the next two weeks. Please note the information in the graphics below, which are also links to a more detailed information letter about the upcoming Lockdown and Hold & Secure drills. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to the school office.

SEARCHING FOR LUNCH MONITORS!



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We are searching for individuals to fill two 1-hour DAILY lunch monitor positions. If you know anyone who may be interested please contact the ESM office.

STOP Lockdown Procedure STOP

DO THIS	NOT THIS
✓ Follow the directions of the person in charge ✓ If you're in the hallway, go immediately to the nearest learning space* ✓ Cover all windows and turn off lights ✓ Position students where they cannot be seen ✓ Turn off or silence cell phones ✓ Be silent and stay calm	✗ Do not respond to class change or dismissal bells ✗ Do not evacuate if the fire alarm sounds unless it is unsafe to stay ✗ Do not open the door, except to a pre-arranged person ✗ Do not leave the learning space for any reason ✗ Do not answer a knock at the door ✗ Do not open exterior school doors to anyone

*If you are in the classroom when a lockdown happens, hide in a stall and stay quiet. The lockdown ends only when an administrator or designate opens the door.

Hold & Secure Procedure

DO THIS	NOT THIS
✓ Follow the directions of the person in charge ✓ Go immediately to the nearest learning space ✓ Stay away from windows and doors ✓ Learning continues as usual ✓ Restrict movement in and out of the learning space	✗ Do not respond to class change or dismissal bells ✗ Do not attempt to leave the building ✗ Do not leave learning spaces unless instructed to do so ✗ Do not open exterior school doors to anyone

Please note: Staff should keep classroom doors locked at all times to ensure safety in any potential emergency situations.

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH & RECONCILIATION

On September 30, we honour the children who never returned home from residential schools, and the survivors, families and communities who continue to live with their lasting impacts.

Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led movement that reminds us that Every Child Matters and encourages all of us to learn, reflect and support truth and reconciliation.

As there are no classes on Wednesday, September 30, we invite students and staff to wear orange, if they're able, on Tuesday, September 29.

STAND UP AGAINST BULLYING SEPTEMBER 10

On Stand Up Against Bullying Day, we come together to promote kindness, inclusion and respect in our school communities.

Every student deserves to feel safe, supported and welcome at school. On Thursday, September 10, we invite students and staff to wear pink, if they're able, and help show that bullying has no place in our schools.

Together, we can help create school communities where everyone feels they belong.

RETURNING STUDENT REGISTRATION FORMS

The Returning Student Registration Form is available to families in the PowerSchool Parent Portal. This form should be updated by every family to ensure all information about your student(s) is current, including contacts, medical information, consents and more. **Even if there are no anticipated changes, please review this information and submit the form for all students in your family.**

The deadline to submit the form is October 5, 2026.

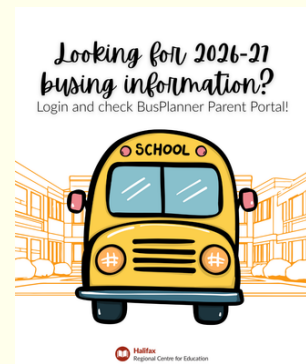
USING BUSPLANNER

Everything you need to know about student transportation including eligibility, stop times and stop locations can be found on BusPlanner. Once you register and subscribe, you can choose to receive email and/or text message notifications on changes to routes, bus delays or cancellations.

To sign up, go to [BusPlanner](#) and click on Parent Portal. Follow the instructions to create an account.

Don't have a BusPlanner Parent Portal account? Need help logging in? Please contact the HRCE Student Transportation Team:

Email: transportation@hrce.ca
Phone: 902-431-4723.



VISITOR POLICY

We welcome visitors to ESM, but for the safety and security of our school, staff, and students, we *require all visitors, including parents and guardians, to report to the office on arrival.* All visitors will be asked to sign-in for the duration of their visit.

Anyone wishing to participate in school activities such as the Breakfast Program, field trips, class activities, etc. must complete a Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector Search **AND** a Child Abuse Registry Search prior to doing so. You'll find links and instructions to both below:

1. [Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector Search](#) - can be done online at the link above or through your local detachment. The local detachment requires a letter from ESM, which you can request from the school office at any time. Please provide a copy of the results to the school office.
2. [Child Abuse Registry Search](#) - must be completed online at the link above. Results will be mailed to your home, usually within 2 weeks. Please provide a copy of the results to the school office.