



AUSTIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2017

— WELCOME —
BACK TO SCHOOL



Dear Austin Elementary Families,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 2017-2018 school year! I hope you and your family have had a chance this summer to rest, relax, and rejuvenate. I am excited about all of the changes to our school environment and community this year and look forward to an exciting year ahead!

School Communication:

The education of all students is a priority for the staff at Austin Elementary School. This year we will continue to keep the interruptions and distractions to your child's learning environment and school schedule to a minimum. If there is a message that you would like to relay to your child, please feel free to call and leave a message with the secretary, and staff will relay that message during our break periods. Break times at AES occur at 10:40 am and 1:00 pm. Messages can also be sent in your k-4 child's agenda as their homeroom teacher checks these each morning.



School Contact Information

Phone: (204) 637-2240

Email: aes@pinecreeksd.mb.ca

Website: <http://aes.pinecreeksd.mb.ca>

Principal: Mrs. Kim Young

Admin. Assistant: Mrs. Tamara Sokolosky

Please join me in welcoming our AES Staff for 2017-2018 at AES!

Mrs. Michelle Ryz – Kindergarten & Reading Recovery Teacher & Resource

Mrs. Jaclyn Sheppard – Grade 1 /2 Classroom Teacher

Mrs. Jennell Manns – Grade 3 Classroom Teacher

Ms. Amanda Ginter – Grade 4 /5 Classroom Teacher

Mr. Rob Rintoul— Grade 6/7 Homeroom, Math & Science & Social Studies Teacher

Mrs. Tenley Cameron – Grade 7/8 Homeroom & Middle Years ELA, Math & French

Mrs. Pam May – Physical Education Teacher

Mrs. Sharla Davey – Resource Teacher

Mrs. Carolyn Farquharson – k-5 Music and 6-8 band!

Mrs. Kim Young – AES administrator

Mrs. Tamara Sokolosky – Administrative Assistant

Ms. Carmen Dawyduk - Support Staff

Mrs. Sandra Peill – Support Staff

Mrs. Shauna Bjarnarson - Support Staff

Mrs. Sian Pollard - Support Staff

Mrs. Lynda Driedger - Librarian

Mr. Andrew Dyck – Skills Coach

Mr. Maurice Emond – Custodian

Mrs. Glenda Sattler – Custodian



Fundraising

Austin Elementary School does participate in a number of fundraising events throughout the school year. The funds gained through these events allow us to participate in various activities throughout the school year and to help offset the cost of transportation for field trips. Students are not obligated to participate in any fundraising activities but all participation is greatly appreciated.

End of the School Day:

If your child is not going home via their regular route, please ensure that your child, teacher, bus driver and school are aware of their alternative arrangements for the day. Please send a note with your child or in their personal agenda to clarify any changes that may be occurring at school's end. Please plan this change ahead of time to ensure there is no confusion for your child or the staff member that is on duty.



Personal Property:

The goal of the school is to provide students with a positive and enriching learning experience. Toys, **fidgit spinners**, games, trading cards, and other play-related items or personal property should be left at home, as these items pose a distraction to the teaching and learning process at Austin Elementary School. Staff are currently looking at the best way to incorporate students' personal devices (iPods, iPads, etc.) into the classroom that will best ensure proper usage and safety for all. Currently, students do not have access to the internet on their personal devices. Lost or stolen electronics are not the responsibility of the staff or the school. More information will be forthcoming.

Parental Communication:

It is our school's goal to maintain an open line of communication with parents in order to build an educational team, working together with the best interest of our students at heart. Our students in k- gr 4/5 will continue to use agenda books as organizational tools in their classrooms. Please check for school and classroom notes, reminders, and lunch orders within their agendas.

Please check our school website at <http://aes.pinecreeksd.mb.ca/> for up to date information regarding activities and events at AES.

Student registration forms will be going home with your child. Please review this form carefully to ensure that the office has your current contact information in case we need to reach you during the school day. Additionally, please ensure that your current email address is listed so that you may receive our Week at a Glance and the monthly newsletters via paperless format.

Teachers will be contacting you each term to inform you of the objectives and goals of their classroom. If you ever have any questions or concerns about your child's education please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to work together to create success for all of our students.

Your Child's Eye Health



Eye health is an important aspect of your son/daughter's overall health. School performance is closely linked to visual abilities and according to the Canadian Association of Optometrists, 80 per cent of all learning is visual.

Unfortunately, many of the students who experience visual difficulties often do not realize it and therefore do not convey this problem to their parents or teachers. In order to provide your child with the best foundations for learning, the Canadian Association of Optometrists recommends that every child receives his or her first complete eye examination before the age of three and once a year after that.

A complete eye examination includes an eye chart test, which will detect any obvious visual problems, and most importantly, a detailed evaluation of the visual system, which will reveal other problems including eye coordination, perception, colour blindness, and near-point focusing. These serious conditions, which can be successfully treated if detected early, cannot be diagnosed simply by reading an eye chart. This means that a problem can exist even if your child sees well.

Seeing an optometrist once a year is the best way to ensure your child has all the right tools to succeed in school and is an important part to instilling good health habits that will last a lifetime. **These eye exams are FREE to all children under 19 years of age** and can start as early as 6 months of age. If you don't currently have a family optometrist, you can find one by going to the MAO website at www.optometrists.mb.ca and selecting *Find an Optometrist*, or by calling the Manitoba Association of Optometrists at 204-943-9811.



Austin Blazing Saddles 4-H light horse club will be reorganizing this fall to start a brand new year of horsing around fun and learning. We're always looking for new members to join us. Please contact us if you're interested in more info or dates and times for our fall rides and meetings. Call or text Esther 204-870-2417 Tanya 204-761-5371 Brittany 204-526-0842.

Welcome Back BBQ:

We would like to invite you to our welcome back BBQ that will be held on Thursday, September 21nd from 5-7 pm. Come out and meet our staff and enjoy BBQ'd hotdogs with our school community.

