



JOURNAL NEWS

ÉCOLE WHITEHORSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

We speak, we care, we grow, I belong

Welcome Back ÉWES Families!

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! We would like to extend a warm welcome to all the students and families who are already part of our school community at ÉWES, and a special welcome to our new students in kindergarten, Grade 6 Late French Immersion and to those who are newly arrived to Whitehorse. Bienvenue!

We are excited to welcome some new staff as well as returning staff this year. Please join me in welcoming Katharine Grenier (kindergarten), Amanda Di Monte (Gr. 1), Dahlia Lapointe (6/7), Han Shier and Peterson Charles (EAs). Welcome back to Marie-Maude Allard (music) and Dan Girouard (PE).

We have a **new security system** at the school. All doors will be locked throughout the day - even the front door. Visitors to the school are required to ring the front office and we will buzz you in. There is a short delay to open the door - please be patient. The middle front door will be open until 8:35 am to allow for late students to enter the school without having to buzz in.

The territory has implemented a **Personal Mobile Device Policy** in all schools in the Yukon. We have had a policy in place for a number of years. Please be aware that this policy applies to all cell phones, laptops, tablets, and smart watches. At elementary school, these items are not permitted for use.

Communicating Student Learning: ÉWES involves teachers, parents and students in the assessment and reporting process, which is updated throughout the year. You can look forward to regular updates about your child through specific and descriptive feedback, documents such as the “snapshot of learning checklist,” in person teacher-led and student-led conferences, portfolio review and through two written report cards. We want parents and guardians to know what they are learning, how they are progressing and where they are going in their learning.

We look forward to another great year - thank you of joining us on this exciting journey.

Mark your calendar!

First Day of School:

August 24 at 8:25 am
Dismissal: 3:06 pm

Labour Day:

Sept 7th - No School

National Truth and Reconciliation Day:

Sept 30th - No School

Yukon Education Conference:

Oct 1 & 2 - No School

Thanksgiving:

Oct 12th - No School

Parent-teacher

Conferences: Thursday
Oct. 22 evening and Friday,
Oct. 23 all day (no classes
on Friday)

Pizza Lunch

Oct 30th - Hallowe'en

School Calendar link:
[here](#)

Bilingualism at ÉWES

Our growth plan focuses on literacy and numeracy while prioritizing French oral language skills development.

French is the language of instruction and communication in the classrooms throughout the school year. At parent-teacher conferences in October, teachers will communicate about student progress in French and math.

Grade One students will start their English Language Arts program in September, Grades 2-7 start their English Language Arts program after October 1st. All of our specialists' classes - art, physical education, music and library will be instructed in French.

Southern Tutchone language classes, with Mme Noli Eastmure are provided to Kindergarten to grade 5 classes twice a week.

Bell Schedule

School Starts at 8:25 am and dismissal is at 3:06 pm.

We have two recesses, so that we have less students on the playground, giving students more space with less conflicts and collisions.

Group I: Grades 2, 3, 4 & 5

Group II: Grades K, 1, 6, 7

8:05 - Outdoor supervision starts
8:25 - Morning Bell - start of school day
10:05 - Recess I (20 minutes)
10:35 - Recess II (20 minutes)
12:05 - Recess I & lunch for Group II
12:30 - Recess II & lunch for Group I
3:06 - Dismissal - First buses depart at 3:10
3:25 - Supervision Ends

We have outdoor recess until -30 degrees Celsius (including the wind-chill), and Grade 6/7 students participate in our outdoor education programming throughout the winter. Please make sure your child is dressed for the elements - it is no fun being cold. While our younger students are usually appropriately dressed, our older students often arrive less well prepared. Parents please check to make sure your big kid is dressed for success!

Check out our cold weather policy on the website. <https://www.whitehorseelementary.com/>

First Day of school is on Monday, August 24 at 8:25

Arrival:

Students are asked to line up at the bell. School starts at 8:25 and ends at 3:06. Buses will be running.

Supervisors (wearing yellow sashes and carrying clipboards) can help students who don't know which class they will be attending.

Kindergarten students are invited to enter directly with parents by the front doors during their staggered start to school and once their regular classes start, kindergarten students will line up behind their cones in the primary yard (on Black Street).

Primary Yard: Grades 2, 3, 3/4, and 5 line up behind the cones. These classes will be met by their teachers and enter by the Black Street Doors.

Soccer Field: Grades 1, 4 and 4/5 line up behind their cones by the soccer field doors. There will be teachers to help and collect their classes.

Intermediate Door: Grades 6 & 7 classes will line up behind their cones at the parking lot side door and teachers will meet them there.

Dismissal:

Bus students will line up behind their cones in the soccer field at the end of the day. We ask that students line up and stay in their lines for the first week as we sort out bus arrival order and other routines. After a time, when students are familiar with the bus routines, students on later buses may play.

Please **clearly identify the bus number** your child will be taking until bus tags are distributed by the drivers.

Bus routes and schedules may be found at: <http://yukon.ca/school-bus-schedules>

Registration is required to ride the bus: <https://yukon.ca/en/education-and-schools/plan-elementary-and-high-school/school-bus-and-other-student-transportation>

Student pick up: Primary students, who are picked up afterschool by parents, guardians or daycares are asked to line up at the fishy fence/green space at the front corner of the primary yard and **intermediate students** are asked to gather around the GaGa ball courts by the Drop Off Zone.

Allergy Alert:

We have students will **peanut/tree nut allergies and sensitivity to scents**. Send only nut-free foods to school. If your child has a life-threatening allergy or other health condition we should know about, please contact Anne Harrison at the front office for paperwork and if you are able, please provide the office with an extra Epipen.



Weather in the Yukon and recess

It rains and snows in the Yukon. While we are usually prepared for those cold days, we now have to plan for the wet ones. Yes, we have recess regardless of the precipitation.

So please dress for the weather.

Check out our cold weather policy on the website: <https://www.whitehorseelementary.com/>



Absent? Away sick?

Please contact the office at ewesattendance@yukon.ca

If you are planning to be away for an extended period of time, please give the teachers a couple of weeks to get work together if you choose to request homework while away.



Bus Late? Cancelled?

Sign up for My Bus Monitor at: <https://www.myschoolbusmonitor.ca/>



Parking and Drop Off at ÉWES

A reminder that that “Drop Off Lane,” the pull through lane to the right as you enter the parking lot from 4th Avenue is for a “kiss and good-bye hug.” YOU MAY NOT LEAVE YOUR VEHICLE UNATTENDED. No Parking in the Drop Off Zone - Fire vehicles require safe access at all times.

Our parking lot is ONE WAY - enter from 4th Avenue and exit on 3d Avenue.

To accompany your child into the school, you may park in the lot, space permitting, on 3d Avenue or Black Street. Please do not use the lot at Independent.



There is still time! Label all of your child’s clothing - hats, mitts, coats, boots, backpacks, lunch kits, t-shirts.... We find almost everyone shops at the same stores, which means everyone wears the same clothing and boots. Please provide labeled water bottles for school use.

Safety

We practice 6 fire drills, one earthquake, one lock down and one evacuation each year.

While the weather is still fair, we will practice our first three fire drills this fall. Students and teachers are given fair warning for the first drill. We exit by the assigned doors and assemble in the soccer field. Floors, rooms and washrooms are swept by staff to ensure everyone is safely out of the building. Attendance is taken and the drill is timed.

Students with mobility issues have their own exit plans. If you have a child who has a mobility issues (e.g., new crutches), please contact sharon.maccoubrey@yukon.ca and we will develop a plan in the event of an emergency.

Supervision: staff will be actively supervising before school, starting at 8:05am, during recesses, and after school until 3:25pm.

If your child has **serious health issues**, including life-threatening allergies or chronic illness, the school needs to be aware. Please fill out the health form included in the welcome package and handed out on the first day.

Please be advised that are **video cameras** installed at the front entrance of the school and in a couple of hallways. Notices are posted in the vicinity of these devices. These devices have been installed for student safety.

Bus evacuation and safety protocols will be reviewed with Standard Bus in the fall.

The **front door is now locked** and we require visitors to buzz the front office to gain access to the school. These measures have been added for safety.

We are required to share the Violent Threat Risk Assessment letter each year. (You will find it attached at the end of this newsletter).

During the year, our grade 7 students will be invited to participate in after school sports, which include games at other schools. Depending on availability, coaches may drive the activity bus to these games. In this case, the school takes responsibility for their transportation. Parents will be advised in advance.

In other instances, students must arrange for their own transportation. The school is not responsible for transportation to after school sports when parents may make arrangements to share in the driving.

Parents/guardians, we need your assistance!



The office and teachers get many calls and emails each day requesting that their child be ready, dressed and in the office at a specific time for appointments. We ask parents to please let classroom teachers know of appointments in advance but also, **arrive early enough that you can help get your child ready for the appointment.** Come into the office (we will buzz you in) and we can direct you to the classroom.

School phones (in each classroom) may be used to contact parents. They are not used to make arrangements for activities after school. Bus tags are required to ride the bus (they will be distributed by the drivers - you can ride if you are registered); parent notes to ride on the bus are not permitted. If your child needs to ride a bus in extenuating circumstances (e.g., family away and staying with grandma), please make arrangements with Standard Bus.

Cell phones and smart watches are a distraction and disrupt learning. Personal mobile devices **are not permitted for use during the school day.** We understand that some parents require these devices for after school communication; during the school day, they must be silenced and stored in backpacks in the hall or lockers. The school is not responsible for lost or damage. If the device is used during school hours, they will be removed. Please see our digital use policy on the website.

2026-2027 ÉWES Staff:

<u>Classroom teachers</u>		<u>Room</u>	<u>Class#</u>
Katharine Grenier	Kindergarten	5	KA
Lucille Gauthier	Kindergarten	6	KB
Gabrielle Vienneau/Katie Akers	Kindergarten	7	KC
Amanda Di Monte	Grade 1	112	1A
Claire Lodge	Grade 1	113	1B
Chelsea Read	Grade 1	114	1C
Marie-Chloé Tessier	Grade 2	109	2A
Jordan Lincez	Grade 2	110	2B
Elise Guillemette/Katie Akers	Grade 2	111	2C
Juliette Houllier/Katie Akers	Grade 3/4	210	3/4A
Justine Ouellet	Grade 3	209	3B
Chantal Emond	Grade 3	212	3C
Valerie Bussi�res	Grade 4	211	4B
Danielle Lang	Grade 4	214	4C
Sarah Johnson	Grade 4/5	213	4/5D
Janine Jewell/Carolyne Duval*	Grade 5	207	5A
Gabriel R�gimbald	Grade 5	208	5B
Cameron Brown/LATs*	Grade 6/7	100	6/7A
Dahlia Lapointe*	Grade 6/7	200	6/7B
Amberly Doucette*	Grade 6/7	201	6/7C

Belkacem Taieb	Grade 6/7	204	6/7D
Jamayca Whalen/Kat Lacroix Kent*	Grade 6 LFI	206	6LFI
Lorianne LeBlanc	Grade 7 LFI	202	7 LFI

* Due to absences, staff will be temporarily assigned to these classes to cover portions of the schedule. We will keep parents informed as staffing continues to change.

Specialists:

Art: Sabrina Bouayad

Music: Marie-Maude Allard

Southern Tutchone: Noli Eastmure

Physical Education: Dan Girouard & Isabel Beauregard

Outdoor Education: Dan Girouard

Learning Assistance:

Julie Bourdeau (Math), Caroline Beaumier (French), Kat Lacroix-Kent (Francisation), Carolyne Duval (ELL), Nicola Dietz and Kerrie Paterson (English).

Counsellors:

Angela Clark & Kat Roberts

Educational Assistants:

Stephanie Aturdido, Manon Bourassa, Marine Gastard, Peterson Charles, Maricon Cortez, Didier Gascuel, Gordon Fortin, Jennifer Lafrenière, Hudson Sias, Han Shier, Jessica Woodhouse

Front Office Staff:

Anne Harrison - Front Office Secretary

Jamie Jacobsen - Administrative Assistant

Administration:

Vice- Principal - Val Long, Sofie Maurice

Principal - Sharon MacCoubrey



École Whitehorse Elementary

4181-4th Ave
Whitehorse, YT, Y1A-1J7

Phone 667-8083 Fax 393-6211
Principal: Sharon MacCoubrey
Vice-Principal: Valerie Long & Sofie Maurice



August 2026

Re: Yukon Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The safety of our children is a top priority for everyone. The tragedies that have occurred where students commit violent acts against other students and educators in Canada and in the United States have caused government officials, educators, parents, students and other community members to assess how we make our schools and communities safe for our children and students.

Public Schools Branch staff members have been involved in an intensive safety training program with our community partners, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Yukon Department of Health and Social Services, Yukon Department of Justice, and Yukon College. From what we have learned in this training we know that student acts of violence are not random; individuals do not suddenly 'snap' and commit serious acts of violence. In cases where serious acts of violence have occurred there have been many indicators and escalating signs that these individuals are on a path to commit serious harm to themselves or others. The training has helped our professionals to recognize these signs, assess them, and put in place interventions to support and reduce the level of risk. Together with our community partners, Public Schools Branch has developed a plan to respond to situations in which students may be demonstrating behaviours that pose a risk to themselves or others.

We wish to advise parents that we have adopted a protocol, which requires schools to undertake a threat assessment in all cases of students making threats to harm others. These threats may be physical, verbal or written, they may be gestures or messages posted on the Internet. The purpose of the Yukon Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol is to determine how best to support students considered at risk so that their behaviour does not become hurtful or destructive to themselves or others.

The complete Yukon Education Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol is available at www.education.gov.yk.ca.

Parents can play an active role in keeping our schools safe by advising the school of any information communicated to them from their children concerning threatening behaviours that their children may have been subjected to, in or out of school, and continuously monitoring their children's use of the Internet and Internet chat lines.

This letter is intended to provide you with notice that all Yukon schools will respond to all threats in a professional manner that provides for safe, healthy, and caring learning environments. Any threats or threat making behaviours will be taken seriously and assessed accordingly.

We are pleased to be able to provide this level of support to our school communities and appreciate having the ongoing support of our community partners.

Regards,
Sharon MacCoubrey