



**Welcome back to the start of another school year!**

**We are off to a very busy and exciting start to the 2023/2024 School Year and look forward to sharing our events with the school community! We are still running as two separate entities for this school year. Milk River Elementary is in the process of modernization and upon completion will formally amalgamate with Erle Rivers High School and will be known as “Milk River Ridge School”. We are looking forward to the many NEW adventures that come our way!**

**The staff have been working hard and are excited to welcome kids back to school. We have a few classroom changes and many new faces throughout the school. We would like to welcome all the NEW staff members and look forward to working with you all!**

**M.R.E.S. Staff 2023/2024-**

**Principal** – Mrs. Rachelle Miller

**Vice-Principal** – Mrs. Kimberly Wright

**Secretary** – Mrs. Sheina Russell

**Secretary** – Mrs. Karmen Douglas

**Custodian** – Ms. Becky Toly

**Mrs. Jessica Thielen -**

**Gr. 1 Homeroom** - (Gr. 1 Lang. Arts, Math, Science, Social, Phys.Ed. & Wellness, Music & Art)

**Mrs. Sharalyn Patching –**

**Gr. 2 Homeroom** - (Gr. 2 Lang. Arts, Math, Social & Science/Gr. 2/3 Phys.Ed. & Wellness)

**Mrs. Kimberly Wright – LST/**

**Gr. 3 Homeroom** – (Gr. 3 Lang. Arts)

**Mr. Tyson Niwa -**

**Gr. 4 Homeroom** - (Gr. 4, 5 & 6 Lang. Arts & Options/  
Gr. 4/5 Phys.Ed. & Wellness)

**Ms. Kayla McPhillips -**

**Gr. 5 Homeroom** – (Gr. 3 – 7 Math & Gr. 5 Science)

**Ms. Emily Kenney –**

**Gr. 6 Homeroom –** (Gr. 3 Options/ Gr. 3/4 Social & Science/  
Gr. 4/5 Drama/ Gr. 5 Social & Gr. 6 Social & Science)

**Mrs. Rachelle Miller –** (Gr. 3 Art & Music)

**Ms. Erynn Gordon – Kindergarten**

Ms. Gordon will continue as our Kindergarten teacher as well as Gr. 1 Phys.Ed. & Wellness.

**Support Staff –**

Mrs. Tracy Bakke	Mrs. Amanda Hood
Ms. Nyowa Leffler	Mrs. Danielle Shampaign
Mrs. Cheryl Stewart	Mrs. Jody Swanson
Ms. Ashley Thomspon	Mrs. Jodi Wills
Ms. Jaycee Wood	

**Family School Liaison Counselor – Kimberley Shakespeare (Monday, Wednesday & alternating Fridays)**

**Mental Health Capacity Building Wellness Coach – Teraneal Ober (Monday & Tuesday)**

**FNMI (First Nation, Metis and Inuit) Liaison Worker – Lisa Sowinski**

**Horizon Early Learning Program** - Our Early Learning program will run one full day on Wednesdays from 8:45 A.M. – 3:15 P.M. We are very excited to have Mrs. Danielle Shampaign take over the instructor position with the assistance of Mrs. Amanda Hood and Ms. Nyowa Leffler. The Early Learning team is looking forward to a great year!

**BELL TIMES:**

**Monday – Thursday**

**Preparation Bell – 8:25 A.M.**  
**Classes Begin – 8:30 A.M.**  
**Lunch Begins – 12:05 P.M.**  
**Classes Begin – 12:35 P.M.**  
**Dismissal – 3:25 P.M.**

**Friday**

**Preparation Bell – 8:25 A.M.**  
**Classes Begin – 8:30 A.M.**  
**Dismissal – 12:05 P.M.**

**Monday–Thursday there will be two recesses (9:54 – 10:06) and (2:09 – 2:21). On Friday, there will be one 15-minute break during the morning (10:12 – 10:23).**

**REMINDERS:**

Outdoor supervision will begin at 8:15 A.M. Students will enter the school at **8:25 A.M.** through their designated doors on the east side of the school (Early Learning, Kindergarten, Grade 1 & 2) and northeast (Grades 3, 4, 5 & 6).

We request that if your child will not be attending school, that you please notify the school each time they will be away. We in turn will attempt to phone you if we find your child absent and have not heard from you. It is much easier however, for you to make one phone call or Dojo message than for us to make many!

A monthly calendar and newsletter will be posted on School Dojo at the beginning of each month. Updates and additional information notices will be posted periodically to account for any changes that you need to be informed of.

Our school is really trying to advocate students choosing healthy lifestyles again this year. Students are encouraged to keep fit by exercising and eating and drinking healthy as well. To help students in this regard, Milk River Elementary will not allow pop or energy drinks (Gatorade, PowerAde, and other similar drinks) at school. Students are encouraged to drink milk, juice, and water while at school. **\*We are requesting that each student please bring a water bottle to fill at the fountain and keep on their desk!**

We encourage students to bring “**Healthy Snacks**” for recess breaks. On **Fridays**, we encourage all students to please pack a **light lunch** or bring a “**Healthy Snack**” as they seem to be quite hungry by recess and bus students do not arrive home until well after the lunch hour!

We will continue with elementary assemblies this year and they will take place at 2:56 P.M. on the first Thursday of each month (birthdays, announcements, Spotlight Students, Reading Awards, Wildcat Willy, etc.). Please make note that our first **school wide** assembly will still take place on Wednesday, August 30 at 2:50 P.M. The first elementary assembly will be on Thursday, September 7 @ 2:56 P.M. and parents are welcome to attend.

**School Web Page** – Our School web page is continually updated with lots of pertinent information. Please log in at [www.horizon.ab.ca](http://www.horizon.ab.ca) and select “Schools” at the top of the page. Scroll down until you find Erle Rivers High School and double click - voila, there we are – have a look around and become comfortable with the tabs (there is lots of information – please take a look)!

**School Bus Zone**—**WARNING**—Buses with RED lights flashing require the motorist to STOP! This means that when the buses are parked in front of the school (loading and unloading) with their lights flashing you **cannot** go by them!!

Please inform your bus driver if your child/children will not be going home on the bus. In addition, if a bus student will be bringing a friend home on the bus, a note from the parent must be given to the bus driver in advance.

## **SCHOOL FEES:**

\*Please note – there will be **NO** school fees collected this year. Early Learning will continue with a **program fee!**

**Student Files – update** – We are continually updating our student files. **If** you have any change of information for your child, (e.g., phone numbers, (including cellular) **medical alert information**, emergency contact changes, etc.) please include this information on the **Student Registration update form that was sent home with your child and return it to the school by *Friday, September 15* (even if you do not have any changes there are yearly updates on the back of the form that need your consent)!**

**\*Please note** – the Student Registration update form has a section for bus billet information. **Please fill out this area if your student rides the bus!** Thank you.

## **Upcoming Events:**

**Tuesday, September 12** – 4:00 P.M. – School Advisory Council Meeting – everyone welcome and encouraged to attend.

### **Thursday, September 14**

- **Welcome Back BBQ** — The “Welcome Back BBQ” will take place from 5:00 - 6:30 P.M. Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend!

### **Friday, September 15**

- **43rd annual Terry Fox run/walk.** Our staff, and students will participate in the Terry Fox run/walk.  
We will have a **“Toonies for Terry”** donation container at the office and encourage everyone to donate for the cause!

### **Friday, September 29**

- Our staff and students will be taking part in the **“National Day for Truth and Reconciliation”**. We encourage staff and students to wear an **“orange shirt”** as we promote awareness and education of the history and legacy of Residential Schools.

### **Thursday, October 19**

- **8:15 A.M. – School Picture Day!**