

the JAMES MOWAT Messenger

October 2021



Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is hard to believe that September is over and it's already October. We've had a mild Fall and with the cooler temperatures please ensure your child(ren) are dressed for the weather as they are outside for gym/recess throughout the day. September was a busy month learning new routines and welcoming new faces to our James Mowat family. We would like to thank all of you for doing your part and using the AHS daily screening checklist prior to sending your child(ren) to school each day. We would also like to thank you for supporting our safe return to school protocols in which we strive to keep our students and staff safe.

Mr. Stacey Boyko, Principal

Mr. John Murphy, Assistant Principal



October at a Glance:

- Oct 4-8 Read-in Week
- Oct 5 World Teachers' Day
- Oct 6 Early Dismissal
- Oct 11 No School - Thanksgiving Day
- Oct 17-23 School Bus Safety Week
- Oct 18 No School - PL Day
- Oct 20 Picture Retakes (Track A Kindergarten only)
- Oct 21 Picture Retakes (whole school)
- Oct 25 Parent Council Meeting (6:00pm)
- Oct 29 Halloween Celebrations (students can come to school dressed in their costumes)
- Oct 31 School Fees Due
- Oct 31 Apple Fundraiser Orders due (Online)

Looking ahead to November:

- Nov 3 Early Dismissal
- Nov 5 Remembrance Day Ceremony
- Nov 5 Pick up date for Apple Fundraiser
- Nov 8-12 No School - Fall Break
- Nov 15 Classes Resume
- Nov 26 Reports Cards Published



Picture Retakes

ICON Photography is scheduled to return to our school on **Thursday, October 21** for retakes. If you would like your child(ren) to have retakes, please return the original order form to the photographer on this day with the retake section filled in. *Please note: Kindergarten Track A students will have retakes on Wednesday, October 20.*

Library News

If you have any library books or textbooks that were not returned to the school in June, please have your child return them to the library as soon as possible. Library fines were added to students' accounts for any outstanding books from the 2020-2021 school year. Any books returned before October 31 will have the fine removed from the students' accounts.

Terry Fox Run

We are very proud to have participated in the Terry Fox Run again this year. Our students did a terrific job raising money for cancer research again this year. **The "Toonies for Terry" campaign raised \$632.15 to send to the Terry Fox Foundation!** Way to go Jays! Thank you everybody for your tremendous efforts and contributions as the Marathon of Hope continues to live on at James Mowat School!



Orange Shirt Day

Thank you to everyone who participated in Orange Shirt Day on Wednesday, September 29. We were very pleased to see so many students and staff wearing orange and engaging in meaningful activities/discussions about the meaning of Orange Shirt day and the introduction of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Boston Pizza School Earnback Program

Did you know? Any receipts collected from any Northern Alberta Boston Pizza location can simply be dropped off at the school office. The school can then submit the receipts and will get a portion of the total back in cash. Please consider supporting our school by bringing in any receipts you or your friends or family may have from Boston Pizza. **We would like to extend a sincere THANK YOU to Boston Pizza for continuing to support our school through this program!**





Important Notice

Student Attendance

If your child is sick or will be away, please report your child(ren)'s absence by using the "Student Attendance" email from the drop down selection on the Contact Us form on our website. Please include the reason for the absence and if your child is ill please indicated the symptoms when informing the office of the absence.

Water Bottle Reminder

Please remember to send a water bottle to school each day with your child(ren). Our water fountains are closed and only available as water bottle filling stations.



Pay School Fees Online

School fee information for the 2021-22 school year is now posted on the PowerSchool Parent Portal. All fees are due within 30 days of being posted. To access your fee information, simply log in to the PowerSchool Parent Portal and go to "Student Fees." There you can view your fees and pay them online using Visa, MasterCard or debit card—when available from your financial institution.

Don't forget to also log in to the PowerSchool Parent Portal regularly throughout the year. Fees are often added to your child's account to cover the cost of various school activities such as field trips, class projects, extracurricular activities fees and more.

If circumstances exist where you are unable to pay your fees, you can apply to have fees waived by submitting an Application for a Waiver of Fees. The application deadline is Dec. 15, 2021.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines, visit www.eips.ca/schools/fees and www.jamesmowat.ca/about/fees. Alternatively, contact Sherri Jensen at James Mowat Elementary at 780-992-1272.

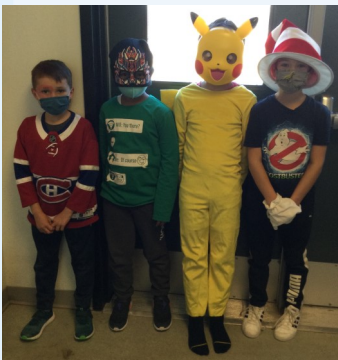




Read In Week 2021

Read In Week returned on October 4. This year's theme: "To Each Their Own Story." Through various activities, students spent the week learning ways to tell their own stories and how stories have the power to teach lessons, broaden perspectives and foster empathy. Some of the activities for Read In Week included:

- Mr. Murphy reading a story to whole school
- Share/Bring favorite book – each students drew a book cover of their favorite book
- Buddy Reading
- Flashlight Reading
- Dress as your favorite book character



Read In Week is a divisionwide initiative held annually to encourage a lifelong love of reading and to enhance literacy awareness among students, staff, families and community members. James Mowat Elementary invites all families to participate in Read In Week by reading yourself, with your child or with someone in the community.

Don't forget to share what you've learned. Throughout the week, you can post your own stories about Read In Week using the hashtag #eipsreads. For more information visit eips.ca and readin.ca

School Bus Safety Week: October 17-23

Schools throughout Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) are celebrating School Bus Safety Week October 17-23. The theme: Bus Rules Rock!, which focuses on the importance of being a responsible rider. Throughout the week, various activities are planned, including information sessions, bus-safety lesson plans and bus-evacuation drills.

As part of School Bus Safety Week, James Mowat Elementary reminds students and families all Division school buses are equipped with a bus-pass scanner, GPS technology, the Child Check-Mate system and surveillance equipment, which allows Student Transportation to better monitor and manage its more than 160 buses. Families and students also have access to the Traversa Ride 360 app, a mobile tool to help determine the location of a bus, projected arrival times and when a child is scanned onto a bus.

For more information visit EIPS Student Transportation or contact 780- 417-8151.





Parent Council Corner...

Next Parent Council Meeting:

Monday, October 25 at 6:00pm (virtual). All parents/guardians are welcome to attend.

Results of Parent Council Election:

Thank you to everyone who attended our first Parent Council meeting of the year. We appreciated the opportunity to connect with everyone as we begin the new school year. As this meeting was the Annual General Meeting (AGM), elections were held for parent council executive positions. Your new parent council executive consists of:

President: Dawn Calder-Kennedy

Vice President: Victoria Curran

Secretary: Sara Secrist

Treasurer: Nicole Wilson

We would also like to thank everyone that volunteered for our subcommittees this year. We truly appreciate your support. A list of all the subcommittees and the contact person can be found on our school website (click on the *Parents* tab and then *Parent Council Meetings & Committees*).

Parent Council Fundraising:

Apple Fundraiser by Sun-Oka Fruit Farms. Information has been sent home with students and is available on our website. Orders are entirely online and due Sunday, October 31st. **THANK YOU to everyone for your ongoing support of Parent Council fundraisers!** These fundraisers allow Parent Council to support the school in many different ways. Most importantly, we are able to provide additional funding to each teacher to support class projects within the classrooms.

Over the years, we have also been able to support many amazing projects/events. Some of these include: Bringing in 3rd Street Beat for a full week of Hip Hop dance training (a highlight of the year for many of our students), agenda bags for division 1 students, \$500 a year to the new book purchase plan, as well as providing free hot dog lunches for all of our students, staff and volunteers during Fun in the Sun. Without fundraising support from our families, these activities would not be possible.

Thank You for your Support!!



Parent Council Fundraising:

“Fall” into Fundraising

James Mowat Parent Council is running an exciting new fundraiser this fall; premium farm-fresh apples, directly from the Okanagan! Sun-Oka Fruit Farms has won many awards for their apples. In fact, they were judged to be the best apples in Canada for eight consecutive years.



These apples will be fresher, tastier, and crunchier than the ones you buy in our local stores. Plus, because you'll be buying directly from the farm, you'll also be paying less than the regular grocery store prices.

Most importantly, over 35% of each purchase goes towards our school's fundraising effort. In the past, fundraising has paid for new musical instruments, school-wide presentations, rewards for patrollers, classroom supports, and more!

Each purchase will help enhance and enrich our kids' learning environment, so sinking your teeth into those delicious apples will satisfy your soul as well as your tastebuds. (And rumour has it, it may even keep the doctor away!)

Use the link below to create your own account that will be attached to our school account. After that, you will get your own link that you can send to friends and family! Orders are entirely online and due on October 31st.

<https://fundraising.sunokafruit.com/s/jamesmowatparentcouncil>



Your Future in MIND ●

Coordinated Specialized Services

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Supports for Students department is dedicated to helping every one of our learners experience success. Our multidisciplinary team helps identify, develop and share learning strategies and provide support in consultation with classroom staff. This team approach brings together diverse supports for both individual students and for the entire class. It also builds the capacity of our teachers to create the best learning environment possible for students. We offer assistance ranging from general classroom consultation and specialized assessments to parent sessions and in-services.

What kind of services are available?

EIPS employs a team of speech/language pathologists, occupational therapists and consultants to provide services in classrooms. Their work involves meeting with principals, teachers and parents to understand how best to meet the needs of students. In addition, EIPS works with outside agencies and private contractors to provide additional services on an as needed basis.

Any one of these professionals may provide general consultation to help the teacher develop student's skills, confidence and overall achievement. When this type of consultation is offered to a teacher, parental consent *is not* required.

Speech-Language Pathology and/or Occupational Therapy Observations

and Screening may occur throughout the school year. Through observation and discussion, the classroom team may determine that the student may benefit from more specific assessment or intervention. Parental consent for screening is *not* required. If there are any concerns, they will be discussed with you, and if intervention or assessment is recommended, your consent as a parent *is* required.

Assessment involves offering support to a child on a one-to-one basis and using informal assessment or a standardized test to understand the child's performance or ability.

Intervention occurs when the school decides that more targeted strategies would be beneficial for the student's success.

Please contact your child's school if you have questions or concerns.



Your Future in MIND

Celebrating World Teachers' Day: October 5

October 5 is World Teachers' Day! Launched in 1994 by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Teachers' Day is celebrated annually around the world as a way to recognize teachers and the integral role they play in providing quality education to students. On October 5, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) encourages all of its students, parents and community members to show their appreciation for their teachers and the positive impact they make on our lives.

EIPS extends its heartfelt thank you to all Division teachers for their dedication, hard work and commitment in guiding and educating students through their kindergarten to Grade 12 years.

Municipal Election 2021: Vote October 18

The next municipal election, which includes the election of local school board trustees, takes place on Monday, Oct. 18, 2021. It's your opportunity to get involved in public education by casting your vote for a public school trustee.

[EIPS Trustee Election information](#)

[EIPS Trustee Candidate List](#)

Electors can cast their votes for municipal candidates—mayors, reeves, councillors, as applicable—and school board trustee candidates—public or separate. Voting stations are typically open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Each municipality conducts the election for its residents and establishes formal voting station hours and procedures.

To learn more about election day procedures in your area, including opportunities for advance voting and voting by special ballot, visit:

[County of Minburn](#)

[Fort Saskatchewan](#)

[Lamont County](#)

[Strathcona County](#)

[Town of Bruderheim](#)

[Town of Lamont](#)

[Town of Mundare](#)

[Town of Vegreville](#)

[Village of Andrew](#)

[Village of Chipman](#)

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. The guide also offers useful tools and resources schools and families can use to enhance face-to-face meetings, email communication and various social media efforts.

[Communication Protocol for Schools](#)