

the JAMES MOWAT Messenger

October 2023



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy Fall! We've had a great start to the school year with lots of learning and activities such as Read In week, Terry Fox Run, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day.

Our bell schedule has changed this year and can be found on our [website](#).

We appreciate our many volunteers who help out at fieldtrips and in the classroom with various activities. If you volunteer you will need to complete the [Volunteer Declaration form](#). This needs to be completed each year.

Please check our [website](#) regularly to keep up to date. On the website you can report your child's absence and access common links (i.e. Volunteer Declaration Form, Munch a Lunch, and PowerSchool Parent Portal) through the 'Quick Links'.

Mr. Stacey Boyko, Principal
Mrs. Amaya Ortigosa, Assistant Principal

October at a Glance:

Oct 2-6	Read In Week
Oct 4	Early dismissal
Oct 5	World Teachers' Day
Oct 6	No School - Professional Learning Day
Oct 9	No School - Thanksgiving Day
Oct 15-21	School Bus Safety Week
Oct 16	Hot Lunch Order Due
Oct 24	Photo Retakes (K-6)
Oct 25	Photo Retakes (K-Track A)
Oct 25	Hot Lunch (Panago Pizza)
Oct 31	Halloween - students dress up in the afternoon only
Oct 31	School Fees Due

Looking ahead to November:

Nov 1	Early Dismissal
Nov 3	Remembrance Day Assembly (10:30am)
Nov 6-10	No School - Fall Break
Nov 28	Earth Rangers Assembly



JAMES MOWAT
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Terry Fox Run

Our students participated in the Terry Fox Run on September 22nd. Thank you to everyone for bringing in donations for "Toonies for Terry". We raised \$606.05 for the Terry Fox Foundation! Way to go Blue Jays!

Picture Retakes

Lifetouch Photography will be at the school on October 24 and October 25 (Kindergarten Track A only) for retakes. If you would like your child(ren) to have retakes, please let your child's teacher know prior to the day.

Halloween



We will be celebrating Halloween at James Mowat in the afternoon of October 31st. Students are welcome to bring their costumes and dress up for the afternoon. Please do not send any costume weapons, and we strongly caution against sending any costume props as they can get lost, forgotten, or broken.

Pay School Fees Online!

School fee information for the 2023-24 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.

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're unable to pay your fees, you can apply to have certain [fees waived](#) by submitting an [Application for a Waiver of Fees](#). The application deadline is Dec. 15, 2023.

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.



Scholastic Book Fair

The Fall Scholastic Book Fair will run from October 23-27. The Book Fair is a fundraiser for the library and all purchases made will give a percentage of the total sales in credits/money for the library to spend to get some great new books for all grades to enjoy!



Swimming

Please note James Mowat Elementary will not be doing swimming lessons this year.

Respiratory Illness Guidance

The health and safety of staff, students and visitors is a top priority. Continue to reinforce the following hygiene habits to protect staff and students from spreading respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19.

- Stay home if you're feeling sick.
- Wash or sanitize your hands often.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces regularly.
- Wear a mask if you get sick or develop symptoms while at school or work.

As per Alberta Health [guidelines](#), staff, students, contractors and visitors who have symptoms of respiratory illness or test positive for COVID, should stay home until:

- symptoms have improved,
- they feel well enough to resume normal activities, and
- they have been fever-free for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medications.

For anyone who has a respiratory illness or has tested positive for COVID, it is recommended that they wear a mask for a total of 10 days from the onset of symptoms—even if the symptoms have resolved or improved—when in indoor settings with other individuals.



Music Times!

Welcome back to music! It's that time of the year when students begin preparing for our Remembrance Day Ceremony. Our Grade 3 students are singing a beautiful song for our Remembrance Day Ceremony, as well, the handchime ensemble is working hard at playing Amazing Grace on the chimes.

Remembrance Day

Our Remembrance Day Ceremony is on Friday November 3rd, starting at 10:30am in the school gym. All are welcome to attend. You will hear the Grade 3 students and the grade 5-6 handchime ensemble perform, as well as Constable McLeod who will play the bagpipe for our ceremony. We also hope to have a guest speaker from the Canadian Armed Forces attending. Our colour guard laying the poppies is made up of two students from each class. Please join us in remembering those who fought for our freedom.



Christmas

This year we will not be having a Christmas Concert, rather it's our Family Fun Night. This event will be held on Thursday December 14th from 5:30-7:00pm inside James Mowat School. More details about this event will be put in our November newsletter

FNMI Corner

Land and People Acknowledgment

Elk Island Public Schools reside in Treaty 6 territory, the traditional homeland, meeting grounds, gathering place, and travelling route to the Cree, Nakota Sioux, Dene, Salteaux, Blackfoot, and Métis. At James Mowat we show respect for the land, history, and culture of the First Peoples whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries by reading the Land and People Acknowledgement each Friday over the announcements. The Land and Peoples Acknowledgement is one way we honour the heritage and gifts of our ancestors, and a reminder of our commitment to moving forward toward reconciliation. Watch this [video](#) to see some personal accounts for the importance of the Land and People Acknowledgement.



Read In Week 2023 - October 2-6.

Read In Week returned on October 2. This year's theme: "Read In Reimagined." Through various activities, students spent the week learning how to reimagine reading—it's more than just story books—reading happens everywhere and is for everyone, no matter your age. Some of the activities planned for Read In Week included: buddy reading, reading bingo cards, and guest readers.

Read In Week is a division wide 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.



Nut Aware School



James Mowat is a Nut Aware School. Several students and staff at the school suffer from allergies. The most prominent allergy is one to nuts and nut products. Elk Island Public Schools has a "Nut Aware" strategy. **Please do not send any nuts or nut products to school.** Thank You for your cooperation.

Report Cards and Parent Teacher Interviews

Report cards will be published on December 1. Parents can view their child's report card by logging into their PowerSchool Parent Portal. Parent teacher interviews will be held on December 6 and December 7. Detailed information will be available in the November newsletter on booking your time for parent-teacher interviews.



Parent Council/Parent Advisory Association Corner...

Next Parent Council/Parent Advisory Association Meetings:

October 16 at 6:00pm (library). All parents/guardians are welcome to attend.

Parent Council/Parent Advisory Association Minutes:

[JMSPAA & PC Meeting Minutes - September 2023](#)

Parent Advisory Association Fundraising:

Hot Lunch

The Parent Advisory Association will once again be offering the Hot Lunch Program at James Mowat this school year!



Order online through Munch a Lunch at <https://munchalunch.com/school/jamesmowat>

October Hot Lunch dates:

October 25 (Panago Pizza) - order deadline October 16th

Upcoming Hot Lunch dates:

November 3 (The Canadian Brewhouse)

November 15 (Subway)

Any questions or feedback, please email jamesmowatlunch@gmail.com

Art Fundraiser

Students are creating artwork that will then be used to create items (e.g., cards, ornaments etc.) that parents can purchase online November 3 to 12, 2023. Parents will be provided with a code to purchase items with their child's art only. You are able to share your child specific code with family and friends so that they can purchase items too. Watch for details on how to order coming home in late October/early November.

Any questions or feedback, please email jamesmowatpaa@gmail.com



Your Future in MIND

From Alexa to Algorithms: Parenting in the era of AI

Join the University of Alberta and Amii for an engaging 45-minute online webinar designed to boost AI literacy for parents of kids of all ages, from kindergarten to graduate students. The session will focus on global citizenship, online safety, and education and career guidance.

Don't miss this fun and informative opportunity to empower your parenting in the age of AI, ensuring your kids thrive in tomorrow's tech-driven world.

Event Details:

Date: Nov. 2, 2023 Time: 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 p.m.

Location: Virtual [REGISTER NOW](#)

School Bus Safety Week: October 15-21



Schools throughout Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) are celebrating School Bus Safety Week October 15-21. The theme: 'Stand Back From Yellow and Black,' which focuses on proper school bus safety behaviour. 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 Tyler Drive tablet, 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 175 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.

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, caregivers 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.



Your Future in MIND

Enhancing literacy and numeracy

As part of Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) ongoing efforts to enhance the literacy and numeracy of students in all grade levels, the Division is once again administering the Star Early Literacy, Star Reading and Star Math assessment tools in the 2023-24 school year. These tools focus on literacy and numeracy, are digitally based and offer an opportunity for students to demonstrate their learning. The goal: To provide timely information to teachers, help enhance classroom instruction and identify student learning needs.

Three times a year, EIPS students in Grade 1 complete the Star Early Literacy assessment and students in grades 2-12 complete the Star Reading assessment. Both assessments are administered electronically and take about 20 minutes. Students in grades 2 through 10 also complete the Star Math, a mathematic screening tool. It, too, is administered electronically and takes about 30 minutes for students to complete. The results offer teachers a clearer picture of a student's learning needs and help determine if subsequent instructional planning is required. NOTE: Semester students complete the Star Math twice, at the start and end of the course.

In addition to the Star assessments, Alberta Education now mandates all students in grades 1-3 complete additional literacy and numeracy assessments. Students in Grade 2 and Grade 3 complete these provincial assessments in September. Grade 1 students will complete the assessments in January 2023.

The scores of the assessments aren't used toward a student's grade, and there is no need to study ahead of time. The tools simply provide the teacher with information to better understand where each student is in terms of reading comprehension and mathematic ability. If, after analyzing the results, it's determined a student can benefit from extra support, the teacher will contact the family to discuss possible support strategies.

For more information about the Division's Star and MIPI assessment tools, contact EIPS Supports for Students at 780-464-3477.

Caregiver Education Sessions

Alberta Health Services hosts a variety of virtual caregiver information sessions throughout the year focused on ways to support students' mental health. The sessions are free and geared toward parents, caregivers, teachers and community members who want to learn more about challenges impacting children and adolescents. Session topics include anxiety, ADHD, depression, self-harm, technology, teens and teaching leadership skills, communication, resiliency and more.

Visit [Caregiver Education](#) to see the monthly caregiver sessions.

FOR YOUTH AGES 11-17

PLEASE REGISTER AND LET US
KNOW WHAT SUBJECT YOU NEED
HOMEWORK HELP IN.



Need Homework Help?

THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB IS
OFFERING FREE DROP-IN
HOMEWORK HELP ON
TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS
FROM 3 PM-6 PM.





Hi, my name is Kristi Wahl and I am the Youth and Family Coordinator with the City of Fort Saskatchewan FCSS. What is FCSS? It stands for Family and Community Support Services and that is what we are, we are there to help support, lift up and provide navigation to those who need it. My role specifically is to help support and provide resources/trainings/workshops and presentations to schools and local organizations. I also run the Youth Advisory Committee and Youth Council.

I am one very small part of FCSS; Natasha Magas is the Youth Outreach Worker and her role is to work with children, youth and families aged 6-18 with short term goal orientated support that is aimed at building on youth and families' strengths and abilities. This program can help with emotional, family, school based, and social concerns in a variety of settings such as school, home, or office visits.

Krista Allan is the Community Development Coordinator and her role is to help residents and organizations come together to achieve their goals and to support community led projects. She is responsible for things like Poverty Reduction Initiatives, Family Violence Prevention, and neighbourhood based programs such as Block Parties, the Good Neighbour Program and Shape Your Community grant.

Amber Grant is the Diversity, Inclusion and Community Development Coordinator. This role focuses on supporting a welcoming and diverse community where all members feel able to actively participate in the economic, social, and cultural aspects of the community without encountering barriers. It oversees the City's Diversity and Inclusion action plan, advocates for accessible and equitable programs and services, and develops policy and programming that represents the City's commitment to Diversity and Inclusion.

Toni VanVelzen is our Seniors Coordinator and she supports seniors and families in navigating the senior world. She is an amazing advocate and knows the in's and out's of Senior supports.

Michelle Hoy is the Home Support Coordinator; Home Support provides practical, in-home support services to residents of Fort Saskatchewan. Home Support enables individuals to retain and/or improve their quality of life by enhancing independent living, reducing isolation and promoting a safe and quality home life.

The FCSS Counselling Program is an affordable, professional service designated to address short term counselling needs and focuses on resolving client concerns. Our counsellor Valerie Jansen-Lakusta (M.Ed.) and uses solution focused, cognitive behavioural approaches to assist clients in meeting their counselling goals.

For any questions or to book service please contact FCSS via email FCSSinfo@fortsask.ca or call 780-992-6267.

Family and Community Support Services

Fall 2023 Workshops and Trainings

September

Credit Counselling:
Food and Finance
September 20th
7:00-8:00pm
Virtual

October

Credit Counselling:
Christmas without Credit

October 11th
7:00-8:00pm
Virtual

SAFFRON presents
Cyberworld

October 17th
6:30 - 8:30pm
DCC, Scotia Bank Rm



Eating Healthy on a Budget with Kids

October 18th
6:30-8:00pm
Fort Heritage
Precinct, Program
Space

Imagine Institute
Presents Children, Teens and Technology

October 24th
6:00-8:00pm
DCC, Scotia Bank Rm
Drug Awareness for Caregivers

October 25th
7:00-8:00pm
Fort Heritage
Precinct, Program
Space

November

Credit Counselling:
75 Ways to Save

November 15th
7:00-8:00pm
Virtual

Imagine Institute
Presents Guiding Behaviours through a Trauma-Informed Approach

November 22nd
1:00-3:00pm
DCC, Scotia Bank Rm

Imagine Institute
Presents An Introduction to Social-Emotional Development

November 29th
6:30-8:30pm
Fort Heritage Precinct,
Program Space

To Register: FortSask.ca/Workshops

Kokum's Bannock & Tea

"WORKING TRADITIONALLY ON
CHILD DEVELOPMENT"

Running Thursdays
Oct 26th - Nov 23rd, 2023
10:00am - 12:00pm



Topics Include:

Medicine Wheel Teachings, Tipi Teachings, Traditional Roles,
and knowledge sharing from our Elders

Open to community members. First 15
registrants. Child care available.

Call or text Tanya to register: 587.936.0348

LOCATION:

Pembina Place, 4944 53 St. Redwater, AB.



Families First Society
FORT SASKATCHEWAN