

the JAMES MOWAT Messenger

September 2020



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to a new school year. We have missed our students. We hope everyone had a safe and relaxing summer. We welcome all of our new and returning students to James Mowat School. We are looking forward to having a great year.

The first couple weeks of school have been busy learning new routines and getting back to classroom learning. We are pleased to welcome Mrs. Arzate (Counsellor) to our staff this year. We are also pleased to welcome back Miss Griffiths (Grade 1) and Mrs. Laurent (Kindergarten).

If you have not already done so, please remember to log in to your PowerSchool Parent Portal and complete the Student Correction and Verification Form. It is very important for the office to have updated contact information for each student.

In addition, if your child has allergies or a medical condition which staff should be aware of, please contact the office at 780-992-1272 to provide the school with your child's updated medical information. If applicable, you will be asked to fill out additional medical forms (Medication Management, Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan (for students with life-threatening allergy and/or carry an EpiPen), Asthma Emergency Plan, etc.).

Our first Parent Council meeting will be held on Monday, September 21 at 6:30pm via Google Meet. All parents/guardians are welcome to attend. We always appreciate your feedback and suggestions as we work together for your children. The Google Meet link will be emailed to all families the day of the meeting.

We are committed to providing outstanding programming for all students.

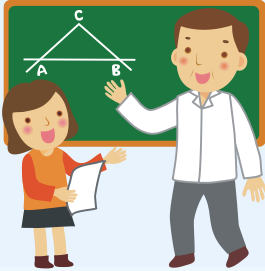
Mr. Stacey Boyko
Principal

Mr. John Murphy
Assistant Principal



JAMES MOWAT
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

9625 - 82 Street, Fort Saskatchewan, AB T8L3T6
Phone: 780 992 1272 Fax: 780 992 1267
principal.jmw@ei.educ.ab.ca www.jamesmowat.ca



Meet the Staff

Unfortunately, we are unable to host our regular "Meet the Staff" event. Teachers will communicate with parents directly regarding Meet the Teacher opportunities.

School Photos

ICON Photography out of Sherwood Park completed individual student photos on

September 9 & 10.



Visit iconexp.com to order your child's picture. Each student was provided with an online proof code to view and order pictures.

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 have been added to students' accounts for any outstanding books from the 2019-2020 school year. Any books returned before October 31 will have the fine removed from the students' accounts.



Update Your PowerSchool Information

The "Correction and Verification Form" is now available online through your [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). Families can use the form to access and update their child's information—including address, parent and guardian information, emergency contacts and any medical information. Reviewing and updating the form ensures the school has the most up-to-date information regarding your child. In particular, please pay close attention to all phone numbers, email addresses and emergency contact information. We will undoubtedly continue to have important information to communicate with families throughout this school year—whether your child is registered in in-school or out-of-school learning—and we want to ensure you receive this information. If you haven't already done so, we ask all James Mowat School families to review their child's PowerSchool information by **Sept. 20, 2020**.

For more information about the PowerSchool Correction and Verification Form, contact the school directly.

Returning to School Following an Illness

Before returning to school, parents/guardians must contact the school to notify the office of the student's return date. Thank you. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school office at 780-992-1272. **For additional information and guidance regarding student illness, please see the following Government of Alberta Publication:**

COVID-19 information : Student illness - if a student has COVID-19 symptoms



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 360 and Math Intervention/Programming Instrument (MIPI) assessment tools for all in-school learners in the 2020-21 school year. The 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 ensure student learning needs are identified.

At three points throughout the year, EIPS in-school students in grades 1 through 12 will complete the STAR 360 assessment, which evaluates reading comprehension. The assessment takes approximately 20 minutes and is administered on a digital device. At least once throughout the year, in-school students in grades 2 through 10 will complete the MIPI assessment, which is a mathematic screening tool used to inform teachers about a student's math skills. For students in grades 7 through 10, the MIPI takes approximately 50 minutes, and for students in grades 2 through 6 it takes approximately 20 minutes. The results offer the teacher a clearer picture of a student's learning needs and help determine if subsequent instructional planning is required.

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 360 and MIPI assessment tools, contact EIPS Supports for Students at 780-464-3477.

Orange Shirt Day—Wednesday, September 30

Our school will once again be participating in the annual Orange Shirt Day on September 30th. Orange Shirt Day "opens the door to global conversation on all aspects of Residential Schools. It is an opportunity to create meaningful discussion about the effects of Residential Schools and the legacy they have left behind." We invite all staff and students to wear an orange shirt on September 30th to show their support.





Sync the School Calendar to Your Calendar

Did you know you can sync the school calendar to your own calendar? You can. Simply visit <http://jamesmowat.ca/about/calendar> and click on one of the following calendar options you want to subscribe to:

- Add to Google Calendar: Google Calendar
- Subscribe to Calendar: Outlook
- Download iCal: Apple calendar

NOTE: Options are located above the calendar.

Once you click on the calendar option you want to subscribe to, follow the instructions. Within seconds, your calendar will contain all of James Mowat School's important dates including holidays, school-closures days, planned activities, events and more.



Terry Fox Run and "Toonies for Terry"

Our school participated in the Terry Fox Run again this year. While we were unable to hold a school-wide run, classes headed outside on September 17 & 18 to complete the run during their gym classes. We would like to thank everyone for donating their "Toonies for Terry" which will be donated to the Terry Fox Foundation. We appreciate your generosity and will provide an update on the total amount collected next week.

Monthly School Newsletters

Newsletters are available on the school website the Friday following early dismissal each month. James Mowat School also uses SchoolMessenger to notify parents by email/phone when the newsletter is posted each month. Login to your PowerSchool Parent Portal account at any time to update your email notification preferences.

James Mowat School is on Facebook and Twitter



We also use Facebook as a tool to help keep parents informed about our school events. Facebook updates are also linked to our school twitter account. Like us on Facebook to keep up to date on the latest events and activities happening at the school.

Search for James Mowat Elementary on Facebook ,and
JMW_Elementary for Twitter





LEARN ALBERTA

LearnAlberta.ca is a website that supports lifelong learning by providing quality online resources to the Kindergarten to Grade 12 community in Alberta. Students, teachers, and parents can use the site to find multimedia learning resources that are correlated to the Alberta programs of study. Please contact the school office to obtain the UserID and Password to access this site.

Lates and Absences

Parents, please remember to call the school if your child is going to be away or is coming late. Please phone the school at **780-992-1272**. If there is no answer, leave a message with your child's name, class and reason for the absence.

Our school website at **www.jamesmowat.ca** is equipped with a Student Attendance button on the *right side* of the home page. Simply click on the blue **Student Attendance** button, select **Student Attendance** from the drop down menu of our Contact Section and fill in your information. Your child's absence will be sent directly to the school office once you hit **Submit**.

Student Attendance

Is your child sick? Are you going on vacation? Click here to report your child's absence from school.

Please Note: All absence notifications should be sent to the Student Attendance email address rather than emailing your child's teacher directly. Thank You.

Tools for School Supplies Available for Students

Do you need help to give your children the basic tools they need to succeed in school? *Tools for School* is a United Way initiative providing families who may have limited resources with essential school supplies to help students achieve success in their studies. A number of backpacks filled with supplies are at our school for students who might need support this year. Contact the James Mowat School office at 780-992-1272 to request a backpack.



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 support and cooperation as we strive
to keep all of our children safe.*



Tidbits . . .

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

As you drop off and pick up your children we would appreciate if you would continue to practice physical distancing and/or wearing a mask.

PARKING LOOP

EIPS made a change this year that will impact where students have traditionally been dropped off for and picked up from school. The change comes as a result of an increase in the number of buses transporting students. For the safety of those students who arrive and depart via both EIPS Student Transportation and local child care provider buses, the drop-off loop will not be accessible to parent traffic from 8 a.m. to 8:45 a.m., and 2 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. During those times, we ask that parents drop off and pick up students from 82 Street. Thank you.

EARLY ARRIVALS Supervision is provided at the school beginning at 8:15am in the morning.

Please do not drop off your children before this time.

DOGS We would ask you not to bring your dogs onto the school grounds when dropping off children in the mornings, at recess times, or when picking children up after school. Some children are very nervous and anxious around dogs and we want all the children to feel safe.

EARLY DISMISSALS A reminder that students will be dismissed early the first Wednesday of each month because of the monthly staff meeting. Classes will be dismissed at 2:05 p.m.

Quick Facts: Video Surveillance

Did you know each EIPS bus is equipped with video surveillance? Video surveillance and equipment helps:

- ensure the safety of all students, drivers and property; and
- discourage destructive acts.

On a regular basis, EIPS Student Transportation reviews the video recordings, in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIP). The recordings assist the department with monitoring student and driver conduct and may be used as evidence in a disciplinary matter.

For more information about the collection, use and disclosure of personal information, contact the EIPS FOIP co-ordinator at 780-464-3477.



Your Future in **MIND**



Parent Council Corner...

PARENT COUNCIL MEETING:

The first meeting is our Annual General Meeting on Monday, September 21, 2020, at 6:30pm. As indicated in the EIPS School Re-Entry Planning document, school council meetings will be taking place remotely this year through videoconferencing—Zoom or Google Meet. The link for each meeting will be forwarded to all families in advance using School Messenger. Everyone is welcome to join us. Meetings are held the third Monday of each month (excluding December and June). This is an excellent way to connect with the school and stay informed.

There are executive positions available for the upcoming school year. There are 8 meetings (held monthly starting in September). If you have any questions about the executive positions, or are interested in volunteering, please contact the parent council at jamesmowatpaa@gmail.com.

We look forward to connecting with you at the upcoming meeting.

PARENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

If you are unable to attend the Parent Council meetings, but would like to receive copies of the meeting minutes, please email jamesmowatpaa@gmail.com to be added to the email distribution list.

Parent Council is on Facebook!

To stay informed about the Parent Council's activities, please "like" the Facebook page "James Mowat Parent Council." <https://www.facebook.com/jamesmowatpaa/>

FULL TIME & SUBSTITUTE NOON HOUR SUPERVISORS NEEDED

Are You Interested in Earning \$19.91/day?



Are you a stay at home parent/guardian or retired?

WE ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR
FULL TIME & SUBSTITUTE
NOON HOUR SUPERVISORS



Time of shift would be 11:20am—12:20pm (approx.)

If you are interested please contact the school office at (780) 992-1272.



School Fee Information 2020-21 (School Messenger message emailed to parents Sept 14)

Elk Island Public Schools is modifying the way it charges school fees for the 2020-21 year to accommodate:

- the switch from out-of-school learning to in-school learning;
- the change of some schools to a quarterly semester system; and
- a reduction to the number and amount of refunds should schools close again.

School fee information for the 2020-21 school year is expected to be posted by late September—depending on your school's schedule. All fees are due within 14 days of being posted. Any credits on account are automatically applied and reduces the fee(s) owing. To access your fee and credit information, log in to the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) and go to "Student Fees." There you can view your fees and pay online using Visa, MasterCard or INTERAC Online—when available from your financial institution.

When you log on, you'll notice the fee schedule is different from the previous year. Instead of a fee based on the entire year, fees are charged at the beginning of each of the four quarters listed below. At the start of each quarter, you'll also receive an e-mail notification from your school, letting you know fees are posted to the PowerSchool Parent Portal. Fees for kits or equipment kept by the student are charged in full at the start of the course.

Sept. 1, 2020 – same entry date for all schools

Nov. 16, 2020 – same entry date for all schools

Feb. 1, 2021 – entry date for elementary and junior high is January 6

Apr 21, 2021 – entry date for elementary and junior high is April 6

NOTE: Fees apply to in-school students only.

SCHOOL FEE BREAKDOWN:

noon-hour supervision:

An annual fee split into four equal parts.

Students entering on the specified entry dates will have the noon supervision fee adjusted accordingly—at the next quarter billing.

field trips and extracurricular fees—for example, sports:

Fees are charged only when approved to occur. As of September 1, all such activities are suspended.

fee payment deadlines:

Fees are due each quarter, 14 days after being posted. Fees are only applicable to students attending in-school classes.

fee credits and refunds:

If your student is registered for in-school learning at the start of each quarter, you will be assessed all applicable fees for that quarter.

NOTE: Noon supervision and course fees require planning and resources to operate. Costs are difficult to change to fluxes in student numbers. As such, refunds will not be issued after 14 days of attending an in-school class during an applicable quarter-semester—given the personal decision to switch from in-school to out-of-school learning. Should the government make the decision to change to Scenario 2, partial return to school, or Scenario 3, the suspension of in-school classes, fees will be adjusted appropriately.

If circumstances exist where you can't pay your fees, you can apply to have fees waived by submitting an Application for a Waiver of Fees. The deadline for receipt of your application is Dec. 15, 2020, or if new to EIPS, the latter of Dec. 15, 2020, or 45 days after registration. An extension will be granted for students transitioning from the out-of-school learning program to in-school classes. For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines, visit www.eips.ca/schools/fees.



EIPS DIVISION CALENDAR 2020-21

Regular School Day
 Early Dismissal for Students
 ☆ First Instructional Day (Quadmaster 1, 2, 3 and 4)

No School – Statutory Holiday
 No School for All Students and Staff
 No School for Students – Professional Learning/Operational Day

Important Dates

- Aug 28** Professional Learning Day
- Aug 31** Operational Day
- Sept 1** Classes Begin
- Sept 7** Labour Day – Stat.
- Oct 9** Professional Learning Day
- Oct 12** Thanksgiving Day – Stat.
- Nov 9 - 13** November Break
- Nov 11** Remembrance Day – Stat.
- Nov 13** Day-in-Lieu: Parent Teacher Interviews
- Nov 16** Second Quadmaster Begins
- Dec 23 - Jan 5** Christmas Break
- Dec 23** Day-in-Lieu: Boxing Day
- Dec 24** Christmas Floater Day – Holiday
- Dec 25** Christmas Day – Stat.
- Jan 1** New Year's Day – Stat.
- Jan 6** Classes Resume for Students
- Jan 29** Professional Learning Day
- Feb 1** Third Quadmaster Begins
- Feb 4 & 5** North Central Teachers' Convention
- Feb 15** Family Day – Stat.
- Mar 5** Professional Learning Day
- Mar 26** Day-in-Lieu: Parent Teacher Interviews
- Mar 29 - Apr 2** Spring Break
- Apr 2** Good Friday – Stat.
- Apr 5** Easter Monday – Holiday
- Apr 6** Classes Resume
- Apr 21** Fourth Quadmaster Begins
- May 7** Professional Learning Day
- May 21** School Closure Day
- May 24** Victoria Day – Stat.
- June 21** National Indigenous Peoples Day – no exams
- June 25** Last Instructional Day
- June 28** Last Operational Day

AUGUST 2020

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EIPS KINDERGARTEN CALENDAR 2020-21

Regular School Day

Early Dismissal for Students

No School for Students

- Professional Learning/Operational Day

No School - Statutory Holiday

No School for All Students and Staff

SCHEDULE A:
Mondays, Wednesdays
and select Fridays

SCHEDULE B:
Tuesdays, Thursdays
and select Fridays

Important Dates

- Aug 28** Professional Learning Day
- Aug 31** Operational Day
- Sept 1** Classes Begin
- Sept 7** Labour Day – Stat.
- Oct 9** Professional Learning Day
- Oct 12** Thanksgiving Day – Stat.
- Nov 9 - 13** November Break
- Nov 11** Remembrance Day – Stat.
- Nov 13** Day-in-Lieu: Parent Teacher Interviews
- Dec 23 - Jan 5** Christmas Break
- Dec 23** Day-in-Lieu: Boxing Day
- Dec 24** Christmas Floater Day – Holiday
- Dec 25** Christmas Day – Stat.
- Jan 1** New Year's Day – Stat.
- Jan 6** Classes Resume for Students
- Jan 29** Professional Learning Day
- Feb 1** Second Semester Begins
- Feb 4 & 5** North Central Teachers' Convention
- Feb 15** Family Day – Stat.
- Mar 5** Professional Learning Day
- Mar 26** Day-in-Lieu: Parent Teacher Interviews
- Mar 29 - Apr 2** Spring Break
- Apr 2** Good Friday – Stat.
- Apr 5** Easter Monday – Holiday
- Apr 6** Classes Resume
- May 7** Professional Learning Day
- May 21** School Closure Day
- May 24** Victoria Day – Stat.
- June 21** National Indigenous Peoples Day – no exams
- June 24** Last Instructional Day
- June 28** Last Operational Day

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MARCH 2021

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