

the JAMES MOWAT Messenger

October 2020



Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is hard to believe that September is over and we are finished the first month and a half of school. We would like to thank all of you for your work on supporting our safe return to school protocols. Our school year is off to a great start with lots of fantastic learning and activities such as Read in Week, Terry Fox Run, and Orange Shirt Day. It is wonderful to see all of the great things happening at James Mowat so far this year. Students and staff are not only working hard and learning, but they are having fun as well.

School Council Meetings - Our first Parent Council meeting was held on September 21. Thank you to all the parents who were able to join us. We always appreciate your feedback and suggestions as we work together for your children. ***Our next virtual meeting will be Monday, October 19 at 6:30 p.m.*** We look forward to connecting with you!

Mr. Stacey Boyko
Principal

Mr. John Murphy
Assistant Principal

Here's what's happening in October:

Oct 5	World Teachers' Day
Oct 5-9	Read In Week
Oct 9	No School - Professional Learning Day
Oct 12	No School - Thanksgiving Day
Oct 14	School Fees Due (Quarter 1)
Oct 19	Parent Council Meeting (6:30pm, virtual)
Oct 21	Retakes - School Photos (Kindergarten Track A - Grade 6)
Oct 22	Retakes - School Photos (Kindergarten Track B)
Oct 30	Halloween Celebrations (students can come to school dressed in their costume, no Halloween masks)

Looking ahead to November:

Nov 4	Early Dismissal
Nov 6	Remembrance Day
Nov 7-15	Fall Break (No School)
Nov 16	Classes Resume
	Parent Council Meeting (6:30pm ,virtual)
Nov 24	Report Cards Published
Nov 24-26	Parent Teacher Interviews (3:30-5:30pm)



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

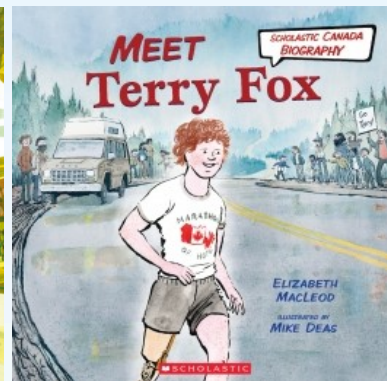


Terry Fox Run - September 17-18



On the 40th anniversary of the Terry Fox Run, we are proud to say the Marathon of Hope continues to live on at James Mowat School. Although we were not able to complete our traditional schoolwide Terry Fox Run this year, we were extremely proud of all of our classes for participating and completing the Terry Fox Run independently during gym times on September 17 & 18. While we may not have completed the run as a group, all of our staff and students worked together to once again raise money for cancer research. **Our “Toonies for Terry” campaign**

raised \$424.65 to send directly to the Terry Fox Foundation. THANK YOU to everyone for your donation. In the coming weeks, we hope many of our classes are able to enjoy two new Terry Fox picture books that were recently added to our library collection: *Terry Fox and Me* by Mary Beth Leatherdale and Milan Pavlović, and *Meet Terry Fox* by Elizabeth MacLeod.



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 2019-2020 school year. Any books returned before October 31 will have the fine removed from the students' accounts. Thank you.

Orange Shirt Day

Thank you to everyone who participated in Orange Shirt Day on Wednesday, September 30. We were very pleased to see so many students and staff wearing orange and engaging in meaningful activities/discussions about “Residential Schools and the legacy they have left behind.” We are grateful for your ongoing support.

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. 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](#)



Read In Week 2020 (October 5-9)

Read In Week returned on October 5. The theme for this year was “Read Around the World.” Through various activities, students—both in-school and out-of-school learners—spent the week reading and learning how stories have the power to teach lessons, broaden perspectives and foster empathy. Some of the activities planned for Read In Week included:

- Staff Guest Readers
- Outside Reading
- Creating/Presenting Posters Promoting Your Favourite Book
- Flashlight Reading



Read In Week is a Divisionwide initiative held annually to encourage a lifelong love of reading and to enhance literacy awareness among students, staff, parents and community members. We invite all our families to participate in Read In Week each year by reading yourself, with your child or with someone in the community.

For more information visit eips.ca and [La Semaine de Read In](#)



Picture Retakes... (Wednesday, October 21, 2020)

ICON Photography is scheduled to return to our school on **Wednesday, 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 B students will have retakes on Thursday, October 22.*

Sync the School Calendar to Your Calendar

Did you know you can sync the school calendar to your own calendar? You can. Simply, visit the James Mowat School [website](#) 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 to 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.



School Fees: Now available

School fee information for the 2020-21 school year is now posted on the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). When you log on, you'll notice the fee schedule is different from previous years. Instead of a fee based on the entire year, fees are charged on a quarterly basis.

The fee schedule change accommodates students switching from out-of-school learning to in-school learning; the four-semester system in place at some schools, and possible fee adjustments if the province decides to transition to Scenario 2—partial return to school—or Scenario 3—the suspension of in-school classes. Fees for kits or equipment kept by the student are charged in full at the start of the course.

Each quarter, you'll receive an email notification letting you know fees are posted on the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). To access your fee information, go to "Student Fees" on PowerSchool. There you can view your fees and pay online using Visa, MasterCard or INTERAC Online—when available from your financial institution. All fees are due within 14 days of being posted. *NOTE:* School Fees apply to in-school learners only.

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 deadline is Dec. 15, 2020—if new to EIPS, the deadline is the latter of Dec. 15, 2020, or 45 days after registration.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines, visit [eips.ca](#) and [jamesmowat.ca](#). Alternatively, contact the school at 780-992-1272.

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 manual 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

Most email communication from the Division will come from communications@eips.ca. From the school level, messages will often come from general.jmw@eips.ca. We encourage families to add these email addresses to your address book or safe senders list to help prevent Division and school messages from filtering to a junk, spam or other folder in your email inbox.



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!**



Report Cards and Parent Teacher Interviews

Report cards will be published on Tuesday, November 24. Parents can view their child's report card by logging into their PowerSchool Parent Portal. Our next round of parent teacher interviews will be held on November 24-26 from 3:30-5:30pm. Conferences will be conducted via telephone and will be scheduled using the same online booking system as was used in the spring. Detailed information will be available in the November newsletter.

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.



Parent Council Corner...

NEXT PARENT COUNCIL MEETING:

Monday, October 19 at 6:30pm (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 (new) Vice President: J.R. Hurley (continuing)

Secretary: Sara Secrist (continuing) Treasurer: John Shannon (continuing)

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:

Christmas Joy Wrapping Paper, Kitchen Gadgets

and more by Dieleman Fundraising Sales (DFS

Canada). Information packages will be sent home

with students this week. Orders are due Tuesday, November. 17. **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.

Dieleman DFS
FUNDRAISING Sales
Fundraising Solutions



Thank You for your Support!!



Your Future in MIND ●

Caregiver Education Series

Alberta Health Services is hosting a series of virtual caregiver information sessions 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 the [Division calendar](#) or [Caregiver Education](#) to see the monthly caregiver sessions.

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 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.

To honour the day, EIPS is running its World Teachers' Day contest inviting friends, family, students and staff to share a story about how a teacher inspired them. Thank you to all those who have shared stories to date. Collectively they tell a story about the vital role teachers play in shaping the minds of youth and supporting their journey of success.

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