

# the JAMES MOWAT Messenger

December 2020



Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is hard to believe that December is here, and Christmas is a few weeks away. Although many traditional activities are not possible this year the school is full of excitement and Christmas activities. Students are continuing to demonstrate their enthusiasm for learning.

Our staff continue to display incredible dedication and commitment to providing outstanding programming while adhering to all the protocols required this year. Their flexibility and professionalism is appreciated and crucial to our success.

While our parent council has not been able to participate in our traditional activities, they have continued to provide strong support and input. A number of fundraisers have been undertaken or are in the planning stages and we would like to recognize the individuals who have assisted with these events. These fundraisers make a difference, and we would also like to thank everyone who supported these fundraisers. Students, parents, and staff are all looking forward to a return of hot lunches and popcorn sales.

We wish everyone a safe and restful holiday!

Stacey Boyko and John Murphy



**JAMES MOWAT**  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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### **Christmas Spirit at James Mowat School**

Although we are unable to hold our regular Christmas Concert or Christmas Family Fun Night this year, we still want to fill our hallways with the spirit of the holiday season. We have 4 festive theme days planned for the month of December:

Friday, December 4	Pajama Day
Friday, December 11	Crazy Christmas Hair Day
Friday, December 18	Christmas in July
Tuesday, December 22	Christmas Colors/Sweater Day



### **Library News**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Virtual Scholastic Book Fair from November 16-29. We had \$834.95 in net sales and as a result, we earned \$166.99 in rewards which will go directly toward books needed in the Library for all grades to enjoy. Your support of the Book Fair is truly appreciated!

### **School and Transportation Fee Waiver Applications: Deadline extended**

Elk Island Public Schools recognizes the global pandemic has put a strain on some families' finances and available income can change quickly in the current situation. As such, the Division has extended the deadline for requesting a waiver of your 2020-21 school and transportation fees. If you encounter circumstances where you're unable to pay your fees, you can apply to have fees waived by submitting an Application for a Waiver of Fees. Because of the pandemic, the new deadline is Feb. 15, 2021—if you're new to EIPS, the deadline is the latter of Feb. 15, 2021, or 45 days after registration.

Each quarter—or trimester, as applicable—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.

For more information about school fees, transportation fees, waivers and payment deadlines, visit [eips.ca](http://eips.ca) or <https://www.jamesmowat.ca/about/fees>. Alternatively, contact the school at 780-992-1272.



## Discounted Software for EIPS Students

All Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) students now have access to discounted software through the new EIPS OnTheHub webstore, available at [eips.onthehub.com](http://eips.onthehub.com). Through OnTheHub, students can purchase software at significant discounts off standard retail prices. Users must sign in using their EIPS email address and password to access the product selection and take advantage of discount pricing. Included in the discounts is student-only access to Windows 10 for Education completely free! More information is available through the Help menu within OnTheHub.

## No Child Without: Free MedicAlert for students

In our ongoing effort to provide safe and caring schools for our students, James Mowat School is registered in the Canadian MedicAlert Foundation's No Child Without



program. The program is a national initiative that provides no-cost MedicAlert services to children—between the ages four of 14 years—who have chronic health conditions. The goal is twofold: to help children with severe allergies, medical conditions or special needs and to assist schools with medical-emergency plans for students.

Once a child is registered, the school is provided with advice on a medical-emergency plan for that student and given a list of medications, allergies and medical conditions the student has. If your child has a serious medical condition or allergy and could benefit from MedicAlert services, contact the school office at 780-992-1272. To learn more about the No Child Without program, visit [www.nochildwithout.ca](http://www.nochildwithout.ca).



## Dressing for the Weather

We would like to remind all students to dress for the weather. Remember to wear your mitts/gloves, boots and hats at recess. We also ask that parents please label their child's belongings. Clearly labeled mitts, hats and boots will assist us in returning these items to the rightful owners should they be misplaced.



## Contact Information

*It's important ...* to update your PowerSchool Parent Portal Account with any **NEW** information (i.e. phone numbers, addresses, etc.) that may assist us in reaching you if necessary. Thank you!





## Parent Teacher Interviews

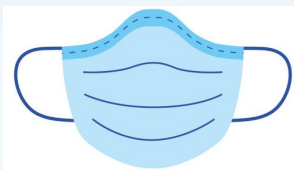
We were glad to have so many parents and students participate in our telephone parent/teacher/student interviews on November 24, 25 & 26. If you were unable to participate in the parent/teacher conferences, but would still like to meet, please contact your child's teacher to arrange an alternate meeting. Thank You.

## Street Parking During Drop Off and Pick Times

We would like to thank everyone for your ongoing cooperation with the new drop off and pick up process this year. When dropping off your child(ren), please remember not to block the driveways of the neighboring homes. Thank you!

## Masks, Water Bottles and Cutlery

Please ensure your child remembers to pack all of their needed supplies for the day. Students are reminded to bring their masks and water bottle each day, as well as any needed utensils for their lunch. Thank you.



## Winter Break

The school will be closed to staff and students from December 23, 2020 to January 5, 2021 for the Winter Break. Classes resume online January 6-8. In-School learning resumes on Monday, January 11, 2021, for all students.



### December at a glance:

Dec 2 Early Dismissal  
Dec 4 Pajama Day  
Dec 11 Crazy Christmas Hair Day  
Dec 18 Christmas in July  
Dec 22 Christmas Colors/Sweater Day

### Looking ahead to January & February 2021:

Jan 6 Classes Resume Online  
Jan 6-8 Online Learning for K-6 Students  
Jan 11 In-School Learning Resumes  
Jan 18 Parent Council Meeting (6:30pm)  
Jan 29 No School—Professional Learning Day

### There will be no school on:

December 23, 2020 - January 5, 2021 (Winter Break)

Feb 3 Early Dismissal  
Feb 4 & 5 No School - Teachers' Convention  
Feb 15 No School - Family Day  
Feb 22 Parent Council Meeting (6:30pm)



## Parent Council Corner...

### PARENT COUNCIL MEETING:

The next parent council meeting will be Monday, January 18, 2021 at 6:30pm (virtual). All parents are welcome to attend. The Google Meet link will be emailed to all parents/guardians prior to the meeting.

### THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR FUNDRAISER!

Thank you to everyone for supporting our Dieleman's **Christmas Joy Wrapping Paper, Kitchen Gadgets and more by Dieleman Fundraising Sales (DFS Canada)**. We truly appreciate your ongoing support of our fundraisers! Thank You!!  
The orders were recently delivered to the school and will be distributed shortly.



**Dieleman** **DFS**  
**FUNDRAISING Sales**  
Fundraising Solutions



### 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.*





Your Future in MIND

### **Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Board of Trustees**

As we draw closer to the end of 2020—a year like no other—I want to extend warm holiday wishes to all our students, staff and families on behalf of the Elk Island Public Schools Board of Trustees. Thank you for your partnership, co-operation and understanding throughout the past year. The holidays are often a time of reflection and gratitude, and we want you to know how much we appreciate the contributions you make to the Division on an ongoing basis. By working together, we're making a difference in the learning experiences and opportunities of all students within EIPS.

While this Christmas will undoubtedly look very different than past years, we hope you have the opportunity to celebrate the season—whether that be an intimate holiday meal with your immediate family or a virtual celebration with extended family and friends.

Stay safe this holiday season, and we look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Jan. 6, 2021.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays,

Trina Boymook  
EIPS Board Chair

### **Christmas Break**

James Mowat School will close for the Christmas break at the end of the day on Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2020. The school will reopen on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021. During this time, if you have any school-related questions or concerns, contact Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Central Services at 780-464-3477.

### **EIPS Central Services Winter Break Hours**

Closed	December 23-25
Open	December 28–31; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Closed	January 1
Open	January 4–5; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

\*for location and contact information visit [www.eips.ca](http://www.eips.ca).

From everyone at Elk Island Public Schools, we wish all of you a happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year.