

the JAMES MOWAT Messenger

January 2021



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy New Year and welcome to 2021! We hope everyone had a safe and restful holiday.

It was a much different December at James Mowat and while we missed our chance to gather for our Family Fun night, we hope you had a chance to check out the Christmas videos that classes posted on their Brightspace page.

As we look forward to 2021 we would like to express our pride in how well our students did during the three days of online learning. This did not happen without the tremendous support of our parents/guardians and the tremendous work our teachers did preparing their students for success. Thank you to everyone for making these days a positive experience for our students.

We have several exciting planned in the coming months. Our career day for grades 4,5 and 6 students continues to be instrumental in informing students about potential careers and preparing students for the world of work. We will be sending out additional information including requesting volunteers to join us for an afternoon to share details about their career. This event will be held in a virtual format. We are also planning to support our drama programming with our annual Speech Competition. Although the district level competitions will not be held this year, we are planning to have classroom level events. This event provides valuable experiences for students and allows students to showcase their amazing skills.

We would like to thank Parent Council for their work with the Dieleman's fundraiser, and we hope that those of you who ordered items were happy with the products. Our parent council continues to work on a variety of initiatives to support our students' learning and are key partners in providing the quality learning environment we have at James Mowat School. Our next Parent Council meeting is on January 18th and we invite all of you to attend. The meeting link will be sent out prior to the meeting.

Have a safe January!

Mr. Stacey Boyko (Principal)

Mr. John Murphy (Assistant Principal)

January at a glance:

Jan 6-8	Online Learning for All Students K-6
Jan 6	Early Dismissal
Jan 11	In-School Learning Resumes for Students K-6
Jan 18	Parent Council Meeting (6:30 pm) (virtual)
Jan 27	Family Literacy Day https://abclifeliteracy.ca/all-programs/family-literacy-day/
Jan 29	No School - Professional Learning Day

Looking ahead to February 2021:

Feb 3	Early Dismissal
Feb 4 & 5	No School - Teachers' Convention
Feb 15	No School - Family Day
Feb 22	Parent Council Meeting (6:30pm) (virtual)
Feb 24	Pink Shirt Day

Please note the following school closure days this month. There will be no school on:

Jan 29	Professional Learning Day
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JAMES MOWAT
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Kindergarten Registration Starts Soon!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2021? If so, it's almost time to register for kindergarten. Kindergarten registration opens for the 2021-22 school year on Feb. 1, 2021.



To help families prepare, Elk Island Public Schools has put together an online EIPS Kindergarten Tool kit to make the transition as smooth as possible. The kit includes information on registration, important dates, programming options, what to expect, eligibility, how to find your designated school, transportation and more.

Additional information regarding James Mowat School's kindergarten program is available at www.jamesmowat.ca

Returning Student Registration for 2020-21

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) will once again conduct an online returning student registration process to confirm student registrations for the 2021-22 school year. Families of all returning students must complete the process to confirm the school their child plans to attend in the 2021-22 school year. Additionally, students who want to attend a non-designated school need to make that request through the returning student registration process—acceptance is based on available space. The 2021-22 returning student registration takes place between Feb. 1-28, 2021.

Access to the Returning Student Registration Form is provided through the PowerSchool Parent Portal. If you don't have a PowerSchool Parent Portal account, you need to set one up before Feb. 1, 2021.

Create a PowerSchool Parent Portal account

For more information contact the school directly.



Pink Shirt Day

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

On February 24, we are again supporting Pink Shirt Day. Students do not need to purchase a T-shirt, but we encourage students to wear pink on this day to show their support and commitment to "No Bullying".

Pink Shirt Day - February 24, 2021





Inclement Weather

With the winter season well underway, we want to remind parents to dress children appropriately for the weather when getting ready for school or the bus. The weather often changes unexpectedly throughout the day, so please select suitable outerwear and ensure your child is prepared for changing conditions.

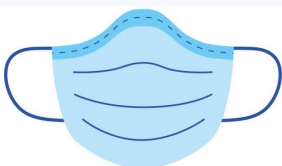
If inclement weather conditions occur, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) will advise families of any bus cancellations using various communications tools, including automated-telephone messages, alerts posted on www.eips.ca and school websites, Twitter, Facebook, local radio stations, and on Versatrans My Stop.

Decisions regarding bus cancellations are guided by EIPS' Administrative Procedure 131: Inclement Weather, which states: "school bus service may be suspended ... when there is a forecast or current temperature of -40 C including wind chill, in one or more regions." Other reasons for suspending or delaying school bus services include adverse weather and poor road condition.



When school bus services are suspended, schools remain open to students. EIPS believes families have the right and responsibility to make choices for their children based on what they feel is safest during times of inclement weather.

For more information, contact EIPS Student Transportation at 780-417-8151.



Picking Your Child Up

When picking your child up from school at the end of the day we would like to encourage parents to be positive role models by wearing masks and respecting social distancing protocols whenever possible.

SUBSTITUTE NOON HOUR SUPERVISORS NEEDED!!!!

Are You Interested in Earning \$19.00+ Per Day?

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



**WE ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR SUBSTITUTE
NOON HOUR SUPERVISORS
TO WORK ON A CASUAL - AS NEEDED BASIS**
Time of shift would be 11:20am - 12:20pm (approx.)
If you are interested please contact the
school office at (780) 992-1272.





December Theme Days

Staff and students had a lot of fun showing their festive spirit during our December theme days this year: Pajama Day, Crazy Christmas Hair, Christmas in July and Christmas Colours/Sweater Day.



School Fees

School fees for Quarter 3 will be posted on the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) on February 1. Parents/Guardians will receive an email notification letting them know the fees are posted. 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](#). **For the 2020-21 school year, the deadline for receipt of applications is extended to Feb. 15, 2021**, or if new to EIPS, the latter of Feb. 15, 2021 or 45 days after registration. **No applications will be accepted after this date.** An extension will be granted for students transitioning from out-of-school learning to in-school classes.

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



Parent Council Corner...



NEXT PARENT COUNCIL MEETING:

Monday, January 18 at 6:30pm (virtual). **All parents and guardians are welcome to attend.**

The Google Meet link will be emailed to all parents/guardians prior to the meeting.

As mentioned in our emails to parents on December 17 and January 4, James Mowat School will be using this meeting to consult with parents prior to setting school fees for the upcoming school year. As required by Alberta Education's School Fee Regulation, Mr. Boyko and Mr. Murphy will be sharing information about our current fee structure, posing specific questions about priorities, and asking you to provide your feedback as the school plans for the 2021-22 school year. While many of these activities and services enhance students' educational experience, we want to ensure these fees aren't cost prohibitive for families.

Specifically, we will be asking for input on the following:

- Noon hour supervision
- Field trips and associated fees
- Extracurricular activities
- Non-curricular goods and services (for example, yearbooks)

Some questions for consideration are:

- Do you support fees for sports and other extracurricular activities on a cost-recovery basis
- Do you support an increase to field trip fees if it is a good opportunity to enhance student learning?
- Do you support higher cost field trips such as swimming and skiing?

For your reference, below is a link to the school fees information located on the James Mowat School website. The webpage includes the current School Fees Schedule for 2020-2021, as well information on waiver of fees, refunds and student transportation fees.

<https://www.jamesmowat.ca/about/fees>

We understand not all families will be available to attend the meeting but it's still important we get as much input from the school community as possible. Following the meeting, materials will be shared with parents and guardians through a SchoolMessenger email. Parents and guardians unable to attend the meeting will have the opportunity to share feedback through a Google form or by submitting a written response via email.

School administration will use feedback provided to help determine fees for 2021-22, which will then be shared at the (March) school council meeting, posted to our website and shared via link through email.

We look forward to hearing from you on January 18.



Your Future in MIND

EIPS 2021-22 Division Calendar: Now available!

The official 2021-22 EIPS calendar is now available online. The calendar includes important dates during the 2021-22 school year, such as school-closure days, breaks, the first and last day of classes, professional learning days, early dismissal days, plus more.

Highlights from the 2021-22 EIPS calendar include:

- September 1 – first day of classes
- November 8-12 – November break
- December 22 to January 4 - Christmas break
- February 1 – second semester begins
- February 10-11 – Teachers' Convention
- March 28 to April 1 – spring break
- June 28 – last day of classes
- June 29 – last operational day before the summer break

To view the 2021-22 calendar, visit www.eips.ca.

Did you know you can sync the Division calendar to your personal calendar? You can. Simply, visit www.eips.ca/calendar and click on "subscribe to calendar." It's that easy.

Another way to stay connected: Follow EIPS on Twitter and Facebook

With 43 schools and close to 17,000 students, there's a wealth of events, activities and stories taking place across the Division every day. You can find these stories and more by following Elk Island Public Schools on both [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Each uses a combination of news articles, videos and photographs that showcases the latest news, updates, events and alerts taking place across the Division.

Plus, if you're a member of an EIPS school community and want to share in the storytelling, simply tag the Division using [#eips](#).

Stay in the loop, follow EIPS on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

NOTE: Communications Services manages the Division's Facebook and Twitter accounts. The account is updated and monitored intermittently during regular office hours from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. The Division welcomes feedback and ideas from followers but does ask everyone interacting on the EIPS Facebook page to be respectful. Personal attacks and offensive language are not allowed and may be deleted.



EIPS DIVISION CALENDAR 2021-22

Regular School Day
 Early Dismissal for Students
 ☆ First Instructional Day (Semester 1 & 2)
 No School – Statutory or Paid Holiday
 No School for All Students and Staff
 No School for Students – Professional Learning/Operational Day

Important Dates

Aug 30	Professional Learning Day
Aug 31	Operational Day
Sept 1	Classes Begin
Sept 6	Labour Day – Stat.
Oct 11	Thanksgiving Day – Stat.
Oct 18	Professional Learning Day
Nov 8 - 12	November Break
Nov 11	Remembrance Day – Stat.
Nov 12	Day-in-Lieu: Parent Teacher Interviews
Dec 22 - Jan 4	Christmas Break
Dec 24	Christmas Floater Day – Paid Holiday
Dec 27	Day-in-Lieu: Christmas Day – Paid Holiday
Dec 28	Day-in-Lieu: Boxing Day – Paid Holiday
Jan 3	Day-in-Lieu: New Year's Day – Paid Holiday
Jan 5	Classes Resume for Students
Jan 31	Professional Learning Day
Feb 1	Second Semester Begins
Feb 10 & 11	North Central Teachers' Convention
Feb 21	Family Day – Stat.
Mar 4	Professional Learning Day
Mar 25	Day-in-Lieu: Parent Teacher Interviews
Mar 28 - Apr 1	Spring Break
Apr 4	Classes Resume
Apr 15	Good Friday – Stat.
Apr 18	Easter Monday – Paid Holiday
May 6	Professional Learning Day
May 20	School Closure Day
May 23	Victoria Day – Stat.
June 21	National Indigenous Peoples Day – no exams
June 28	Last Instructional Day
June 29	Last Operational Day

AUGUST 2021

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OCTOBER 2021

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MARCH 2022

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MAY 2022

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JULY 2022

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