

the JAMES MOWAT Messenger

February 2021



Dear Parents/Guardians,

January has gone by quickly and it is hard to believe we are now more than half way through the school year. While January was fairly mild, it looks as though we will start February with some very cold temperatures. Parents are reminded that during severe cold weather days our school remains open to students. Depending on temperature, *Administrative Procedure 131: Inclement Weather, may result in buses not providing service, however, schools do not close.* With spring not far off, we are looking forward to what the remainder of the school year has in store for all of our students.

Career Day continues to be the highlight of January for Division 2 students. A huge thank you to all the parents who volunteered to join us virtually for the afternoon and share details regarding their career and emphasize the steps required to obtain the necessary training. We recognize the importance of focusing on preparing students for the world of work and this event encourages students to begin exploring different careers.

Students will begin preparing for our classroom based speech competition this year. This is an excellent opportunity for our students to practice their public performance and dramatic skills.

Our school wide theme days are wholeheartedly supported by our students. We appreciate your assistance with theme days and strive to provide ample notice. These days assist in building enthusiasm and school spirit especially this year due to many other special events being limited. We are planning to have 2 theme days a month for the remainder of the year and encourage families to participate as a whole family.

We are continuing to focus on kindness in the month of February. Our Throwing Kindness Like Confetti bulletin board is quickly filling up with tags celebrating students being kind. Along with a deliberate emphasis in the classroom, our morning announcements highlight the impact of kindness. February 15th to 19th we will be celebrating Random Acts of Kindness Week. February 24th is also Pink Shirt Day with a focus on working together and treating others with respect. As the remainder of the year progresses, we will transition our focus to responsibility and safety.

We look forward to the rest of the month and the activities that are going on. Remember to check our online calendar regularly to stay up to date on what's happening at the school.

Stacey Boyko, Principal

John Murphy, Assistant Principal



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JAMES MOWAT
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

February at a glance:

February 1	Kindergarten Registration Opens Returning Student Registration Opens
February 3	Blue Jay Day / Winter Walk Day Early Dismissal
February 12	Dress in Red/Pink for Valentine's Day
February 22	Parent Council Meeting at 6:30pm (virtual)
February 24	Pink Shirt Day
February 26	Pajama Day
February 28	Returning Student Registration Closes



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

February 4 & 5	Teachers' Convention
February 15	Family Day

Looking ahead to March:

March 3	Early Dismissal
March 5	No School - Professional Learning Day
March 15	Parent Council Meeting at 6:30pm (virtual)
March 19	Report Cards published at 4:00pm
March 26	No School - Day-in-Lieu for Parent Teacher Interviews
March 28 - April 5	No School - Spring Break
April 6	Classes Resume

Kindergarten Registration is Now Open!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2021? If so, it's now time to register for kindergarten. To register, simply complete the online registration form at eips.ca/kindergarten.



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.



Virtual Kindergarten Information Night - May 18, 2021 (for students starting in September 2021)

James Mowat School will be holding its Kindergarten Information Night on May 18, 2021. Parents/Guardians are welcome to participate with their child(ren).



Complete the Returning Student Registration: February 1-28

Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) returning student registration process is now open. All returning students must complete the online Returning Student Registration Form to confirm their child's enrolment in a school for the upcoming 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. **All returning EIPS students are required to complete the form by Feb. 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.

[Create a PowerSchool Parent Portal account](#)

For more information contact the school directly.

RELATED INFORMATION:

[Returning Student Registration Process](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[EIPS School Boundary Maps](#)

[Closed boundaries 2021-22](#)

[Find my designated school](#)

[Applying to a non-designated school](#)



Pink Shirt Day

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

On February 24th we are again supporting Pink Shirt Day. We encourage everyone to wear pink and spread kindness. We are very proud of our staff, students and parents for their participation in and support of these activities. Together we make James Mowat a truly "Caring School."

Pink Shirt Day - February 24, 2021





Career Day - Thank You Parent Volunteers!

We would like to extend a tremendous thank you to all of the parent volunteers that participated in our grade 4-6 Career Day on January 28. We truly appreciate you taking the time to make virtual presentations to our students and sharing what is required to be successful in your occupations, as well as what training and education is required. Our students really enjoyed the presentations, especially having the opportunity to ask questions.



Report Cards and Parent Teacher Interviews

Report cards will be published on Friday, March 19 at 4:00pm. Parents can view their child's report card by logging into their PowerSchool Parent Portal. If you need assistance logging in to your PowerSchool account, please contact the school office. If you are unable to access the report card,



please contact your child's teacher to make arrangements to have one printed. Parent teacher telephone interviews will take place the following week. All interviews will be scheduled using the same online booking system as was used in the fall (www.schoolinterviews.ca). Details for booking interviews will follow in March.

First Nations, Métis and Inuit Parent Engagement Sessions

The First Nations, Métis and Inuit education team has planned a three-part series— Developing Foundational Knowledge of First Nations, Metis and Inuit cultures, histories and contemporary contexts—designed for all EIPS parents and families who are curious to learn about First Nations, Métis and Inuit cultures, perspectives and histories. The sessions are designed as entry points to understanding as we work toward learning our collective truth on the path of reconciliation.

Join the session

Session 1: February 2; 7-7:30 p.m.

- Who we are and why this work is needed
- What reconciliation looks like in EIPS

Session 2: February 23; 7-7:30 p.m.

- Addressing common roadblocks to understanding and relationship
- Terminology; bridging the gap between what language parents may be used to hearing and what children are learning in schools

Session 3: March 16; 7-7:30 p.m.

- Language of this land: The importance of highlighting Indigenous languages; deepening understanding of relationship to land through language; what exploration of Indigenous languages can look like in schools

Event details have been added to the Division [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.



Caregiver Education Series

Alberta Health Services is hosting a series of 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. This year, session topics include anxiety, ADHD, depression, self-harm, technology, teens and teaching leadership skills, and more.



Visit [Caregiver Education for the Edmonton Zone](#) for more information and session dates.

Valentine's Day Manicure

Although we are unable to do our traditional 'Valentine's Day Manicure' this year, we still want to support the Smiles from Spencer Foundation which raises money for the Kids with Cancer Society. On Friday, February 12th, students can bring in a loonie in support of the Smiles from Spencer Foundation. Instead of receiving a manicure from Student Council members as in previous years, students will instead create some nail art that will be displayed on a Valentine's Day Manicure bulletin board for all to see. We are excited to see what the students create! Students who donate will receive a candy treat. For more information on the Smiles from Spencer Foundation, please go to www.smilesfromspencer.com.



PARENT COUNCIL CORNER . . .

PARENT COUNCIL MEETING:

The next Parent Council meeting is Monday, February 22, 2021 at 6:30pm (virtual)

All parents/guardians are welcome to attend.

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

Thank you to all of the parents and guardians that attended the January Parent Council meeting and provided feedback regarding setting fees for the upcoming school year. If you were unable to attend the meeting, but would like to provide your input, please watch for a form that will be emailed to parents later this month.

In particular, we are looking for feedback on Noon hour supervision, Field trips and associated fees, Extracurricular activities, and Non-curricular goods and services (for example, yearbooks).

Specific 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?

We look forward to hearing from you.



Your Future in MIND ●

Do more this summer!

Next Step Summer School: Registration opens in March 2021

Open to students entering grades 10-12, and students in their Grade 12 year. With more than 25 credit courses, there are lots of ways to get ahead. Students can earn high school credits, upgrade marks and finish pre-requisite courses.

Courses include:

- CALM (in class or self-paced)
- Physical Education 10
- English – all 20 and 30 levels
- Math – 10C, 20-1, 20-2, 30-1 and 30-2
- Social –20-1, 20-2, 30-1 and 30-2
- Sciences – 10
- Biology, Chemistry and Physics – all 20- and 30-levels
- Work Experience and RAP

NOTE: All Summer School classes will take place online.

Related information:

[Summer School](#)