

the JAMES MOWAT Messenger

March 2021



Dear Parents/Guardians

With the mild weather we have been experiencing recently, it is exciting to know that spring is just around the corner! In the last month we continued our focus on Kindness and along with our Throw Kindness Like Confetti bulletin board students participated in Random Acts of Kindness week, our Smiles From Spencer Nail Manicure fundraiser and did numerous classroom based projects around the theme of being kind. If you follow us on Facebook, you have had the opportunity to see pictures of our bulletin board filling with the names of students caught being kind.

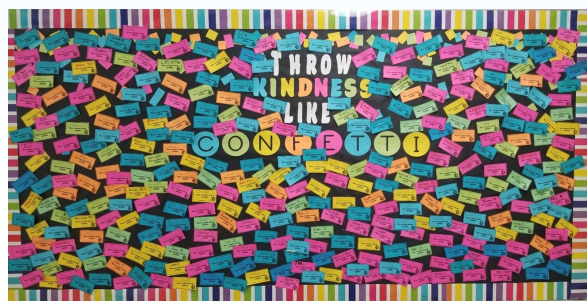
While we continue to celebrate our students for Being Kind, Being Safe, and Being Responsible through our Way to Go Blue Jay positive referral program, we will be switching our focus to Being Responsible for the months of March and April. We are looking forward to our Students filling our "Bee Responsible" bulletin board with names of students demonstrating responsibility.

We would like to thank everyone for completing the EIPS returning student registration process last month. It is very helpful to have this information as we begin to plan for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. Starting the week of March 8-12, families that requested to attend a non-designated school will be advised whether their request was approved.

Should you have any questions regarding the student registration process, please contact the school office at 780 992-1272

Mr. Stacey Boyko, Principal

Mr. John Murphy, Assistant Principal





At a glance, here's what is happening in March:

March 3	Early Dismissal
March 5	No School - Professional Learning Day
March 8	<u>International Women's Day</u>
March 8-12	Substitute Appreciation Week
March 12	Blue Jay Day (wear blue to school)
March 15	Parent Council Meeting at 6:30pm (virtual)
March 15-19	Week of Inspirational Math
March 17	Math Day & St. Patrick's Day
March 19	Report Cards published at 4:00pm
March 22	Parent Teacher Interviews (3:30-5:30pm)
March 23	Parent Teacher Interviews (3:30-5:30pm)
March 24	Parent Teacher Interviews (3:30-5:30pm)
March 25	Superhero Day
March 26	No School - Day-in-Lieu for Parent Teacher Interviews
Mar 26-Apr 5	No School - Spring Break
April 6	Classes Resume



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

March 5	Professional Learning Day for Staff
March 26	No School - Day-in-Lieu for Parent Teacher Interviews
Mar 26-Apr 5	Spring Break (No School)

Enjoy your Spring Break. Have a safe holiday and we'll see you back on Tuesday, April 6!

COVID-19 Protocols

As covid-19 case numbers drop in our community we must continue to be vigilant. All Covid-19 safety measures remain fully in effect at the school. As we strive to keep our students and staff safe, please ensure your student comes to school with everything they need for the day including masks, water bottles and lunches. Dropping off items for students is discouraged. When on school grounds please help us keep everyone safe by wearing a mask and practicing social distancing. Students and families are also asked to head directly home after school.

Week of Inspirational Math (March 15-19)

Students will be participating in variety of math activities during the Week of Inspirational Math March 15-19. March 17 will be our official Math Day and our Math Day committee is currently planning an afternoon of fun and learning for all of our students. Math Day was a huge hit last year and we look forward to another fun afternoon exploring math through a variety of activities!



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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Parent Teacher Interviews

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, March 22, 23 & 24

(3:30pm - 5:30pm via telephone)

Our second round of parent/student/teacher interviews will be conducted via telephone and will take place on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, March 22, 23 & 24 from 3:30-5:30pm. Interviews will be set for 10 minute blocks for an individual conference time with the teacher. Please note that teachers may call from numbers with No Caller ID, so Please be sure to answer these calls at your designated appointment time. Thank you.

Mr. Boyko (Principal), Mr. Murphy (Assistant Principal) and Mrs. Arzate (Counsellor) will also be available for appointment times.



Booking Appointments for Parent Teacher Interviews

All interviews will be scheduled using the same online booking system as was used last November. To book your conference(s) please go to <http://www.schoolinterviews.ca>, and type in event code 27gez. The online system will open on Monday, March 8 at 12:00pm for interview bookings. If you feel that you would like a longer meeting time with your child's teacher you are welcome to contact the teacher and set up an alternate time to meet.

Speech Competition

In the next few weeks students in grade 4 to 6 will be working on writing and performing speeches for our annual James Mowat Speech Competition. Two students from each classroom will be selected to compete, virtually, in our school-based competition during the week of March 22 to 25. Unlike previous years, there is no district competition this year. We wish all of our students good luck with their speeches.



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.*



First Nations, Métis and Inuit Parent Engagement Sessions (three-part series)

The third and final session of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Parent Engagement sessions will be held on March 16 from 7:00-7:30pm. As mentioned in our February newsletter, these sessions are 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 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

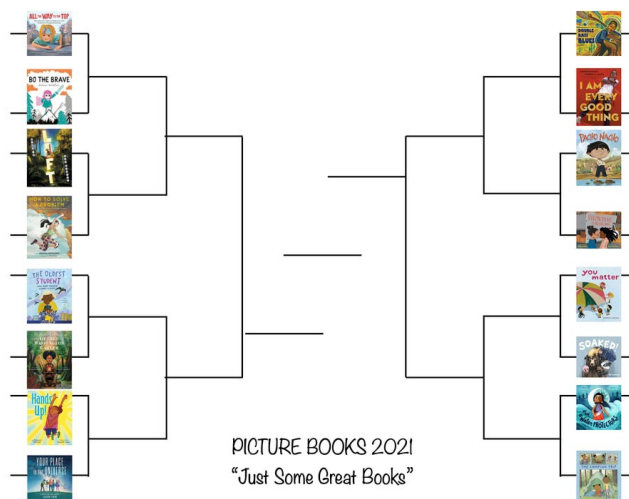
Event details have been added to the Division Facebook and Twitter pages.

March Book Madness

James Mowat Students are excited to participate in March Book Madness again this year! March Book Madness "is an online bracket-style tournament that matches books in one-on-one "games." The games [are] decided by a simple vote on a Google Form.

Throughout March James Mowat students will be reading a variety of picture books. These books are being read in classrooms around the world. This years theme is "Just Some Great Books". Each round classes will vote for their favourite until a winner is determined! Voting opens early March! For more information check out their website at:

<http://marchbookmadness.weebly.com/>



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Pink Shirt Day

We would like to thank everyone who participated in Pink Shirt Day this year on February 24. Pink Shirt Day began in 2007 when 3 teens from Nova Scotia bought and distributed 50 pink shirts to support a young man in their school who was being bullied for wearing a pink shirt. Since then, Pink Shirt Day has spread to countries around the world with the goal of preventing bullying.

At James Mowat, we feel strongly that the best way to prevent bullying is to stop it before it starts. The best way to do that is to help students form bonds with others, but more importantly, show kindness and empathy towards others on a daily basis. For the months of January and February students have been focusing on the trait of kindness and our focus for pink shirt day was “working together and treating others with dignity and respect” (www.pinkshirtday.ca). We are very proud of our students for continuing to demonstrate acts of kindness and filling our “Throw Kindness Like Confetti” bulletin board.



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, at 5:30pm. Parents/Guardians are welcome to participate with their child(ren). Additional information will follow in our April and May newsletters.



Student Council News

THANK YOU to everyone that supported our annual fundraiser for the Smiles from Spencer Foundation which raises money for the **Kids with Cancer Society**. The event was a great success and raised **\$442.60!** While we weren't able to do our traditional nail manicures, we were very impressed with the creative nail art that our students designed. The display of all the hands in the gym looked fantastic! Once again, we are very proud of all of our students and how you continue to demonstrate how James Mowat is a "Caring School." Way to go Jays!!



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.



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Looking Ahead to April:

- April 6 Classes Resume
- April 7 Early Dismissal
- April 19 Parent Council Meeting (6:30pm) (virtual)

Please note the following school closure days this month.

There will be no school on:

- April 2 No School - Good Friday
- April 5 No School - Easter Monday



Parent Council Corner...

NEXT PARENT COUNCIL MEETING:

The next meeting is on **Monday, March 15th at 6:30pm (virtual)**

The Parent Advisory Council always welcomes new faces and people interested in our council. The Google Meet link will be emailed to all parents/guardians prior to the meeting. We look forward to connecting with you.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the February 22 Parent Council meeting. We appreciate the feedback you provided regarding the proposed fees for the 2021-2022 school year. Thank you as well to the parents/guardians that completed the online Google Form seeking input on school fees for next year (link emailed to parents/guardians on February 8). We value the responses we received, and appreciate you taking the time to fill out the form.

Panago Pizza Coupons Fundraiser. Panago Pizza in Fort Saskatchewan has been a fundamental part of our Hot Lunch Program, and has offered Parent Council the opportunity to fundraise. This helps support our school and classrooms by selling Panago Pizza Coupons. Coupons expire 90 days after your pick up, and are redeemable for ANY medium pizza on or off the menu. Each coupon is worth \$12.00, which is an amazing deal as even their cheese pizza is \$12.75. Delivery charges are not included in the cost (if you require delivery you will be charged \$3.65) and can only be used at our Fort Saskatchewan Location.



If you would like to purchase coupons, please return the order form that was sent home with students earlier this week. **Order forms are due back NO LATER than Friday, March 12.** Payment can be made by cash or cheque (payable to JMSPAA).

Thank You for your Ongoing Support!!



Your Future in MIND

Do more this summer!

Next Step Summer School: Registration opens March 16

Registration for EIPS Summer School opens on March 16. Organized through Next Step, the Summer School program offers more than 25 senior high courses that allow students to earn credits, upgrade marks, lighten workloads or finish pre-requisite courses.

Courses include:

Open to EIPS students entering grades 10-12, and students in their Grade 12 year.

- English Language Arts 20-1, 20-2, 30-1 and 30-2
- Social Studies 20-1, 20-2, 30-1 and 30-2
- Mathematics 10C, 20-1, 20-2, 30-1 and 30-2
- Science 10
- Biology 20 and 30
- Chemistry 20 and 30
- Physics 20 and 30
- Physical Education 10
- Career and Life Management (CALM 20)
- Work Experience and RAPNOTE: *Diploma examinations are optional for the 2020-21 school year.*

For summer 2021, all Summer School courses take place online. Feedback from the 2020 virtual program was overwhelmingly positive. We look forward to another exciting and successful summer online in 2021.

[Learn more about the 2021 summer program](#)





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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FEBRUARY 2022

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April 2022

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NOVEMBER 2021

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JANUARY 2022

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MARCH 2022

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MAY 2022

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JULY 2022

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