

the JAMES MOWAT Messenger

April 2021



Dear Parents/Guardians,

We were happy to welcome back all of our students following such a nice spring break. We hope everyone had an enjoyable and restful spring break. Aside from the thunder, lightning and snow we experienced on Saturday, we are glad to see many signs of spring emerging. With a little less than 3 months remaining in the school year, we are very excited about the activities that will be happening at James Mowat. It is also the time of year when we are planning for the next school year.

Reminder about Class Requests. We strive to provide the optimum classroom conditions for all students. To achieve this goal we revisit our class lists each year and make changes based on a number of factors. Staff carefully reflect on creating classes which are balanced and provide the best conditions for all students. This encourages students to make new friendships, become more independent and experience various teaching styles. We appreciate and thank you for your support.

Thank you for working with us.

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

April 19	Parent Council Meeting (6:30pm) (virtual) (all parents/guardians are welcome to attend)
April 19-23	Metis Beading with Cheryl Devin
April 21	Q4 Fees will be added to student accounts (Noon Supervision) (Due May 5)
April 22	Earth Day
April 26-30	Macaroni and Cheese Challenge for the Fort Saskatchewan Food Bank
April 29	Jersey Day





Gearing up for Kindergarten

Do you have a child registered in kindergarten next year? If so, make sure to attend our upcoming virtual Kindergarten Information Night on May 18, 2021. Make sure to attend to virtually tour the classroom; meet the teachers; gain insight on play-based learning; and see what a typical day looks like.

Kindergarten Information Night 2021:

Date: May 18, 2021

Time: 5:30pm

Location: The link to the virtual session will be included in our May 2021 newsletter.

To make the transition to school as smooth as possible Elk Island Public Schools has also put together a toolkit for families. The kit includes information about registration, important dates, programming options, what to expect, eligibility, how to find your designated school, transportation and more. Find it by visiting www.eips.ca/programs-services/kindergarten.

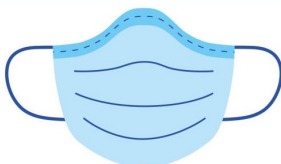
Parent Teacher Interviews

We were glad to have so many parents and students participate in our telephone parent/teacher/student interviews at the end of March. 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.

COVID-19 Protocols

With the increase in covid-19 case numbers in the 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 remember to complete the daily COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire with your child before coming to school each day. In addition, 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.





Have your say! The 2021 EIPS Parent Survey is Now Open

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) wants to hear from you. Make sure to complete the 2021 EIPS Parent Survey - open from April 6-20.

Annually, EIPS conducts a parent survey to gauge its progress toward meeting the goals and priorities outlined in its Four-Year Education Plan. Families are asked a series of questions about their experiences with EIPS and the school their child attends, the overall performance of the Division, the quality of education being provided to students and areas for improvement. The survey feedback helps the Division develop new strategies to better serve students and the wider community.

Plus, new this year, the survey includes a Part B, featuring questions about the Division's priorities, goals and outcomes. As you know, in fall 2021, EIPS welcomes a new locally elected Board of Trustees. Your feedback will help the incoming Board develop a new EIPS Four-Year Education Plan - one that's responsive to student and community needs and focused on continuous improvement.

TAKE THE SURVEY NOW!

Survey closes April 20, 2021.

NOTE: The survey is anonymous and doesn't take long to complete. If you want to share the experience of more than one child attending an EIPS school, simply complete the survey again.

Volunteer Appreciation

National Volunteer Week is April 18-24. Although we have not had the same opportunities to welcome volunteers into our school this year, we do appreciate all of the time volunteers spend attending virtual parent council meetings, organizing fundraisers, changing our outdoor sign, and creating our yearbook to name a few. We are truly grateful for your contributions to our school and we look forward to the time when we can welcome you back into our building. Your contributions help to make our school a great place to be and we wish to extend a tremendous thank you to each and every one of you!



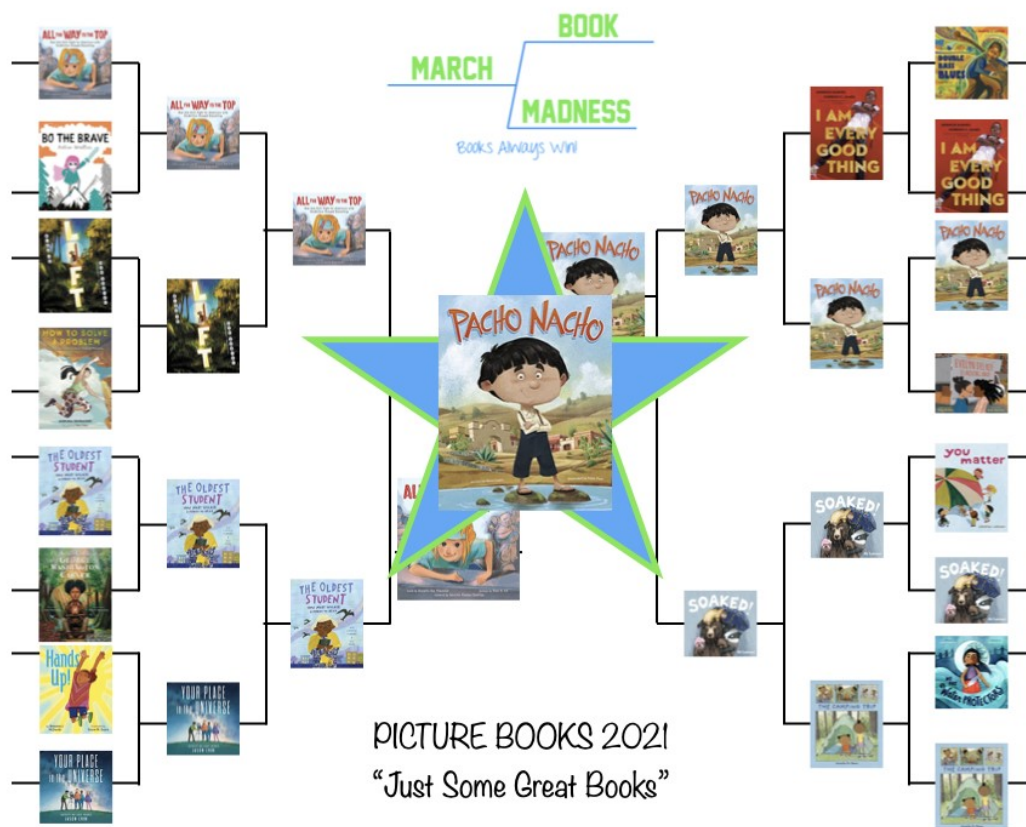
Thank You Volunteers! You are wonderful!!



March Book Madness

Many of our classes participated in the world wide March Book Madness activity. Teachers showed the select books to their class, facilitated discussions and then the classes got to vote on their favourite books.

The kids had a great time meeting and falling in love with some new literary characters! Congratulations to this year's winner, *Pacho Nacho* By Silvia Lopez.



Week of Inspirational Math (March 15-19)

Our Week of Inspirational Math was a great success. Our students had an opportunity to tune in and hear some members of the EIPS community read stories and discuss how math plays a role in their jobs. There were numerous activities posted in Brightspace for students to try and during our 2nd annual Math Day we all worked to solve the math mystery of the Super Bad Superhero, play math bingo, and enjoy a snack. Who knew math could be so much fun!





Earth Day

Celebrated every April 22, Earth Day is the largest, most celebrated environmental event worldwide. More than 6 million Canadians join 1 billion people in over 170 countries in staging events and projects to address local environmental issues. Nearly every school child in Canada takes part in an Earth Day activity. This year staff and students at James Mowat will be participating in alternative activities which may include nature walks, earth day quizzes, and “no power” hours. Parents are also encouraged to provide a no waste lunch for their child. Be sure to ask your child how their class is celebrating Earth Day.



Get ready for
SUMMER READING!

Our **Summer Reading Bookfair** will
take place **ONLINE** from **May 18-31**.

Please watch for updates from your
classroom teacher, the school newsletter
and on JMW social medial accounts.



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.*



Speech Competition

CONGRATULATIONS to the Annual James Mowat Speech Competition participants! All division II students participated in their classroom speech competition. Each class then recorded their best speakers to participate in the school-wide competition during the week before Spring Break. Unfortunately, there will not be a District competition for our students to compete at this year.

Grade 4:	GOLD – Kinsley W-V. SILVER – Jaida D. BRONZE – Gracie K.
Grade 5:	GOLD – Ethan A. SILVER – Ionna B. BRONZE – Blair C.
Grade 6:	GOLD – Kendra F. SILVER – Lily W. BRONZE – Reid K.



Congratulations to all our participants. Your teachers were very proud of the effort you put into the writing and performing of your speeches.

Bicycle Reminder

With the warmer weather and melting of the winter snow, we are beginning to see some students riding their bikes to school. For safety reasons, we request that students follow these guidelines:

- 1 Students should ride their bicycles up to the school grounds area, dismount and walk their bikes to the rack.
- 2 Bicycles should be locked to the rack immediately.
- 3 Bicycle racks are out of bounds during school hours.
- 4 At noon or after school, when you are going home, students should walk their bikes to the end of the school grounds area and then proceed home.
- 5 No bicycles should be ridden through the parking lot or the student pickup area.
- 6 Bicyclists must wear an approved helmet at all times.

We often have well over one hundred bicycles at the racks. It does get crowded. Please follow the above guidelines to stay safe.





Looking Ahead to May 2021:

- May 5 Early Dismissal
Quarter 4 Fees Due (Noon Supervision)
- May 7 School Closure - No School (Professional Learning Day)**
- May 17 Parent Council Meeting (6:30pm) (virtual)
- May 18 Kindergarten Open House (Students starting kindergarten in September 2021)
- May 18-31 Summer Reading Book Fair
- May 21 School Closure - No School**
- May 24 School Closure - No School (Victoria Day)**



Macaroni & Cheese Challenge in Support of the Fort Saskatchewan Food Bank:

During the week of April 26-30, we are once again collecting boxes of macaroni and cheese for the Fort Saskatchewan Food Bank. Classes will be competing against one another to build the tallest or most creative structure with all of the boxes donated by their class. Last time we completed our KD dominoes challenge in December 2019 we managed to collect an outstanding 1162 boxes of macaroni and cheese! Let's see if we can break our record set last time. We are excited to see the structures each class creates with their donations. **Thank you for your generosity in supporting this activity which directly supports our local food bank.**



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.



the JAMES MOWAT Messenger



JAMES MOWAT
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Parent Council Corner...

NEXT PARENT COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Monday, April 19, 2021 at 6:30pm (virtual)

Monday, May 17, 2021 at 6:30pm (AGM) (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.



PARENT COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MAY 17

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, May 17, 2021. At this meeting, we will be reviewing our Annual Report, as well as reviewing the upcoming school year. Parent council changed the voting process for executive positions (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer). Elections now take place annually in September rather than May.

Please consider participating in our last couple meetings to get a feel for what the Parent Council does for our students and teachers. Participating in Parent Council is a great way to get involved with the school and stay informed. If you are interested in participating in parent council, or have any questions, please contact Parent Council at: jamesmowatpaa@gmail.com



Panago Pizza Coupons Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who purchased Panago Pizza Coupons before spring break. We appreciate your ongoing support of our fundraising activities!

COBS BREAD

COBS Bread Dough Raiser Program

James Mowat School is excited to be now participating in the COBS Bread Dough Raiser Program. When shopping at COBS Bread, simply mention James Mowat School and a percentage of your sale is donated back to the school. Participating schools receive a cheque at the end of the year that can be put towards things like new equipment, uniforms, field trips or supplies. Thank you to COBS Bread for including our school in this program!!





Your Future **in MIND**

A big *THANK YOU* to all EIPS families

National Volunteer Week takes place April 18-24. Most years, we celebrate the week in schools by thanking the hundreds of volunteers across EIPS who offer their knowledge and time to help enhance learning within the Division. This year is a little different because of COVID-19. While different, schools are thanking their families in new and creative ways.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees at Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS), I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to every one of our EIPS school families for your support over the last 12 months. Collectively, we've created a relationship that allows us to rally behind one clear vision: To provide exceptional education for all students. As we navigate the pandemic, it's critical we continue to work together to support student learning. Through this, we'll inspire learners and ensure they gain the skills they need to transition to the next grade or the world of work.

So, again, thank-you for your time, for your efforts, for your kindness and for your understanding as we work together to ensure all students succeed.

Trina Boymook
Chair, EIPS Board of Trustees

Watch for Thin Ice

Remember, be aware of thin ice this time of year. Depending on changing temperatures, ice can form and melt to varying degrees on outdoor bodies of water. Please remind your child about the dangers of thin ice, obey all posted signs, take the proper care and remain a safe distance from the ice. For more information about ice safety, visit the [Canadian Red Cross](#).



Did you know?

The colour of ice may be an indication of its strength. Clear blue ice is the strongest. White opaque is half as strong as blue ice. And, grey ice is unsafe—the greyness indicates the presence of water.