

# the JAMES MOWAT Messenger

June 2021



Dear Parents/Guardians,

June has arrived and we want to thank all of our parents, and staff for the incredible work they did to support learning this year. Furthermore, thank you to all of our students for making our school a great place to learn

The 2020-2021 school year was another amazing year at James Mowat. Our Reading Bracket Challenge supported our literacy goals, while our Math day filled with a Math Mystery and math bingo supported our Numeracy goals. Even in as different a year as this was, students and staff made a difference in our community, collecting over 1,000 boxes of Mac and Cheese for our local food bank, supporting initiatives such as the Terry Fox Run, Orange Shirt Day, Pink Shirt Day, and Smiles From Spencer. All of these initiatives supported our citizenship goal.

This year we introduced our new Way to Go Blue Jay positive referral program focusing on Being Kind, Being Safe, and Being Responsible. To celebrate success with academics we created a Jay Achievement Award recognizing Academic Excellence, Effort, and Growth. Both of these awards will continue to be utilized next year as it is important to celebrate positive choices, progress, and dedication.

We were very thankful to Shell for their kind donation towards our outdoor classroom. If you have not seen it yet, it is located by the Tarmac behind the school. We also had Cheryl Devin, one of our Indigenous consultants, join us virtually for a week of Metis beading and learning with our students.

We would like to thank our Parent Council for their support. Although they were not able to participate in many of our beloved events this year, their commitment and support impacted our school in a positive way. We are hopeful to be back to working together in our regular way next year.

For our students in grade 6, know that we will miss you all and wish you all the success in Junior High and remember, once a Jay, always a Jay! Also, to our families that are moving on, we wish you the best in the future.

We will be having a number of staff who will be leaving us and pursuing other opportunities. We would like to thank all of them for their contributions, dedication, and commitment to making a difference in our school. We wish them the best and hope our paths cross again in the future.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer with family and friends.

See you September 1, 2021.



**JAMES MOWAT**  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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### **June at a Glance:**

June 2	Early Dismissal
June 3	<u>Mental Wellness Day for Schools</u>
June 7-11	All Library Books Due Back This Week
June 21	<u>National Indigenous Peoples Day</u>
June 24	Grade 6 Farewell
June 25	Kindergarten Farewell
June 25	Last Day of School for Students
June 28	Last school operational day (schools closed to students)



### **Looking Ahead to September:**

August 25	James Mowat School office will re-open (office hours are 9:00am-3:30pm)
August 26, 27 & 30	Write-On Stationary Orders Ready for Pick Up (9:00am-3:00pm)
September 1	First day of school for students
September 6	Labour Day—No classes
September 8	Early Dismissal
September 15	School Photos (Kindergarten - Track A)
September 16	School Photos (Kindergarten Track B—Grade 6)
September 20	Bus evacuation drill
September 20	Meet the Teacher Night
September 20	Parent Council Meeting (6:30pm)
September 20/21	LEIA-Kindergarten Bus Presentation



### **Are you Moving this Summer?**

If you are moving this summer and will not be returning to James Mowat School in the fall, please let the office know. It is very helpful to have this information as we plan for next year. Thank you.



### **Yearbooks—Order Deadline Extended to June 25, 2021**

Thank you to everyone who ordered a yearbook. Yearbook orders can be placed online through the PowerSchool Parent Portal. Yearbooks will be ready for distribution at the end of September. A huge THANK YOU goes to Mrs. Fleming for assisting with the yearbook. Thank you to our parent volunteer, Mrs. Fisk, for taking pictures for the yearbook, and to Mrs. Conroy our Parent Council yearbook volunteer.



### **Thank You Parent Council!!!**

A HUGE THANK YOU to our Parent Council for continuing to support the many programs, and initiatives at James Mowat this year and for always being willing to lend a hand whenever possible. We can't thank you enough Parent Council! Kudos to all of you!



A huge **thank you** to everyone who purchased books through the Scholastic Summer Reading Book Fair!

*The money raised will go towards buying new books for the Library!*

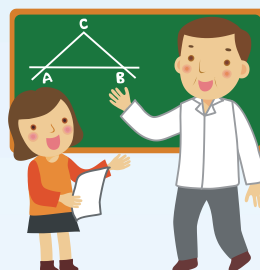
**Be sure to find LOTS of new favorite books this summer!**





### **Meet the Teacher Night - September 20, 2021**

We will forward information regarding the format in early September.



### **Tools for School**

James Mowat School has once again partnered with the United Way for the 2021-22 Tools for School campaign. Annually, Tools for School provides backpacks and school supplies to students in kindergarten through Grade 12 whose families have limited resources. If you're a parent or know a parent who needs access to the program, contact the school directly. Staff will discretely provide the backpack to the child at the beginning of the 2021-22 school year.

Alternatively, if you'd like to donate to the program, you can pick up a few extra supplies when you're out shopping for back-to-school. Drop-off boxes are located at various businesses in the community during the summer months—including Staples and the EIPS Central Services office. All supplies donated within the community are invested back into the region.

For more information about Tools for School, contact the school at 780-992-1272 or call the EIPS Central Services at 780-464-3477.





**WRITE-ON STATIONERY**

### **Write On Stationery**

James Mowat School has chosen to offer the parents of children planning to attend James Mowat next year the opportunity to pre-purchase their school supplies.

Write-On Stationery will purchase, package and deliver all of your children's school supplies for the next year. **As a part of this service, Write-On also provides pre-printed labels.**

What is not addressed as part of the list are personal items like inside shoes or backpacks. The "also required" list includes items which you may already own. We do not expect parents to purchase these items every year. These need only be purchased if you do not already own them.

**THIS IS A VOLUNTARY PROGRAM** but one that we are sure will be of value to you as it ensures that students will be provided with quality school supplies that meet the student's exact needs.

If you would like to purchase your school supplies through this program:

- \* **Go to the Write-On website and order online [www.write-on.ca](http://www.write-on.ca)**

Payment may be made by:

Online orders (accepted until July 15, 2021). (VISA, MC, AMEX, Visa Debit and Interac Online)

**All online orders submitted by July 15, will be packaged, returned to the school and available for pick up on August 26, 27 & 30th between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm.**

This will give you one less thing to worry about over the summer and provide you with one less expense in September.







## Parent Council Corner...

### PARENT COUNCIL MEETING:

The next meeting is our Annual General Meeting on Monday, September 20, 2021, at 6:30pm.



### THANK YOU!!

In addition to the parent council executive there are several subcommittees that are responsible for so many of the wonderful activities/events that happen at our school. We would like to thank the following individuals for their tremendous commitment this year:

#### Executive

President

Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary

Dawn Calder-Kennedy

J.R. Hurley

John Shannon

Sara Secrist

#### Subcommittees

Fundraising

Family Events

Dawn Calder-Kennedy, Sara Secrist & Nicole Wilson

John Shannon





# Your Future in MIND

## **2020-21 EIPS Parent Survey: Results now available**

The results are now available for the 2020-21 EIPS Parent Survey conducted in April. Thank you to all families who took the time to share their feedback with the Division. Part A of the survey included 21 questions related to the three priorities outlined in the EIPS

### 2020-24 Four-Year Education Plan:

- Priority 1: Promote growth and success for all students
- Priority 2: Enhance high-quality learning and working environments
- Priority 3: Enhance public education through effective engagement

The overall Division results represent 3,198 responses from parents and guardians across the Division. This was an increase in responses from 2,967 last year.

The survey results for James Mowat Elementary have helped us identify the following areas of strength and opportunities for growth.

#### Areas of strength:

- My child demonstrating growth in literacy.
- My child demonstrating growth in numeracy.
- My child's learning the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to be successful in life.

#### Opportunities for growth:

- My child has an understanding of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit culture and history.
- How satisfied are you with the opportunities provided to be involved in your child's education.

The feedback gathered in Part A of the survey will help our school and the Division measure its progress toward meeting the priorities and goals outlined in the EIPS 2020-24 Four-Year Education Plan and develop strategies to better serve students and the wider community moving forward.

After the local election this fall, the feedback gathered in Part B of the survey will be used by the incoming Board of Trustees to develop a new EIPS Four-Year Education Plan for 2022-26 and beyond—one that's responsive to student and community needs and focused on continuous improvement. Thank you to all parents who provided suggestions on how the Division and Board of Trustees could consider updating the Four-Year Education Plan for future years. The Division will share more information about the feedback collected in Part B of the survey after the Board and administration complete their review of the data collected this fall.

The full results are available on our website:

[Parent Survey Results: Division](#)

[Parent Survey Results: James Mowat Elementary](#)



Your Future in MIND



## Student Transportation: 2021-22 registration

Planning to use Student Transportation in the 2021-22 school year? If so, make sure your child is registered so Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) can plan routes and send your child a bus pass before the first day of school.

All students who indicated needing transportation services through the returning student registration process are now registered. Those families have also received tentative route schedules and invoices—fees are due June 30, 2021.

For those students who didn't indicate needing transportation service through the returning student registration process and want to now register, simply contact EIPS Student Transportation at 780-417-8151 or email [st@eips.ca](mailto:st@eips.ca).

For more information about EIPS Student Transportation visit [www.eips.ca/transportation](http://www.eips.ca/transportation).

NOTE: Families can pay fees online using the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#).  
To pay in person contact Student Transportation to make an appointment.

## Summer Hours at Elk Island Public Schools

Throughout the summer break, James Mowat School is closed and will reopen on August 25, 2021 at 8:00am. If you have any school-related questions or concerns while the school is closed, contact EIPS Central Services - the office is open all summer to complete year-end activities and prepare for the 2021-2022 school year.

### EIPS Central Office Summer Hours

Open	Monday to Friday	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Phone	780-464-3477	
Address	683 Wye Rd., Sherwood Park	

### Statutory Holidays

Closed	Thursday, July 1	Canada Day
Closed	Monday, August 2	Heritage Day
Closed	Monday, September 6	Labour Day

NOTE: Student Transportation will also remain open during the summer months and operate during the same hours as EIPS Central Services Office.

## Access to Student User Accounts for Students Leaving EIPS

Is your child graduating from or leaving EIPS at the end of the school year? If so, they must ensure any information they want to retain from their school cloud accounts is downloaded onto a personal device before leaving.

Google account – Students must download any wanted content before September 1—download files individually or in bulk using Google Takeout (<https://takeout.google.com/>).

Microsoft account – Students must download any wanted content from their OneDrive account before September 1. After Sept. 1, 2021, EIPS will deactivate the account and delete all remaining files.

For more information, contact the school at 780-992-1272.





## Little Elk Island Adventure: Registration

Elk Island Public Schools is once again planning to run the Little Elk Island Adventure, a fun and informative program for first-time school bus riders.

Annually, Student Transportation offers the Little Elk Island Adventure to new riders and their parents. The program's aim: To help introduce families to busing so they feel comfortable and at ease before even starting school. Through a series of activities, riders learn about school bus safety, danger zones, tips on boarding and how to sit properly on the bus. After that, both the children and parents hop on the bus to practice what they've learned by venturing out on a short ride.

The Little Elk Island Adventure is for first-time school bus riders entering the 2021-22 school year. The tentative session dates and times are as follows:

Location	Date	Time
EIPS Central Services	August 16	6 p.m.
EIPS Central Services	August 17	6 p.m.
EIPS Central Services	August 18	2 p.m.
EIPS Central Services	August 19	2:30 p.m.
EIPS Central Services	August 19	6 p.m.
EIPS Central Services	August 23	9 a.m.
EIPS Central Services	August 24	6 p.m.
EIPS Central Services	August 26	6 p.m.
SouthPointe School	August 25	2:30 p.m.
SouthPointe School	August 25	6 p.m.

Dates and times may change depending on the province's public-health measures.

IPS Central Services is located at 683 Wye Rd., Sherwood Park

SouthPointe School is located at 11 SouthPointe Blvd., Fort Saskatchewan

### **Register Now**

Space is limited, and pre-registration is required.

More information about busing for kindergarten children is available at: [eips.ca/transportation/kindergarten-busing-faq](https://eips.ca/transportation/kindergarten-busing-faq).



# 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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## DECEMBER 2021

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## FEBRUARY 2022

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## April 2022

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## JUNE 2022

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## SEPTEMBER 2021

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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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