

the JAMES MOWAT Messenger

September 2021



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to a new school year! We hope everyone had a safe and relaxing summer break. We welcome all of our new and returning students to James Mowat School. It's going to be a terrific year!

We are pleased to welcome Mrs. Kornicki (Counsellor) and Miss White (Grade 4) to our staff this year. We are also pleased to welcome back Mrs. Cursiter (Grade 4).

Please remember to log in to your PowerSchool Parent Portal and complete the Student Correction and Verification Form. It is very important for the office to have up-to-date contact information for each student.

If you have not yet completed the 2021-2022 COVID-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist Acknowledgement, please sign into your parent portal to complete the electronic form for each of your children.

If your child has allergies or a medical condition which staff should be aware of, please submit a correction and verification form with your child's updated medical information. If applicable, you will be asked to fill out additional medical forms (Medication Management, Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan for students with life-threatening allergy and/or carry an EpiPen, Asthma Emergency Plan, etc.).

Our first Parent Council meeting will be held on Monday, September 27 at 6:00pm virtually. All parents are welcome to attend. We always appreciate your feedback and suggestions as we work together for your children.

We are committed to providing outstanding programming for all students.

Mr. Stacey Boyko
Principal

Mr. John Murphy
Assistant Principal



JAMES MOWAT
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

9625 - 82 Street, Fort Saskatchewan, AB T8L3T6
Phone: 780 992 1272 Fax: 780 992 1267
principal.jmw@ei.educ.ab.ca www.jamesmowat.ca



Meet the Staff

Unfortunately, we are unable to host our traditional "Meet the Staff" event. Details for this event will be communicated to parents once available.



School Photos

ICON Photography out of Sherwood Park will be taking student photos on **Thursday, September 16.**

Photos will start shortly after 8:30am. The Track A kindergarten class will have their photos taken on **Wednesday, September 15.**

Update Your PowerSchool Information

The "Correction and Verification Form" is now available online through your [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). Families can use the form to access and update their child's information—including address, parent and guardian information, emergency contacts and any medical information. Reviewing the form and submitting updates ensures the school has the most up-to-date information regarding your child.

If you've recently moved, now is the time to ensure the Division has your updated address information. In particular, please also pay close attention to all phone numbers, email addresses and emergency contact information. The Division will undoubtedly continue to have important information to communicate with families throughout this school year, and we want to ensure you receive this information. If you haven't already done so, we ask all James Mowat Elementary families to review their child's PowerSchool information by Sept. 22, 2021.

For more information about the PowerSchool Correction and Verification Form, contact the school office at 780-992-1272.



Enhancing Literacy and Numeracy:

As part of Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) ongoing efforts to enhance the literacy and numeracy of students in all grade levels, the Division is once again administering the Star Early Literacy/Star Reading and the Math Intervention Programming Instrument (MIPI) assessment tools in the 2021-22 school year. The tools focus on literacy and numeracy, are digitally based and offer an opportunity for students to demonstrate their learning. The goal: To provide timely information to teachers, help enhance classroom instruction and ensure student learning needs are identified.

Three times a year—in September, January/February and May/June—EIPS students in Grade 1 complete the Star Early Literacy assessment and students in grades 2-12 will complete the Star Reading assessment. The assessments take approximately 20 minutes and are administered on a digital device. Also, in September, students in grades 2 through 10 will complete the MIPI assessment, which is a mathematic screening tool used to Inform teachers about a student's math skills—students enrolled in math for Semester 2 will complete the MIPI assessment in February. For students in grades 7 through 10, the MIPI takes approximately 50 minutes, and for students in grades 2 through 6 it takes approximately 20 minutes. The results offer the teacher a clearer picture of a student's learning needs and help determine if subsequent instructional planning is required.

The scores of the assessments aren't used toward a student's grade, and there is no need to study ahead of time. The tools simply provide the teacher with information to better understand where each student is in terms of reading comprehension and mathematic ability. If, after analyzing the results, it's determined a student can benefit from extra support, the teacher will contact the family to discuss possible support strategies.

For more information about the Division's Star and MIPI assessment tools, contact EIPS Supports for Students at 780-464-3477.



Library News

If you have any library books or textbooks that were not returned to the school in June, please have your child return them to the library as soon as possible. Library fines have been added to students' accounts for any outstanding books from the 2020-2021 school year. Any books returned before October 31 will have the fine removed from the students' accounts.



Sync the School Calendar to Your Calendar

Did you know you can sync the school calendar to your own calendar? You can. Simply visit <http://jamesmowat.ca/about/calendar> and click on the applicable subscription option:

- Download to iCal
- Add to Google Calendar
- Subscribe to Calendar

NOTE: Options are located above the calendar.



Once you click on the desired subscription option, follow the instructions. Within seconds, your calendar will contain all James Mowat Elementary's important dates including holidays, school-closures days, planned activities, events and more.

Orange Shirt Day—Wednesday, September 29

Our school will once again be participating in the annual Orange Shirt Day on September 29th. Orange Shirt Day “opens the door to global conversation on all aspects of Residential Schools. It is an opportunity to create meaningful discussion about the effects of Residential Schools and the legacy they have left behind.” We invite all staff and students to wear an orange shirt on September 29th to show their support.



Truth and Reconciliation Day—Thursday, September 30

Elk Island Public Schools will be closed on Thursday, September 30 in recognition of Truth and Reconciliation Day. The school calendar on eips.ca has been updated to reflect this change.

LEARN ALBERTA

LearnAlberta.ca is a website that supports lifelong learning by providing quality online resources to the Kindergarten to Grade 12 community in Alberta. Students, teachers, and parents can use the site to find multimedia learning resources that are correlated to the Alberta programs of study. Please contact the school office to obtain the UserID and Password to access this site.



Pay School Fees Online

School fee information for the 2021-22 school year is expected to be posted on the PowerSchool Parent Portal by late September. All fees are due within 30 days of being posted. To access your fee information, simply login to the PowerSchool Parent Portal and go to “Student Fees.” There you can view your fees and pay online using Visa, MasterCard or debit card—when available from your financial institution.

Don’t forget to log in to the PowerSchool Parent Portal regularly throughout the year. Fees are often added to your child’s account to cover the cost of certain school activities such as field trips, class projects, athletic-team fees and more. Additionally, junior high and senior high fees can change as courses are added and deleted.

If circumstances exist where you’re unable to pay your school fees, you can apply to have fees waived by submitting an Application for a Waiver of Fees. The application deadline is Dec. 15, 2021.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines visit eips.ca/schools/fees. Alternatively, contact Sherri Jensen, Secretary at James Mowat Elementary at 780-992-1272.

Monthly School Newsletters

James Mowat School uses SchoolMessenger to notify parents by email/phone when the newsletter is posted each month. Login to your PowerSchool Parent Portal account at any time to update your email notification preferences.

Lates and Absences

Parents, please remember to call the school if your child is going to be away or is coming late. Please phone the school at **780-992-1272**. If there is no answer, leave a message with your child’s name, class and reason for the absence.

Our school website at www.jamesmowat.ca is equipped with a Student Attendance button on the *left side* of the home page. Simply click on the blue **Student Attendance** button, select **Student Attendance** from the drop down menu of our Contact Section and fill in your information. Your child’s absence will be sent directly to the school office once you hit **Submit**.

Please Note: All absence notifications should be sent to the Student Attendance email address rather than emailing your child’s teacher directly. Thank You.



September at a Glance:

Sept 1	First Day of School
Sept 6	School Closed—Labour Day
Sept 8	Early Dismissal
Sept 8	First Official Day of Kindergarten (Track A)
Sept 9	First Official Day of Kindergarten (Track B)
Sept 15	School Photos (Kindergarten Track A only)
Sept 16	School Photos (Kindergarten Track B & Grades 1-6)
Sept 17	Terry Fox Run
Sept 29	Orange Shirt Day
Sept 30	School Closed—National Day for Truth and Reconciliation



Terry Fox Run and “Toonies for Terry”

The James Mowat Terry Fox run will be on Friday, September 17, weather permitting. We are collecting “Toonies for Terry” which will be donated to the Terry Fox Foundation. We appreciate any contributions towards this worthy cause.

Tools for School Supplies Available for Students

Do you need help to give your children the basic tools they need to succeed in school? *Tools for School* is a United Way initiative providing families who may have limited resources with essential school supplies to help students achieve success in their studies. A number of backpacks filled with supplies are at our school for students who might need support this year. Contact the James Mowat School office at 780-992-1272 to request a backpack.



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.



Tidbits . . .

PHYSICAL DISTANCING As you drop off and pick up your children we would appreciate if you would continue to practice physical distancing and/or wearing a mask.

EARLY ARRIVALS Supervision is provided at the school beginning at 8:15am in the morning. Please do not drop off or have your children arriving at the school before this time.

DOGS We would ask you not to bring your dogs onto the school grounds when dropping off children in the mornings, at recess times, or when picking children up after school. Some children are very nervous and anxious around dogs and we want all the children to feel safe.

EARLY DISMISSAL A reminder that students will be dismissed early the first Wednesday of each month because of the monthly staff meeting. Classes will be dismissed at 2:05 p.m.

Parent Council Corner...

PARENT COUNCIL MEETING:

Our Annual General Meeting is on Monday, September 27, 2021, at 6:00pm. The meeting will be virtual and details will follow. Everyone is welcome to join us! There are lots of positions available. If you are interested in a position please contact the parent council at jamesmowatpaa@gmail.com. This is an excellent way to get involved with the school and stay informed.

PARENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

If you are unable to attend the Parent Council meetings, but would like to receive copies of the meeting minutes, please email jamesmowatpaa@gmail.com to be added to the email

Upcoming Parent Council Events - Check Us Out On Facebook!

Parent Council will not be organizing a Halloween Dance this October, but will be revisiting the idea of a family fun event after Christmas Break. Stay tuned!

To stay informed about the Parent Council's events and activities, please "like" the Facebook page "James Mowat Parent Council." <https://www.facebook.com/jamesmowatpaa/>



Your Future in MIND

COVID-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist

If you have not already do so, please complete the **COVID-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist**

Acknowledgement. Access to this form is through the Parent Portal by clicking the Forms tab at the top of the left-hand menu and then selecting the COVID-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist Acknowledgement from the list. Please ensure you refer to this checklist daily before sending your child to school. Anyone who develops symptoms while at school will be sent home.

Video Surveillance on Buses

Did you know each EIPS bus is equipped with video surveillance? Video surveillance and equipment helps:

- ensure the safety of all students, drivers and property; and
- discourage destructive acts.

On a regular basis, EIPS Student Transportation reviews the video recordings, in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP Act). The recordings assist the department with monitoring student and driver conduct and may be used as evidence in a disciplinary matter.

For more information about the collection, use and disclosure of personal information, contact the EIPS FOIP Co-ordinator at 780-464-3477.

Caregiver Education Series

Alberta Health Services hosts a variety of virtual caregiver information sessions throughout the year 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. Session topics include anxiety, ADHD, depression, self-harm, technology, teens and teaching leadership skills, communication, resiliency and more Visit [Caregiver Education](#) to see the monthly caregiver sessions

FULL TIME & SUBSTITUTE NOON HOUR SUPERVISORS NEEDED

Are You Interested in Earning \$19.91/day?

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

**WE ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR
FULL TIME & SUBSTITUTE
NOON HOUR SUPERVISORS**



Time of shift would be 11:25 am—12:10 pm (approx.)

If you are interested, please apply online at EIPS.ca/careers or click [here](#).



EIPS DIVISION CALENDAR 2021-22

Regular School Day	Early Dismissal for Students	First Instructional Day (Semester 1 & 2)	No School for All Students and Staff	No School for Students – Professional Learning/Operational Day
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Important Dates

Aug 30	Professional Learning Day
Aug 31	Operational Day
Sept 1	Classes Begin
Sept 6	Labour Day – Stat.
Sept 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – Paid Holiday
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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JULY 2022

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EIPS KINDERGARTEN 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

SCHEDULE A:
Mondays, Wednesdays
and select Fridays

SCHEDULE B:
Tuesdays, Thursdays
and select Fridays

Important Dates

- Aug 30** Professional Learning Day
- Aug 31** Operational Day
- Sept 1** Classes Begin
- Sept 6** Labour Day – Stat.
- Sept 30** National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – Paid Holiday
- 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
No Kindergarten Classes
- June 29** Last Operational Day

AUGUST 2021

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MARCH 2022

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April 2022

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MAY 2022

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JUNE 2022

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