

the JAMES MOWAT Messenger

November 2021



Dear Parents/Guardians,

School is well underway and students have been hard at work. Our Levelled Literacy Intervention program supports students striving for their literacy goals. This program continues to provide additional support for our students. It's amazing to see all the work our students have been busy doing.

Report cards will be published to PowerSchool on November 26th, and Parent Teacher Interviews will take place on November 30th and December 2nd.


Please remember to check the school's online calendar regularly to keep up to date.

The school will be closed to staff and students November 8 to 12 for Remembrance Day and Fall Break. Classes Resume on November 15th.

Have a safe and restful November Break.

Mr. Stacey Boyko, Principal
Mr. John Murphy, Assistant Principal

November at a Glance:



Nov 3	Early Dismissal
Nov 5	Remembrance Day Ceremony (in class)
Nov 5	Apple Fundraiser Pick-up 2:30-5:30pm at the School
Nov 8-12	No School - Fall Break
Nov 12	Dieleman Fundraiser orders due (online)
Nov 15	Classes Resume
Nov 15	Parent Council Meeting 6:00pm (Virtual)
Nov 15-19	Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week
Nov 20	National Child Day
Nov 26	Reports Cards Published
Nov 30	Parent-Teacher Interviews

Looking ahead to December:

Dec 1	Early Dismissal
Dec 2	Parent-Teacher Interviews
Dec 22-Jan 4	Winter Break



JAMES MOWAT
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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**Our Virtual
Book Fair
is coming!
Save the date!**

Virtual Book Fairs

FALL VIRTUAL BOOK FAIR

November 22- December 6, 2021

Please watch for emails from Homeroom teachers!

Remembrance Day 2021

Due to COVID, we will not be having our traditional Ceremony in the gym, rather, we will have an In Class School-Wide Ceremony on Friday November 5th starting at 10:40am. We will run a memorial over the intercom. We are fortunate to have Constable McLeod play the bagpipe once again. He will be playing around the hallway at the end of our In Class School-Wide Ceremony.

In lieu of a whole school Remembrance Day Ceremony, we have crafted up a Veteran's Week and Remembrance Day plan with videos, books, songs and activities for students to do all week. Each class has been taught a hand signing piece to the song "Soldier's Cry". This video will be uploaded to Brightspace. Please remember to log in through your child's Brightspace account to watch it. The "Soldier's Cry" video will be under their music course.



Masks, Water Bottles, and Cutlery

Please ensure your child remembers to pack all of their needed supplies for the day. Students are reminded to bring their masks and water bottle each day, as well as any needed utensils for their snack/lunch.





Report Cards

Report cards will be published on Friday, November 26th. 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 online, please contact your child's teacher to make arrangements to have one printed.



Parent Teacher Interviews: Tuesday, November 30 and Thursday, December 2

Our first round of parent/student/teacher interviews will be conducted via telephone and will take place on Tuesday, November 30th and Thursday, December 2nd from 3:30 - 6:30PM. 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.

Booking Appointments for Parent Teacher Interviews

All interviews will be scheduled using an online booking system. To book your conference(s) please go to <http://www.schoolinterviews.ca>, and type in event code 9qha2 (or scan the QR code). The online system will open on Friday, November 19, at 3:00pm 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.



School Fees

If you have not already paid your noon supervision fees please submit payment online via your PowerSchool Parent portal at your earliest convenience. Remember to log into your account regularly throughout the year. Fees are added to your child's account throughout the school year to cover the cost of various activities such as field trips, library fines, yearbooks etc.

If circumstances exist where you are unable to pay your fees, you can apply to have fees waived by submitting an Application for a Waiver of Fees available on EIPS.ca. For the 2021-22 year, the deadline for receiving fee waiver applications is Dec. 15, 2021.



Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week (November 15-19)

National Bullying Awareness Week is on November 15 –19 this year. At James Mowat students will be participating in a variety of activities/discussions that will address how to make our school a safe place.

Christmas Concert 2021

As you would expect, we will not be having an in-person Christmas concert this year. Each class will be performing a Christmas song or musical performance and it will then be posted to Brightspace under their music course for families to watch. Please remember to log in under your child's Brightspace account to watch the video. Merry Christmas!



Literacy at Home: The Importance of Vocabulary

Parents often ask for tips on working with their children at home to build literacy skills. Daniel Willingham, a psychology professor at the University of Virginia who writes about the science behind reading comprehension, explained that whether or not readers understand a text has a lot to do with how much background knowledge and vocabulary they have relating to the topic. That's because writers leave out a lot of information that they assume readers will know.

In fact, a study by Nagy & Herman showed the following results:

Student A reads 1 minute
each day in a school year

Learns 8000 new
words

Student B reads 5 minutes
each day in a school year

Learns 282 000
new words

Student C reads 20 minutes
each day in a school year

Learns 1 800 000
new words



You can see that the difference is significant!

So, what can you do at home? Here are some ideas:

- Read with and to your child for 20 minutes each day.
- Have conversations with your child and try to include "big words" and new words.
- Tell stories to your child and encourage them to ask questions.
- Involve your child in the activities you do -- cooking, fixing the car, etc. Use terms specific to the activity to build vocabulary.

*Sources: Iowa Reading Research Centre, Nagy, William and Herman, Patricia: Breadth and Depth of Vocabulary Knowledge: Implications for Acquisition and Instruction, Willingham, Dan: The Reading Mind



Parent Council Corner...

Next Parent Council Meeting:

Monday, November 15 at 6:00pm (virtual). All parents/guardians are welcome to attend. The link will be emailed to all parents/guardians prior to the meeting.

Parent Council Fundraising:

Dieleman DFS
FUNDRAISING Sales
Fundraising Solutions

Dieleman Fundraiser—order by November 12th

Ordering for this fundraiser will be done online only. These fundraisers allow Parent Council to support the school in many different ways. Most importantly, we are able to provide additional funding to each teacher to support class projects within the classrooms.

Over the years, Parent Council has also supported many other amazing projects and events. Some of these include:

- Bringing in 3rd Street Beat for a full week of Hip Hop dance training
- Providing agenda bags for division 1 students
- \$500 a year to the new book purchase plan
- Providing free hot dog lunches for all of our students, staff and volunteers during Fun in the Sun.

Without fundraising support from our families, these activities would not be possible.

The Dieleman's fundraiser includes the option to ship to our school free of charge or a home address for \$12.95. Orders over \$100 will ship FREE to any location in Canada. Each online order placed will include a FREE GIFT at checkout! Be sure to register online so that family and friends can shop under your unique account.

Shop online at
www.shopdfscanada.com
Organization ID: 7123
Order by November 12th



Thank You for your Generous Support!!



Your Future in MIND

Looking for Staff Contact Information?

We've recently made changes to how families can contact James Mowat Elementary staff.

If you'd like to reach out to your child's teacher directly, simply log in to your PowerSchool Parent Portal account. From the Grades and Attendance page, you can click on the name of any of your child's teachers to email them directly.

To connect with school administration and main office staff, refer to the online contact form <https://www.jamesmowat.ca/contact> to send an email to the applicable person directly. From the online contact form, you can also send an email to the school to report your child's absence.

If you're having trouble with your PowerSchool account, contact the school office. And, of course, we're always just a phone call away if you have questions or need assistance, 780-992-1272.

Brightspace Parent & Guardian Mobile App

To make it easier for parents and guardians to see what their children are working on, what's on the schedule and the latest news from the classroom, Brightspace Parent & Guardian is now available as a mobile app for iOS® and Android™. For more information visit www.eips.ca/parents/brightspace/app.

PowerSchool Student Portal Login Credential Update

On November 3, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is updating the student log in process for the PowerSchool Student Portal. Once updates are complete, students will use their EIPS credentials to login to the PowerSchool Student Portal or the PowerSchool mobile app. Student access to the portal and app may be intermittently unavailable while updates are taking place. Effective November 4, students will use the new EIPS login credentials to access the portal or app. Students who use the mobile app will be required to log out and back in after the updates are complete.

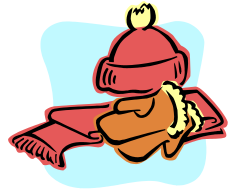
If students are having trouble logging in to PowerSchool after the change, they can contact their teacher or a school office staff member for assistance. This update does not affect the log in process for parents or guardians for the PowerSchool Parent Portal.



Your Future in MIND

Inclement Weather

With the winter season almost here, we want to remind families to dress children appropriately for the weather when getting ready for school or the bus. The weather often changes unexpectedly throughout the day, so please select suitable outerwear and ensure your child is prepared for changing conditions.



If inclement weather conditions occur, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) advises families of any bus cancellations using various communications tools—automated-telephone messages, alerts posted on www.eips.ca and school websites, Twitter, Facebook, local radio stations, and notification through both the Bus Status and the Ride 360 apps. Morning bus cancellations are posted on www.eips.ca by 6:30 a.m.

Decisions regarding bus cancellations are guided by EIPS administrative procedures that state, “school bus service may be suspended...when there is a forecast or current temperature of -40 C, including wind chill factor, in one or more regions.” Other reasons for suspending or delaying school bus services include adverse weather and poor road conditions. When school bus services are suspended, schools remain open to students. EIPS believes families have the right and responsibility to make choices for their children based on their beliefs and perceptions of safety during times of inclement weather.

For more information, contact EIPS Student Transportation at 780-417-8151.

No Child Without: Free MedicAlert for students

In our ongoing effort to provide safe and caring schools for students, James Mowat Elementary is registered in the Canadian MedicAlert Foundation’s No Child Without program. The program is a national initiative that provides no-cost MedicAlert services to children—between the ages of four and 14 years—who have chronic health conditions. The goal is twofold: to help children with severe allergies, medical conditions or special needs and to assist schools with medical-emergency plans for students.

Once a child is registered, the school is provided with advice on a medical-emergency plan for that student and given a list of medications, allergies and medical conditions the student has. If your child has a serious medical condition or allergy and could benefit from MedicAlert services, contact the school office at 780-992-1272. To learn more about the No Child Without program, visit www.nochildwithout.ca.