

the JAMES MOWAT Messenger

January 2022



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy New Year and welcome to 2022! We hope everyone had a restful break.

Hopefully you had a chance to enjoy the Christmas videos that were posted under the music course on your child's Brightspace page. Thank you to Mrs. Sikora for putting together the videos and well done to all our talented students for bringing some festive spirit to the halls of James Mowat.

Welcome to Ms. Reimer who will be working with students identified to participate in the small-group numeracy intervention programming and/or the literacy intervention programming.

Please be sure to complete the Covid-19 Alberta Health Daily Screening Checklist before sending your child to school each day (<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/covid-19-information-alberta-health-daily-checklist>).

We hope you can join us virtually for the next Parent Council meeting on January 17.

Stay warm!

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

January at a Glance:

January 3-7	No School - Winter Break
January 10	Classes Resume
Jan 14	Hot Lunch Orders Due
Jan 17	Parent Council Meeting 6pm (virtual)
Jan 25	Hot Lunch - Freson Bros
Jan 27	Family Literacy Day (https://abclifeliteracy.ca/all-programs/family-literacy-day/)
Jan 28	Career Day (Grades 4-6)
Jan 31	No School - PL Day

Looking ahead to February:

Feb 1	Kindergarten and Grades 1-12 New student registration opens for 2022-23
Feb 1	Returning Student Registration opens for 2022-23
Feb 1-9	Giant Indigenous floor map at James Mowat
Feb 2	Early Dismissal
Feb 10-11	No School - Teachers' Convention
Feb 14	Hot Lunch - Boston Pizza
Feb 14-17	Metis Beading with Cheryl Devin
Feb 21	No School - Family Day
Feb 23	Pink Shirt Day
Feb 28	Parent Council Meeting 6pm
Feb 28	Returning Student Registration 2022-23 closes



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Kindergarten Registration Starts Soon!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2022? If so, it's almost time to register for kindergarten.

Kindergarten registration opens for the 2022-23 school year on Feb. 1, 2022.



To help families prepare, Elk Island Public Schools has put together an online [EIPS Kindergarten Tool kit](https://www.eips.ca/programs-services/early-learning/kindergarten) (<https://www.eips.ca/programs-services/early-learning/kindergarten>) 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 Elementary's kindergarten program is available at <https://www.jamesmowat.ca/>.

Returning Student Registration for 2022-23

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) will once again conduct an online returning student registration process to confirm student registrations for the 2022-23 school year. Families of all returning students must complete the process to confirm the school their child plans to attend in the 2022-23 school year. Additionally, students who want to attend a non-designated school need to make that request through the returning student registration process—acceptance is based on available space. The 2022-23 returning student registration takes place between Feb. 1-28, 2022.

Access to the Returning Student Registration Form is provided through the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](https://powerschool.eips.ca/public/home.html) (<https://powerschool.eips.ca/public/home.html>). If you don't have a PowerSchool Parent Portal account, you need to set one up before Feb. 1, 2022.

Create a PowerSchool Parent Portal account (<https://www.eips.ca/parents/powerschool/parent-portal>)

For more information, contact the school directly.



Library News

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Virtual Scholastic Book Fair from November 22 - December 6. We sold 30 books and the rewards earned will go directly toward books needed in the Library for all grades to enjoy. Your support of the Book Fair is truly appreciated!



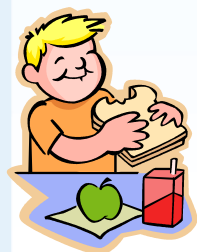
Food Drive

We would like to thank you for your generous donations to our Mac and Cheese food drive last month. We collected over 1,200 boxes of Mac and Cheese! The students enjoyed using the boxes to create amazing structures before they were donated to the Fort Saskatchewan Food Bank. Thank you to Al Goodmonson from the Fort Saskatchewan Food Bank for picking it all up!



Lunch 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 SUBSTITUTE NOON HOUR SUPERVISORS TO WORK ON A CASUAL - AS NEEDED BASIS

Time of shift would be 11:15 am—12:15 pm (approx.)

If you are interested, please apply online at [EIPS.ca/careers](https://eips.ca/careers) and look for Noon Supervisor (JMW) or https://eips.simplification.com/Applicant/AttJobPosting.aspx?JOB_POSTING_ID=e1b2ea1d-1907-42f2-8673-b052ed8eb7f4



Water Bottle Reminder

Please remember to send a water bottle to school each day with your child(ren). Our water fountains are closed and only available as water bottle filling stations.

Student Attendance

The best way to report student attendance is by visiting www.jamesmowat.ca and clicking the “Student Attendance” box on the left side of the homepage. It is important to **provide a reason** for the absence and if your child is ill, please include the type of symptoms.



Reminder - School Fees

If you have outstanding school and/or noon supervision fees, please submit payment at your earliest convenience. To access your fee information, simply log in to the PowerSchool Parent Portal and go to “Student Fees.” There you can view your fees and pay them online using Visa, MasterCard or debit card—when available from your financial institution. If you need to make alternate arrangements to pay your fees by cheque or cash please contact Sherri in the office.

James Mowat Is a Nut Aware School

Several students and staff at the school suffer from allergies. The most prominent allergy is nuts and nut products. Elk Island Public Schools has a “Nut Aware” strategy. We would appreciate your help by keeping all nuts and nut products out of the school. Thank You for your support and cooperation as we strive to keep all of our children safe.





Parent Council Corner...

Next Parent Council Meeting:

January 17 at 6:00pm (virtual). All parents/guardians are welcome to attend. The link will be emailed to parents/guardians prior to the meeting.

As mentioned in our email to parents on December 16, James Mowat Elementary will be using this meeting to consult with parents prior to setting school fees for the upcoming school year.

Under Alberta Education's School Fee Regulation, Mr. Boyko and Mr. Murphy will be sharing information about our current fee structure, posing specific questions about priorities, and asking you to provide your feedback as we plan for the 2022-23 school year. While many of these activities and services enhance students' educational experience, we want to ensure these fees aren't cost prohibitive for families.

Specifically, we will be asking for input on the following:

- Noon hour supervision
- Field trips and associated fees
- Extracurricular activities
- Non-curricular goods and services (for example, yearbooks)

For your reference, below is a link to the school fees information located on the James Mowat Elementary website. The webpage includes the current School Fees Schedule for 2021-2022, as well information on waiver of fees, refunds and student transportation fees. <https://www.jamesmowat.ca/about/fees>

We understand not all families will be available to attend the meeting but it's still important we get as much input from the school community as possible. Following the meeting, materials will be shared on our website (www.jamesmowat.ca) for your review, and an email address provided so you can submit a written response.

School administration will use feedback provided to help determine fees for 2022-23, which will then be shared at the March parent council meeting, posted to our website, and shared via link through email.

We look forward to hearing from you on January 17.



Upcoming Hot Lunch:

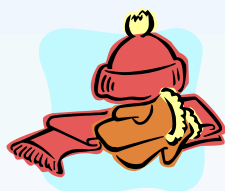
James Mowat Elementary hot lunch program is a volunteer program organized by James Mowat School Parent Advisory Association. It is supported and delivered to students by parent volunteers from our school community.

- ♦ January 25th - Freson Bros (Order Deadline January 14 at 3pm) Order forms were sent home January 11th and are available on our website (www.jamesmowat.ca)
- ♦ February 14th - Boston Pizza



Please contact jamesmowatpaa@gmail.com with any questions or concerns.

Inclement Weather



With the winter season well underway, 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.

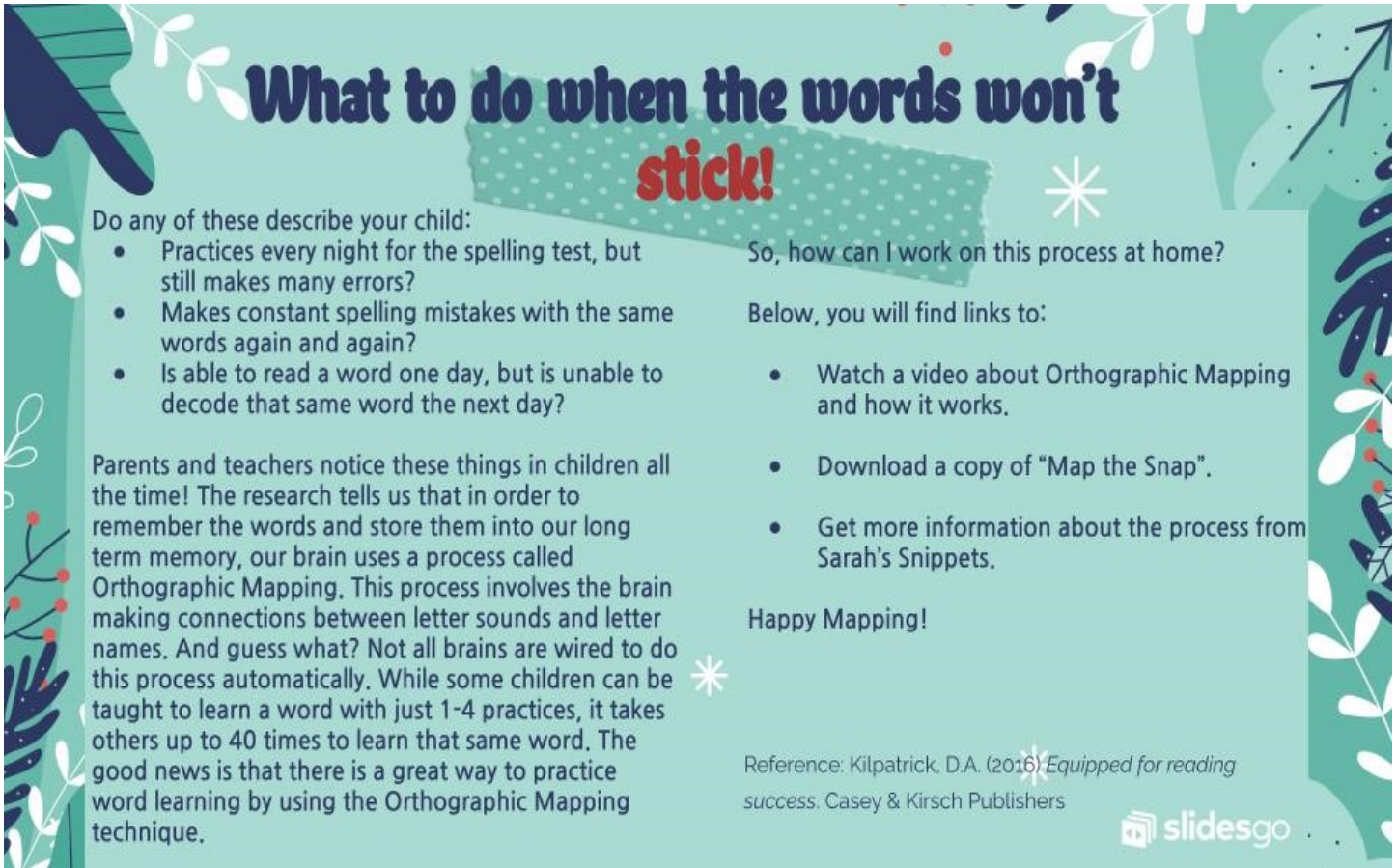
If inclement weather conditions occur, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) will advise families of any bus cancellations using various communications tools, including automated-telephone messages, alerts posted on www.eips.ca and school websites, Twitter, Facebook, local radio stations and on the Ride 360 and Bus Status apps.

Decisions regarding bus cancellations are guided by [EIPS' Administrative Procedure 131: Inclement Weather](#), which states: "school bus service may be suspended ... when there is a forecast or current temperature of -40 C including wind chill, 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 they feel is safest during times of inclement weather.

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





What to do when the words won't stick!

Do any of these describe your child:

- Practices every night for the spelling test, but still makes many errors?
- Makes constant spelling mistakes with the same words again and again?
- Is able to read a word one day, but is unable to decode that same word the next day?

Parents and teachers notice these things in children all the time! The research tells us that in order to remember the words and store them into our long term memory, our brain uses a process called Orthographic Mapping. This process involves the brain making connections between letter sounds and letter names. And guess what? Not all brains are wired to do this process automatically. While some children can be taught to learn a word with just 1-4 practices, it takes others up to 40 times to learn that same word. The good news is that there is a great way to practice word learning by using the Orthographic Mapping technique.

So, how can I work on this process at home?

Below, you will find links to:

- Watch a video about Orthographic Mapping and how it works.
- Download a copy of "Map the Snap".
- Get more information about the process from Sarah's Snippets.

Happy Mapping!

Reference: Kilpatrick, D.A. (2016). *Equipped for reading success*. Casey & Kirsch Publishers

slidesgo

Download Video:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pjZVEv34Qoqp8fswqCOtUqCMEkDMxHOB/view>

Download Map the Snap:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/16CC7Rd7LDT-AYWve3Q7a7MODVL2SfH7_/view

Sarah's Snippets:

<https://sarahsnippets.com/how-do-we-learn-new-words-orthographic/>

Have your say, EIPS wants to hear from you!

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) wants to hear from you to gain a deeper understanding of your confidence in the Division and its strategic direction. As such, it's launched a new annual survey entitled, EIPS Year in Review: Stakeholder Confidence Survey—open January 6-18.

The survey covers a range of topics, including student growth and achievement, learning supports, teaching and leading, governance, and resource allocations. The information gathered will help EIPS:

- assess stakeholder confidence—families, staff, Grade 12 students and community members;
- gather input to guide future decision-making;
- gather feedback to enhance its Four-Year Education Plan (<https://www.eips.ca/trustees/four-year-education-plan>); and
- provide a platform for families, students, staff and community members to have a voice in ensuring high-quality, student-centred learning environments in EIPS schools.

EIPS will share the results in the Annual Education Results Report 2021-22.

TAKE THE SURVEY NOW!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MP5FTDJ>

Survey closes Jan. 18, 2022

NOTE: EIPS encourages everyone to respond honestly. Your identity and answers are confidential and cannot be linked in any way to you or your child's school. Grade 12 students will have an opportunity to complete the survey at school. Families who do not want their child to complete the survey simply need to advise their child's school.

