

the JAMES MOWAT Messenger

MARCH 2022



Dear Parents/Guardians,

March is a time of changing weather, some days will be warm, others snowy and cold. Please remember to send your child in appropriate outdoor clothing each day.

Thank you to everyone for completing your returning student registration. It helps us to begin to plan for 2022-2023. The week of March 7-11th families that requested to attend a non-designated school will be advised whether their request was approved.

We have many exciting things planned for students this month including two literacy competitions and a number of math activities. We are also looking forward to parent teacher interviews on March 22nd and 23rd. With the easing of Covid restrictions we will be offering the choice of either online or in-person meetings with your child's teacher.

The school will be closed to staff and students March 25th to April 1st for Spring Break. Classes resume on April 4th.

We wish everyone a fun and relaxing break!

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

March at a Glance:

March 2	Early Dismissal
March 4	No School - PL Day
March 8	International Women's Day
March 14	Pi Day
March 14-18	Week of Inspirational Math
March 15	Math Day
March 17	Theme Day: Wear Green
March 18	Gum Day (Red Cross)
March 18	Report Cards published at 4pm
March 21	World Poetry Day
March 21	Panago Pizza Hot Lunch
March 21	Mom's Pantry Orders Due 3pm
March 21	Parent Council Meeting 6pm
March 22-23	Parent Teacher Interviews
March 24	Pajama Day (Red Cross)
March 25	No school - Day in Lieu
Mar 28- Apr 1	No school - Spring Break

Looking ahead to April:

April 1	No School - Spring Break
April 4	Classes resume
April 6	Early Dismissal
April 8	Hat Day (Red Cross)
April 15	No School - Good Friday
April 18	No School—Easter Monday
April 25	Parent Council Meeting 6pm



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



COVID-19 Protocols

As Alberta moves to Step 2 of public-health measures, we would like to remind parents that many public-health measures remain in effect. The provincial isolation requirements for those who test positive for COVID-19 symptoms or experience COVID-19 symptoms remain unchanged (see, [COVID-19 Alberta Health Daily Check List](#)). Anyone who feels unwell or is experiencing symptoms of illness should stay home (see, [Stay-at-Home Guide: For families](#)).

Report Cards

Report cards will be published on Friday, March 18th. 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.



Parent Teacher Interviews: Tuesday, March 22nd (in-person) and Wednesday, March 23rd (via phone)

For our second round of parent/student/teacher interviews you can choose an interview either by telephone or in-person and they will take place on Tuesday, March 22nd (in-person) and Wednesday, March 23rd (via phone) from 4:00 - 7:00 PM. Interviews will be set for 10 minute blocks for an individual conference time with the teacher. Please note that for phone interviews 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>, for in-person interviews on March 22nd use event code 22tmx, for phone interviews on March 23rd use event code tpfsr. 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.

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.



March Madness Tournament of Books

March Madness has arrived at James Mowat and like previous years, we are participating in the Tournament of Books. This is a bracket style competition where books go head to head and students get to choose the winner. After each week one book moves ahead to the next level of competition. We hope all our students enjoy this opportunity to experience a range of books and cheer on their favourites.



In conjunction with the March Madness Tournament of Books, students will be participating in the second annual James Mowat Reading Challenge. This event is also a head to head competition, but between classes at James Mowat. Students receive reading tickets for their parents to sign after they have completed 15 minutes of reading. (The exception will be Kindergarten where students qualify to get their tickets signed if a parent reads to them for 15 minutes.) We hope the friendly competition encourages everyone to up their reading game, find a new favourite author, and make reading an important part of their day. May the best class win!

Week of Inspirational Math (March 14 to 18)

Students will be participating in a variety of math activities during this week of Inspirational Math which coincides with Pi Day (March 14). March 15 will be our official James Mowat Elementary Math Day and the afternoon will be filled with math activities planned by our Math Day committee. Students especially enjoyed our Math Mystery and Bingo events last year and we are planning to build on the enthusiasm of these fantastic activities.

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.

Kindergarten Information Night - May 17, 2022 (for students starting in September 2022)

James Mowat School will be holding its Kindergarten Information Night on May 17, 2022.





Parent Council Corner...

Next Parent Council Meeting:

Monday, March 21 at 6:00pm. At this meeting, we will be sharing information about the proposed fees for the 2022-2023 school year, as well as the feedback we received during the fee consultation process completed in January/February. All parents/guardians are welcome to attend.

Parent Council Fundraising:

Mom's Pantry Food Fundraiser

Are you looking for the perfect treats and kitchen spices for your family! Look no further, James Mowat Elementary is fundraising through Mom's Pantry. What a great way to stock up the kitchen before spring and summer, or to get those tasty treats for entertaining at Easter time.

Paper order forms and catalogues were sent home on March 8th. There are 2 ways to order. We strongly recommend doing the online option, however if that is not an option for your family, please send in the BLUE ORDER FORM as well as cash and cheques.

ONLINE ORDERING INFORMATION:

Simply add items to your cart and check out using the numbers below!

Website: Momspantry.ca

Order number 348734

Group Passcode 36261

Paper order forms **MUST** be totaled, and all information filled in, any forms with missing information, will be returned to you, and your order will not be put through for this fundraiser. Only cash or cheque is accepted with the blue forms. We require exact cash. Change will not be provided. Cheques are to be made payable to James Mowat Parent Advisory Association (JMPAA). Please ensure to collect all funds before returning form to school.

Order forms are due back by MARCH 21ST BY 3:00PM, no late orders will be accepted.

Thank you for supporting this fundraising initiative. If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Calder-Kennedy or Parent council at jamesmowatpaa@gmail.com



Your Future in MIND

Measuring Success: Complete this year's Alberta Education Assurance Survey

Once again, Alberta Education is surveying teachers, students and families through its annual Alberta Education Assurance (AEA) Survey. The survey acts as an annual check-up on the province's education system. Every year, Alberta Education conducts the survey to gather information about the quality of education provided by Alberta schools and school authorities. The survey looks at various measures such as education quality, citizenship, family involvement, engagement levels, school climate and student wellness.

Throughout March, students and teachers at James Mowat Elementary are completing the survey online at the school. Student participation is voluntary and completely anonymous. Students are assigned a random username and password to ensure survey responses aren't linked to any individual student. The survey doesn't take long to complete and is done within the school day during regular class time.

Additionally, parents and guardians of students in grades 4, 7 and 10 are also asked to take a survey, either online or by mail. Alberta Education will send families information about the survey directly. As with the student and teacher survey, it's anonymous and asks questions about your school experiences. If you have a child in grades 4, 7 or 10, we encourage you to participate. The survey deadline is March 25, 2022.

Results from the AEA Survey are provided to Elk Island Public Schools each spring. The Division then uses the data to inform its four-year education plan, school education plans and strategies for continuous improvement. Each fall, the results are also shared with EIPS families and school communities in the Division's Annual Education Results Report.

RELATED INFORMATION

[AEA Survey: Parent letter](#)

[AEA Survey: Methodology for rate calculation](#)

[Assurance and Accountability: Alberta's K-12 education system](#)

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. Try to remind your child about the dangers of thin ice, obey all posted signs, take 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—greyness indicates the presence of water.



Your Future in MIND

Have your say! The 2022 EIPS Parent Survey Opens March 14-27

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) wants to hear from you. Make sure to complete the 2022 EIPS Parent Survey—open from March 14-27.

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.

VISIT EIPS.CA TO TAKE THE SURVEY: March 14-27

NOTE: The survey is anonymous and only takes a few minutes to complete. If you want to share the experience of more than one child attending an EIPS school, simply complete the survey again.

Pre-kindergarten Programming at EIPS

Is there a preschooler in your life experiencing developmental delays or challenges with speech-language or motor-skill development—big or small? If so, Elk Island Public School's Play And Learn at School (PALS) program could help.

Early learning lays the foundation for success in primary grades and beyond. As such, EIPS offers the pre-kindergarten PALS program in six of its elementary school locations. In fact, EIPS is now accepting applications for free speech-language assessments for those interested in registering in the PALS program this fall. The assessment helps determine if PALS is appropriate for your child.

If you know a preschooler, born in 2018 or 2019, who could benefit from pre-kindergarten programming or want to book an assessment, visit eips.ca or call 780-417-8219 to learn more.

Kindergarten Registration is Now Open!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2022? If so, it's now time to register for kindergarten. To register, simply complete the online registration form at eips.ca/kindergarten.



To help families prepare, Elk Island Public Schools has put together an online EIPS Kindergarten Tool kit 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 jamesmowat.ca