September 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to a new school year! We're exited to have your child(ren) with us again this year and a warm welcome to our new families.

the JAMES MOWAT

James Mowat is pleased to welcome Mrs. Ortigosa (Assistant Principal), Ms. Kotronis (Grade 1 and 2), Mr. Helwig (Grade 3) and Mrs. Davidson (Grade 3) to James Mowat Elementary. We are pleased to welcome back Ms. Reimer (Grade 5).

We encourage you to come to our 'Meet the Teacher Night' on Wednesday, September 21 from 6:00 - 6:30pm.

Our Parent Council is an excellent way for parents/ guardians to get involved with the school and stay informed. Parent Council will have their first meeting of the year following the 'Meet the Teacher Night' on September 21 at 6:30pm.

We look forward to an amazing year with your children!

Mr. Stacey Boyko, Principal Mrs. Amaya Ortigosa, Assistant Principal

#### September at a Glance:

- First day of classes Aug 30 Sept 5 No School - Labour Day Sept 6 First Official Day of Kindergarten (Track B) Sept 7 Early Dismissal Sept 7 First Official Day of Kindergarten (Track A) School Photos (Kindergarten Sept 14 Track B & Grades 1-6) Sept 15 School Photos (Kindergarten Track B only) Meet the Teacher 6:00-6:30pm Sept 21 Sept 21 Parent Council Meeting 6:30pm
- Sept 23 Terry Fox School Run Day
- Sept 29 Wear Orange Orange Shirt Day (school)
- Sept 30 No School National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Sept 30 Orange Shirt Day

# Looking ahead to October:

Oct 5	World Teacher's Day
	WORL TEACHER'S Day
Oct 5	Early Dismissal
Oct 5	Parent Council Meeting 6pm
Oct 7	No School - PL Day
Oct 10	No School - Thanksgiving Day
Oct 19	Picture Retakes (Kindergarten
	Track B & Grades 1-6)
Oct 20	Picture Retakes (Kindergarten
	Track B only)

Elk Island Holic Schools

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 Teacher Night - September 21, 2022

You are invited to meet James Mowat staff on Wednesday, September 21 from 6:00pm - 6:30pm. Parent Council will hold its first meeting (AGM) of the year after our meet the teacher event. Parents are invited to attend the meeting at 6:30pm and learn more about the Parent Council and all of its activities.



# **Medical Information**

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, or Asthma Emergency Plan for students).

If your student requires any medication while at school, please contact the office and you will be asked to fill out the appropriate medical form.

#### **Lates and Absences**

If your child is going to be away or will be late, please contact the school by phone (780-992-1272) or through the 'Student Attendance' button on our website. You will need to provide your child's name, class, and reason for the absence.

To send an absence through the 'Student Attendance' button, go to our school website (www.jamesmowat.ca) and click on the 'Student Attendance' button on the right side of the home page. 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.

#### **School Photos**



ICON Photography will be taking student photos on **Wednesday, September 14**. Photos will start shortly after 8:30am. The Track B kindergarten class will have their photos taken on **Thursday, September 15**. Retakes will take place October 19 and October 20.

#### Terry Fox Run and "Toonies for Terry"

Our school will be participating in the Terry Fox Run on September 23. Please ensure your child(ren) are dressed for the weather, as students will complete the run outside (weather permitting). We will also be collecting "Toonies for Terry" which will be donated to the Terry Fox Foundation.









### **Update your PowerSchool information**

The EIPS Correction and Verification Form is now available online through your <u>PowerSchool</u> <u>Parent Portal</u> (https://powerschool.eips.ca/public/home.html). Use the form to access and update your child's records information—including address, parent and guardian information, emergency contacts and medical information. Reviewing the form and submitting updates ensures the school has the most up-to-date information regarding your child.

When reviewing the form, pay close attention to all listed phone numbers, email addresses and emergency contact information. Also, if you recently moved, now is the time to ensure the Division has your updated address. Throughout the year, the Division and school uses the listed information to communicate with families about important information, including updates, the latest news and events.

#### **EIPS Correction and Verification Form**

Review and update the form by Sept. 22, 2022.

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

# Download the SchoolMessenger App

James Mowat Elementary and the Division use the SchoolMessenger platform for communicating with families—through both phone and email. Be sure to add communications@eips.ca and general.jmw@eips.ca to your safe sender list to avoid having important messages funneled into your junk mail folder.

The easiest way to stay connected is to download the SchoolMessenger app. Get the latest updates direct to your mobile device and enable push notifications to never miss a message. Families can also check back on past messages—for up to 30 days—directly in the app rather than searching to find an old message buried in your inbox. Download the SchoolMessenger app from the <u>App Store</u> or <u>Google Play</u> today.

Coming soon—the Safe Arrivals absence reporting tool will be rolled out within the SchoolMessenger app later this school year. Families will be able to quickly and easily report a child's absence directly in the app. No more phone calls or emails required. Stay tuned for updates in the coming months.







# Sync the School Calendar to your calendar

Did you know you can sync the school calendar to your own calendar? You can. Simply, visit https://www.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.

# Pay School fees online!

School fee information for the 2022-23 school year will be posted on the <u>PowerSchool Parent</u> <u>Portal</u> in late September. All fees are due within 30 days of being posted. To access your fee information, simply log in to the <u>PowerSchool Parent Portal</u> (https://powerschool.eips.ca/ public/home.html) and go to "Student Fees." There you can view your fees and pay online using a credit card.

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.

If you're unable to pay your school fees, you can apply to have certain <u>fees waived</u> (www.eips.ca/schools/fees/waiver-of-fees) by submitting an <u>Application for a Waiver of Fees</u> (https://permission.click/Kp2Ep/ca#/signee). The application deadline is **Dec. 15, 2022**.

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

# **Monthly School Newsletters**

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

# Messenger





# **Music Times!**

Welcome back to Music! It's that time of the year when the choir and the handchime ensemble will begin preparing for special events and assemblies.

Choir will be starting up on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 and will be offered to students in grade 4-6. Because we have not had a choir since 2019 due to COVID, we are uncertain on how many students will be interested in taking part. If we have a high interest in choir, on the day applications are due, we will have a random draw of 10 students per grade. Late applications will not be accepted. <u>Choir letters are due back to the music room on Friday September</u> <u>16th.</u> If the random draw is necessary, students will be notified if they have been picked on Monday, September 19th. A letter will be sent home with your child.

Our choir practices will be held on Tuesdays at lunch recess between 11:50-12:10pm. If your child would like to sign up for choir, they are to take the choir letter home and have a parent/guardian read through it and sign. Choir letters will be available on **Sep 12** found in the music room.

The **Handchime Ensemble** will be offered to students in grade 5 and 6. There is a limited number of handchimes, therefore, all grade 5 and 6 students will be given the opportunity to audition for this ensemble. Students who make it through the audition will have their first practice on **Wednesday, September 21** at 11:50-12:10pm.

Handchime auditions will take place on Thursday September 15 for grade 5 students and Friday September 16 for grade 6 students during lunch hour between 11:30-12:10pm in the music room.

I look forward to working with your child whether they are in choir, the handchime ensemble, or both.

Mrs. Sikora

# Parent Council Corner...

#### Next Parent Council Meeting:

Annual General Meeting on September 21 at 6:30pm. All parents/guardians are welcome to attend. If you are interested in more information about parent council please email jamesmowatpaa@gmail.com.

#### **Upcoming Parent Council Events:**

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/







**Parent Council Fundraising:** 









# Orange Shirt Day - Thursday, September 29

Our school will be participating in the annual Orange Shirt Day on September 29. We invite all staff and students to wear an orange shirt on September 29 to show their support. Elk Island Public Schools will be closed on Friday, September 30 in recognition of Truth and Reconciliation Day.

# **Reminders:**

**DROP OFF** Supervision is provided before school <u>beginning at 8:15am</u> 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.

**CELL PHONES** EIPS Cellphone Policy for Students in kindergarten to Grade 6 is no access to cellphones or personal devices during the school day, including during breaks and the lunch hour—the only exception, students with a diagnosed medical condition or an identified inclusive-educational need.

#### **BICYCLE GUIDELINES:**

- Students should ride their bicycles up to the school grounds area, dismount and walk their bikes to the rack.
- Bicycles should be locked to the rack immediately.
- Bicycle racks are out of bounds during school hours.
- At noon or after school, when you are going home, students should walk their bikes to the end of the school grounds area and then proceed home.
- No bicycles should be ridden through the parking lot or the student pickup area.
- Bicyclists must wear an approved helmet at all times.

# 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.







# First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Corner

You may be curious about the new National Day for Truth and Reconciliation holiday. National Indigenous Peoples' Day is on June 21 and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, which the Division will honour on September 29. Each event has its own purpose and tone:

#### National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

#### When?

A nationally declared holiday on September 30 (formally Orange Shirt Day). The Division will mark this day on September 29

#### Why?

- Somber day to commemorate the horrors of residential schools as acts of genocide against Indigenous Peoples
- Honour residential school Survivors and their families
- Wear our Orange Shirts as an act of remembrance and solidarity with Survivors
- Tone and feeling are akin to Remembrance Day on November 11

#### National Indigenous Peoples' Day

#### When?

Held June 21 every year on the summer solstice. Each school plans its own way to mark this celebratory day

#### Why?

- Celebrate the histories and cultures of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit
- Showcase the strength, diversity, and beauty of Indigenous Peoples
- Music, dance, and celebratory events are part of this day



# Improving home-school communication

To enhance communication between families and schools, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) created a howto guide entitled, Communication Protocol for Schools. Topics include:

- · appropriate channels to use;
- · standard formats and structures;
- $\cdot$  timing and sequencing for regular and ongoing home-school communication; and
- · ways to bring forward questions or concerns.

The guide also offers useful tools and resources schools, and families can use to enhance face-to-face meetings, email communication and various social media efforts. EIPS encourages all families and schools to review the guide at:

Communication Protocol for Schools (www.eips.ca/download/40981)

#### Video surveillance on buses

Did you know each EIPS bus is equipped with video surveillance?

Video surveillance and equipment help:

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

On a regularly basis, EIPS Student Transportation reviews the video recordings, in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (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.

# **Bus Transportation Apps**

There are two apps available for bus students' parents and guardians to stay connected and informed.

#### Ride 360 Website and App

Ride 360 is used to view your child's busing information including bus stop location, bus numbers, and pickup and drop off times. The "Traversa Ride 360" app is available from Google Play or the App Store



#### Bus Status App

The Bus Status app helps you stay informed about bus delays and cancellations. The Bus Status app is available on the App Store or Google Play Store. While Student Transportation will always inform parents and guardians about these events, the Bus Status app can allow you to see these updates sooner.







education.alberta.ca



# Grandparents who Parent Support Group

Connect with other grandparents who are raising their grandchildren



# **Meeting Dates:**

September 7, 2022 6:00 - 7:30 pm October 12, 2022 2:00 - 3:30pm November 9, 2022 6:00 - 7:30pm December 7, 2022 2:00 - 3:30pm



CN Station, Kinsmen Rm For more info call 780-992-6267 or fcssinfo@fortsask.ca



# Addiction & Mental Health News

#### September 2022

Create Connections = Build Resilience When we are connected with others, it makes us more resilient. Resilient children often feel a strong bond with friends, family members, teachers and other people in caregiver roles. They feel protected and believe they can count on their network to be there for them.

Meaningful participation in the home, school and neighbourhood contributes to the resilience of children and youth. It increases their sense of connection, decreases their isolation, and helps them succeed in school.

#### Neighbourhood Connections = Build Resilience

The Neighbourhood is an important place where children build independence, resilience, and self-reliance and develop skills to connect with others.

When you and your children get to know people in your Neighbourhood, you'll benefit in many ways, including:

- Increasing your sense of belonging and safety.
- Building social and emotional skills.
- Contributing to your community,

accepting others and building empathy. When children play with others, they learn to be active and more creative.

# MORE RESOURCES

Simple Connections, Stronger Families <u>Colouring Book</u> AHS Back to School Health Family Resources Family Connections = Build Resilience Build family connections by creating family routines where you eat meals together, read together and be active together.

- Show interest in activities your children enjoy and do them together.
- Help your children develop healthy relationships with their siblings and encourage them to spend time together, have fun, and be active and creative.
- Intentionally connect with extended family members to build your children's circle of supportive, trusted adults.

#### School Connections = Build Resilience Here are simple ways to build connections at school:

- Connect with your child's teacher early to establish a good relationship and invite open communication.
- Share information to help the teacher connect with your child and support their success.
- Connect with your child daily, be there to cheer them on and help them brainstorm solutions for any challenges.

 Encourage your child to participate in school activities. Volunteer when you can.
Positive peer relationships in childhood are one of the best predictors of good mental health in adulthood.

Information on mental health, community supports, programs and services in your area:



Addiction Services Help Line 1-866-332-2322

Mental Health Help Line 1-877-303-2642







# EIPS DIVISION CALENDAR 2022-23

Regular School Day No School – Statutory Holiday O Early Dismissal for Students

No School for All Students and Staff

First Instructional Day (Semester 1 and 2)

No School for Students – Professional Learning/Operational Day

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Aug 26	Professional Learning Day
Aug 29	Operational Day
Aug 30	Classes Begin
Sept 5	Labour Day – Statutory Holiday
Sept 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – Division Closure
Oct 7	Professional Learning Day
Oct 10	Thanksgiving Day – Statutory Holiday
Nov 7-11	November Break
Nov 11	Remembrance Day – Statutory Holiday
Dec 21 - Jan 3	Christmas Break
Dec 25	Christmas Day – Statutory Holiday
Jan 1	New Year's Day – Statutory Holiday
Jan 4	Classes Resume for Students
Jan 30	Professional Learning Day
Jan 31	Second Semester Begins
Feb 9 & 10	North Central Teachers' Convention
Feb 20	Family Day – Statutory Holiday
Mar 3	Professional Learning Day
Mar 24 - 31	Spring Break
Apr 3	Classes Resume
Apr 7	Good Friday – Statutory Holiday
Apr 10	Easter Monday – Division Closure
May 5	Professional Learning Day
May 19	School Closure Day
May 22	Victoria Day – Statutory Holiday
June 21	National Indigenous Peoples Day – No Exams
June 27	Last Instructional Day
Jun a 20	Last Operational Day

June 28 Last Operational Day

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# EIPS KINDERGARTEN CALENDAR 2022-23

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Regular School Day No School – Statutory Holiday Early Dismissal for Students

No School for All Students and Staff

SCHEDULE A: Mondays, Wednesdays and select Fridays

SCHEDULE B: Tuesdays, Thursdays and select Fridays

#### Important Dates

Aug 26	Professional Learning Day
Aug 29	Operational Day
Aug 30	Classes Begin
Sept 5	Labour Day – Statutory Holiday
Sept 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – Division Closure
Oct 7	Professional Learning Day
Oct 10	Thanksgiving Day – Statutory Holiday
Nov 7-11	November Break
Nov 11	Remembrance Day – Statutory Holiday
Dec 21 - Jan 3	Christmas Break
Dec 25	Christmas Day – Statutory Holiday
Jan 1	New Year's Day – Statutory Holiday
Jan 4	Classes Resume for Students
Jan 30	Professional Learning Day
Feb 9 & 10	North Central Teachers' Convention
Feb 20	Family Day – Statutory Holiday
Mar 3	Professional Learning Day
Mar 24 - 31	Spring Break
Apr 3	Classes Resume
Apr 7	Good Friday – Statutory Holiday
Apr 10	Easter Monday – Division Closure
May 5	Professional Learning Day
May 19	School Closure Day
May 22	Victoria Day – Statutory Holiday
June 21	National Indigenous Peoples Day
Jun 23	Last Instructional Day Schedule B
Jun 26	Last Instructional Day Schedule A
lune 27 - 28	Operational Days

June 27 - 28 Operational Days

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- First Day of Class
- No School for Students – Professional Learning/Operational Day

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