

the JAMES MOWAT Messenger

November 2022



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to November! November is a busy month filled with student learning, report cards, parent/teacher interviews, and Fall break.

With winter upon us, we would like to remind students to dress for the weather. Students go outside for recesses every day and need to wear mitts/gloves, boots and hats. Also, please label your child's belongings to assist us in returning items should they be misplaced.

We are excited about all the events and activities happening at the school. Please check the school's calendar on the website regularly to keep up to date.

The school will be closed to staff and students November 7 to 11 for Fall Break and Remembrance Day. Classes resume on November 14th.

Have a wonderful November Break.

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

November at a Glance:

Nov 2	Early Dismissal
Nov 4	Remembrance Day Assembly
Nov 7-11	Fall Break -No School
Nov 10	Hot Lunch Order Deadline
Nov 11	No School - Remembrance Day
Nov 14	Classes Resume
Nov 14-18	<u>Bullying Awareness and Prevention week</u>
Nov 16	Parent Council Meeting (6:30pm)
Nov 18	Hot Lunch -Boston Pizza
Nov 20	<u>National Child Day</u>
Nov 22	Land-based learning with Jeremy Albert
Nov 22 & 23	Kindergarten - EIPS Drama Production Field Trip
Nov 24	Drug Awareness & Healthy Choices (Grade 6)
Nov 25	Report Cards Published
Nov 29-30	Parent Teacher Interviews

Looking ahead to December/January:

Dec 7	Early Dismissal
Dec 9	Hot Lunch (Panago)
Dec 14	Kindergarten Christmas Concert 6:30pm
Dec 15	Christmas Concert (Gr 1-6) 1pm and 6:30pm
Dec 16	Hot Lunch (Cobbs)
Dec 21-Jan.3	Christmas Break
Jan 4	Classes Resume



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



New Report Cards

To best communicate student learning, some changes have been made to report cards, including a slight redesign. This November, parents and guardians will continue to access report cards through PowerSchool—simply log in to your account and click on the “Report Card” button in the lefthand sidebar. Report cards will be published on Friday, November 25th at 4:00pm.

Similar to the previous report card, students will still be assessed on a Learner Attributes Scale and Achievement Scale. Some categories have been modified to align with the new curriculum.

Parent Teacher Interviews: Tuesday, November 29 and Wednesday, November 30

Our first round of parent/student/teacher interviews will take place on Tuesday, November 29th and Wednesday, November 30th from 4:00 to 7:00pm. Interviews will be set for 10 minute blocks for an individual conference time with the teacher.

Booking Appointments for Parent Teacher Interviews

All interviews will be scheduled through the online booking system on our website. Please go to www.jamesmowat.ca/bookings and select the event ‘November 2022—Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews’

The online system will open for interview bookings on Friday, November 18 at 9:00am and close on November 28 at 9:00am.

Remembrance Day

Due to being on illness outbreak status, we will not be having our traditional ceremony in the gym, rather, we will have a virtual ceremony on Friday, November 4th starting at 10:30am. We are fortunate to have retired Constable McLeod play the bagpipe once again. He will be playing around the hallway at the end of our in class school-wide ceremony. As well, Bdr Colin Williams will be playing the bugle and Cpl Ted De Volder will share the importance of Remembrance Day.



We have also crafted up a Veteran’s Week and Remembrance Day plan with videos, books, songs and activities for students to do all week.



Christmas Concerts

Our Christmas concert this year is called “**Christmas with the Classics**”. Students from every grade will begin preparing for our concert after the Fall break. There will be two concerts once again this year. Our grade 1-6 concert will be held on Thursday, December 15th at 1:00pm and 6:30pm and our Kindergarten classes will have their concert on Wednesday, December 14th at 6:30pm. More details about our concert will be put in our December newsletter.



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 certain [fees waived](#) by submitting an [Application for a Waiver of Fees](#). The application deadline is Dec. 15, 2022.

For more information about school fees, waivers, and payment deadlines, visit www.eips.ca/schools/fees and www.jamesmowat.ca/about/fees.

Looking for Staff Contact Information?



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 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.



FNMI Corner

When you come into James Mowat School, you will see both the Métis and the Treaty 6 flags in the lobby of our school. These flags show respect and honour Indigenous Peoples and the land in which we occupy. The Treaty 6 and Métis flags are a public recognition of the historical and current contributions to our community from the First Nation and Métis people, and the desire for continued and evolving partnerships to benefit all who reside within Treaty 6 Territory.

	
Métis flag	Treaty 6 flag

Did you know that the first Métis flag was a gift from the northwest trading company to the early Métis Nation? The blue represents sovereignty between Scottish, French and indigenous cultures. The white infinity symbol represents our belief that the Metis Nation will last forever.

Did you know that the Métis flag is the oldest national flag in Canada? It was first flown in the Battle of Seven Oaks in 1816.

Did you know that when Treaty 6 was affirmed between First Nations and the Crown, each signatory Chief was given, among other items, a Union Jack flag and a Treaty 6 Medal?

Did you know that the symbols on the Treaty Medallion, the sun, the grass and the water symbolize the Treaty is to last “for as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the rivers flow”? That is, indefinitely.



Parent Council Corner...

Next Parent Council Meeting:

Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at 6:30pm in the school library. All parents/guardians are welcome to attend. Minutes from the last meeting: [Parent Council & PAA Meeting Minutes - October 2022](#)

Parent Council Fundraising:

Hot Lunch

Next Hot Lunch is Friday, November 18 (Boston Pizza). Orders must be submitted by November 10 through our online ordering system [MunchaLunch](#) (www.munchalunch.com/schools/jamesmowat).



We are always in need of Volunteers! There is a volunteer page in MunchaLunch where you can indicate which dates you are available.

If your child is ill on a hot lunch date and you would like to pick up their lunch, you must contact the office before 11am to request your child's lunch be sent to the office for pick up (after 12:10pm), otherwise please consider it a donation. Lunches will not be sent home with siblings. There are no refunds, as this is a fundraiser.



Your Future in MIND

Where to Find the Information You Need

Elk Island Public Schools and James Mowat Elementary use a handful of key systems to share information with students and families. Depending on the information you're looking for, it's important to know where to look.

PowerSchool is the primary student information system within the Division. There is an associated app, but the functionality is limited, and families don't need to download it. From the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#), you can:

- Access student grades and report cards;
- Review student absences;
- Pay school and transportation fees; and
- Submit official updates to student or family information.

The PowerSchool Student Portal provides similar access to grades and absence information for students directly.

Brightspace provides more of a day-to-day look what's happening with your child's learning communicated directly from your child's teacher. From [Brightspace Parent & Guardian](#), you can see your child's:

- classroom activity feed,
- grade items and grade feedback from instructors,
- upcoming assignments,
- portfolio evidence and
- quizzes

depending on which of the program functions are specifically used by your child's teacher.

Brightspace for Students is where teachers share updates, calendar reminders and learning materials with students. Compatible with Google, it also allows students to submit assignments, complete quizzes, and see grades and teacher feedback. The Pulse app for students is associated with Brightspace for Students.

SchoolMessenger is the system the Division and schools use to send email and phone communication to families. The contact information in SchoolMessenger is populated from PowerSchool. Through [SchoolMessenger](#), families can:

- receive general, emergency and attendance messages by phone, email or both; and
- manage their subscription preferences for these types of messages.

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.

If you have trouble accessing any of these systems or have questions about them, contact James Mowat Elementary at 780-992-1272.



Your Future in MIND

EIPS 2023-24 Division Calendar: Now Available!

The official 2023-24 EIPS calendar is now available. The calendar includes important dates during the 2023-24 school year, such as school-closure days, breaks, the first and last day of classes, professional learning days, early dismissal days, plus more.

Highlights from the 2023-24 EIPS calendar include:

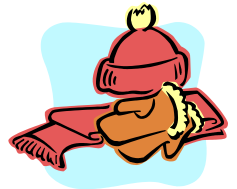
- first day of school* – Aug. 31, 2023
- November break* – November 6-10
- Christmas break* – December 25 to January 5
- second semester starts* – February 1
- Teachers' Convention* – February 8-9
- spring break* – March 25-29
- last day of classes* – June 26, 2024

To view the 2023-24 calendar, visit [eips.ca](https://www.eips.ca).

Did you know you can sync the Division calendar to your personal calendar? You can. Simply, visit www.eips.ca/calendar and click “subscribe to calendar.” It’s that easy.

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.