

the JAMES MOWAT Messenger

January 2023



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to 2023! We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season filled with family and friends.

Thank you to Mrs. Sikora, staff, and students for all their hard work to make our Christmas Concert a success!

We would like to thank our Parent Council for its ongoing support of our school. We are grateful to our many volunteers who have donated their time in support of the hot lunch days, outdoor sign, family dance, and fundraising.

We are excited to welcome back 3rd Street Beat to provide instruction for each grade throughout the week of Jan 23 to 27th. The week concludes with a showcase where each grade will perform their routine and show off their new moves! This is such a fantastic workshop for our students as they will continue to learn Hip Hop technique and the history of the genre. This hip hop residency program wouldn't be possible without the generous support from our Parent Council to fund this program.

We wish all our families a very happy New Year!

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

January at a Glance:

Jan 1-3	Christmas Break - No School
Jan 4	Classes Resume
Jan 4	Early Dismissal
Jan 13	Hot Lunch Orders Due
Jan 16	Parent Council Meeting 6:30pm
Jan 20	Gr 5/6 Ski Field Trip at Sunridge
Jan 20	Hot Lunch (Tim Hortons)
Jan 23-27	3rd Street Beat Hip Hop Residency
Jan 27	3rd Street Beat Student Performance at 2:00pm
Jan 27	Hot Lunch Orders Due
Jan 30	No School - PL Day

Looking ahead to February:

Feb 1	Early Dismissal
Feb 1	Returning student registration opens
Feb 1	2023-24 kindergarten registration opens.
Feb 3	Hot Lunch (Panago Pizza)
Feb 9-10	No School - Teachers' Convention
Feb 20	Family Day - No School
Feb 22	Pink Shirt Day
Feb 28	Returning student registration closes



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



Returning Student Registration for 2023-24

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) will once again conduct an online returning student registration process to confirm student registrations for the 2023-24 school year. Families of all current students—with the exception of graduating Grade 12 students—must complete the process to confirm the school their child plans to attend in the 2023-24 school year or advise the Division of their plans not to return to EIPS. 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 2023-24 returning student registration takes place **Feb. 1-28, 2023**.



Access to the Returning Student Registration Form is provided through the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). If you don't have a PowerSchool Parent Portal account, you need to set one up before Feb. 1, 2023. [Create a PowerSchool Parent Portal account](#). For more information, contact the school office at 780-992-1272.

Specialized Programs at EIPS

Did you know that EIPS offers a variety of specialized programs for students with unique learning needs? You can look at the programs on the division's [website](#). If you are interested in exploring a specialized program, please connect with the school counsellor, Nancy Kornicki.

Fall Scholastic Bookfair:

Thank you to all families for supporting our Fall Scholastic Bookfair. The rewards earned go directly toward books needed in the library for all grades to enjoy. Your support of the Book Fair is truly appreciated!

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.





Student Attendance

EIPS reminds families of the importance of regular attendance and of being on-time and how every absence affects your child's learning.

If your child(ren) will be absent, please notify the school office 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.

School Fees - Reminder

If you have outstanding school fees, please submit payment at your earliest convenience. All fees are due within 30 days of being posted. 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. If you need to make alternate arrangements to pay your fees by cheque or cash please contact Sherri in the office.

Don't forget to log into the PowerSchool Parent Portal regularly throughout the year. Fees are often added to your child's account to cover the cost of various school activities such as field trips, extracurricular activities and more.

Lunch Supervisors needed!

Are you interested in Earning \$20.26/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 and look for [Noon Supervisor \(JMW\)](#)





Kindergarten Registration Starts Soon! Register by March 15

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2023? If so, it's almost time to register for kindergarten. Kindergarten registration opens for the 2023-24 school year on Feb. 1, 2023.

Please upload all required documentation at the time of registration (ie. Birth Certificate and Proof of Residency). Registrations received without the required documentation are considered incomplete and will not be considered as received until completed.

James Mowat Elementary encourages all families to register their kindergarten child by **March 15**. The school uses a random selection process for all new student registrations, including kindergarten children. The process allows the school to better manage the enrolment pressures it's facing. Those selected through the random selection process attend the school. Those not selected are redirected to their alternate-designated school, Fort Saskatchewan Elementary.

Kindergarten children, who have a sibling currently attending James Mowat Elementary and returning next year, are guaranteed a spot at the school—through the sibling clause. However, that spot is only guaranteed until March 15. After March 15, the school will redirect any new student registrations, including siblings, to the alternate-designated school—unless space remains available in kindergarten at James Mowat Elementary.

To help families prepare for kindergarten, 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.

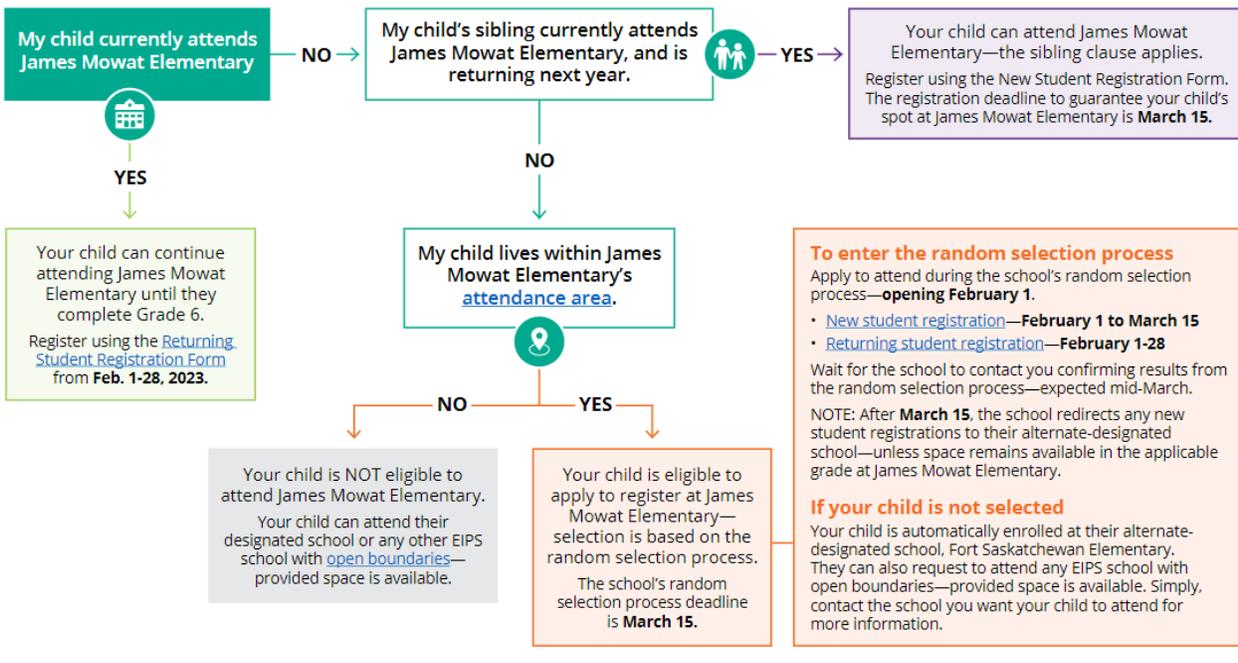
Additional information regarding James Mowat's kindergarten program is available at jamesmowat.ca.





James Mowat Elementary: step-by-step enrolment guide

Use this step-by-step guide to determine if your child is eligible to enrol at James Mowat Elementary. If busing is required, request Student Transportation Services when completing the online student registration form or contact st@eips.ca—fees apply.





Food Drive

Thank you for your generous donations to the Food Bank. We collected 411 pounds of food and \$85 cash at the Christmas Concert and another 427 boxes of cereal (535 pounds) was collected during December. Thank you to our Student Council for counting the cereal boxes and helping to pack up all the food!



FNMI Corner

Circles is a time when students come together as a whole school to learn about First Nations, Métis, and Inuit education. Recently, students have been specifically learning about Métis cultural artifacts including beadwork, the Métis fiddle, the Métis sash, the Red River Cart, and Red River Jig. We will continue to explore Métis history over the next few weeks, and even try learning how to Jig! Check out these Culture Cards from the [Métis Nation of Alberta](#) to learn for yourself, and ask your child what they know.



Culture Cards

If you are Métis and have something to share with our staff and students, we'd love to hear from you and have you share more of the Métis culture! Please contact the office.



Parent Council Corner...

Next Parent Council Meeting:

Our next Parent Council and Parent Advisory Association meetings are on Monday, January 16, 2023 starting at 6:30pm (library). All parents are welcome and encouraged to join us for this meeting. We will be seeking input on school fees at this meeting.

The meeting minutes link from our last meeting on November 21, 2022 for your reference.

Link: [JMSPAA & PC Minutes - November 2022](#)

Did you know PAA offers babysitting services at the school so parents can attend these meetings? If you are interested in attending, but will require babysitting, please send an email to jamesmowatpaa@gmail.com, to ensure we have enough babysitters according to kid count.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to [contact us!](#)

Parent Council Fundraising:

Hot Lunch has been quite a success and we love hearing the feedback from families. We are grateful that families have supported this fundraiser for the school. Our next section of orders will be for January and February. After these orders, we will set up another section of dates.

To limit confusion, the Jan/Feb Hot lunches will be for Grades 1-6 and the *M/W Kindergarten*. Then **next** section will be offered to Grades 1-6 and the *T/Th Kindergarten*.

Mark your calendar and follow this link for Hot Lunch orders. Log in and then click "Order Lunch" at the top of the screen

www.munchalunch.com/schools/jamesmowat

Jan 20 - Tim Hortons - orders and payment must be received before Fri Jan 13

Feb 3 - Panago Pizza - orders and payment must be received before Fri Jan 27

We can no longer accommodate the picking up of orders for an absent child. If your child is absent we will consider it a donation. No refunds.



Your Future in MIND

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—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 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.



THE GROOVEBOX PRESENTS

back TO THE Groove



3RD STREET BEAT

Jan
23-27 |

James Mowat

Elementary

Get ready
for an authentic,
fully immersive
hiphop dance
residency
with our coaches



GREYCE



DEEJAY

WWW.GROOVEBOX.CA

What is a vape?

A vape is an electronic smoking device that contains a cartridge of liquid (e-juice) that is heated into a vapour and inhaled by the user. Vapes have batteries (rechargeable), a heating element, a mouthpiece, and a place to hold vape liquid.

Vapes come in different shapes and sizes:

- may look like a pen or USB (which makes them easy to conceal) or like a "lighter" with a refillable tank and often sport cool or pretty designs
- some vapes are hidden in stealth products, like watches, hoodies, or gaming devices

What is vape liquid?

It is a mix of chemicals, flavours, and different levels of nicotine. It comes in flavours that entice kids and teens, like fruits, candies, tropical drinks, or desserts.

Why do young people vape?

Teens say they vape because it's enjoyable or they like the buzz it gives them. Others vape out of curiosity or to try different flavours. Some vape because they believe it will help them reduce stress or help them fit in with friends.

How harmful is vaping?

Scientists are still learning, but here is what we know right now:

- Most vapes have nicotine, which alters the development of the teen brain and can affect memory and concentration. It causes intense cravings and nasty withdrawal symptoms.
- Vaping liquid and the aerosol created contain harmful substances, some cause cancer and lung disease.
- Vaping comes with a risk of burns and other serious injury.
- Young people who vape may be more likely to start smoking than those who don't vape.

Talk to your children about vaping

With time and practice, talking about vaping will strengthen the relationship you have with your teen.

- Check out credible sources of information together. [Consider the Consequences of Vaping](#) - is a great resource. Help them think about the consequences of vaping in ways that are meaningful to them.
- Talk about vaping when it comes up in real life. Ask open-ended questions like what have you heard about vaping?
- Talk with them about what it means to think and act independently; and to make good decisions.

MORE RESOURCES

[Schools.HealthierTogether.ca](https://www.schools.healthier.together.ca)
Search "vaping"

[AlbertaQuits.HealthierTogether.ca](https://www.albertaquits.healthier.together.ca)

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



**WOULD
YOU
LIKE TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE?**

**WE NEED CARING, POSITIVE PEOPLE
willing to spend time hanging out
& having fun with kids!**

**Our Mentoring Programs have expanded! 😊
We welcome you whether you can commit
1 to 3 hrs/week for 1-on-1 mentoring
OR even a ONE-TIME guest visit to our
Group Mentoring "Buddy Bunch"!**

**Contact "Tammy@fsbgc.ca"
or call 780.992.0103 ext 307**

**MENTORS
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE!**



 **bfgc** Fort
Saskatchewan