

# the JAMES MOWAT Messenger

February 2023



Dear Parents/Guardians,

We're off to a cold start to February. Parents are reminded that during severe cold weather days our school remains open to students. Depending on temperature, *Administrative Procedure 131: Inclement Weather*, may result in bus cancellations, however, schools do not close.

We are currently seeking feedback regarding school fees. Please take a few minutes to complete this [fee survey](#). School administration will use the survey results to help determine fees for 2023-2024, which will then be shared at a parent council meeting.

Please remember to check the calendar on our website regularly to stay up to date on what's happening at the school.

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

## February at a Glance:

Feb 1	Early Dismissal
Feb 1	Returning student registration opens
Feb 1	2023-24 Kindergarten registration opens.
Feb 3	Career Day (Gr. 4-6)
Feb 3	Hot Lunch (Panago Pizza)
Feb 3	Soup Fundraiser Orders Due
Feb 3	KD for Food Bank
Feb 9-10	No School - Teachers' Convention
Feb 17	Random Acts of Kindness Day
Feb 20	Family Day - No School
Feb 21	Parent Council Meeting 6pm
Feb 22	Pink Shirt Day
Feb 28	Returning student registration closes

## Looking ahead to March:

Mar 1	Early Dismissal
Mar 3	No School - PL Day
Mar 15	New Student Registration Deadline for James Mowat
Mar 17	Report Cards Published
Mar 20	Parent Council Meeting at 6pm
Mar 21-22	Parent Teacher Interviews
Mar 24 -31	No School - Spring Break
Apr 3	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



## **Complete your Returning Student Registration: February 1-28**

Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) returning student registration process is now open. For James Mowat Elementary families, [returning student registration](#) for the 2023-24 school year remains unchanged and takes place at the same time as all other schools from February 1-28. Current students attending James Mowat Elementary are grandfathered into the school and can continue attending until they complete Grade 6.

All current students **must** complete the online Returning Student Registration Form to confirm their enrolment in a school for the upcoming 2023-24 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.

### **All current EIPS students are required to complete the form by Feb. 28, 2023.**

To access the Returning Student Registration Form, simply log in to the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). If you don't have a PowerSchool Parent Portal account, you do need to set one up. For help see: [Create a PowerSchool Parent Portal account](#) For more information contact the school directly.

#### **RELATED INFORMATION:**

[Registration at James Mowat](#)  
[Returning Student Registration Process](#)  
[Frequently Asked Questions](#)  
[EIPS School Boundary Maps](#)  
[Closed Boundaries 2023-24](#)  
[Find my designated school](#)  
[Applying to a non-designated school](#)

## **Pink Shirt Day - Wednesday, February 22, 2023**

On February 22nd we are once again supporting Pink Shirt Day as a day to stand against bullying. We encourage everyone to wear pink and spread kindness throughout the community. We are very proud of our staff, students, and parents for their participation in and support of these activities.





## Register Your Child for Kindergarten by March 15!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2023? Do you want them to attend James Mowat Elementary? If so, it's now time to register for kindergarten. New students entering kindergarten, with a sibling currently attending James Mowat Elementary and returning next year, are guaranteed a spot at the school—through the sibling clause. **However**, the new student must register by March 15—the random selection process deadline.



After March 15, the school will direct any new student registrations, including siblings, to the alternate-designated school—Fort Saskatchewan Elementary—unless space remains available in a particular grade at James Mowat Elementary. As such, make sure to complete your child's registration as soon as possible if you want them to attend James Mowat Elementary.

To register, simply complete the online registration form at [eips.ca/kindergarten](https://eips.ca/kindergarten).

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 calendars, fees, transportation and more.

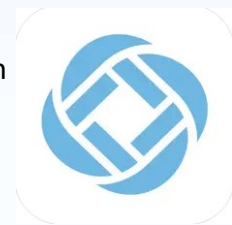
Additional information is available on the James Mowat Elementary website:

[Kindergarten at James Mowat](#)

[Registration at James Mowat](#)

## Download the SchoolMessenger App

James Mowat Elementary and the Division use the SchoolMessenger platform to communicate with families—through both phone and email. Be sure to add [communications@eips.ca](mailto:communications@eips.ca) and [general.jmw@eips.ca](mailto: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 from both the Division and your child's school 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 their inbox. Download the SchoolMessenger app from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#) today.



## **Career Day**

We would like to send a huge thank you to all of the parent volunteers that are participating in our grade 4 to 6 Career Day on February 3rd. We appreciated you taking time out of your day to join us and share about your occupation. Our students are looking forward to learning about a wide range of occupations.

## **FNMI Corner...**

February will bring important First Nations, Métis, and Inuit work and learning to James Mowat. The Indigenous Peoples' Giant Floor Map will spend almost two weeks in our gym. Teachers will bring students onto the map to learn about and share stories related to our shared land. In addition to specific grade-level lessons developed by classroom teachers, Division 1 students will learn about the animals of Turtle Island, how animals are adapted to their environment, and how the Indigenous people depend on the animals who live there; Division 2 students will focus on understanding Treaties and reconciliation. We also look forward to hosting EIPS indigenous families on February 16th for a special event organized by our First Nations, Métis, and Inuit consultant team to gather and explore the floor map.



## **Parent Council Corner...**

### **Next Parent Council and Parent Advisory Association Meeting:**

February 21, 2023 at 6:00pm (library). All parents/guardians are welcome to attend.

Did you know PAA offers babysitting services at the school so parents can attend these meetings? If you require babysitting, please send an email to [jamesmowatpaa@gmail.com](mailto:jamesmowatpaa@gmail.com), to ensure we have enough babysitters.

The meeting minutes from our January meeting are available [here](#).



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.

The AEA survey is sent to

- Small schools (fewer than 120 students in grades 4-12)—based on jurisdiction requests for more reportable survey data at the school level, the survey is expanded to include all students in grades 4 and above and their parents and guardians.
- Large schools (120 or more students in grades 4-12)—only students in grades 4, 7 and 10 and their parents and guardians are included in the survey. These grades are considered to be a reasonably representative sample of students.

Throughout February, Grade 4 students 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 these grades 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 these grades, we encourage you to participate. The survey deadline is March 3, 2023.

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](#)



**What is kindness?**

Kindness is sharing the best parts of our hearts with those around us.

Kindness is seeing the good in others and celebrating it.

Take time to share random acts of kindness this month; be creative and have fun practicing kindness.

Celebrate Random Acts of Kindness Day on February 17.

**Kindness matters.**

**Kindness is teachable and contagious**

Kindness benefits you by:

- Increasing your happiness and improving your mood.
- Helping you cope and reduce worry and stress.
- Connecting you to others in a positive way.

Research shows kindness helps students be more respectful, empathetic, and positive about school.

**Self-kindness** is taking actions and reactions you would have for others and applying them to yourself. **Self-kindness** leads to self-acceptance and greater satisfaction. When we embrace self-kindness, we offer ourselves better care.

Try these strategies:

- Participate in self-care strategies
- Pay attention to your internal dialogue
- Feel your feelings
- Magnify your strengths
- Find solutions
- Use positive affirmations daily

**Tips to help your family nurture kindness**

Talk with your children about ways to show kindness.

Practice and role model kindness at home and in your community.

Take notice of others' acts of kindness and receive kindness when it's offered.

Learn from each other by sharing good things that have happened.

**MORE RESOURCES**

[Random Acts of Kindness](#)  
[Help in Tough Times](#)

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



  
MyHealthAlberta.ca

Addiction Services Help Line  
1-866-332-2322

Mental Health Help Line  
1-877-303-2642

 **811 Health Link**  
Health Advice 24/7

 **Alberta Health Services**



# FCSS proudly presents

## THE GREAT DISCONNECT



Join us for a free screening of this award-winning documentary that investigates why, in a seemingly connected world, so many are left feeling disconnected

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

**DOORS AT 6:00 PM**

**1 HOUR SHOW AT 7:00 PM**

**NO COST-TICKETS REQUIRED**

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8700 84 ST  
FORT SASKATCHEWAN**

Tickets can be found at:  
[ticketpro.ca](https://ticketpro.ca) or call 780-992-6400



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