

# the JAMES MOWAT Messenger

April 2024



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back! We hope you had a restful Spring Break! Thank you to everyone for coming to share your child's achievements and progress at parent teacher interviews.

At this time of year we begin to plan for the next school year. Student class configurations are changed each year for a variety of reasons including learning independence, building social skills and dealing with changing friendships, and experiencing various teaching styles and approaches. The student classroom lists are put together by our staff who carefully reflect on creating classes which are fair, balanced, and provide the best conditions for all students. We appreciate and thank our parents for supporting these school decisions.

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



## April at a Glance:

Apr 1	No School - Easter Monday
Apr 3	Early Dismissal
Apr 8	Grade 6 Farewell Photos
Apr 8	Parent Council/Parent Advisory Association Meeting - 6pm
Apr 8-10	Scholastic Book Fair (AM only)
Apr 11	Kindergarten Information Night (5:30-6:30pm)
Apr 12	<a href="#"><u>On the Trapline Divisional Live Event with David A. Robertson</u></a>
Apr 13	<a href="#"><u>Young Authors' Conference</u></a>
Apr 14-20	<a href="#"><u>National Volunteer Week</u></a>
Apr 15-19	<a href="#"><u>Education Week</u></a>
Apr 22	Earth Day
Apr 24	Administrative Professionals' Day

## Looking ahead to May:

May 1	Early Dismissal
May 1	Hat Day
May 3	No School - PL Day
May 13	Parent Council/Parent Advisory Association Meeting - 6pm
May 16-17	No School - School Closure
May 20	No School - Victoria Day



JAMES MOWAT  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

9625 - 82 Street, Fort Saskatchewan, AB T8L3T6

Phone: 780 992 1272

[www.jamesmowat.ca](http://www.jamesmowat.ca)



## Music Times

Welcome back to Music! The **Handchime Ensemble** will start up again for round two!!!!  
Auditions are **NOT** required for our spring session. If your child was in handchimes from September - December 2023, they will automatically be back in the ensemble.

**Note:** our practice time and day has changed due to many other extra curricular events taking place in all grades. Our handchime practices will be on **Mondays**, from 11:57-12:20pm in the music room. Our first practice will be on **Monday, April 15, 2024**

## Yearbook Orders

A reminder that the 2023-2024 yearbook is available to order through the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). The yearbook is \$21 and will arrive in September 2024. The yearbook captures all the events for the entire school year. A big THANK YOU to Miss Humphrey who is currently working on the yearbook and to all staff for taking photos throughout the year.

## Volunteer Appreciation

A big **THANK YOU** to all the volunteers who help at our school with field trips, hot lunches, parent council and parent advisory association, classroom support, coaching, or fundraising. Your support is very much appreciated!

## Bicycle Reminder

With the warmer weather and melting of the winter snow, we are beginning to see some students riding their bikes to school. For safety reasons, we request that students follow these 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.

We often have well over one hundred bicycles at the racks. It does get crowded. Please follow the above guidelines to stay safe.



## **Jump Rope Club/Jump Rope for Heart**

We have kicked off Jump Rope Club and Jump Rope for Heart! Students are welcome to drop in to jump with Jump Rope Club at Lunch Recess on their designated day of the week from April 9-May 9. Students can also join our Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser. This teaches our students the importance of giving back and encourages them to learn the “E.A.S.Y.” healthy habits, so they understand the importance of staying active, eating well, and taking care of their heart and brain health. The funds our school raises will help support important heart and stroke research. You can get your child set up with their fundraising page by clicking here: <https://jumpropeforheart.crowdchange.ca/51416/add/registration>. There are individual student fundraising incentives, and if we reach our school goal of \$2 000, the school will earn an extra recess!

## **Literacy Corner**

Literacy skills are something that students use and practice long after they leave the classroom. [Reading Rockets](#) has some fun ways you can support students with their literacy skills at home. From something as simple and powerful as [reading aloud](#) to building [reading adventure packs](#), there’s lots of great ideas to help literacy at home be practical and engaging.

[Start With A Book](#) can help you find books and activities based on your child’s passions and interests. Whether their obsessed with [dinosaurs](#) or are a budding [artist](#), you’ll find all sorts of interesting topics to explore along with books and activities to bring these topics to life.

## **March Book Madness**

During March students at James Mowat participated in March Book Madness. Classes read a variety of books and then got to vote for their favourites. These books are picked by a world wide competition to build global citizenship. We created our own James Mowat vote and our winner was “My Pet Feet!” A story about what would happen if all the R’s were missing and how it would affect all the words!

## **Snacks and Cutlery**

Please ensure your child remembers to pack all of their needed supplies for the day. Students are reminded to bring their lunch, snacks, and water bottle each day, as well as any needed utensils for their snack/lunch.





### **Indigenous Corner...**

Have you ever heard reference to "Turtle Island"? In many indigenous cultures, the turtle holds great significance as a symbol of creation, truth, longevity, wisdom, and stability. According to traditional creation stories, the earth was created on the back of a turtle, with various animals and beings living on its shell. Turtle Island represents the land upon which indigenous peoples have lived for thousands of years.

Different indigenous nations may have variations in their creation stories and interpretations of Turtle Island, but the concept generally embodies a deep spiritual and cultural connection to the land and all living beings. It is a term that carries profound significance and respect for the ancestral lands shared by many diverse First Nation, Métis and Inuit in North America.

The term "Turtle Island" also reclaims and reaffirms indigenous peoples' connection to the land, asserting inherent rights and responsibilities as its stewards. It serves as a reminder of enduring relationship with the natural world and their ongoing struggle for sovereignty, environmental protection, and cultural revitalization.



### **Parent Council & Parent Advisory Association Corner...**

#### **Next Parent Council/Parent Advisory Association Meetings:**

May 13 at 6:00pm (library). All parents/guardians are welcome to attend.

This is the last Parent Council/Parent Advisory Association Meetings of the School Year.

#### **Parent Council/Parent Advisory Association Minutes:**

[JMSPAA & PC Meeting Minutes - March 2024](#)



### **Fort Saskatchewan Food Bank**

Thank you for supporting our Student Council initiative to raise funds for the Fort Saskatchewan Food Bank with our “Lucky Gold Coin” fundraiser. We raised \$219.50 for the food bank.

### **Junior High Information Nights: Running April and May**

Junior high schools across EIPS are hosting information nights for all Grade 6 students and their families—taking place in April and May. Make sure to attend to learn everything you need to know about the junior high programs at your child’s school. Those who attend will also have a chance to:

- meet the teachers;
- tour the school and classrooms;
- learn about the upcoming curriculum; and
- ask questions.

For specific dates and times, see: [EIPS Junior High Information Sessions 2024](#)

### **Get ready for Kindergarten**

Do you have a child registered in kindergarten next year? If so, make sure to attend James Mowat Elementary’s upcoming Kindergarten Information Night on April 11, 2024 . You’ll get to:

- tour the school;
- meet the teacher;
- gain insight on play-based learning; and
- see what a typical day looks like.

### **Kindergarten Information Night 2024:**

**Date: April 11, 2024**

**Time: 5:30pm**

**Location: James Mowat Elementary**

To make the transition to school as smooth as possible, Elk Island Public Schools has put together a toolkit for families. The kit includes information about registration, important dates, programming options, what to expect, eligibility, finding your designated school, transportation and more. Find it at: [Welcome to EIPS Kindergarten](#).

Additional information about James Mowat Elementary’s kindergarten program is available on the school website. <https://www.jamesmowat.ca/programs/kindergarten>



Your Future in MIND

### **Did you know?**

Alberta Reserves are accumulated surplus funds that may be designated to a school, department or priority. The Board of Trustees approves the transfer of funds to and from reserves and has a yearly plan on how those reserves are used—to the benefit of students. EIPS identifies high-demand areas and uses its operating reserves for initiatives like student learning, new curriculum work, consultant support, mental health initiatives, technology upgrades, public-health best practices and other one-time projects. Operating reserves are also used to furnish and equip new schools and classrooms. With its capital reserves, EIPS replaces ageing equipment, purchases technology, modernizes and expands student learning spaces, and funds emergent capital needs.

Learn more:

[Board Policy 2: Role of Board](#)

[Administrative Procedure 501: Financial Management](#)

### **A big *THANK YOU* to EIPS Volunteers**

National Volunteer Week takes place April 14-20. On behalf of the Board of Trustees at Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS), I want to extend my most heartfelt thanks to all EIPS volunteers. Every time you've contributed, whether it was helping on a class field trip or planning a school event for families to enjoy, you were there at a moment when we needed you. Students needed you, staff needed you, the community needed you—and you answered the call. These are moments that matter and are ones that make a difference in a student's experience at their school.

So, thank you again for being there. Without you, EIPS would not be what it is today, and schools wouldn't be able to do all the wonderful things they do. This National Volunteer Week, I encourage everyone to celebrate the hundreds of volunteers and thousands of hours put into supporting student growth and achievement at schools across the Division.

Cathy Allen,  
Chair, EIPS Board of Trustees





Your Future in MIND

## EIPS Annual Education Results Report

Every year, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) publishes an Annual Education Results Report, which outlines the Division's Four-Year Education Plan, opportunities for growth and how it's supporting students to achieve the best possible outcomes. Read through this year's [EIPS Annual Education Results Report 2022-23](#) and discover how EIPS fosters learning environments for all students to learn, grow and thrive—and why it matters.

### April Spotlight: enhancing public education through effective engagement

[Rules of Engagement](#): Using a collaborative approach to improve student achievement and success

[Driving change](#): Strengthening public education through Board advocacy

### RELATED INFORMATION

[EIPS Four-Year Education Plan: 2022-26](#)

[EIPS Three-Year Capital Plan: 2024-27](#)

## 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 five of its elementary school locations. Applications are now open 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 2020 or 2021, who could benefit from pre-kindergarten programming or want to book an assessment, fill out the [PALS Program Request Form](#) or call 780-417-8219. For more information, visit [eips.ca](http://eips.ca).

## Download the new My Ride K-12 app

The student transportation routing and planning software used by the Division is getting an app update! The new My Ride K-12 app, which is replacing Ride 360, helps families stay up to date on your child's bus schedules, route times and scans. Download My Ride K-12 from the App Store or Google Play by April 30.

For more information, visit [www.eips.ca/transportation/apps](http://www.eips.ca/transportation/apps). If you have any questions, contact Student Transportation at [st@eips.ca](mailto:st@eips.ca) or 780-417-8151.





Families First Society  
FORT SASKATCHEWAN

Program of the Fort Saskatchewan  
and Sturgeon Region Family Resource Network

# Connect

*A program for parents and caregivers*

Connect is for parents of pre-teens and teens struggling with significant behavioural and mental health issues. It is an opportunity to build a better relationship with your 8-18 year old youth.

Join us for this free 10 week program!



**WEDNESDAY EVENINGS APRIL 10- JUNE 12**

**SUPPER 5:30-6:00 PM PROGRAM 6:00-7:30 PM**

**AT FAMILIES FIRST SOCIETY 9901 90ST**

**FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CALL 780-998-5595 EXT. 221  
INTERESTED FAMILIES WILL HAVE AN INTAKE TO SEE IF CONNECT IS A GOOD FIT**

**FREE MEAL INCLUDED, CHILDCARE AVAILABLE**



*Alberta*  
Government





**Families First Society**  
FORT SASKATCHEWAN



## CIRCLE FOR CAREGIVERS OF YOUTH

This is a support circle for caregivers of youth aged 8 to 13 years who are struggling with intense behaviours and feelings of overwhelm. It is a safe space to connect with other caregivers who are parenting through these important years. You will have the opportunity to share your strategies, successes and difficulties in raising youth.



### Monday Night Fort Saskatchewan

Families First Building  
9901 90 Street

5:30 to 6:00pm Supper  
6:00 to 7:30pm Circle

#### SPRING 2024 DATES

- April 22
- May 6 + 27
- June 10 + 24

**Children's programming is available**

Please register for any of the sessions you can attend by calling 780-998-5595 ext. 221

In a circle we are all equal.  
There is no one behind you, no one above you, and no one below you.

Program of the Fort Saskatchewan  
and Sturgeon Region Family Resource Network

Alberta Provincial Family  
Resource Networks

Nurtured  
BABY

*Are you expecting a baby?*

## Health for Two Open Doors to Prenatal Health

Connect with us for a FREE 7 week group for pregnant people.

Share your joys and worries as we talk about changes in pregnancy, healthy habits and how to nurture your baby.

We will meet from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm on:

March 25   April 08   April 22   May 06  
May 27   June 03   June 17



All registered participants will be provided with information and resources to take away.



Grocery coupons, Dental kits, Prenatal vitamins, Vitamin D, and Health For Two booklets will be provided to each participant.

**Location: Join us online over zoom!**

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**

Please call 780-998-5595 ext. 221



**Families First Society**  
FORT SASKATCHEWAN



# FORT SASKATCHEWAN'S LOCAL SUPPORT NETWORK



Feeling unsure about which agency is the right fit for you? Any of these community partners would be happy to assist you in navigating the support network.

**REMEMBER, THERE'S NO WRONG NUMBER IN OUR COMMUNITY**



**Family & Community  
Support Services**  
CITY OF FORT SASKATCHEWAN

**780-992-6267**

- Outreach Supports
- System Navigation
- Community and Agency Supports
- Workshops and Trainings
- Community Programs



Digital copies feature clickable links for convenient access, guiding you directly to the websites below!

## BGC Fort Saskatchewan

[fortsask.bgccan.com](http://fortsask.bgccan.com)



- (780) 992-0103
- Children & Youth 6+
- Before/After school care, youth programs
- Family Supports and programs

## Families First Society

[familiesfirstsociety.ca](http://familiesfirstsociety.ca)



- (780) 998-5595 ext. 221
- Play programs, Family support and education, Family Violence Prevention, System navigation, Connection to resources for all ages

## The Bridge Wellness Hub for Youth

[facebook.com/TheBridgeWHY](https://facebook.com/TheBridgeWHY)



- (780) 589-0024
- Youth 11-24
- Youth and Family centered health, mental health and social support services

## Fort Saskatchewan Public Library

[fspl.ca](http://fspl.ca)



- (780) 998-4275
- Educational and entertainment resources, services and programs for all ages

## Heartland Housing

[heartlandhousing.ca](http://heartlandhousing.ca)



- (780) 400-3500
- Rent assistance programs
- Near market housing
- Seniors lodges, near market and affordable apartments

## Fort Saskatchewan Nourishment Center/Food Bank

[fortsaskatchewanfoodbank.com](http://fortsaskatchewanfoodbank.com)



- (780) 998-4099
- Food Hampers (T,Th)
- Daily Bread+ (M,W,F)
- Christmas Hamper and Toys

## The Fort Foundation

fortfoundation.ca



- (877) 359 3640
- Information, advocacy, and referral services on Family, Civil, Immigration and Criminal Law

## Careers Under Construction

careersunderconstruction.ca



- (587) 760-2010
- Skill-Bit employment skills training program

## Robin Hood Association

robinhoodassoc.com



- (780) 992-0035
- Adult, youth, and children services for people with developmental disabilities

## Fort Saskatchewan Furniture Bank

fortsaskfurniturebank.com



- Provides gently used furniture and household goods to those that qualify. Please refer to their website for the criteria.

## EISA Settlement Practitioner

eisa-edmonton.org



- (780) 991-8223
- Information, advocacy, and support for new immigrants, refugees and first generation Canadians

## Outloud

outloudstalbert.ca



- (587) 936-9620
- 2SLGBTQIAP+ supports, programs, resources, advocacy and education

## Creating Hope Society

creatinghopesociety.ca



- (780) 477-7961
- Indigenous based programs, cultural supports, education and resources

## Fort Lions Transportation Society

fortsasklions.com



- (780) 940-5247
- Specialized transit support related to wheelchair, scooter or walker use

## Pioneer House Club 50

facebook.com/PioneerHouse50



- (780) 998-3898
- Social supports, recreational opportunities, outings, and events

## Fort Saskatchewan Community Hospital

albertahealthservices.ca



- (780) 998-2256
- Acute and outpatient care
- 24hr emergency services
- Women's health
- Ophthalmology