

the JAMES MOWAT Messenger

April 2025



Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope everyone had a restful Spring Break. We're in the final stretch of the school year with just under three months remaining!

Please check your [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) regularly for field trip fees which are added for each field trip.

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 families for supporting these school decisions.

Mr. Stacey Boyko, Principal
Mrs. Lana Romanowska, Assistant Principal



April at a Glance:

Apr 2	Early Dismissal
Apr 7	World Health Day
Apr 7-11	Education Week
Apr 14	Parent Council/Parent Advisory Association Meetings - 6pm
Apr 18	No School - Good Friday
Apr 21	No School - Easter Monday
Apr 22	Earth Day
Apr 23	Administrative Professionals' Day
Apr 27-May 4	National Volunteer Week
Apr 29	Kindergarten Info Night - 5pm

Looking ahead to May:

May 1	Volunteer Appreciation 2:30-3:00pm (gym)
May 2	No School - PL Day
May 7	Early Dismissal
May 12	Parent Council/Parent Advisory Association Meetings - 6pm
May 13	Class Photos (whole school) & Grade 6 individual photos
May 14	Class Photos (Alt. Kindie)
May 19	No School - Victoria Day
May 28	PAT Grade 6 English Part A - 9am



Yearbook Orders

A reminder that the 2024-2025 yearbook is available to order through the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). The yearbook is \$16 and will arrive in September 2025. 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.

Education Week 2025: April 7-11

Education Week is April 7-11, 2025. This annual event celebrates the significance of education and the remarkable activities occurring in Alberta schools. The theme for this year is "Learning Uplifts All," emphasizing the transformative power of education in fostering personal growth and strengthening communities. Throughout the week, our school is engaging in various activities that highlight the importance of education and community. The students will have the opportunity to spend time outside cleaning up our school grounds, have a guest teacher come read in their classroom and many more activities. Let's come together to celebrate and acknowledge the dedication of our educators and the enthusiasm of our students during this special week.

Volunteers!

To celebrate EIPS National Volunteer Week, we invite all volunteers who have helped in the school to join us for a special appreciation event. Come enjoy some refreshments as a token of our gratitude for all the amazing help you provide.

Event Details:

Date: Thursday, May 1

Time: 2:30-3:00 PM

Location: School Gym

We look forward to celebrating the incredible contributions you've made to our school community.

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.





Bikes & Scooters

With the warmer weather many students are riding their bikes and scooters to school. These modes of transportation should be locked up using the racks available outside the school. For the safety reasons, we request students to follow these guidelines:

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



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 29, 2025. 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 2025:

Date: April 29, 2025

Time: 5:00pm

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



Parent Council & Parent Advisory Association Corner...

Next Parent Council/Parent Advisory Association Meetings:

Meetings are held at 6pm in the school library. All parents/guardians are welcome to attend.

- ◆ April 14, 2025
- ◆ May 12, 2025
- ◆ June - no meeting

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 so we can ensure we have babysitters available.

Parent Advisory Association Fundraising:

COBS Bread Dough Raiser Program:

Each time you purchase a product at the COBS Bread Fort Saskatchewan location, mention James Mowat Elementary and we will receive a 5 % donation of the total sale.

Boston Pizza Fundraiser Program:

Please bring in any Boston Pizza receipts dated from January to June 2025 to the school office and we will receive a 5% rebate at the end of the school year as part of their Operation Education Program. Thank you!



Your Future in MIND

Pre-kindergarten Programming at EIPS

Is there a preschooler in your life experiencing identified developmental delays or challenges with speech-language—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 2021 or 2022, 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.

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*, growth opportunities and how it supports students in achieving the best possible outcomes. Read through this year's [EIPS Annual Education Results Report 2023-24](#) and discover how EIPS fosters learning environments for all students to learn, grow and thrive—and why it matters.

April Spotlight: cultivating high-quality learning environments and experiences

[Raising the Bar](#): Evidence-based practices that are enhancing teaching and learning in EIPS

[Power of Kindness](#): Creating welcoming, inclusive, respectful and safe learning environments in schools

[Building Blocks](#): How effective planning, management and infrastructure are supporting learning

RELATED INFORMATION

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

[EIPS Three-Year Capital Plan: 2025-28](#)



Your Future in MIND ●

A big *THANK YOU* to EIPS Volunteers

National Volunteer Week takes place April 27 to May 4. On behalf of the Board of Trustees at Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS), I want to say a giant thank you to all EIPS volunteers. This year's theme is *Volunteers Make Waves*, and that's certainly true in our Division. No matter whether you've chaperoned a field trip, helped out at a hot lunch day or provided support in a classroom—every time you've stepped in a school—you've made a ripple effect that washes over your community. These waves of positivity, hard work and dedication build up and make a momentous impact on a student's experience at school.

So, thank you again for being a part of our ocean at EIPS. The waves you've made—and will continue to create—all contribute to our collective goals of ensuring learning and working environments sustain student learning and amplifying the importance of public education in our province. 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

