



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

October 2023

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It's hard to believe, but we have already cleared one entire month of school! It was great to see that everyone was back into routine so quickly this year. We have some days coming up when the school will be closed and then Hallowe'en is on our doorstep! Thank you to parents who attended our recent PTA and SAC meeting night. Your involvement is very much appreciated. As the days get shorter and cooler, make sure that you take time to keep routines in place and to continue reading every night. Research clearly shows that consistent reading promotes student achievement in all areas. Even though they like their independence, it is still great to hear mom or dad read something back to them.

I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving break and maintain or add to your family traditions. Take time to share with your child what you are thankful for. This supports the work we are doing with the Sacred Teachings this year and it may spark a great family discussion! Have a great month and keep away from those Hallowe'en treats!

William Korec, MEd
Principal



WORLD TEACHERS DAY

October 5 is World Teachers' Day! Launched in 1994 by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Teachers' Day is celebrated annually around the world to recognize teachers and the integral role they play in providing quality education to students. On October 5, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) encourages all its students, parents, and community members to show their appreciation for their teachers and the positive impact they make on our lives. EIPS extends a heartfelt thank you to all its teachers for their dedication, hard work and commitment in guiding and educating our students through their kindergarten to Grade 12 years.

PICTURE DAYS

Picture days will be on Monday, October 2 and Tuesday October 3, 2023. Please be sure that your child **does not wear** a green shirt as it interferes with the green screen that is used as a backdrop. Students are asked to return the original order form when requesting a retake. Retakes will happen at the beginning of November.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent Teacher Interviews will be held on Wednesday October 25 and Thursday October 26 from 4:30pm – 7:30pm (Wednesday) 5:00-8:00pm (Thursday). Our online interview booking program is now open. Please go to <https://schoolinterviews.ca/code/gju5v> to book your parent teacher interviews. Please call the school at 780-998-1441 if you experience any difficulties with this process.

TERRY FOX FUN RUN

Win Ferguson School staff and students enjoyed some remarkable fall weather on Friday, September 22 and participated in the annual Terry Fox Fun Run in our community. Thank you

to all our families for continuing to support this worthy cause and thank you to our students, for always participating in this challenge. Our community school raised an impressive **\$648.90** dollars! Way to go! Congratulations to Jake in Grade 6 and Lola in Grade 1 for winning the great prizes. Congratulations to Claire and James in kindergarten for winning the annual t-shirts from the Terry Fox Foundation.



READ IN WEEK 2023

Read In Week returns on October 2. This year's theme: "Read-In Reimagined." Through various activities, students will spend the week learning how to reimagine reading—it's more than just story books—reading happens everywhere and is for everyone, no matter your age.

Read In Week is a division wide initiative held annually to encourage a lifelong love of reading and to enhance literacy awareness among students, staff, families, and community members. Win Ferguson invites all families to participate in Read In Week by reading yourself, with your child or with someone in the community. Don't forget to share what you've learned. Throughout the week, you can post your own stories about Read In Week using the hashtag **#eipsreads**.

SOCKTOBER

This October, Win Ferguson Elementary is challenging Rudolph Hennig Junior High to a SOCKTOBER CHALLENGE, in support of the Bissell Centre. Students will be collecting **new**

items for the Bissell Centre - socks (all sizes including children's), but toques and mitts are also welcomed donations. Tell your friends, family and neighbors about this drive and get them involved. Students can bring their donations to class. Parents can also drop off donations at the front office. **Donations will be collected until October 27th.** Let's help those in need this fall!



BREAKFAST CLUB

The Breakfast Club has arrived at WFG! We have partnered with the Fort Saskatchewan Food Bank and can provide a healthy and filling breakfast for everyone! Each week the Food Bank provides us with a variety of options like muffins, bagels, cinnamon buns, and yogurt. Everyone is welcome. If your kiddo wants to come, have them enter the school, through their regular door, between 8:05 and 8:25. They can come down to the breakfast room (across from the big girl's bathroom) and hang with Mrs. Rooke and me. We will provide some morning chats and their choice of breaky (that's available). If they arrive after 8:25 (or after the second bell), they can just head to the office, and they will be taken care of! Looking forward to seeing all the smiling faces in the morning! Gluten free and lactose free options are also available!

Mrs. Dixon



SCHOOL FEES

School fee information for the 2023-24 school year is now posted on the PowerSchool Parent Portal. 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.

Don't forget to also log in to 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, class projects, extracurricular activities fees and more.

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. For more information about school fees, waivers, and payment deadlines, visit www.eips.ca/schools/fees and [Fees | Win Ferguson Elementary](#). Alternatively, contact Michelle Campbell, Business Manager at 780-998-1441.



SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK: October 15-21

Schools throughout Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) are celebrating School Bus Safety Week October 15-21. The theme: Stand Back From Yellow and Black which focuses on proper school bus safety behaviors. Throughout the week, various activities are planned, including information sessions, bus-safety lesson plans and bus-evacuation drills.

As part of School Bus Safety Week, Win Ferguson School reminds students and families all division school buses are equipped with a Tyler Drive tablet, bus-pass scanner, GPS

technology, the Child Check-Mate system and surveillance equipment, which allows Student Transportation to better monitor and manage its more than 175 buses. Families and students also have access to the Traversa Ride 360 app, a mobile tool to help determine the location of a bus, projected arrival times and when a child is scanned onto a bus. For more information visit EIPS Student Transportation or contact 780-417-8151.



ENHANCING LITERACY & NUMERACY

As part of Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) ongoing efforts to enhance the literacy and numeracy of students in all grade levels, the Division is once again administering the Star Early Literacy, Star Reading, and Star Math assessment tools in the 2023-24 school year. These tools focus on literacy and numeracy, are digitally based and offer an opportunity for students to demonstrate their learning. The goal: To provide timely information to teachers, help enhance classroom instruction and identify student learning needs. Three times a year, EIPS students in Grade 1 complete the Star Early Literacy assessment and students in grades 2-12 complete the Star Reading assessment. Both assessments are administered electronically and take about 20 minutes. Students in grades 2 through 10 also complete the STAR Math, a mathematic screening tool. It, too, is administered electronically and takes about 30 minutes for students to complete. The results offer teachers a clearer picture of a student's learning needs and help determine if subsequent instructional planning is required. NOTE: Semester students complete the Star Math twice, at the start and end of the course.

In addition to the Star assessments, Alberta Education now mandates all students in grades 1-3 complete additional literacy and numeracy assessments. Students in Grade 2 and Grade 3 complete these provincial assessments in September. Grade 1 students will complete the assessments in January 2023. The scores of the assessments aren't used toward a student's grade, and there is no need to study ahead of time. The tools simply provide the teacher with information to better understand where each student is in terms of reading comprehension and mathematic ability. If, after analyzing the results, it's determined a student can benefit from extra support, the teacher will contact the family to discuss possible support strategies. For more information about the Division's Star assessment tools, contact EIPS Supports for Students at 780-464-3477.

FIRST NATIONS, METIS & INUIT EDUCATION

On September 29, Win Ferguson Elementary recognized the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation. Students and staff wore orange shirts and learned about the history of Residential schools in Canada. In October, Win Ferguson students and staff will be learning about the Land and People Acknowledgement. We will learn about its importance as part of Reconciliation. Then we will practice writing our own.



COUNSELLING INFORMATION

Please note that on our school website, we host community information for parents from service providers, such as Children's Mental Health and AHS. Please check there on a regular basis to see the most current opportunities. If you have any additional questions, please contact Mrs. Hudson, our school counsellor.

SAC AND PTA

Thank you to those parents who could join us for our organizational meeting for this school year and for the AGM elections of the newest executives. We thank everyone for putting their names forward. Parent council information is located on our school website. This is where you will find all things related to them including hot lunch, milk forms. etc. Don't forget, we have a Facebook group for our school to promote parent initiatives and a new school Facebook account!

SAVE THE DATE

Just a quick reminder to save **Friday October 27** as the night we celebrate as a family at Win Ferguson School with our Family Hallowe'en Spooktacular Dance. This is a closed event open only to families of students attending our school. An information flyer will be shared shortly! See you there!



HALLOWE'EN ACTIVITY

On Tuesday October 31, we will be celebrating Hallowe'en at school. Parents are reminded that costumes depicting excessive gore are not allowed. Toy knives, swords and guns are also not allowed. These parts of their costumes are reserved for trick-or-treating in the evening. If you have any questions, please speak to your child's teacher or to the administration of Win Ferguson School. We want this experience to be a positive one for all of our students. Thank you for your support.



CAREGIVER EDUCATION SESSIONS

Alberta Health Services hosts a variety of virtual caregiver information sessions throughout the year focused on ways to support students' mental health. The sessions are free and geared toward parents, caregivers, teachers, and community members who want to learn more about challenges impacting children and adolescents. Session topics include anxiety, ADHD, depression, self-harm, technology, teens and teaching leadership skills, communication, resiliency and more. Visit Caregiver Education to see the monthly caregiver sessions.

<https://www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca/>

PARENTING IN THE ERA OF AI

Join the University of Alberta and Amii for an engaging 45-minute online webinar designed to boost AI literacy for parents of kids of all ages, from kindergarten to graduate students. The session will focus on global citizenship, online safety, and education and career guidance. Don't miss this fun and informative opportunity to empower your parenting in the age of AI, ensuring your kids thrive in tomorrow's tech-driven world.

Date: Nov. 2, 2023 Time: 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 p.m.

[https://www.amii.ca/events/AI Essentials for Modern Parents/](https://www.amii.ca/events/AI_Essentials_for_Modern_Parents/)

WAYS TO STAY INVOLVED IN YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION

- Connect with their teacher
- Volunteer
- Talk to your child about school
- Ask teachers how you can get involved

MORE RESOURCES
search-institute.org
keepconnected.searchinstitute.org/
community.hmhc.ca/

Win Ferguson Elementary School

FAMILY HALLOWEEN DANCE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27TH

DOORS OPEN AT 6:15PM
DANCE 6:30PM - 8:30PM

ADMISSION BY CASH DONATION

- COSTUMES •••
- PRIZES •••
- 50/50 DRAW •••
- CONCESSION •••
- DANCING! •••

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
CONTACT THE PTA TO SIGN UP

THIS IS A CLOSED EVENT FOR WIN FERGUSON FAMILIES



OCTOBER 2023



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|--|------------------------------|--|--|--|----------------------------|
| 1 | 2 READ IN WEEK begins! PICTURE DAY 1 | 3 PICTURE DAY 2 | 4 Early dismissal @ 2:12 | 5 | 6 PD Day School closed | 7 |
| 8 | 9 THANKSGIVING DAY School Closed | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Hot Lunch Day | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 Parent Teacher Interviews 4:30-7:30 PM | 26 Parent Teacher Interviews 5:00-8:00 PM | 27 Family Dance Night 6:30-8:30 PM | 28 |
| 29 | 30 SAC Meeting 6:30PM | 31 Hallowe'en Dress Up | 1 Retake day 1 Early dismissal @ 2:12 | 2 Retake day 1 | 3 | 4 Fall Break begins! |