



DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER



Principal's Message

December has come up so quickly after our fall break! Student progress reports will be released today on the parent portal. Please log in after 3:00 pm to view the current progress report for your child. The report card is a starting point for additional goal setting and follow up conversations with your child and their teachers. I would also like to thank Mrs. Demers and Ms. Storey for all the work they have already invested into the Christmas concert this year. I think you will enjoy seeing your child sparkle that night!

I hope that everyone enjoys the upcoming holiday break. Please ensure that you make time for yourselves and just enjoy this time with your kids! This is a special time for you, as well. From the entire Win Ferguson School team – Merry Christmas and a very happy and healthy 2024!

William Korec, MEd
Principal

Winter Break

Win Ferguson School will close for the Christmas break at the end of the day on Friday December 22, 2023. The school will reopen on **Monday January 8, 2024**. During this time, if you have any school-related questions or concerns, contact Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Central Services at 780-464-3477.

EIPS Central Services Christmas Break Hours

Closed December 25, 2023, to January 1, 2024

Open January 3; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

From everyone at Elk Island Public Schools, we wish all of you a happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year.

Lost and Found

Thank you, to those parents, who have collected the many items that were in the lost and found during interviews. We ask students to check, once again, the school's lost and found and take applicable items home. All items not claimed by **Thursday December 21, 2023**, will be donated to a local charity.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Board of Trustees

I want to extend warm holiday wishes to all students, staff and families on behalf of the Elk Island Public Schools Board of Trustees. We're grateful to have school communities full of hard-working families committed to the success of their children. Education doesn't just happen in school, it happens at home too—in every homework assignment completed, every textbook chapter read, and every test reviewed. Thank you for taking the time out of your day to cultivate learning at home, so that students are eager to strive for their best at school the next day. We also appreciate the countless hours school councils put into planning events and appreciate all the people who volunteer at and attend them. Your support is invaluable. We hope you enjoy all the holiday concerts and festivities happening at your schools, and that you get some well-deserved rest during the break. To each and every person, have a wonderful holiday season and a healthy and happy New Year. We look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Jan. 8, 2024. Merry Christmas and happy holidays,

Cathy Allen
EIPS Board Chair

Win Ferguson School Christmas Concerts

Our School Christmas Concert is only weeks away and we are as busy as Santa's elves practicing. We have two wonderful performance times for you to choose to attend this year. If you haven't already done this, please log into the website below to place your request for concert tickets Remember that the deadline for all ticket orders is **December 13, 2023**. Tickets go home with the oldest child in your family on **Monday December 18, 2023**. See you there!

<https://schoolinterviews.ca/code/8x6tk>

We are excited to announce that a front-row seat raffle will be held for the upcoming Christmas concert. Further details about this raffle will be communicated separately next week. Stay tuned for more information!



Food Drive (December 4-15^h)

This December, Win Ferguson School is running a Food Drive campaign to support the local Fort Saskatchewan Food Bank. Students are encouraged to bring food donations to help support our community families who are accessing the Food Bank. Items that the Food Bank are in need of are:

Canned fruit
Soup
Kraft Dinner
Pork and Beans
Cookies

Jam
Mr. Noodles
Shampoo & conditioner
Feminine products

Sidekicks
Canned meat (ham/turkey/chicken)
1L Juice
Toilet paper

If you can donate anything to this worthy local agency, it would be very much appreciated. Donations will be picked up on December 15th from the school. Thank you for you anticipated support of this initiative.

FNMI News

This month, the eagle brought us the teaching of love. Love is represented by the eagle, who can travel over great distances and carry love and all of the seven teachings to the four directions of the Earth. The eagle reminds us that we always need to act from a place of love. Love the Earth, love ourselves, our family, our community, and all the Earth's creatures. When we give love, it comes back to us.

To practice this, as a school, we are going to be conducting **Acts of Love**. Each class will be doing a project where they spread love through small acts of kindness that will send ripples through our classrooms, our school, and our community. Stay tuned! November also brought us Metis Week. Our classes did activities through Rupertsland Institute, read stories by Metis authors and illustrators, and explored the rich culture of the Metis people. We also celebrated Rock Your Mocs Day as well on November 8th.



Fee Waiver Application Deadline

If circumstances exist where you're unable to pay school or transportation fees, you can apply to have [fees waived](#) by submitting an [Application for a Waiver of Fees](#). The application deadline is Dec. 15, 2023. If you're new to the Division, the deadline is the latter of Dec. 15, 2023, or 45 days after registration. 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 using Visa, MasterCard or debit card—when available from your financial institution. All fees are due within 30 days of being posted.

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 and more. For more information about school fees, waivers, and payment deadlines, visit www.eips.ca/schools/fees. Alternatively, contact Mrs. Michelle Campbell, WFG Business Manager at 780-998-1441.

Kindergarten Registration Starts Soon!

Is your child turning five on or before December 31, 2024?

If so, it's almost time to register. Kindergarten registration opens for the 2024-25 school year on Feb. 1, 2024. To help families prepare, 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 Win Ferguson's kindergarten program is available at <https://www.winferguson.ca/programs/kindergarten>

Share Your Thoughts on Budget Planning for 2024-25

Alberta Education allocates funds to school boards to fulfill their delegated responsibilities of providing education programs for students in kindergarten to Grade 12. As part of Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) commitment to stakeholder engagement and to continue allocating resources according to local priorities, the Division conducts an annual budget planning survey to seek input from staff, families Grade 12 students and community partners. The survey is voluntary, anonymous and takes about five to 10 minutes to complete. The survey questions suggest possible budget areas for EIPS to focus its resources, which align with the Division's current [Four-Year Education Plan](#). If you believe there are other areas where the Division should concentrate its resources, you can also indicate what these are. EIPS will consider all budget planning input to guide future decision-making. Thank you for sharing your input to help inform Division planning.

[COMPLETE THE SURVEY NOW](#)

Survey closes Dec 20, 2023

Grade 12 students will complete the survey at school.

Returning student 2024-25

Mark your calendars! Returning student registration for the 2024-25 school year will take place Feb. 8-21, 2024. 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 2024-25 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. Watch for more details in the new year.

VOLLEYBALL - WIN FERGUSON

The volleyball team had a great season this year and the teams finished off winning 4/7 games overall. Great job on the effort of all the athletes who were committed to improving their skills and working hard with their teammates. Special thanks to Mrs. McGregor, Ms. Lavergne and Mrs. Reid for working with the students and for organizing the mini tournaments. Basketball season will start up in January so students can look out for the tryout sign up sheets in December!



Spread the Word: EIPS is Hiring Substitute Educational Assistants

Do you know someone who may be interested in part-time, flexible work as a substitute educational assistant (EA)? Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is hiring—spread the word! EAs are integral to the school team, assisting teachers with instructional and non-instructional tasks in the classroom and other school activities. Whether it's working one-on-one with individual students or with a small group of students in a class or special program, EAs provide support and assistance to help students achieve success. Substitutes are needed to fill positions at all school locations until the end of the school year. The application deadline is **December 8**. If you know someone who'd be great in this role, encourage them to [apply today](#).



Has your contact information recently changed?

Have you recently moved or has your contact information changed? Win Ferguson School encourages families to review the information the Division has on file to ensure it's up to date. Using the **Student Information Update** available through the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#), families can review the current information on file for each student—including addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, parent and guardian information, emergency contacts, medical details and other related information—and submit any updates needed. Reviewing and updating the form ensures the school and Division have the most up-to-date information regarding your child. Your review is especially important as the Division prepares for 2024-25 registration processes beginning in the new year. If you have questions about the form or any trouble with your Parent Portal account, contact the school office at 780-998-1441.

NOTE: Only submit updates for the changes that have already taken place. If you're moving later this school year, you'll submit the necessary updates to your information through the **Student Information Update** after you've moved.

Mental Health and the Holidays

As we embrace the festive spirit and eagerly anticipate the holiday season, it is essential to take a moment to reflect on the well-being of our children. This time of year is often filled with joy and excitement, but it can also bring about stress and anxiety for some.

Understanding Holiday Stress:

The holiday season can be overwhelming for children as they navigate changes in routines, increased social activities, and the anticipation of gifts and celebrations. While it's a time of joy, it's also important to acknowledge the potential stressors that may impact our children's mental health.

Promoting Healthy Conversations:

Encouraging open communication with your child is key. Take a moment to talk about their feelings and emotions and reassure them that it's okay to express themselves. Share your own feelings and experiences, emphasizing that everyone may feel a mix of emotions during the holidays.

Maintaining Routines:

Consistency is comforting, especially during times of change. Although schedules may differ during the holidays, try to maintain some regular routines. This helps provide a sense of stability for your child, promoting a feeling of security.

Limiting Stimuli:

The holiday season can be a sensory overload for some children. Be mindful of their exposure to loud noises, bright lights, and crowded spaces. Offer quiet and calm spaces where your child can retreat if they need a break.

Encouraging Acts of Kindness:

Instill the spirit of giving by engaging in acts of kindness as a family. Whether it's making holiday cards for neighbors or volunteering together, these activities can foster a sense of connection and gratitude.



Reach Out for Support:

If you notice persistent signs of stress or changes in behavior, don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher or the school counselor. We are here to support your child's well-being and can provide resources or guidance as needed.

Remember, the holiday season is about creating cherished memories and connections. By prioritizing our children's mental health, we can ensure they have a joyful and fulfilling experience during this special time of the year.

Wishing you and your families a warm and wonderful holiday season!

Crystal Hudson, WFG Counsellor



DECEMBER 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Report cards issued 3PM	2
3	4 Food bank collection begins	5	6 Early dismissal @ 2:12 PM	7	8 Disney Day !! @WFG	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Food Bank donations end	16
17	18	19 Holiday Hats Day	20 Dress rehearsal PM	21 Christmas concerts at Shell Theater PM and Evening	22 Hot lunch Day Jingle Jammies Day Rec Swims Gr 4-6 Last day students	23 Christmas Break Begins!
24	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27	28	29	30 Classes resume Monday January 8