



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2024

Principal's Message

Happy New Year! With the holidays and the festive season of 2023 behind us, we all very much welcome the start to a new year. We are happy to have such a wonderful community of staff, students, parents, and community partners who work together to make our school an incredible place to learn. We appreciate the support that parents regularly provide the school. We ask you, in this New Year, to help your child set an academic goal to work towards. Examples could include:

- 1) Increasing the amount of reading each night.
- 2) Reviewing what was learned in class on a regular basis.
- 3) Getting homework completed each night.

We know that through our combined efforts, our students will have a very successful year.

This month, we begin the school fees process for the upcoming school year. This is a lengthy process which will conclude by March 2024. I will be sharing a parent survey at School Council and with all parents. Students will bring a paper copy home after the meeting. It will be a brief paper survey, so please jot your thoughts down and share them with me. I thank you, in advance, for your feedback into existing and planned school fees. A reminder that we have an upcoming Parent Advisory Council meeting in 3 weeks. I hope you can make it to this opportunity to provide feedback. All the best to you.

William Korec, M.Ed.
Principal

Student Draws

This December, Mrs. Richert, our Assistant Principal, organized a random draw each day for classrooms to win an ice cream treat party in the new year. The 2 lucky owl classrooms were: **Grade 5 – Mrs. McGregor's class and Grade 4 – Mr. Klimaszewski's class!!!**

Christmas Concert

Our Christmas Concert was a great success! Thanks to all those who joined one (or both) of the performances. It was very well attended and from many of the comments received, much enjoyed. The children were very excited to perform and showcase their talents. Many thanks to all our staff who contributed to its success and thank you to our SAC and PTA for supporting this financially.

Parent Council and Fees

As I shared before the winter break, our January SAC meeting will begin our preliminary discussion regarding school fees and any changes to the existing fee structure for Win Ferguson School for the next school year. The meeting is open to all parents. Save the date – **Monday January 29, 2024 @ 6:00PM.**

Staffing Update

- Welcome to our new student teacher – Mr. Spencer Theroux
- Welcome to our Intervention teacher – Mrs. Nicole Hefford (8 weeks)
- Welcome to our new Grade 2 EA – Mrs. Elizabeth Tovar
- Welcome back to our ECS EA - Mrs. Alanna Emond
- Welcome to our new Grade 4 EA – Mrs. Nicole Rockett

Returning Student Registration for 2024-25

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) will once again conduct an online returning student registration process to confirm student registrations for the 2024-25 school year. 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. The 2024-25 returning student registration takes place Feb. 8-21, 2024. **One contact** for each current PALS to Grade 11 student will receive the Returning Student Registration Form link through Permission Click on February 8. The recipient is based on which contact has been identified as the one to receive forms as listed on the most recent registration form, Correction and Verification Form or Student Information Update submitted to the Division. To review the contacts listed for each student, refer to the Student Information Update available through the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). Only one contact can be selected to receive forms. For more information, contact the school office.

Kindergarten Registration Starts Soon!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2024? If so, it's almost time to register for kindergarten. Kindergarten registration opens for the 2024-25 school year at 9 a.m. 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 [Kindergarten | Win Ferguson Elementary](#)

EIPS Annual Education Results Report 2022-23: Now available!

EIPS' *Annual Education Results Report 2022-23* is now available online. The report details how EIPS is doing relative to Alberta Education's performance measures; how it's supporting students to achieve the best possible outcomes; and its successes, challenges and priority strategies moving forward. What shines through in this year's *Annual Education Results Report* are the myriad programs and initiatives taking shape throughout the Division to ensure high-quality education, support student growth and achievement, and develop learners with the skills and knowledge needed to help them succeed. EIPS invites you to read through this year's *Annual Education Results Report 2022-23*. Celebrate our collective achievements and discover how EIPS fosters environments for all students to learn, grow and thrive—and why it matters.

[Annual Education Results Report 2022-23](#)

Also available is a condensed version of the report: [AERR 2022-23: Overview](#)

RELATED INFORMATION

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

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

Cybersecurity Update: Important information for families

As part of EIPS' ongoing commitment to maintaining a secure and effective digital learning environment for students, the Division is implementing an important update to its cybersecurity protocols **Jan. 19, 2024**.

Enhanced Location-based Security for Student Accounts

Starting Jan. 19, 2024, access to student user accounts—used for platforms like PowerSchool, Brightspace and Google—will be limited to within Canada's geographical boundaries. This change is an essential step in strengthening our cyber defenses and ensuring the digital safety of students.

What Does This Mean for You and Your Child?

Location-limited Access: Your child's account will be accessible only when they're physically located in Canada. This includes all activities related to their schoolwork, such as submitting assignments, accessing study materials, or sending EIPS account emails.

Seamless In-country Use: While in Canada, students will experience no change in how they access and use their accounts. The process remains as straightforward and user-friendly as always.

PowerSchool Access for Parents and Caregivers: This change will NOT impact parent and caregiver access to PowerSchool during periods of travel.

Why This Change?

The safety and privacy of students are paramount. This location-based access control is a proactive measure to prevent unauthorized access to students' accounts and protect sensitive information from potential cyber threats.

Questions?

For more information, contact the school office. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter. Together, we can ensure a secure and thriving digital learning environment for all students.

Inclement Weather

With the winter season well underway, we want to remind families to dress children appropriately for the weather when getting ready for school or the bus. The weather often changes unexpectedly throughout the day, so please select suitable outerwear and ensure your child is prepared for changing conditions. If inclement weather conditions occur, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) will advise families of any bus cancellations or changes to school operations using various communications tools—automated-telephone messages, email, SMS, alerts posted on www.eips.ca and school websites, Twitter, Facebook, local radio stations and notification through both the Bus Status and the Ride 360 apps. Morning bus cancellations are posted on www.eips.ca by 6:30 a.m.

Decisions regarding bus cancellations or changes to school operations are guided by EIPS' [Administrative Procedure 131: Inclement Weather](#), which states: "school bus service may be suspended ... when there is a forecast or current temperature of -40 C including wind chill, in one or more regions." Other reasons for suspending or delaying school bus services or school-related activities include adverse weather and poor road conditions.

When school bus services are suspended, schools remain open to students. EIPS believes families have the right and responsibility to make choices for their children based on what they feel is safest during times of inclement weather. For more information, contact EIPS Student Transportation at 780-417-8151.

DID YOU KNOW?

The *Education Act* requires every public school division in the province to have a Board of Trustees. The Board is made up of elected representatives who are accountable to you, the families, and to the community members of a school division who have elected each trustee. For EIPS, the Board provides overall direction and leadership, accepting responsibility for the Division’s policies and procedures. You can view all current policies and procedures on the [EIPS website](#).

First Nations, Metis & Inuit

January is going to be a busy month! We will continue to learn more about the Seven Sacred Teachings, specifically focusing on Courage which is represented by the Bear. We will work to understand what having courage means and how we can show courage in our everyday lives. Our EIPS Cultural Advisor, Leaha Atcheynum, will be at the school this month to work closely with our Grade 5 classes, as well as our Educational Assistants, to deepen their understanding of the teachings.

On January 23rd, our First Nations, Metis, and Inuit families are invited to come to a gathering at West River's Edge Pavillion at 6:00 pm. We will be joined by other Fort Saskatchewan Indigenous Families from EIPS to come together, sit in circle, connect with an Elder, and build community. It is going to be an amazing evening. We hope to see you there.

Turtle Islanders Club has had two meetings so far this year. Leaha and Mrs. Polukoshko taught the students about talking sticks and they had an opportunity to make their own.

At our next assembly, we will be handing out our Respect Awards again! These awards are presented to the classes that are working hard to demonstrate respect throughout our school. The winners receive a certificate to hang in their room as well as a stuffed bison keep for the month.

Congratulations to the winners from last month:

- Hushed Hallway: Miss Vibe's Grade 5 class
- Beautiful Boottracks: Miss Lavergne's Grade 1 class
- Cleanest Classroom: Mrs. Fokema's Grade 4 class



January 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Classes resume	9	10 Early dismissal day	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Treat Sale	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Hot Lunch Day	27
28	29 School Advisory Council Meeting 6:00 PM	30	31 PD DAY SCHOOL CLOSED			