



FEBRUARY 2024 SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Telephone: 780-998-1441

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

January seemed to roar by with routines back in place and then the nasty reminder of winter weather hit. I guess it's part of life in Alberta! I do miss our recent stretch of Vancouver "winter" weather. We live in hope of warmer days and take advantage of the sunshine when we can. February is kindness month, and we are always trying to demonstrate kindness and consideration to all members of our school community. Kindness rocks! Self-regulation, how we engage with each other, using positive words, are all part of our increased focus to encourage great character and citizenship in all our students.

A general reminder that this is the time of year for surveys. The returning student process ensures that our numbers are accurate for budgeting purposes. All families need to complete this. Kindergarten registrations also provide a window into what parents are thinking for the upcoming school year. I would like to thank you for the few minutes it takes to complete each of these important tasks. They all serve a very valuable purpose, and your time is very much appreciated.

All the best to you this month!

William Korec, MEd
Principal



WFG FEE SURVEY

Thank you to the many parents who returned their fee surveys. We had over **140** surveys returned. Thank you for the positive feedback, as well. I know we are on the right track with fees – striking a balance between enriching extra-curricular activities and your family finances! As planned, we are holding the line with fees other than the 5% increase to account for higher transportation costs, etc. in the fall. The final discussion regarding fees will happen at our February SAC meeting.

Congratulations to **Angela Hebert** and **Jackie Matthon** for winning the random Starbucks card draws! Enjoy!

Positive Referral Winners

Thank you for demonstrating great citizenship, students! Congratulations to our Positive Referral winners:

- Ms. Wilson's grade six class won for neat hallways and boot racks in the school last month.
- Mrs. Rooke's grade two class won for moving quietly and respectfully through the hallways. Wow!
- Mrs. McGregor's grade five class won for neatest classroom last month!
- Cleanest bathroom – the boys!

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent Teacher Interviews are coming up before the end of the month. Our school team looks forward to meeting with you to discuss your child's progress. Our schedule is built to support **one** spot for each family and some of our blended families have asked for 2 spots – which does not allow others to get in. **We ask that you only book one spot for your child/ per teacher.** Your understanding is very much appreciated. As classes are large and our window of opportunity to meet is very narrow, we ask that you honour this arrangement.

Bookings open on Monday February 5, 2024, at 9AM. and close February 20 at noon. The interviews take place from **Wednesday February 21 (5-8PM) and Wednesday February 22, 2024, from 3:30-6:30 PM.**

Just use this link to book: <https://schoolinterviews.ca/code/8gm8S>

Complete the Alberta Education Assurance Survey

Once again, Alberta Education is surveying teachers, students, and families through its annual Alberta Education Assurance (AEA) Survey. The survey gathers feedback on the quality of education provided by school authorities and their schools, which they then use to help understand how they're doing and plan.

Throughout February, Grade four students at Win Ferguson are completing the survey online at the school. Student participation is voluntary and completely anonymous. Students are assigned a random username and password to ensure survey responses aren't linked to any individual student. The survey doesn't take long to complete and is done within the school day during regular class time.

Additionally, parents and guardians of students in these grades are also asked to take a survey online. Alberta Education has mailed families information about the survey directly. As with the student and teacher survey, it's anonymous and asks questions about your school experiences. If you have a child in these grades, we encourage you to participate. The survey deadline is March 1, 2024.

Results from the AEA Survey are provided to Elk Island Public Schools each spring. The Division then uses the data to inform its four-year education plan, school education plans and strategies for continuous improvement. Each fall, the results are also shared with EIPS families and school communities in the *Division's Annual Education Results Report.*

RELATED INFORMATION

[AEA Survey: Information for parents and guardians](#)

[AEA Survey](#)

[Assurance and Accountability: Alberta's K-12 education system](#)



Complete your Returning Student Registration: February 8-21

Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) [returning student registration](#) process is now open. All current students, except Grade 12, must complete the online Returning Student Registration Form to confirm their enrolment in a school for the upcoming 2024-25 school year. 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. **All current EIPS students are required to complete the form by Feb. 21, 2024.**

To complete your child's returning student registration, refer to the Returning Student Registration Form email you received from Elk Island Public Schools via Permission Click on February 8. Families will receive one email for each student. No log in is required to complete the form. For more information, contact the school directly.

RELATED INFORMATION:

[Returning Student Registration Process](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[EIPS School Boundary Maps](#)

[Closed Boundaries 2024-25](#)

[Find my designated school](#)

[Applying to a non-designated school](#)

Kindergarten Registration is Now Open!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2024? If so, it's now time to register for kindergarten. To register, simply complete the online registration form at www.eips.ca/kindergarten. 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>.

Did you know?

Within EIPS, schools consistently offer a broad range of educational choices for students of varied backgrounds and interests—from specialized language and faith-based programs to advanced academic opportunities and competitive sports to specialized supports and continuing education. Through this, students are then able push their limits and find meaningful ways to contribute to and enhance their communities. Learn more about Division programs and services on the [EIPS website](#)

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 the most recent [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.

February Spotlight: Student Growth and Success

- [Early Learning](#): Ensuring early learners reach developmental milestones.
- [Culture of Literacy](#): Dive deep into the data and learn how students are developing strong literacy skills
- [Math Matters](#): Enhancing reasoning, understanding and achievement through numeracy-rich classrooms
- [Boosting Educational Outcomes](#): Discover how EIPS supports the growth and achievement of students who self-identify as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit
- [Beyond High School](#): Supports and strategies that are creating real-life career pathways for learners.

RELATED INFORMATION

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

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

WFG BOOK FAIR: February 20 to 23, 2024

Mark your calendars! The fun and excitement of a **WFG Scholastic Enchanted Forest**

Scholastic Book Fair is coming to our school! **Volunteers** are needed to make it the best book fair it can be! If you can offer your time and talents to help students grow their imaginations, it would be greatly appreciated. Day shifts are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 to 12:00 and 1:00-3:00; evenings: Wednesday evening 5:00 to 8:00 and Thursday 3:30-6:30pm (even an hour helps!) Students will have an opportunity to visit the fair with their class. The Fair will be open during Parent Teacher Interviews to give parents/guardians time to shop. If you have any questions or would like a to volunteer, please contact Natalie Bos, school librarian at natalie.bos@eips.ca.



FIRST NATIONS METIS INUIT UPDATE

In January, we focused on the teaching of the Bear, which is Courage. Courage is having the strength to resist something that you know isn't right. Courage is also showing bravery in the face of fear, danger, or an uncomfortable situation. This February, we will learn the lesson of Honesty brought to us by the Sabe. In Canada, January 4th is **National Ribbon Skirt Day**. This year marks the 2nd annual Ribbon Skirt Day in Canada, a day to learn more about and to celebrate Indigenous culture, traditions, histories, and contributions. Because we were on Christmas holidays on January 4th, we are celebrating on February 7th. Any students who have a ribbon shirt or skirt, are invited to wear it on February 7.

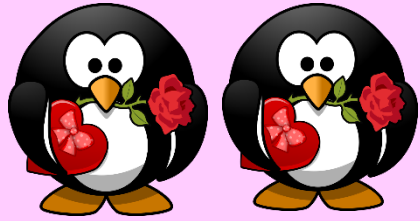
February 14 is **Have a Heart Day**. It is a child and youth-led reconciliation campaign to help ensure that First Nations children who live on a reserve get a fair chance to grow up safely at home, get a good education, be healthy, and feel proud of who they are. At Win Ferguson School, students will have the opportunity to learn about how the very first **Have a Heart Day** came to be.

PINK SHIRT DAY

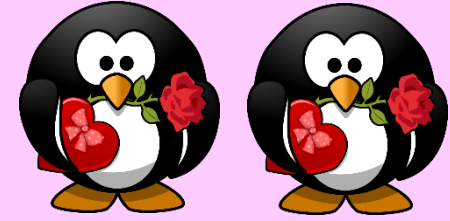
On February 28th, Win Ferguson School will recognize Pink T-shirt Day. This initiative aims to raise awareness on anti-bullying and aims to foster children’s healthy self-esteem. Building healthy relationships is one of the best ways to prevent bullying and create safe environments. This year students will engage in activities to encourage conversation and education on anti-bullying. Please join us by wearing your pink shirt on Wednesday February 28th. For more information, including parent resources please visit

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





FEBRUARY 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Kindergarten Registration Opens	2	3
4	5	6 Josh Classen visits Grade Five 80's Day	7 Early dismissal @ 2:12 Ribbon Skirt/Shirt Day	8 Teachers Convention Returning student registration opens	9 Teachers Convention	10
11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day Red/White/Pink Day	15 100 th Day of School!	16 Hot Lunch Day	17 Random Acts of Kindness Day
18	19 Family Day School closed	20 BOOK FAIR BEGINS	21 Parent Teacher Interviews 5-8 Returning student registration closes	22 Parent Teacher Interviews 3:30- 6:30	23 BOOK FAIR ENDS	24
25	26 Grade 6 – TWOS SAC PTA Meeting 6PM	27 CDI Hygienists visit Grade 1 and 2	28 Pink Shirt Day	29 Backwards Day Seven Sacred Teachings Assembly	1 PD Day School closed	2