



October 1, 2021



WESTBORO ELEMENTARY

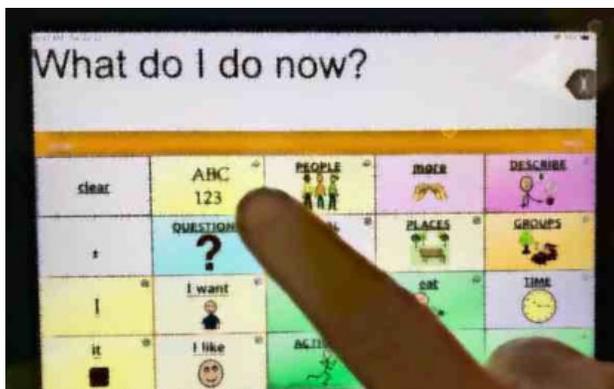
Weekly Newsletter

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

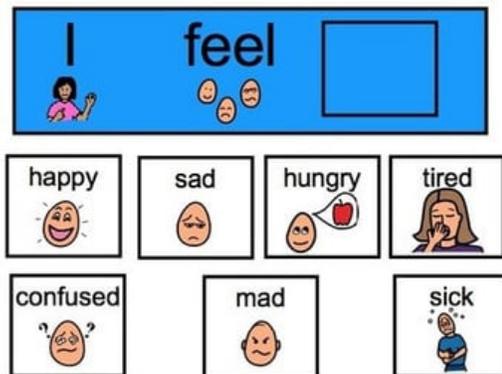
- October 4-8:** Read In Week
- October 5:** World Teachers' Day
- October 6:** Early Dismissal

AAC AWARENESS MONTH

October is AAC awareness month. Around the world people raise awareness and celebrate the use of augmentative and alternative communication. Some of our Westboro Warriors use AAC devices to help them to communicate because they are unable to use verbal speech. Complex AAC devices can be seen on Ipad's that students carry with them. Some less complex forms of communication are picture boards, gestures, facial expressions, drawing and writing. Help us to spread awareness by starting a dinner table discussion with your Westboro Warrior about it. Afterwards, have your family communicate with each other by using only non-verbal ways such as writing, drawing, gestures or facial expressions. Thanks for helping us to raise awareness.



TouchChat on Ipad



Communication Board

READ IN WEEK "TO EACH THEIR OWN STORY"

Read In Week returns on October 4. This year's theme: "To Each Their Own Story." Through various activities, students will spend the week learning ways to tell their own stories and how stories have the power to teach lessons, broaden perspectives and foster empathy.

Some of the activities planned for Read in Week at Westboro Elementary include:

We will be celebrating that everyone does have a story! We will be reading some of our favorite stories and having some virtual guest readers in to share their stories. We are kicking off our week of celebrating stories and literacy with a presentation by the Strathcona Public Library. Should your family be interested in accessing reading materials and other resources from the public library, membership and library cards are free. Simply fill in the attached application form and return it to the Strathcona Public Library.

[Strathcona County Library Card Application Form](#)



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. Westboro Elementary 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.

For more information visit [eips.ca](#) and [readin.ca](#)

PAY SCHOOL FEES ONLINE!

School fee information for the 2021-22 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 using Visa, MasterCard or debit card—when available from your financial institution.

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 [fees waived](#) by submitting an [Application for a Waiver of Fees](#). The application deadline is Dec. 15, 2021.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines, visit www.eips.ca/schools/fees and <https://www.westboroelementary.ca/about/fees>. Alternatively, contact Mrs. Billie Jean Mephram, Business Manager at Westboro Elementary at 780-467-7751.

ABSENCES, LATES, LEAVING EARLY

If your child will be absent, late or leaving school early, **please notify the office**. If your teacher is away for the day, your message to them may not make it to the office. If your child arrives late to school and does not walk in with their class, they must go through the front doors and check in with the office before going to class. A call or email to the office ensures that your message will be received. **Please call us at 780-467-7751 or email the office at general.wbo@eips.ca.**

Additionally, if your student is absent, a reason for absence is necessary. If the reason is illness, we do need to know the specific symptoms as there are different protocols for different symptoms. Thank you.

CELEBRATING WORLD TEACHERS' DAY: OCTOBER 5

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 as a way 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 of its students, parents and community members to show their appreciation for their teachers and the positive impact they make on our lives.

EIPS extends its heartfelt thank you to all Division teachers for their dedication, hard work and commitment in guiding and educating students through their kindergarten to Grade 12 years.

SCHOOL MESSENGER PREFERENCES

To update your school communication preferences, log into go.schoolmessenger.ca. If you have never logged in before, you will need to sign up using the email address that you use for your PowerSchool Parent Portal. You can then navigate to your preferences and personalize your communications with the school and district. Please see the attached parent guide for school messenger that will walk you through logging in and updating preferences.

[School Messenger Parent Account Guide](#)

MUNICIPAL ELECTION 2021: VOTE OCTOBER 18

The next municipal election, which includes the election of local school board trustees, takes place on Monday, Oct. 18, 2021. It's your opportunity to get involved in public education by casting your vote for a public school trustee.

- [EIPS Trustee Election information](#)
- [EIPS Trustee Candidate List](#)

Electors can cast their votes for municipal candidates—mayors, reeves, councillors, as applicable—and school board trustee candidates—public or separate. Voting stations are typically open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Each municipality conducts the election for its residents and establishes formal voting station hours and procedures.

To learn more about election day procedures in your area, including opportunities for advance voting and voting by special ballot, visit:

[County of Minburn](#)
[Fort Saskatchewan](#)
[Lamont County](#)
[Strathcona County](#)
[Town of Bruderheim](#)
[Town of Lamont](#)
[Town of Mundare](#)
[Town of Vegreville](#)
[Village of Andrew](#)
[Village of Chipman](#)

IMPROVING HOME-SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

To enhance communication between families and schools, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) has developed a how-to guide entitled, "Communication Protocol for Schools." Topics include appropriate channels to use, standard formats and structures, timing and sequencing for regular and ongoing home-school communication, and ways to bring forward questions or concerns. The guide also offers useful tools and resources schools and families can use to enhance face-to-face meetings, email communication and various social media efforts.

[Communication Protocol for Schools](#)

Strathcona County Information

COVID-19 UPDATE

[Proof of vaccinations required](#) to access non-essential County services, effective September 20. [Masks and physical distancing are mandatory province-wide](#) in all indoor public spaces, workplaces and public vehicles. [Additional provincial measures](#) take effect September 20. Albertans 12+ can [get vaccinated](#). View the [current Strathcona County COVID-19 case count](#). Isolation is mandatory if you have COVID-19 or [core COVID-19 symptoms](#).

HOW TO VOTE

Find out how to vote in the upcoming municipal election on Monday, October 18 or during the advance vote dates of October 4-16.

Need more information about all things election? [Visit: https://bit.ly/2YC0owA](https://bit.ly/2YC0owA)

HOW ARE YOU REALLY?

We all react differently to the term "mental health." Knowing what it means helps us care for our own mental health, and know if we feel off--and what to do, when we do. Check in with yourself, and check out real, practical ways to care for yourself. How are you, really?

<http://strathcona.ca/commun.../well-being-and-mental-health/>

EVENT PLANNING TOOLKIT

Looking to plan an event in Strathcona County?

We've got a new toolkit resource to help you plan a fun, safe and sustainable event. The toolkit includes:

- Event planning toolkit PDF
- Event safety and map templates
- Pre-event application
- Tips for being environmentally-friendly
- And more!

Check it out here:

<https://www.strathcona.ca/.../festivals.../event-planning/>

FALL BREAK PROGRAMS

Click here to view the upcoming [Fall Break](#) programs that are offered through Strathcona County.

Information around our seasonal programming and current program offerings can be found on our program area webpages. Program registrations and individual course listings are handled through our online registration portal, [Recreation Online](#).