

April 2017

Elk Island Public Schools

# THE WESTBORO REPORT



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It is April and Spring should be here any day! We are anxiously awaiting the snow to melt so that we can enjoy some green grass, budding trees and fresh flowers!

Westboro is excited about our upcoming Family Dance and Silent Auction on April 21st. Families are welcome to come and participate in all the activities planned for the evening.

We also hope you will be able to join us for the **"I've Grown Out of it Sale"** on May 6th - so many wonderful activities to look forward to! Thank you to our parents and staff for making these opportunities possible! Happy Spring everyone!



## KUDOS

Many, many thanks to the amazing parent volunteers that we have in our school! For your work on councils, for organizing hot lunches, for decorating eggs, and making pizzas! For supervising field trips, for completing book orders, for photocopying, and organizing fundraisers! For running Penny Carnival, for helping with student reading, for completing crafts and laminating materials. Our parents even supervise swimming!

These are just a few of the very important tasks that you do in the Westboro School community to make our school the fantastic place that it is. Thank you so very much for all of your efforts!! We appreciate you most sincerely!



## FROM THE OFFICE

### APRIL

- 7 Newsletter out
- 13 Hot Lunch
- 14 Good Friday - no school
- 17 Easter Monday - no school
- 19 School Council 6:30p.m.
- 21 Earth Day Assembly 9:10 a.m.
- 21 Wear Green
- 21 Family Dance 6-9 pm
- 26 ECS Open House 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- 28 PD Day

### MAY

- 3 Early dismissal
- 5 Newsletter
- 5 Hot Lunch
- 5 Arbor Day
- 6 Logos I've Grown Out of it Sale

PRINCIPAL  
Colleen Alpern

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL  
Matt Matheson

1078 Strathcona Drive  
Sherwood Park, Alberta  
T8A 0Z9 780-467-7751

[www.westboroelementary.ca](http://www.westboroelementary.ca)  
@WBOelementary

## A REMINDER: SAFE PARKING AT WESTBORO ELEMENTARY

Thank you to those parents who have been working with us at the school to help keep our students safe!

Thank you to the many parents who honour the posted parking signs, are mindful of the speed zone in front of the school, and park away from the crosswalks. Again, our students' safety is top priority to us at Westboro, and our school zone is a very busy place before and after school. We have included a map from Strathcona County that outlines parking around the school in this edition.

Once again, please remember to respect the posted signs, and laws for parking around our school!

## BUDGETS & CLASSES

Over the next few weeks, the school budget will be released to school principals in order to start planning for the next school year. Budgets are based upon numbers of students registered in a school in September and base grant amounts are determined by the provincial Government. These factors can make planning a bit tricky!

Did you know that approximately 96-98% of our school budget pays for the salaries of the staff who work in our school? We are left with small amounts of money with which to provide the other things we need. Technology, furniture, paper supplies, books and other items must be budgeted for from the remaining 2-4%.



To this end, we must try to configure classes within this budget as well. Budget cuts may influence class size, numbers of classes or even the amount of “extras” we can provide for our students. For more information about the budget in Westboro School, please feel free to attend the school council meetings. The preliminary budget will be submitted in April and hopefully be presented at the May Council Meeting. The final budget is submitted in October and will be presented at the Council Meeting in November.

Additional information about class configurations will be shared in the newsletter in May or June.

Determining accurate enrolment for the 2017-2018 school year is essential because enrolment impacts the school budget and our staffing process. Parents, please help us by advising the school office if you are moving out of the Westboro attendance area or by advising new neighbours within the Westboro attendance area to register at our school as soon as possible. Your help means that we will have accurate information as we work through the budget and staffing process. Thank you.

## AMA PATROLLER FOR THE MONTH

Once again many thanks to our dedicated team of School Safety Patrollers who are outside monitoring our crosswalks in the morning and after school. This is especially difficult in the cold weather. Thank you for the respect you show them by allowing them to guide you safely across the street.

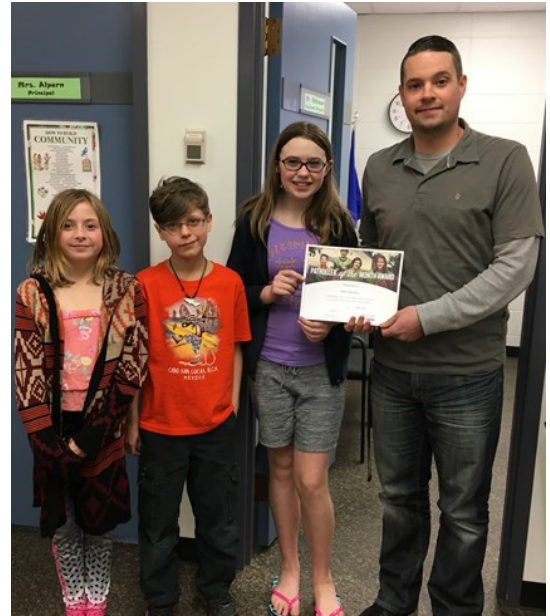
A special mention goes out to our Patroller for the

Month of January: Alysha in Grade 6

Month of February: Jeremy in Grade 5

Month March: Katie in Grade 6

Well done! Keep up the great work!



## FRIENDS' CLUB



### Accredited Friends Club Child Care and Out of School Care program

We are located inside Westboro Elementary School and are now accepting registration for **children ages 3 to 5 years old, Kindergarten and grades 1 to 6 students.**

We offer breakfast and afternoon snack, gym sports, outdoor play, fun projects, homework club, soccer club, cooking/baking club, field trips, arts, crafts and games. We are open on PD days.

Full time child care spaces are available. Subsidy is available for eligible families.

For more information about our programs and services, please call us at 780-707-4481 or e-mail: [kspa@shaw.ca](mailto:kspa@shaw.ca)

We are happy to answer all your inquiries.

## REGISTER FOR KINDERGARTEN

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2017? If so, it's now time to register for kindergarten.

To register, bring your completed [Student Registration Form](#) to the school you're enrolling your child at along with proof of your child's name, residence, date of birth and citizenship. If you're registering for kindergarten at SouthPointe School, the new school in Fort Saskatchewan opening in the 2017–2018 school year, you can submit a registration form to any elementary school in Fort Saskatchewan - the school will make sure your registration package is delivered to the principal at SouthPointe School.

Additional information regarding **Westboro Elementary's** kindergarten program can be found on our school website at [www.westboroelementary.ca](http://www.westboroelementary.ca).

To assist in our planning for next year, we encourage families to register their new Kindergarteners, and make busing arrangements, if needed, by April 30, 2017.



## EARTH DAY AND PITCH IN

We will be celebrating Earth Day in our school on April 21st. Please join us for a school assembly in the gym beginning at 9:10 a.m. We hope you can join us for this celebration. **In addition to our assembly, we will also be “Pitching-In” to help clean up our school yard! This will take place on April 21st! Students should arrive at school this day prepared to spend some time outside picking up garbage. If you have old gardening gloves, rubber gloves or latex gloves, please feel free to send them with your child.**



## SCHOOL COUNCIL / PARENTS' GROUP NEWS

Our big event in April is our *Family Dance and Silent Auction*, which is being held on Friday, April 21st. This is our major fundraiser, as we don't sell wrapping paper, cookie dough or Entertainment Books, and we count on the support from our families. If each family could donate a silent auction item and a raffle basket item, it would be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to solicit donations for these baskets! This year, we are not doing themes for the baskets, so any donation of new items are welcome!! We have allocated the proceeds from the dance to the Courtyard Sensory Garden Project. We are so excited to revamp the courtyard as it is a great place for students and staff to use! If you are interested in helping with the Family Dance, please contact Krystal Gibson at [kmvw2000@shaw.ca](mailto:kmvw2000@shaw.ca).

Our next meeting is April 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. We will be talking about Bill 1, Reduce School Fees, and gathering parent feedback on what constitutes instructional materials and supports. We would love to hear your thoughts.

## ATTEND OUR KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION NIGHT

Kindergarten registration is now open for the 2017–2018 school year. Families who have a child registered are invited to attend our Kindergarten Information Night on Wednesday, April 26th at 6:30 p.m.

- Take a tour of the school
- Meet the teacher
- Learn about the typical day in Kindergarten and the importance of play-based learning
- For more information check out our school website! Your children are also welcome to attend!

To help families prepare even more, Elk Island Public Schools has compiled a wealth of information on its website (<http://www.eips.ca/programs-services/kindergarten>). Additional information regarding Westboro's Kindergarten program, can be found on our school website at [www.westboroelementary.ca](http://www.westboroelementary.ca).

**NOTE:** To be eligible to attend Kindergarten in the 2017–2018 school year, children must be five years of age on, or before, December 31, 2017.



## LOGOS INFORMATION

Happy spring! It is great to see some green peaking out between the occasional sleet storm, lol. Our next Logos meeting will be held on May 9 at Sherwood Heights school at 7pm. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us. Please also consider attending the Logos Society Annual General Meeting on June 13. We will be electing vacant board positions so please think about whether this is a way you could support the Logos Society.

Our April chapel is a joint Easter chapel at Brentwood Elementary. It is on Thursday, April 13 at 1:15pm in the Brentwood School gym. Please join us if you are able to attend as we'd love to see you. Remember, if you want to keep up to date on what is happening with Logos, please visit our website at <http://elkislandlogos.ca> and join the Elk Island Logos Society Facebook page.

Krista Goretzky and Rachel Milne

Westboro Logos Representatives

He is risen. Matthew 28:6.



## HOT LUNCH

The start of April means that school will end in less than 3 months. It will soon be time to order hot lunch for our final session, May and June. Online ordering will be open from May 1 to May 15.

Thursday, May 25 – Opa

Friday June, 9 – Nitza's Pizza

Also, please consider signing up as a hot lunch volunteer. We only need parent's help for 30 minutes and it is super easy. I know the students appreciate it!

## EIPS DISTRICT NEWS

### NEW SCHOOL IN SHERWOOD PARK

#### Let's Talk About: School Boundaries and Name

Planning is almost complete on establishing the attendance boundaries for the new K-6 school in the Davidson Creek area. The new boundaries will affect both elementary schools and junior high schools in the northeast quadrant of Sherwood Park.

Based on feedback from parents, students, staff and the community, EIPS has revised its proposed school boundaries for the area. Now, it wants to share those recommendations with you. EIPS is holding two information sessions where community members will have the opportunity to view the attendance areas being purposed, ask questions, share comments and speak with the representatives from Elk Island Public Schools.

Also, the naming process for the new school starts on April 10! And, EIPS wants your help. Submissions can be made by visiting [www.eips.ca](http://www.eips.ca) from April 10-30.

#### Public Information Sessions:

**Date:** April 19 & April 25

**Time:** 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**Location:** Lakeland Ridge

\*free child care provided.

Unable to attend the information sessions? No problem. The proposed boundaries and a comment form are also posted online, as of April 19, at [www.eips.ca/schools/newschoolsandmodernizations/sherwoodpark](http://www.eips.ca/schools/newschoolsandmodernizations/sherwoodpark).

## EMERGENCY DRILLS

Over the course of the school year, we are required to run a minimum of eight different drills in order to prepare our students and staff in the case of an emergency. While we have already practiced three emergency evacuation drills, we still have three additional drills like this to complete. (We have been waiting for warmer weather!) In addition, during the month of May we will also be practicing our Lockdown, Hold and Secure and Shelter In Place Drills. (Please see the school calendar on our website for specific times and dates.)

The following information is taken from the School Emergency Program Guide for parents and Students, taken from the EIPS website or, for more information about these drills, please visit [www.eips.ca](http://www.eips.ca).

## KEEPING SAFE

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, SCHOOLS CONDUCT TRAINING AND DRILLS to help better prepare students and staff for possible emergency situations. When a school is confronted with an emergency, staff will assess the situation and then decide on a course of action. Schools conduct drills throughout the year to rehearse emergency procedures. These exercises prepare students and staff to act quickly and help to minimize a child's fear during a real emergency. In addition to the procedures described below, schools also practice protocols such as "Drop-Cover-Hold," a method of protecting vital body parts during some natural disasters, and conduct fire drills. All staff and students are required to participate in these drills.

### **Lock-Down**

Lock-Downs are usually used in response to acts or threats of violence to students and/or staff directly impacting the school. During a Lock-Down all doors to and within the school are locked. No one is permitted in or out of any area once it has been locked. Students and staff must respond very quickly to a Lock-Down command to get to a safe location before doors are locked. No one, other than law enforcement, is permitted access to the building until the Lock-Down is over.

### **Hold and Secure**

Hold and Secure is used in response to security threats or criminal activity outside the school. During a Hold and Secure, all entrance doors to the school are locked, with no one permitted in or out of the building. No one, other than law enforcement, is permitted access to the building until the Hold and Secure has been cleared.

### **Shelter-in Place**

Generally, Shelter-in-Place is used during an environmental emergency, such as severe storms or chemical spills. During a Shelter-in-Place, students and staff retreat to safe zones to seek shelter. This includes having students or staff who are outdoors come back into the school. Each school's emergency response plan identifies the safest location for its occupants and how to seal a room from hazardous conditions. Students will not be released or dismissed until the situation has been resolved.

### **Evacuation**

An Evacuation requires all students and staff to leave the school and go to an alternate location. This may mean only going outside and away from the building until it is safe to re-enter the school. In other cases, students and staff may need to go to an evacuation center. Parents will be informed of the alternate location through the school's Crisis Notification Network.



## NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK: APRIL 23 - 29

### **A big *THANK YOU* to all of our volunteers**

On behalf of the Board of Trustees at Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS), please accept our heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers within the Division who help make our schools and programs successful. Whether it's assisting at an athletic competition, co-ordinating a fund-raising event or delicately cutting out poppies for a Remembrance Day celebration, the impact our volunteers have within our school community is profound. It also offers an incredible learning opportunity for our students as it encourages them to mirror that behaviour in their own lives.

In recognition of National Volunteer Week, which runs April 23-29, EIPS extends our thanks and celebrates the hundreds of volunteers across EIPS who dedicate countless hours of their time in our schools.

Trina Boymook

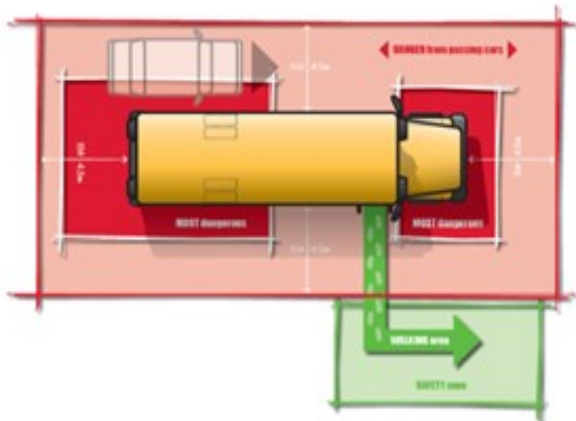
Chair, Board of Trustees

## BOUNDARY EXEMPTION REQUEST PROCESS CLOSES APRIL 7

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) students — in kindergarten to Grade 12 — wanting to attend a non-designated school in the 2017–2018 school year must apply to do so before April 7, 2017. To apply, families must fill out a Boundary Exemption Request Form and submit it directly to their requested school. Any boundary exemption requests received after April 7, 2017 will be declined. There is no late or secondary process.

The [Boundary Exemption Request Form](#) and additional information about the boundary exemption request process, schools with closed boundaries and frequently asked questions can be found by visiting [www.eips.ca/schools/boundaries/boundary-exemption-request-process](http://www.eips.ca/schools/boundaries/boundary-exemption-request-process).

Final decisions will be made by April 12, 2017.

**BUS SAFETY TIP: STAY CLEAR FOR THE DANGER ZONE!**

Did you know there's an area around each bus called the Danger Zone? There is. It's the area around the bus—4.5 meters on all sides—where students, people, or objects are not easily seen by a bus operator. It's important all students stay outside this area at all times. An easy way to tell if you're outside the Danger Zone is to simply take five giant steps—as big as you can make them—back from the road. Staying this far away from the road, before boarding and when getting off the bus, helps keep everyone safe. — EIPS Student Transportation

**PARENT SURVEY**

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is committed to ensuring all parents and guardians of students within the Division have a chance to share their thoughts on the overall performance of their school and the Division. One of the ways EIPS ensures its parent's voices are heard is by conducting an annual parent survey.

In January, the Division invited EIPS families to participate in the 2016–2017 Parent Survey. The survey included 15 questions regarding topics such as the quality of teaching, school leadership, parent engagement and more. The overall response rate was 16 per cent, which included close to 2,700 responses from parents and guardians across the Division.

The feedback gathered will help the Division measure its progress towards meeting the goals and priorities outlined in the EIPS 2015–2018 Three-Year Education Plan and develop strategies to better serve its students and the wider community.

Complete Parent Survey results for the Division are available by visiting [www.eips.ca/about-us/planning-and-results/parent-survey](http://www.eips.ca/about-us/planning-and-results/parent-survey).

You can also review Westboro Elementary's Parent Survey results by visiting [www.westboroelementary.ca](http://www.westboroelementary.ca).

## CASL

**Stay Connected: Subscribed to EIPS email news**

Want to stay up-to-date on the latest news and events taking place at your school? Make sure to subscribe to Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) email distribution list. Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) now requires the Division to have direct consent before engaging in electronic communication with its families. If you haven't yet subscribed, simply visit [www.eips.ca/contact/synrevoice](http://www.eips.ca/contact/synrevoice). As soon as you sign up, you'll begin receiving Division- and school-related news—newsletters, information about upcoming events, parent and community engagement opportunities, important school-based updates and more.

*NOTE:* Even if you're not subscribed, you will continue to receive emails regarding emergency situations and financial matters. Those who received notifications about high school attendance will also continue to receive those messages.

EIPS appreciates your co-operation in ensuring its distribution lists are compliant with CASL and you continue to receive only the information you feel is important.

[EIPS Subscription Options](#)

**FIRST NATION, METIS AND INUIT LEARNINGS**

This month during our staff meeting time, staff at Westboro Elementary had the opportunity to participate in the Blanket Exercise, facilitated by Elder Wilson Bearhead and Pam Sparklingeyes. We were joined by special guests Board Chair Trina Boymook, Mayor Roxanne Carr, Councillor Fiona Beland, Councillor Karla Howatt and Councillor Bonnie Ridell.

The exercise took approximately 2 hours and was a participatory look at the history of Canada from an Aboriginal point of view, sharing information around the influences of exploration, fur trade and residential schools on the first nations peoples of Canada. The exercise is infused with local facts and information. For more information, please visit the website below.

<http://kairosblanketexercise.org/>

We will be looking at offering the opportunity to allow our students in Grades 5 and 6 to participate in an adapted version of this exercise in the next school year.

# NEXT STEP CONTINUING EDUCATION

Building  
a better  
community  
A tradition for  
over 45 years



SUMMER

# YOUTH CAMPS

REGISTER EARLY!

Registration is now open for these youth camps!

Summer Spikers Volleyball  
Summer Slammers Basketball  
Sherwood Park Volleyball  
Young Chef Boot Camp  
Young Chef Cake Boss  
Tastes of the World  
Snacks and Appetizers  
Fun with Dough  
Lunchtime Lineup!

Sweet Treats Camp  
Code Breakers  
Minecraft Modders\*  
Minecraft Animators\*  
Minecraft Designers\*  
Make Your First 3D Video Game\*  
Maker Labs: Make Your First 3D  
Creation  
Extreme Babysitting

*\*Returning campers can create more advanced projects that build on the previous year.*



NEXT STEP  
CONTINUING EDUCATION  
**LEARN LOCAL**

Register today at  
[www.eipscontinuinged.ca](http://www.eipscontinuinged.ca)  
780.467.7292