

September 2019

Elk Island Public Schools



THE WESTBORO REPORT

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome Westboro staff, students and parents! Welcome back for another amazing year of learning at Westboro Elementary. The staff have been working hard getting ready for another great year of learning filled with fun and adventures!

Over the last week, it has been very exciting to get to see so many great students, parents and teachers. I continue to be very impressed by the sense of community that is here at Westboro and I am very much looking forward to working with everyone to support the learning that takes place every day here.

This year at Westboro, we will be working on three very exciting initiatives. As we have done in the past, we will continue also to have a focus on literacy and numeracy at Westboro School. I believe that the foundational skills our students learn as a part of our literacy and numeracy programs, such as reading, are the key building blocks to all other learning. This year, we are challenging our students to develop more resilience and grit. We, as a school community, will be challenging our students with high levels of expectations while providing our students with high levels of encouragement and support. We want our students to have passion and perseverance and not give up with things get hard.

We are looking forward to working with our students on another great year of learning.

WELCOME BACK EVENING

Mr. Lastiwka & Mrs. Werner and the entire Westboro staff hope you enjoy the Westboro **Welcome Back Evening** on September 11th from 5 to 7 p.m. at Westboro on the East playground. Thank you to Nottingham Sobey's for their support for our barbeque.



SEPTEMBER

- 6 Newsletter out
- 10 Logos Meeting
Sherwood Heights
Junior High 7:00 p.m.
- 11 Welcome Back BBQ
- 20 Terry Fox Run
- 16 PHOTO DAY!
- 17 Photos KR
- 18 School Council
Meeting 6:30PM
- 25 Logos Chapel 1 p.m.
- 27 Hot Lunch
- 30 Orange Shirt Day

OCTOBER

- 2 Early Dismissal
- 4 Newsletter out
- 11 No School – PD Days
- 14 No School - Thanks
giving

PRINCIPAL

Mike Lastiwka

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Chantel Werner

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

www.westboroelementary.ca
@WBOelementary

BACK TO SCHOOL INFORMATION

MEET THE STAFF

OFFICE:

Principal:	Mr. Mike Lastiwka	Secretary:	Mrs. Berube
Assistant Principal:	Mrs. Chantel Werner	Secretary:	Mrs. Mepham
Counsellor:	Mrs. Dianna Graziano	Librarian:	Mrs. White

CLASS	TEACHER	EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS
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KL	Mrs. Becigneul	(EA – Mrs. Mostat)
KR	Mrs. Becigneul	(EA – Mrs. Mostat)
1L	Mrs. Gilmore	
1R	Mrs. King	
2L	Mrs. Christenson	
2R	Mrs. Gottstein	
3L	Mrs. Bouwers / Mrs. Hay	
3R	Mrs. Canning	
4L	Mrs. Cameron	
4R	Ms. Lee	
5L	Mrs. Wieler	
5R	Mr. Stetzenko	
6L	Mrs. Desautels	
6R	Mrs. Witzke	



Educational Assistants	Mr. Fujii	Mrs. Janzen
	Mrs. Oake	Ms. Tomashewsky
Music	Mrs. Richard	
Literacy Consultant (Mornings)	Mrs. Tomkins	
STEPS	Mrs. Komant	
	Mrs. Dahms	Ms. Johnson
	Mrs. Guyda	Mrs. Stocks
PLACE	Mrs. Perrotta	
	Mrs. Matyjanka	Mrs. Norton
	Mrs. Sutton	

BELL SCHEDULE

Regular Day		Early Dismissal	
Warning Bell	8:32	Warning Bell	8:32
Period 1	8:37 - 9:09	Period 1	8:37 -9:10
Period 2	9:09 - 9:41	Period 2	9:10 - 9:42
Period 3	9:41 - 10:13	Period 3	9:42 - 10:14
Recess	10:13 - 10:28	Recess	10:14 - 10:29
Period 4	10:30 - 11:02	Period 4	10:31 - 11:03
Period 5	11:02 - 11:34	Period 5	11:03 - 11:36
Period 6	11:34 - 12:06	Lunch	11:36 - 12:33
Lunch	12:06 - 12:51	Period 6	12:33 - 1:06
Period 7	12:51 - 1:23	Period 7	1:06- 1:39
Period 8	1:23 - 1:53	Period 8	1:39 - 2:12
Recess	1:53 - 2:08		
Period 9	2:08 - 2:40		
Period 10	2:40 - 3:12		

Note that early dismissal occurs the 1st Wednesday of every month.

ATTENDANCE CHECK & LATE SLIPS

Students arriving late to school need to stop at the office, sign in and get a late slip. There will be a binder located just outside the office for students to sign their name and this will give us a better way to track and monitor these arrivals.

Because attendance is taken electronically, absences are recorded at the office immediately, and cannot be changed by teachers in the classroom. As well, office staff need to know your student has arrived so they do not begin making phone calls to verify your child's whereabouts. In the event your child/ren will be absent for a portion or all of the day, please call the school office 780-467-7751 or go to our website and click on the "Report a Student Absence" button on the left hand side to report the absence. Our voice mail is always on for your convenience, and messages are checked regularly. Generally, if the school has not heard from a parent by 9:00 a.m. we will call you at home or work to verify your child's whereabouts.

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 manual 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](#)

MILK



Westboro Elementary has a milk program. We offer white and chocolate milk for purchase. Milk tickets can now be purchased online through the Parent Portal. There are two options available: 10 tickets and 20 tickets. The options can be found at the bottom under School Items. Or students can purchase milk tickets at the office. The cost is \$1.00 per ticket. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.



STUDENT DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

Parents we would ask you to please respect our drop off and pick up times. Students are to be dropped off at the school **no earlier than 8:20 a.m. in the morning** as this is when supervision begins.

After school, students are to be **picked up promptly at 3:12 p.m.** We are also very fortunate to have a child care centre on site if you require child care before or after these times.

Finally, please be aware of the challenges caused by changes in students taking buses or being picked up. In order for us to be able to communicate these changes and requests to your child successfully, it is **IMPERATIVE** that you let the office know, **no later than 2:30 p.m.** Often your child's class may need to be located and the message delivered. This is nearly impossible when the call is received after 2:30. Thank you for your assistance in this matter!

Just because you're in a hurry

Doesn't mean it's okay to park
within 5 metres of a crosswalk



It's Your School.

Traffic safety is everyone's responsibility.

Brought to you by the partners of the
Strathcona County School Traffic Safety Partnership.

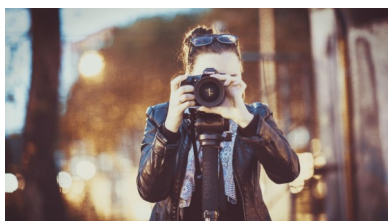
www.strathcona.ca/step

MEDICATIONS & ALLERGIES

If medication is to be administered to your child at school a form must be completed by the parent/guardian. The medication must be brought to school in the original container. Please request a Medication Administration form from the office. **Forms must be completed on a yearly basis.**

Westboro School is a **Nut Aware school**. Please remember to be cautious when choosing the food items your child will bring to school. There are a number of students who have severe allergies and we wish to provide a safe environment for each individual and staff. In addition, we ask students not to share their food and ask parents to refrain from sending in any nut products. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

PICTURE DAY



Individual student photographs will be taken on **September 16th**. Kindergarten **Regular** pictures will be taken on September **17th** at approximately 1 p.m. These photographs are offered on a proof basis. Each student will have two personal portraits taken and proofs will be sent home for viewing. An order form and instructions will accompany the proofs.

PARKING & SAFETY

Our school zone is a very busy place before and after school. Ensuring our students safety is our first priority. Parents are reminded of the speed zone in the area in front of the school, as well as be reminded that there are no U-turns allowed anywhere within the school boundaries.

Please note that there is ***no parking or stopping*** in front of the school during drop off and pick-up times. That area is designated for buses only. There is also **no parking in the STAFF PARKING lots** on the east and west sides of the school. The staff parking stalls are ALL spoken for and any quick drop offs or pick ups can cause great disruptions for our staff. There is parking available in the mall parking lot across from the school, ***in the middle and outer*** (closest to Broadmoor Blvd.) ***rows ONLY***. Please obey all the cross walk markings during the busy times in the mornings and afternoons. Students will continue patrolling the crosswalk areas, please respect their requests as they assist Mr. Lastiwka and Mrs. Werner in supervising the arrival and departure of our students.



Parking is an ongoing concern for our school community.

At Westboro School we are fortunate to have great neighbors who allow us to access their parking lot to expand the available parking for our parents and visitors.

These businesses have kindly requested that our parents **do NOT park in any of the stalls** along the front of the lot, facing the businesses themselves, as this can detract from business and also impede employees from arriving for work.

PLEASE be a good neighbor and respect this request.

If you see parents that have forgotten this request, you could help us out by gently reminding them that these stalls are, in fact, private. Loss of this privilege would be very hurtful to our school community.

Just because you have an early meeting

Doesn't mean it's okay to make a u-turn by the school



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Traffic safety is everyone's responsibility.

Brought to you by the partners of the
Strathcona County School Traffic Safety Partnership.
www.strathcona.ca/stsp

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS



Welcome back to another great year at Westboro. I wanted to share a bit about school council and parents group and how they operate at Westboro. School council is mandated through legislation and provide support and input to the school. Parents group is our fundraising society. Well legally separate groups, we run them very closely with the meetings on the same night.

Our first meeting is on Wednesday September 18th at 6:30 in the library. I invite all parents to attend and have an input into the school and the activities we plan. I promise you won't be made to join any committees to commit to anything more than you want! In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to email us at westboroparents@gmail.com and if you haven't joined our Facebook group, check us out at www.facebook.com/groups/westboroparents/

HOT LUNCH

Welcome back to school families!

We're getting the hot lunch year started with our first lunch being September 27, 2019. Please watch for instructions to set up your hot lunch account coming home this week in your child's backpack. We will be using www.westboro.hotlunches.net again for hot lunch but please remember the system gets reset every summer and you will need to create a new account for your children.



Hot lunch ordering will open **September 9** and run through to **September 18** for both September and October hot lunches. Please note there will be **NO LATE ORDERS ACCEPTED**. If you have any questions, please let the hot lunch team (Heidi or Janel) know by either sending an email to westborohotlunches@gmail.com or (780)340-5755. One final note, we would not be able to have these wonderful hot lunches for our kids without the help of volunteers and as always we will be looking for volunteers to help hand out lunches. Thank you!

Heidi Finch

HOT LUNCH ORDERING 2019-20

Hello Westboro Parents, it's that time of year again!

Ordering for SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER hot lunches will be open from September 9th to 18th. **Sorry but NO late orders will be accepted.**

EVERYONE will have to sign up as a new user. (The system was reset this summer!) If you are brand new, or are re-registering please follow these instructions:

Go to: www.westboro.hotlunches.net

Click the "CLICK HERE TO REGISTER" button to sign up.

- Our school access code is (all capitals): **WBHL**
- Enter your name, email address and phone number
- Enter a user ID that you will use for access to the hot lunches application
- Enter a password and then enter it again to verify that it is correct.

Once registered, you will be logged into the website. Important Note: You need to know your child's teacher & class number before you can continue.

1. Please add your children by clicking on the "STUDENTS" button below or the "PROFILE" menu tab in order to proceed. It is important to add all the students first, before placing an order.

2. Once the students have been added to the system, you will be able to place lunch orders immediately by clicking the "ORDER" button below each child's name. **IT'S THAT EASY!**

We are still offering the donate a lunch program for those who are unable to provide for their children. Please consider donating or accessing the fund, it is completely confidential!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the hot lunch team (Heidi or Janel) at westborohotlunches@gmail.com or text (780)340-5755.

Sincerely,

Heidi & Janel

LOGOS SOCIETY NEWS

Hi, my name is Michael Schnell and I just wanted to take a moment to introduce myself. I'm the new President of the Elk Island Logos Society. It is a privilege to lead our board as we head into our 23rd year of partnership with Elk Island Public Schools and our Alternative Christian Program here at Westboro.



What's an Alternative Program you might ask? Simply put, it's the public system and curriculum with a different context or focus. In our case, it's the Christian faith in the classroom. As a Society we look to promote and resource a classroom environment that incorporates and encourages spiritual formation in our children based on Biblical principles. You can read more about this in our handbook online at <https://www.elkislandlogos.ca/handbook>

With this as our focus, we want to encourage you to fill out your soon to be coming home membership information. The primary reason for our membership dues and fundraising is to provide teachers in our Alternative Program with the resources they need to enhance their classroom environments. Sometimes that means physical supports like books, Bibles or other displays. Sometimes it means helping equip and refresh the teachers, so they are fully prepared to pour that back into our children! Please get your membership in early. You can do this online at <https://www.elkislandlogos.ca/members>

Thank you for all you do as parents. It's not an easy job, but we're all in this together. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions, or.. visit our website! (<https://www.elkislandlogos.ca>)

Michael Schnell (president@elkislandlogos.ca)
B.Ed, M.Div, President of the Elk Island Logos Society

AMA SCHOOL PATROL NEWS

School is in session and the Westboro School Safety Patrol will be back at work. The patrolers make the crosswalks safe for all of our students. These young people voluntarily contribute their time to make our school a safe and better place. Please give them your support, cooperation and recognition.

New Patrollers:

If you are a student in Grade 4, 5 or 6 and interested in becoming a school patroller there will be a meeting on Tuesday, September 10 with a representative from AMA.

FAMILY LITERACY NIGHT

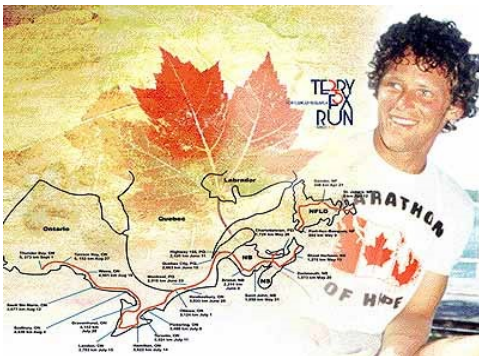
- What:** Games and stories for kids and ideas for parents on how to develop reading and word work skills. Lots of fun for everyone!
- Where:** Westboro Elementary School
- When:** Wednesday, October 9th 6:00 p.m.-7:15 p.m. (doors open at 5:45 p.m.)
- Who:** All Westboro students and their parents.
- Why:** Research shows that parent involvement in school can improve academic achievement, reading performance, attendance, and behaviour.

We are excited about this literacy event and hope you can join us. Please RSVP to Mrs. Tomkins by Monday, September 23rd through email (erin.tomkins@eips.ca). We will be serving cookies and milk for a little snack, having door prizes, and hosting a book swap (turn page for more information).

We are seeking your feedback so we can better support the important work you do with your children involving literacy at home.

Please use this link to access the quick survey: <http://bit.ly/wboliteracy>

TERRY FOX “TOONIE” RUN



In a recent survey, Terry Fox, whose Marathon of Hope more than 20 years ago, inspired Canadians from coast to coast, was voted as a top Canadian hero. Terry ran more than 5,370 km. across Canada in a bid to raise money for cancer research. To honor Terry Fox, our students will again attend our Terry Fox Assembly and participate in our Terry Fox “Toonie” Run on **Friday, September 20th**.

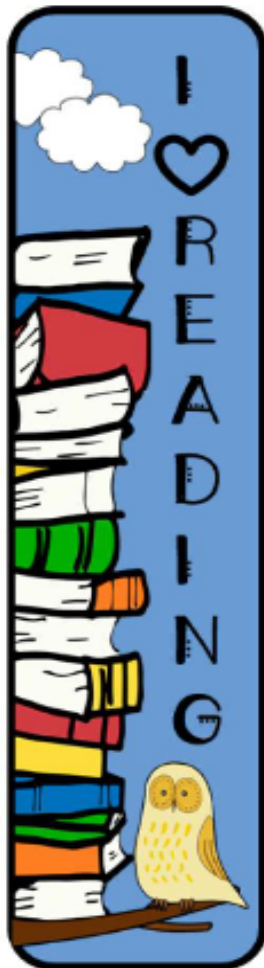
On the day of the run, we encourage students to bring a donation to support cancer research.

Need to Update Your Home Library?

During our Family Literacy Event we will be hosting a

BOOK Swap

Please bring gently used books to swap. For each book you bring in you will receive a ticket which you can use to choose a new book.



"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." —Dr. Seuss

PEP Talk

In partnership with EIPS Committee of School Councils



2nd Floor, 501 Festival Avenue Sherwood Park, AB T8A 4X3
www.pepsociety.ca

Signs and Symptoms of Youth Drinking and Drug Use

How can I tell if my child is using drugs or alcohol?

This can be challenging when we consider changes that are common for a pre-teen or teenager such as changes in moods or attitudes, different sleeping habits and changes in hobbies and interest.

What should you look for?

You can also look for signs of depression, anxiety, withdrawal, carelessness with grooming or hostility. Ask yourself, is your child still doing well in school.

WATCH LIST FOR PARENTS

- Changes in friends
- Negative changes in schoolwork, missing school, declining grades
- Increased secrecy about possessions or activities
- Use of incense, room deodorant, or perfume
- Subtle changes in conversations with friends (more secretive coded language)
- Change in clothing choices – clothes that highlight drug use
- Increase in borrowing money
- Bottles of eye drops
- New use of mouthwash or breath mints to cover up smell of alcohol
- Missing prescription drugs – painkillers, mood stabilizers, narcotics
- Evidence of drug paraphernalia such as rolling papers, pipes

You do make a difference... keep the communication open.. watch for opportunities for casual conversation starters.

You are NOT alone!

Parents Empowering Parents (PEP) Society was founded over 15 years ago in Strathcona County.

We provide free innovative programs for parents/extended family and youth/young adults.

Our groups are professionally facilitated and drop in - no registration required.

For more information please visit our web-site www.pepsociety.ca

or call our Support Line Days/Evenings Weekends 780.293.0737

COUNSELLOR'S CORNER

Welcome to the beginning of a fresh school year for our returning students and new families. It is exciting to see how our school is expanding.

As your school counselor, my role is to promote students' personal and social development by helping students overcome peer conflict, enhance academic achievement, and coordinate link-ages between the school and the family/community. I highly encourage students to attend my office on Tuesdays or Thursdays (and every second Friday) to discuss their concerns. Such concerns may include grief/loss, anxiety, depression, peer conflicts, bullying, stress, changes in the family due to divorce or separations, etc. The list is endless. My door is always open to assist students and families with any concerns. Students cannot be expected to succeed academically if there is something that may be interfering with their concentration or social development. No student should feel that he or she needs to handle a situation alone. If a parent, guardian, or student has a concern, please feel safe to contact me and together we will find a solution. Parents can call (EXT 8603) or email me at Diana.graziano@eips.ca; while students can complete the card outside my office and slide it under my door when I am either in a meeting or at another school.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our **Meet the Teacher Night on Wednesday, September 11th** from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

In the meantime, please check out the “Back to School Basics” from Alberta Health Services (importance of vision and hearing tests, immunizations, etc.) at:

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page2542.aspx>

INDIGENOUS LEARNING

There are a few changes when it comes to Indigenous Studies and learning about Indigenous ways of knowing at Westboro this year. Students will no longer have a designated Indigenous Studies class this year, rather, teachers will be working on incorporating Indigenous content into lessons within their classrooms in meaningful and appropriate ways.

Some events to take note of coming up this month:

September 24 - Elder Wilson will be visiting to work with all classes.

September 30 - Orange Shirt Day (<http://www.orangeshirtday.org/>)

Upcoming events:

October 10 - Blanket exercise for Grade 5 students (watch for information coming home with Grade 5 students on this towards the end of the month)

We will be inviting a few different presenters to come work with our students, and are excited for the learning opportunities these will create. We are currently working on setting some dates for these learning opportunities to happen.

This year we will continue to strive to:

Grow together as learners to develop understandings that help us view others in a way that promotes kindness, respect and trust amongst all people in our community.

If you have any questions or would like more information on Indigenous Studies at Westboro for 2019-2020, please contact Mrs. Richard at the school.

DIVISION NEWS

EIPS LAUNCHES NEW CELL PHONE POLICY

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Board of Trustees has approved a new policy regarding cellphones. [Policy 24, Personal Communication Devices](#) outlines how students and staff use cellphones and personal devices within EIPS schools. The goal: To ensure all students use technology responsibly and develop skills in digital citizenship.

To develop the policy, the Board undertook a comprehensive review of the Division's existing procedures and practices used to oversee the use of student-owned technology in the classroom. It also conducted extensive public consultations with students, teachers, school administrators and EIPS families. Overall, the feedback was invaluable and provided a clear picture of how to best manage the use of these devices.

Policy highlights:

Students in kindergarten to Grade 6: No access to cellphones or personal devices during the school day, including during breaks and the lunch hour - the only exception, students with a diagnosed medical condition or an identified inclusive-educational need.

The purpose of the policy is to ensure learning takes place in an environment with fewer distractions. When students can focus on what's taking place in the classroom and can interact directly with the teacher and other students, they're in a better position to grow and succeed.

Students are strongly encouraged to NOT bring any devices to school. If a student does, the device must stay in his/her backpack.

Students caught using any devices will be told to bring it down to the office and they can pick the device up at the end of the school day.

UPDATE YOUR POWERSCHOOL INFORMATION

The [PowerSchool Correction and Verification Form](#) is now available online, which replaces the paper form sent to families each fall. Families can use the form to access and update their child's information—including address, parent and guardian information, emergency contacts and any medical information. Reviewing and updating the form ensures the school has the most up-to-date information regarding your child. All Westboro Elementary families are asked to review their child's [PowerSchool Correction and Verification Form](#) by Sept. 20, 2019.

For more information about the PowerSchool Correction and Verification Form and opt-out options contact the school directly.

NOTE: Parents or guardians who've opted out of having the Correction and Verification Form visible on PowerSchool, will receive a paper version to review from the school.

PAY SCHOOL FEES ONLINE

School fee information for the 2019-20 school year is expected to be posted on the PowerSchool Parent Portal by late September. 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 online using Visa, MasterCard or INTERAC Online—when available from your financial institution.

Don’t forget to 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 certain school activities such as field trips, class projects, athletic-team fees and more.

If circumstances exist where you are unable to pay your student fees, you can apply to have [fees waived](#) by submitting an [Application for a Waiver of Fees](#). The application deadline is Dec. 15, 2019.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines visit eips.ca/schools/fees. Alternatively, contact Billie Jean Mephram at Westboro Elementary at 780-467-7751.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Sync the School Calendar to Your Personal Calendar

Did you know you can sync the school calendar to your own personal calendar? Just visit <http://westboroelementary.ca/school-calendar> and click on one of the following calendar options you want to subscribe to:

- Add to Google Calendar
- Subscribe to Calendar (Outlook)
- Download iCal

NOTE: Options are located above the calendar.

Once you click on the calendar option you want to subscribe to, follow the instructions. Within seconds, your personal calendar will contain all of **Westboro Elementary** important dates including holidays, school-closure dates, planned activities, events, and more.

QUICK FACTS: VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

Did you know each EIPS bus is equipped with video surveillance? Video surveillance and equipment helps:

- ensure the safety of all students, drivers and property; and
- discourage destructive acts.

On a regular basis, EIPS Student Transportation reviews the video recordings, in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIP). The recordings assist the department with monitoring student and driver conduct and may be used as evidence in a disciplinary matter.

For more information about the collection, use and disclosure of personal information, contact the EIPS FOIP Co-ordinator at 780-464-3477.

CAREGIVER EDUCATION SERIES

The Division, in partnership with Alberta Health Services and Elk Island Catholic Schools, is hosting a series of caregiver information sessions focused on ways to support students' mental health. The sessions are free and geared toward parents, caregivers, teachers and community members who want to learn more about challenges impacting children and adolescents. This year, session topics include anxiety, ADHD, depression, self-harm, technology, teens and teaching leadership skills, and more.

Visit the [Division calendar](#) to see all scheduled caregiver sessions.

ENHANCING LITERACY AND NUMERACY

As part of Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) ongoing efforts to enhance the literacy and numeracy of students in all grade levels, the Division is once again administering the STAR 360 and Math Intervention/Programming Instrument (MIPI) assessment tools in the 2019-20 school year. The tools focus on literacy and numeracy, are digitally based and offer an opportunity for students to demonstrate their learning. The goal: To provide timely information to teachers, help enhance classroom instruction and ensure student learning needs are identified.

In September and May, EIPS students in grades 1 through 12 will complete the STAR 360 assessment, which evaluates reading comprehension. The assessment takes approximately 20 minutes and is administered on a digital device. Also, in September, students in grades 2 through 10 will complete the MIPI assessment, which is a mathematic screening tool used to inform teachers about a student's math skills. For students in grades 7 through 10, the MIPI takes approximately 50 minutes, and for students in grades 2 through 6 it takes approximately 20 minutes. The results offer the teacher a clearer picture of a student's learning needs and help determine if subsequent instructional planning is required.

The scores of the assessments aren't used toward a student's grade, and there is no need to study ahead of time. The tools simply provide the teacher with information to better understand where each student is in terms of reading comprehension and mathematic ability. If, after analyzing the results, it's determined a student can benefit from extra support, the teacher will contact the family to discuss possible support strategies.

For more information about the Division's STAR 360 and MIPI assessment tools, contact EIPS Supports for Students at 780-464-3477.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

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. We attempt to run our drills during warm weather so that students do not need to go outside in sub-zero temperatures.

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.

Teachers will talk to students about these drills throughout the year. Please take some time to review them with your own child. For more information, please visit the Elk Island Public Schools website, (www.eips.ca) speak to your classroom teacher or feel free to contact the school.