

January 2020

Elk Island Public Schools

# THE WESTORO REPORT



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year to all Westboro families! We welcome a brand new year of learning, friendship, sharing and all the opportunities that this provides.

We look to January as a time in schools when teachers and students can settle into teaching and learning and all the excitement this brings. Happy New Year!

## 2019-20 WESTBORO FAMILY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Many thanks to all who attended our beautiful Christmas concert that took place at Park Church on December 10, 2019. Thank you to the staff, and especially Mrs. Richard, for all their hard work in preparing for this event! It was well worth it!



Given the success of this event, it is our intention to continue with a Christmas Concert for the 2020 school year. The wonderful venue, which provides ample seating, parking and a warm and inviting atmosphere, makes the creation of a school Christmas concert easy to facilitate. Also, given the positive feedback we have received from parents and families, we believe that this event would be highly supported for an additional year. As soon as we are able, we will confirm the date for next year's performance - not to be missed!!

Thank you for your ongoing support!

## JANUARY

- 10 Newsletter
- 14 Logos Meeting at Westboro 7:00 p.m.
- 15 Logos Chapel 1 pm
- 22 Parent Council 6:30 pm
- 22 Alberta Opera
- 31 Hot Lunch

## FEBRUARY

- 1 ECS online and Returning Student registration opens
- 5 Early Dismissal
- 5 Newsletter
- 6 & 7 No School: Teachers' Convention

Please note that ALL students are to remain OUTSIDE until the first bell rings at 8:32 a.m.

PRINCIPAL  
Mike Lastiwka

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL  
Chantel Werner

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Sherwood Park, Alberta  
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[www.westboroelementary.ca](http://www.westboroelementary.ca)  
@WBOelementary

## SCHOOL NEWS

### KUDOS !!!



A huge THANK YOU to all of the students and parents for your generous donations to our Mitten Tree and many other compassionate activities that took place around the school. Your kindness makes a difference to many families.

THANK YOU very much to all parents who volunteered to provide a delicious pancake breakfast for the entire school!



### CHRISTMAS CONCERT FEEDBACK

We know how busy the month of December is and want to make our Westboro concert the best it can be for students and families. Now is your chance to give constructive feedback if there is anything you noticed that we can work to improve for next year's Christmas concert. Thank you to all families who were able to attend! Please email Mrs. Richard at [courtney.richard@eips.ca](mailto:courtney.richard@eips.ca) with any constructive comments or suggestions and we will take them under advisement. We value your feedback.

### AMA SCHOOL SAFETY PATROLLERS

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 this 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 of the Month:

**Kayla in Grade 5 and Morgan in Grade 4**

Well done! Keep up the great work!



## PLACE POPCORN SALE

On Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, the PLACE class will be selling bags of popcorn to the students and staff of Westboro Elementary. Popcorn is \$1.00 per bag and students can only purchase 1 bag. All proceeds go to the purchase of Levelled Readers for our Westboro Community. Thank you for all your support.

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION STARTS SOON

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2020? If so, it's time to register for kindergarten.

Kindergarten registration opens for the 2020-21 school year on **Feb. 1, 2020**.

To help families prepare, Elk Island Public Schools has put together an online toolkit - available at [www.eips.ca/kindergarten](http://www.eips.ca/kindergarten) - 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 Kindergarten can be found on our school website at [www.westboroelementary.ca](http://www.westboroelementary.ca).

## PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE 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.

### **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.



# EIPS KINDERGARTEN CALENDAR 2020-21

☐ Regular School Day

○ Early Dismissal for Students

☐ No School for Students - Professional Learning/Operational Day

■ No School - Statutory Holiday

■ No School for All Students and Staff

**SCHEDULE A: Logos**  
Mondays, Wednesdays  
and select Fridays

**SCHEDULE B: Regular**  
Tuesdays, Thursdays  
and select Fridays

## Important Dates

- Aug 28** Professional Learning Day
- Aug 31** Operational Day
- Sept 1** Classes Begin
- Sept 7** Labour Day – Stat.
- Oct 9** Professional Learning Day
- Oct 12** Thanksgiving Day – Stat.
- Nov 9 - 13** November Break
- Nov 11** Remembrance Day – Stat.
- Nov 13** Day-In-Lieu: Parent Teacher Interviews
- Dec 23 - Jan 5** Christmas Break
- Dec 23** Day-In-Lieu: Boxing Day
- Dec 24** Christmas Floater Day – Holiday
- Dec 25** Christmas Day – Stat.
- Jan 1** New Year's Day – Stat.
- Jan 6** Classes Resume for Students
- Jan 29** Professional Learning Day
- Feb 1** Second Semester Begins
- Feb 4 & 5** North Central Teachers' Convention
- Feb 15** Family Day – Stat.
- Mar 5** Professional Learning Day
- Mar 26** Day-In-Lieu: Parent Teacher Interviews
- Mar 29 - Apr 2** Spring Break
- Apr 2** Good Friday – Stat.
- Apr 5** Easter Monday – Holiday
- Apr 6** Classes Resume
- May 7** Professional Learning Day
- May 21** School Closure Day
- May 24** Victoria Day – Stat.
- June 21** National Indigenous Peoples Day – no exams
- June 24** Last Instructional Day
- June 28** Last Operational Day

### AUGUST 2020

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### DECEMBER 2020

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### FEBRUARY 2021

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### April 2021

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### MARCH 2021

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### MAY 2021

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### JULY 2021

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## RETURNING STUDENT REGISTRATION FOR 2020-21

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) will once again conduct an online returning student registration process to confirm student registrations for the 2020-21 school year. Families of all returning students must complete the process to confirm the school their child plans to attend in the 2020-21 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. The 2020-21 returning student registration takes place Feb. 1-29, 2020.

Access to the Returning Student Registration Form is provided through the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). If you don't have a PowerSchool Parent Portal account, you need to set one up before Feb. 1, 2020.

[Create a PowerSchool Parent Portal account](#)

For more information contact the school directly.

## HOT LUNCH

Welcome back, families! We hope you all enjoyed your Christmas break and were able to enjoy some time with family and friends! We are back at it pretty quickly and have hot lunch ordering for January and February opening on Monday, January 13 through to Wednesday, January 22. Unfortunately, we have not secured a new payment vendor so we will be accepting cheques and cash again. We appreciate your cooperation in this. PLEASE NOTE NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Our hot lunch menus for this session are:

January 31 - Cob's and Booster Juice

February 21 - Papa John's

We are in the process of securing a few new vendors as unfortunately, Wild Wing has closed their doors. Please stay tuned to see who we will be bringing in for the last few months of the year.

Thanks,

Heidi and Janel

## PARENT COUNCIL

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a wonderful and relaxing break filled with love and laughter. Before the break, we hosted our annual pancake breakfast and a big thanks to the new committee. We had an amazing show of support from all our volunteers who stepped up, from mixing batter, cooking, serving and cleaning up after. Thank You! Each year the event becomes even better. A huge thank you to Hi Pro Feeds who donated the sausages, Tim Hortons for donating hot chocolate and Timbits and to Sobeys who donated the oranges.

In January, we welcome the Alberta Opera and the grade sixes will start planning the Penny Carnival. This is a fundraiser for them to help offset the cost of their year-end trip to YoWoChAs and is a long-standing tradition at Westboro. We always need donations of cakes or cupcakes for the cake walk, so watch for that request to come home.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the library. We hope you can join us!



## INDIGENOUS STUDIES

The winter snow has settled in and the cold is here to stay for at least a few more months. Why not take advantage of the snowy weather and try a new activity as a family? There are many winter activities coming from Indigenous culture you can try.

This link from Muskrat Magazine and KEA gives you 10 different ideas:

<http://muskratmagazine.com/indigenous-activities-you-should-try-this-winter/>

This link from Saskatoon Public Schools gives you some ideas you can do solo, in partners, or as a team:

<https://www.spsd.sk.ca/Schools/brightwater/teacher/midteachers/resources/Documents/First%20Nations%20Winter%20Games.pdf>

This link gives you games with origins from many different nations. Many of these games can be used all throughout the year and some your child(ren) may have already experienced or played at Westboro. Specifically for winter, on page 27 you could try Snowsnake coming from the Dene people.

<https://www.nscrd.com/uploads/document/files/indigenous-games-for-children-en.pdf>

Get outside, get active, and have fun trying something new!



## LOGOS SOCIETY NEWS

Happy New Year! Thank you to all families who participated in our Nitza's Pizza Fundraiser!

January Logos Dates:

**Tuesday Jan 14** - Logos Society Meeting at Westboro 7 pm

**Wednesday Jan 15** - Chapel at 1 pm

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” - Jeremiah 29:11

Theresa MacKenzie

[westbororep@elkislandlogos.ca](mailto:westbororep@elkislandlogos.ca)



## PEP Talk

In partnership with EIPS Committee of School Councils



2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 501 Festival Avenue Sherwood Park, AB T8A 4X3  
[www.pepsociety.ca](http://www.pepsociety.ca)

### Build Your Support ... It does take a village!

A Support group can be your greatest help..

Although it may be difficult to make the call, the earlier you seek help, the better it may be for you and your child.

Turn to Community and Health Specialists who can guide you and inform you.

#### SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR SUPPORT GROUP

1. School counsellors
2. School Liaison Officers
3. Walk in Counselling Services offered at FCS ([Strathcona.ca/wellbeing](http://Strathcona.ca/wellbeing))
4. Family Doctor
5. Local community support group facilitated by professionals trained in addiction counselling, psychology, trauma informed practices and knowledge based.  
PEP's family recovery group and U-turn (youth/young adults in active substance use) meets every second Tuesday evening 7 pm – 9 pm) 2<sup>nd</sup> floor 501 Festival Avenue (Alberta and Quebec room)  
SAFE, CONFIDENTIAL, NON-JUDGEMENTAL

You are the expert when it comes to your teen. If something doesn't feel right, it probably isn't. Talk to them – early and openly...

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](http://www.pepsociety.ca) or call our Support Line Days/Evenings Weekends 780.293.0737



## DIVISION NEWS

### EIPS 2020-2021 DIVISION CALENDER NOW AVAILABLE!

The official 2020-21 EIPS calendar is now available online. The calendar includes important dates during the 2020-21 school such as school-closure days; breaks; the first and last day of classes; professional learning days; and early dismissal days.

Highlights from the 2020-21 EIPS calendar include:

- September 1 First day of classes (after long weekend)
- November 9 - 13 November break
- December 23 to January 5 Christmas break
- February 1 Second semester begins
- February 4 - 6 Teachers' Convention
- March 29 to April 2 Spring break
- June 25 Last day of classes
- June 28 Schools close for the Summer break

To view the 2020-21 calendar, visit [www.eips.ca](http://www.eips.ca).

**Did you know you can sync the Division calendar to your own personal calendar?** You can. Simply, visit [www.eips.ca/calendar](http://www.eips.ca/calendar) and click on “subscribe to calendar.” It’s that easy.

### ANOTHER WAY TO STAY CONNECTED: FOLLOW EIPS ON TWITTER AND FACEBOOK

With 43 schools and close to 17,400 students, there’s a wealth of events, activities and stories taking place across the Division every day. You can find these stories and more by following Elk Island Public Schools on both [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Each uses the combination of news articles, videos and photographs that showcases the latest news, updates, events and alerts taking place across the Division.

Plus, if you’re a member of an EIPS school community and want to share in the storytelling, simply tag the Division using *#EIPS*.

Stay in the loop, follow EIPS on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

*NOTE: Communications Services manages the Division's Facebook and Twitter accounts. The account is updated and monitored intermittently during regular office hours from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. The Division welcomes feedback and ideas from followers but does ask everyone interacting on the EIPS Facebook page to be respectful. Personal attacks and offensive language are not allowed and may be deleted.*

## INCLEMENT WEATHER

With the winter season well underway, we want to remind parents 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 parents of any bus cancellations using various communication tools including: automated-telephone messages, alerts posted on [www.eips.ca](http://www.eips.ca) and school websites, Twitter, Facebook, local radio stations, and on Versatrans My Stop.

Decisions regarding bus cancellations are guided by EIPS administrative procedures that states: “school bus service may be suspended when...Environment Canada reports a temperature of -40 C.” Other reasons for suspending or delaying school bus services include adverse weather and poor road condition.

When school bus services are suspended, schools will remain open to students. EIPS believes parents have the right and responsibility to make choices for their children based on their beliefs and perceptions of safety during times of inclement weather.

For more information, contact EIPS Student Transportation at 780-417-8151.

