



December 11, 2020



WESTBORO ELEMENTARY

Weekly Newsletter

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

December 18: Pajama Day, Wear your pajamas to your online meets!

December 23 - January 6: Christmas Break - School is closed to students and staff

January 6-8: Temporary Online Learning for K-6 students

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Westboro Families,

Needless to say...2020 did not go as planned. Thank you to all families for your help and cooperation when we needed to suddenly switch to online learning within one day. The resilience demonstrated by this community has been awe inspiring. I feel very lucky and blessed to work with each and every one of you as we navigate through the rest of this month. Please don't hesitate to contact your teacher or the school if you have any questions or problems. We will get through this together.

Thank you everybody and stay safe.

Friday, December 18

pajama day

WEAR YOUR FAVOURITE PAJAMAS TO YOUR ONLINE MEETS!

STAFF GIFTS

In lieu of staff gifts this Christmas, we are asking families to consider donating to the [Strathcona Food bank](#) or to a charity of your choice. We thank you for your generosity.

CHRISTMAS BREAK HOURS

Westboro Elementary will close for the Christmas break at the end of the day on Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2020. The school will reopen on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021. During this time, if you have any school-related questions or concerns, contact Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Central Services at 780-464-3477.

EIPS Central Services Christmas Break Hours

Closed	December 23-25
Open	December 28-31; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Closed	January 1
Open	January 4-5; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

*For location and contact information, visit www.eips.ca.

From everyone at Elk Island Public Schools, we wish all of you a happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

As we draw closer to the end of 2020—a year like no other—I want to extend warm holiday wishes to all our students, staff and families on behalf of the Elk Island Public Schools Board of Trustees. Thank you for your partnership, co-operation and understanding throughout the past year. The holidays are often a time of reflection and gratitude, and we want you to know how much we appreciate the contributions you make to the Division on an ongoing basis. By working together, we're making a difference in the learning experiences and opportunities of all students within EIPS.

While this Christmas will undoubtedly look very different than past years, we hope you have the opportunity to celebrate the season—whether that be an intimate holiday meal with your immediate family or a virtual celebration with extended family and friends.

Stay safe this holiday season, and we look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Jan. 6, 2021.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays,

Trina Boymook
EIPS Board Chair

BRIGHTSPACE INFORMATION SESSIONS

EIPS hosted two information sessions for families on how to navigate Brightspace. The sessions were recorded and are available for families to view here: [Information Session: Navigating Brightspace](#).

The video link is also located on the EIPS website along with other information regarding Temporary Online Learning at <https://www.eips.ca/school-re-entry-planning/temporary-online-learning>.

CHANGES TO IN-SCHOOL LEARNING: OVERVIEW AND TIMELINE

As noted in an email last week, the province declared a state of public health emergency and announced several new measures to slow the spread of COVID-19—some of which impact Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) and in-school learners. Attached is a brief update regarding the provincial-mandated measures and an outline of what to expect while in effect.

[CHANGES TO IN-SCHOOL LEARNING: OVERVIEW AND TIMELINE](#)

SCHOOL AND TRANSPORTATION FEE WAIVER APPLICATIONS: DEADLINE EXTENDED

Elk Island Public Schools recognizes the global pandemic has put a strain on some families' finances and available income can change quickly in the current situation. As such, the Division has extended the deadline for requesting a waiver of your 2020-21 school and transportation fees. If you encounter circumstances where you're unable to pay your fees, you can apply to have fees waived by submitting an [Application for a Waiver of Fees](#). Because of the pandemic, the new deadline is Feb. 15, 2021—if you're new to EIPS, the deadline is the latter of Feb. 15, 2021, or 45 days after registration. Each quarter—or trimester, as applicable—you'll receive an email notification letting you know fees are posted on the PowerSchool Parent Portal. To access your fee information, go to "Student Fees" on PowerSchool. There you can view your fees and pay online using Visa, MasterCard or INTERAC Online—when available from your financial institution. All fees are due within 14 days of being posted. **NOTE:** School Fees apply to in-school learners only. For more information about school fees, transportation fees, waivers and payment deadlines, visit eips.ca or westboroelementary.ca. Alternatively, contact the school at 780-467-7751.

Strathcona County Information

NEW PROVINCIAL RESTRICTIONS DECEMBER 8, 2020

On December 8, 2020 the provincial government announced new restrictions which affect County residents, businesses and facilities. Click [here](#) to read about these new restrictions.

STORMWATER POND ICE SAFETY

While they may look like community ponds, they are stormwater facilities, and danger lies beneath the surface. Obey all posted signs - these include **"thin ice"**, **"no skating"** and **"keep off"**. [Learn more.](#)

SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON

Fire safety risks increase during the holiday season. Celebrate safely.

[Learn more](#)

COMMUNITY & FAMILIES

People are the most important part of this community, and together we thrive. Click [here](#) to find out more about programs and services that help engage and empower people of all ages and situations.

SAFE. SUPPORTED. CONNECTED.

YOU ARE NEVER ALONE

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused stress, hardships, and pressure for Strathcona County residents in ways some may have never experienced before. Trying to balance everything can feel overwhelming. Strathcona County Family and Community Services is here to support you through these challenging times. If you're stressed about finances, parenting, or just need to talk, call us at 780-464-4044. Click [here](#) for more information.