



December 22, 2020



WESTBORO ELEMENTARY

Weekly Newsletter

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

December 22: Last newsletter of the year

December 22: Last day of classes before Christmas Break

January 6: Early Dismissal

December 23 - January 5: Christmas Break - School is closed to students and staff

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

January 11: In-school classes resume

Dear Westboro Families,

Please see a special [Christmas message](#) from all of us here at Westboro. We have missed seeing all of you at the school the past few weeks but we look forward to seeing you in the new year! Until then, our wish for you is to remain happy, healthy and strong!

*Merry Christmas and
Happy Holidays*



from all the staff at Westboro Elementary

Twas the Week Before Christmas

T'was the week before Christmas break, when all through the school,
Not a student was here according to Dr. Hinshaw's rule.
Covid 19 the coronavirus had made its nasty appearance
So, the staff needed to show their strength and perseverance.

The teachers were nestled alone in their class
Working online as time slowly passed.
The principal in his office and I in my room
Waited patiently for classes to resume.

When down the hall there arose such a clatter,
I sprung from my desk to see what was the matter.
Away to the door I flew like a flash,
Knocked over the garbage can and spilled the trash.

The broken silence of the empty classes
Brought the teachers out in masses.
When, what to their wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer.

The driver clapped his hands to get their attention,
Oh, what could be his cheery intention?
So quickly the Westboro Warriors came
As he whistled and shouted and called them by name.

Now grade one! Now grade two! grade three, four and five!
Grade six! Place! Steps and Kindies look alive.
Hands washed, masks on and six feet apart
Stay within your immediate school cohort.

His eyes how they began to sparkle and shine,
As to spread hope that everything would soon be fine.
His words were simple but none the less true
Christmas is coming and there is still much to do.

You have dedicated your time to your students one and all
From each literacy assignment to each Google Meet call.
You have encouraged, laughed, and taught
Wondering if your students "Get it" or not.

You educators heard the calling- your passion runs wild
As you connect and teach each Westboro child.
You teach, you listen, you shape with care
In hopes that respect and pride will grow there.

So as this week comes to an end
"Remember, my Westboro Warrior Friend".
He exclaimed, as he departed down the hall
"Have a Merry Christmas One and All!"

Love Mrs. Canning

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

PRIME MINISTER'S AWARD

Nominations are now being accepted for three different [Prime Minister's Awards](#): Teaching Excellence; Teaching Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM); and Excellence in Early Childhood Education. If you know a teacher who displays true excellence in the classroom, be sure to nominate them for a chance at national recognition for his or her work. The nomination deadline is Jan. 12, 2021.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: MEANING OF HOME CONTEST

On January 4, in partnership with founding sponsor Sagen, Habitat for Humanity Canada will kick off its annual Meaning of Home contest, inviting grades 4, 5 and 6 students from across Canada to submit a written poem or essay explaining what home means to them for a chance to win cool prizes. One winner in each grade will be chosen and the winning submission will direct, on behalf of the sponsor, a \$30,000 grant to its local Habitat for Humanity office.

The Meaning of Home contest plays an important role in helping Habitat for Humanity raise funds and awareness for affordable housing in Canada, while offering a unique and meaningful way to get students involved in the creative-writing process and teach them about the importance of giving back to the community. For every entry submitted, \$10 will be donated to your local Habitat. There's no cost to enter and no fundraising requirements—just entering earns \$10 for Habitat for Humanity Edmonton. The submission timeframe is Jan. 4 to Feb. 19, 2021.

CHANGES TO IN-SCHOOL LEARNING: OVERVIEW AND TIMELINE

On November 24, 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.

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>.

Strathcona County Information

WINTER FREEZE FEST

You're invited to embrace the chill with this year's Winter Freeze Fest! Throughout December 19 - January 3, Strathcona County has exciting (FREE) winter holiday activities that take place throughout the County, as well as from the comfort of your own home. Visit strathcona.ca for a calendar of activities, with new activities added throughout the weeks.

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.

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.

Upcoming Workshops in Strathcona County



Free

Springing back from 2020 with resiliency

Session 1: Children & Youth February 10 6-7:30 p.m.
Session 2: Staying Connected February 17 2-3:30 p.m.
Session 3: Self-Care & Mindfulness February 24 6-7:30 p.m.

Many children and families may feel that life has been difficult in recent times. **Learn why resiliency and mindfulness matters and how to build resiliency in yourselves and in your children.**

For: Individuals, parents/caregivers, and families
Cost: Free
Where: Online (Microsoft Teams)
Registration: (sign up for one, two or all three sessions) strathcona.ca/calendar



Free

Get Your Game On

January 29 1:30 to 3 p.m.
February 3 1:30 to 3 p.m.
February 4 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Compete in various online games and join the leaderboard for a chance to win prizes.

- Escape Room
- Slopeball
- Kahoot
- Skribble.IO
- plus more

Register now!
strathcona.ca/youthconnect

Strathcona County's Mental Health Capacity Program is funded by Alberta Health Services and delivered by Family and Community Services.



Free

Financial Literacy Workshops

Money is a big part of our lives. How we earn money and how we spend money has changed a lot over the past decade. **How can you deal with these changes? Would you like to get as much as possible from each dollar you have?**

For: Individuals, parents/caregivers, and families
Cost: Free
Where: Online (Microsoft Teams)
Registration: strathcona.ca/calendar

Workshop 1	Workshop 2	Workshop 3
How to stretch your dollar	How to revise your budget	Money and your habits
Wednesday, January 13 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. MST	Monday, January 18 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. MST	Wednesday, January 27 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. MST

