



January 15, 2021



# WESTBORO ELEMENTARY

## Weekly Newsletter

### IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

**January 20:** Chapel 1:00 p.m.

Google Meets meeting code: **wbochapel**

**January 20:** School Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.

A link to the meeting will be emailed out prior to the meeting.

For more information please email [westboroparents@gmail.com](mailto:westboroparents@gmail.com)

### FIRST NATION, MÉTIS AND INUIT EDUCATION: INFORMATION SESSIONS

EIPS' First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Centre is hosting a series of online information sessions for school families. [Learn more](#)

**SESSION 1 – Developing Foundational Knowledge of First Nations, Métis and Inuit cultures, histories and contemporary contexts: A three-part series designed for families who want to learn more about Indigenous cultures, perspectives and histories.**

Dates: February 2, February 23 and March 16

Time: 7 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Where: [Hosted on Microsoft Teams](#)

**SESSION 2 – Virtual gathering of First Nations, Métis and Inuit parents and families: An opportunity for First Nations, Métis and Inuit families to gather and engage in conversation with EIPS' First Nations, Métis and Inuit education team.**

Date: January 26

Time: 7 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Where: [Hosted on Microsoft Teams](#)

## SAFFRON CYBER SECOND: January Issue

The latest issue of the new Saffron Cyber Second is now available. Read it to learn tips, tools and strategies aimed at helping children develop skills for healthy and safe online experiences.

[Saffron Cyber Second January 2021](#)

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration starts soon! Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2021? If so, it's almost time to register for kindergarten. Kindergarten registration opens for the 2021-22 school year on Feb. 1, 2021. To help families prepare, Elk Island Public Schools has put together an online [EIPS Kindergarten Toolkit](#) 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 Westboro Elementary's kindergarten program is available at [westboroelementary.ca](http://westboroelementary.ca).

## RETURNING STUDENT REGISTRATION

Returning student registration for 2021-22 Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) will once again conduct an online returning student registration process to confirm student registrations for the 2021-22 school year. Families of all returning students must complete the process to confirm the school their child plans to attend in the 2021-22 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 2021-22 returning student registration takes place between Feb. 1-28, 2021. 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, 2021.

[Create a PowerSchool Parent Portal account](#). For more information contact the school directly.

## EIPS 2021-22 DIVISION CALENDAR: NOW AVAILABLE!

The official 2021-22 EIPS calendar is now available online. The calendar includes important dates during the 2021-22 school year, such as school-closure days, breaks, the first and last day of classes, professional learning days, early dismissal days, plus more. Highlights from the 2021-22 EIPS calendar include:

- September 1 - first day of classes
  - November 8-12 - November break
  - December 22 to January 4 - Christmas break
  - February 1 - second semester begins
  - February 10-11 - Teachers' Convention
  - March 28 to April 1 - Spring break
  - June 28 - last day of classes
  - June 29 - last operational day before the Summer break
- To view the 2021-21 calendar, visit [eips.ca](https://eips.ca).

Did you know you can sync the Division calendar to your personal calendar? You can. Simply, visit [eips.ca/calendar](https://eips.ca/calendar) and click on "subscribe to calendar." It's that easy.

## STAY CONNECTED

Another way to stay connected: Follow EIPS on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). With 43 schools and close to 17,000 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 a 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 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.

## 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.

## 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.

# Strathcona County Information

## NEW RESTRICTIONS

On January 7, 2020, the provincial government announced current restrictions that impact the County, facilities and residents will [remain in place until at least January 21, 2021](#). If you have concerns about provincial health order violations, please [contact Alberta Health Services online](#) or by phone at 1-833-415-9179. [Additional COVID-19 relief supports for businesses](#).

Effective **Monday, January 18**, the Government of Alberta announced [limited changes to their restrictions](#).

## EXPLORE YOUR WINTER

There's still lots of room to play safely, outside. [Learn more](#).

## STRATHCONA COUNTY CHILD AND YOUTH COALITION NEWSLETTER

The [January Strathcona County Child and Youth Coalition newsletter](#) is now available. [Learn more](#) about the coalition.

## VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

Virtual classes will allow you to participate in the comfort of your own home with the guidance of trained and experienced Strathcona County instructors. These are live, interactive classes, offered through Microsoft Teams. Instructors will provide instruction, modifications and encouragement to keep you engaged and motivated. [Learn more](#).

## COMMUNITY & FAMILIES

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