



February 26, 2021



# WESTBORO ELEMENTARY

*Weekly Newsletter*

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

**February 28:** Returning Student Registration Deadline

**March 3:** Early Dismissal

**March 5:** Professional Learning Day - **No School for Students**

## RETURNING STUDENT REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28.

EIPS' returning student registration process for the 2021-22 school year ends on February 28. The process allows families to indicate the school they want their child to attend next year, apply for enrolment at a non-designated school, if applicable, and request student transportation.

To share your plans for the upcoming school year, you must submit the online Returning Student Registration Form by logging in to your [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). If you don't have a PowerSchool Parent Portal account, you need to set one up. [Create a PowerSchool Parent Portal account.](#)

Even if you know your child will not be returning to EIPS for 2021-22, we still ask that you complete the form to inform the school of your decision so staff and administration can plan accordingly. All current EIPS students in PALS through Grade 11 are required to complete the form by **Sunday, February 28, 2021.**

## PANAGO FRIENDS AND FAMILY DISCOUNT MARCH 4, 2021

Panago is offering a friends and family discount of 15% to anyone that mentions Westboro when they make an order on Thursday, March 4, 2021. Panago will also donate 15% of the proceeds from these sales back to the school. This offer is valid at the 99 Wye Road location only.

## INTRODUCING GARTH PRINCE!

Westboro is excited to welcome Garth Prince to our school for a virtual residency March 16–25. All students will be working with Garth participating in African drumming, dance and musical activities. As a native of Namibia with years of promoting African culture and community building through song, dance and instruments, Garth will actively engage all students in a unique learning opportunity. His goal is to encourage cultural diversity in an environment of work and play that appeals to students of all ages and abilities. Want to have a taste of the type of activity students will be involved in? Try this [Drumming and Movement break](#) at home together and have fun! Special thanks goes to the [Alberta Foundation for the Arts](#) for helping to support this upcoming residency.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH RESOURCES

Historica Canada has compiled a series of [articles](#) and [videos](#) to celebrate [Black History Month](#) throughout February.

- Learn the story of the community of [Amber Valley](#), commemorated in this year's Canada Post Black History Month stamps. It was one of several Alberta communities settled by [Black people](#) in the early 20th century, and the furthest north.
- Discover how [Sylvia Stark](#) learned to read in secret during a time that Black children were forbidden to read or write in the state of Missouri. Born into [enslavement](#), Stark emigrated to British Columbia with more than 600 Black Americans in 1858.
- [Lester Brown](#) was a rifleman for the Queen's Own Rifles during the Second World War. Listen to his testimony as he describes being injured days after landing in Normandy, and discover more in The Memory Project's [Black Canadian Veterans](#) gallery.
- [Africville](#) was founded in the mid-18th century but was demolished by the City of Halifax in the 1960s in what many said was an act of racism. For many people, Africville represents the oppression faced by Black Canadians, and the efforts to right historic wrongs.
- Test your knowledge of Black history in Canada with [easy](#), [medium](#) and [hard quizzes](#) from the [Citizenship Challenge](#).
- A new [Heritage Minute](#) about [Oscar Peterson](#) is now available on February 17.

# ALBERTA CHAMPIONS' ANNUAL WRITING CONTEST

The 12th annual [Alberta Champion](#) story contest (grades 4–6) and essay and poetry contest (grades 7–9) is now underway. Students can write about any past Albertan (posthumous) of their choice whose lifetime accomplishments are an inspiration to the student. The full [contest rules and judging rubric](#) are available online, as well as the full list of prizes available to be won. With ties to English Language Arts and Social Studies—stories, histories, peoples of Alberta and citizenship—the contest is suitable for teachers to use as a whole-class activity or as enrichment for specific students. The entry deadline is **April 22**.

## FIRST NATION, MÉTIS AND INUIT PARENT ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

The First Nations, Métis and Inuit education team has planned a three-part series—**Developing Foundational Knowledge of First Nations, Métis and Inuit cultures, histories and contemporary contexts—designed for all EIPS parents and families who are curious to learn about First Nations, Métis and Inuit cultures, perspectives and histories. The sessions are designed as entry points to understanding as we work toward learning our collective truth on the path of reconciliation.** [Join the session](#).

### Session 3: March 16; 7-7:30 p.m.

- Language of this land: The importance of highlighting Indigenous languages; deepening understanding of relationship to land through language; what exploration of Indigenous languages can look like in schools

## SELF IDENTIFIED PARENT MEETING

Sessions will be held online using Microsoft Teams Meetings. Join on your computer or mobile app [Click here to join the meeting](#).

- Second Gathering (virtual): **March 9, 2021 (7 - 8 p.m.)**
- Supports offered for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students
  - We thank all families for joining us in our initial gathering and sharing your stories. We were grateful to all who attended for our initial meeting. As we started with words from Elder Wilson and took time to meet each other, we did not get through the full agenda from our first gathering. We will ensure we cover the missed topics and answer your questions in the second gathering. Here is what we hope to share on March 9:
    - EIPS' First Nations, Métis and Inuit team mandate
    - What self-identification is and what it means
    - What supports are in place for self-identified students
    - Time for Q and A

# Strathcona County Information

## CURRENT RESTRICTIONS

The Government of Alberta announced [limited changes to their restrictions](#) effective February 8.

For more information, visit <https://www.alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx>

## SAFE. SUPPORTED. CONNECTED

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 help you through these challenging times. If you need support with finances, parenting, family violence, are a senior or know a senior who is feeling alone and overwhelmed, or just need to talk, call us at

**780-464-4044.**

## VIRTUAL PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAMS

Register today for our next session of VIRTUAL Performing Arts programs brought to you by the talented team at [Festival Place](#). These are LIVE, online, interactive programs offered through Microsoft Teams. These multi-week virtual Performing Arts programs start mid March.

Register for DRAMA based programs here:

<https://reonline.strathcona.ca/.../PROGVIRTUALX915PERFOR...>

Register for DANCE based programs here:

<https://reonline.strathcona.ca/.../PROGVIRTUALX915PERFOR...LikeCommentShare>

## FATHERHOOD FLOURISHING RESEARCH PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY

Are you a father living in Canada? Do you live with your child who is under the age of 6? Are you married/cohabiting with the mother of your child? Please complete this very important research survey and be in with a chance to win a \$100 Amazon gift card. Please see poster attached for more details. Survey link - [https://ualberta.ca1.qualtrics.com/.../SV\\_1A1Nd9yrZwBzSpn](https://ualberta.ca1.qualtrics.com/.../SV_1A1Nd9yrZwBzSpn)