



January 14, 2022



# WESTBORO ELEMENTARY

*Weekly Newsletter*

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## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

**January 19:** Parent Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. A link to the Google Meet will be emailed out prior to the meeting. For more information please email [westboroparents@gmail.com](mailto:westboroparents@gmail.com)

**January 19:** Virtual Gathering of First Nations, Metis and Inuit Parents and families 7:00 p.m.

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## PARENT COUNCIL

The next School Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. This meeting will be held virtually and a link to the Google Meet will be emailed out prior to the meeting. For more information please email [westboroparents@gmail.com](mailto:westboroparents@gmail.com).

Please see the agenda for the upcoming School Council meeting.

[Westboro School Council Agenda January 19, 2022](#)

## UPDATED COVID-19 INFORMATION

Please see the updated COVID-19 documents below. We encourage families to familiarize themselves with this information.

[Alberta Daily Health Checklist](#)—Adults and Children— Jan 2022 Update

[Parent Stay at Home Guide](#)

[EIPS Operational Guidelines 2021-22](#)

## EIPS COVID UPDATE JANUARY 13, 2022

We were excited to welcome students back to school this week. While the pandemic continues to present challenges for the delivery of in-person learning, EIPS isn't yet experiencing the staffing issues other school divisions face, at least not yet. It is possible though, if the Division does face staffing shortages, it may become necessary to transition some classes or grades to temporary online learning.

If a class transitions to temporary online learning, it will happen on short notice. As such, the Division encourages all families to watch their emails in the mornings and evenings in case a move to temporary online learning becomes necessary—because of staff shortages or operational challenges that impact the continuity of student learning.

In addition to updating the [EIPS Operations Guidelines 2021-22](#), the Division also revised the [Stay-At-Home Guide for Families](#) for your reference. It's an easy-to-read one-page chart to which you can refer when your child is feeling unwell or has COVID-19 symptoms—to help determine when to keep your child at home and when it's safe to return to school. Also, please remember to complete the [COVID-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) with your child every day. Doing so helps keep schools safer for everyone and, will hopefully, keep temporary online learning to a minimum.

Yesterday, the masks and test kits promised by the Government of Alberta were delivered to the Division, and will soon be couriered to schools for distribution. Each student and staff member will receive a package including a two-week supply of medical-grade masks and an at-home test kit containing five individual tests. We're hopeful these items will complement the considerable efforts families have made to stay healthy and avoid transmitting the virus to others.

Again, as noted in previous emails, Alberta Health Services is now focusing its [outbreak management efforts](#) exclusively on specific high-priority settings. As such, it's no longer able to support COVID-19 and respiratory illness outbreak management in schools. That means families will no longer receive communication from either the Division or Alberta Health Services when there are cases of COVID-19 in the classroom. That being the case, it becomes even more critical students remain at home when feeling unwell, regardless of whether they have a confirmed case of COVID-19 or not.

We understand families are experiencing a great deal of stress and uncertainty as the pandemic continues. While much remains outside of the Division's control, EIPS is committed to keeping you up to date and doing everything possible to keep students and staff safe.

Elk Island Public Schools

## RETURNING STUDENT REGISTRATION FOR 2022-23

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) will once again conduct an online returning student registration process to confirm student registrations for the 2022-23 school year. Families of all returning students must complete the process to confirm the school their child plans to attend in the 2022-23 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 2022-23 returning student registration takes place between Feb. 1-28, 2022.

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, 2022.

[Create a PowerSchool Parent Portal account](#)

For more information, contact the school directly.

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION STARTS SOON!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2022? If so, it's almost time to register for kindergarten.

Kindergarten registration opens for the 2022-23 school year on Feb. 1, 2022. To help families prepare, Elk Island Public Schools has put together an online [EIPS Kindergarten Tool kit](#) 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 <https://www.westboroelementary.ca/>.

## CAREGIVER EDUCATION SESSIONS: JANUARY

Alberta Health Services, in collaboration with The Mental Health Foundation, offers free online programming for parents and caregivers of children and youth. Upcoming Caregiver Education Sessions, Lunch & Learn Webinars and Drop-In Series are outlined in the [January Caregiver Education Team Newsletter](#).

## WHAT TO DO WHEN THE WORDS DON'T STICK!

### What to do when the words won't stick!

Do any of these describe your child:

- Practices every night for the spelling test, but still makes many errors?
- Makes constant spelling mistakes with the same words again and again?
- Is able to read a word one day, but is unable to decode that same word the next day?

Parents and teachers notice these things in children all the time! The research tells us that in order to remember the words and store them into our long term memory, our brain uses a process called Orthographic Mapping. This process involves the brain making connections between letter sounds and letter names. And guess what? Not all brains are wired to do this process automatically. While some children can be taught to learn a word with just 1-4 practices, it takes others up to 40 times to learn that same word. The good news is that there is a great way to practice word learning by using the Orthographic Mapping technique.

So, how can I work on this process at home?

Below, you will find links to:

- Watch a video about Orthographic Mapping and how it works.
- Download a copy of "Map the Snap".
- Get more information about the process from Sarah's Snippets.

Happy Mapping!

Reference: Kilpatrick, D.A. (2016). *Equipped for reading success*. Casey & Kirsch Publishers

slidesgo

[Download Video](#)

[Download Map the Snap](#)

[Sarah's Snippets](#)

## VIRTUAL GATHERING OF FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS AND INUIT PARENTS AND FAMILIES

The First Nations, Métis and Inuit education team is once again offering a series of virtual gatherings for EIPS families of First Nations, Métis or Inuit children. We look forward to continuing the conversation from last school year and welcoming new families to our virtual circle. These gatherings are an opportunity for First Nations, Métis and Inuit parents and guardians to come together to make connections, create a supportive environment for dialogue, share hopes and ideas for their children within the EIPS family and learn what's happening around the Division. We're grateful to Elder Wilson Bearhead for attending our virtual gatherings last school year and agreeing to open each of our gatherings again this year. It's truly an honour and a privilege to be guided by Elder Wilson, and we hold our relationship with him close to our hearts.

For more information or if you're interested in participating, reach out to the First Nations, Métis and Inuit education lead teacher at your child's school.

**Time:** 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

**Location:** Microsoft Teams

## HAVE YOUR SAY, EIPS WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) wants to hear from you to gain a deeper understanding of your confidence in the Division and its strategic direction. As such, it's launched a new annual survey entitled, EIPS Year in Review: Stakeholder Confidence Survey—open January 6–18.

The survey covers a range of topics, including student growth and achievement, learning supports, teaching and leading, governance, and resource allocations. The information gathered will help EIPS:

- assess stakeholder confidence—families, staff, Grade 12 students and community members;
- gather input to guide future decision-making; • gather feedback to enhance its [Four-Year Education Plan](#); and
- provide a platform for families, students, staff and community members to have a voice in ensuring high-quality, student-centred learning environments in EIPS schools.

EIPS will share the results in the Annual Education Results Report 2021–22.

### [TAKE THE SURVEY NOW!](#)

Survey closes Jan. 18, 2022

**NOTE:** EIPS encourages everyone to respond honestly. Your identity and answers are confidential and cannot be linked in any way to you or your child's school. Grade 12 students will have an opportunity to complete the survey at school. Families who do not want their child to complete the survey simply need to advise their child's school.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER

With the winter season well underway, we want to remind families 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 families of any bus cancellations using various communications 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 the Ride 360 and Bus Status apps.

Decisions regarding bus cancellations are guided by EIPS' [Administrative Procedure 131: Inclement Weather](#), which states: "school bus service may be suspended ... when there is a forecast or current temperature of -40 C including wind chill, in one or more regions." Other reasons for suspending or delaying school bus services include adverse weather and poor road conditions.

When school bus services are suspended, schools remain open to students. EIPS believes families have the right and responsibility to make choices for their children based on what you they feel is safest during times of inclement weather.

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

# Strathcona County Information

## COVID-19 UPDATE

NEW! Youth 12-17 may need to show proof of vaccination beginning December 15. All Albertans 5+ can now get vaccinated. Proof of completed vaccination series with personal QR code, negative test or medical exemption is required for all non-essential services. View the Strathcona County COVID-19 case count. [Learn more.](#)

## FREE NIGHTTIME GLOWSHOEING ADVENTURE AT THE BROADMOOR

Register for your free time slot (snowshoe rentals included) for some Friday night snowshoeing on January 14! This event is sponsored by [Don McKay Team Royal LePage Prestige Realty.](#)

6 p.m. - <https://bit.ly/3l5UZzA>

7 p.m. - <https://bit.ly/3fk9O4T>

8 p.m. - <https://bit.ly/3fiwS4h>

Please make sure you bring a headlamp or flashlight. Each time slot is for 45 minutes, slots are limited.

Weren't able to snag a spot? We have several other upcoming snowshoeing opportunities throughout Strathcona County: <https://www.strathcona.ca/.../cross-country-skiing.../...>

## FREE SATURDAY SWIM

We've got another free swim sponsored by [Pasta Pantry & Trattoria](#) lined up this Saturday!

**Saturday, January 15 from 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.**

Emerald Hills Leisure Centre

Please stay home if you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19. Be sure to check out pool capacity before you arrive, as we are experiencing staffing shortages:

<https://www.strathcona.ca/.../recreation-facility-capacity/>

Reminder: Strathcona County is participating in the provincial Restriction Exemption Program:

<https://www.strathcona.ca/.../recreation.../before-you-go/>

## CROSS COUNTRY AT BROADMOOR PUBLIC GOLF COURSE

Enjoy Cross-country skiing at the Broadmoor! Classic and skate ski tracks are groomed Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays each week, weather conditions permitting. Walking, tobogganing and snowshoeing are also available on the golf course.

Trail conditions: <https://www.thebroadmoor.ca/xcskiing/>