



October 1, 2023



# WESTBORO ELEMENTARY

*Weekly Newsletter*



## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

**September 30:** National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

**October 2-6:** Read in Week

**October 4:** Early Dismissal - Students will be dismissed at 2:12 p.m.

**October 5:** World Teachers' Day

**October 6:** Professional Learning Day: No school for students

**October 9:** Thanksgiving Day - Stat Holiday, no school for students or staff

## READ IN WEEK OCTOBER 2 - 6



We are excited to be observing READ IN week next week at Westboro! We will be celebrating Reading in a variety of ways, and would like to include our families as well!

YOU are invited to LUNCH and LITERACY on Thursday Oct. 5 Parent/Guardians are invited to come and enjoy lunch and some reading time with their child (and a classmate or 2) at the school from 12:06 - 12:53. Students will have some favorite books to share, but we would also love if you could bring a personal or family favorite to share as well.

## **ENHANCING LITERACY AND NUMERACY**

As part of Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) ongoing efforts to enhance the literacy and numeracy of students in all grade levels, the Division is once again administering the Star Early Literacy, Star Reading and Star Math assessment tools in the 2023-24 school year. These tools focus on literacy and numeracy, are digitally based and offer an opportunity for students to demonstrate their learning. The goal: To provide timely information to teachers, help enhance classroom instruction and identify student learning needs.

Three times a year, EIPS students in Grade 1 complete the Star Early Literacy assessment and students in grades 2-12 complete the Star Reading assessment. Both assessments are administered electronically and take about 20 minutes. Students in grades 2 through 10 also complete the Star Math, a mathematic screening tool. It, too, is administered electronically and takes about 30 minutes for students to complete. The results offer teachers a clearer picture of a student's learning needs and help determine if subsequent instructional planning is required. NOTE: Semester students complete the Star Math twice, at the start and end of the course.

In addition to the Star assessments, Alberta Education now mandates all students in grades 1-3 complete additional literacy and numeracy assessments. Students in Grade 2 and Grade 3 complete these provincial assessments in September. Grade 1 students will complete the assessments in January 2023.

The scores of the assessments aren't used toward a student's grade, and there is no need to study ahead of time. The tools simply provide the teacher with information to better understand where each student is in terms of reading comprehension and mathematic ability. If, after analyzing the results, it's determined a student can benefit from extra support, the teacher will contact the family to discuss possible support strategies.

For more information about the Division's Star and MIPI assessment tools, contact EIPS Supports for Students at 780-464-3477.

## **CELEBRATING WORLD TEACHERS' DAY: OCTOBER 5**

October 5 is World Teachers' Day! Launched in 1994 by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Teachers' Day is celebrated annually around the world as a way to recognize teachers and the integral role they play in providing quality education to students. On October 5, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) encourages all of its students, parents, caregivers and community members to show their appreciation for their teachers and the positive impact they make on our lives.

EIPS extends its heartfelt thank you to all Division teachers for their dedication, hard work and commitment in guiding and educating students through their kindergarten to Grade 12 years.

## CAREGIVER SERIES: OCTOBER SESSIONS

Alberta Health Services offers free online programming for parents and caregivers of children and youth. Sessions are offered through Zoom. Upcoming topics include understanding anxiety and self-injury and supporting children and youth with ADHD. The list of [October 2023 sessions](#) is now available.

## RESPIRATORY ILLNESS GUIDANCE

The health and safety of staff, students and visitors is a top priority. Continue to reinforce the following hygiene habits to protect staff and students from spreading respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19.

- Stay home if you're feeling sick.
- Wash or sanitize your hands often.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces regularly.
- Wear a mask if you get sick or develop symptoms while at school or work.

As per Alberta Health [guidelines](#), staff, students, contractors and visitors who have symptoms of respiratory illness or test positive for COVID, should stay home until:

- symptoms have improved,
- they feel well enough to resume normal activities, **and**
- they have been fever-free for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medications.

For anyone who has a respiratory illness or has tested positive for COVID, it is **recommended** that they wear a mask for a total of **10 days** from the onset of symptoms—even if the symptoms have resolved or improved—when in indoor settings with other individuals.

## SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK: OCTOBER 15-21

Schools throughout Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) are celebrating School Bus Safety Week October 15-21. The theme: 'Stand Back From Yellow and Black,' which focuses on proper school bus safety behaviour. Throughout the week, various activities are planned, including information sessions, bus-safety lesson plans and bus-evacuation drills.

As part of School Bus Safety Week, Westboro Elementary reminds students and families all Division school buses are equipped with a Tyler Drive tablet, bus-pass scanner, GPS technology, the Child Check-Mate system and surveillance equipment, which allows Student Transportation to better monitor and manage its more than 175 buses. Families and students also have access to the Traversa Ride 360 app, a mobile tool to help determine the location of a bus, projected arrival times and when a child is scanned onto a bus.

For more information, visit [EIPS Student Transportation](#) or contact 780-417-8151.

# FROM ALEXA TO ALGORITHMS: PARENTING IN THE ERA OF AI

Join the University of Alberta and Amii for an engaging 45-minute online webinar designed to boost AI literacy for parents of kids of all ages, from kindergarten to graduate students. The session will focus on global citizenship, online safety, and education and career guidance.

Don't miss this fun and informative opportunity to empower your parenting in the age of AI, ensuring your kids thrive in tomorrow's tech-driven world.

Event Details:

Date: Nov. 2, 2023 Time: 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

Location: Virtual [REGISTER NOW](#)

## ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH NEWSLETTER

The September edition of the Alberta Health Services Addiction and Mental Health Newsletter focuses on parent involvement in schools. [Newsletter](#)

Themes include:

- [Parent involvement in school](#)
- [Parent involvement in school is one of the 40 developmental assets](#)
- [Ways to stay involved in your child's education—Part One](#)
- [Ways to stay involved in your child's education—Part Two](#)

## CAREGIVER EDUCATION SESSIONS

Alberta Health Services hosts a variety of virtual caregiver information sessions throughout the year focused on ways to support students' mental health. The sessions are free and geared toward parents, caregivers, teachers and community members who want to learn more about challenges impacting children and adolescents. Session topics include anxiety, ADHD, depression, self-harm, technology, teens and teaching leadership skills, communication, resiliency and more.

Visit [Caregiver Education](#) to see the monthly caregiver sessions.

## SCHOOL FEES

School fee information for the 2023-24 school year is now posted on the PowerSchool Parent Portal. All fees are due within 30 days of being posted. To access your fee information, simply log in to the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) and go to "Student Fees." There you can view your fees and pay them online.

Don't forget to also log in to the PowerSchool Parent Portal regularly throughout the year. Fees are often added to your child's account to cover the cost of various school activities such as field trips, class projects, extracurricular activities fees and more.

If circumstances exist where you're unable to pay your fees, you can apply to have certain [fees waived](#) by submitting an [Application for a Waiver of Fees](#). The application deadline is Dec. 15, 2023.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines, visit [www.eips.ca/schools/fees](http://www.eips.ca/schools/fees) and <https://www.westboroelementary.ca/about/fees>. Alternatively, contact Billie Jean Mephram, Business Manager at Westboro Elementary at 780-467-7751.

# Strathcona County Information

## **FREE EARLY DISMISSAL SWIM OCTOBER 4**

Free early dismissal swims, sponsored by Pasta Pantry, continue this fall!

Make the most of your extra time in the afternoon with a free swim at Kinsmen Leisure Centre and pick up your Pasta Pantry voucher.

**Wednesday, October 4, 3:15 - 5:45 p.m.**

## **NATIONAL DAY OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION**

Join Indigenous Elders, knowledge keepers and presenters to learn about the history, heritage, resilience and diversity of Indigenous Peoples and honour those affected by residential schools. The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation will be hosted at Broadmoor Lake Park and surrounding locations on September 30. All activities and events are free throughout the day.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1026206295352912/>

## **FROM HERE TO THERE: SCHOOL AVOIDANCE**

Children can struggle with going to school for a variety of reasons and it can be challenging as a parent to know how best to support them. Many kids feel anxious about schoolwork, friendships, peer pressure or conflict. Join us for this online session where we will look at the reasons behind school refusal, supports you can put in place at home, and supportive resources you can access for both you and your child.

From Here to There: School Avoidance is on October 12th from 6-8 pm online.

Register at <https://www.strathcona.ca/.../family-resource-network/>

## **CONNECTION PROGRAM GUIDE**

And just like that, we're back to school! Fall brings fresh opportunities to meet new people, try new activities and get connected in the community.

Designed for all ages and stages of life, the Connections program guide is your one-stop resource for events, volunteer opportunities, mental health support and more!

Check it out: <https://ow.ly/1HwQ50PLMxl>