



December 17, 2023



# WESTBORO ELEMENTARY

## *Weekly Newsletter*

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### IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

**December 19:** Place field trip - Cloverbar 11:15 a.m.

**December 21:** Christmas Sweater/Wear Red or Green day!

**December 22:** PJ Day/Pancake Breakfast

**December 22:** Last day of school before Christmas Break

**December 22 - January 7:** Christmas Break - No school for staff or students

**January 8:** Classes resume

**January 9:** Grade 5D and 6W Fused Glass in school field trip

**January 10:** Early Dismissal - students dismissed 1 hour early

**January 10:** Gathering of First Nations, Metis and Inuit Families and Allies

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### CHRISTMAS BREAK

Westboro Elementary will close for the Christmas break at the end of the day on Friday, Dec. 22, 2023. The school will reopen on Monday, Jan. 8, 2024. 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 Dec. 25, 2023 to Jan. 1, 2024

Open Jan. 2, 2024; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. \*for location and contact information visit [www.eips.ca](http://www.eips.ca).

From everyone at Elk Island Public Schools, we wish all of you a happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year.

# GATHERING OF FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS AND INUIT FAMILIES AND ALLIES

Once again this school year, the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education team is hosting a series of family gatherings. These gatherings are a time in the evening when we can meet together to share, learn and connect. All family members of all ages are welcome, and dinner will be provided at all gatherings.

Gathering 1 focuses on music with Métis fiddlers Alex Kusturok and Brianna Lizotte for our Métis Kitchen Party. There will be dinner served at 5:30 p.m. with a dance to follow where these two professional fiddlers will play for us and teach some basic Métis dance steps. All families and friends are welcome.

To RSVP, fill out this [form](#). For more information, reach out to the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education lead teacher, Mrs. Richard. RSVPs are appreciated to help the Division plan accordingly.



**Family Night**



**Métis Kitchen Party**  
the evening of January 10



 **Elk Island Public Schools**

EIPS welcomes all First Nations, Métis & Inuit families and their Allies to our Family Night at Glen Allan Elementary, 106 Georgian Way, Sherwood Park.  
We are honoured to welcome Métis fiddlers Alex Kusturok and Brianna Lizotte for our Métis Kitchen Party.  
There will be dinner served at 5:30 p.m., then a dance to follow where these two professional fiddlers will play for us and teach some basic Métis dance steps. All families and friends are welcome.  
RSVP to the event by scanning the QR Code so we have food and beverages for all. Our amazing Bev Facey culinary team are serving traditional food to enjoy.

# MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

I want to extend warm holiday wishes to all students, staff and families on behalf of the Elk Island Public Schools Board of Trustees.

We're grateful to have school communities full of hard-working families committed to the success of their children. Education doesn't just happen in school, it happens at home too—in every homework assignment completed, every textbook chapter read and every test reviewed. Thank you for taking the time out of your day to cultivate learning at home, so that students are eager to strive for their best at school the next day. We also appreciate the countless hours school councils put into planning events and appreciate all the people who volunteer at and attend them. Your support is invaluable.

We hope you enjoy all the holiday concerts and festivities happening at your schools, and that you get some well-deserved rest during the break. To each and every person, have a wonderful holiday season and a healthy and happy New Year.

We look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Jan. 8, 2024.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays,

Cathy Allen EIPS Board Chair

## STRATHCONA CHRISTMAS BUREAU

Westboro is proud to support the Strathcona Christmas Bureau. We have started accepting new unwrapped gifts and toys for all ages from **November 20-December 20**. If you would like to make a monetary donation please scan this **QR code**. Your donations are sincerely appreciated!

**Note: Food donations cannot be accepted.**



## LOOKING FOR CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS



Westboro Entripyshops is now open for all your **Westboro Warrior spirit wear!** Explore a great selection of brands that fit every budget.

- Order before December 7th for delivery in time for the holidays
- 10% of all sales go back to your school
- Free shipping on all orders over \$119
- Shop is open 24/7, 365 days/year
- Entripyshops [Login](#)

# SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON BUDGET PLANNING FOR 2024-25

Alberta Education allocates funds to school boards to fulfill their delegated responsibilities of providing education programs for students in kindergarten to Grade 12. As part of Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) commitment to stakeholder engagement and to continue allocating resources according to local priorities, the Division conducts an annual budget planning survey to seek input from staff, families, Grade 12 students and community partners.

The survey is voluntary, anonymous and takes about 5 to 10 minutes to complete. The survey questions suggest possible budget areas for EIPS to focus its resources, which align with the Division's current [Four-Year Education Plan](#). If you believe there are other areas where the Division should concentrate its resources, you can also indicate what these are. EIPS will consider all budget planning input to guide future decision-making.

[COMPLETE THE SURVEY NOW](#)

**Survey closes Dec 20, 2023**

Grade 12 students will complete the survey at school.

Thank you for sharing your input to help inform Division planning.

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION STARTS SOON!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2024? If so, it's almost time to register for kindergarten. Kindergarten registration opens for the 2024-25 school year on Feb. 1, 2024. 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 [www.westboroelementary.ca](http://www.westboroelementary.ca).

## RETURNING STUDENT REGISTRATION: 2024-25

Mark your calendars! Returning student registration for the 2024-25 school year will take place Feb. 8-21, 2024.

Families of all current students—with the exception of graduating Grade 12 students—must complete the process to confirm the school their child plans to attend in the 2024-25 school year or advise the Division of their plans not to return to EIPS. 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. Watch for more details in the new year.

# ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES ADDICTIONS AND MENTAL HEALTH NEWSLETTER

The December edition of the Alberta Health Services Addiction and Mental Health Newsletter focuses on smoking and vaping. [Newsletter](#)

Themes include:

- [The new year brings new opportunities to speak to your kids](#)
- [Nicotine products](#)
- [Talk to youth about smoking and vaping](#)
- [Talking to youth matters](#)

## HAS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION RECENTLY CHANGED?

Have you recently moved or has your contact information changed? Westboro Elementary encourages families to review the information the Division has on file to ensure it's up to date. Using the **Student Information Update** available through the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#), families can review the current information on file for each student—including addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, parent and guardian information, emergency contacts, medical details and other related information—and submit any updates needed.

**Current contact information is also crucial in the event that your child becomes ill, or there is any type of emergency situation. We have recently had several incidences where we have been unable to contact a family member.**

Reviewing and updating the form ensures the school and Division have the most up-to-date information regarding your child. Your review is especially important as the Division prepares for 2024-25 registration processes beginning in the new year.

**NOTE:** Only submit updates for the changes that have already taken place. If you're moving later this school year, you'll submit the necessary updates to your information through the **Student Information Update** after you've moved.

If you have questions about the form or any trouble with your Parent Portal account, contact the school office at 780-467-7751.

WISHING YOU  
a Merry  
Christmas  
and a  
WONDERFUL  
New Year

From all the staff at Westboro Elementary



**Westboro**  
ELEMENTARY

# Strathcona County Information

## **SANTA SWIM**

Saturday, December 23, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Splash into Christmas with Santa Swim – proudly sponsored by Cambrian!

- Photos with Santa
- Pool games
- Mermaids
- And more!

Children under 8 years old must be within arm's reach of someone 14 or older at all times while in the pool. Ratio is one supervising person to a maximum of three kids under eight. Lifejackets are available free of charge.

\*Regular facility admission rates apply, or valid with your Active Pass. [Learn more here.](#)

## **FREE WINTER PLAY DAY – FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!**

Wednesday, December 20

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Emerald Hills Regional Park (4501 Emerald Drive)

Activities include hot chocolate, skating, snow play, wagon rides and more.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1219436418994227/>

## **RING IN THE NEW YEAR**

Ring in 2024 with free, family-friendly festivities!

Sunday, December 31 starting at 6:00 p.m.

Fireworks at 8:00 p.m. – early enough for even the youngest of festival goers to enjoy!

The fun will take place at Broadmoor Lake Park and includes activities at Festival Place and the Sherwood Park Arena and Sports Centre.

<https://www.strathcona.ca/.../news/2023/12/14/new-years24/>