

the JAMES MOWAT Messenger

September 2023



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to a new school year! We welcome both new and returning students to our James Mowat Elementary family.

We encourage you to come to our 'Meet the Staff' night on September 12 from 6:00 to 6:30pm.

Parent Council is a great way for parents/guardians to get involved. Parent Council's first meeting of the year on Monday, September 25th at 6:00pm in the library.

We look forward to an exciting year with your children.

Mr. Stacey Boyko, Principal

Mrs. Amaya Ortigosa, Assistant Principal



September at a Glance:

Aug 31	First day of classes
Sept 4	No School - Labour Day
Sept 6	Early dismissal
Sept 12	School Photos (K & Gr. 1-6)
Sept 12	Meet the Staff 6:00-6:30pm
Sept 13	School Photos (K - track A only)
Sept 22	<u>Terry Fox School Run Day</u>
Sept 25	Parent Council/PAA Meeting
Sept 29	Wear Orange - Orange Shirt Day (school)
Sept 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
Sept 30	<u>Orange Shirt Day</u>

Looking ahead to October:

Oct 2-6	Read In Week
Oct 4	Early dismissal
Oct 5	<u>World Teachers' Day</u>
Oct 6	No School - PL Day
Oct 9	No School - Thanksgiving Day
Oct 16	Parent Council/PAA Meeting
Oct 24	Photo retakes (K & Gr. 1-6)
Oct 25	Photo retakes (K - track A)



Meet the Staff - Sept 12th

We invite you to meet your child(ren)'s teacher(s) on Tuesday, September 12 from 6:00 to 6:30pm.

Medical Information

If your child has allergies or a medical condition which staff should be aware of, please submit a correction and verification form with your child's updated medical information. If applicable, you will be asked to fill out additional medical forms (Medication Management, Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan, or Asthma Emergency Plan for students).

If your student requires any medication while at school, please contact the office and you will be asked to fill out the appropriate medical form.

School Photos



Student and class photos are on Tuesday, September 12th. Photos will start shortly after 8:30am. The Track A Kindergarten class will have their photos taken on Wednesday, September 13th. Photo Retakes will take place on October 24th and October 25th.

Lates and Absences

If your child is going to be away or will be late, please contact the school by phone (780-992-1272) or through the 'Student Attendance' button on our website. You will need to provide your child's name, class, and reason for the absence.

To send an absence through the 'Student Attendance' button, go to our school website (www.jamesmowat.ca) and click on the 'Student Attendance' button on the right side of the home page. Select 'Student Attendance' from the drop down menu of our Contact Section and fill in your information. Your child's absence will be sent directly to the school office once you hit Submit.

Please Note: All absence notifications should be sent to the Student Attendance email address rather than emailing your child's teacher directly.

Monthly School Newsletters

James Mowat School uses SchoolMessenger to notify parents by email when the newsletter is posted on the website each month. Login to your PowerSchool Parent Portal account at any time to update your email address.



Music Times!

Welcome back to Music! It's that time of the year when the handchime ensemble will begin preparing for special events and assemblies.

The **Handchime Ensemble** will be offered to students in grades 5 and 6. There is a limited number of handchimes, therefore, auditions will take place for grade 5 students on Thursday September 14 and for grade 6 students on Friday September 15. Audition times are outside the music room. Students who make it through the audition will have their first practice on **Wednesday, September 20th, 2023** at 12:20-12:40pm.



Terry Fox Run and "Toonies for Terry"

Our school will be participating in the Terry Fox Run on September 22. Please ensure your child(ren) are dressed for the weather, as students will complete the run outside (weather permitting). We will also be collecting "Toonies for Terry" which will be donated to the Terry Fox Foundation.

Orange Shirt Day - Friday, September 29

Our school will be participating in the annual Orange Shirt Day on September 29. We invite all staff and students to wear an orange shirt on September 29 in recognition of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Snacks and Cutlery

Please ensure your child remembers to pack all of their needed supplies for the day. Students are reminded to bring their lunch, snacks, and water bottle each day, as well as any needed utensils for their snack/lunch.

Nut Aware School

James Mowat is a Nut Aware School. Several students and staff at the school suffer from allergies. The most prominent allergy is one to nuts and nut products. Elk Island Public Schools has a "Nut Aware" strategy. Please do not send any nuts or nut products to school. Thank You for your cooperation.



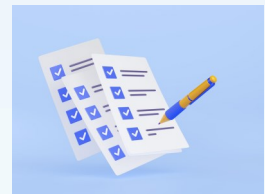


Update your PowerSchool information

The EIPS Correction and Verification Form is now available online through your [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). Use the form to access and update your child's records information—including address, parent and guardian information, emergency contacts and medical information. Reviewing the form and submitting updates ensures the school has the most up-to-date information regarding your child.

When reviewing the form, pay close attention to all listed phone numbers, email addresses and emergency contact information. Also, if you recently moved, now is the time to ensure the Division has your updated address. Throughout the year, the Division and school uses the listed information to communicate with families about important information, including updates, the latest news and events.

[EIPS Correction and Verification Form](#) **Review and update the form by Sept. 22nd.** For more information about the PowerSchool Correction and Verification Form, contact the school office at 780-992-1272.



Permission Click Forms

Your child's annual **Technology Use Agreement** and **Code of Conduct Acknowledgement** forms need to be completed. These forms were sent via Permission Click. Be sure to add notifications@permissionclick.com to your safe sender list to ensure required forms aren't mistakenly directed to your junk mail folder.

Pay school fees online!

School fee information for the 2023-24 school year will be posted on the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) in late September. 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 online using a credit card.

Don't forget to 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 certain school activities such as field trips, class projects, athletic-team fees and more. Additionally, junior high and senior high fees can change as courses are added and deleted.

If you're unable to pay your school 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 eips.ca.



Reminders:

- DROP OFF** Supervision is provided before school beginning at 8:15am in the morning. Please do not drop off or have your children arriving at the school before this time.
- DOGS** We would ask you not to bring your dogs onto the school grounds when dropping off children in the mornings, at recess times, or when picking children up after school. Some children are very nervous and anxious around dogs and we want all the children to feel safe.
- EARLY DISMISSAL** A reminder that students will be dismissed early the first Wednesday of each month because of the monthly staff meeting. Classes will be dismissed at 2:05 p.m.
- CELL PHONES** EIPS Cellphone Policy for Students in kindergarten to Grade 6 is no access to cellphones or personal devices during the school day, including during breaks and the lunch hour—the only exception, students with a diagnosed medical condition or an identified inclusive-educational need.
- VOLUNTEERS** All volunteers in the school are required to fill out the [Volunteer Declaration Form](#) annually and sign in at the office.

BICYCLE GUIDELINES:

- Students should ride their bicycles up to the school grounds area, dismount and walk their bikes to the rack.
- Bicycles should be locked to the rack immediately.
- Bicycle racks are out of bounds during school hours.
- At noon or after school, when you are going home, students should walk their bikes to the end of the school grounds area and then proceed home.
- No bicycles should be ridden through the parking lot or the student pickup area.
- Bicyclists must wear an approved helmet at all times.



Looking for Staff Contact Information?

If you'd like to reach out to your child's teacher directly, simply log in to your PowerSchool Parent Portal account. From the Grades and Attendance page, you can click on the name of any of your child's teachers to email them directly.

To connect with school administration and main office staff, refer to the online contact form www.jamesmowat.ca/contact to send an email to the applicable person directly. From the online contact form, you can also send an email to the school to report your child's absence.

FNMI Corner...

Statement of Apology

James Mowat, along with all schools in the Division, display the federal government's official statement of apology on behalf of Canadians for the Indian Residential Schools system. The apology was formally made on Wednesday, June 11, 2008 by then Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable Stephen Harper. We commit to moving forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of collaboration and reconciliation.



You can read the Statement of Apology [here](#).

You can view and listen to the apology [here](#).

Parent Council Corner...

Parent Council/Parent Advisory Association Meeting:

The first meeting of the year will be on September 25th at 6:00pm (library). All parents/guardians are welcome to attend. Meetings will be the 3rd Monday of each month.

If you are interested in more information about parent council/parent advisory association please email jamesmowatpaa@gmail.com



Welcome Back Message

Welcome back, EIPS families! Don't forget to check your inbox for an email with important info about the 2023-24 school year. The message includes details about PowerSchool, SchoolMessenger and other systems the Division uses. You can also find a copy of the message on the [Division website](#).

Sync the School Calendar to your calendar

Did you know you can sync the school calendar to your own calendar? Simply, visit www.jamesmowat.ca/about/calendar and click on the applicable subscription option:

- Download to iCal
- Add to Google Calendar
- Subscribe to Calendar

NOTE: Options are located above the calendar.

Once you click on the desired subscription option, follow the instructions. Within seconds, your calendar will contain all James Mowat Elementary's important dates including holidays, school-closures days, planned activities, events and more.

Video surveillance on buses

Did you know each EIPS bus is equipped with video surveillance?

Video surveillance and equipment help:

- ensure the safety of all students, drivers and property; and
- discourage destructive acts.

On a regular basis, EIPS Student Transportation reviews the video recordings, in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. The recordings assist the department with monitoring student and driver conduct and may be used as evidence in a disciplinary matter.

EIPS buses are also equipped with [Tyler Drive tablets](#). The goal: To enhance safety, improve communication, increase efficiency and provide oversight. These tablets allow bus drivers to stay on time with turn-by-turn route directions and show student pictures and information when bus drivers get to stop locations. To ensure students get where they need to go, there are now two distinct audible tones when students scan their bus pass boarding or leaving the bus. One tone indicates they're getting on the correct bus or at the correct stop, and the other tone indicates they're on the incorrect bus or leaving at the incorrect stop. By using live information, Tyler Drive tablets provide more accuracy than paper schedules.

For more information about the collection, use and disclosure of personal information, contact the EIPS FOIP Co-ordinator at 780-464-3477.



Your Future in MIND

Download these bus apps for a successful ride!

Have a child taking the bus this school year? Download the following apps to stay up to date with all the busing information you'll need throughout the year.

Bus Status

A new version of the Bus Status app is available: Bus Status 4. The app provides the same features and functionality as before, but faster and more reliable for users. Families who previously used the Bus Status 3 app will need to download the new version from the App Store or Google Play. You won't be able to update directly from one version to the next. New users can download Bus Status 4 directly now.

Through the Bus Status app, families can access information about buses that are running late or cancelled throughout the year. Simply save your child's bus routes as favourites and turn on push notifications to stay up to date.

Refer to the [Bus Status: Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more information about the update, and plan to download the new version now.

Ride 360

The Traversa Ride 360 website and app enable parents and students to access their own secure data for bus stop location, route and pickup time. With Division buses equipped with GPS hardware, Ride 360 uses GPS geolocation to let users know when to expect their bus each day. Parents and students log in with their own information to access their specific routing information and details.

Ride 360 will be updated in the coming year. Families are encouraged to download the current Ride 360 app from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#) for the start of the school year and set up their account. When the update takes place, login information will seamlessly roll over to the updated app.

Refer to [additional instructions and the tutorial video](#) on the Division website for more details about setting up your Ride 360 profile.

For more information about transportation services, refer to the [Student Transportation](#) section of the EIPS website.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOL

Kids are more likely to remain healthy when you are involved in their education.

Maintain ongoing communication with your child's teacher.

Participate in community events that tie into what your child is learning, such as taking in the local museum.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOL IS ONE OF THE 40 DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS

Assets are 40 values, experiences and qualities that help kids succeed.

Children & teens want you involved.

Connect with teachers and regularly check in with your kids.

WAYS TO STAY INVOLVED IN YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION

- Connect with their teacher
- Volunteer
- Talk to your child about school
- Ask teachers how you can get involved

WAYS TO STAY INVOLVED IN YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION

- Offer your skills to the school
- Help with an activity
- Set up or clean up after a classroom party
- Help plan a safe grad
- Offer help with sport days
- Organize fundraising events

MORE RESOURCES

search-institute.org
keepconnected.searchinstitute.org/
community.hmhc.ca/

Information on mental health, community supports, programs and services in your area:



Addiction Services Help Line
1-866-332-2322

Mental Health Help Line
1-877-303-2642





EIPS DIVISION CALENDAR 2023-24

Regular School Day

No School – Statutory Holiday

Early Dismissal for Students

No School for All Students and Staff

First Instructional Day (Semester 1 and 2)

No School for Students
– Professional Learning/Operational Day

Important Dates

- Aug 29** Professional Learning Day
- Aug 30** Operational Day
- Aug 31** Classes Begin
- Sept 4** Labour Day – Statutory Holiday
- Sept 30** National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Oct 6** Professional Learning Day
- Oct 9** Thanksgiving Day – Statutory Holiday
- Nov 6-10** November Break
- Nov 10** Day-in-Lieu: Remembrance Day
- Nov 11** Remembrance Day – Statutory Holiday
- Nov 13** Classes Resume
- Dec 25-Jan 5** Christmas Break
- Dec 25** Christmas Day – Statutory Holiday
- Dec 26** Boxing Day – Statutory Holiday
- Jan 1** New Year's Day – Statutory Holiday
- Jan 8** Classes Resume
- Jan 31** Professional Learning Day
- Feb 1** Second Semester Begins
- Feb 8-9** North Central Teachers' Convention
- Feb 19** Family Day – Statutory Holiday
- Mar 1** Professional Learning Day
- Mar 22** School Closure Day
- Mar 25-29** Spring Break
- Mar 29** Good Friday – Statutory Holiday
- Apr 1** Easter Monday – Division Closure
- Apr 2** Classes Resume
- May 3** Professional Learning Day
- May 16-17** School Closure Days
- May 20** Victoria Day – Statutory Holiday
- June 21** National Indigenous Peoples Day – No Exams
- June 26** Last Instructional Day
- June 27** Last Operational Day

AUGUST 2023

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EIPS KINDERGARTEN CALENDAR 2023-24

Regular School Day
No School – Statutory Holiday

Early Dismissal for Students
No School for All Students and Staff

First Day of Class
No School for Students – Professional Learning/Operational Day

SCHEDULE A:
Mondays, Wednesdays
and select Fridays

SCHEDULE B:
Tuesdays, Thursdays
and select Fridays

Important Dates

- Aug 29** Professional Learning Day
- Aug 30** Operational Day
- Aug 31** First Instructional Day Calendar B
- Sept 1** First Instructional Day Calendar A
- Sept 4** Labour Day – Statutory Holiday
- Sept 30** National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Oct 6** Professional Learning Day
- Oct 9** Thanksgiving Day – Statutory Holiday
- Nov 6-10** November Break
- Nov 11** Remembrance Day – Statutory Holiday
- Dec 25 - Jan 5** Christmas Break
- Dec 25** Christmas Day – Statutory Holiday
- Dec 26** Boxing Day – Statutory Holiday
- Jan 1** New Year's Day – Statutory Holiday
- Jan 31** Professional Learning Day
- Feb 8 & 9** North Central Teachers' Convention
- Feb 19** Family Day – Statutory Holiday
- Mar 1** Professional Learning Day
- Mar 22** School Closure Day
- Mar 25 - 29** Spring Break
- Mar 29** Good Friday – Statutory Holiday
- Apr 1** Easter Monday – Division Closure
- May 3** Professional Learning Day
- May 16-17** School Closure Day
- May 20** Victoria Day – Statutory Holiday
- June 1** National Indigenous Peoples Day
- June 24** Last Instructional Day Schedule A
- June 25** Last Instructional Day Schedule B
- June 26-27** Operational Days

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