

# the JAMES MOWAT Messenger

September 2024



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to a new school year! A warm welcome to our new families. We look forward to a great year with your child (ren).

James Mowat is pleased to welcome Mrs. Romanowska (Assistant Principal), Mrs. Watson (K), Miss Marchand (Gr.2), Mrs. Dexter (Gr. 6) to James Mowat Elementary. Welcome back to Mrs. Payne (EA) and Miss Humphrey (EA) who will be with us again this year.

Please join us on September 16th at 6pm in the library for the first meeting of our Parent Council and Parent Advisory Association. This is the AGM and a great way for parents/guardians to become involved.

To stay up to date on what's happening at our school please check the calendar on our [website](#) regularly.

Mr. Stacey Boyko, Principal  
Mrs. Lana Romanowska, Assistant Principal



## September at a Glance:

Aug 29	First day of classes
Sept 2	No School - Labour Day
Sept 4	Early dismissal
Sept 13	Indigo Adopt a School Fundraiser (Chapters St. Albert) - Begins
Sept 16	Parent Council/Parent Advisory Association Annual General Meeting (AGM) at 6pm
Sept 16	Terry Fox online donations begins
Sept 19	School Photos Grades 1 to 3 and T/Th Kindergarten
Sept 20	School Photos Grades 4 to 6 and M/W Kindergarten
Sept 24	Apple Fundraiser Orders Due
Sept 26	<a href="#">Terry Fox School Run Day</a>
Sept 27	Orange Shirt Day
Sept 27	Terry Fox online donations ends
Sept 30	No School - <a href="#">National Day for Truth and Reconciliation</a> and <a href="#">Orange Shirt Day</a>

## Looking ahead to October:

Oct 2	Early dismissal
Oct 4	No School - PL Day
Oct 6	Indigo Adopt a School Fundraiser (Chapters St. Albert) - Ends
Oct 10	Photo Retakes (K & Gr. 1-6)
Oct 11	Photo Retakes (K - M/W)
Oct 14	No School - Thanksgiving



JAMES MOWAT  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

9625 - 82 Street, Fort Saskatchewan, AB T8L3T6

Phone: 780 992 1272

[www.jamesmowat.ca](http://www.jamesmowat.ca)



## School Photos



Student and class photos are on Thursday, September 19th for Grades 1 to 3 and Kindergarten T/Th and Friday, September 20th for Grades 4 to 6 and Kindergarten M/W.

Photo Retakes will take place on October 10th and October 11th.

## Indigo Adopt a School Fundraiser, Chapters St. Albert - Sept 13 - Oct 6

We are excited to announce that our school was selected for the Indigo Love of Reading Foundation's Adopt a School Fundraiser this year. This fundraiser runs from September 13th to October 6th. Our partner store is the Chapters in St. Albert and they will be fundraising on our behalf. Our students made bookmarks that will be sold at the Chapters in St. Albert to raise funds. Our school community will also be raising funds to support our library through our online fundraising page: <https://indigoloveofreadingfoundation.givecloud.co/fundraisers/james-mowat-elementary>. Our school will receive every dollar raised during these three week and will receive a 30% discount off books at Indigo, Chapters and Coles when using the fundraiser donations. We look forward to filling our library with new books following this fundraiser!



## 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 grade 4, 5 and 6. There is a limited number of handchimes, therefore, all grade 4, 5 and 6 students will be given the opportunity to audition for this ensemble. Auditions will take place for grade 4 students on Thursday September 19 and grades 5 & 6 students on Friday September 20. Audition times are outside the music room. Students who make it through the audition will have their first practice on **Wednesday, September 25th, 2024** at 12:20-12:40pm.

## Nut Aware School

James Mowat is a Nut Aware School. **Please do not send any nuts or nut products to 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. Thank You for your cooperation.





## **Reminders:**

### **DROP OFF**

Supervision before school starts at at 8:15am. Please do not drop off or have your children arriving at the school before this time.

### **LATE**

If your child arrives after 8:30am, have your child go to the main doors and check in at the office. To minimize classroom disruptions, please do not go with your child to their classroom.

### **DOGS**

Please do not bring dogs on the school grounds when dropping off or picking up your child(ren). Some children are very nervous and anxious around dogs and we want all the children to feel safe.

### **MEDICATION**

If your student requires any medication while at school, including inhalers, prescription medication or over the counter medication, please contact the office to fill out the appropriate form.

### **EARLY DISMISSAL**

Students are dismissed early (2:05pm) the first Wednesday of each month because of the monthly staff meeting.

### **CELL PHONES**

No access to cellphones or personal devices during the school day, including during breaks and the lunch hour. There is a phone in the office students can use, if needed.

### **VOLUNTEERS**

All volunteers in the school are required to fill out the [Volunteer Declaration Form](#) annually and sign in at the office.

### **ENTERING THE SCHOOL**

Ring the doorbell to the left of the front entrance to be let into the school. Upon entering the school go immediately to the office to drop off items or to pick up students. This will help us make sure all visitor protocols and student release policies are being followed and will minimize classroom disruptions.



## **Bikes & Scooters**

For safety reasons, we request students follow these guidelines:

- ◆ Students should ride their bicycles/scooters up to the school grounds area, dismount and walk their bikes/scooters to the rack.
- ◆ All bicycles/scooters should be locked to the rack available outside of the school immediately.
- ◆ Racks are out of bounds during school hours.
- ◆ After school, when you are going home, students should walk their bikes/scooters to the end of the school grounds area and then proceed home.
- ◆ No bicycles/scooters should be ridden through the parking lot or the student pickup area.
- ◆ Bicyclists must wear an approved helmet at all times.

## **Lunch Break Expectations**

Please review these expectations with your child. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **Eating time:**

- ◆ Stay seated and visit quietly
- ◆ No sharing of food
- ◆ Clean up and put away lunch when dismissed

### **Outside time:**

- ◆ Bike racks and bleachers are off limits
- ◆ No climbing trees or pulling on branches
- ◆ Play safely and have fun
- ◆ Soccer Rules:
  - \* No drop kicks
  - \* No slide tackles
  - \* Do not kick with full force

## **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.



### **Terry Fox Run and Donations**

Our school will be participating in the Terry Fox Run on September 26. Please ensure your child (ren) are dressed for the weather, as students will complete the run outside (weather permitting). We will also be collecting donations online only for the Terry Fox Foundation between September 16 to 27 at <https://schools.terryfox.ca/71916>

### **Orange Shirt Day - Friday, September 27**

Our school will be participating in the annual Orange Shirt Day on September 27. We invite all staff and students to wear an orange shirt on September 27 in recognition of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.



### **Indigenous Corner**

Creating a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation fulfills Call to Action #80 that states, “honour Survivors, their families, and communities, and ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process.”

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is commemorative and solemn in nature. It is a day for remembrance and an act of reconciliation. September 30 was picked as the original date of Orange Shirt Day and the new National Day for Truth and Reconciliation because it is the time children had to leave their homes and return to residential schools. EIPS will be commemorating the day on Friday, September 27 as Monday, September 30 is a division closure day.

### **Pay school fees online!**

Wondering when and how to pay for school fees? [School fee information](#) for the 2024-25 school year will be posted on the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) in late September. All fees are due within 30 days of being posted. *NOTE:* Additional fees may be added throughout the year—for example, at the beginning of each semester, as your child takes part in various activities, or they may be adjusted by changes in selected optional courses in junior and senior high school. If you’re unable to pay your school fees, you can apply to have certain [fees waived](#). The application deadline is Dec. 16, 2024.

For more information, visit <https://www.jamesmowat.ca/about/fees> on the school website. Alternatively, contact Sherri at 780-992-1272.



## **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 via Permission Click (Medication Management, Anaphylaxis Emergency Plan, or Asthma Emergency Plan for students).

If your student requires any medication (including inhalers, prescription medication or over the counter medication) while at school, please contact the office and you will be asked to fill out the appropriate Permission Click medical form.

## **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](http://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 Elementary uses SchoolMessenger to notify parents by email when the newsletter is posted on the website each month. Be sure to add [communications@eips.ca](mailto:communications@eips.ca) and [general.jmw@eips.ca](mailto:general.jmw@eips.ca) to your safe sender list to avoid having important messages funneled to your junk mail folder. You can directly manage your phone and email subscription preferences through your SchoolMessenger account. For information and detailed instructions on setting or changing your email preferences go to <https://www.eips.ca/contact/subscribe>.



## **Update your PowerSchool information**

The EIPS Correction and Verification Form is available online through your [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#)—at the top of the left-hand menu. 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 use the listed information to communicate with families about important information, including updates, the latest news and events.

### **PowerSchool Correction and Verification Form** **Review and update the form by Sept. 25, 2024**

If you have questions about the form or your Parent Portal account, contact the school office at 780-992-1272.

## **Sync the School Calendar to your calendar**

Did you know you can sync the school calendar to your own calendar? Simply, visit <https://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.

## **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](https://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.



## **Parent Council & Parent Advisory Association Corner...**

### **Next Parent Council/Parent Advisory Association Meetings:**

Sept 16 at 6:00pm (library). All parents/guardians are welcome to attend. This is the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and executive positions on both Parent Council and the Parent Advisory Association and many sub committees positions will be filled at this meeting.

### **Parent Advisory Association Fundraising:**

#### **“Fall” Into Fundraising Apple Fundraiser**

James Mowat Parent Council is running an exciting fundraiser this fall; premium farm-fresh apples, directly from a BC Fruit Farms. These apples will be bigger, fresher, tastier, and crunchier than the ones you buy in our local stores. Most importantly, over 35% of each purchase goes towards our school's fundraising effort. In the past, fundraising has paid for new musical instruments, school-wide presentations, rewards for patrollers, classroom supports, and more! Now we are mainly fundraising for a new playground! Each purchase will help enhance and enrich our kids' learning environment, so sinking your teeth into those delicious apples will satisfy your soul as well as your tastebuds. (And rumor has it, it may even keep the doctor away!)



Please [fill out the form](#) (available on website) and include payment of cash (exact) or cheque to JMSPAA.

**Orders due by September 24 by 2:45 PM. No late submissions will be accepted.**





Your Future in MIND

## Download these bus apps for a successful ride!

Is your child riding the bus this year? If yes, [download](#) the My Ride and Bus Status apps to stay in the know about your child's bus stop location, route, pickup time and whether their bus is running on schedule.

## Division Code of Conduct

EIPS has three administrative procedures (APs) that address the Division's code of conduct:

[AP 311: Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments for Students](#)

[AP 350: Student Code of Conduct](#)

[AP 351: Student Conduct on School Buses](#)

The Division, and James Mowat Elementary, are committed to ensuring all members of the school community are provided with welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments that respect diversity and foster a sense of belonging. EIPS encourages all students, staff and families to review the procedures to understand and practice the conduct expected throughout the Division.

## Video surveillance at schools and on buses

Did you know each EIPS bus is equipped with video surveillance, and many school sites have video monitoring equipment?

Video surveillance and equipment help:

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

As needed, EIPS school administration and Student Transportation staff review video recordings, in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. The recordings assist schools and the Division with monitoring student and driver conduct and may be used as evidence in a disciplinary matter.

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

## Did you know?

The Board of Trustees meets throughout the school year to discuss and make decisions regarding matters important to students, families, schools, communities and public education overall. Community members are encouraged and welcome to attend in person or to tune into the public livestream on the [EIPS YouTube channel](#). For 2024-25 Board Meeting dates, visit the [EIPS website](#) and [subscribe to the Division calendar](#).



# EIPS DIVISION CALENDAR 2024-25

☐ Regular School Day

○ Early Dismissal for Students

☆ First Instructional Day (Semester 1 and 2)

■ No School – Statutory Holiday

■ No School for All Students and Staff

◻ No School for Students – Professional Learning/Operational Day

## Important Dates

- Aug 27** Professional Learning Day
- Aug 28** Operational Day
- Aug 29** Classes Begin
- Sept 2** Labour Day – Statutory Holiday
- Sept 30** National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – Division Closure
- Oct 4** Professional Learning Day
- Oct 14** Thanksgiving Day – Statutory Holiday
- Nov 11-15** November Break
- Nov 11** Remembrance Day – Statutory Holiday
- Nov 18** Classes Resume
- Dec 23-Jan 3** Christmas Break
- Dec 25** Christmas Day – Statutory Holiday
- Dec 26** Boxing Day – Statutory Holiday
- Jan 1** New Year's Day – Statutory Holiday
- Jan 6** Classes Resume
- Jan 29** Professional Learning Day
- Jan 30** Second Semester Begins
- Feb 6-7** North Central Teachers' Convention
- Feb 17** Family Day – Statutory Holiday
- Mar 7** Professional Learning Day
- Mar 21** School Closure Day
- Mar 24-28** Spring Break
- Mar 31** Classes Resume
- Apr 18** Good Friday – Statutory Holiday
- Apr 21** Easter Monday – Division Closure
- May 2** Professional Learning Day
- May 19** Victoria Day – Statutory Holiday
- June 21** National Indigenous Peoples Day
- June 25** Last Instructional Day
- June 26** Last Operational Day

### AUGUST 2024

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### SEPTEMBER 2024

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### OCTOBER 2024

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### NOVEMBER 2024

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### DECEMBER 2024

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### JANUARY 2025

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### FEBRUARY 2025

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### MARCH 2025

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### JUNE 2025

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### JULY 2025

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# EIPS KINDERGARTEN CALENDAR 2024-25

□ 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 27** Professional Learning Day
- Aug 28** Operational Day
- Aug 29** First Instructional Day Schedule B
- Aug 30** First Instructional Day Schedule A
- Sept 2** Labour Day – Statutory Holiday
- Sept 5** First day of kindergarten busing
- Sept 30** National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Oct 4** Professional Learning Day
- Oct 14** Thanksgiving Day – Statutory Holiday
- Nov 11-15** November Break
- Nov 11** Remembrance Day – Statutory Holiday
- Dec 23 - Jan 3** Christmas Break
- Dec 25** Christmas Day – Statutory Holiday
- Dec 26** Boxing Day – Statutory Holiday
- Jan 1** New Year's Day – Statutory Holiday
- Jan 29** Professional Learning Day
- Feb 6 & 7** North Central Teachers' Convention
- Feb 17** Family Day – Statutory Holiday
- Mar 7** Professional Learning Day
- Mar 21** School Closure Day
- Mar 24 - 28** Spring Break
- Apr 18** Good Friday – Statutory Holiday
- Apr 21** Easter Monday – Division Closure
- May 2** Professional Learning Day
- May 19** Victoria Day – Statutory Holiday
- June 21** National Indigenous Peoples Day
- June 23** Last Instructional Day Schedule A
- June 24** Last Instructional Day Schedule B
- June 25-26** Operational Days

AUGUST 2024						
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SEPTEMBER 2024						
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DECEMBER 2024						
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MARCH 2025						
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JUNE 2025						
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