

the JAMES MOWAT Messenger

December 2024



Dear Parents/Guardians,

December is a busy month with parent teacher interviews, Mowat Express reading challenge, and Christmas Concerts.

We would like to thank everyone who came to celebrate their child during parent teacher interviews and at the Christmas Concerts.

The school will be closed to staff and students December 23rd to January 3rd for Christmas Break. Classes resume on Monday, January 6th.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful holiday season!

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



December at a Glance:

Dec 4	Early dismissal
Dec 4-5	Parent Teacher Interviews
Dec 11	Kindergarten Christmas Concert
Dec 12	Grade 1-6 Christmas Concert
Dec 15	Hot Lunch Orders Due
Dec 18	Holiday Sweater/Festive Wear Day
Dec 20	PJ Day
Dec 20	Hot Lunch (Tim Hortons)
Dec 23-Jan 3	No School - Christmas Break

Looking ahead to January/February:

Dec 23-Jan 3	No School - Christmas Break
Jan 6	Classes resume
Jan 8	Early Dismissal
Jan 13	Parent Council/Parent Advisory Association Meetings - 6pm
Jan 27	Family Literacy Day
Jan 29	No School - PL Day
Feb 1	Kindergarten and new student registration opens
Feb 5	Early Dismissal
Feb 6-7	No School - Teachers' Convention
Feb 10-24	Returning Student Registration
Feb 17	No School - Family Day



Has your contact information recently changed?

Have you recently moved or has your contact information changed since the start of the year? James Mowat 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.

Reviewing and updating the form ensures the school and Division have the most up-to-date information regarding your child. This is especially helpful as the Division prepares for 2025-26 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 780-992-1272

Reading Challenge

Our annual "Mowat Express" reading challenge is this month. Student reading powers our train to the North Pole! Every night students will bring home train tickets for you to sign after they have completed at least 15 minutes of reading. Each ticket returned counts as 1 kilometer towards our goal of travelling 4000 kilometers to the North Pole. If we reach the North Pole before the Christmas Break there will be a special school prize.

Lunch/Snacks - Reminders

Please ensure your child remembers to bring their lunch, snacks, and water bottle each day, as well as any needed utensils. A reminder we are a Nut Aware School. Please do not send any nuts or nut products to James Mowat.





Your Future in MIND

Share Your Thoughts on Budget Planning for 2025-26

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 five 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 18, 2024

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

Fee Waiver Application Deadline

If circumstances exist where you're unable to pay school or transportation fees, you can apply to have [fees waived](#) by submitting an [Application for a Waiver of Fees](#). The application deadline is Dec. 16, 2024. If you're new to the Division, the deadline is the latter of Dec. 16, 2024, or 45 days after registration.

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 using Visa or MasterCard. All fees are due within 30 days of being posted.

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 and more.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines, visit www.eips.ca/schools/fees and <https://www.jamesmowat.ca/about/fees>. Alternatively, contact Sherri Jensen at James Mowat Elementary at 780-992-1272.



Your Future in MIND ●

Kindergarten Registration Starts Soon!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2025? If so, it's almost time to register for kindergarten.

Kindergarten registration for the 2025-26 school year opens on Feb. 1, 2025.

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.

Did you know?

Alberta's publicly funded systems—public, Catholic and francophone—serve the educational interests of almost 720,000 kindergarten to Grade 12 students across the province. Funding diverted to alternative educational institutions, both for infrastructure and programming, negatively impacts the public system's ability to provide comprehensive, equitable, accessible and mandated programming for 90 per cent of the province's students.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Board of Trustees

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

As busy as we know this time can be, it's nice to take a moment to look back with gratitude on the past year. We are thankful for the incredible parents and caregivers in the communities we serve, who consistently step up to support both students and educators—day in and day out. We appreciate our staff members, in schools and at Central Administration, for their commitment to excellence in learning. And we celebrate students across the Division, who work so hard and make us proud.

We hope you enjoy all the wonderful concerts, shows and festivities happening at your school, and that you get a chance for rest and reflection during the break. To all of you—have a joyous holiday season, and a healthy and happy New Year.

We look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Jan. 6, 2025.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays,

Cathy Allen

EIPS Board Chair



Parent-Child Mother Goose[®]

Open doors to early emotional development and loving relationship building with a FREE 10-week group program connecting you and your child through songs, rhymes and stories.

Option One

Tuesday mornings, January 14 to March 18
Infants aged 0 to 18 months
9:30 am to 10:30 am at Dr. Turner Lodge

Option Two

Wednesday evenings, January 15 to March 19
Children aged 0 to 3 years
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm at Fort Saskatchewan Public Library

Option Three

Wednesday mornings, January 15 to March 19
Children aged 0 to 3 years
9:30 to 10:30 am at Families First Society

Registration opens Wednesday, December 04, 2024 at 6:00pm

Please register by calling 780-998-5595 ext. 226

Join our Village. Siblings Welcome!



Families First Society
FORT SASKATCHEWAN

Alberta
Government



Families First Society
FORT SASKATCHEWAN

SILLY SPROUTS PLAY

WINTER SCHEDULE 2025

IN-PERSON

DROP-IN

Join us for songs, rhymes,
stories and time to play!

Drop-in to this **FREE**,
facilitated program for
caregivers and their
children aged 0 to 6 years.

Alberta Provincial Family
Resource Networks

Program of the Fort Saskatchewan
and Sturgeon Region
Family Resource Network



MONDAYS: CARDIFF

Cardiff Community Hall
55320 RR 251 Sturgeon County

9:30 to 11:00 am

January 13, 20, 27
February 03, 10, 24
March 03, 10, 17, 31

No program:
Feb 17, March 24

MONDAYS: GIBBONS

Gibbons Cultural Centre
5115 51 Street

9:00 to 10:30 am

January 13, 20, 27
February 03, 10, 24
March 03, 10, 17, 31

No program:
Feb 17, March 24

TUESDAYS: REDWATER

Pembina Place
4944 53 Street

9:30 to 11:30 am

January 14, 21, 28
February 04, 11, 18, 25
March 04, 11, 18

TUESDAYS: FORT SASKATCHEWAN

Families First Building
9901 90 Street

12:30 to 2:30 pm

January 14, 21, 28
February 04, 11, 18, 25
March 04, 11, 18

THURSDAYS: LEGAL

Citadel Centre
4812 51 Avenue

9:30 to 11:30 am

January 16, 23, 30
February 06, 13, 20, 27
March 06, 13, 20

BON ACCORD

We hope to be back in
Bon Accord soon-
stay tuned for a new
location!



Understanding Your Grief and Loss

Grief is a natural response to loss.

Join Jody Cook (MSW) for this monthly in-person group for individuals who are grieving a loss.

January 09, February 06, March 06, 2024
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Loss can come in different forms... death of a loved one, loss of a job, loss of a relationship, and covid related losses to name a few.

This group is a psychoeducational support group.

This group aims to improve ones understanding of grief and loss, gain support from other members, and learn a variety of coping strategies.



This is an open group, come when you can and childcare can be provided.

Please call to register for the weeks that work for you and if you need childcare.

 **CONTACT**

780-998-5595 EXT. 221 TO REGISTER