

# the JAMES MOWAT Messenger

January 2025



Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope you had a wonderful break and enjoyed time with friends and family.

Thank you to Mrs. Sikora, staff, and students for all their hard work at the Christmas Concert. It was amazing. Thank you to families for donating towards our new playground, we raised \$866.95.

A reminder if you will be volunteering (in the school, on field trips, etc.) to please complete the [Volunteer Declaration Form](#). This must be completed each school year.

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

We wish all our families a year filled with joy!

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



## January at a Glance:

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 20	Fort Saskatchewan Indigenous Winter Family Gathering at Fort Saskatchewan Elementary
Jan 27	<a href="#">Family Literacy Day</a>
Jan 29	No School - PL Day
Jan 31	Dress as your future career
Jan 31	Career Day (Div 2)

## Looking ahead to February:

Feb 1	Kindergarten and new student registration opens at 9am
Feb 5	Early Dismissal
Feb 6-7	No School - Teachers' Convention
Feb 10	Parent Council/Parent Advisory Association Meetings - 6pm
Feb 10	Returning Student Registration opens - form sent via Permission Click
Feb 12	Rudolph Hennig Junior High Open House 6-7:30pm
Feb 17	No School - Family Day
Feb 24	Returning Student Registration deadline
Feb 26	Pink Shirt Day



## **KD Challenge**

The Student Council is excited to launch the **KD Monument Building Challenge**! Starting January 13th, we'll be collecting Kraft Dinner and other brands of mac and cheese dinners to support the Fort Saskatchewan Food Bank. Each class will use the donations to build a creative monument, and be entered for a chance to win a **classroom pizza party**! Please send in all donations by **January 31st**, and winners will be announced on **Monday, February 1st** during Circles.



## **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.**

## **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 opens for the 2025-26 school year on Feb. 1, 2025 at 9am.

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 James Mowat Elementary's kindergarten program is available at <https://www.jamesmowat.ca/>.





## **Returning Student Registration for 2025-26**

The Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) [returning student registration](#) process for 2025-26 takes place Feb. 10-24, 2025. Through the online form, all families will confirm the school and program their child will attend next year or advise the Division if they aren't returning. For students who want to attend a non-designated school next year, these requests must be submitted through the returning student registration process—acceptance is based on available space.



On February 10, the parent/guardian on file in PowerSchool identified as the Permission Click contact for each pre-kindergarten to Grade 11 student will receive an email through Permission Click with a link to the form. If your family hasn't received any Permission Click forms this school year, contact the school office so we can investigate any technical issues before registration season.

## **2025-2026 School Fee Feedback**

We are currently collecting feedback regarding school fees. Please take a few minutes to complete this [Fee Survey](#). School administration will use feedback provided to help determine fees for 2025-2026, which will then be shared at the March or April School Council Meeting.

## **Did you know?**

If your child misses just two days a month for any reason for ten of their school years, they'll have missed the equivalent of one entire year of school. Students who frequently miss school, even as early as kindergarten, are also more likely to have difficulty in school, at post-secondary and in their career. As every family has unique circumstances, EIPS uses a multi-tiered approach to re-engage students with chronic absenteeism. In addition, the Division promotes strategies to support and encourage regular attendance for all students. If you're concerned about consistent student attendance for your child or youth, contact the school for support. An informative [video](#) is also available.

## **EIPS Annual Education Results Report 2023-24: Now available!**

EIPS' [Annual Education Results Report 2023-24](#) is now available online. The report details how EIPS is doing relative to Alberta Education's performance measures; how it's supporting students to achieve the best possible outcomes; and its successes, challenges and priority strategies moving forward. A brief [overview](#) of the report is also available.



### **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.



### **Reminder - School Fees**

If you have outstanding school and/or noon supervision fees, please submit payment at your earliest convenience. 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. Note: School Fees are not available in the Mobile App.

Don’t forget to log into 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 and library fines.

### **Inclement Weather**

With the winter season in full effect, we have a few reminders for families:

Ensure students have clothing appropriate for expected weather conditions.

If weather conditions are bad enough to impact student transportation, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) advises families directly, as well as posting on social media and [eips.ca](http://eips.ca) as early as possible.

Decisions regarding bus cancellations are guided by an [EIPS administrative procedure](#) that states, “school bus service may be suspended...when there is a forecast or current temperature of -40 C, including wind chill factor, in one or more regions.”

Other reasons for suspending or delaying school bus services include adverse weather and poor road conditions.

When school bus services are suspended, schools remain open to students.

For more information, contact EIPS Student Transportation at 780-417-8151.





## **Student Messages**

To reduce disruptions to classrooms, please communicate afterschool arrangements with your child before school. Your child's agenda is a good way to communicate this information with your child's teacher. For unexpected changes, please contact the office as early as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **Substitute Noon Supervisors Needed**

We are currently looking for substitute noon hour supervisors to work 1-hour (\$20.67) on a casual, as needed basis. Our lunch break is 11:57-12:42 (early dismissal days: 11:21-12:06) .



If you are interested please apply online at [eips.ca/careers](https://eips.ca/careers), job posting [Noon Supervisor \(JMW\)](#).

## **EIPS 2025-26 Division Calendar: Now available**

Next school year (2025-26) calendar is now available online at <https://www.eips.ca/calendar>

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

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

Meetings are held at 6pm in the school library. All parents/guardians are welcome to attend.

- ◆ January 13, 2025
- ◆ February 10, 2025
- ◆ March 10, 2025
- ◆ April 14, 2025
- ◆ May 12, 2025
- ◆ June - no meeting

Did you know PAA offers babysitting services at the school so parents can attend these meetings? If you are interested in attending, but will require babysitting, please send an email to [jamesmowatpaa@gmail.com](mailto:jamesmowatpaa@gmail.com) so we can ensure we have babysitters available.



EIPS Fort Saskatchewan Indigenous

# WINTER

## *Family Gathering*

Join EIPS Fort Saskatchewan First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Families for a night of storytelling with Métis knowledge holder Leaha Atcheynum followed by story stones led by Métis artist Connie Kulhavy.

January 20, 2025  
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

*Come and Join*  
Fort Saskatchewan Elementary School