

Mundare School Newsletter

December 2022

BE BRAVE – BE BOLD

Principal's Message



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! With the snow fall and drop in temperatures, it feels like we are headed into that deep freeze right before the holidays. I have been reminding students to dress for the weather, especially our bus students, just in case they are unexpectedly stopped for a prolonged period of time. Thank you to the families that have donated extra gloves, clothing, and other winter gear to the school, we greatly appreciate your generosity!

With all the talk about snow, cold, and Christmas, we are excited to be hosting our Christmas Around the World evening on Thursday, December 15 from 6:00 - 7:00 pm. A Permission Click RSVP message has been sent to all families, so that we can plan for all of our activities. Please check your email if you haven't responded yet. We can't wait to see you there!

In our November Newsletter, we shared that we would be hosting a Winter Family Dance on Friday, December 9. At our School Council Meeting in November, the parent group decided that they would postpone this event into the new year due to the larger number of illnesses going around the school and eventually our outbreak status. This event will now be hosted by our Mundare School Society on Friday, January 13 and more details will follow shortly. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

We will be hosting our next School Council meeting on Monday, January 16 at 5:30pm, with our Mundare Parent Society (fundraising group) at 6:30pm. All parents and guardians are invited to attend. This is an important opportunity to stay connected to the goals of Mundare School. To see previous meetings and agendas, be sure to check our school website.

Please regularly visit our school website www.mundareschool.ca to see all school related information. I wish each of our families a wonderful break with lots of time spent with family and friends, holiday traditions, and time reflecting on the past year. Here's to a fantastic 2023 new year!

Ms. Melissa Kerr

Upcoming events and important dates:

- See the calendar at the end of the newsletter for specific details.
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Absence Check

Parents/guardians are asked to inform the school, whenever possible, if their child is going to be absent. Messages may be left on the school's main number 24 hours a day, or by a note. If a child is absent and no reason has been received in the office by **9:30 AM**, then the office staff will attempt to contact parents/guardians or emergency contacts.

Bell Schedule

- [Mundare School Bell Schedule 2022-23](#)

Division Calendar 2022-23

- [EIPS Division Calendar](#)
- [EIPS Kindergarten Calendar](#)

To view the 2023-24 calendar, visit www.eips.ca.

Did you know you can sync the Division calendar to your personal calendar? You can. Simply, visit www.eips.ca/calendar and click “subscribe to calendar.” It's that easy.

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. 15, 2022. If you're new to the Division, the deadline is the latter of Dec. 15, 2022, 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.mundareschool.ca/about/fees>. Alternatively, contact Ms. Bartch at Mundare School at 780-764-3962.

Have your say, EIPS wants to hear from you!

The [Annual Education Results Report 2021-22](#) is now available. The report is a summary of 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. Both the full report and an overview are available for readers.

Reflecting on this report and the past school year, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) wants to hear from you to gain a deeper understanding of your confidence in the Division and its strategic direction. As such, the annual EIPS Year-in-Review: Stakeholder Confidence Survey is open December 1-18.

The survey covers a range of topics, including student growth and achievement, learning supports, teaching and leading, governance and resource allocations. The information gathered will help EIPS:

- assess stakeholder confidence—families, staff, Grade 12 students and community members;
- gather input to guide future decision-making;
- gather feedback to enhance its [Four-Year Education Plan](#); and
- provide a platform for families, students, staff and community members to have a voice in ensuring high-quality, student-centered learning environments in EIPS schools.

EIPS will share the results in the Annual Education Results Report 2022-23.

[TAKE THE SURVEY NOW!](#) Survey closes Dec. 18, 2022

NOTE: EIPS encourages everyone to respond honestly. Your identity and answers are confidential and cannot be linked to you or your child's school. Grade 12 students will have an opportunity to complete the survey at school. Families who do not want their child to complete the survey simply need to advise their child's school.

Christmas Break

Mundare School will close for the Christmas break at the end of the day on Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2022. The school will reopen on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023. 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

- Open December 22 and 23; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Closed Dec. 26, 2022 to Jan. 2, 2023
- Open January 3; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. *for location and contact information visit www.eips.ca.

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

Returning Student Registration for 2023-24

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) will once again conduct an online returning student registration process to confirm student registrations for the 2023-24 school year. 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 2023-24 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. The 2023-24 returning student registration takes place Feb. 1-28, 2023.

Access to the Returning Student Registration Form is provided through the PowerSchool Parent Portal. If you don't have a [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) account, you need to set one up before Feb. 1, 2023. Create a PowerSchool Parent Portal account

For more information, contact the school office at 780-764-3962.

Counseling Corner

Breathing in and out and listening to sounds are daily bodily functions that we often take for granted. When we intentionally focus on our breath or calming sounds around us we can calm our body by slowing our heart rate, lowering our blood pressure, and increasing our attention to the task at hand.

This month students are practicing deep breathing which is a physiologically effective tool to reduce stress levels. One of my favorite cues for deep breathing is to remember to slowly smell the flowers and blow out the candles. Our students will also practice intentionally listening to soft sounds such as the sound of a triangle to calm their body.

Having a moment to listen and focus on soft sounds can help us become more reflective and less reactive.

Where to Find the Information You Need

Elk Island Public Schools and Mundare School use a handful of key systems to share information with students and families. Depending on the information you're looking for, it's important to know where to look.

PowerSchool is the primary student information system within the Division. There is an associated app, but the functionality is limited, and families don't need to download it. From the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#), you can:

- Access student grades and report cards;
- Review student absences;
- Pay school and transportation fees; and
- Submit official updates to student or family information.

The PowerSchool Student Portal provides similar access to grades and absence information for students directly.

Brightspace provides more of a day-to-day look at what's happening with your child's learning communicated directly from your child's teacher. From [Brightspace Parent & Guardian](#), you can see your child's:

- classroom activity feed,
- grade items and grade feedback from instructors,
- upcoming assignments,
- portfolio evidence and
- quizzes

depending on which of the program functions are specifically used by your child's teacher.

Brightspace for Students is where teachers share updates, calendar reminders and learning materials with students. Compatible with Google, it also allows students to submit assignments, complete quizzes, and see grades and teacher feedback. The Pulse app for students is associated with Brightspace for Students.

SchoolMessenger is the system the Division and schools use to send email and phone communication to families. The contact information in SchoolMessenger is populated from PowerSchool. Through [SchoolMessenger](#), families can:

- receive general, emergency and attendance messages by phone, email or both; and
- manage their subscription preferences for these types of messages.

The easiest way to stay connected is to download the SchoolMessenger app. Get the latest updates direct to your mobile device and enable push notifications to never miss a message. Families can also check back on past messages—for up to 30 days—directly in the app rather than searching to find an old message buried in your inbox.

If you have trouble accessing any of these systems or have questions about them, contact the school at 780-764-3962.

Inclement Weather

With the winter season almost here, we want to remind families to dress children appropriately for the weather when getting ready for school or the bus. The weather often changes unexpectedly throughout the day, so please select suitable outerwear and ensure your child is prepared for changing conditions.

If inclement weather conditions occur, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) advises families of any bus cancellations using various communications tools—automated-telephone messages, alerts posted on www.eips.ca and school websites, Twitter, Facebook, local radio stations, and notification through both the Bus Status and the Ride 360 apps. Morning bus cancellations are posted on www.eips.ca by 6:30 a.m.

Decisions regarding bus cancellations are guided by EIPS administrative procedures that state, “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. EIPS believes families have the right and responsibility to make choices for their children based on their beliefs and perceptions of safety during times of inclement weather.

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

Parents Math Corner

Each month we will share different tips and tricks for parents to use with their children at home. See the next page for some ideas.

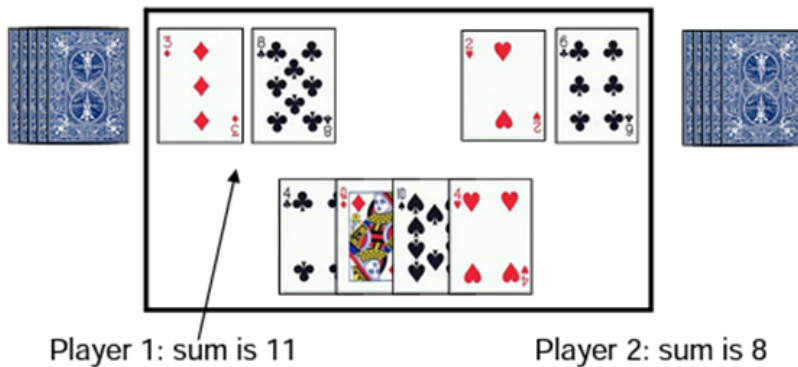
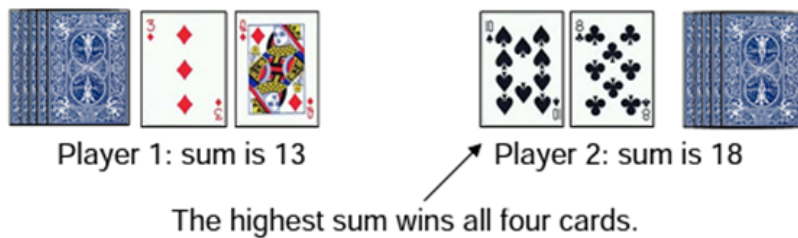
Addition Number Battle (Grades 1 - 3)

Players: Groups of two

Materials: Deck of cards, face cards worth ten, Ace worth 1 or 11 (teacher decides)

Skill: Number recognition and addition

How to Play: Players split a deck of cards and simultaneously flip over their top two cards.



If the cards sums have the same value, the cards are placed in a center pile. The next hand is played normally and the winner of the next addition number battle takes the center pile as well.

~Taken from: Acing Math (One Deck At A Time!) A Collection of Math Games

See December's Calendar Below

December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				DAY 5	DAY 6 ECS Day	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	DAY 1 Wear Red and Green Day	DAY 2 Ugly Sweater Day	DAY 3 Early Dismissal Christmas Hat Day	DAY 4 Ribbon Day	DAY 5 Jersey Day	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	DAY 6 ECS Day Christmas Twin Day	DAY 1 Plaid Day	DAY 2 ECS Day Christmas Formal Day	DAY 3 Christmas Festival 6-7pm Holiday Sweats Day	DAY 4 ECS Day Christmas in Tropics Day	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	DAY 5 ECS Day Slippers Day	Day 6 Last Day of Classes PJs Day	No School			
25	26	27	28	29	30	
	No School					