



Mundare School Newsletter

January 2023

BE BRAVE - BE BOLD

Principal's Message



Welcome to 2023! I hope that each of our families had a wonderful break, filled with shared time with family and friends.

I wanted to thank our parent volunteers that helped supervise during lunch time just before the break. This allowed all staff to be together for a Christmas meal. It was greatly appreciated, thank you!

I also wanted to share my gratitude for the fantastic turn out for our Christmas Festival evening. It was so wonderful to see families back in the building. It was a great evening of community and Christmas spirit!

Our School Council will now be hosting our Winter Family Dance on Friday, January 13, from 6:00-8:00pm. Students in each class had the opportunity to vote in a theme for this dance, and choose songs for the playlist. We will be sending out invitations early next week, but save the date for next Friday!

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. We are hoping to get parent volunteers to help us start a Hot Lunch Committee. If you are interested in helping please email me or come to this meeting!

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:

- **January 4:** Classes resume and early dismissal day
 - **January 13:** Winter Family Dance
 - **January 16:** School Council Meeting at 5:30pm
 - **January 23:** Farm Safety Presentation
 - **January 30:** Professional Learning Day (schools closed to students)
 - **January 31:** Second semester begins
 - **February 1:** Early dismissal
 - **February 1:** Returning student registration opens
 - **February 1:** 2023-24 kindergarten registration opens
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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.

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.

Kindergarten Registration Starts Soon!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2023? If so, it's almost time to register for kindergarten.

Kindergarten registration opens for the 2023-24 school year on Feb. 1, 2023.

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 Mundare's kindergarten program is available at www.mundareschool.ca.

Jr. High School Information Nights

To help you make an informed decision about high school, senior high schools throughout Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) are hosting information sessions for all Grade 9 students and their families. The sessions allow students and families to meet the staff; tour the school; learn about the curriculum, course offerings and alternative programming available; discuss diploma requirements and various career paths; plus, more. Decisions about whether each event will take place virtually or in-person will be made closer to each date. Refer to the event calendar on each school website for details in the coming weeks. Make sure to take part to learn everything you need to know about the Division's senior high programs and courses.

- [EIPS senior high programming and information night details](#)

Counseling Corner

As we start the new year many of us start new habits or set new goals. Students at Mundare School are working towards building new tools and strategies to regulate their minds and bodies. The winter can be treacherous, however there are so many beautiful landscapes and fun winter activities to enjoy. This month is focused on mindful looking. By looking intentionally at the details of an object, it engages critical thinking, develops attention to detail, and can be tied to learning social cues and reacting appropriately. This mindful activity switches the brain away from worrying about the past and future, and instead focuses the brain on the present moment.

This month, students will recognize Bell Let's Talk day. This is a time to talk about what mental health is and what we can do to take care of ourselves and others. Stay tuned for more information on how Mundare School will develop our understanding of the importance of mental health.

Junior High Honours Program: 2023-24 applications

Is your child considering the Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Junior High Honours program for the coming school year? The [EIPS Junior High Honours program](#) is designed for students in grades 8 and 9 with high achievement in their core courses and who enjoy a challenging academic environment. Students enrolled in Junior High Honours are expected to complete 25 hours of community service in an area of passion and will be automatically enrolled in the “CTF: Enterprise and Innovation” option course. Students must have a minimum 80 per cent average in each of the four core subjects to be eligible to apply to the Junior High Honours program.

On January 9, the parent/guardian No. 1 on file in PowerSchool for all current grades 7 and 8 families will receive direct communication from EIPS outlining the application process for the EIPS Junior High Honours program—including a link to the application form. Applications for the 2023-24 EIPS Junior High Honours program are due Jan. 18, 2023.

EIPS will confirm conditional acceptance in the 2023-24 Junior High Honours program in late-January—based on a student's marks as of January 18. Students must maintain their honours standing on the year-end report card in June to receive final acceptance in the Honours program for the upcoming year.

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.

See January’s Calendar Below

January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			DAY 1 Early Dismissal	DAY 2	DAY 3 ECS Day	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	DAY 4 ECS Day	DAY 5	DAY 6	DAY 1	DAY 2 Winter Family Dance	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	DAY 3 ECS Day School Council Mtg @ 5:30pm	DAY 4	DAY 5 ECS Day	DAY 6	DAY 1 ECS Day	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	DAY 2 ECS Day Farm Safety	Day 3	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6	
29	30	31				
	No School for Students	DAY 1				