



Mundare School Newsletter

February 2023

BE BRAVE - BE BOLD

Principal's Message



January has flown by with the blink of an eye and February brings lots of excitement! February will feel like a short month, as we have Teachers' Convention and Family Day weekend. We will also be hosting our next set of Parent/Teacher interviews on Monday, February 6 and Tuesday, February 7 from 4:30 - 7:45pm. Parents and guardians can book their interview time directly from our school website. Go to <https://www.mundareschool.ca/bookings> to make an appointment with your child's teacher.

As we focus on different initiatives like Pink Shirt Day on February 23, this month will be the honorary month of kindness. From practicing kindness to ourselves to extending it to others, we benefit when kindness is at the root of our interactions. What are some ways you can extend this lesson into your home and community life? Perhaps families can initiate different random acts of kindness or send positive notes to others. It would be great to see how everyone shares kindness throughout the month.

I wanted to thank our School Council and Dance Committee for hosting a fantastic evening for families to come together and dance. We had an excellent turn out for the event and greatly appreciated the support families showed in both attending and participating in our first fundraising event. As mentioned throughout the fall, our School Council and Society group has been focused on creating ways to raise money for our park replacement. This small event was able to generate \$510 towards that goal. Thank you for your time and support!

Parents and guardians of students from grade 4 -8 will be receiving some important mail from Alberta Education in the upcoming weeks. Every year, Alberta Education collects information from families in their Assurance Survey. This is an important survey to complete as it helps Mundare School identify the things we are doing really well and the areas we need to enhance. Data collected from this survey is also shared with our Board of Trustees in the fall. I cannot stress how important this data is to collect. All students in grade 4-8 will complete the Assurance Survey at school, along with teachers. This survey

closes on March 3, 2023. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the school at 780-764-3962.

Returning student registration is now open. All parents need to complete this process. This is particularly important for families that would like to move to a non-designated school. See below for more information.

We will be hosting our next School Council meeting on Monday, February 27 at 5:30pm, with our Mundare Parent Society (fundraising group) at 6:30pm. Please note the date change, as we usually meet on the third Monday of the month. 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.

Ms. Melissa Kerr

Upcoming events and important dates:

- **February 1:** Early dismissal
 - **February 1:** 2023-24 returning student registration opens (really important if you are wanting to attend your non-designated school)
 - **February 1:** 2023-24 kindergarten registration opens
 - **February 1:** 2023-24 new student registration opens
 - **February 6-7:** Parent/Teacher Interviews
 - **February 9-10:** North Central Teachers' Convention (schools closed to staff and students)
 - **February 17:** Random Acts of Kindness Day
 - **February 20:** Family Day (schools closed to staff and students; Central Services closed)
 - **February 23:** Pink Shirt Day
 - **February 28:** 2023-24 returning student registration closes
-

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

February 1-28 Elk Island Public Schools’ (EIPS) returning student registration process is now open. All current students, except Grade 12, must complete the online Returning Student Registration Form to confirm their enrolment in a school for the upcoming 2023-24 school year. 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. All current EIPS students are required to complete the form by Feb. 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 is Now Open!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2023? If so, it’s now time to register for kindergarten. To register, simply complete the online registration form at <https://www.eips.ca/programs-services/early-learning/kindergarten>.

To help families prepare, Elk Island Public Schools has put together an online EIPS Kindergarten Tool kit <https://www.eips.ca/programs-services/early-learning/kindergarten> 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

This past month, students participated in a school-wide initiative to spread awareness and create action in improving our mental health. Topics included mindfulness, self-care, affirmations, acts of kindness, advocating for help, and how to listen to others. By talking openly about mental health and self-care, Mundare students will be better prepared to self-advocate for themselves and support others in times of need. Way to go Dragons!

To match the February vibe of kindness and gratitude, Mundare students will be using affirmations to improve their self-talk. Often, we may find that we can be our own worst critics, but in order to live a healthy and happy life it is important that we become our biggest cheerleaders. To extend affirmation practices at home, try writing a positive statement on your mirror and say it out loud everytime you pass it. Reflect on how this simple practice can improve your self-esteem and create a positive outlook on your life!

I am BRAVE!
I can do hard things!
I am a great friend!
I make a difference in others lives!

Book Fair

We are so excited to announce that our school will be hosting another book fair starting February 6th to February 14th. The book fair will be open for students during lunch recess and in the evening of parent/teacher interviews on February 6th & 7th.

Our book fair is also accessible through our virtual link where you can shop anytime!
<https://virtualbookfairs.scholastic.ca/pages/5175677>.

All purchases from our book fair earn us rewards to buy new books for our library and classrooms.

Flyers will go home with your student February 1st. Your support is greatly appreciated!



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.

Incident 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 February’s Calendar Below

February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			Day 2 Early Dismissal Returning student registration opens	Day 3	Day 4 ECS Day	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Day 5 Book Fair Begins Parent/Teacher Interviews ECS Day	Day 6 Book Fair Parent/Teacher Interviews	Day 1 Book Fair ECS Day	School Closed Teachers Convention	School Closed Teachers Convention	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Day 2 Book Fair ECS Day	Day 3 Book Fair Ends	Day 4 ECS Day	Day 5	Day 6	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Family Day School Closed	Day 1	Day 2 ECS Day	Day 3 Pink Shirt Day	Day 4 ECS Day	
26	27	28				
	Day 5 ECS Day	Day 6 Returning student registration closes				