

Mundare School Newsletter

March 2023

BE BRAVE - BE BOLD

Principal's Message



I would like to thank all the parents and guardians that connected with our staff during the two-night parent/teacher interviews at the beginning of February. Coming together to celebrate the successes of our students is an important opportunity for families. If you weren't able to attend these two evenings, do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher over phone or email. Parents and guardians will be able to view kindergarten to grade 8 report cards on PowerSchool on Friday, March 17 at 3:30pm. If you need any assistance with PowerSchool, please contact Mrs. Bartsch in our office.

February was a great month to promote kindness. Students from different grades partnered together to learn more about other students at Mundare School. Students also demonstrated fantastic ideas for Random Acts of Kindness Week, with Pink Shirt Day embedded within that week. I particularly enjoyed observing the partnerships that our junior high students made with our youngest students in kindergarten and the grade 1/2 class.

Parents and guardians of students from grade 4 -8 should have received some important mail from Alberta Education in the past few 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 17, 2023. If you haven't completed it already, I would love if you could take a minute or two to completed the survey. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the school at 780-764-3962.

We will be hosting our next School Council meeting on Monday, March 20 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.

Ms. Melissa Kerr

Upcoming events and important dates:

- **March 3:** PD Day-school is closed to students
 - **March 3:** Last day for parents to complete the Alberta Education Assurance Surveys for parents of students in grade 4-8. This is a VERY important survey that provides looks for information back to the school. If you have been sent out a survey code, PLEASE complete the survey before the deadline. Thank you so much for your support.
 - **March 8:** School Ski Trip to Sunridge
 - **March 13-15:** Truth and Reconciliation Artist in Residence with grade 6 students
 - **March 17:** Report cards available online through PowerSchool
 - **March 20:** School Council meeting 5:30pm
 - **March 24-31:** Spring Break - no school for staff or students
 - **April 3:** Classes resume
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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

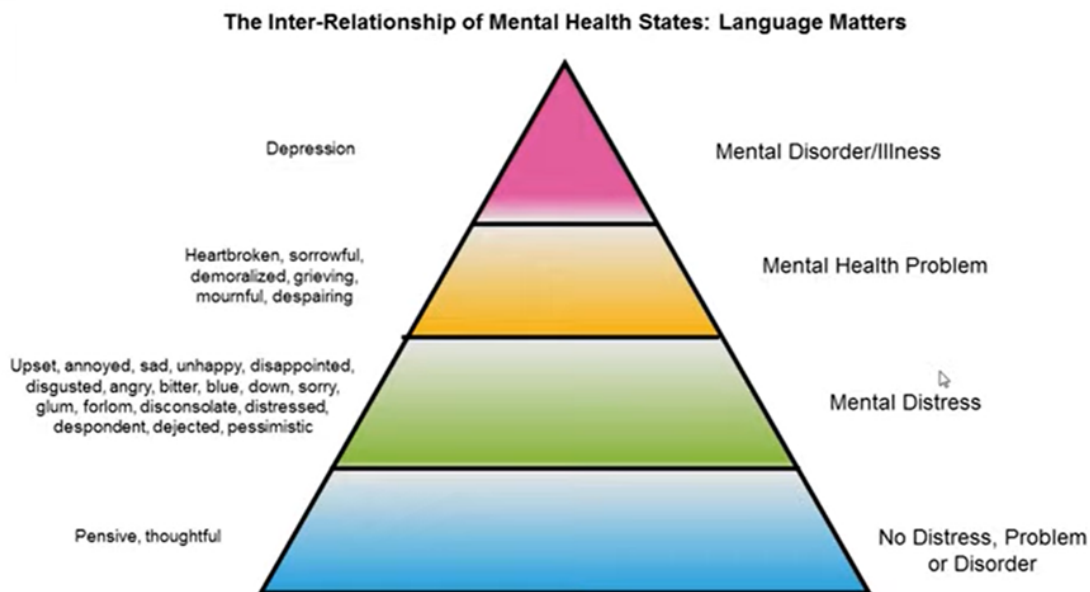
- [EIPS Division Calendar](#)
- [EIPS Kindergarten Calendar](#)

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.

Junior High Re-Set Room

Mundare School is excited to pilot a new space in the school to add to our supports for students. The “Re-Set Room” is a new classroom in the school for students to access when they need a safe place to regulate their brains and bodies. The room is fully supervised with a certificated teacher who is available to help students who are experiencing mental distress (including not being able to regulate themselves), have a mental health problem or a mental health disorder (see the graphic below for what these terms would include). This is a challenging time for kids of all ages and our goal is to create a safe place for our teens to regulate with adult support so they can return to the classroom ready to learn. All students can access the Re-Set Room if needed. If you child is regularly accessing the room, our staff will communicate this with you and we can put a more intensive plan in place to support your child if needed.



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](#)
- Vegreville Composite High School will have an orientation for new grade 7 and 8 students on Wednesday, April 5, 2023. All students are required to attend with a parent or guardian. Students will be able to choose their options that evening. Head to VJS [school website](#) for more information.

Have your say! EIPS' 2023 Annual Feedback Survey Opens March 1-23

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) wants to hear from you. Make sure to complete the 2023 EIPS Annual Feedback Survey: For parents and caregivers—open from March 1-23.

Every year, EIPS conducts the feedback survey to gauge its progress toward meeting the goals and priorities outlined in its [Four-Year Education Plan](#). Families are asked a series of questions about their experiences with EIPS and the school their child attends, the overall performance of the Division, the quality of education being provided to students and areas for improvement. The survey input helps the Division develop new strategies to better serve students and the wider community. [VISIT EIPS.CA TO TAKE THE SURVEY](#): March 1-23

NOTE: The survey is anonymous and only takes a few minutes to complete. If you want to share the experience of more than one child attending an EIPS school, simply complete the survey again.

Kindergarten Registration is 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 eips.ca/kindergarten.

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.

Pre-kindergarten Programming at EIPS

Is there a preschooler in your life experiencing developmental delays or challenges with speech-language or motor-skill development—big or small? If so, Elk Island Public School's Play And Learn at School (PALS) program could help.

Early learning lays the foundation for success in primary grades and beyond. As such, EIPS offers the pre-kindergarten PALS program in five of its elementary school locations. In fact, EIPS is now accepting applications for free speech-language assessments for those interested in registering in the PALS program this fall. The assessment helps determine if PALS is appropriate for your child.

If you know a preschooler, born in 2019 or 2020, who could benefit from pre-kindergarten programming or want to book an assessment, fill out the [PALS Program Request Form](#) or call 780-417-8219. For more information, visit www.eips.ca.

Watch for Thin Ice

Remember, be aware of thin ice this time of year. Depending on changing temperatures, ice can form and melt to varying degrees on outdoor bodies of water. Try to remind your child about the dangers of thin ice, obey all posted signs, take proper care and remain a safe distance from the ice.

For more information about ice safety, visit the [Canadian Red Cross](#).

Did you know?

The colour of ice may be an indication of its strength. Clear blue ice is the strongest. White opaque is half as strong as blue ice. And, grey ice is unsafe—greyness indicates the presence of water.

Counseling Corner

This past month was filled with kindness and positivity! It was wonderful to witness students thoughtfulness and sharing during Valentine's Day. Students participated in many thoughtful Pink T-Shirt day activities including intentional compliments with peers, writing supportive letters to struggling book characters, and showing school spirit by wearing pink t-shirts and odd socks! An environment of kindness and acceptance of others' differences is made possible by positive words and actions of our Mundare school community. Way to go Dragons!!

As spring approaches, our bodies are ready to get outside and get moving! Did you know that our bodies need movement to release the stress hormone called cortisol? Creating time for movement and rest is so important for our ability to focus on tasks, our heart

health, our brain development, and our mental health. This month students will recognize the link between physical health and mental health and how short movement breaks can improve overall wellness. This month I challenge you to enjoy a movement activity as a family. Do you enjoy swimming, skiing, playing catch, or taking a walk outside?

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 March’s Calendar Below

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			Day 1 Early Dismissal Hat Day	Day 2	No School - Professional Learning Day	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Day 3 ECS Day	Day 4	Day 5 ECS Day Ski Trip to Sunridge	Day 6	Day 1 ECS Day	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Day 2 ECS Day Artist in Residence (Gr 6)	Day 3 Artist in Residence (Gr 6)	Day 4 ECS Day Artist in Residence (Gr 6) Crazy Hair Day	Day 5	Day 6 Report Cards live on PowerSchool Wear Green Day	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Day 1 ECS Day	Day 2	Day 3 ECS Day	Day 4	No School - Spring Break	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	No School - Spring Break	No School - Spring Break	No School - Spring Break	No School - Spring Break	No School - Spring Break	