



Mundare School Newsletter

April 2023

BE BRAVE – BE BOLD

Principal's Message



I hope that our families were able to enjoy their time over Spring Break. We are now into the home stretch of the school year with just a quick few months left.

April will bring about some exciting school events, starting with Easter Egg making the first week back for students. Thank you so much to the Rietveld Poultry Farm for supplying the perfect eggs to decorate for Easter. We will also be hosting our Kindergarten Information Session on April 27 at 1:00pm for our new registrations. Lamont County's FCSS will be here that afternoon to provide "A Kinder Welcome". All kindergarten families are welcome, even if you haven't registered yet. Our School Council will be looking at different ways to connect our families through the spring season, so stay tuned to our school messengers and website.

Are you looking for ways to support the school? Email melissa.kerr@eips.ca to help support our Hot Lunch Program or attend our School Council meetings.

We will be hosting our next School Council meeting on Monday, April 17 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.

Ms. Melissa Kerr

Upcoming events and important dates:

- **April 3:** Classes resume
 - **April 5:** Early Dismissal
 - **April 7:** No school for students or staff - Good Friday
 - **April 10:** No school for students or staff - Easter Monday
 - **April 17:** School Council Meeting at 5:30pm
 - **April 20:** Gathering of First Nations, Métis and Inuit families
 - **April 27:** Kindergarten Information Session at 1pm
 - **May 3:** Jump Rope for Heart
 - **May 5:** Professional Learning Day no school for students
-

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.

Complete your Parent/Guardian Information Verification Form

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is currently reviewing and updating all parent and guardian contact information within the Division's student information system. This one-time, full-scale review is to ensure the Division has complete and accurate data on file as Alberta Education moves to a new way of capturing information in the provincial database.

As part of the data review, EIPS requires all families to carefully review the parent and guardian information on file for each student in your family—even if you've recently

completed a Student Correction and Verification Form. Families can quickly and easily indicate no updates are needed, if that's the case, or provide updated contact information as needed. The form also includes a handful of new questions to help the Division understand each parent and guardian's relationship to the student and their preferences for receiving communication from the school and Division.

To review your information, simply log in to your [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) and open the "Parent/Guardian Information Verification Form" from the left-hand menu or notification at the top of the page. Review all information carefully, provide updates where needed and submit your form by April 30. One form is required for each student currently registered at an EIPS school. Only one parent/guardian will complete the form for each student—all associated parent/guardian information for each student is available to review on the same form.

If you have any questions about your Parent/Guardian Information Verification Form, reach out to the school at 780-764-3962.

Counseling Corner

As we enter a new season of spring, our mind and bodies are ready to get out and get moving. In last month's newsletter, I mentioned the importance of moving to destress our bodies and to improve our physical health. Movement outside can also increase our mindfulness to our surroundings. When you go for a walk in the warm spring air, notice the birds chirping, the mud beneath your feet, and the sun on your skin. Recognizing our surroundings centers our thoughts and bodies to a calm and ready to learn state.

Jump Rope for Heart

This year Mundare school will once again be fundraising for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. We plan to have our assembly to kick start fundraising on May 3. Fundraising will close on May 12th. A newsletter will be sent home closer to the date.

EIPS Annual Education Results Report

Every year, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) publishes an Annual Education Results Report, which outlines the Division's Four-Year Education Plan, opportunities for growth and how it's supporting students to achieve the best possible outcomes. Read through this year's [EIPS Annual Education Results Report 2021-22](#) and discover how EIPS fosters learning environments for all students to learn, grow and thrive—and why it matters.

April Spotlight: Student Growth and Success

- [Early Learning](#): Ensuring early learners reach developmental milestones

- [Culture of Literacy](#): Dive deep into the data and learn how students are developing strong literacy skills
- [Math Matters](#): Enhancing reasoning, understanding and achievement through numeracy-rich classrooms
- [Boosting Educational Outcomes](#): Discover how EIPS supports the growth and achievement of students who self-identified First Nations, Metis and Inuit
- [Beyond high school](#): Supports and strategies that are creating real-life career pathways for learners

RELATED INFORMATION

- [EIPS Four-Year Education Plan: 2022-26](#)
- [EIPS Three-Year Capital Plan: 2024-27](#)

Math Homework Support for Parents and Caregivers

Looking to support your child in their math learning? [The Community Adult Learning and Literacy Society](#) (CALLS) is here to help! A CALLS instructor can walk you through kindergarten to Grade 6 math homework online so that you can feel confident in fostering your child's math skills. Support sessions take place virtually every Wednesday from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Simply call or text 780-667-8441 for a Zoom meeting link.

Junior High Information Nights: Running April and May

Junior high schools across EIPS are hosting information nights for all Grade 6 students and their families—taking place in April and May. Make sure to attend to learn everything you need to know about the junior high programs at your child's school. Those who attend will also have a chance to:

- meet the teachers;
- tour the school and classrooms;
- learn about the upcoming curriculum; and
- ask questions.

For specific dates and times, see: [EIPS Junior High Information Sessions 2023](#)

Get ready for Kindergarten

Do you have a child registered in kindergarten next year? If so, make sure to attend Mundare School's upcoming Kindergarten Information Session on April 27. You'll get to:

- tour the school;
- meet the teachers;
- gain insight on play-based learning; and
- see what a typical day looks like.

Kindergarten Information Night 2023:

- Date: April 27, 2023
- Time: 1:00pm

Location: Mundare School - Kindergarten classroom

To make the transition to school as smooth as possible, Elk Island Public Schools has put together a toolkit for families. The kit includes information about registration, important dates, programming options, what to expect, eligibility, finding your designated school, transportation and more. Find it at: Welcome to EIPS Kindergarten.

Additional information about Mundare's kindergarten program is available on the school website. www.mundareschool.ca.

A big THANK YOU to EIPS Volunteers

National Volunteer Week takes place April 16-22. On behalf of the Board of Trustees at Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS), I want to say a huge thank you to all EIPS volunteers and school families who help make the Division what it is today. Whether you volunteered for the first time this year or have committed many years to EIPS, your initiative, hard work and dedication are invaluable. You build a legacy for others to follow and a memory for students to cherish as they journey into their futures.

So, thank you again for your overflowing support. Your actions are a direct reflection of the kindness and compassion found in all the communities EIPS serves. This National Volunteer Week, I encourage everyone to celebrate the hundreds of volunteers and thousands of hours put into making schools across the Division places for students to learn, grow and succeed.

Trina Boymook Chair, EIPS Board of Trustees

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.

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 April’s Calendar Below

April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Day 5 ECS Day	Day 6 Jr. High to VJS	Day 1 Early Dismissal Hat Day	Day 2 Jr. High to VJS	No School - Good Friday	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	No School - Easter Monday	Day 3 Jr. High to VJS	Day 4 ECS Day	Day 5 Jr. High to VJS	Day 6 ECS Day	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Day 1 ECS Day School Council at 5:30pm	Day 2 Jr. High to VJS	Day 3 ECS Day Twin Day	Day 4 Jr. High to VJS	Day 5	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Day 6 ECS Day	Day 1 Jr. High to VJS	Day 2 ECS Day	Day 3 Jr. High to VJS Kindergarten Open House	Day 4 ECS Day	
30						