

January 2018

Elk Island Public Schools

THE WESTORO REPORT



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year to all Westboro families! We welcome a whole brand new year of learning, friendship, sharing and all the opportunities that this provides.

We look to January as a time in schools when teachers and students can settle in to teaching and learning and all the excitement this brings. We are looking forward to our Penny Carnival, Grade 5 and 6 Entrepreneurial Adventure Club and other special events as the month unfolds. Happy New Year!

2017-18 WESTBORO FAMILY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Many thanks to all who attended our beautiful Christmas concert that took place at Park Church on December 13, 2017. Due to the generosity of parents who purchased tickets for our Princess Parking and Front Row Seating Draw, we managed to raise over \$400.00 to put towards the costs of this concert. Thank you!

Thank you to the staff, and especially Mrs. Richard, for all their hard work in preparing for this event! It was well worth it!

Given the success of this event, it is our intention to continue with a Christmas Concert for the 2018 school year. The wonderful venue, which provides ample seating, parking and a warm and inviting atmosphere, makes the creation of a school Christmas concert easy to facilitate. Also, given the positive feedback we have received from parents and families, we believe that this event would be highly supported for an additional year. As soon as we are able we will confirm the date for next year's performance - not to be missed!!

Thank you for your ongoing support!



JANUARY

- 12 Newsletter
- 15 ECS online registration opens
- 17 Parent Council
6:30 pm
- 18 Logos Chapel 1 pm
- 19 Crazy hair & Crazy bread day
- 19 Hot Lunch
- 22 Alberta Opera
9:30 am
- 26 Crazy Bread for KR

FEBRUARY

- 2 Penny Carnival
- 7 Early Dismissal
- 7 Newsletter
- 8 & 9 Teachers' Convention - No school

PRINCIPAL
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SCHOOL NEWS

KUDOS !!!

A huge THANK YOU to all of the students and parents for your generous donations to our Mitten Tree and many other compassionate activities that took place around the school. Your kindness makes a difference to many families.

THANK YOU very much to all parents who volunteered to provide a delicious pancake breakfast for the entire school!

THANK YOU to the parents of School Council and Logos Society for organizing a festive Staff Appreciation Luncheon! Your thoughtfulness is sincerely appreciated!



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION STARTS SOON

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2018? If so, it's time to register for kindergarten.

Kindergarten registration opens for the 2018-19 school year on Jan. 15, 2018. To register, simply complete the online registration form at www.eips.ca/kindergarten.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION CHECK LIST:

- Determine your child's designated school
- Scan and upload all required documents: proof of name, residence, date of birth and citizenship.
- Additional documents to scan, if applicable include: Guardian Letter and Parental Custody Agreement if restrictions on access.
- Once the online registration is complete and submitted, a confirmation notice is sent to the given email address.

NOTE: The online registration form is available as of Jan.15, 2018 - the paper version no longer exists.

To help families prepare, Elk Island Public Schools has put together an online toolkit 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. Find it by visiting <http://www.eips.ca/programs-services/kindergarten>.

Additional information regarding Kindergarten can be found on our school website at www.westboro-elementary.ca.

2018-19 KINDERGARTEN SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE CHANGES

With the district implementing full-day kindergarten, the schedule has been standardized district wide. Logos kindergarten will now be on Mondays and Thursdays with alternating Wednesdays. Community (regular) kindergarten will now be on Tuesdays and Fridays with alternating Wednesdays. The calendars are located at the end of the newsletter.

RE-ENROLLMENT & REQUEST TO ATTEND A NON-DESIGNATED SCHOOL

Effective for the 2018-19 school year, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is changing the way in which students apply to attend a non-designated school. From March 1 to 15, 2018, parents of **all** EIPS students are being asked to pre-enrol their children online and indicate whether their child will be attending their designated school or if they wish to register at a different school. Acceptance at a non-designated school is based on available space – families will be advised of the outcome by April 13, 2018. Because of high enrolment numbers, some schools won't be accepting any non-designated students. Schools with closed boundaries will be identified prior to the pre-enrolment process.

Please note that should you request a non-designated school for your child and need busing, there are fees associated with this choice. Visit [Transportation Services](#) for more information.

As part of the pre-enrolment process, parents are also asked to check and update phone numbers, email addresses, mailing address and other important data – doing so will both make sure that the Division has the most current information available and eliminate the need to fill in the paper Correction Form that has traditionally been sent home every fall. Better yet, families will be able to go online and update their child's data throughout the year as circumstances change.

To determine your child's designated school, please check [EIPS school boundary maps](#).

PARENT COUNCIL

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a wonderful and relaxing break. Before the break, we hosted an amazing pancake breakfast. Thanks to the leadership of Debbie Klita and Heather Wieler and a ton of volunteers who mixed, cooked, served and cleaned up afterwards. Each year this event becomes even better! A huge thank you to Hi Pro Feeds who donated the sausages and to Sobeys who donated the oranges.

In January, the grade sixes will start planning the Penny Carnival. This is a fundraiser for them to help offset the cost of their year-end trip to Camp YoWoChAs which is a long-standing tradition at Westboro. We always need donations of cakes or cupcakes for the cake walk, so watch for that request to come home in the near future.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 17th 6:30pm in the library. We plan to review the school results and discuss how school council can help support various school initiatives. We hope you can join us!



ABORIGINAL STUDIES: JANUARY

For the month of January we will be working on the third of our Seven Grandfather Teachings, Humility, which is represented by the wolf. As in previous months, students in our regular program will be getting memory quotes and students in our Logos program will be getting Bible verses to take home. We encourage you to work with your children on memorizing the words to reinforce this teaching.

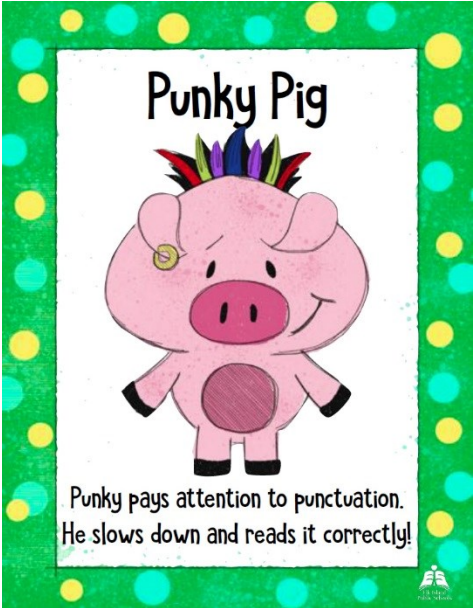
This month we will also begin our Project of Heart. As we move through the year we will be creating a school song and music video. We are grateful to have the guidance of Elder Wilson Bearhead, who will be helping us with this project. More information about Project of Heart can be found at: <http://projectofheart.ca/>

PUNKY PIG

Think about listening to your child read ...

- Do they pause at punctuation? Do they pause at the end of a line?

Meet Punky Pig

 <p>Punky Pig</p> <p>Punky pays attention to punctuation. He slows down and reads it correctly!</p>	<p>Punctuation is important. Have you seen the memes that show the difference between “Let’s eat, Grandpa” and “Let’s eat Grandpa”?</p> <p>Punctuation helps the reader understand text.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A comma means pause and a period means take a longer pause• A question mark can be indicated by raising the pitch of your voice a little.• An explanation point can be indicated by raising the volume of your voice.• Sometimes students will pause at the end of a line of text, rather than at the end of a sentence. By reading punctuation correctly, it will also help them to write as they will know intuitively what punctuation to use.
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View the video here <https://goo.gl/b7HPrs>

AMA SCHOOL SAFETY PATROLLERS

Once again many thanks to our dedicated team of School Safety Patrollers who are outside monitoring our crosswalks in the morning and after school. This is especially difficult in this cold weather. Thank you for the respect you show them by allowing them to guide you safely across the street.

A special mention goes out to our Patroller of the Month:

Graham in Grade 6.

Well done! Keep up the great work!



LOGOS SOCIETY NEWS



Happy 2018 Logos families! With all the snow we've had lately it as if everything has been made a clean slate for the coming year. I'm sure our children will make lots of "impressions" in the fresh snow as they work toward the end of this school year in June.

We had our first 2018 board meeting this week on January 9th. Our next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13 at 7:00 pm in the Sherwood Heights Jr High School library. Please come and meet your board and participate in our discussions as we continue to work

to support the teachers and overall Logos program.

We will also be having our first chapel of the New Year on January 18 at 1:00pm led by the Kindergarten class. Everyone is welcome to join the children in worship so please attend if you are able. It is wonderful to see the children raise their voice in praise. Please also remind your children that there is a prayer box outside of the office for their prayer requests. Feel free to add your own when you are at the school next.

If you want to keep up to date on what is happening with Logos, please visit our website at <http://elkislandlogos.ca> and join the Elk Island Logos Society Facebook page.

GOODBYE

We want to announce that our wonderful Logos Society President, Lynda Miller, is stepping down. Her and her family have decided to move back to Cranbrook to be with family. We are so thankful for all of the years she has poured her heart and soul into this wonderful school and the Logos Society itself. We wish her and her family all the best!!!!!!

Brooke Hartum, our Vice President, will be covering for her for the remainder of the year. Thanks Brooke!

Keep warm and enjoy all winter has to offer!

Rachel Milne
Westboro Logos Representative
2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come.

COUNSELLOR'S CORNER

Happy New Year to all of you! For those of us immersed in the world of schooling, it is hard to determine the true beginning of the year - September or January. We return from Christmas holidays in similar places to where we left. The same class. The same school. The same teacher. And yet most of us can feel the opportunity for reflection. It is a time to look back at what was, and a time to look ahead at what *could* be. In the fast-paced society that we find ourselves in, such times of reflection can be rare and valuable. Usually, it is in these times that we see areas of our lives that we would like to change. For some, this brings insecurities and inadequacies to the surface. Moving back into the flow of their lives can then bring a sense of relief. I encourage you this year to take time to reflect. To pause longer than you would like to. Carefully look at areas of your lives that could be different, and with the support of others, embrace change. Remember, we are meant to learn and to grow throughout our lives.

For Christmas this year, we chose to draw names. As my kids are getting older, and have some money of their own, buying for one instead of for all, seemed a popular idea. I drew my wife's name. Right away I knew what I wanted to get her. Dr. Alex Russell's book, *Drop the Worry Ball: How to Parent in the Age of Entitlement*. Christmas presents can sometimes take the form of suggestions. A dangerous game indeed. For my wife and I, parenting has always been an area of change and growth. Although we both agree with many aspects of Russell's work, there is still challenge for both of us. Luckily, my present was well received (as was the additional gift I made sure to buy). Fortune favors the bold.

As the school community of Westboro moves into the New Year, I want our conversation about resiliency and anxiety to come with us. If you missed the December newsletter, it may be worth revisiting. It is here where I introduced Dr. Russell's work as well as highlighting Dr. Martin Brokenleg and Dr. Gordon Neufeld. I further drew on the tension inside the parent's heart where we desire resiliency in our children but may be afraid of the cost. Where we are their compassionate supports who let them rise and fall and find their way.

It is not only Westboro that are in the midst of these conversations of anxiety and resiliency. This year I have come across a multitude of talks and workshops and conferences. They are for us. For parents and teachers and other caregivers. There are two that I would like to highlight for the month of January.

- 1) This Saturday, January 13th, 9:00 - 11:30 am, Families First in Fort Saskatchewan is hosting a movie screening and facilitated conversation of the award-winning film "Resilience: The Biology of Stress & The Science of Hope". For more details visit their site at <http://www.familiesfirstsociety.ca/whats-happening/>
- 2) On Tuesday, January 30th, 6:00 - 7:30 pm, Alberta Health Services, in collaboration with Elk Island Public Schools, Elk Island Catholic Schools, New Horizons School, and Eastern Edge Regional Collaborative Service Delivery is offering a 90-minute Caregiver Education Session in Sherwood Park at Salisbury Comp. The session is titled "Breaking the Cycle of Anxiety: A Step by Step Approach" (K-12) Adults only. This session is free. Those interested can register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ElkIslandAnxietyJanuary2018>

As we all move into 2018, my hope is that we would take the time to reflect, to accept ourselves as people who can grow and learn, and to be compassionate supports for the kids that are in our lives. Happy New Year everyone!

DIVISION NEWS

EIPS 2018-2019 DIVISION CALENDER NOW AVAILABLE!

The official 2018-19 EIPS calendar is now available online. The calendar includes important dates during the 2018-19 school such as school-closure days; breaks; the first and last day of classes; professional learning days; and early dismissal days.

Highlights from the 2018-19 EIPS calendar include:

September 4	First day of classes (after long weekend)
November 12-16	November break
December 24 to January 4	Christmas break
January 31	Second semester begins
February 7-8	Teachers' Convention
March 25-29	Spring break
June 27	Last day of classes
June 28	Schools close for the Summer break

To view the 2018-19 calendar, visit www.eips.ca. Also available online: the current school calendar and the 2019-20 calendar.

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

ANOTHER WAY TO STAY CONNECTED: FOLLOW EIPS ON TWITTER AND FACEBOOK

With 42 school and close to 17,150 students there's a wealth of events, activities and stories taking place across the Division every day. You can find these stories and more by following Elk Island Public Schools on both [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Each use the combination of news articles, videos and photographs that showcase the latest news, updates, events and alerts taking place across the Division.

Plus, if you're a member of an EIPS school community and want to share in the storytelling, simply tag the Division using the hashtag *#EIPS*.

Stay in the loop, follow EIPS on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

NOTE: The Division Facebook and Twitter accounts are managed by EIPS Communications Services. The account is updated and monitored intermittently during regular office hours from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. The Division welcomes feedback and ideas from followers but does ask everyone interacting on the EIPS Facebook page to be respectful. Personal attacks and offensive language will not be allowed and may be deleted.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

With the winter season well underway, we want to remind parents 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) will advise parents of any bus cancellations using various communication tools including: automated-telephone messages, alerts posted on www.eips.ca and school websites, Twitter, Facebook, local radio stations, and on Versatrans My Stop.

Decisions regarding bus cancellations are guided by EIPS administrative procedures that states: "school bus service may be suspended when...Environment Canada reports a temperature of -40 C." Other reasons for suspending or delaying school bus services include adverse weather and poor road condition.

When school bus services are suspended, schools will remain open to students. EIPS believes parents 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.

The proof is in seeing
Mr. Matheson after morning
bus supervision.





EIPS KINDERGARTEN CALENDAR 2018-19 | GROUP A Logos

Regular School Day
 Early Dismissal for Students
 ★ First Instructional Day
 No School - Statutory Holiday
 No School for All Students and Staff
 No School for Kindergarten Group A
 No School for Students - Professional Learning/Operational Day

Kindergarten Group A attends school on Mondays, Thursdays and every third and fifth Wednesday. Attendance on the first Wednesday of the month fluctuates.

All other school closure days follow the general division school calendar

WHITE BOX – SCHOOL DAY FOR YOUR CHILD

NOTE: Calendar is subject to change. Your school will notify you of specific changes.

Important Dates

- Aug 6** Heritage Day - Statutory Holiday (Stat.)
- Aug 30** Professional Learning Day
- Aug 31** Operational Day
- Sept 3** Labour Day - Stat.
- Sept 5** Classes Begin for Kindergarten Group A
- Oct 3** Kindergarten Only Professional Learning Day
- Oct 5** Professional Learning Day
- Oct 8** Thanksgiving Day - Stat.
- Nov 11** Remembrance Day - Stat.
- Nov 12 - 16** November Break
- Nov 16** Day-in-Lieu for Parent Teacher Interviews
- Dec 24 - Jan 4** Christmas Break
- Dec 24** Christmas Floater Day - Holiday
- Dec 25** Christmas Day - Stat.
- Dec 26** Boxing Day - Holiday
- Jan 1** New Year's Day - Stat.
- Jan 7** Classes Resume for Students
- Feb 7 & 8** North Central Teachers' Convention
- Feb 15** Professional Learning Day
- Feb 18** Family Day - Stat.
- Mar 8** Professional Learning Day
- Mar 22** Day-in-Lieu for Parent Teacher Interviews
- Mar 25 - 29** Spring Break
- Apr 19** Good Friday - Stat.
- Apr 22** Easter Monday - Holiday
- May 17** Professional Learning Day
- May 20** Victoria Day - Stat.
- Jun 21** Aboriginal Day
- Jun 27** Last Instructional Day
- Jun 28** Last Operational Day
- Jul 1** Canada Day - Stat.

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EIPS KINDERGARTEN CALENDAR 2018-19 | GROUP B

Regular School Day
 Early Dismissal for Students
 ☆ First Instructional Day
 No School - Statutory Holiday
 No School for All Students and Staff
 No School for Kindergarten Group B
 No School for Students - Professional Learning/Operational Day

Kindergarten Group B attends school on Tuesdays, Fridays and every second and fourth Wednesday. Attendance on the first Wednesday of the month fluctuates.

All other school closure days follow the general division school calendar

WHITE BOX – SCHOOL DAY FOR YOUR CHILD

NOTE: Calendar is subject to change. Your school will notify you of specific changes.

Important Dates

- Aug 6** Heritage Day - Statutory Holiday (Stat.)
- Aug 30** Professional Learning Day
- Aug 31** Operational Day
- Sept 3** Labour Day - Stat.
- Sept 4** Classes Begin for Kindergarten Group B
- Oct 3** Kindergarten Only Professional Learning Day
- Oct 5** Professional Learning Day
- Oct 8** Thanksgiving Day - Stat.
- Nov 11** Remembrance Day - Stat.
- Nov 12 - 16** November Break
- Nov 16** Day-In-Lieu for Parent Teacher Interviews
- Dec 24 - Jan 4** Christmas Break
- Dec 24** Christmas Floater Day - Holiday
- Dec 25** Christmas Day - Stat.
- Dec 26** Boxing Day - Holiday
- Jan 1** New Year's Day - Stat.
- Jan 7** Classes Resume for Students
- Feb 7 & 8** North Central Teachers' Convention
- Feb 15** Professional Learning Day
- Feb 18** Family Day - Stat.
- Mar 8** Professional Learning Day
- Mar 22** Day-In-Lieu for Parent Teacher Interviews
- Mar 25 - 29** Spring Break
- Apr 19** Good Friday - Stat.
- Apr 22** Easter Monday - Holiday
- May 17** Professional Learning Day
- May 20** Victoria Day - Stat.
- Jun 21** Aboriginal Day
- Jun 27** Last Instructional Day
- Jun 28** Last Operational Day
- Jul 1** Canada Day - Stat.

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