

March 2019

Elk Island Public Schools

THE WESTBORO REPORT



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Over the next couple of months, our Westboro Warrior School community will be looking at and incorporating the principles of restorative practice into our school. We will be hosting a parent information night on restorative practices at 6:00 pm on April 3rd in our school library. Please see the following from the Alberta Education website:

What are Restorative Practices?

Restorative practices focus on the quality of relationships between all members of the school community. As a result, a more supportive learning environment enables healthy relationships and promotes positive mental health and responsible behaviour.

Restorative practices are rooted in restorative justice. They emphasize repairing the harm done to people and relationships, rather than punishing people.

By building more supportive learning environments and focusing on social-emotional learning, restorative practices can:

- reduce social barriers to learning
- engage more students
- create a context for understanding and valuing diversity
- nurture a sense of belonging
- promote positive mental health

Key Components

A focus on relationships, leadership, positive modeling and a continuum of strategies are key components of restorative practice.

Evidence

There are many studies on the benefits of restorative practices in schools.

Documented benefits include:

- reduced number of suspensions and expulsions
- reduced office referrals
- reduced aggression
- improved social skills

MARCH

7	Newsletter
8	No School
10	Daylight Savings Begins
11	Online School Interviews opens
12	Logos Meeting at Westboro 7 p.m.
14	Chapel 1:00 p.m.
14	Parent Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.
15	Hot Lunch
15	Report Cards
18	Online School Interviews closes
19 & 20	Interviews (4 – 7 p.m.)
21	Beach Day
22	No School

Spring Break
Mar. 22 – Mar. 31

APRIL

1	Welcome Back
3	Early Dismiss
5	Newsletter

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THE EASY WAY TO BOOK **SCHOOL INTERVIEWS**

Dear Parents,

Parent/Teacher/Student interviews will be held at **4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 19 and Wednesday, March 20, 2019.**

For parents that do not have internet access, computers will be available in the School Library beginning on Monday, March 11th at 9:00 a.m. for parents to make their own bookings. Interviews are for a duration of 10 minutes, however, if you require more time, please contact your teacher directly to make alternative arrangements.

KINDERGARTEN appointments are 30 min. Student-Led Demonstrations of Learning

GRADES 1-6 appointments are 10 min. individual bookings

Now you can book school interviews for the times that suit *your family*.

Go to www.schoolinterviews.ca and follow these simple instructions

Simply enter the code and press "Go"



Enter your details



Select the teachers you wish to see



Select the appointment times that suit your family best



When you click **FINISH**, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically. If you do not receive your email immediately – **check your junk mail folder**

You can return to www.schoolinterviews.ca at any time, and change your interviews - until the bookings close.

BOOKINGS OPEN MONDAY MARCH 11th at 9:00 a.m.

For parents that do not have internet access, computers will be available in the School Library for parents to make their own bookings. Interviews are for a duration of 10 minutes, however, if you require more time, please contact your teacher directly to make alternative arrangements.

PLEASE NOTE: Kindergarten conferences run for a period of 30 minutes. A one-on-one interview will be embedded into this time.

BOOKINGS CLOSE MONDAY, MARCH 18th at 3:00 p.m.

You may change your bookings, any time prior to the closing date, by re-visiting the www.schoolinterviews.ca website, and using the event code. Remember to use the same name and email address, you used when you made your original booking. Parents wishing to change their interview times after the closing date, should contact the school directly at (780) 467-7751.

PARENT-STUDENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES - ONLINE BOOKINGS

This term, Westboro is holding its student-parent-teacher conferences after the report cards going home. Conferences will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 19 and 20, from 4 - 7 p.m.

Given the great success of the online booking system, we will once again use this system to book interviews. Please see the previous page for the event code and how to choose your interview time. **This portal will open for bookings at 9 a.m. on March 11th and remain open for bookings until March 18th at 3 p.m. For more information about this process, please visit our [school website](#).**

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2019? If so, it's now time to register for kindergarten. To register, simply complete the online registration form at www.eips.ca/kindergarten.

To help families prepare, Elk Island Public Schools has put together an online toolkit - available at www.eips.ca/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 kindergarten can be found on our school website [Westboro Kindergarten Information Page](#).

MILK TICKETS

Milk tickets can now be purchased online through the Parent Portal. There are two options available: 10 tickets and 20 tickets. The options can be found at the bottom under School Items. The cost is \$1.00 per ticket.



LOGOS SOCIETY



The sweetest time of day is when you pray, because you are talking to the One who loves you the most.

Monday, March 11 at 9:00 am is the next prayer meeting. Text Kerry Schnell for more details at 780-938-4606.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 12 at 7:00 p.m. at Westboro school.

We will be holding an open forum on the history of Logos.

Thanks to everyone who came to Family Chapel at Trinity Baptist and made the night such a success.

Janeen Bieby

Westboro Elementary

As soon as I pray You answer me; You encourage me by giving me strength.

PSALM 138:3

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Accredited Friends Club Child Care and Out of School Care program

We are located inside Westboro Elementary School and are now accepting registration for children ages 3 to 5 years old, Kindergarten and grades 1 to 6 students.

We offer breakfast and afternoon snack, gym sports, outdoor play, fun projects, homework club, soccer club, cooking/baking club, field trips, arts, crafts and games. We are open on PD days and school breaks.

Full time child care spaces are available. Subsidies are available for eligible families.

For more information about our programs and services, please call us at 780-707-4481 or e-mail: kspa2006@gmail.com. We are happy to answer all your inquiries.



FAMILY LITERACY NIGHT

Thank you to all the K - 2 families who came out to our mystery themed literacy evening on Tuesday, February 26th. Because research shows that parent involvement in school can improve academic achievement, reading performance, attendance, and behavior, we were thrilled that 100 parents and children came out to the event and travelled to a variety of stations. We trust that it was time well spent as you collected strategies that can help support your child's literacy growth at home. A big thank you to all our volunteers who generously gave up their time to make for an enjoyable evening. We really appreciate that Confetti Sweets supplied us with delicious cookies at a significant discount to help make our evening extra special. If you were not able to attend this event, please stay tuned for another family night in the future. A special thank you to Westboro's Parents' Group for supporting this event financially.

NATIONAL DOWN'S SYNDROME DAY - MARCH 21ST



We coordinate the #lotsofsocks campaign. People all over the world wear socks, t-shirts or brightly coloured clothing to draw attention to 21 March. You can even buy official items from our shop!

SCHOOL COUNCIL/ PARENTS' GROUP NEWS

The second Spring Shop til Ya Drop is underway and we hope to see you all there on April 6th in the gym. Planning for the annual school dance has also begun. This fun family-friendly event is happening in the school gym on the evening of April 12th from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. This is our biggest fundraiser, so we hope to make it a good one!

On April 3rd at 6:00 p.m., School Council will be hosting a Restorative Justice night to help with aiding our teachers in this new process.

The Penny Carnival, which is organized by the grade 6 students, was another smashing success! Thank you to all those who volunteered and donated the cakes.

Our next meeting is Thursday, March 14th at 6:00 p.m. in the library. One of the things that we will be discussing is some issue resolutions which are coming forward at the Alberta School Council Association AGM and what the stance of Westboro School Council is on these resolutions.

SPRING BREAK CAMP

Are you looking for an exciting time for your child during this Spring Break? Yes! We have an answer! **Friends Club's Spring Break Camp "Around the World in 5 Days"!** (kindergarten to Grade 6 - March 25 - 29, 2019)

For more information and to register call Kasia at: 780-707-4481 or e-mail: kspace2006@gmail.com.

Take a break from school and join the fun! Field trip, games, art and crafts will make this camp a great way to spend Spring Break!



WESTBORO PARENTS GROUP PRESENTS



Spring Shop til ya Drop

With Dozens of great vendors, fantastic auction Items, this is an event you don't want to miss!

Get all your shopping done or treat yourself to a fun day out with friends and family at our fabulous fundraiser!

Saturday, APRIL 6

10:00am – 4:00pm

WESTBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYM

1078 STRATHCONA DRIVE, SHERWOOD PARK, AB

All are welcome!

Some of our amazing vendors this event are:

- 4 Kids Designs
- Bandana's for Dogs by Hailey
- Beauty Counter
- Burning Flames Custom Candles
- Canning Momma's
- Cups & Cakes by Jaycee
- Epicure
- Glasses 2 Go
- Creations by Janice
- KEEP Collective
- Lety Franco Creations
- Mel's Bags, Bins, & Totes
- Norwex
- Pampered Chef
- Sewing by Kim & Lindsay
- Sweetegs SP with Kelly
- Tupperware
- Wayward Wood

AND MANY MORE.....

Accepting Donations
for the Foodbank!





Saffron Cyber Second

In Partnership with EIPS Committee of School Councils



What Is My Child Really Watching?

Youtube can be a great tool when trying to learn a new hobby or skill. However, with over 300 hours of material uploaded every minute, moderating cannot be as efficient as one may hope. Nick was a 6-year-old boy. His parents were trying to find some kid-friendly videos that he could watch before dinner to keep him occupied while they cooked. They searched for some cartoons and clicked the first one on the list. It was the most popular. When his parents walked away to continue making dinner, Nick was exposed to a cartoon for adults disguised for kids. His parents thought Nick would be watching a show that was age appropriate, however, the cartoon was sexual, violent, and contained explicit language. Nick did not say anything to his parents initially because he was unaware what he was watching was inappropriate. It was not until the parents returned to the room to get Nick for dinner that they had realized the adult content he had just watched.

SAFFRON

TIP



ALWAYS BE INFORMED!

Check out YouTube Kids, if your children are younger. There is a lot of control on the app and filtered material. You can also consider turning on restricted mode on YouTube. When this setting is on, it will help screen out potentially mature content and you will not be able to see comments sections.

TRAFFIC SAFETY IN SCHOOL ZONES

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) reminds all parents, students, and staff to please keep safety in mind as you travel through school and playground zones, whether you are a driver or a pedestrian. Please help keep our students safe as they make their way to and from school by watching out for other drivers and pedestrians on the road, and obeying all posted speed limits and other traffic-related signage.

EIPS continues to work with local law enforcement and Alberta Transportation to address traffic and parking issues near our schools when they arise. We appreciate your assistance and cooperation as we work to provide a safe and inviting learning environment for all students.

Below are some school zone traffic safety tips from the Government of Alberta.

Tips to keep children safe

Examine the road ahead and obey posted speed limits.

Always be prepared to slow down or stop.

Do not drive while distracted - always be alert of your surroundings.

Use caution when approaching intersections or mid-block crosswalks.

Parked or stopped vehicles may hide a pedestrian crossing the road. The fine for failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk or passing a vehicle stopped at a crosswalk is \$575 and four demerit points.

Do not park in crosswalks.

Watch for school safety patrollers, identified by their orange vests, and stop as directed.

Driving tips when around school buses

Always watch for children crossing roads. Prepare to slow down and stop.

Alternating flashing yellow or amber lights mean a bus is slowing down to stop. Please do the same.

When approaching a school bus with red lights flashing - you must stop! The fine for passing a school bus with its red lights flashing is \$402 and six demerit points.

TRAFFIC SAFETY IN SCHOOL ZONES CONT'D

Speed limits in school and playground zones

- The speed limit in a school zone is 30 kilometers per hour unless otherwise posted.
- A school zone is in effect on school days from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. unless other times are posted.
- The speed limit in a playground zone is 30 kilometers per hour unless otherwise posted.
- A vehicle is not permitted to pass or attempt to pass another vehicle travelling in the same direction from 8:30 a.m. to one hour after sunset in a playground zone.

Reminders for parents to share with their children

- Follow the bus safety rules - make sure your child always rides the bus safely.
- Before crossing the road: POINT across the road to show drivers you want to cross;
- PAUSE until the cars stop and you make eye contact with the drivers; PROCEED with your arm extended after all cars in all the lanes have stopped. Never run into the street.
- Ride legally - No helmet! No bike! If your child is under the age of 18 he/she must always wear a helmet when riding a bike.

Source: Government of Alberta – Office of Traffic Safety

For the Westboro Community specifically:

As a gesture of goodwill, the owner of the strip mall across the school generously allows parents to use the back half of their parking lot for student drop off and pick up. In order to maintain this privilege, parents are asked to refrain from parking anywhere along the front of the businesses (whether they are open for business or not) and to ensure that accesses to the lot are not blocked.

Also, please note that there is absolutely

NO PARKING OR DROPPING OFF

allowed in the **Staff Parking lots** or
the condo parking lot across the street.

Thank you.

EIPS DISTRICT NEWS

HAVE YOUR SAY! EIPS PARENT SURVEY OPENS MARCH 11

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) wants to hear from you. Make sure to complete the 2019 Parent Survey - open from March 11-29.

Annually, EIPS conducts a parent survey to gauge its progress towards 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 feedback helps the Division develop new strategies to better serve students and the wider community.

Plus, new this year, the survey includes questions about cellphones and personal devices. Your feedback will help the EIPS Board of Trustees develop a policy about cellphones and their use within the classroom.

VISIT WWW.EIPS.CA TO TAKE THE SURVEY

Survey **opens** March 11, 2019

Survey **closes** March 29, 2019

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.

SAVING FOR YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION

It's no secret, post-secondary education comes with significant costs. In fact, many families wonder how much they need to save and how soon they need to begin. To help get started, the Government of Canada offers families two education savings incentives.

- *Canada Education Savings Grant:* The government contributes up to 20 per cent on the first \$2,500 in annual personal contributions to a Registered Education Savings Plan.
- *Canada Learning Bond:* Available for eligible children from low-income families born in 2004 or later. The government provides an initial payment of \$500, plus \$100 for each year of eligibility, up to age 15, for a maximum of \$2,000—personal contributions are not required.

Once that child enrolls in post-secondary education—an apprenticeship program, trade school, college or university—the money saved can be used to pay the associated expenses. These include tuition, housing, transportation, textbooks, equipment and supplies. So, while it's never too late to begin saving, just a small contribution each year can translate into substantial saving later.

SUMMER SCHOOL

**Next Step Continuing Education Summer School and Youth Camps:
Registration opens March 11****There's something for everyone****Summer School:** Open to students entering grades 10-12

With more than 25 credit courses, there are lots of ways to get ahead. Students can earn high school credits, upgrade marks and finish pre-requisite courses.

Courses include:

- CALM, Physical Education 10, and Extreme CALM and Physical Education 10 combined
- English, math, social and all the sciences at the 10-, 20- and 30-levels
- Film Production
- Work Experience

Summer Youth Camps: Open to participants in grades 5-9

From sports to babysitting, campers enjoy a fun-filled program while also making friends and learning new skills.

Camps include:

- Sports
- cooking and baking
- babysitting
- Handball—new

Registration opens on March 11.