



October 23, 2020



# WESTBORO ELEMENTARY

## Weekly Newsletter

### IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

October 30: Halloween Dress Up - Afternoon Only

### REMINDERS FOR FAMILIES:

- **PLEASE SEND 2 CLEAN MASKS AND A WATER BOTTLE WITH YOUR STUDENT TO SCHOOL EVERYDAY.**

- **STUDENT PICK UP AND DROP OFF OUTSIDE OF REGULAR SCHOOL HOURS**

If you need to pick up your child early or for an appointment, please call the office at 780-467-7751 to inform us. When you arrive at the school, please call to let us know where you are waiting outside of the school and we will send your child out to meet you. Thank you.

- **CORRECTION AND VERIFICATION FORMS**

Required for all families. It's important we have correct information on file in the student record. This is the standard form all families review and update annually. Please review all information, paying particular attention to phone numbers and email addresses as well as the emergency contacts and all associated information on file. If your child will be attending in-school classes and becomes ill, we need to be able to contact someone who can come to the school within one hour to pick him or her up. Access this form through the [Parent Portal](#) by clicking the Correction and Verification Form tab in the left-hand menu. If you are having trouble accessing your Parent Portal account, please contact the school office staff for assistance. Thank you for your ongoing co-operation as we gather all the required information for our students.

- **DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER**

A reminder to families to please send your child to school dressed in weather appropriate clothing as we enter into the colder months. This includes a warm jacket, warm footwear, mitts and a hat. Students will be outside for recess and will need to be dressed appropriately. Thank you.

# HALLOWEEN AT WESTBORO

Halloween can be a very exciting and important event for many families in our regular stream school community. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions we are not going to be able to have our traditional Westboro Halloween activities. This year we will implement the following restrictions:

- Costumes will only be worn in the afternoon.
- Costumes will need to be able to be put on over regular clothes as we have limited access to washrooms and no access to changerooms at this time. As washrooms have capacity limits this year, they will be off limits to students wishing to change into a costume. **No inflatable costumes permitted.**
  - For ease, a suggestion would be to have students wear orange and black instead.
- Students can only eat things they bring with them and cannot share any food/treats.
- Any classroom Halloween activities will take place in the last two periods of the day.
- To ensure we continue practicing safe cohorting, activities will occur in the classroom.

The Logos alternative activity will not take place as there are no field trips off-site. Alternative activities will take place in the classroom at the teacher's discretion. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

## CHAPEL DATES 2020/2021

**November 25** 1:00 p.m.

**December** No Chapel

**January 20** 1:00p.m.

**February 17** 1:00 p.m.

**March 10** 1:00 p.m.

**April** TBD

**May 12** 1:00 p.m.

**June 16** 1:00 p.m.

Chapel will be held virtually via Google Meets.

The meeting code is: **wbochapel**

## School Bus Safety Week Poster Contest

The Alberta Student Transportation Advisory Council (ASTAC) is sponsoring a provincial poster contest for students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 to promote School Bus Safety Week (October 18-24). This year's theme is "My Driver, My Hero." The entry deadline is **November 6.**



## Alberta Health Services Information

Refer to the links below to access resources for the school community and their families.

[School Immunizations during COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Back to School During COVID-19](#)



# Parent Engagement

Effective relationships are built upon respect, trust and collaboration



Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) believes parent engagement enhances achievement and success for students, schools and the Division overall. By being involved in their child's education, parents can provide an important perspective; give feedback that helps inform key decisions made by teachers, schools and Division administration; and nurture a positive learning environment, both at home and at school.

## PARENT ENGAGEMENT

There are many ways parents and schools can engage to ensure every child learns and grows:

- Take an active role in your child's education.**
  - ensure homework's complete
  - sign agendas
  - go through tests and assignments with your child
  - read together
  - seek out tutoring if needed
- Become actively involved with the school.**
  - hot lunches and snack days
  - school council
  - fundraiser society
  - volunteer for field trips
  - help organize, set-up and takedown school events
- Provide feedback through surveys.**
  - Accountability Pillar Survey for grades 4, 7 and 10
  - EIPS Parent Survey
  - school-generated surveys
- Monitor school correspondence.**
  - newsletters
  - websites
  - social media
  - note important dates on agendas and calendars
  - monitor email
- Connect with school staff.**
  - attend parent-teacher-student conferences
  - meet the teachers and principal
  - ask questions about programming and support
  - respectfully address concerns
- Prepare your child for success.**
  - ready to participate
  - attends school regularly
  - has a nutritious breakfast and lunch
  - is physically and emotionally healthy
  - contributes to a positive school culture



Ask questions such as:

- How can I support my child or enrich their educational experience?
- How can we work together?
- What's the best approach to assisting with my child's education?

To help facilitate parent engagement schools will:

- Keep parents well informed about student achievement, school activities and enhanced educational opportunities.
- Seek out parent feedback about changes to budgets, school plans, fees, programming and other initiatives by way of meetings and online surveys.
- Collaborate with parents about possible ways to enhance and improve their child's classroom experience.
- Ensure a welcoming, safe, caring and respectful environment in which to address concerns.

Through strong, co-operative relationships with parents, EIPS leaders are better positioned to make well-informed choices that are in the best interests of all students.



[Click here to enlarge images](#)

## Parenting Through Uncertainty: Virtual Discussion Group for parents and caregivers of children 0-18 years - Topic - Ideas for family connection

**When:** WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2020, 7:15 – 8PM

**Where:** Online

**Details:** COVID-19 presents a challenge to families around the world that is unlike anything we have ever experienced. While the pandemic has changed many things about our daily lives, it has not stopped children from learning, growing, and developing. Join us in an online discussion as we explore some of the common themes parents and caregivers have been encountering while parenting through these uncertain times.

**Cost:** Free

**Contact Information:** [FamilyResourceNetwork@strathcona.ca](mailto:FamilyResourceNetwork@strathcona.ca) or

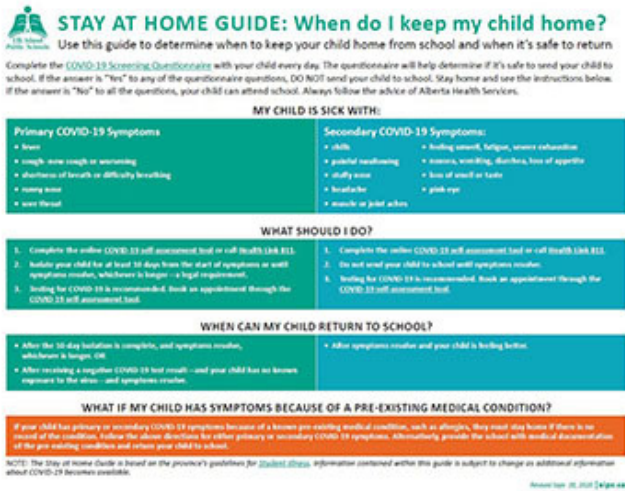
780-464-4044

**Link:** [www.strathcona.ca](http://www.strathcona.ca)

# STAY AT HOMEGUIDE:

## When do I keep my child home?

(Click on image to enlarge)



# Reporting Absences

Please communicate your child's absence directly to [general.wbo@eips.ca](mailto:general.wbo@eips.ca) or click the [STUDENT ATTENDANCE](#) link on the homepage of the school website. These emails are both checked regularly by the school office staff. Do not communicate this information only to the teacher. Situations occur when the homeroom teacher is away, and your information will not be received by the office staff who are required to maintain an accurate record of attendance for students throughout the day.

**When reporting a student's absence, a reason is now necessary. If your child is ill, we will need to know what the symptoms of the illness are as part of the COVID-19 screening requirements.**

## D2L | Brightspace

As you may know, EIPS has recently adopted D2L Brightspace as our primary learning management system (LMS).

The purpose of an LMS is to provide a virtual environment for teaching and learning. Having a platform like Brightspace will allow students and staff to remain connected to their classrooms, even when they are not able to attend school. At the start of this school year, we focused on Brightspace as a tool for our out-of-school learners as their classes got underway. However, Brightspace is a tool for all EIPS families, not just those registered in out-of-school learning.

Over the coming weeks all EIPS teachers will be engaging in a variety of professional development activities geared towards learning the functions of Brightspace. When students and parents/guardians log into Brightspace they will begin to see announcements, learning content, and assessments posted by teachers. [Students can access Brightspace](#) by using their division-assigned email and password. Parents and guardians can access [Brightspace for Parents](#) to view upcoming work, grades, and posts from teachers. If you have never logged into Brightspace for Parents before, select Forgot your password to set up a new account. An email will be sent to you with instructions for creating your account. For more information refer to the [Brightspace Parent Guide](#).

## AAC Awareness Month

October is AAC awareness month. Around the world people raise awareness and celebrate the use of augmentative and alternative communication. Some of our Westboro Warriors use AAC devices to help them to communicate because they are unable to use verbal speech. Complex AAC devices can be seen on ipads that students carry with them. Some less complex forms of communication are picture boards, gestures, facial expressions, drawing and writing. Help us to spread awareness by starting a dinner table discussion with your Westboro Warrior about it. Afterwards, have your family communicate with each other by using only non-verbal ways such as writing, drawing, gestures or facial expressions. Thanks for helping us to raise awareness.

