



October 30, 2020



WESTBORO ELEMENTARY

Weekly Newsletter

IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

November 1: Daylight Saving Time, clocks go back 1 Hour at 2:00 a.m.

November 4: Early Dismissal

November 6: Remembrance Day Ceremony at 10:30 a.m.

Remembrance Day Ceremonies

Remembrance Day Ceremonies will be held on Friday, November 6 at 10:30 a.m. The ceremony will be held virtually and viewed by students in each classroom. A link to the ceremony will be shared with our out-of-school learners. Poppies will be handed out to each student prior to the ceremony. Click [here](#) to learn how to donate to the Poppy Fund.

Fall Break

Fall Break is the week of November 9-13, 2020. There will be no school for students or staff.

Strathcona County Christmas Bureau Referrals

If you know a family in need who might benefit from a Strathcona Christmas Bureau delivery this holiday season, submit a referral. Your name, and the names you refer, are kept in strict confidence. You can make a referral by contacting the **Hamper Co-ordinator at 780-918-2521**. The referral deadline is November 25.

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**.

[Learn more here](#)

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, which may include automated-telephone messages, alerts posted on www.eips.ca and school websites, through the Bus Status app, Twitter, Facebook and on Versatrans My Stop. 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 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 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.

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](#)

Caregiver Education Series

Alberta Health Services is hosting a series of virtual caregiver information sessions focused on ways to support students' mental health. The sessions are free and geared toward parents, caregivers, teachers and community members who want to learn more about challenges impacting children and adolescents. Session topics include anxiety, ADHD, depression, self-harm, technology, teens and teaching leadership skills, communication, resiliency, and more.

Click [here](#) to view the November 2020 Newsletter

Strathcona County Information

Halloween in Strathcona County

Celebrate safely by following all of Alberta Health Services guidelines to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

Click [here](#) for more information

Safe. Supported. Connected.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused stress, hardships, and pressure for Strathcona County residents in ways some may have never experienced before. Trying to balance everything can feel overwhelming. Strathcona County Family and Community Services is here to support you through these challenging times. If you're stressed about finances, parenting, or just need to talk, call us at 780-464-4044.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Reach Out Speak Out

November is Family Violence Prevention Month in Alberta. Strathcona County is supporting the community by highlighting #WHERETOTURN as part of a campaign called Reach Out Speak out. Family violence is the attempts by one person in an intimate relationship to dominate and control the other. Family and Community Services is here to support - if family violence is affecting your life, learn where to turn or how to help someone you care about. We all have a role to build a safe, supported and connected community strathcona.ca/SCspeakout 780-464-4044.



The poster features a dark blue background with a large white speech bubble containing the text "REACH OUT SPEAK OUT" and the website "strathcona.ca/SCspeakout". A QR code in the top right corner is labeled "Scan for more resources". Below the speech bubble, two questions are posed: "Do you feel unsafe or scared?" and "Do you ever wonder if others feel unsafe or scared around you?". The hashtag "#WHERETOTURN" is displayed above silhouettes of people. At the bottom, a white box lists "Help is available" with contact information for various services and their logos.

Help is available.	
A Safe Place (24hr)	780-464-7233
Family and Community Services	780-464-4044
Saffron Sexual Assault Centre	780-449-0900
Victim Services	780-449-0153

Logos include: VOLUNTEER Strathcona, altView FOUNDATION, SAFFRON CENTRE, A Safe Place, STRATHCONA COUNTY Victim Services, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and STRATHCONA COUNTY.

Let's build healthy relationships and end family violence

[Click on the image for a larger view](#)

STAY AT HOMEGUIDE: When do I keep my child home? (Click on image to enlarge)

STAY AT HOME GUIDE: When do I keep my child home?
Use this guide to determine when to keep your child home from school and when it's safe to return.

Complete the COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire with your child every day. The questionnaire will help determine if it's safe to send your child to school. If the answer is "Yes" to any of the questionnaire questions, DO NOT send your child to school. Stay home and see the instructions below. If the answer is "No" to all the questions, your child can attend school. Always follow the advice of Alberta Health Services.

MY CHILD IS SICK WITH:

Primary COVID-19 Symptoms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever • Cough, sore throat or sneezing • Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing • Hoarse voice • Sore throat 	Secondary COVID-19 Symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fatigue • Headache • Loss of taste or smell • Red, swollen, or irritated eyes • Skin rash (red, itchy) • Blurred or double vision • Muscle or joint pain
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WHAT SHOULD I DO?

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete the online COVID-19 self-assessment tool or call Health Link 811. 2. Isolate your child for at least 10 days from the start of symptoms or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer - a legal requirement. 3. Testing for COVID-19 is recommended. Book an appointment through the COVID-19 self-assessment tool. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete the online COVID-19 self-assessment tool or call Health Link 811. 2. Do not send your child to school until symptoms resolve. 3. Testing for COVID-19 is recommended. Book an appointment through the COVID-19 self-assessment tool.
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WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After the 10-day isolation is complete, and symptoms resolve, whichever is longer: OR • After receiving a negative COVID-19 test result - and your child has no known exposures for the illness - and symptoms resolve. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After symptoms resolve and your child is feeling better.
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WHAT IF MY CHILD HAS SYMPTOMS BECAUSE OF A PRE-EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITION?

If your child has primary or secondary COVID-19 symptoms because of a known pre-existing medical condition, such as allergies, they must stay home if there is no control of the condition. Follow the above directions for either primary or secondary COVID-19 symptoms. Alternatively, consult with the school with medical documentation of the pre-existing condition and screen your child to return.

NOTE: The Stay at Home Guide is based on the province's guidelines for [public schools](#). Information contained within this guide is subject to change as additional information about COVID-19 becomes available.

Revised: Nov. 20, 2020 | eips.ca

Reporting Absences

Please communicate your child's absence directly to 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.

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.

Elk Island Public Schools

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.

eips.ca | Elk Island Public Schools

[Click here to enlarge images](#)