



January 8, 2021



WESTBORO ELEMENTARY

Weekly Newsletter

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

January 11: In-school classes resume

Happy New Year!



from all of us at Westboro

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration starts soon! Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2021? If so, it's almost time to register for kindergarten. Kindergarten registration opens for the 2021-22 school year on Feb. 1, 2021. To help families prepare, Elk Island Public Schools has put together an online [EIPS Kindergarten 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. Additional information regarding Westboro Elementary's kindergarten program is available at westboroelementary.ca.

RETURNING STUDENT REGISTRATION

Returning student registration for 2021-22 Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) will once again conduct an online returning student registration process to confirm student registrations for the 2021-22 school year. Families of all returning students must complete the process to confirm the school their child plans to attend in the 2021-22 school year. Additionally, students who want to attend a non-designated school need to make that request through the returning student registration process—acceptance is based on available space. The 2021-22 returning student registration takes place between Feb. 1-28, 2021. Access to the Returning Student Registration Form is provided through the PowerSchool Parent Portal. If you don't have a PowerSchool Parent Portal account, you need to set one up before Feb. 1, 2021.

[Create a PowerSchool Parent Portal account](#). For more information contact the school directly.

EIPS 2021-22 DIVISION CALENDAR: NOW AVAILABLE!

The official 2021-22 EIPS calendar is now available online. The calendar includes important dates during the 2021-22 school year, such as school-closure days, breaks, the first and last day of classes, professional learning days, early dismissal days, plus more. Highlights from the 2021-22 EIPS calendar include:

- September 1 - first day of classes
 - November 8-12 - November break
 - December 22 to January 4 - Christmas break
 - February 1 - second semester begins
 - February 10-11 - Teachers' Convention
 - March 28 to April 1 - Spring break
 - June 28 - last day of classes
 - June 29 - last operational day before the Summer break
- To view the 2021-21 calendar, visit eips.ca.

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

STAY CONNECTED

Another way to stay connected: Follow EIPS on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). With 43 schools and close to 17,000 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 uses a combination of news articles, videos and photographs that showcases 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 #eips. Stay in the loop, follow EIPS on Facebook and Twitter. NOTE: Communications Services manages the Division's Facebook and Twitter accounts. The account is updated and monitored intermittently during regular office hours from 8 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 are not allowed and may be deleted.

SCHOOL AND TRANSPORTATION FEE WAIVER APPLICATIONS: DEADLINE EXTENDED

Elk Island Public Schools recognizes the global pandemic has put a strain on some families' finances and available income can change quickly in the current situation. As such, the Division has extended the deadline for requesting a waiver of your 2020-21 school and transportation fees. If you encounter circumstances where you're unable to pay your fees, you can apply to have fees waived by submitting an [Application for a Waiver of Fees](#). Because of the pandemic, the new deadline is Feb. 15, 2021—if you're new to EIPS, the deadline is the latter of Feb. 15, 2021, or 45 days after registration. Each quarter—or trimester, as applicable—you'll receive an email notification letting you know fees are posted on the PowerSchool Parent Portal. To access your fee information, go to "Student Fees" on PowerSchool. There you can view your fees and pay online using Visa, MasterCard or INTERAC Online—when available from your financial institution. All fees are due within 14 days of being posted. **NOTE:** School fees apply to in-school learners only. For more information about school fees, transportation fees, waivers and payment deadlines, visit [eips.ca](#) or [westboroelementary.ca](#). Alternatively, contact the school at 780-467-7751.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: MEANING OF HOME CONTEST

On January 4, in partnership with founding sponsor Sagen, Habitat for Humanity Canada will kick off its annual Meaning of Home contest, inviting grades 4, 5 and 6 students from across Canada to submit a written poem or essay explaining what home means to them for a chance to win cool prizes. One winner in each grade will be chosen and the winning submission will direct, on behalf of the sponsor, a \$30,000 grant to its local Habitat for Humanity office.

The Meaning of Home contest plays an important role in helping Habitat for Humanity raise funds and awareness for affordable housing in Canada, while offering a unique and meaningful way to get students involved in the creative-writing process and teach them about the importance of giving back to the community. For every entry submitted, \$10 will be donated to your local Habitat. There's no cost to enter and no fundraising requirements—just entering earns \$10 for Habitat for Humanity Edmonton. The submission timeframe is Jan. 4 to Feb. 19, 2021.

PRIME MINISTER'S AWARD

Nominations are now being accepted for three different Prime Minister's Awards: Teaching Excellence; Teaching Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM); and Excellence in Early Childhood Education. If you know a teacher who displays true excellence in the classroom, be sure to nominate them for a chance at national recognition for their work. The nomination deadline is Jan. 12, 2021.



Logos Society News

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, January 12, 2020 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

Information will be updated to our website at:
<https://www.elkislandlogos.ca/meetings>

STAY AT HOMEGUIDE:

When do I keep my child home?



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	Secondary COVID-19 Symptoms:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fever• cough, sore throat or worsening• shortness of breath or difficulty breathing• muscle aches• nose bleed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• chills• fatigue, weakness, fatigue, severe exhaustion• painful swallowing• sore throat, hoarseness, loss of appetite• stuffy nose• loss of smell or taste• headache• pink eye• rashes or joint aches

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

1. Complete the online COVID-19 self-assessment tool or self-health link BCL.
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.
4. Complete the online COVID-19 self-assessment tool or self-health link BCL.
5. Do not send your child to school until symptoms resolve.
6. Testing for COVID-19 is recommended. Book an appointment through the COVID-19 self-assessment tool.

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL?

- 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 exposure to the virus - and symptoms resolve.
- After symptoms resolve and your child is feeling better.

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 relief of the condition. Follow the above directions for other primary or secondary COVID-19 symptoms. Alternatively, provide the school with medical documentation of the pre-existing condition and return your child to school.

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

CHAPEL DATES 2020/2021

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 Council

All parents/guardians are welcome!
Meetings will be held on the following dates:

January 20, 6:30 PM

February 17, 6:30 PM

March 17, 6:30 PM

April 21, 6:30 PM

May 19, AGM 6:30 PM

Links to the virtual meetings will be emailed out prior to each meeting.

For more information please email westboroparents@gmail.com

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.

Strathcona County Information

PARENTING THROUGH UNCERTAINTY

Coping with Uncertainty – For Parents and Caregivers of Children 0 – 18 years. COVID-19 presents a challenge to families that is unlike anything we have ever experienced. Connection is more important now than ever. Join us online for an informal discussion about parenting through these uncertain times. Support each other by sharing your experiences, successes and challenges! Wednesday, January 13, 10:15-11 a.m. For more information visit strathcona.ca.

PROVINCIAL RESTRICTIONS DECEMBER 8, 2020

On December 8, 2020 the provincial government announced new restrictions which affect County residents, businesses and facilities. Click [here](#) to read about these new restrictions.

FAMILY RESOURCE NETWORK (FORMERLY PARENT LINK)

The Family Resource Network provides a range of programs and services that focus on building well-being and resiliency. Free supports are available to children and youth ages 0-18 and their parents and caregivers. Click [here](#) for more information.

SAFE. SUPPORTED. CONNECTED.

YOU ARE NEVER ALONE

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.