



January 7, 2022



WESTBORO ELEMENTARY

Weekly Newsletter

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

January 10: Classes Resume after extended Christmas Break

RETURN TO SCHOOL JANUARY 10

EIPS is in the process of revising its operational guidelines document and will send it to families by end of week. That will allow you to familiarize yourself with important changes made over the extended Christmas break. In the meantime, please be aware of the following:

- All individuals must still review the Alberta Health Daily Checklist with their children before sending them to school. **Students exhibiting any symptoms must remain at home until symptoms resolve.**
- In the case of a high number of student or staff absences, it may become necessary to move to temporary online learning. Should this happen, learning will take place using the Brightspace platform.
- Temporary online learning will only be used, as a last resort, when it isn't possible to continue in-person learning because of high student or staff absences. It's not being offered as an alternative to in-person learning.
- The Government of Alberta is providing rapid test kits and medical-grade masks for use by students and staff members. These are expected to start arriving in school divisions next week. At a minimum, it's highly recommended students wear medical-grade masks to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in schools.

We understand families may have additional questions. We ask for patience as we amend the operational guidelines, which will provide more comprehensive details. Thank you for your continued understanding and co-operation.

Sincerely,

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS)

RETURNING STUDENT REGISTRATION FOR 2022-23

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) will once again conduct an online returning student registration process to confirm student registrations for the 2022-23 school year. Families of all returning students must complete the process to confirm the school their child plans to attend in the 2022-23 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 2022-23 returning student registration takes place between Feb. 1-28, 2022.

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, 2022.

[Create a PowerSchool Parent Portal account](#)

For more information, contact the school directly.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION STARTS SOON!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2022? If so, it's almost time to register for kindergarten.

Kindergarten registration opens for the 2022-23 school year on Feb. 1, 2022. To help families prepare, Elk Island Public Schools has put together an online [EIPS Kindergarten Tool kit](#) 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 <https://www.westboroelementary.ca/>.

CAREGIVER EDUCATION SESSIONS: JANUARY

Alberta Health Services, in collaboration with The Mental Health Foundation, offers free online programming for parents and caregivers of children and youth. Upcoming Caregiver Education Sessions, Lunch & Learn Webinars and Drop-In Series are outlined in the [January Caregiver Education Team Newsletter](#).

HAVE YOUR SAY, EIPS WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) wants to hear from you to gain a deeper understanding of your confidence in the Division and its strategic direction. As such, it's launched a new annual survey entitled, EIPS Year in Review: Stakeholder Confidence Survey—open January 6–18.

The survey covers a range of topics, including student growth and achievement, learning supports, teaching and leading, governance, and resource allocations. The information gathered will help EIPS:

- assess stakeholder confidence—families, staff, Grade 12 students and community members;
- gather input to guide future decision-making; • gather feedback to enhance its [Four-Year Education Plan](#); and
- provide a platform for families, students, staff and community members to have a voice in ensuring high-quality, student-centred learning environments in EIPS schools.

EIPS will share the results in the Annual Education Results Report 2021–22.

[TAKE THE SURVEY NOW!](#)

Survey closes Jan. 18, 2022

NOTE: EIPS encourages everyone to respond honestly. Your identity and answers are confidential and cannot be linked in any way to you or your child's school. Grade 12 students will have an opportunity to complete the survey at school. Families who do not want their child to complete the survey simply need to advise their child's school.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

With the winter season well underway, 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) will advise families of any bus cancellations using various communications tools, including automated-telephone messages, alerts posted on www.eips.ca and school websites, Twitter, Facebook, local radio stations and on the Ride 360 and Bus Status apps.

Decisions regarding bus cancellations are guided by EIPS' [Administrative Procedure 131: Inclement Weather](#), which states: "school bus service may be suspended ... when there is a forecast or current temperature of -40°C including wind chill, in one or more regions." 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 what uio they feel is safest during times of inclement weather.

For more information, contact EIPS Student Transportation at 780-417-8151.

WHAT TO DO WHEN THE WORDS DON'T STICK!

What to do when the words won't stick!

Do any of these describe your child:

- Practices every night for the spelling test, but still makes many errors?
- Makes constant spelling mistakes with the same words again and again?
- Is able to read a word one day, but is unable to decode that same word the next day?

Parents and teachers notice these things in children all the time! The research tells us that in order to remember the words and store them into our long term memory, our brain uses a process called Orthographic Mapping. This process involves the brain making connections between letter sounds and letter names. And guess what? Not all brains are wired to do this process automatically. While some children can be taught to learn a word with just 1-4 practices, it takes others up to 40 times to learn that same word. The good news is that there is a great way to practice word learning by using the Orthographic Mapping technique.

So, how can I work on this process at home?

Below, you will find links to:

- Watch a video about Orthographic Mapping and how it works.
- Download a copy of "Map the Snap".
- Get more information about the process from Sarah's Snippets.

Happy Mapping!

Reference: Kilpatrick, D.A. (2016). *Equipped for reading success*. Casey & Kirsch Publishers

slidesgo

[Download Video](#)

[Download Map the Snap](#)

[Sarah's Snippets](#)

Strathcona County Information

COVID-19 UPDATE

NEW! Youth 12-17 may need to show proof of vaccination beginning December 15. All Albertans 5+ can now get vaccinated. Proof of completed vaccination series with personal QR code, negative test or medical exemption is required for all non-essential services. View the Strathcona County COVID-19 case count. [Learn more.](#)

STRATHCONA WILDERNESS CENTRE

Our very own Strathcona Wilderness Centre recently made the prestigious USA Today Top 10 List in the category of Best Cross-Country Ski Resort in North America. We know it's loved by everyone in our community, but it's great to see it being appreciated by our international neighbours!

Read on for a [Sherwood Park News](#) article highlighting this incredible achievement.

<https://www.sherwoodparknews.com/.../strathcona...>

We're so grateful to have this amazing facility right in our own backyard!

FEELING EXHAUSTED?

It's not just you – it's living with uncertainty for nearly two years. This is not the way a lot of us pictured entering the new year and it's normal to feel tired or anxious. The County's Family and Community Services (FCS) team offers support for mental health concerns, family issues, financial worries and more. Give us a call at 780-464-4044.

Learn more about FCS: <https://bit.ly/3HBvtlq>

SNOW ROUTE PARKING BANS

A snow route parking ban will be in effect on Thursday, January 6 at 7 a.m. on all collector roads in Sherwood Park.

Crews will be working 24/7 to clear the snow by Saturday evening. Please remove all vehicles from these roads until the snow is cleared or you may receive a \$250 ticket and tow.

NOTE: Clearing on remaining residential streets will begin on Monday, January 10. Watch for orange signs with dates for when residential clearing is scheduled for your area.

[Learn more about residential clearing](#)

[See a list of collector roads in Sherwood Park](#)

[View the clearing order](#)

HAVE YOUR SAY

[Take a brief survey](#) on what the RCMP and Enforcement Services [priorities](#) should be for Strathcona County in 2022-2023. The survey ensures the public has a say on policing and municipal enforcement priorities and department planning. Input also ensures department members focus on what the public identifies as important issues.

The survey is open from January 5-19, 2022.