



December 3, 2023



WESTBORO ELEMENTARY

Weekly Newsletter

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

December 6: Christmas Concert

December 6: Early Dismissal - Students dismissed 1 hour early at 2:12 p.m.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT INFORMATION

Christmas...through the eyes of a child

Christmas concert is quickly approaching and we are excited to celebrate this special time of year with all our Westboro families once again. Here are a few important things to know!

WHO?

- Starring *ALL* Westboro students.
- **Special note for Kindergarten families** - Students will be performing at the beginning of the concert and will be dismissed immediately after to parents or guardians in the foyer while our audience joins in a game with Mrs. Richard. Kindergarten families can choose to leave at this time or save a seat for your child to join you in watching the remaining performances.
- **Special note for STEPS families** - STEPS students will also be performing near the beginning of the concert. They too will be dismissed immediately after to parents or guardians in the foyer if families have not joined them onstage.
- Grade 1-6 classes will be coming together for a finale performance. It is always special seeing so much of our school population on stage at the end of the concert. We ask you to respect the time and practice all students have put into their performances by staying until the end of the concert.

WHEN?

- Wednesday, December 6th
- There will NOT be a dress rehearsal to attend this year.
- The evening concert will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. **Doors to the church will open at 6:00 p.m.** All spaces within the church offer great seating. **Please ensure your child is at the church no later than 6:15 p.m.**
- We recognize the concert ran a little long last year and have listened to your feedback. We are doing our best to keep the concert about one hour in length.

WHERE?

- Our Christmas concert will be at Park Church, located at 1 Brower Dr. Sherwood Park. We are very fortunate to have this space again this year.
 - **Please give yourself extra time to arrive and find parking.**
 - Turning left from Baseline Road to get to the church can get quite backed up with so many families arriving around the same time.
 - There is lots of parking available at the church, however with there not being a dress rehearsal this year we may have additional family members coming to the evening performance. Carpooling is a great option if you have other family members coming with you.
 - Please do NOT park at OLPH church as they are also hosting an event the same evening.

EXTRA INFORMATION

- **Please watch for a notice going home with your child next week.** It will provide additional details regarding where to go and what to do once you arrive at the church.
- We will be passing a donations basket 10 minutes before the concert begins to help with the cost of renting the church. There is no obligation, but we thank you in advance for any amount you might be willing to give.
- Questions can be directed to Mrs. Richard through email - courtney.richard@eips.ca

STRATHCONA CHRISTMAS BUREAU

Westboro is proud to support the Strathcona Christmas Bureau. We have started accepting new unwrapped gifts and toys for all ages from **November 20-December 20**. If you would like to make a monetary donation please scan this **QR code**. Yours donations are sincerely appreciated! **Note: Food donations cannot be accepted.**



WESTBORO MITTEN TRADITION



Westboro has a long standing tradition of collecting new mitts, hats, or scarves to add to our mitten tree. We are asking students to place these items on the tree outside the front office. Thank you in advance for your support, as well as supporting those less fortunate in our community. **Last day to donate will be December 8th.**

LOOKING FOR CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS



Westboro Entripyshops is now open for all your **Westboro Warrior spirit wear!** Explore a great selection of brands that fit every budget.

- Order before December 7th for delivery in time for the holidays
- 10% of all sales go back to your school
- Free shipping on all orders over \$119
- Shop is open 24/7, 365 days/year
- Entripyshops [Login](#)

FEE WAIVER APPLICATIONS

REMINDER: For the 2023-24 year, the deadline for receiving fee waiver applications is **Dec. 15, 2023**. The application form and more information can be found on the [EIPS website](#).

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON BUDGET PLANNING FOR 2024-25

Alberta Education allocates funds to school boards to fulfill their delegated responsibilities of providing education programs for students in kindergarten to Grade 12. As part of Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) commitment to stakeholder engagement and to continue allocating resources according to local priorities, the Division conducts an annual budget planning survey to seek input from staff, families, Grade 12 students and community partners.

The survey is voluntary, anonymous and takes about 5 to 10 minutes to complete. The survey questions suggest possible budget areas for EIPS to focus its resources, which align with the Division's current [Four-Year Education Plan](#). If you believe there are other areas where the Division should concentrate its resources, you can also indicate what these are. EIPS will consider all budget planning input to guide future decision-making.

[COMPLETE THE SURVEY NOW](#)

Survey closes Dec 20, 2023

Grade 12 students will complete the survey at school.

Thank you for sharing your input to help inform Division planning.

SPREAD THE WORD: EIPS IS HIRING SUBSTITUTE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS

Do you know someone who may be interested in part-time, flexible work as a substitute educational assistant (EA)? Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is hiring—spread the word!

EAs are integral to the school team, assisting teachers with instructional and non-instructional tasks in the classroom and other school activities. Whether it's working one-on-one with individual students or with a small group of students in a class or special program, EAs provide support and assistance to help students achieve success.

Substitutes are needed to fill positions at all school locations until the end of the school year. The application deadline is **December 8**. If you know someone who'd be great in this role, encourage them to [apply today](#).

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION STARTS SOON!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2024? If so, it's almost time to register for kindergarten.

Kindergarten registration opens for the 2024-25 school year on Feb. 1, 2024. 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 www.westboroelementary.ca.

RETURNING STUDENT REGISTRATION: 2024-25

Mark your calendars! Returning student registration for the 2024-25 school year will take place Feb. 8-21, 2024.

Families of all current students—with the exception of graduating Grade 12 students—must complete the process to confirm the school their child plans to attend in the 2024-25 school year or advise the Division of their plans not to return to EIPS. 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. Watch for more details in the new year.

HAS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION RECENTLY CHANGED?

Have you recently moved or has your contact information changed? Westboro Elementary encourages families to review the information the Division has on file to ensure it's up to date. Using the **Student Information Update** available through the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#), families can review the current information on file for each student—including addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, parent and guardian information, emergency contacts, medical details and other related information—and submit any updates needed.

Current contact information is also crucial in the event that your child becomes ill, or there is any type of emergency situation. We have recently had several incidences where we have been unable to contact a family member.

Reviewing and updating the form ensures the school and Division have the most up-to-date information regarding your child. Your review is especially important as the Division prepares for 2024-25 registration processes beginning in the new year.

NOTE: Only submit updates for the changes that have already taken place. If you're moving later this school year, you'll submit the necessary updates to your information through the **Student Information Update** after you've moved.

If you have questions about the form or any trouble with your Parent Portal account, contact the school office at 780-467-7751.

Strathcona County Information

FREE EARLY DISMISSAL SWIM

Make the most of your extra time in the afternoon with a free swim at **Kinsmen Leisure Centre** and pick up your Pasta Pantry voucher.

Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 3:15 - 5:45 p.m.

FREE SANTA SKATE DECEMBER 10

Come join us at the Glen Allan Recreation Complex for our annual Santa Skate on **Sunday,**

December 10, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

- Skate with Santa
- Free skate rentals
- Photo opportunity
- Cookie decorating
- Hot chocolate
- Colouring

GET OUTSIDE AND PLAY

It will probably get more cold and snowy over the next few months and getting outside to play can get trickier. Here is some [great information](#) on how to be comfortable so we can enjoy our time outside together!

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

Emergency Services staff are ready to respond 24 hours a day, seven days a week – however, they would rather not make a personal visit. The risk of fires increases during the holiday season. Prevent fires before they happen and have a safe holiday season with these quick tips:

- Make sure your smoke detector is working.
- Fresh Christmas trees must remain healthy throughout the holiday season. Start by choosing a tree with a strong green colour and noticeable fragrance and fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.
- Discard any strings of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Check for kinks, damage to the wire and loose connections – when plugging in a cord, make sure it fits snugly inside the outlet.
- Do not overcharge lithium-ion batteries found in cell phones, laptops, eBikes and many toys and power tools – this can cause the battery to overheat. Only charge the device or device battery for the recommended charging time.
- If you are setting off fireworks this season, ensure you have a permit and are safely discharging them in approved areas.

[Get more tips on our website](#)