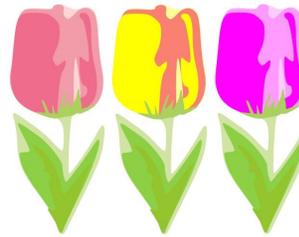


THE WESTBORO REPORT



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As we look to the arrival of Spring, I am excited by the prospect of green, growing grass, tulips and daffodils. Spring is my favorite time of year! I can hardly wait to get in to my garden again and plant seeds! However, as the snow turns to slush, it can also be problematic on our playground—please ensure that your child has some extra clothes on hand—just in case! Children do seem to be magnetically attracted to water! Wishing you all a wonderful Spring break and lots of warm sunshine in the very near future!



From the Office

MARCH

- 1 Early Dismiss
- 1 & 2 Interviews (4 – 7 pm)
- 2 Newsletter
- 3 PD Day
- 12 Daylight Time Begins
- 14 Pi Day π
- 14 Logos Meeting (Westboro 7 p.m.)
- 15 School Council Meeting (1:00 p.m.)
- 16 Logos Chapel (1:00 p.m.)
- 17 Hot Lunch
- 21 Report Cards

Spring Break
Mar. 24 – Apr. 2

APRIL

- 3 Welcome Back
- 5 Early Dismiss
- 7 Newsletter

SOUP LABELS

Please note: Campbell's Soup has discontinued it's soup label program and so we will **no longer** be accepting soup labels here at the school. Thank you for the many families who supported this fundraiser over the years!



SPRING IS HERE!

As the weather warms, the snow melts and puddles appear!

Given the increased amounts of water on our playground, we would kindly ask you to remember to send an extra set of labelled socks, and pants to school for your child - just in case! It might also be a good time to dig out those rubber boots!!



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PRINCIPAL
Colleen Alpern

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
Matt Matheson

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BUDGET PROCESS AND REGISTRATION FOR 2017-2018

As we begin to move into the planning process for the 2017-2018 school year, we would sincerely appreciate it if you could let the office know if you are planning on an alternate program for your child's schooling for next year. Simply send us an email or give us a call to let us know if you will be moving or changing schools or have other plans. This information is vital to us as we move ahead.

Thank you sincerely!

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP - PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

The following policy was developed in order to help protect your personal equipment, the privacy of our students and the instructional integrity of our classrooms. Please take time to review these expectations with your child! Feel free to contact Mr. Matheson with any questions or concerns!

1. Student use of personal electronic devices at lunch and recess is not allowed.
2. Students are allowed to have personal electronic devices with them in school, but they need to be kept out of sight (in a pocket, backpack, etc.).
3. Students are allowed to use personal electronic devices during indoor recess to view school-appropriate content.
4. Students can use personal electronic devices in the classroom when the classroom teacher allows it.
5. Students with devices that have cameras and/or video cameras should not use them to take photos or video of other students or staff during school hours or during school activities. Also, students should not post school photos or videos online or to social media.
6. When a personally owned electronic device is brought to school, students and their families accept that school authorities may inspect the device and what's on it to ensure that EIPS policies and guidelines, including the Student Acceptable Use of Technology Agreement are followed.
7. When a student brings a personally owned electronic device to school, students and their families accept that the student is responsible for the device and its care, and agree that the school is not responsible for damage, loss or theft of the device.

FIRST NATION, METIS AND INUIT EDUCATION

Over the past couple of years, implementation of policy and law has been refined in Alberta. The Minister of Education and the Alberta Teachers' Association has initiated curriculum change and legislation requiring all teachers and administrators to meet outcomes related to First Nation, Metis and Inuit education. In addition, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada has set out calls to action designed to improve the welfare, education, language and culture, health and justice for the aboriginal peoples of Canada. Elk Island Public Schools has also included this in their second goal (Success for every student) which has as an outcome the reduction of the achievement gap between First Nation, Metis and Inuit students and all other students.

In order to begin successfully meeting these requirements, activities and instruction are being planned for Westboro Elementary students and staff. While we have begun acknowledging that we are on treaty land at general assemblies, staff meetings, parent council meetings and on Friday morning announcements, we are also working closely with Elder Wilson Bearhead within the school as we explore dance, story and other cultural elements with our students. He will be spending some time with us in May.

Lessons will also be explored around the talking stick and the importance of names in April or May that will coincide with our celebration "Music Monday" led by Mrs. Richard. In addition, we will share activities that are focused on the children's book by Nicola Campbell, *Shi-shi-etko*. Finally, watch for more information around a school-wide celebration of Aboriginal Day on June 22.

We are looking forward to exploring First Nation, Metis and Inuit Education with our students! Please contact us with any questions or concerns.

COUNSELLING AT WESTBORO

As you have probably noticed, Ms. Fedor is expecting!! In fact, she is expecting twins! This means that her last day of work at Westboro for a while will be Thursday, March 2. We wish her all the best as she heads off of the wonderful adventure of Motherhood!

Please join us in welcoming Mr. Jeremy Cooper to the staff at Westboro Elementary. Mr. Cooper will be filling the counsellor position while Ms. Fedor is on leave. He joins us from Strathcona Christian Secondary School where he has taught for several years. With many diverse experiences with students in school, he has begun pursuing his Masters in Counseling. He will be working here on Tuesdays, Thursdays and alternate Fridays. We are pleased to welcome him to Westboro and so, if you see him in the halls, make sure you say "Hi"!

COUNSELLOR'S CORNER

Two Sculptors In Life Studio

By Victoria Stewart

I dreamed I stood in a studio
And watched the sculptors there
The clay they used was a young child's mind
And they fashioned it with care.

One was a teacher – the tools she used
Were books, music and art
The other was a parent, who worked with a
Guiding hand and a gentle loving heart.

Day after day the teacher toiled with touch
That was careful, deft and sure
While the parent labored by her side
And polished and smoothed it over.

And when at last their work was done
They were proud of what they had wrought
For the things they had molded into the child
Could neither be sold nor bought.

And each agreed they would have failed
If each had worked alone
For behind the parent, stood the school
And behind the teacher, the home.

As I leave to embark on the new adventure of motherhood, I am so grateful for the joy, excitement and support from the terrific students, staff and parents at Westboro! So many have celebrated in this journey with me. Many students have suggested terrific names and shared ideas to help with the babies. A million thanks to my wonderfully supportive friends on staff and parents for all of the tips, chats and suggestions. Although this is good-bye for now, I look forward to visiting with the babies and to seeing everyone again soon. It is the unique and special gifts shared by each individual that makes our school such a special place. Wishing everyone success and blessings and a terrific rest of the year!

LOGOS SOCIETY



Lent is a season of contemplation. Some of us choose to give up something for lent while more recently others have decided to commit to doing a positive deed or act as their method of marking the season. With the Logos Society Annual General Meeting approaching in June, this might be the time of year to begin to consider prayerfully about serving on the board for the 2017/18 school year. With that in mind, we encourage

anyone who may be interested in learning more about what is involved in participating in the board and supporting the fantastic program all of our children enjoy and get so much from to attend our next board meeting on Tuesday, March 14 at 7:00 pm in the Westboro Elementary School library. The current board members are more than happy to answer any questions you may have and look forward to seeing you.

Our March chapel will be Thursday, March 16 at 1:00pm in the gym. Please join us if you are able to attend and while you are there or any other time you are at the school, remember the purple Prayer box is available outside the office to take your prayer requests. Prayer requests will be prayed for every two to three weeks by those who attend the Logos Prayer Meetings and will be kept confidential.

If you want to keep up to date on what is happening with Logos, please visit our website at <http://elkislandlogos.ca> and join the Elk Island Logos Society Facebook page.

Krista Goretzky and Rachel Milne

Westboro Logos Representatives

John 12:26

Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

REGISTER FOR KINDERGARTEN

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2017? If so, it's now time to register for kindergarten.

To register, bring your completed [Student Registration Form](#) to the school you're enrolling your child at along with proof of your child's name, residence, date of birth and citizenship. If you're registering for kindergarten at SouthPointe School, the new school in Fort Saskatchewan opening in the 2017–2018 school year, you can submit a registration form to any elementary school in Fort Saskatchewan - the school will make sure your registration package is delivered to the principal at SouthPointe School.

Additional information regarding **Westboro Elementary's** kindergarten program, can be found on our school website at www.westboroelementary.ca.

To assist in our planning for next year, we encourage families to register their new Kindergarteners, and make busing arrangements, if needed, by April 30, 2017.

SCHOOL COUNCIL/ PARENTS' GROUP NEWS

Our Family Dance, which is our biggest fundraiser and event, will take place on Friday, April 21 from 6 – 9 pm. This is always an awesome night with raffle baskets, a silent auction and of course lots of music and dancing. In order to make this event a success, we really need support from our families. We are accepting donations for the raffle baskets and the silent auction beginning now, right up until just before the dance. As this date approaches, we will also need lots of volunteers to help, both in the weeks leading up to the event, and during the event itself. Please consider lending us a hand to help make this a success!

February saw Crazy Hair Day and Westboro Parents Group supplied Crazy Bread to go along with all that crazy hair. The students always seem to look forward to a special treat!

One of our hot lunch coordinators, Leah Hesson, is stepping down at the end of this year after several years of service. We thank her for her countless hours organizing this program. If you are interested in joining this committee, we are looking for one or two additional volunteers. Feel free to email us at WestboroParents@gmail.com if you are interested, or if you would just like some more information.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 15th at 6:30 pm in the school library. One of the things we will be discussing are the issue resolutions which will be presented at the Alberta School Councils Association AGM and what stance Westboro School Council would like to support on these resolutions. We look forward to seeing you there – feel free to join us afterwards as well, as we go out for wings, nachos and pizza.

BATHROOM RENOVATIONS

We are very excited to let you know that Westboro Elementary has been slated for bathroom renovations (both the grade 3/4 washrooms and the grade 5/6 washrooms) to be completed over Spring Break. Because of the magnitude of this project, the renovations will be ongoing throughout the break and the grade 5/6 washrooms will also still be under construction for approximately one week after the break as well. During this time the grade 5/6 students will use the washrooms located near the music room. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause, but we will look forward to enjoying fresh, clean washrooms after this time! Thanks for your ongoing patience.

HOT LUNCH

The hot lunch committee would like to thank all our volunteers for their support. If you would like to come for a day and hand out hot lunch to the students, click on the volunteer button for that day when placing your child's order. Or contact us and we will gladly add you to the list. Younger siblings are also welcome to come on that day and join their siblings for lunch.

Online ordering for the upcoming hot lunches closes on Mar.6. Please make all payments also by that date. Visit westboro.hotlunches.net to place your orders. Here is what we have coming up:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Mar. 17 | Hot Dog Day (featuring Booster Juice Smoothies) |
| Apr. 13 | Wild Wing (with treats from Bev Facey) |
| May. 5 | Fatburger |



If you have any questions email us at westborohotlunches@gmail.com.

SPRING BREAK CAMP



Are you looking for an exciting time for your child during this Spring Break? Yes! We have an answer! **Friends Club's Spring Break Camp "Around the World in 5 Days"**! (Kindergarten to Grade 6 - March 27 - 31, 2017)

For more information and to register call Kasia at: 780-707-4481 or e-mail: kspa@shaw.ca

Take a break from school and join the fun! Field trip, games, art and crafts will make this camp a great way to spend Spring Break!



TRAFFIC SAFETY IN SCHOOL ZONES

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) reminds all parents, students, and staff to please keep safety in mind as you travel through school and playground zones, whether you are a driver or a pedestrian. Please help keep our students safe as they make their way to and from school by watching out for other drivers and pedestrians on the road, and obeying all posted speed limits and other traffic-related signage.

EIPS continues to work with local law enforcement and Alberta Transportation to address traffic and parking issues near our schools when they arise. We appreciate your assistance and cooperation as we work to provide a safe and inviting learning environment for all students.

Below are some school zone traffic safety tips from the Government of Alberta.

Tips to keep children safe

Examine the road ahead and obey posted speed limits.

Always be prepared to slow down or stop.

Do not drive while distracted - always be alert of your surroundings.

Use caution when approaching intersections or mid-block crosswalks.

Parked or stopped vehicles may hide a pedestrian crossing the road. The fine for failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk or passing a vehicle stopped at a crosswalk is \$575 and four demerit points.

Do not park in crosswalks.

Watch for school safety patrollers, identified by their orange vests, and stop as directed.

Driving tips when around school buses

Always watch for children crossing roads. Prepare to slow down and stop.

Alternating flashing yellow or amber lights mean a bus is slowing down to stop. Please do the same.

When approaching a school bus with red lights flashing - you must stop! The fine for passing a school bus with its red lights flashing is \$402 and six demerit points.

TRAFFIC SAFETY IN SCHOOL ZONES CONT'D

Speed limits in school and playground zones

The speed limit in a school zone is 30 kilometers per hour unless otherwise posted.

A school zone is in effect on school days from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. unless other times are posted.

The speed limit in a playground zone is 30 kilometers per hour unless otherwise posted.

A vehicle is not permitted to pass or attempt to pass another vehicle travelling in the same direction from 8:30 a.m. to one hour after sunset in a playground zone.

Reminders for parents to share with their children

Follow the bus safety rules - make sure your child always rides the bus safely.

Before crossing the road: POINT across the road to show drivers you want to cross;

PAUSE until the cars stop and you make eye contact with the drivers; PROCEED with your arm extended after all cars in all the lanes have stopped. Never run into the street.

Ride legally - No helmet! No bike! If your child is under the age of 18 he/she must always wear a helmet when riding a bike.

Source: Government of Alberta – Office of Traffic Safety

For the Westboro Community specifically:

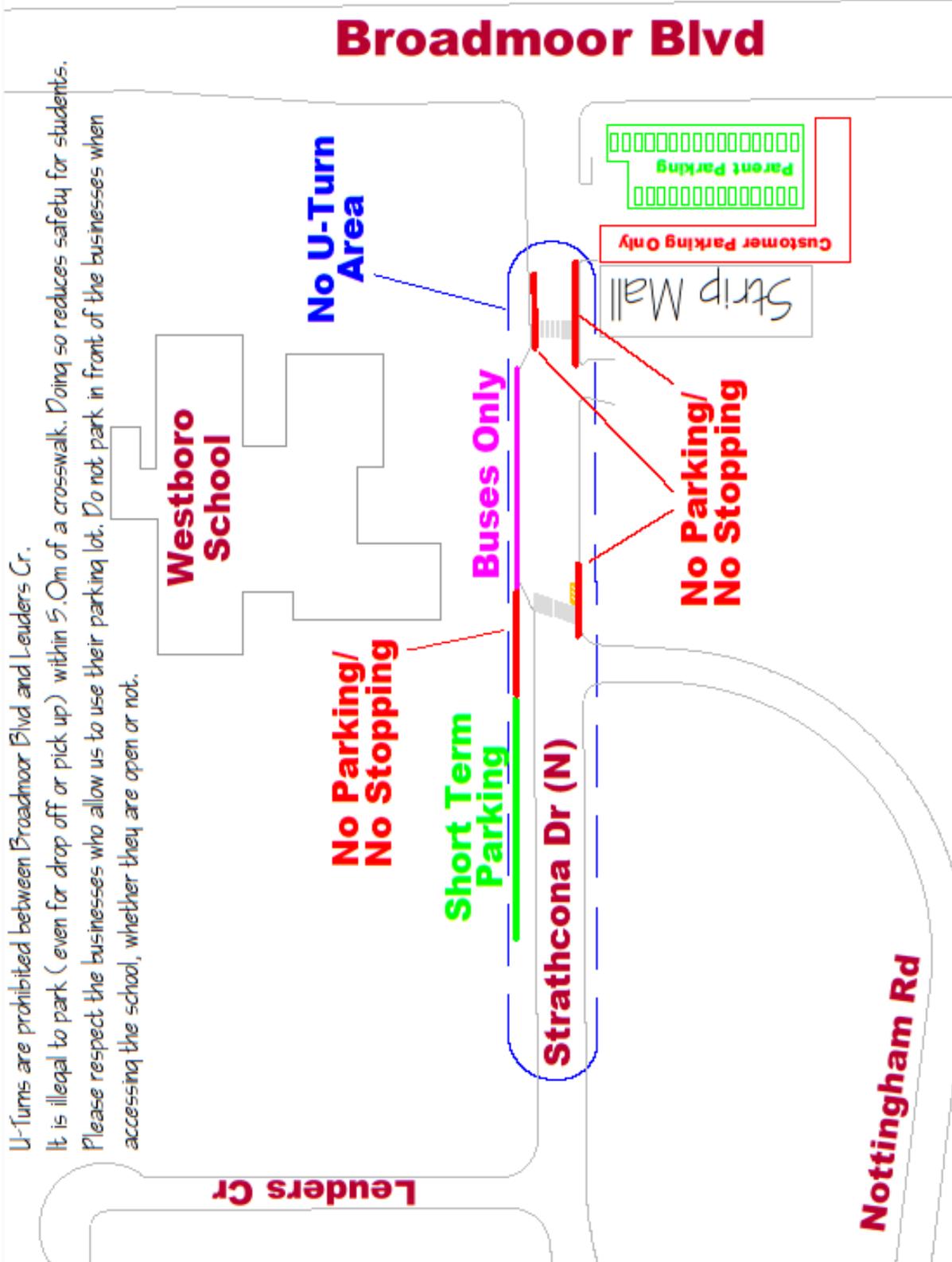
As a gesture of goodwill, the owner of the strip mall across the school generously allows parents to use the back half of their parking lot for student drop off and pick up. In order to maintain this privilege, parents are asked to refrain from parking anywhere along the front of the businesses (whether they are open for business or not) and to ensure that accesses to the lot are not blocked.

Also, please note that there is absolutely

NO PARKING OR DROPPING OFF

allowed in the Staff Parking lots.

Thank you.



EIPS DISTRICT NEWS

BOUNDARY EXCEPTION PROCESS

The Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) boundary exemption request process for the 2017 - 2018 school year is now open.

EIPS students - in kindergarten to Grade 12 - wanting to attend a non-designated school in the upcoming school year can now apply to do so. All interested families must fill out a Boundary Exemption Request Form and submit it directly to their requested school. The application deadline is April 7, 2017. Boundary exemption requests received after April 7, 2017 will be declined. There is no late or secondary process.

The [Boundary Exemption Request Form](#) and additional information about the boundary exemption request process, schools with closed boundaries and frequently asked questions can be found by visiting www.eips.ca/schools/boundaries/boundary-exemption-request-process.

Final decisions will be made by April 12, 2017.

SPRING ICE IS ROTTEN ICE

Watch for Thin Ice

Elk Island Public Schools, along with our community partners, want to remind families about the dangers of thin ice during this time of year. Depending on changing temperatures, ice can form and melt to varying degrees on outdoor bodies of water. Please remind your children about the dangers of thin ice, to obey all posted signs and to take the proper care to remain a safe distance from the ice.

For more information on ice safety, visit www.lifesaving.org.

Did you know?

The way ice forms affects the way it melts in spring. Minerals in the water actually become concentrated in vertical veins throughout the ice as it freezes. Warm temperatures cause these veins to melt more quickly and weaken the ice, a process known as *candling*.



PEDESTRIAN LIGHTS

New Safety Lights Put a Spotlight on Rural School Bus Safety

Students who live in rural areas throughout Strathcona County recently received a pedestrian safety light, thanks to the Strathcona County School Traffic Safety Partnership and Shell Canada. The lights are easy to attach to a backpack and are meant to help rural bus operator see children during dusk and dawn hours. Make sure to encourage your child to light up and be visible when getting on and off the school bus and crossing street intersections.



We all have a part to play in road safety. Here are a few simple rules to help keep everyone safe:

- **Look out for one another.** Slow down and watch for pedestrians when driving or cycling, particularly in areas where there are no sidewalks or streetlights.

Help Drivers see you. When walking on the road, always walk against the traffic. Wear brightly coloured or reflective clothing when walking in low light or poor weather conditions.



School Memo re: Mumps *To: Students, Parents and Staff of Alberta Schools From the Alberta Medical Officers of Health* Date: 2017-Feb-21

Outbreaks of mumps in Manitoba and the United States in the past several months are a reminder that vaccine-preventable infections, including mumps, are still a risk to health, including here in Alberta. To reduce the risk to your child, and our communities, we need to ensure as many Albertans as possible are up to date with their mumps immunization. This includes yourself, and your children.

Mumps is a contagious viral infection that can often cause swelling and pain in the jaw (one or both cheeks may look swollen). Some people with mumps won't have gland swelling, and some may feel like they have a bad cold or influenza instead.

Mumps is spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes near you or shares food or drinks with you. A person with mumps can spread the virus seven days before and for nine days after symptoms start, though it is most likely to spread the virus one to two days before and five days after symptoms start showing.

Although mumps usually goes away on its own in about 10 days, in some cases, it can cause serious complications that affect the brain (meningitis), the testicles (orchitis), the ovaries (oophoritis), or the pancreas (pancreatitis). These complications can have life-long effects.

Mumps can be prevented through immunization (vaccine).

The MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine, and the MMRV (measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella [chickenpox]) vaccine, both protect against mumps. Most children get these vaccines as part of their routine childhood shots. The first dose is given at age one, and a second dose at age four.

The vaccine is safe, and is also effective. Before the mumps vaccine existed, mumps was a common childhood disease in Canada and the United States.

Protect yourself, and your children:

1. Check your own and your children's immunization records to be sure that you and your children are up to date on your vaccines. Call Health Link (811) if you are unsure how to find or check your immunization records, and/or to learn how to make an appointment for immunization. Mumps-specific recommendations include:

- Children should receive one dose of vaccine at 12 months of age, and a second dose between four years and six years of age. By the age of six, all Albertan children should have received two doses of mumps-containing vaccine.
- Adults (18 years of age and older) and born in 1970 or later should have at least one dose of mumps-containing vaccine. (Note: two doses are recommended for post-secondary students of this age and for all healthcare workers)

- Those born before 1970 are assumed to be immune due to the fact that mumps was extremely common prior to vaccine being available. (Note: one dose is recommended for post-secondary students of this age; two doses are recommended for all healthcare workers).

2. Anyone with symptoms of pain on chewing or swallowing and/or swelling of the cheek or jaw should call Health Link (811) or a doctor to book an assessment and consideration of testing. If you think that you or your child has mumps, be sure to call ahead and explain the symptoms before you go to a doctor's office.

3. Anyone with symptoms as above should stay home from school/work for 5 days from the start of swelling.

4. To prevent spreading infections, always:

- Practice good hand hygiene – wash hands often with soap and water, or use alcohol hand rub.
- Avoid sharing items that could be contaminated with saliva, such as water bottles, drinking glasses, utensils, etc.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are touched often (e.g. door handles).
- Cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue or a forearm, not your hand.

For more information on routine childhood immunization, and the diseases that these immunization prevent, visit www.immunizealberta.ca.

We thank you for your collaboration in keeping Alberta's children, and our communities, healthy.

Sincerely –

Dr. Albert de Villiers, North Zone Lead Medical Officer of Health

Dr. Chris Sikora, Edmonton Zone Lead Medical Officer of Health

Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Central Zone Lead Medical Officer of Health

Dr. David Strong, Calgary Zone Lead Medical Officer of Health

Dr. Vivien Suttorp, South Zone Lead Medical Officer of Health

Dr. Wadieh Yacoub, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch Medical Officer of Health