

December 1, 2024

Dear Wes Hosford Families,

It's time to fill our Wes Hosford Express with your generous donations to the Strathcona Food Bank! Please bring a non-perishable food item to the Grade 1-3 Christmas Concert on Thursday or send your items to school with your child from December 2-6. Thank you!



Gr 1-3 Christmas Concert - Christmas Through the Decades!



When: December 5 at 7:00pm
Where: Wes Hosford Gymnasium

The school's front doors will open at 6:30 for guests with tickets to enter the gym and for performing students, who will make their way to their classrooms. Every person needs a ticket, regardless of age, except for performing children. Doors are locked at 7:01!

Limited seating, due to fire regulations, meant that we asked families to pre-book tickets for the evening. You received a google form link on Nov. 20 and each family was able to book up to 4 tickets. All concert tickets will be sent home in your child's backpack on December 3th. You were asked to identify the child with whom the tickets would be sent. These cannot be replaced, so if you prefer to pick them up yourself, please notify Mrs. Snow via email at terry.snow@eips.ca. **Seating will be on a first come basis.** Front doors will open at 6:30 and will be locked at 7:01.

A livestream of the concert will be available! Thank you to Mr. Arndt for doing this for us! Those who can't attend can still enjoy the concert from the comfort of their home. Details to follow. Also, we have a Dress Rehearsal at 1:30 on the 5th and there are a few (very few as the student body is the audience) seats available for grandparents who can't come in the evening.

If you or a guest has a walker or crutches, several aisle seats will have a "Reserved for Mobility Issues" sign on them. We cannot guarantee priority seating or provide guests with mobility issues early access. Please consider having one family member wait in line and text individuals with mobility issues to let them know when they can make their way into the school.

Our Fundraising Society is having a raffle where you could win [Front Row Seats](#) to the concert! No waiting in line! Nobody's head blocking your view! We hope you enter! Go to the Munch a Lunch site under Donations to purchase raffle tickets.

Hot Lunch Ordering

This will open on December 13th... watch for an email. Ordering will close December 27th.

First Nations, Métis, Inuit, Newsletter

Please read our district First Nations, Métis, and Inuit newsletter:

<https://secure.smores.com/n/jaush>

Kindergarten Registration Starts Soon!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2025? If so, it's almost time to register for kindergarten.

Kindergarten registration for the 2025-26 school year opens on Feb. 1, 2025.

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.



Did you know?

Alberta's publicly funded systems—public, Catholic and francophone—serve the educational interests of almost 720,000 kindergarten to Grade 12 students across the province. Funding diverted to alternative educational institutions, both for infrastructure and programming, negatively impacts the public system's ability to provide comprehensive, equitable, accessible and mandated programming for 90 per cent of the province's students.

Share Your Thoughts on Budget Planning for 2025-26

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 five 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 18, 2024

Grade 12 students will complete the survey at school.

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

Fee Waiver Application Deadline

If circumstances exist where you're unable to pay school or transportation fees, you can apply to have [fees waived](#) by submitting an [Application for a Waiver of Fees](#). The application deadline is Dec. 16, 2024. If you're new to the Division, the deadline is the latter of Dec. 16, 2024, or 45 days after registration.

To access your fee information, simply log in to the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) and go to "Student Fees." There you can view your fees and pay them online using Visa or MasterCard. All fees are due within 30 days of being posted.

Don't forget to also log in to the PowerSchool Parent Portal regularly throughout the year. Fees are often added to your child's account to cover the cost of various school activities such as field trips, class projects, extracurricular activities and more.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines, visit www.eips.ca/schools/fees or Wes Hosford's [Fee page](#) on the website. Alternatively, contact Mrs. Snow at 780-464-1711.



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Board of Trustees

I want to extend warm holiday wishes to all students, staff and families on behalf of the Elk Island Public Schools Board of Trustees.

We're grateful to have school communities full of hard-working families committed to the success of their children. Education doesn't just happen in school, it happens at home too—in every homework assignment completed, every textbook chapter read and every test reviewed. Thank you for taking the time out of your day to cultivate learning at home, so that students are eager to strive for their best at school the next day. We also appreciate the countless hours school councils put into planning events and appreciate all the people who volunteer at and attend them. Your support is invaluable.

We hope you enjoy all the holiday concerts and festivities happening at your schools, and that you get some well-deserved rest during the break. To each and every person, have a wonderful holiday season and a healthy and happy New Year.

We look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Jan. 6, 2025.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays,

Cathy Allen
EIPS Board Chair

Important Dates

November

29 - Reports Cards became available online on Friday at 4:00

December

4 - Early Dismissal (2:00)

4 - Watch for an email regarding Mom's Pantry order pick up

5 - Concert Dress Rehearsal at 1:30 -Grandparents not attending at 7:00 are welcome to attend

5 - Concert at 7:00 (doors open at 6:30) - Please bring a Food Bank Donation!

5 - Anticipated day to pick up Mom's Pantry orders

6 - Popcorn Day

6 - Red and Green day!

10 - Kindergarten Class B Concert in the Library at 11:30

11 - Kindergarten Class A Concert in the Library at 11:30

13 - Ordering for Term 2 Hot Lunch opens

13 - Christmas Hat Day! Reindeer antlers are also fun!

18 - Hot Lunch Day!

20 - Treat Day

20 - Christmas sweater or PJ Day!

20 - last day of class for 2024!

27 - Hot Lunch Ordering closes

January

6 - First day of class for 2024!

6 - Early Dismissal (2:10)

I hope you have a great month of December!

Sue

