

March 3, 2025

Dear Wes Hosford Families,

Well, we've had quite the melt!
It feels like spring!
And I'm loving the longer hours of daylight!



In our colder months, students have been enjoying **Intramurals, Mindfulness Club, Friendship Club, Coding Club, and Running Club!** As we head into warmer months, we will have fewer indoor clubs and will encourage our students to play outdoors.

For field trips this year, students have enjoyed many amazing, curriculum-based adventures, including the **Alberta Legislature, Strathcona Wilderness Centre, John Walter Museum, and Birch Bay Ranch.** Fun and engaging in school field trips include, **Clay for Kids, Saffron, Teacher's Pet, Honor Choir, Alberta Opera (Rapunzel), and many Indigenous presentations** including the ever-amazing **Goota Desmarais, an Inuit presenter.**

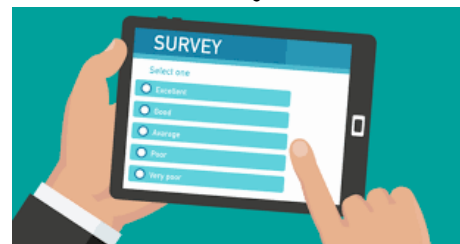
Please enjoy Spring Break with your family starting on March 21st and returning March 31st.
Sue

It's Survey Season!

EIPS Annual Feedback Survey

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) wants to hear from you. Every year, EIPS conducts a feedback survey to gauge its progress toward meeting the goals and priorities outlined in its [Four-Year Education Plan](#). Collectively, the Division uses the survey feedback to help guide future planning, decision-making and strategies—all aimed at enhancing student learning and better serving the wider community.

Complete the [2024-25 EIPS Annual Feedback Survey: For Parents and Caregivers](#) by **March 21**.



Alberta Education Assurance Survey

The Alberta Education Assurance survey gathers feedback on the quality of education provided by school authorities and their schools. Schools and school authorities use this information to understand how they are doing and plan for the future. At Wes Hosford, Grade 4 parents and caregivers have received information directly from the school on how to complete the survey. Complete the Alberta Education Assurance survey by March 21—[learn more](#). For questions or concerns, contact the school.

EIPS Annual Education Results Report

Every year, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) publishes an Annual Education Results Report, which outlines the Division's Four-Year Education Plan, growth opportunities, and how it supports students in achieving the best possible outcomes. Read through this year's [EIPS Annual Education Results Report 2023-24](#) and discover how EIPS fosters learning environments for all students to learn, grow and thrive—and why it matters.

March Spotlight: Student Growth and Success

- [Early Learning](#): Ensuring early learners reach developmental milestones
- [Culture of Literacy](#): Dive deep into the data and learn how students are developing strong literacy skills
- [Math Matters](#): Enhancing reasoning, understanding and achievement through numeracy-rich classrooms
- [Boosting Educational Outcomes](#): How EIPS supports the growth and achievement of self-identified First Nations, Métis or Inuit students.
- [Beyond High School](#): Supports and strategies that are creating real-life career pathways for learners

Related Information

[EIPS Four-Year Education Plan: 2022-26](#)

[EIPS Three-Year Capital Plan: 2025-28](#)

Kindergarten Registration is Now Open!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2025? If so, it's now time to register for kindergarten. To register, simply complete the online registration form at eips.ca/kindergarten.



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 Wes Hosford's kindergarten program is available at weshosford.ca.

Pre-kindergarten Programming at EIPS

Is there a preschooler in your life experiencing developmental delays or challenges with speech-language or motor-skill development—big or small? If so, Elk Island Public School's Play And Learn at School (PALS) program could help.

Early learning lays the foundation for success in primary grades and beyond. As such, EIPS offers the pre-kindergarten PALS program in five of its elementary school locations. Applications are now open for free speech-language assessments for those interested in registering in the PALS program this fall. The assessment helps determine if PALS is appropriate for your child.



If you know a preschooler, born in 2021 or 2022, who could benefit from pre-kindergarten programming or want to book an assessment, fill out the [PALS Program Request Form](#) or call 780-417-8219. For more information, visit eips.ca.

Update to EIPS Administrative Procedure 146: Social Media



Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) has updated EIPS Administrative Procedure 146: Social Media, as per the new legislation from the provincial government. The procedure includes rules for using personal devices at school and banned social media platforms. [Learn more](#)

Did you know?

EIPS is seeking two volunteer community members to serve on its Audit Committee. The Audit Committee reports to the Board of Trustees and is comprised of three elected trustees and two volunteers residing within EIPS boundaries. This opportunity provides valuable experience in the financial oversight of one of Alberta's largest school divisions with an operating budget of approximately \$210 million. The committee keeps EIPS accountable for every dollar spent to enhance student success. The closing date for this opportunity is March 7, 2025. For more information and to apply, visit the [EIPS website](#).



Mental Health Capacity Building (MHCB) Updates

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This month was busy with Random Acts of Kindness activities. The Kindness Club delivered treats and kind notes to students to promote positivity within our school. Showing random acts of kindness improves our school culture!



Grades Kindergarten-Grade 3 continued working on Self Awareness & Emotion Management, where we learned about setting boundaries, dealing with insecurity, and calming our bodies and brains down when we become too excited, among other topics.

Grades 4-6 continued with relationships, where we talked about how to determine healthy and unhealthy relationship behaviors, and respecting ourselves and others.

Kastyn Konieczny, MHCB Coach - kastyn.konieczny@strathcona.ca

Family Resource Network (FRN) Updates

Upcoming Free Programming - [Calendar here](#)

- **Art to Heart - Spring Break Program.** Ages Grade 6 and older. Tuesday March 25, 1-3pm. 160 Festival Way, Sherwood Park

Unleash your creativity by diving into art activities and meet new friends. No artistic skills required, just bring a friend and your imagination!

- **Mental Motion - Spring Break Program.** Ages Grade 6 and older. Wednesday March 26, 1-3pm. 160 Festival Way, Sherwood Park

Boost your mental wellbeing and build skills through fun physical activities. This program gets kids moving while building their brains and fueling their minds.

- **Cook it Up - Spring Break Program.** Ages Grade 6 and older. Thursday March 27, 1-3pm. 160 Festival Way, Sherwood Park.

Explore cooking and learn how to fuel your body and boost your mental health. No prior cooking experience needed - just your enthusiasm!

Alanna Lawrence, Family Resource Facilitator - alanna.lawrence@strathcona.ca



Save the Dates!

- Hot Lunch Orders!

Ordering for term 3 **opened March 1st** and closes March 22nd! Go to MunchaLunch.com to order!



- Family Dance! Please come and join us in the gym on **March 20th**! Buy tickets through MunchaLunch.com until **March 19th**.

Details will sent via email on Wednesday, February 26th! Please remember that all students must be accompanied by a parent/caregiver.

- Kindergarten Open House! **April 24th** in the library. Details will follow, but if you know anyone with kindergarten aged children, please bring their attention to our open house.

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

- **March 1:** Hot Lunch ordering opens! MunchaLunch.com
- **March 5:** Early Dismissal Day (2:10 pick up)
- **March 7:** Staff PD Day - No School for Students
- **March 10-14:** Substitute Appreciation Week
- **March 13:** School Council and Fundraising Society Meetings at 6:30 in the Library.
- **March 14:** Treat Day! Progress Reports available online at 4:00.
- **March 18:** Hot Lunch!
- **March 20:** Family Dance!
- **March 21:** Spring Break begins - no school
- **March 21:** Hot Lunch Ordering closes! MunchaLunch.com
- **March 31:** Students return to school and National Indigenous Languages Day.

