

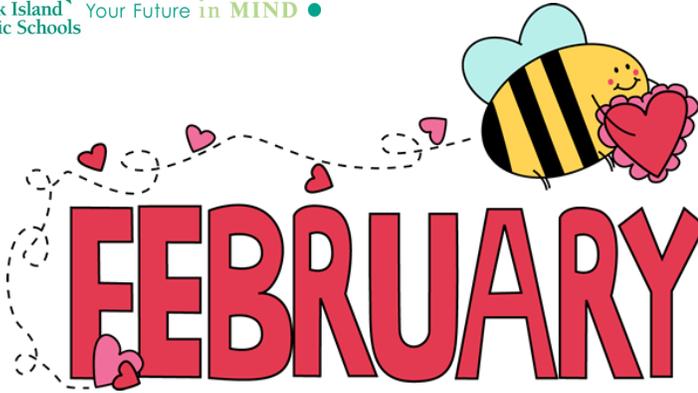


Your Future in MIND



Wes Hosford  
Elementary School

Academics. Fitness. Community.



FEBRUARY 5, 2020 VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

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### Administration Message

February, while the shortest month of the year, tends to be one of the busiest with many special days to recognize important events. February embraces Valentines Day, Family Day, Teachers Convention, Warm Hearts for Cold Days, Random Acts of Kindness Week, and Pink Shirt Day (Choose Kind).

I hope everyone will have a chance to celebrate a wonderful Valentine’s Day together and a fun filled Family Day long weekend. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate so you can enjoy many outdoor activities together.

### Bouquets

- ♥ Thanks to Mrs. Erickson for helping organize our students for the Young Author’s Conference.
- ♥ Thanks to Mrs. Tachuk, Mrs. Pedersen and Ms. Lerbekmo for their work with running club.
- ♥ Thanks to Mr. Henderson for organizing basketball intramurals.
- ♥ Thanks to Mrs. Murray & Ms. Griffin for hosting math club during lunch.

### Student Absences, Lates, Leaving/Returning

Just a reminder for your assistance in the following office procedures.

- ♥ When students are **late** for school (morning/afternoon); **leaving** school for an appointment; **returning** to school from an appointment, the student or their parent **must come to the office** and sign in/out on the **Student Sign In & Out Log** located on the bulletin board.
- ♥ Please call the school when your child will be **absent**. Messages can be left on our answering machine any day at anytime.
- ♥ To alleviate stress for your child and last minute calls to the office, please send note with your child of any changes for end of day pick-up. If your child usually takes the bus and there is no note... your child will be put on the bus.

We appreciate your willingness to assist our office staff in ensuring your children are safe. Thank you!

### Contact Us:

#### Address:

207 Granada Blvd.  
Sherwood Park, AB  
T8A 3R5

#### Phone:

780.464.1711

#### Fax:

780.467.5342

#### Website:

[www.weshosford.ca](http://www.weshosford.ca)

## Kindergarten Registration is Now Open!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2020? If so, it's now time to register for kindergarten. To register, simply complete the online registration form at [eips.ca/kindergarten](https://eips.ca/kindergarten).

To help families prepare, Elk Island Public Schools has put together an online toolkit—available at [eips.ca/kindergarten](https://eips.ca/kindergarten)—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 kindergarten is available on our school website at [www.weshosford.ca](https://www.weshosford.ca)



## Complete the Returning Student Registration: February 1-29

Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) returning student registration process is now open. All returning students must complete the online Returning Student Registration Form to confirm their child's enrolment in a school for the upcoming 2020-21 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. **All returning EIPS students are required to complete the form by Feb. 29, 2020.**



Access to the Returning Student Registration Form is provided through the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) on the EIPS website. If you don't have a PowerSchool Parent Portal account, you need to set one up before Feb. 1, 2020.

## Warm Hearts for Cold Days

On February 28, students are encouraged to wear their favorite mitts, toques and scarves indoors for the day and bring **NEW** mitts, toques or scarves to donate to **Hearts 4 the Homeless**.

***We will be collecting NEW mitts, toques and scarves during the week of Feb 24-28.***



## Superintendent Update—Mark Laguori

If what we're forecasting is accurate, we have to concentrate on what's important—our core work, which is teaching and learning in the classroom

I've had quite the hiatus from my blog. And, I must confess, I don't have a good excuse as to why. Sometimes though, when you have something on your mind, that's the precise time to put pen to paper.

So far, the school year is off to a good start. We have much to celebrate—engaged students, dedicated staff, and supportive families and school communities. Overall, students continue to achieve at high levels, we're making headway in areas we've identified as challenges, and our annual results indicate we're providing students with a high-quality education and opportunities to learn, grow and thrive in and out of school.

That's not to say we haven't also had our challenges. We have.

As you know, the provincial budget was delivered much later than usual—in fall 2019 as opposed to spring 2019. Provincewide, the late release created implications for education. Within EIPS, the budget revealed a shortfall of roughly \$5.5 million from what was estimated in the spring. For the current school year only, the Division is accessing its operating reserves to absorb the funding gap. So, we will get through this year. And, thanks to prudent actions from both schools and central departments, students will feel little impact in the classroom in the 2019-20 school year. That said, there are clouds on the horizon.

The reality: Alberta's fiscal situation is deteriorating. The economy isn't turning around as quickly as we had hoped, and there are economic factors working against the province—capital has fled, companies have relocated, and jobs have been lost. As a result, we're starting to feel the effect in education, and in many other sectors for that matter.

As a Division, we're still waiting to find out the exact impact. For now, what we know is the province is developing a new funding framework for education and the overall education budget is frozen for the next three years. In the coming months, we'll know more. We'll learn what the new framework looks like and how the government plans to fund education for the 2020-21 school year.

While we wait, schools throughout EIPS are being proactive and planning for the next school year. Part of that planning includes conversations with families, mainly about school fees—field trips, course options, sports teams and tournaments. The outcome of these conversations will ultimately influence what schools end up charging to families. The fact is, school fees impact the programming available in a school and, to some degree, staffing. As such, it's essential these conversations take place, that they take place soon and revolve around what schools can realistically provide, given our current fiscal situation. Simply put, schools need to determine the nice-to-haves versus the need-to-haves.

Going forward, if what we're forecasting from a fiscal perspective is accurate, we have to concentrate on what's most important, what has the biggest impact on learners and our core work, which is education—teaching and learning in the classroom. Simultaneously, we have to do this in a way that ensures our finite resources—time, people and finances—are utilized well and sustainably. We will get it right. We have to. And, by doing so, we're in a position to continue to focus on teaching and learning, offer programming choices to learners and support the success of all students under our care.

Collectively, education is top of mind for all of us within the Division, and there's a lot of work to do. As such, it's crucial we engage in these hard and important conversations, at both the school level and Division level. We'll know more in a few months. When we do, we'll make sure to continue to communicate with all our families, school communities and stakeholders. That way, we can find solutions to the challenges we're facing together.

## Measuring our Success: Complete the Accountability Pillar Survey

Once again, Alberta Education is conducting its Accountability Pillar Survey—an annual check-up on the province's education system. Every year, Alberta Education conducts the survey to gather information about the quality of education provided by Alberta schools and school authorities. The survey looks at various measures such as engagement levels, student wellness, student outcomes, and the classroom(s) and school climate.

Throughout February, **Grade 4 students** and teachers at **Wes Hosford School** are completing the survey online at the school. Student participation is voluntary and completely anonymous. Students are assigned a random username and password to ensure survey responses aren't linked to any individual student. The survey takes about 40 minutes to complete and is done within the school day during regular class time.

Additionally, parents and guardians of students in grades 4, 7 and 10 are also asked to take a survey, either online or by mail. Information about the survey was sent to these families in January. Like the student and teacher survey, it's anonymous and asks questions about your school experiences. If you have a child in grades 4, 7 or 10, we encourage you to participate. The survey deadline is Feb. 28, 2020.

Results from the Accountability Survey are provided to Elk Island Public Schools each May. The Division then uses the data to inform its four-year education plan, its annual school education plans and strategies for continuous improvement. The results are also shared with EIPS families and school communities each fall in the Division's *Combined Education Plan and Annual Education Results Report*.

For more information about Alberta Education's Accountability Pillar Survey visit [alberta.ca/accountability-education-system.aspx](http://alberta.ca/accountability-education-system.aspx).

## Caregiver Education Series

The Division, in partnership with Alberta Health Services and Elk Island Catholic Schools, is hosting a series of caregiver information sessions focused on ways to support students' mental health. The sessions are free and geared toward parents, caregivers, teachers and community members who want to learn more about challenges impacting children and adolescents. This year, session topics include anxiety, ADHD, depression, self-harm, technology, teens and teaching leadership skills, and more.

Visit the [Division calendar](#) to see all scheduled caregiver sessions.

## Read Aloud Day Contest

Do you have a favourite book your parents or grandparents read to you when you were young? Is there a book you enjoy reading to your children or grandkids? Maybe a teacher once shared a great book with your class that captured your imagination and set you on a lifelong love of reading?

On February 5, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) wants to hear from you—about the story you'll always remember. Write a post and include a photo. Or, even better, record a short video reading a favourite quote or passage from the book. Then, tweet it and tag the EIPS Twitter account [@eips](#) or reply to the Read Aloud Day post on the Division's [Facebook page](#). And, be sure to use the hashtag: #eipsreadsaloud.

**NOTE:** The Read Aloud contest is open to community members, students, and teachers and staff throughout the Division—everyone who posts is automatically entered in a draw to win one of nine EIPS prize packages. Winners will be announced on Feb. 7, 2020.

## Summer School and Youth Camps

### Next Step Continuing Education Summer School and Youth Camps: Registration opens March 9



There's something for everyone.

**Summer School:** Open to students entering grades 10-12

With more than 25 credit courses, there are lots of ways to get ahead. Students can earn high school credits, upgrade marks and finish pre-requisite courses.

*Courses include:*

- CALM, Physical Education 10, and Extreme CALM and Physical Education 10 combined
- English, Math, Social, Sciences at the 10-, 20- and 30-levels
- Film Production
- Work Experience and RAP

## Summercamps

**Summer Camps:** Open to participants in grades 5-9

From sports to cooking to babysitting, campers enjoy a fun-filled program while also making friends and learning new skills.

*Camps include:*

- Sports—volleyball, basketball and handball
- Computer gaming and design
- cooking and baking
- babysitting

**Registration opens on March 9.**



# February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5 Early Dismissal @ 2:18pm	6 Teachers Convention School Closed	7	8
9	10	11	12 Hot Lunch	13	14 School Closure Day	15
16	17 Family Day No School	18 Treat Day	19-21 Random Acts of Kindness Week		21	22
23	24	25	26 Pink Shirt Day Hot Lunch	27	28 Popcorn Warm Hearts for Cold Days	29
Toque & Mitt Donations						
1	March 2	3	4 Early Dismissal @ 2:18pm	5	6 Professional Development Day	7

## Schedule of Events

### March Dates to Note:

- Mar 4 Early Dismissal Day
- Mar 5 Ski Trip (Gr 4-6)
- Mar 6 PD Day (No School)
- Mar 11 Hot Lunch
- Mar 13 Popcorn Day Pattern Day
- Mar 17 Treat Day
- Mar 19 Parent Council Mtg.
- Mar 20 CSL Available Online
- Mar 23-26 Book Fair
- Mar 24 & 25 Parent/Teacher Interviews
- Mar 27 Day in Lieu—(No School)
- Mar 30-Apr 5 Spring Break (No School)

## Wes Hosford Milk Program



Individual Tickets	\$1 per Choc. Or White Milk (_____)	Total \$ _____
	20 Tickets - \$20.00	\$ _____
Name: _____ Class: _____	Total Included: \$ _____	

## Hair Massacure

On February 21, 2020 Mrs. Elgie will again be participating in the Hair Massacure. The Hair Massacure is founded, supported and organized by the MacDonald Family, in honor of their daughter Kali (a childhood cancer survivor). The event supports outstanding local charities focusing on children with cancer and life-threatening medical conditions.

Donations will be taken in the office all month. You can also donate to Mrs. Elgie's team online at <https://m-childrenswish.akaraisin.com/19513/participant/5444419#.XhNyMJgoio.facebook>

Thanks for your support!

