



Your Future in MIND



Wes Hosford  
Elementary School

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Academics. Fitness. Community

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## Administration Message

Dear Wes Hosford Families,

The falling leaves, cool winds and beautiful colours signal that fall is really here! September passed quickly as we continued to settle into the new COVID safe routines at school. We would like to thank our staff for all of their hard work and commitment ensuring our students have a safe learning environment to come to everyday.

We have been busy with special events at Wes Hosford. On September 23, we recognized our Canadian hero, Terry Fox, by participating in the annual Terry Fox run. On September 30, we acknowledged Orange Shirt Day as we wore our orange shirts to school in support of residential school survivors. On October 5, we celebrated World Teachers' Day and thanked all of our wonderful teachers. This week we are concluding with Read-In-Week – virtually of course, enjoying stories from around the world. On October 30, we will be celebrating a COVID safe Hallowe'en. Your child's teacher will be in contact with you regarding the details.

Please have a wonderful Thanksgiving weekend with those who are near and dear to you while keeping safe.

Warm regards,

— Patti Berry  
Principal

### Contact Us:

#### Address:

207 Granada Blvd.  
Sherwood Park, AB  
T8A 3R5

#### Phone:

780.464.1711

#### Fax:

780.467.5342

#### Website:

www.weshosford.ca

## Bouquets

- Staff and students for continuing to keep us all safe at school by wearing masks, and sanitizing your hands.
- Read-In-Week Committee for organizing us: Ms. Pasma, Mrs. Tachuk, Mrs. Pedersen, and Mrs. Erickson.
- School Council for meeting virtually on September 17. We are looking forward to our next meeting on November 19.
- Fundraising Society for their bottle drive — see our website for details.
- Mrs. Gillis for leading our learning for Orange Shirt Day on September 30.
- Our supportive and patient parents as we navigate our new COVID normal at school.

## Improving Home-School Communication

To enhance communication between families and schools, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) has developed a how-to guide entitled, “Communication Protocol for Schools.” Topics include appropriate channels to use, standard formats and structures, timing and sequencing for regular and ongoing home-school communication, and ways to bring forward questions or concerns. The manual also offers useful tools and resources schools and families can use to enhance face-to-face meetings, email communication and various social media efforts.

### Communication Protocol for Schools

Most email communication from the Division will come from [communications@eips.ca](mailto:communications@eips.ca). From the school level, messages will often come from [patty.berry@eips.ca](mailto:patty.berry@eips.ca). We encourage families to add these email addresses to your address book or safe senders list to help prevent Division and school messages from filtering to a junk, spam or other folder in your email inbox.

## School Fees Now Available

School fee information for the 2020-21 school year is now posted on the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). When you log on, you'll notice the fee schedule is different from previous years. Instead of a fee based on the entire year, fees are charged on a quarterly basis.

The fee schedule change accommodates students switching from out-of-school learning to in-school learning; the four-semester system in place at some schools, and possible fee adjustments if the province decides to transition to Scenario 2—partial return to school—or Scenario 3—the suspension of in-school classes. Fees for kits or equipment kept by the student are charged in full at the start of the course.

Each quarter, you'll receive an email notification letting you know fees are posted on the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). To access your fee information, go to “Student Fees” on PowerSchool. There you can view your fees and pay online using Visa, MasterCard or INTERAC Online—when available from your financial institution. All fees are due within 14 days of being posted. *NOTE:* School Fees apply to in-school learners only.

If circumstances exist where you are unable to pay your fees, you can apply to have [fees waived](#) by submitting an [Application for a Waiver of Fees](#). The deadline is Dec. 15, 2020—if new to EIPS, the deadline is the latter of Dec. 15, 2020, or 45 days after registration.

## Read In Week—October 5—9

Read In Week returns on October 5. The theme for this year is “Read Around the World.” Through various activities, students—both in-school and out-of-school learners—will spend the week reading and learning how stories have the power to teach lessons, broaden perspectives and foster empathy.



Read In Week is a Division-wide initiative held annually to encourage a life-long love of reading and to enhance literacy awareness among students, staff, parents and community members. We invite all our families to participate in Read In Week with us by reading yourself, with your child or with someone in the community.

Don't forget to share what you've learned throughout the week using the hashtag [#eipsreads](#). We hope you discover some amazing stories.

For more information visit [eips.ca](http://eips.ca) and [La Semaine de Read In](#)

## D2L Brightspace

As you may know, EIPS has recently adopted D2L Brightspace as our primary learning management system (LMS). The purpose of an LMS is to provide a virtual environment for teaching and learning. Having a platform like Brightspace will allow students and teachers to remain connected to their classrooms, even when they are not able to attend school. At the start of this school year, we've been focusing on Brightspace as a tool for our out-of-school learners as their classes get underway. However, Brightspace is a tool for all EIPS families, not just those registered in out-of-school learning.

Over the coming weeks all EIPS teachers will be engaging in a variety of professional development activities geared towards learning the functions of Brightspace. When students and parents log into Brightspace they will begin to see announcements, learning content, and assessments posted by teachers. Students can access Brightspace by using their division-assigned email and password. Parents and guardians can access Brightspace for Parents to view upcoming work, grades, and posts from teachers. If you have never logged into Brightspace for Parents before, select Forgot your password to set up a new account. An email will be sent to you with instructions for creating your account.

For more information refer to the [Brightspace Parent Guide](#).

## Celebrating World Teachers Day—Oct. 5th

October 5 is World Teachers' Day! Launched in 1994 by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Teachers' Day is celebrated annually around the world to recognize teachers and the integral role they play in providing quality education to students. On October 5, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) encourages all of its students, parents and community members to show their appreciation for their teachers and the positive impact they make on our lives.

To honour the day, EIPS is running its World Teachers' Day contest inviting friends, family, students and staff to share a story about how a teacher inspired them. Thank you to all those who have shared stories to date. Collectively they tell a story about the vital role teachers play in shaping the minds of youth and supporting their journey of success.

## Caregiver Series

Alberta Health Services is hosting a series of virtual 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. Session topics include anxiety, ADHD, depression, self-harm, technology, teens and teaching leadership skills, communication, resiliency, and more

## Sync the School Calendar to Your Calendar

Did you know you can sync the school calendar to your own calendar? You can. Simply, visit <https://www.weshosford.ca/about/calendar> and click on one of the following calendar options you want to subscribe to:

Add to Google Calendar: Google calendar


Subscribe to Calendar: Outlook

Download to iCal: Apple calendar

**NOTE:** Options are located above the calendar.

Once you click on the calendar option you want to subscribe to, follow the instructions. Within seconds, your calendar will contain all of Wes Hosford's important dates including holidays, school-closures days, planned activities, events and more.

# October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 World Teacher's Day	6	7 <b>Early Dismissal 2:18 pm</b>	8	9 Professional Learning Day	10 World Mental Health Day
11	12 Thanksgiving No School	13	14 Photo retakes Photo day for	15	16	17
18	19 School Bus Safety Week	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 COVID Safe Hallowe'en Activities	31 

# November Dates



- November 6 Virtual Remembrance Day Ceremony
- November 6 First Day to book Parent/Teacher Interviews
- November 9—13 Fall Break
- November 19 Virtual Parent Council Meeting, 6:30 pm
- November 20 Reports Available On-line
- November 25 & 26 Telephone Parent/Teacher Interviews  
3:30—5:00 pm