

March 6, 2023

Dear Wes Hosford Families,

Here is an interesting poem that was emailed to me by one of our parents:

~~~Mean Parents~~~

*Someday when my children are old enough to understand the logic that motivates a parent, I will tell them, as my "Mean Parents" told me:*

*"We loved you enough to ask where you were going, with whom, and what time you would be home.*

*We loved you enough to stand over you for two hours while you cleaned your room; a job that should have taken 15 minutes.*

*We loved you enough to let you see anger, frustration, and hurt in our eyes.*

*We loved you enough to let you assume responsibility for your actions even when the penalties were so harsh, they almost broke our hearts.*

*But most of all, we loved you enough to say NO when we knew you would hate us for it. Those were the most difficult battles of all but we're glad we fought them, because in the end you won, too.*

*And someday, when you have left home and are all educated, honest and independent... maybe you will do your best to be mean parents just like we were."*

Often, parents are on one end of the spectrum... allowing too much freedom of choice... or the other... not allowing any. Where do you stand? For more insights about how to handle this balancing act, try reading an oldie but a goodie, "The Pampered Child Syndrome" by Dr. Maggie Mamen.

I guess, what we should try and remember is that our children rely on us to provide boundaries. To borrow a metaphor from a colleague: children are like fish in a fish tank. When fish are first introduced to the tank, they swim all over, bumping into the glass. As soon as they have realized their boundaries, they settle down and never bump the glass again. Of course, children aren't quite so easy to convince! While they will certainly test the boundaries more often than fish, we have to love our children enough to be the bad guy, and to say "no" sometimes. At the same time, we have to try and give them some freedom to grow and to make mistakes that they can safely learn from.

So... my message for this month?

...Hang in there! You're doing the toughest job in the world and you're making the best decisions you can each and every moment! We thank you for your support and for trusting us with your precious children every day.

Sue

## Save the Dates!

- The Book Fair is back! From **March 9-15** our School Council will hold the Book Fair in the classroom across from the library. Come look at the selection and make purchases for birthdays, baby showers, Christmas, etc.! As well, join us on March 15<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-7:30. Proceeds go toward new library books and shelving!
- Family Fun Math night! Please come and join us on **March 15<sup>th</sup>** (you're here for the Book Fair anyway!) and learn some great games you can play at home that are fun and have the added benefit of reinforcing math skills! This event is put on by Box Cars and One-eyed Jacks.



- We need to know numbers, so please sign up for this free event using the QR code or this [link](#).
- Yay! The Readathon starts **March 24<sup>th</sup>**. Details will follow, but please help us build your child's love of reading while building our library as well... proceeds go toward books and new shelving!



## Casino Volunteers Needed!

We Hosford Families! You can easily help us to raise \$15,000 dollars!



The WHF Fundraising Society is still in need of several volunteers for the Casino Fundraising Event on the evenings of May 1 & 2.

Do you have an afternoon/evening to spare?

If so - GREAT!!! You are officially qualified to help us run this awesome fundraising Casino event :)

While it may seem a long way away - in order to obtain our license for this event, we need to secure the preliminary volunteer pool and finalize the paperwork within the next few weeks. We have an assortment of positions to fill that require NO previous experience and no major skills with money or math either!

If you can help, please contact Trenna-Violet Stott at [whsfundraisingsociety@gmail.com](mailto:whsfundraisingsociety@gmail.com) for the final details or fill out the attached form and send it in to the school, and we will contact you! Thanks in advance for supporting our school with your time!

## Kindergarten Registration Opened February 1st!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2023? If so, it's 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 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.

## 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. In fact, EIPS is now accepting applications 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 2019 or 2020, 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](https://eips.ca).

## Watch for Thin Ice

Remember, be aware of thin ice this time of year. Depending on changing temperatures, ice can form and melt to varying degrees on outdoor bodies of water. Try to remind your child about the dangers of thin ice, obey all posted signs, take proper care and remain a safe distance from the ice. For more information about ice safety, visit the Canadian Red Cross.



Did you know?

The colour of ice may be an indication of its strength. Clear blue ice is the strongest. White opaque is half as strong as blue ice. And, grey ice is unsafe—greyness indicates the presence of water.

## Upcoming Events and Important Dates

- **March 8:** Popcorn Day!
- **March 9:** Book Fair starts!
- **March 15:** Family Fun Math Night and Book Fair Viewing!
- **March 16:** School Council and Fundraising Society Meetings at 6:30 in the Library.
- **March 17:** Hot Lunch!
- **March 17:** Report cards available online at 4:00.
- **March 22:** Treat Day!
- **March 24:** Readathon starts!
- **March 24:** Spring Break begins... no school for students...
- **April 3:** Students return to school.

## More Parent Engagement Evenings!

- **March 15:** Family Fun Math Night
- **March 15:** Family Book Fair Viewing
- **April 13:** Spring Concert for Grades 4-6
- **April 26:** Saffron Parent Presentation in our WHF Library - How to Communicate with Your Youth
- **May 12:** Family Dance
- **May 17:** Family Community Services Parent Presentation at Glen Allan School - No Such Thing as a Bad Kid: Understanding what's behind children's behaviors

\*We have collaborated with Glen Allan School to share Parent Engagement Evenings. Please note that our April 26<sup>th</sup> evening will include families from Glen Allan School and the May 17<sup>th</sup> event is at Glen Allan School.

