

February 1, 2023

Dear Wes Hosford Families,

Last February I wrote to you about how parents often ask me how they can help their child be more successful in school. I think this is a message worth repeating, so here it is again... "Teach them to be problem solvers!" In a normal day at school students are faced with a multitude of problem-solving opportunities including math problems, finding a pencil, working out a conflict with a friend, or remembering to take home homework. Like anything, we have students with a variety of age-appropriate problem-solving levels; some are consistently able to solve problems they come across with little to no support from adults, some students need support often, and some students need support almost all the time.

Why is problem solving so important? Well, students who are able to problem solve tend to be less anxious, more confident, and more willing to take healthy risks, like learning something new or presenting their learning in a new way. This leads to success in life in general. Students who don't have problem solving skills may avoid or ignore the problem leading to, for example, incomplete schoolwork, struggles with friends, or arguments at home. On the other hand, some students might jump to an action without weighing the consequences or considering their choices, often leading to bigger or more problems.

But don't despair... the problem-solving centers of the brain can be built up or developed through practice. A very easy tip I can give you is: expect age-appropriate chores to be done. See the list of examples on the last page. Model using your own problem-solving plan, and go through the steps out loud, with them, so they see you being purposeful. For example:

- **Name the problem.** I don't know what to make for supper
- **Tic off 3-5 possible solutions on your fingers.** I could make spaghetti and meatballs, but we had that last week. I could make meatloaf and mashed potatoes but we only have three potatoes. I could order pizza, but we usually save that for the weekend.
- **List the pros and cons.** In the example, we already included the cons in step two, but you could do it separately, or more obviously.
- **Pick a solution.** I think I'll make meatloaf and we'll make do with the potatoes.
- **Act on it.** Let's make supper together! Will you peel the potatoes for me?

Sometimes, an additional step is: ask a trusted person for advice. Help your child come up with solutions if necessary. And if the results that come out of their choices aren't ideal, that's okay. Next time will be better. My final tip, don't be in a rush to "rescue" your child from a problem. Give them a bit of time to come up with a solution. If they still struggle, model the steps above with them, but give them a chance to come up with the solutions. It takes time, but the rewards are worth it!



Parent/Teacher Interviews!

Beginning on January 29, parents will be able to book an interview time with their child's teacher. If you do not have access to a computer or want to book an appointment with the Principal or Assistant Principal/Counselor, please contact the office and we will be happy to schedule an appointment for you.

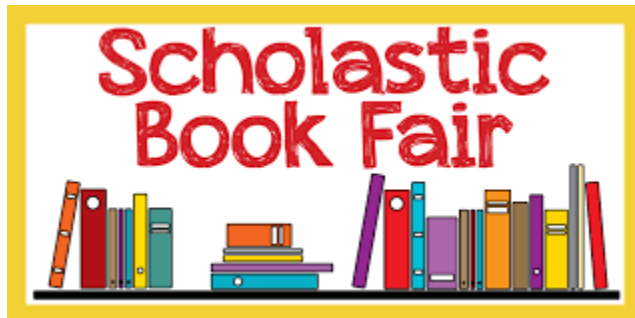


School Council and Fundraising Society

Thank you to our volunteer parents who ensure our students have lots to look forward to, like treat days, hot lunch, popcorn, dances, book fairs, readathons, and on and on! If you would like to help out, even in a small way, please contact Tawnia McQueen, our School Council Chair, at whfschoolcouncil@gmail.com and let her know your interests.

Please note we are currently on the look out for a new Popcorn Day Lead and a new Staff Luncheon Lead. If you are interested in these roles, please contact Chantelle Auclair or Loretta Campbell, our Fundraising Society Co-Chairs, at whsfundraisingsociety@gmail.com. We appreciate the support!

Book Fair is Coming!



Please be ready to visit the Book Fair in the room across from the library, when you come for Parent Teacher Interviews on February 6 and 7! A big thank you to our School Council and Fundraising Society for organizing this fabulous event, which promotes reading and raises money for our school!

Pink Shirt Day!

Wear pink on February 28th and show your Kindness intentions!

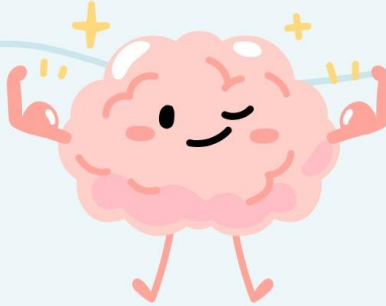
🌈 Spreading kindness one sweet treat at a time! 💕 Bringing awareness to Pink Shirt Day and Anti-Bullying Week with a special cotton candy treat day. Thank you to all who purchased this treat during the Winter Hot Lunch & Treat Day order session. All proceeds will brighten up our school through the Sunshine committee! ☀️

Parent Engagement Event!

On February 27 all Wes Hosford parents are invited to attend "Your Child's Incredible Brain!" at Woodbridge Farms School from 5:30-8:00. Registration will open soon! Please [register](#) soon as there are only 30 spots available. (Note childcare option at bottom of poster...)



COME AND LEARN ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S INCREDIBLE BRAIN!



Free!

Join us for a **fun** and **informational** evening learning about the powerful role relationships and experiences have on early brain development and play the **Brain Architecture Game!**

Tuesday, February 27

Dinner 5:30 - 6:00pm

Activities 6:00 - 8:00pm

**Woodbridge Farms Elementary School
1127 Parker Drive**

**Only 30
spots
available!
Register
Now!**

Go to "**WoodbridgeFarms.ca**"
Click on "**Bookings**"
Select "**Your Child's Incredible Brain!**"



Free childcare is offered.
Please email General.WBF@eips.ca to register.



Kindergarten Registration Is Open!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2024? If so, it's almost 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 Toolkit](#) 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.



Complete Your Returning Student Registration: February 8-21

Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) [returning student registration process](#) opens February 8th.

All current students, except Grade 12, must complete the online Returning Student Registration Form to confirm their enrolment in a school for the upcoming 2024-25 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 current EIPS students are required to complete the form by Feb. 21, 2024.**

To complete your child's Returning Student Registration, refer to the Returning Student Registration Form email you received from Elk Island Public Schools via Permission Click on February 8. Families will receive one email for each student. No log in is required to complete the form.

RELATED INFORMATION:

[Returning Student Registration Process](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[EIPS School Boundary Maps](#)

[Closed Boundaries 2024-25](#)

[Find my designated school](#)

[Applying to a non-designated school](#)

Complete the Alberta Education Assurance Survey

Once again, Alberta Education is surveying teachers, students and families through its annual Alberta Education Assurance (AEA) Survey. The survey gathers feedback on the quality of education provided by school authorities and their schools, which they then use to help understand how they're doing and plan for the future.

Grade 4 students at Wes Hosford School will complete 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 doesn't take long to complete and is done within the school day during regular class time.

Additionally, parents and guardians of students in these grades are also asked to take a survey online. Alberta Education has mailed families information about the survey directly. As with the student and teacher survey, it's anonymous and asks questions about your school experiences. If you have a child in these grades, we encourage you to participate. The survey deadline is March 1, 2024.

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

RELATED INFORMATION

[AEA Survey: Information for parents and guardians](#)

[AEA Survey](#)

[Assurance and Accountability: Alberta's K-12 education system](#)

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, opportunities for growth and how it's supporting students to achieve the best possible outcomes. Read through the most recent [EIPS Annual Education Results Report 2022-23](#) and discover how EIPS fosters learning environments for all students to learn, grow and thrive—and why it matters.

February 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](#): Discover how EIPS supports the growth and achievement of students who self-identify as First Nations, Métis or Inuit
- [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: 2024-27](#)

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

- **February 1:** 2024-25 [kindergarten](#) registration opens
- **February 1:** Treat Day!
- **February 6&7:** Parent Teacher Interviews
- **February 7:** Early dismissal
- **February 7:** EIPS Ribbon Day
- **February 8:** [returning student registration](#) opens for 2024-25 (closes February 21)
- **February 8-9:** North Central Teachers' Convention (schools closed to staff and students)
- **February 14:** Pink, Red and White Day!
- **February 16:** Hot Lunch!
- **February 17:** [Random Acts of Kindness Day](#)
- **February 19:** Family Day (schools closed to staff and students; Central Services closed)
- **February 20:** Popcorn Day!
- **February 21:** 2023-24 returning student registration closes
- **February 27:** Parent Engagement Event at Woodbridge Farms School 5:00-7:00
- **February 28:** Pink Shirt Day and Cotton Candy Day! (Cotton Candy was an option for parents to order through Munch-a-Lunch)

Nine Tips to Improve Your Child's Reading

1. Make reading a daily habit in your home.
2. Let your child see you reading for pleasure.
3. Let your child see you read to gather information/to learn something.
4. Create a cozy reading space. (on a chair, in a corner, under the stairs...)
5. Take trips to the library.
6. Let your child pick what to read. (*most of the time, but it's important that they practice reading at their level so that they gain confidence and fluency. Your teacher can help you with this.)
7. Find reading moments in everyday life. (labels, street signs, billboards...)
8. Re-read favorite books.
9. Learn more about how kids read.

Ages 2-3

- ☐ Put toys in toy box
- ☐ Stack books on shelf
- ☐ Place dirty clothes in laundry hamper
- ☐ Throw trash away
- ☐ Carry firewood
- ☐ Fold washcloths
- ☐ Set the table
- ☐ Fetch diapers & wipes
- ☐ Dust baseboards

Ages 4-5

- ☐ Feed pets
- ☐ Wipe up spills
- ☐ Put away toys
- ☐ Make the bed
- ☐ Straighten bedroom
- ☐ Water houseplants
- ☐ Sort clean silverware
- ☐ Prepare simple snacks
- ☐ Use hand-held vacuum
- ☐ Clear kitchen table
- ☐ Dry and put away dishes
- ☐ Disinfect doorknobs

Ages 6-7

- ☐ Gather trash
- ☐ Fold towels
- ☐ Dust mop floors
- ☐ Empty dishwasher
- ☐ Match clean socks
- ☐ Weed garden
- ☐ Rake leaves
- ☐ Peel potatoes or carrots
- ☐ Make salad
- ☐ Replace toilet paper roll

Ages 8-9

- ☐ Load dishwasher
- ☐ Change light bulbs
- ☐ Wash laundry
- ☐ Hang/fold clean clothes
- ☐ Dust furniture
- ☐ Spray off patio
- ☐ Put groceries away
- ☐ Scramble eggs
- ☐ Bake cookies
- ☐ Walk dogs
- ☐ Sweep porches
- ☐ Wipe off table

Ages 10-11

- ☐ Clean bathrooms
- ☐ Vacuum rugs
- ☐ Clean countertops
- ☐ Deep clean kitchen
- ☐ Prepare simple meal
- ☐ Mow lawn
- ☐ Bring in mail
- ☐ Do simple mending (hems, buttons, etc.)
- ☐ Sweep out garage

Ages 12 and up

- ☐ Mop floors
- ☐ Change overhead lights
- ☐ Wash/ vacuum car
- ☐ Trim hedges
- ☐ Paint walls
- ☐ Shop for groceries w/list
- ☐ Cook complete dinner
- ☐ Bake bread or cake
- ☐ Do simple home repairs
- ☐ Wash windows
- ☐ Iron clothes
- ☐ Watch younger siblings