

May Newsletter

Dear Wes Hosford Family,

Thank you to those families who were able to join us for the Spring Concert and Kindergarten Open House. It was so nice to meet so many new families and touch base with returning families!

Many of you already know, as I had shared the news at a School Council Meeting in the fall, **I am retiring at the end of the school year!** While I'm excited about my new adventures, I'm so sad to be leaving the staff, students and families here at Wes Hosford. You will be happy to know that Mr. Arndt is staying on as Assistant Principal. **Please welcome Melissa Kerr** (pronounced "Care") **as your new Principal!**

Enjoy our longer days and nicer weather!

Sue

Compassion Connects - Mental Health Week

Mental Health Week takes place May 5-11 this year. To mark the week, Wes Hosford School has activities and lessons planned for students, all centered on Mental Health Week's theme, "Unmasking Mental Health."



Living with mental health challenges often forces people to hide behind a "mask" to protect themselves from judgment and discrimination. But the heavier the stigma, the heavier the mask becomes, and the more isolated we feel.

This **May 5-11**, we're encouraging people across Canada to look beyond the surface and see the whole person. By embracing honesty and vulnerability, we open the door to deeper connections and the mental health benefits that come with it. In doing so, we can create a ripple effect of courage and understanding across the country.

For more information:

[Mental Health Week](#)

[Alberta Health Services: Help in Tough Times](#)

Hats on for Mental Health Day!

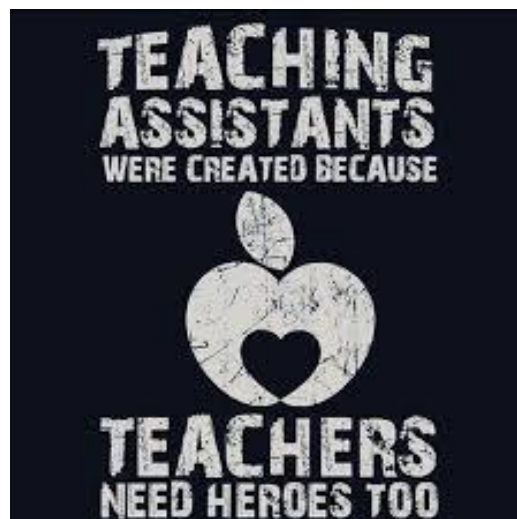
May 7 is Hats on for Mental Health Day. Students are invited to wear a hat to raise awareness of the importance of good mental health. Schools will relax their hat rules and encourage students and teachers to build understanding by wearing hats to school. Social media images and copies of the *Compassionate Classrooms* reference booklet are available on the [ATA website](#).



Educational Assistant Appreciation Day is May 14!

On May 14, we recognize the dedication, hard work and compassion of educational assistants in our school community and across Elk Island Public Schools. Educational assistants play an integral role in education, from one-on-one student support to larger classroom dynamics. Thank you to all our educational assistants—you make a difference in the lives of students every day, and we are so grateful to have each one of you in our school.

This Educational Assistant Appreciation Day and beyond, we encourage students, families and staff to take a moment to tell an educational assistant how they've impacted you and to share your appreciation with them.



First Nations, Métis and Inuit News!

Please read the [newsletter](#) and learn about our new consultants!

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 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.

May Spotlight: the [EIPS Annual Education Results Report: Overview](#). Learn about EIPS':

- mission and belief statements
- Alberta Education Assurance Measures results
- successes and challenges;
- four-year education plan;
- plus, more.

April Spotlight: Enhancing public education through effective engagement

- [Rules of engagement](#): Using a collaborative approach to improve student achievement and success
- [Driving change](#): Strengthening public education through Board advocacy

RELATED INFORMATION

[Annual Education Results Report 2023-24: Overview](#)

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

[EIPS Three-Year Capital Plan: 2026-29](#)

Did you know?

Each school has a School Education Plan on its website. Annually, these plans are updated for the next school year to reflect schools' goals, strategies and measures—all based on priorities found in the [EIPS Four-Year Education Plan](#). School administration update their plans after reviewing school-specific results from the EIPS Annual Feedback Survey and consulting with staff, families and school councils in April. A School Education Plan helps a school community focus on what's most important in its own specific context from year to year. To view your child's School Education Plan, visit your school's website and find the relevant home page block.

Upcoming events and important dates:

- May 2: PD Day – No school for students
- May 5-11: Mental Health Week
- May 7: Hats On for Mental Health Day! – students may wear hats in class
- May 7: Early Dismissal
- May 9: Popcorn Day!
- May 10: Hot Lunch!
- May 14: EA Appreciation Day!
- May 15: School Council and Fundraising Society Meetings – 6:30 in the library
- May 16: Hot lunch!
- May 19: Victoria Day (schools closed to students and staff; Central Services closed)
- May 23: Treat Day!
- May 27: Blanket Exercises for Grade 5s
- May 28: Grade 6 ELA PAT Part A

