



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER March 2024

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

March has quickly arrived and here's hoping that great weather will be in our favor. I would like to thank the basketball coaches and our student athletes for persevering and working at their skills this year. They achieved a lot of success, and they should be proud of their efforts. Thank you to parents and guardians for coming out in such great numbers to the parent-teacher interviews last month. It was great to have an opportunity to chat about the successes and areas of need for your child.

Report cards are issued on Friday March 15th via the parent portal. Please ensure that your login is working. Thank you, for all the work that you do with your child at home to ensure that they come ready to learn every day.

I hope that you get an opportunity to get outside and take advantage of the increased daylight. Before you know it, camping season will be here and winter will just be a memory! Have a great month!

William Korec, MEd
Principal

SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY

In March, our first school spirit day will be held on Friday March 15th. On this day, students are encouraged to show their school spirit by wearing **green**! It is also hot lunch day and report cards are released electronically via the parent portal at the end of the day. We have dress as your favourite character on the last day before the break, as well.

SKIING/ SNOWBOARDING TRIP

Our grade 3-6 ski trip is proceeding on Wednesday March 13, 2024. **We are leaving the school by 8:40 AM.** Students need to dress to the weather and to the activity. Teachers will review expectations, appropriate apparel, and the skiers code of conduct. We are expecting a great day at the hill and many students are going to be skiing or boarding for the first time! If you have any questions, please contact the school directly. ***If you have not paid for the trip, please do so immediately.*** Thank you!



Win Ferguson Elementary

Read-a-Thon

April 8th - April 19th



**SET YOUR
READING GOALS.
ASK FAMILY & FRIENDS
FOR DONATIONS.**

**WIN
PRIZES!!**

Funds raised
will go directly to
supporting literacy
resources for
students!

Students K-6 will read as many pages as they can between April 8 - 19.

Each student will seek sponsorship from family, friends and supporters to donate for minutes they read.

Log reading and collect donations using an online Dashboard.

Prizes and rewards for different reading milestones throughout the 10 day period.

**MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO REGISTER AS A READER AND
GET ACCESS TO THE DASHBOARD WILL BE COMING SOON!**

HAVE YOUR SAY! EIPS' 2023-24 Annual Feedback Survey Opens March 1-21

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) wants to hear from you. Make sure to complete the 2023-24 EIPS Annual Feedback Survey: For parents and caregivers—open from March 1-21.

Every year, EIPS conducts the feedback survey to gauge its progress toward meeting the goals and priorities outlined in its [Four-Year Education Plan](#). Families are asked a series of questions about:

- their experiences with EIPS and the specific school their child attends.
- the quality of education being provided to students;
- areas for improvement; and
- new this year, the survey includes an additional series of questions—focused on stakeholder confidence in EIPS' priorities and strategic direction as a whole.

Collectively, the Division uses the survey feedback to help guide future planning, decision-making and strategies—all aimed at enhancing student learning and better serving the wider community.

TAKE THE SURVEY NOW!

open March 1-21

To preview the questions before completing the survey, see [Question Preview - 2023-24 EIPS Annual Feedback Survey: For parents and caregivers](#).

NOTE: *To share the experiences of more than one child, or if you have a child who attends classes at more than one EIPS school—such as Next Step and an EIPS senior high school—simply complete the survey again.*

The survey is anonymous and only takes roughly 10-15 minutes to complete. EIPS will share the survey results in next year's *Annual Education Results Report 2023-24*.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

[EIPS Annual Education Results Report 2022-23](#)

[EIPS Annual Education Results Report 2022-23: Overview](#)

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

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 2022-23](#) and discover how EIPS fosters learning environments for all students to learn, grow and thrive—and why it matters.

March Spotlight: cultivating high-quality learning environments and experiences.

- [Power of Kindness](#): Creates welcoming, inclusive, respectful, and safe learning environments in schools.
- [Building Blocks](#): How effective planning, management and infrastructure is supporting learning.
- [Raising the bar](#): Evidence-based practices that are enhancing teaching and learning in EIPS.

RELATED INFORMATION

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

[EIPS Three-Year Capital Plan: 2024-27](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

Alberta Education provides funding to EIPS. The provincial government's funding framework allocates funding directly to the Division, who then allocates funding to individual schools. Every year, EIPS prepares a budget in the spring based on projected enrolment, funding and student-focused initiatives directed by the Board of Trustees. Learn more about [K-12 Education Funding in Alberta](#) and the [EIPS Budget](#).



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Is your child turning five on or before December 31, 2024? If so, it's now time to register for kindergarten. To register, simply complete the online registration form at eips.ca/childregistration

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. Additional information regarding kindergarten is available on our school website <https://www.winferguson.ca/programs/childregistration>

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. Applications are now open 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 2020 or 2021, 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.

REC SWIMMING

We have opted for an additional recreational swim for our grade 4-6 students this month. The first rec swim in December went very well. Students are looking forward to another opportunity to get wet and have some fun with their classmates.



FIRST NATIONS

In February, we focused on the teaching of **honesty**, brought to us by the Sabe (Sasquatch). We explored what makes us who we are and how that influences how we interact with others and our world. The Sabe reminds us to be ourselves, not someone we are not and to walk through life with integrity. We always need to remember to be honest with ourselves.

The Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada giant floor map was at our school last month too! The students had the opportunity to explore this unique map which does not share things you would traditionally find on a map. Instead, it shares a timeline of Indigenous histories, names of Indigenous communities, Indigenous languages spoken in different areas, and physical boundaries of treaties and unsettled territories. The students love to be on the map and learn about our history in an interactive way.



WISEST CONFERENCE

Ms. Story accompanied eight grade six students to the University of Alberta last week to attend the WISEST conference. As always, this initiative delivered a quality opportunity to showcase the many inroads and opportunities for girls in the field of science and technology/engineering. Thank you, Ms. Storey, for coordinating this for our students. For more information about Wisest : [Women in Scholarship, Engineering, Science, and Technology \(ualberta.ca\)](http://ualberta.ca)

COUNSELLING CORNER

In February, we spent time talking about kindness and recognized Pink Shirt Day on February 28th.



Our grade 2 classes also had a visit from our Division Mental Health Advisor, Mardi Hardt. She spoke to them about Stress and Our Brains. The following video has a good message not only for our students but for our families.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3bKuoH8CkFc>

SCHOOL ADVISORY and PTA

The next School Advisory Council and PTA will be on **Monday March 4, 2024**, at 6PM. All parents are welcome to attend. If you haven't had a chance, please familiarize yourself with the Win Ferguson Parent website. This is different from the school website and from the school parent portal. A few reminders to parents:

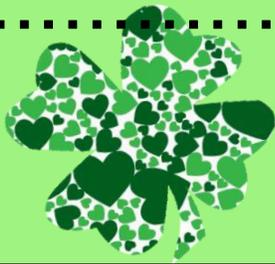
Hot Lunch – all hot lunch opportunities are posted on the Win Ferguson Parent website. Please create an account and prepay your orders! [Win Ferguson Parents - Hot Lunch - Munch a Lunch](#). Thank you to our parents for coordinating this for students! A delicious way to support our school.

Recycling – Did you know the PTA raises money for initiatives via the school recycling program? Thank you to Mrs. Richert, Mrs. Romanyshyn, and a dedicated group of our Win Ferguson students for their leadership on this initiative.

Milk – Milk orders are processed via the form on the PTA website and submitted to the homeroom teachers. [Win Ferguson Parents - Milk Program](#) Chocolate milk remains a best seller! Thank you for supporting this healthy initiative and thank you, Mrs. Urbanski, for all your work behind the scenes.

SAFETY FIRST

Just a reminder that our bus lanes are **NOT** considered drop off and pick up zones for families. We have had a few near-miss incidents in the area designated for busses only by parent vehicles. Students cross this area to meet their parents in the parking lot, as well. We need to do everything we can to keep our school a safe and caring place and this includes modelling safe behaviors we expect from others. Thank you for all that you do to keep this area safe for everyone! As they say, it takes a village.... Thanks!



MARCH 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 PL Day School closed	2
3	4 SAC Mtg 6PM	5	6 Early dismissal @ 2:12 PM	7	8 Treat Sales	9
10 Daylight Savings Spring ahead one hour!	11	12	13 Grade 3-6 Ski Trip	14 Pi Day (3.14)	15 REPORT CARDS OUT GREEN DAY SILVER CARNIVAL HOT LUNCH	16
17	18	19 Rocks and Rings	20 Rocks and Rings Rec Swim Gr 4-6	21 Favorite Character Day	22 Spring Break School closed	23
24	25 Spring Break School closed	26 Spring Break School closed	27 Spring Break School closed	28 Spring Break School closed	29 Spring Break School closed	30