



December Newsletter

Dear Win Ferguson families,

December 1, 2020

Time continues to move quickly, and we find ourselves in December, and time for our monthly newsletter. These will continue to be sent by schoolmessenger directly to your email, and posted to our website at www.winferguson.ca. Please check this site regularly, as items are posted during the month that don't make it into the monthly newsletter.

Even though our celebrations are looking different this year, we still have so much to be grateful for. We are disappointed that our annual Christmas Concert is unable to take place in person, though we will be working in school to record a video of our students singing, to share the joy of the season with you. **The video link will be posted to our school website on Monday, December 21.**

We know that 2020 has been like no other year. I would like to thank all of you for your ongoing support. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and a very Merry Christmas.

Lana Lastiwka

Principal

Boys and Girls Club of Fort Saskatchewan - Parent and Community Info Series

The Boys and Girls Club of Fort Saskatchewan, in partnership with various community agencies, is pleased to present several no cost workshops for parents, caregivers, and community members. To view a list of events, please click [here](#).

Christmas Break

Win Ferguson will close for the Christmas break at the end of the day on Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2020. The school will reopen on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021. During this time, if you have any school-related questions or concerns, contact Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Central Services at 780-464-3477.

Santas Anonymous Toy Drive

One of our students organized a toy drive for Santa's Anonymous, what a great ME to WE project! Here is a thank you note from her, for everyone who brought in a donation.

"Thank you to everyone that has participated in the toy drive. All those toys will be helping lots of little boys and girls this Christmas. Without your help, I wouldn't have been able to make other people's Christmas Day better."

From Olivia - grade 6



EIPS Central Services Christmas Break Hours

Closed	December 23–25
Open	December 28–31; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Closed	January 1
Open	January 4–5; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

*For location and contact information, visit www.eips.ca.

From everyone at Elk Island Public Schools, we wish all of you a happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year.

Food Bank Drive - Written by our grade 2 friends

Dear Parents and Friends,

Our Grade 2 class is going to do a food drive to help the Fort Saskatchewan Food Bank. We want to help our community. We want you to bring food. In the front of the school entrance by the bench is a donation box to put food in. There is also a box in the school by the fish tank for students and teachers to put their donations. We are accepting donations from November 30th until December 11th. We also ask that your donations are non-perishable foods. Like canned meats, canned vegetables and fruits, peanut butter, jam, crackers, pasta sauce, dry pasta and cereal.

Thanks,

The grade 2 class.



Discounted Software for EIPS Students

All Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) students now have access to discounted software through the new EIPS OnTheHub webstore, available at eips.onthehub.com. Through OnTheHub, students can purchase software at significant discounts off standard retail prices. Users must sign in using their EIPS email address and password to access the product selection and take advantage of discount pricing. Included in the discounts is student-only access to Windows 10 for Education completely free! More information is available through the Help menu within OnTheHub.

No Child Without: Free MedicAlert for students

In our ongoing effort to provide safe and caring schools for our students, Win Ferguson is registered in the Canadian MedicAlert Foundation's No Child Without program. The program is a national initiative that provides no-cost MedicAlert services to children—between the ages four of 14 years—who have chronic health conditions. The goal is twofold: to help children with severe allergies, medical conditions or special needs and to assist schools with medical-emergency plans for students.

Once a child is registered, the school is provided with advice on a medical-emergency plan for that student and given a list of medications, allergies and medical conditions the student has. If your child has a serious medical condition or allergy and could benefit from MedicAlert services, contact the school office at 780-998-1441. To learn more about the No Child Without program, visit www.nochildwithout.ca.

School and Transportation Fee Waiver Applications: Deadline extended

Elk Island Public Schools recognizes the global pandemic has put a strain on some families' finances and available income can change quickly in the current situation. As such, the Division has extended the deadline for requesting a waiver of your 2020-21 school and transportation fees. If you encounter circumstances where you're unable to pay your fees, you can apply to have [fees waived](#) by submitting an [Application for a Waiver of Fees](#). Because of the pandemic, the new deadline is Feb. 15, 2021—if you're new to EIPS, the deadline is the latter of Feb. 15, 2021, or 45 days after registration.

Each quarter—or trimester, as applicable—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.

For more information about school fees, transportation fees, waivers and payment deadlines, visit eips.ca or alternatively, contact the school at 780-998-1441.



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Board of Trustees

As we draw closer to the end of 2020—a year like no other—I want to extend warm holiday wishes to all our students, staff and families on behalf of the Elk Island Public Schools Board of Trustees. Thank you for your partnership, cooperation and understanding throughout the past year. The holidays are often a time of reflection and gratitude, and we want you to know how much we appreciate the contributions you make to the Division on an ongoing basis. By working together, we're making a difference in the learning experiences and opportunities of all students within EIPS.

While this Christmas will undoubtedly look very different than past years, we hope you have the opportunity to celebrate the season—whether that be an intimate holiday meal with your immediate family or a virtual celebration with extended family and friends.

Stay safe this holiday season, and we look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Jan. 6, 2021.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays,

Trina Boymook

EIPS Board Chair

Upcoming Dates

December 2 - Early Dismissal - 2:12 p.m.

December 21 - Christmas Concert video posted to www.winferguson.ca

December 22 - Spirit Day - PJ Day

December 22 - Last day of classes before the break

January 6 - 8 - Kindergarten to grade 6 classes resume online

January 11 - Students return to in school classes