



January Newsletter

Dear Win Ferguson Families,

January 10, 2022

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a joyous and safe holiday season. We are excited to be back in school and to continue teaching and learning together., even if it is a few days later than planned!

I'm sure I say this every year, but it is always astonishing how fast the time goes. To say we are in 2022 is incredible.

I want to say a huge thank you to all of you for your ongoing support. The past 21 months have been challenging in so many ways. Your encouragement, understanding and patience has been instrumental in helping our students and staff navigate all of the protocols and changes that come up.

This being said, I would like to remind individuals who are dropping off or picking up students at school, to remember to always be appropriately socially distanced, even outside. Along with this, please ensure your child has enough masks to get them through the day. Substitutes such as neck warmers or handkerchiefs are not permitted. The health and safety of everyone is of the utmost importance.

You also would have received a recent update from EIPS which included the following:

- All individuals must still review the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) with their children **before** sending them to school. **Students exhibiting any symptoms must remain at home until symptoms resolve. (Please ensure that your parent and emergency contact information is up to date, as students who exhibit any symptom at school will need to be picked up within one hour.)**
- In the case of a high number of student or staff absences, it may become necessary to move to temporary online learning. Should this happen, learning will take place using the Brightspace platform.
- Temporary online learning will only be used, as a last resort, when it isn't possible to continue in-person learning because of high student or staff absences. It's not being offered as an alternative to in-person learning.
- The Government of Alberta is providing rapid test kits and medical-grade masks for use by students and staff members. These are expected to start arriving in school divisions next week. At a minimum, it's highly recommended students wear medical-grade masks to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in schools. More information will be provided as these are received.

Take care, have an amazing month.

Lana Lastiwka, Principal



4524-84 Street P 780-998-1441
Fort Saskatchewan, AB T8L 1J2 F 780-998-1444
www.winferguson.ca



Literacy Corner

[What to do when the words won't stick](#)

Noon Supervisor Opportunity

We are currently looking for noon supervisors. Noon Hour Supervisors main responsibility is to provide supervision to children during the lunch hour under the direction of the Principal/Assistant Principal.

New employees to the Division must be fully vaccinated and submit proof of vaccination as a condition of employment before their first scheduled work day.

If this interests you, or you have any questions, please contact Chantel Werner our assistant principal at chantel.werner@eips.ca, or call the school at 780-998-1441.

Inclement Weather

With the winter season well underway, we want to remind families to dress children appropriately for the weather when getting ready for school or the bus. The weather often changes unexpectedly throughout the day, so please select suitable outerwear and ensure your child is prepared for changing conditions.

If inclement weather conditions occur, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) will advise families of any bus cancellations using various communications tools, including automated-telephone messages, alerts posted on www.eips.ca and school websites, Twitter, Facebook, local radio stations and on the Ride 360 and Bus Status apps.

Decisions regarding bus cancellations are guided by EIPS' Administrative Procedure 131: Inclement Weather, which states: "school bus service may be suspended ... when there is a forecast or current temperature of -40 C including wind chill, in one or more regions." Other reasons for suspending or delaying school bus services include adverse weather and poor road conditions.

When school bus services are suspended, schools remain open to students. EIPS believes families have the right and responsibility to make choices for their children based on what they feel is safest during times of inclement weather.

For more information, contact EIPS Student Transportation at 780-417-8151.



4524-84 Street P 780-998-1441
Fort Saskatchewan, AB T8L 1J2 F 780-998-1444
www.winferguson.ca



Kindergarten Registration Starts Soon!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2022? If so, it's almost time to register for kindergarten.

Kindergarten registration opens for the 2022-23 school year on Feb. 1, 2022.

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.

Have your say, EIPS wants to hear from you!

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) wants to hear from you to gain a deeper understanding of your confidence in the Division and its strategic direction. As such, it has launched a new annual survey entitled, EIPS Year in Review: Stakeholder Confidence Survey—open January 6-18.

The survey covers a range of topics, including student growth and achievement, learning supports, teaching and leading, governance, and resource allocations. The information gathered will help EIPS:

- assess stakeholder confidence—families, staff, Grade 12 students and community members;
- gather input to guide future decision-making; · gather feedback to enhance its Four-Year Education Plan; and
- provide a platform for families, students, staff and community members to have a voice in ensuring high-quality, student-centered learning environments in EIPS schools.

EIPS will share the results in the Annual Education Results Report 2021-22.

[TAKE THE SURVEY NOW!](#) Survey closes Jan. 18, 2022

NOTE: EIPS encourages everyone to respond honestly. Your identity and answers are confidential and cannot be linked in any way to you or your child's school. Grade 12 students will have an opportunity to complete the survey at school. Families who do not want their child to complete the survey simply need to advise their child's school.



4524-84 Street P 780-998-1441
Fort Saskatchewan, AB T8L 1J2 F 780-998-1444
www.winferguson.ca



Returning Student Registration for 2022-23

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) will once again conduct an online returning student registration process to confirm student registrations for the 2022-23 school year. Families of all returning students must complete the process to confirm the school their child plans to attend in the 2022-23 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. The 2022-23 returning student registration takes place between Feb. 1-28, 2022.

Access to the Returning Student Registration Form is provided through the PowerSchool Parent Portal. If you don't have a PowerSchool Parent Portal account, you need to set one up before Feb. 1, 2022.

[Create a PowerSchool Parent Portal account](#)

For more information contact the school directly at 780-998-1441.

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 contact the school at 780-998-1441.



4524-84 Street P 780-998-1441
Fort Saskatchewan, AB T8L 1J2 F 780-998-1444
www.winferguson.ca



Upcoming events and important dates:

January 5: Early dismissal - 2:12 p.m

January 17: School Council Meeting

January 27: Family Literacy Day

January 28: School Spirit Day - Wear Win Ferguson clothing, or blue and yellow

January 31: Professional learning day (schools closed to students)

February 1: [kindergarten](#) and [grades 1-12](#) new student registration opens for 2022-23

February 1: [returning student registration](#) opens for 2022-23

February 2: Early dismissal - 2:12 p.m.