



Friday, February 3 2021

Dear FSE Families,

We are looking forward to an exciting February at FSE!

FSE in February

At FSE, we are learning about our logo and its link to the Circle of Courage. Students are learning about connection and belonging (red-wolf), opportunity and mastery (blue-beaver), leadership and independence (yellow-eagle), and generosity and kindness (green-deer). See the circles below. As a whole, FSE will be focused on reflecting on our logo as we talk about emotions, mental health and kindness.

February at FSE will also be a month of social engagement for our students.

Throughout the month of February, Grade 6 Leadership will be encouraging our school community to participate in a **Food Bank drive**. So often, donations slow down after the Christmas season and our students are aware of the need, and have a desire to address the inequalities of food distribution within Fort Saskatchewan.

They have been immersed in the study of social injustices and are understanding that they can actively participate in alleviating certain injustices within our community. We hope our FSE community can come together and inspire our students to get involved. To do so, we ask families to donate non-perishable food items to the Food Bank, if possible. These items can be brought to the school, where students will sort them into appropriate food groups, engaging them in understanding balanced diets. When a student donates, the Grade 6 Leadership will make a gift in art class that will be given to volunteers at the Food Bank, to show appreciation for non-profit organizations and the volunteers that enable them. These volunteers are the heart of our community. February is the month of love, respect, and acts of kindness; let's join together, FSE, and make a difference!

To coincide with these activities the **grade 3s** will be celebrating **Have a Heart Day** on **February 14** in honor of **Spirit Bear** and his message of equity for all children in Canada. These hearts will be hung on the tree outside of the office. When students

bring in an item for the food bank, they will get to choose a heart with a message of what every child in Canada deserves. The grade threes and sixes will be getting together via Google Meet to discuss initiatives between grade levels and how they are working together.

Thursday and Friday January 29, FSE is closed for Teacher's Convention. Have a wonderful weekend!

Entry and Exit Times

Please have your student at their line up between 8:25 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. for drop off. If you arrive later than 8:30 a.m. please drop your student at the front doors. In cold weather, students will be going into classrooms immediately, keeping cohorts safely separated. Dismissal time will begin at 3:00 p.m. and end at 3:05 p.m.

Valentine's Day is coming!

We are excited to celebrate Valentine's Day in new ways that keep us safe! We ask that staff and families **NOT** share cards, treats, gifts etc. according to our COVID 19 Safety Guidelines. Thank you!

Important Dates and Events

February 1: 2021-22 registration opens

February 3: Early dismissal

February 3: [Winter Walk Day](#)

February 4-5: Teachers' Convention (schools closed to students)

Feb. 14: Red and Pink Day (Wear red and pink for Valentine's Day!)

February 15: Family Day (all schools closed)

February 15: [National Flag Day](#)

February 16, 17 and 18: Tentative Parent, Student, Teacher Conferences

February 24: [Pink Shirt Day](#)

Feb. 26: Lion or Lamb (Predict if March will come in like a lion or lamb. Dress in browns and yellows if you think a lion, whites and grays if you think a lamb.)

February 28: returning student registration closes

Kindergarten Registration is Now Open!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2021? If so, it's now 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 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 Fort Saskatchewan Elementary School's kindergarten program is available at <https://www.fortelem.ca/>.

Complete the Returning Student Registration: February 1-28

Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) returning student registration process is now open. All returning students must complete the online Returning Student Registration Form to confirm their child's enrolment in a school for the upcoming 2021-22 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 returning EIPS students are required to complete the form by Feb. 28, 2021.** 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. [Create a PowerSchool Parent Portal account](#). For more information please contact Fort Saskatchewan Elementary School at **780 998 7771** or general.fse@eips.ca.

School Fees

Quarter 3 fees are now posted and payment is due within 14 days. If any credits were present on the account, they have been applied and any outstanding balance will show as due. Please log into your Powerschool account to see credits, fees, and make payment.

Fee Waiver Applications

FSE Families, please note that Fee Waiver Applications for the 2020-21 year, is extended to **Feb. 15, 2021**. Please click on the [link](#) for more information and the form. Valentine's Day is fast approaching! We will continue to follow EIPS COVID Safety guidelines, therefore cards, treats, gifts, etc. are not to be shared. Staff will celebrate in different ways! Thank you for helping us all to be safe!

EIPS Indigenous Parent/Family Series

Second Gathering (virtual): March 9, 2021 (7 - 8 PM)

Sessions will be held online using *Microsoft Teams Meetings*, Join on your computer or mobile app [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Supports offered for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students

- We thank all families for joining us in our initial gathering and sharing your stories. We were grateful to all who attended for our initial meeting. As we started with words from Elder Wilson and took time to meet each other, we did not get through the full agenda from our first gathering. We will ensure we cover

the missed topics and answer your questions in the second gathering. Here is what we hope to share on March 9:

- EIPS First Nations, Metis and Inuit team mandate
- What self-identification is and what it means
- What supports are in place for self-identified students
- Time for Q and A

We also have the second stream of online information sessions for our general parent population. Our self-identified families are welcome to join those as well. This three-part series is designed for EIPS parents and families who are curious to learn about First Nations, Métis and Inuit cultures, perspectives and histories. These sessions are designed as entry points to understanding as we work toward learning our collective truth on the path of reconciliation. Sessions will be held online using **Microsoft Teams Meetings**, Join on your computer or mobile app. [Click here to join the meeting](#)

- **Session 1 (virtual): February 2, 2021 (7 - 7:30 PM)**
 - Who we are and why this work is needed
 - What reconciliation looks like in EIPS
- **Session 2 (virtual) February 23, 2021 (7 - 7:30 PM)**
 - Addressing common roadblocks to understanding and relationship
 - Terminology; bridging the gap between what language parents may be used to hearing and what children are learning in schools
- **Session 3 (virtual) March 16, 2021 (7 - 7:30 PM)**
 - Language of this land- The importance of highlighting Indigenous languages; deepening understanding of relationship to land through language; what exploration of Indigen

Metis Nation Annual Youth-Senior Gathering

The annual Metis event will be held online this year. Metis Youth (must be a citizen of the Metis Nation) and Metis seniors can register here:

<http://albertametis.com/programs-services/youth-programs-services/youth-events/youth-and-seniors-gathering-2021>. Join us on Saturday & Sunday, February 20 & 21, 2021

from 12 pm to 5 pm on Facebook Live @abmetis & Chime Live! For Métis Youth aged 12-29 & Seniors aged 60+. Register now! Registration deadline is February 5, 2021.

This year we want to celebrate storytelling with our youth and seniors. Telling stories is how we pass down knowledge to our younger generations and this year, we want to celebrate this custom with our youth and seniors. There is so much to be a part of:

- ∞ Métis storytelling
- ∞ Musical Entertainment
- ∞ Bannock making

- ∞ Moose calling competition (Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each age category!)
- ∞ Much more!

Be a part of the story! Help us celebrate our story. We're asking our youth and seniors to get involved with sharing our stories this year: Register by February 5 or call (587) 338-9013 to get FREE swag! Only MNA citizens within the stated age ranges who register will receive free swag. Looking for more information? Email youth@metis.org to get answers! Here is a promotion video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZ-iYefTJwQ&feature=emb_logo

Caregiver Education Series

Alberta Health Services is hosting a series of caregiver information sessions focused on ways to support students' mental health. The sessions are free and geared toward parents, caregivers, teachers and community members who want to learn more about challenges impacting children and adolescents. This year, session topics include anxiety, ADHD, depression, self-harm, technology, teens and teaching leadership skills, and more. Visit [Caregiver Education for the Edmonton Zone](#) for more information and session dates.

Yours in Learning,
Jacqui Holmes, Principal



FORT SASKATCHEWAN
• ELEMENTARY •