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# FORT SASKATCHEWAN

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## • ELEMENTARY •

Friday, October 29, 2021

Dear FSE Families,

Our students enjoyed Halloween celebrations today, especially our school wide virtual Halloween assembly to share our costumes today. Congratulations to class 1/2B and 6B who won our pumpkin carving contest! Your creativity and artistic flair were fabulous! Each of these winning classes will be receiving a pizza party which has been generously donated by our Parent Society. We wish everyone a safe, fun Halloween weekend!

Here are some important dates for **November...**

**November 3:** Early dismissal

**November 5:** FSE Remembrance Day Virtual Ceremony 10:30 a.m.

**November 5 - 8:** [Veterans' Week](#)

**November 7:** Daylight savings time ends

**November 8:** Aboriginal Veterans Day

**November 8-12:** Fall break (all schools are closed to staff and students)

**November 11:** Remembrance Day

**November 15-19:** [Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week](#) & [Métis Week](#)

**November 20:** National Child Day

**November 26:** Report Cards published

**FSE students** and staff will be focusing on the Seven Grandfather Teaching of **COURAGE** during the month of November. Our November School Community Assembly will be held on **Wednesday, November 17.**

### **Vaccine Mandate for Volunteers, External Individuals and External Organizations**

Effective Oct. 25, 2021, all volunteers, external individuals and external organizations, engaging in EIPS-related activities and working directly with students or EIPS staff, must present proof of full vaccination, or a negative COVID-19 test result before entering a Division facility. The negative COVID-19 test must be a privately paid COVID-19 PCR or rapid test—approved by Health Canada—and

completed within 72 hours. EIPS does not accept test results from Alberta Health Services or Alberta Precision Laboratories.

EIPS staff shall refuse admittance into a Division facility to persons who do not provide the required proof or documentation.

### **From EIPS - Inclement Weather**

With the winter season almost here, 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) advises families of any bus cancellations using various communications tools, which may include automated-telephone messages, alerts posted on [www.eips.ca](http://www.eips.ca) and school websites, through the Bus Status app, Twitter, Facebook and on Versatrans My Stop. Morning bus cancellations are posted on [www.eips.ca](http://www.eips.ca) by 5:30 a.m. or the night prior if conditions make it obvious bus service will be cancelled the next day.

Decisions regarding bus cancellations are guided by EIPS administrative procedures that states, "school bus service may be suspended...when Environment Canada reports a temperature of -40 C." 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 their beliefs and perceptions of safety during times of inclement weather.

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

### **No Child Without: Free MedicAlert for students**

In our ongoing effort to provide safe and caring schools for students, Fort Saskatchewan Elementary School 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 of four and 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 780-998-7771. To learn more about the No Child Without program, visit [www.nochildwithout.ca](http://www.nochildwithout.ca).

### **Looking for Staff Contact Information?**

We've recently made changes to how families can contact Fort Saskatchewan Elementary School staff.

If you'd like to reach out to your child's teacher directly, simply log in to your [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) account. From the Grades and Attendance page, you can click on the name of any of your child's teachers to email them directly.

To connect with school administration and main office staff, refer to the [online contact form](#) to send an email to the applicable person directly. From the online contact form, you can also send an email to the school to report your child's absence.

If you're having trouble with your PowerSchool account, contact the school office. And, of course, we're always just a phone call away if you have questions or need assistance, 780-998-7771.

## **Thanks to our Parent Society, Hot Lunch Has Returned!**

**Check out our school website for more information.**

*The 2021-2022 Hot Lunch Dates:*

*Friday, November 19 - Boston Pizza*

*Friday, December 3 - Freson Bros.*

*Friday, January 14 - Chopped Leaf*

*Friday, February 4 - Edo Japan*

*Friday, March 11 - Provider to be determined at a later date*

*Friday, April 8 - Provider to be determined at a later date*

*Friday, May 27 - Provider to be determined at a later date*

*Friday, June 3 - Provider to be determined at a later date*

**If families previously had a Munch a Lunch account during the 2019/2020 school year, they can login in using their old login and password at:**

<https://munchalunch.com/login>

**New families need to register here:**

<https://munchalunch.com/schools/FortSaskElementary>

**Please note: If AHS declares an illness outbreak the FSE Hot Lunch program will be suspended.**

**Literacy Tip**

# Literacy at Home: The Importance of Vocabulary

Parents often ask for tips on working with their children at home to build literacy skills. Daniel Willingham, a psychology professor at the University of Virginia who writes about the science behind reading comprehension, explained that whether or not readers understand a text has a lot to do with how much background knowledge and vocabulary they have relating to the topic. That's because writers leave out a lot of information that they assume readers will know.

In fact, a study by Nagy & Herman showed the following results:

Student A reads 1 minute each day in a school year

Learns 8000 new words

Student B reads 5 minutes each day in a school year

Learns 282 000 new words

Student C reads 20 minutes each day in a school year

Learns 1 800 000 new words

\*Sources: Iowa Reading Research Centre, Nagy, William and Herman, Patricia: Breadth and Depth of Vocabulary Knowledge: Implications for Acquisition and Instruction, Willingham, Dan: The Reading Mind



You can see that the difference is significant!

So, what can you do at home? Here are some ideas:

- Read with and to your child for 20 minutes each day.
- Have conversations with your child and try to include “big words” and new words.
- Tell stories to your child and encourage them to ask questions.
- Involve your child in the activities you do -- cooking, fixing the car, etc. Use terms specific to the activity to build vocabulary.

Have a fun filled, safe Halloween weekend, everyone!

Sincerely,

Shelby Labrecque, M. Ed.

Principal

Fort Saskatchewan Elementary School