



FORT SASKATCHEWAN

• ELEMENTARY •

Friday, November 26, 2021

Dear FSE Families,

November is closing and we will soon welcome **December!** Report cards will be released in power school at the end of the day today. Enjoy time with your student celebrating their growth and setting goals for the second term.

School Council/Parent Society

On November 17, 2021 we had our last School Council/Parent Society meeting for the calendar year. We had the opportunity to meet our new trustee liaison, Ralph Sorochan, and plans were made for our Parent Society to provide milk and cookies on our upcoming PJ Day on December 21, 2021. (Ms. Olsen's kindergarten class will have their theme day, including milk and cookies on December 20, 2021). A huge thank you goes out to our Parent Society and families as our Dieleman's fundraiser made \$1943.18 for our school community. Thanks also goes out to our volunteers who helped make our first Hot Lunch day a success! I look forward to seeing families at our next School Council/Parent Society meeting January 19, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. We are planning to make this meeting a hybrid so as to give families the option to attend in person or via Zoom. More information to come in January!

School and Transportation Fee Waiver Applications: Deadline extended

If circumstances exist where you're unable to pay school or transportation fees, you can apply to have fees waived by submitting an Application for a Waiver of Fees. The application deadline is Dec. 15, 2021. If you're new to the Division, the deadline is the latter of Dec. 15, 2021, or 45 days after registration.

To access your fee information, simply log in to the PowerSchool Parent Portal and go to "Student Fees." There you can view your fees and pay them online using Visa or MasterCard. All fees are due within 30 days of being posted.

Don't forget to also log in to the PowerSchool Parent Portal regularly throughout the year. Fees are often added to your child's account to cover the cost of various school activities such as field trips, class projects, extracurricular activities and more.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines, visit www.eips.ca/schools/fees and www.fortelem.ca/about/fees. Alternatively, contact Ms. Marcoux-Jones at 780-998-7771.

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 current students—with the exception of graduating Grade 12 students—must complete the process to confirm the school their child plans to attend in the 2022-23 school year or advise the Division of their plans not to return to EIPS. 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 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 office at 780-998-7771.

Christmas Break

Fort Saskatchewan Elementary School will close for the Christmas break at the end of the day on Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2021. The school will reopen on Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2022. During this time, if you have any school-related questions or concerns, contact Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Central Services at 780-464-3477.

EIPS Central Services Christmas Break Hours

Open December 22 and 23; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Closed Dec. 23, 2021 to Jan. 3, 2022

Open January 4; 8 a.m. to 4 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.

Christmas Concert Info

This year, we are excited to announce each class will be performing their own Christmas Concert with two songs and one poem performance. In adherence with FOIP restrictions, each family will be able to view performances from their child's class on their homeroom teacher's Brightspace. If there are any families that need assistance with navigating Brightspace, please contact your child's homeroom teacher. The Christmas Concert will be available for viewing over the Brightspace Platform on **December 14th** onward.

The following classes will be recording their Christmas Concert in the music room on **November 30th: 3M, 4/5C, 6B**. Students are invited to dress in their best if they so choose.

The following classes will be recording their Christmas Concert in the music room on **December 1st: KOA, 1S, 1/2G, 2P, 3/4F, 5/6S, LINKS**. Students are invited to dress in their best if they so choose.

The following classes will be recording their Christmas Concert in the music room on **December 3rd: KTB**. Students are invited to dress in their best if they so choose.

We are greatly looking forward to the fun and joyous festivities this year. We are certain you will see your child has put a great deal of effort into their performances! Please do not hesitate to reach out to Ms. Mikulecky at the school if you have any questions.

Literacy at Home: A Focus on Writing

Writing is one of the ways children can express their creativity and thinking. It also supports them in becoming better readers. According to author, educator, and literacy expert Pam Allyn, “writing helps to cultivate emotional growth, develop critical thinking skills, and improve school performance” (Tartakovsky, 2011).

A study by Graham & Heckbert (2010) showed the following:

- Writing about a text deepens understanding. This can include: writing personal reactions or analysis, writing a summary, taking notes, and creating or answering questions in writing
- Explicit instruction about writing, using text structure, sentence construction, and spelling patterns helps students improve reading comprehension, fluency, and word reading
- Increasing how often students write improves their reading comprehension

Source: International Literacy Association

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

- Write lists
 - Grocery list
 - Christmas list
- Write how-to paragraphs
 - How to build a snowman
 - How to decorate a Christmas tree
 - How to make pancakes
- Write letters or cards to family and friends
- Write a review of a book, movie, game, or restaurant
- Write a story with a problem and a solution
- Write about reading
 - Summary
 - Reaction to a plot point
 - Personal connection

Sincerely,

Shelby Labrecque, M. Ed.

Principal

Fort Saskatchewan Elementary School

