



FORT SASKATCHEWAN

• ELEMENTARY •

Dear Fort Saskatchewan Elementary (FSE) Families,

My name is Shelby Labrecque and I have the honour and privilege of being your child's principal. I have been an educator for over 20 years and completed my Education degree and Masters degree at the University of Alberta. I am thrilled to welcome everyone to the 2022-23 school year. It is so exciting to have everyone in our building. I am looking forward to an amazing year together!

I would like to thank our custodial staff who completed the summer cleaning routines so we could come back to an extra clean school environment. Kudos go out to our IT Department for ensuring our technology was ready to go on day one, as well as our Facilities staff who spent the summer working behind the scenes doing building maintenance and repairs.

On August 26 & 29 staff took part in some professional learning, attended meetings, and worked in collaborative teams to prepare for the upcoming school year. These days were both productive and enjoyable and allowed us time to ensure the year got off to a great start.

Save the date! I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our 'Welcome Back BBQ~Meet the Staff' event on **Thursday, September 15** from **4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.** Staff will be serving hot dogs and a bag of chips outside (weather permitting) by our outdoor learning space, located at the back of the school, on a first come, first served basis. (One hot dog and bag of chips per person please.) In the event of inclement weather, we will move this event into the gym. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet staff, as well as connect with other FSE families.

Did you know every parent/guardian is a member of our School Council & Parent Society? It's true! The School Council is a great way to stay connected with what

is happening at school as well as contribute thoughts and ideas about what you might like to see happening at school. We hope you can make it to our School Council and Parent Society meetings as we value you important members of our school community! But we understand how busy life is, so if you do have questions or feedback you'd like to share, you can certainly reach out directly to the School Council and Parent Society (fseparentsociety@gmail.com) or myself at the school.

Our first **AGM** for School Council and Parent Society will be in person at the school on **Monday, September 26 @ 5:30 p.m.** Hope to see you there!

Remember the date! Our **school photos** for Ms. Thompson's ECS class are happening on Tuesday, September 22. Ms. Wilson's ECS class and grades 1 to 6 will have their pictures taken on Wednesday, September 21. Information about ordering photos will be coming home on picture day.

FSE will be acknowledging the history and impact of residential schools on **September 29** through a variety of age-appropriate activities. Staff and students will be invited to wear orange in support of [Orange Shirt Day](#) on this date, as well.

School will be closed on **September 30** to mark **Orange Shirt Day** & **Canada's National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**.

Pay School fees online! School fee information for the 2022-23 school year will be posted on the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) in late September. All fees are due within 30 days of being posted. 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 online using a credit card. **For new students portal codes will be sent home to families by Tuesday, September 6.*

Don't forget to 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 certain school activities such as field trips, class projects, athletic-team fees and more. Additionally, junior high and senior high fees can change as courses are added and deleted.

If you're unable to pay your school fees, you can apply to have certain **fees waived** by submitting an [Application for a Waiver of Fees](#). The application deadline is Dec. 15, 2022.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines visit eips.ca. Alternatively, contact our business manager, Ms. Jones, in our school office at 780-998-7771.

Did you know each EIPS bus is equipped with video surveillance? Video surveillance and equipment help ensure the safety of all students, drivers and property and discourages destructive acts.

On a regular basis, EIPS Student Transportation reviews the video recordings, in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. The recordings assist the department with monitoring student and driver conduct and may be used as evidence in a disciplinary matter.

For more information about the collection, use and disclosure of personal information, contact the EIPS FOIP Co-ordinator at 780-464-3477.

NOTE: If there is an emergency involving a missing bus student, please call 780-417-8151 for assistance.

Update your PowerSchool information The EIPS Correction and Verification Form is now available online through your PowerSchool Parent Portal. Use the form to access and update your child's records information—including address, parent and guardian information, emergency contacts and medical information. Reviewing the form and submitting updates ensures the school has the most up-to-date information regarding your child.

When reviewing the form, pay close attention to all listed phone numbers, email addresses and emergency contact information. Also, if you recently moved, now is the time to ensure the Division has your updated address. Throughout the year, the Division and school uses the listed information to communicate with families about important information, including updates, the latest news and event.

Review and update the EIPS Correction and Verification Form by Sept. 22, 2022.

For more information about the PowerSchool Correction and Verification Form, contact the school office at 780-998-7771.

Improving home-school communication To enhance communication between families and schools, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) created a how-to guide entitled, Communication Protocol for Schools. Topics include:

- appropriate channels to use;
- standard formats and structures;
- timing and sequencing for regular and ongoing home-school communication; and
- ways to bring forward questions or concerns.

The guide also offers useful tools and resources schools, and families can use to enhance face-to-face meetings, email communication and various social media efforts. EIPS encourages all families and schools to review the guide at: [Communication Protocol for Schools](#)

Download the SchoolMessenger App

Fort Saskatchewan Elementary and the Division use the SchoolMessenger platform for communicating with families—through both phone and email. Be sure to add communications@eips.ca, general.fse@eips.ca and principal.fse@eips.ca to your safe sender list to avoid having important messages funneled into your junk mail folder.

The easiest way to stay connected is to download the SchoolMessenger app. Get the latest updates direct to your mobile device and enable push notifications to never miss a message. Families can also check back on past messages—for up to 30 days—directly in the app rather than searching to find an old message buried in your inbox. Download the SchoolMessenger app from the App Store or Google Play today.

Coming soon—the Safe Arrivals absence reporting tool will be rolled out within the SchoolMessenger app later this school year. Families will be able to quickly and easily report a child's absence directly in the app. No more phone calls or emails required. Stay tuned for updates in the coming months.

Sync the School Calendar to your calendar

Did you know you can sync the school calendar to your own calendar? You can. Simply, visit <https://www.fortelem.ca/about/calendar> and click on the applicable subscription option:

- Download to iCal
- Add to Google Calendar
- Subscribe to Calendar

NOTE: Options are located above the calendar.

Once you click on the desired subscription option, follow the instructions. Within seconds, your calendar will contain all Fort Saskatchewan's important dates including holidays, school-closures days, planned activities, events and more.

Looking ahead...

September 5 ~ No School ~ Labour Day

September 7 ~ Early dismissal ~ students are dismissed at 2:05 p.m.

September 9 ~ 1 pm Welcome back assembly! ~ Families are welcome to attend

September 15 ~ 4 to 5:30 p.m. Welcome Back BBQ/Meet the Staff Event

September 21 ~ School Photos for Ms. Wilson's ECS class and grades 1 to 6

September 22 ~ School Photos for Ms. Thompson's ECS class

September 22 ~ Correction & Verification Forms Due!

September 23 ~ Terry Fox Run (more information to come soon!)

September 23 ~ Hot Lunch! (more information to come soon!)

September 26 ~ 5:30 p.m. School Council & Parent Society Meeting ~ All parents/guardians welcome!

September 29 ~ Wear orange in support of Orange Shirt Day!

September 30 ~ No School ~ Orange Shirt Day & Canada's National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

As always, if you have any questions, please email me directly at shelby.labrecque@eips.ca or call 780-998-7771, during regular business hours.

Have a wonderful and safe long weekend everyone!

Sincerely,
Shelby Labrecque, M. Ed.
Principal
Fort Saskatchewan Elementary School

CYF email information