



# The Lion's Roar

Fort Saskatchewan Elementary School  
www.fortelem.ca

October 5, 2018

## Calendar of Events

Oct 5	Newsletter emailed
Oct 1-4	Read in Week
Oct 3	Early Dismissal
Oct 5	Division PD day No School for students
Oct 8	Thanksgiving No School
Oct 24&25	Parent Teacher Interviews 4:30- 7:30
Oct 31	Halloween/ Early Out
Nov 1	School Council 6:30pm
Nov 2	Newsletter emailed
Nov 9	Remembrance Day Celebration 10:30
Nov 10-18	November Break

## Message from Administration

What an amazing and wonderful kickoff to the year and our learning journey together! It has been fun getting to know all of you and your children. I appreciate you taking time to say hello when you have a moment. Please know my door is always open. Wishing you and your family a happy Thanksgiving and as always, thank you for sharing your children with us.



Jessica Smith & Jim Gerwing  
Principal                      Assistant Principal

## Indigo "Love of Reading" Campaign

There are many ways in which you can continue to support our "Love of Reading" Campaign.

1. Write a "Story" on the page. There are several prompts and for each story written, they will donate 1 book (up to 100 books!)
2. Vote on a story! Everyone gets one "like" of a story. One of our parent's stories is currently in 9th place in Alberta. The top 5 in each province have a chance to win more books! The story is by Stephanie Luneta Stevens.

Thank you to all who have already donated (whether online or in store!) We have loved checking the website each day to see the names of everyone who has contributed to our school library! <https://adoptaschool.indigo.ca/eng/schools/2193>

## Be a wee read volunteer!



Fort Saskatchewan Elementary is pleased to announce that we are continuing with an exciting program called **wee read**. This eight-week program was designed by Alberta Reads

([www.albertareadsnetwork.com](http://www.albertareadsnetwork.com)) to help Kindergarten and Grade One children strengthen the foundations for reading and school success, and help children develop a love for books.

**We are looking for volunteers** who can come to the school for about 30 minutes, once a week, for eight consecutive weeks to read with two children, talk about books, and play games that support literacy skills. If you are interested in being part of this fun and meaningful opportunity, or know of someone who might be, there will be volunteer training sessions held on **October 17th** from **6:30pm to 7:30pm** at **SouthPointe School**. We hope that you will consider partnering with us on this. Please let Mrs. Haywood ([shannon.haywood@eips.ca](mailto:shannon.haywood@eips.ca)), Mrs. Percy ([leanne.percy@eips.ca](mailto:leanne.percy@eips.ca)) or the office know by Friday, October 12th if you can come to the training session.

## Read In Week October 1-5.

The theme for this year was **Bringing Books to Life**. Through various activities, students will spend the week learning how stories live on, even when the book is finished. Some of the activities we were involved in this week included:

- On Monday, special community guests came in to read for 30 minutes to every class in the school.
- Tuesday was "Dress as your favorite book character" with prizes awarded for best dressed. Also, a group of high school students came in to read with our grade ones.
- Wednesday, teachers all switched classrooms during DEAR time and read to the students.
- On Thursday, Fort Saskatchewan public library joined us for a YRCA presentation and discussion.
- We also had a bookmark craft for division two students and the division one students received the bookmarks they created earlier in MakerSpace.
- Throughout the week, we had a contest for students involving guessing and voting on matching favorite books with the teacher who chose them. Ask your children if they were able to identify every teacher

Read In Week is a Division wide initiative held annually to encourage a lifelong love of reading and to enhance literacy awareness among students, staff, parents and community members. We invite all our families to participate in Read In Week with us either by reading yourself, with your child or with someone in the community.

And, don't forget to share what you've learned throughout the week using the hashtag *#eipsreads*. We hope you discover some amazing stories.

### **Celebrating World Teachers' Day: October 5**

October 5 is World Teachers' Day! Launched in 1994 by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Teachers' Day is celebrated annually around the world as a way to recognize teachers and the integral role they play in providing quality education to students. On October 5, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) encourages all students, families and community members to show their appreciation for their teachers and the positive impact they make on our lives.

EIPS extends its heartfelt thank you to all its teachers for their dedication, hard work and commitment in guiding and educating our students through their kindergarten to Grade 12 years.



### **Book Fair**

Parents...the Fort Elementary library needs your help! We would love parents to help out at the cashier desk during our Book Fair is running The evening of October 24<sup>th</sup> (4:30-7:30), the day and evening of the 25<sup>th</sup>, and the day only of 29<sup>th</sup>. We especially need help during busy lunchtimes and recess. **If you have some time to lend a hand, we would very much appreciate it! Please contact Mrs. Grant in the library.**

### **School Council Executive**

#### **Next Meeting - Thursday, November 1st at 6:30pm.**

We had a great turnout at the last parent council meeting! A huge thank you to everyone who was able to attend! Parental involvement is a significant factor influencing for student success. The time, energy and enthusiasm of these parent leaders help us be the best we can be! Thank you! Remember that all parents are welcome to all meetings.

Babysitting is available upon request; please contact the office to let us know how many kids will be attending.

### Dressing for the Weather

Brrrr! Fall is upon us. Thank you for making sure that your child has the necessary fall/winter gear. Our students participate in outdoor recesses except in the most extreme cold weather. A hat, mitts and a warm coat are necessary during outdoor play. We have indoor recess generally when the temperatures reach -21 degrees Celsius or lower.



### Terry Fox Donation



It was a beautiful Terry Fox run, and students definitely enjoyed the opportunity to walk and run around the track.

Thank you to all those who donated a “Toonie” for Terry. As a school we raised \$360 to donate to cancer research. Great job!

### Parent-Teacher-Student Interviews

Our Parent Teacher Interviews will be taking place on Wednesday October 25<sup>th</sup> and Thursday October 26<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 to 6:30, unless your teacher has indicated otherwise. The booking site for Interviews will be **open on October 15<sup>th</sup> at 10am.**

### Teacher Contact

To assist teachers in providing your child’s education, we ask that you keep classroom interruptions to a minimum. Protecting instructional time is very important to our students’ academic success. Teachers are available to discuss your child’s progress outside of class time. Please contact your child’s teacher directly to set up a meeting time. If you would like to drop something off at the school for your child, just drop by the office and we will make sure the item gets to them. Thank you for your continued support.

### Pay School Fees Online!

School fee information for the 2018-19 school year is now posted on the PowerSchool Parent Portal. 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 them online using Visa, MasterCard or INTERAC Online—when available from your financial institution. 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, athletic-team fees and more. If circumstances exist where you are unable to pay your fees, you can apply to have

[fees waived](#) by submitting an [Application for a Waiver of Fees](#). The application deadline is Dec. 15, 2018.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines, visit [www.eips.ca/schools/fees](http://www.eips.ca/schools/fees). Alternatively, contact **Mrs. McIsaac** at 780-998-7771.

### **REMINDER: Make head checks for lice a regular routine!**

Head lice is one of the most common problems faced by school-aged children and their families. Typically, head lice are tiny, greyish-brown insects that live on the scalp and lay their eggs, or nits, in the hair close to the scalp—itching is the main complaint. Lice don't jump from head to head nor are they dangerous. Having a head lice infestation, however, can cause stress, anxiety and hardship for staff, students and parents. As such, it's essential each of our families do their part at home by undertaking weekly routine head checks and, if head lice and nits are found, physically removing them.

While head lice prevention and control is primarily the responsibility of the parent, the school does work discreetly with the teacher, students and families to prevent further transmission. To prevent the spread of head lice, we strongly encourage you to speak to your child about preventative behaviour such as avoiding head-to-head contact and not sharing combs, hats, pillows and hair accessories. It's also important to teach children not to tease other students about head lice—anyone can get head lice. If head lice are found on your child, notify the school, physically remove the lice and nits using the proper lice comb, and keep your child home until all signs of active head lice are gone.

For more information about head lice prevention and treatment, visit [www.eips.ca/programs-services/healthy-schools/head-lice](http://www.eips.ca/programs-services/healthy-schools/head-lice). Alternatively, you can contact the school.

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

In our ongoing effort to provide safe and caring schools for our students, Fort Elementary continues to be 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 four of 14—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, their 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. To learn more about the No Child Without program, visit [www.nochildwithout.ca](http://www.nochildwithout.ca).

### **School Bus Safety Week: October 22-26**

Schools throughout Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) are celebrating School Bus Safety Week October 22-26. The theme: School Bus...Bully Free Zone, which is all about promoting the importance of healthy relationship among students, staff and school bus operators. Throughout the week, various activities are planned including information sessions, bus-safety lesson plans and bus-evacuation drills.

As part of School Bus Safety Week, we'd like to remind our students and our families all EIPS school buses are equipped with both a bus-pass scanner and GPS technology, which allow Student Transportation to better monitor and manage its more than 170 buses and 600 bus routes. Thanks to this technology, parents and students also have access to the Versatrans My Stop app, a mobile tool to help determine the location of a bus, projected arrival times and when a child scanned onto a bus.

More information about School Bus Safety Week and EIPS Student Transportation services can be found by visiting [www.eips.ca/transportation](http://www.eips.ca/transportation) or by contacting Student Transportation (780-417-8151, [st@eips.ca](mailto:st@eips.ca)) directly.

### **APEGA Rock and Fossil Clinic**

Drop in for an exciting day showcasing the wonders of geoscience. Professional and student geoscientists will be identifying samples, so bring in your favourites from your rock and fossil collections. There will also be hands-on activities for youth to explore what a career in geoscience could be like. For further information, contact [outreach@apega.ca](mailto:outreach@apega.ca).

**When:** Oct. 13, 2018  
**Time:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Where:** TELUS World of Science  
**Who:** All ages  
**Cost:** Free

## **Counsellor's Corner**

### **Fidget tools**

#### **Why do children fidget?**

As an adult, you may chew your pen or fiddle with your rings when you're nervous. You may twirl your pen or doodle when you're bored. You may pace when you are stressed. These are all fidgets that you use to increase your focus and productivity. Just like adults, children fidget too. Fidgeting can be a way for your child to alter their state of alertness which can improve focus and concentration.

#### **Why use a fidget tool?**

Fidget tools provide students an opportunity to receive extra sensory input in a less distracting way. Therefore, for certain students, a fidget tool can help them focus, listen and concentrate in class.

#### **What to look for in a fidget tool?**

There is really no "one size fits all" fidget tool. Fidget tools are more effective when they respond to a specific sensory need. Some students may need elastic bands on their chair legs so that they feel resistance when they kick their feet, other students may need a prickly ball that they can move in their hands. Others may find that they focus more when they are at a standing desk that allows them to shift their weight back and forth.

#### **The difference between a fidget tool and a toy**

Fidget tools are meant to increase concentration in the classroom. Thus, it should not become a distraction. This means that the student's eyes are on the person who is speaking or the work that is to be completed and not on the tool. It also means that the fidget tool is used discretely as to not distract others from their learning. When students begin to learn tricks or play at recess with their fidgets, it becomes a toy. This may mean that the fidget is not a right fit for your child and they may need a different kind of fidget tool.

<http://occupationaltherapychildren.com.au/stop-touching-things-the-role-of-fidget-toys/>