



The Lion's Roar



Fort Saskatchewan Elementary
School
www.fortelem.ca

November, 2016

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TRANSITIONS AT FSES

November is a transition month. The end of autumn is upon us, the Christmas season is beginning, conferences are completed and our first term report cards go home. It's a time to reflect, not only about school, but about the world around us. With Remembrance Day early in the month, we are given the wonderful opportunity to take time to be thankful for our comfortable, safe, prosperous country, and to extend our gratitude to those who work to keep it that way. And speaking of prosperity, special thanks needs to be extended to our school community. We gathered eight large boxes full of food to donate to the Food Bank for Thanksgiving and in doing so, supported those who struggle to provide for their growing families.

Our grade two students dazzled us with their Hallowe'en performances. Thanks to Mrs. Mikulecky and all our staff members for their tireless performance efforts!

Please join us for our Remembrance Day Assembly on Thursday, November 10 at 9:00 a.m.

Enjoy the upcoming November break. Come back to school on November 21 ready to celebrate learning, get our Christmas activities up and running, and wind up 2016 in fine style.





Inclement Weather

With the winter season already here, we want to remind parents 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) will advise parents of any bus cancellations using various communications tools including: automated-telephone messages, alerts posted on www.eips.ca and school websites, Twitter, Facebook, local radio stations and on Versatrans My Stop. All morning bus cancellations will be posted on www.eips.ca by 6:30 a.m.

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 will remain open to students. EIPS believes parents have the right and responsibility to make choices for their children based on their beliefs and perceptions of safety during times of inclement weather. When the temperature is -20 C or lower, the students may come inside and it will be inside recesses. However, until it reaches -20 C they will be expected to stay outside so it is important that they be dressed properly.

Download the PowerSchool App

Did you know there is a PowerSchool app? Download PowerSchool Mobile today on your Apple or Android device to stay connected with similar information available on the PowerSchool website. The same app can be used by both parents and students. You'll have real-time access to attendance, upcoming assignments, grades and more. Sign-up for push notifications to stay up to date.

Links to download PowerSchool Mobile are available from the PowerSchool parent or student portals or directly from the App Store or Google Play. Use the Elk Island Public Schools district code, HXWF, and your PowerSchool portal username and password to log-in to the app. The first time you login, or if you haven't used the app in a while, it may take three to five minutes for the app to load completely as it accesses all of your data from the PowerSchool server.

More information, links to download the app and a copy of the PowerSchool Mobile app user guide are available at www.eips.ca.



PLAY IS THE WAY

Play is the Way is the character education program that we use at Fort Elementary. It is a program of cooperative, physically interactive games that serve as the back bone for a process that builds a sustainable whole school culture of:

- Continuous self-improvement
- Safety and non-violence
- Peer support, trust, respect and understanding
- Self-regulation and socially responsible behaviour
- Openness acceptance and belonging

The program teaches social and emotional competencies that help all children learn to the best of their ability and lead emotionally rich and rewarding lives.

Every month the staff teach each other an activity and then they teach it to their classes. It also emphasizes the Golden Rule “ Treat others the way you would want them to treat you.”

November’s Activity—Pegasaurus





November Music Notes FSE's Fine Arts Program

It is shaping up to be a very exciting musical year for our Junior and Senior Choir members! Junior Choir meets every Wednesday at morning recess and Senior Choir meets every Wednesday at lunch recess in the Music room.

DATES TO NOTE



REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY
NOVEMBER 10 AT 9:00 A.M.



SING FOR SANTA



December 10th 7:00 p.m

This Oil Kings hockey event is most anticipated by our choir members! Both Junior and Senior choir members sing Christmas carols throughout the game and enjoy a teddy bear toss upon the first goal. FSE families are able to purchase tickets through our parent council online system beginning this month. Simply go to www.fse.parentcouncil.net to purchase your hockey tickets and you will be notified when they are ready for pick up in the office. An information letter discussing parking tips, expectations and dress wear will be distributed to all choir members closer to game night.

Remembrance Day

Everyone is welcome to attend our Remembrance Day ceremony on November 10th beginning at 9:00 a.m. Experience thought provoking guest speakers as well as live music from our trumpeter, bagpipe player and senior choir. Come join us for a time of reflection as we show our respect for those in uniform.





Attendance Boundaries: New School in Davidson Creek

Planning has begun for the attendance boundaries of the new K-6 school in the Davidson Creek area. A key component of this process is understanding what is important to our families and community as we begin developing possible attendance boundary options for the new school. While we are gathering input from our families and the community, we'll also review population and demographic information and projected trends. As we look at the elementary attendance boundaries in the northeast quadrant of Sherwood Park, we'll also look at the junior high boundaries in the same area to determine where students of the new school will attend once they move to Grade 7.

We want to hear from you! Visit www.eips.ca starting November 4 to share your thoughts about what should be considered throughout the process. Your input will be used to help develop the elementary and junior high attendance-boundary options for the northeast quadrant of Sherwood Park that will eventually lead to the final proposed boundaries. The conversations will continue in the new year and we'll be asking for your feedback on the boundary options once developed. Your input is important throughout this process from start to finish, so we encourage you to get involved from the beginning.

EIPS Parent Survey

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) supports parent engagement at the school and division levels. Gathering feedback from parents about the overall performance of schools and the school division is an important component of engagement. While parents of students in grades 4, 7, and 10 currently participate in the provincial Accountability Pillar Surveys, the new EIPS Parent Survey coming your way this November is designed to offer all parents an opportunity to provide their feedback. This information will help supplement our Accountability Pillar Survey data.

More information, a link to the survey, and key survey opening and closing dates will be coming your way in early November as soon as the details are finalized. We encourage you to take a few minutes to complete this survey when it arrives as this information will help inform our school and division planning.





NEED A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA?

Our grocery gift card program is doing very well. We are still fundraising for our third playground, which will probably need replacing in a couple of years. Each family can help by purchasing individual grocery gift cards. We are currently selling cards in denominations of \$25, \$50 and \$100 for Save On, Co-op, Safeway, and No Frills (Superstore). Stop by and purchase a few cards as excellent gifts for family members, employees, or friends and colleagues. We are happy to sell them at any time

during the school week. There is no need to have an automatic withdrawal-- one at a time is great! Stop by and pick up a few cards and save some time in busy shopping malls AND support your child's play at the same time.



Santa's Workshop

We will once again host our annual "Santa's Workshop" on December 7, 8 and 9. Students will be able to "shop" for gifts for family members. All gifts are donated items. We ask that families please send items in to school that our students would enjoy purchasing as Christmas gifts. All items will be purchased for approximately \$1.00. Last year we received a wonderful assortment of candles, soaps, books, bookmarks and so on which were happily wrapped and left under Christmas trees. We always need gifts for "Dads". We will gladly start accepting gift donations right away and will be in need of volunteers to help set up and run the workshop. During the second week of December we are in great need of parent volunteers to help with this wonderful event. Please contact the office if you can come into the school and give us a hand. Thank you!



Share your Thoughts on Alberta's Curriculum

What do you want to see in Alberta Education's new curriculum? Recently, the province launched a survey to find out exactly that.

As many of you know, Alberta Education is currently reviewing and updating its provincial curriculum for students in Kindergarten to Grade 12. The goal: To ensure all students receive the best possible education to meet 21st century needs.

Currently, the province is developing a new curriculum for the following subjects: arts, language arts, mathematics, social studies, sciences and wellness education. It's expected to take six years to fully implement. During this development, Alberta Education is exploring various opportunities to gather valued and meaningful feedback from all Albertans. Most recently, the province launched a fall 2016 online survey to help with decisions relating to the content for future curriculum.

There are two parts to the survey. Part A is about the general direction for the new curriculum and takes roughly five minutes to complete. Once finished, there is a Part B section that focuses on the strengths and gaps in the current curriculum. Part B is more detailed and will take anywhere between 15 minutes and 60 minutes to complete—depending on the number of subjects and grade-specific questions you choose to answer.

In addition, face-to-face engagement sessions are being hosted by the Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia (ARPDC) from October 18 to November 18. These sessions allow parents and community members to meet and discuss the topics identified in the survey. In the Edmonton region, two sessions are being offer—on November 3 and November 10.

<http://erlc.ca/programs/details.php?id=6485>

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TO TAKE THE SURVEY visit <http://curriculumsurvey.alberta.ca>

Survey closes Nov. 18, 2016

The survey and engagement sessions are two of many feedback opportunities the province plans to conduct. For more information on the provincial curriculum development, visit <https://education.alberta.ca/curriculum-development/>.





November Fundraiser—Soup and Sausage!

Parent Council is fundraising with Stawnichy's Meat Products and Orchard Fresh Soup this fall. This is your opportunity to stock up on sausage, pepperoni, and jerky as well as perogies and cabbage rolls for Christmas season. Orchard Fresh Soup mixes were a hit at the Fort Saskatchewan Farmer's Market this summer. Both Stawnichy's and Orchard Fresh are Alberta companies. Parent Council is pleased to be able to fundraise with local products that our families will enjoy. Go to www.fse.parentcouncil.net to view the price list, order, and pay online. You can also print a paper order form if you prefer, or get paper order forms from the office. Payments by cheque should be made payable to FSESPS (FSES Parent Society). Orders must be in by Monday, November 21st, and we are planning for pick-up on Friday, December 16th. Thanks for supporting our fundraiser, and thanks for helping us go "almost" paperless! There is a sample of the soup packages in the office.



No CHILD WITHOUT

Fort Saskatchewan Elementary School is registered in *No Child Without*, a joint program of the Canadian MedicAlert Foundation and the Lions Club of Canada. Through this program, registered children receive 24-hour MedicAlert coverage free of charge between their 4th and 14th birthdays. *No Child Without* waives all initial registration fees and ongoing membership costs during these years.

If your child is between the ages of 4 and 14, has a serious medical condition or allergy, and would benefit from MedicAlert services, please contact the school to obtain program registration information. You can use this information to enrol in *No Child Without* by telephone at 1-877-282-5378 or online at www.nochildwithout.ca. If your child is already registered with MedicAlert and you would like to enrol specifically in the *No Child Without* program, you must sign up by telephone at the number above.

More information about *No Child Without* is available at www.nochildwithout.ca, from EIPS' Communication Services department at 780-417-8225, or by contacting the school office at (780) 998-7771.



Mabel's Labels don't just make cute, durable labels for the 'stuff kids lose!' but they also have a variety of products for anyone in your family or on your holiday shopping list! Holiday Return Address Labels and Stocking Stuffer Combos are limited edition items that have recently been launched. Check out our personalized web-site: www.fortsask.mabelslabels.com to view all of their great products. Every purchase raises funds for our school.

Coming this November: New Report Cards

We want to you remind you we will be sending home our new report cards on November 25, 2016.. As you know, Fort Saskatchewan Elementary is one of 25 elementary schools within Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) piloting the new report card this year. Developed by EIPS, the report card is designed and intended to clearly communicate student achievement to parents and guardians. Long-term, the new report card will help to enhance the quality of education within EIPS by building strong partnerships among students, teachers, and parents.

In 2014, EIPS established a Communicating Student Learning committee, made up of parents, teachers, administrators, trustees and central office staff. Using feedback from close to 1,000 parents and 400 principals and teachers, the committee worked to create an innovative system, which reports academic achievement levels and learner attributes.

Similar to the previous report card, students will still be assessed in all areas of the current programs of studies. However, the way student learning is reported is new. The previous EPAL scale is no longer being used. Instead, teachers are using a clear and parent-friendly five-point numeric scoring scale to indicate student achievement. Additionally, the report card allows teachers to share personalized information about each student in relation to learner attributes, areas of strength, areas for growth and next steps.

Fort Elementary is excited about its new method of communicating student learning—it's innovative, inclusive and based on what stakeholders have indicated they want to see in a reporting system.

If you require more information, or have questions about the new report card, please contact your child's teacher or Mrs. Sorochan. Alternatively, you can also contact [Deb Barron](#), the director of Learning Supports at EIPS.



NATIONAL BULLYING AWARENESS WEEK

November 21—24



The new Alberta School Act draws attention to National Bullying Awareness Week (NBAW) on the 3rd week of November, with the purpose of promoting awareness and understanding of bullying and its consequences in the school community.

During this week Fort Saskatchewan Elementary will be.....

1. Having an presentation from Safron, to discuss various forms of bullying and what to do if you are being bullied.
2. Each classroom will be given resources to work through with their students.
3. All students will be encouraged to wear pink on Thursday, the 20th, to show support for NO BULLYING AT FORT ELEMENTARY!

Websites to Check Out

<http://www.bullyingawarenessweek.org/>

<http://www.teamheroes.ca/>

<http://www.bullyfreealberta.ca/>

<http://safeandcaring.ca/>

NOT ALL PEER CONFLICT IS BULLYING!

Bullying—Intentionally aggressive behaviour, repeated over time, that involves an imbalance of power.

Rude = Inadvertently saying or doing something that hurts someone else.

Mean = Purposefully saying or doing something to hurt someone once (maybe twice).



4S SCIENCE NEWS: “The Tower Garden” by Juice Plus

A special “Thank You” to Mrs. Sorochan for jump starting this idea, filling out the long forms and helping us in Room 4S get a grant for the funding of our “TOWER GARDEN!”

The grade 4s are learning about growing plants using a system called, “Aeroponics/ Hydroponics”—growing plants using only water and minerals, NO Soil! NASA uses this system in space.

So far, we have grown (top to bottom) basil, lettuce, kale and tomatoes. We are enjoying watching the growth process and wonderful smells of fresh herbs and vegetables.

Please stop by to take a look! Everyone is welcome!

Happy Planting & Growing,

Mrs. Da Costa.

