



Mundare School Newsletter

September 2023
BE BRAVE – BE BOLD

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



I hope this message finds you well and rejuvenated after a revitalizing summer break. As we open our school doors once again, I want to extend a warm and enthusiastic welcome back to each and every one of you. The start of a new school year marks the beginning of a journey filled with opportunities, challenges, and moments of growth. Whether you're returning students or new faces joining our school community, I am excited to embark on this journey together.

Over the summer, our dedicated staff have been diligently preparing to provide you with an exceptional learning experience. As you step into your classrooms, you'll find an environment that nurtures curiosity, encourages creativity, and fosters collaboration. We've planned a range of captivating lessons, enriching activities, and engaging events that will not only ignite your passion for learning but also help you develop the skills necessary for your personal and academic success. Remember, this school is not just a place of education; it's a place where you'll make lasting friendships, explore new horizons, and build a foundation for your future endeavors.

Let's embrace the upcoming year with open minds and open hearts. Each of you brings a unique perspective and a world of potential to our school community, and I am confident that together, we will achieve great things.

As your principal, I am here to support, guide, and inspire you throughout this academic journey. Here's to a year filled with growth, discovery, and countless accomplishments. Welcome back, and let's make this school year unforgettable!

I would like to welcome all parents to our Meet the Staff evening on **Wednesday, September 13** from 6:00-7:00 PM. This evening will highlight our partnership with Lamont County, in which families can see the diverse opportunities and programming that are available in our area.

Please visit our school website www.mundareschool.ca regularly to see new updates, including our photo gallery section.

Ms. Melissa Kerr
Principal

Upcoming Events and Dates:

- August 31: First day of classes
- September 4: Labour Day (schools and Central Services closed)
- September 6: Early dismissal
- September 8: Student pancake breakfast; first day for all kindergarten students
- September 13: Meet the Staff and Community Awareness Evening 5-7pm
- September 21: AGM School Council Meeting from 5:00-6:00pm (please note this is a Thursday, instead our usual Monday)
- September 22: Terry Fox School Run Day
- September 30: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- September 30: Orange Shirt Day
- October 4: Early dismissal
- October 5: World Teachers' Day
- October 6: Professional Learning Day (schools closed to students)

Absence Check In

Parents/guardians are asked to inform the school, whenever possible, if their child is going to be absent. Messages may be left on the school's main number 24 hours a day, or by a note. If a child is absent and no reason has been received in the office by **9:30 AM**, then the office staff will attempt to contact parents/guardians or emergency contacts.

Mundare School Staff

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Principal | Ms. Melissa Kerr |
| Counsellor | Ms. Kristy Giebelhaus |
| ECS/1 | Mrs. Maritta White |
| Grade 1/2 | Mr. Eric Boyd |
| Grade 3/4 | Mr. Matthew McGregor |
| Grade 5/6 | Ms. Kendelle Marr |
| Grade 7/8 | Ms. Alissa Roy |
| Secretary | Ms. Marie Bartsch |
| Educational | Mrs. Doris Bradley |
| Assistants | Mrs. Bernadine Horne |
| | Mrs. Tammy Seney |
| Custodian | Mr. Ruslan Fedorouk |

Skating Survey for Parents

As we plan for the upcoming school year, we would like to take advantage of the opportunities in our community. With that we are asking parents/guardians to complete this very [brief survey](#), so that we can see how many students have the proper equipment to potentially go skating later in the school year.

Student Medication Forms

If your child will be taking medication throughout the school year during school hours, or uses an epi-pen, parents/guardians will need to complete a Child/Student Medication Personal Care Management - Parent/Guardian Consent Form, as per our [Division's Administrative Procedure 316](#). Pop in to see Ms. Bartsch to complete the form and deliver any medication. We are not able to collect medication from student's directly.

The First 7 Days

During the first 7 days of the school year, students will be learning the principles of The 7 Habits of Effective People. Over the course of these days, students will learn many lessons focusing on:

- Habit 1: Be Proactive
 - Learning about emotions, mood, and mindset
- Habit 2: Begin with the End in Mind
 - Goal setting
- Habit 3: Put First Things First
 - Prioritizing important things to do/complete
 - Planning
- Habit 4: First Seek to Understand then be Understood
 - Compassion
 - Empathy
- Habit 5: Think Win-Win
 - Seeing things from different perspectives
- Habit 6: Synergize
 - Collaboration
 - Team work
- Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw
 - Learning how to take care of myself physically, mentally, emotionally, etc.

School Advisory Council (SAC)

The Mundare SAC provides parents and the school community with a means to consult with and provide advice on school policies to the principal on matters pertaining to the school and its operations. A separate part of the Council – The Mundare School Society, which meets right after the School Advisory Council, facilitates all fundraising activity for the school that can enhance the educational programming for our students. This will be a significant year for parental involvement, as this group is fundraising to replace our school playground. I would like to thank Quality Pizzas and Mundare Foods for generously supporting our playground replacement with cash donations this past week. We are so grateful for the community's support with this enormous project.

Please note that both the Mundare School Advisory Council and Mundare School Society will be hosting their AGM first meeting on **Thursday, September 21** at 5:00 PM. Please note that this date is a change from our regular meetings time last year. At this meeting we will

be voting on a Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer. We look forward to seeing some new faces around the table this year. All Mundare School parents are automatically members of SAC and welcome to attend.

Hibernaculum at Mundare School

For those new to our school community, we have had a snake hibernaculum located underneath the school building for many years. Over the past several months our Division, in partnership with Alberta Fish and Wildlife (AFW) and the County of Lamont, have been diligently working on relocating this protected species to a more appropriate and safe location. Although it has been very educational to watch the snakes come and go from our building, we are happy to have them relocated to a more snake-friendly habitat.

With that being said, a specific process is underway to ensure that the handling of this protected species is well cared for. Throughout September students and families will see 6 snake-specific traps set along the perimeter of the school. As the snakes return to their hibernaculum (for hibernation), they will hopefully arrive at 1 of 6 traps. Upon entering the traps, AFW will ensure that they are moved safely to their new permanent protected location.

We will be working with AFW to help educate our students on protected species, so we can use this unique situation as a learning experience. If you would like more information, please contact Melissa Kerr at the school.

School Calendar

Did you know you can sync the school calendar to your own personal calendar? You can. Just visit <http://mundareshool.ca/about/calendar> and click on the applicable subscription option:

- Add to Google Calendar
- Subscribe to Calendar (Outlook)
- Download iCal

NOTE: Using a mobile device, these options are located above the calendar. Using a computer, these options are located below the calendar. Once you click on the calendar option you want to subscribe to follow the instructions. Within seconds, your personal calendar will contain all Mundare School's important dates including holidays, school-closures days, planned activities, events and more.

Terry Fox Run

The annual Terry Fox School Run is coming up on **Friday, September 22, 2023**. Terry asked us to try and so we will! Please consider donating to this worthy cause in support of cancer research. It will also be RED day at school.

Student Transportation

Have a child taking the bus this school year? Download the following apps to stay up to date with all the busing information you'll need throughout the year.

Bus Status

- A new version of the Bus Status app is available: Bus Status 4. The app provides the same features and functionality as before, but faster and more reliable for users. Families who previously used the Bus Status 3 app will need to download the new version from the App Store or Google Play. You won't be able to update directly from one version to the next. New users can download Bus Status 4 directly now.
- Through the Bus Status app, families can access information about buses that are running late or canceled throughout the year. Simply save your child's bus routes as favorites and turn on push notifications to stay up to date.
- Refer to the [Bus Status: Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more information about the update, and plan to download the new version now.

Ride 360

- The Traversa Ride 360 website and app enable parents and students to access their own secure data for bus stop location, route and pickup time. With Division buses equipped with GPS hardware, Ride 360 uses GPS geolocation to let users know when to expect their bus each day. Parents and students log in with their own information to access their specific routing information and details.
- Ride 360 will be updated in the coming year. Families are encouraged to download the current Ride 360 app from the App Store or Google Play for the start of the school year and set up their account. When the update takes place, login information will seamlessly roll over to the updated app.
- Refer to [additional instructions and the tutorial video](#) on the Division website for more details about setting up your Ride 360 profile.

For more information about transportation services, refer to the [Student Transportation](#) section of the EIPS website.

School Fees

Pay school fees online! School fee information for the 2023-24 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.

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, 2023.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines visit eips.ca. Alternatively, contact Marie Bartsch at 780-764-3962.

School Messenger App

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

You can directly manage your phone and email subscription preferences through [SchoolMessenger](#). Simply log in to your account—or create one if you don't already have one—and select the message types you'd like to receive to each phone number and email address on file.

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.

Video Surveillance on Buses

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
- discourage 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.

EIPS buses are also equipped with Tyler Drive tablets. The goal: To enhance safety, improve communication, increase efficiency and provide oversight. These tablets allow bus drivers to stay on time with turn-by-turn route directions and show student pictures and information when bus drivers get to stop locations. To ensure students get where they need to go, there are now two distinct audible tones when students scan their bus pass boarding or leaving the bus. One tone indicates they're getting on the correct bus or at the correct stop, and the other tone indicates they're on the incorrect bus or leaving at the

incorrect stop. By using live information, Tyler Drive tablets provide more accuracy than paper schedules.

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

Calendar

Please see the calendar on the following page. For the most up to date information, please regularly check in with our calendar on the [school website](#). Please note that changes may be made from this hard copy attached.

← Previous

September 2023

Next →

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|------------------------------------|---------|--|----------|--|--|
| | | | | | 1 ECS Group 1 Staggered Entry | 2 |
| 3 | 4 Labour Day - Stat. Holiday | 5 | 6 ECS Group 2 Staggered Entry Hat Day Early Dismissal: One hour earlier | 7 | 8 All ECS Students Attend Pancake Breakfast for Students | 9 |
| 10 | 11 ECS Day | 12 | 13 ECS Day Meet the Staff Evening 6:00-7:00pm | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 ECS Day Picture Day | 19 | 20 ECS Day | 21 | 22 ECS Day Terry Fox Run in PM | 23 |
| 24 | 25 ECS Day | 26 | 27 ECS Day | 28 | 29 National Day of Truth and Reconciliation Activities | 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation |