



Mundare School Newsletter

October 2023
BE BRAVE – BE BOLD

Principal's Message



As the vibrant colors of autumn surround us, I am reminded of the beauty and significance that this season brings. It is with great pleasure that I reach out to you through this October newsletter, sharing warmth and gratitude as we navigate the school year together.

As we approach the Thanksgiving season, it's a wonderful time to reflect on the abundance in our lives. I encourage all of our students to embrace the spirit of gratitude, not only during this holiday but throughout the year. Gratitude is a powerful emotion that fosters a sense of well-being and connectedness. Our school will be hosting various activities and discussions to help students understand the importance of gratitude, empathy, and giving back to the community. Let's come together as a school family to spread kindness and make a positive impact.

Furthermore, the fall season is traditionally associated with harvest time, a time of reaping what we've sown. This theme extends beyond agriculture; it's a metaphor for the efforts and dedication our students put into their studies and personal growth. Just as farmers tend to their crops, we tend to our education and character. Our classrooms are flourishing with curiosity and learning, and our students are making strides in their academic pursuits. Let's celebrate their achievements, both big and small, and continue to nurture an environment where each student can blossom.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving and harvest, I would like to express my gratitude to the Mundare School community – students, parents, staff, and community members. Your unwavering support and dedication are the bedrock of our success. As we move forward into the crisp days of autumn, let's carry the lessons of gratitude and hard work with us, ensuring that this season becomes a time of inspiration and growth for everyone.

I also wanted to thank all parents who responded to my call for volunteers for our Mundare Fundraising Society. I received many emails of support! Our next very important meeting for our School Council and Fundraising Society will be Thursday, October 19. Our Council meeting will run from 5:30-6:00 pm, with our Society meeting running from 6:00-6:30 pm. A virtual link will be provided as well. And finally, please regularly visit our school website www.mundareschool.ca to see all school related information.

Melissa Kerr
Principal

Absence Check

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.

School Swag

[Get 15% OFF Mundare School's Customized School Wear \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

Parent/Teacher Interview and Book Fair

Our parent/teacher interviews will be hosted later this month on October 24 and 26 in the evening. Parents and guardians will be able to book time slots very shortly through our school website. A School Messenger with specific details will be sent through email.

We are excited to inform you that we will be hosting the Scholastic book fair this year. Our book fair will be held in the library from October 23th to October 27th. Students will be able to purchase books from the book fair during lunch recess every day that week. The book fair will also be open during parent teacher interviews on October 24th & October 26 from 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Every purchase that you make from our book fair provides us with rewards to buy new books for our classroom and library. We look forward to seeing you there!

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.

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.

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.

School Advisory Council

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.

Please note that both the Mundare School Advisory Council and Mundare School Society will be hosting their next meeting on **Thursday, October 19** at **5:30pm**. We look forward to seeing some new faces around the table this year.

Read In Week 2023 is taking place October 2-6.

Read In Week returns on October 2. This year’s theme: “Read In Reimagined.” Through various activities, students will spend the week learning how to reimagine reading—it’s more than just story books—reading happens everywhere and is for everyone, no matter your age. Some of the activities planned for Read In Week include:

- Reading buddies
- Dressing up as your favorite character
- Guest readers
- School wide art project

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, families and community members. Mundare School invites all families to participate in Read In Week by reading yourself, with your child or with someone in the community.

Don’t forget to share what you’ve learned. Throughout the week, you can post your own stories about Read In Week using the hashtag #eipsreads.

For more information, visit the [Read In website](#).

From Alexa to Algorithms: Parenting in the era of AI

Join the University of Alberta and Amii for an engaging 45-minute online webinar designed to boost AI literacy for parents of kids of all ages, from kindergarten to graduate students. The session will focus on global citizenship, online safety, and education and career guidance.

Don't miss this fun and informative opportunity to empower your parenting in the age of AI, ensuring your kids thrive in tomorrow's tech-driven world.

- Event Details:
- Date: Nov. 2, 2023 Time: 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 p.m.
- Location: [Virtual REGISTER NOW](#)

Counseling Corner

The health and wellness of our students at Mundare School is a priority. This year we are excited to announce we have a new team member addition. Mrs. Reigner is a Mental Health Capacity Builder contracted through Alberta Health Services. Every Thursday Mrs. Reigner uses evidence-based curriculum to promote positive mental health within our school community. This initiative's goal is to build students' knowledge, skills and bolster protective factors so they can live healthy lives!

School Bus Safety Week: October 15-21

Schools throughout Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) are celebrating School Bus Safety Week October 15-21. The theme: 'Stand Back From Yellow and Black,' which focuses on proper school bus safety behavior. Throughout the week, various activities are planned, including information sessions, bus-safety lesson plans and bus-evacuation drills.

In addition, students are participating in the Student Transportation Association of Alberta's provincewide poster contest, open to students in kindergarten to Grade 6. Each first, second and third place winner—from each grade level—whose poster best illustrates the theme, 'The Bus Rules,' will receive a \$50 gift card, a framed original of their poster and \$150 for their classroom. Poster

As part of School Bus Safety Week, Mundare School reminds students and families all Division school buses are equipped with a Tyler Drive tablet, bus-pass scanner, GPS technology, the Child Check-Mate system and surveillance equipment, which allows Student Transportation to better monitor and manage its more than 175 buses. Families and students also have access to the Traversa Ride 360 app, a mobile tool to help determine the location of a bus, projected arrival times and when a child is scanned onto a bus.

For more information, visit [EIPS Student Transportation](#) or contact 780-417-8151.

Caregiver Education Sessions

Alberta Health Services hosts a variety of virtual caregiver information sessions throughout the year focused on ways to support students' mental health. The sessions are free and geared toward parents, caregivers, teachers and community members who want to learn more about challenges impacting children and adolescents. Session topics include anxiety, ADHD, depression, self-harm, technology, teens and teaching leadership skills, communication, resiliency and more. Visit [Caregiver Education](#) to see the monthly caregiver sessions.

Enhancing literacy and numeracy

As part of Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) ongoing efforts to enhance the literacy and numeracy of students in all grade levels, the Division is once again administering the Star Early Literacy, Star Reading and Star Math assessment tools in the 2023-24 school year. These tools focus on literacy and numeracy, are digitally based and offer an opportunity for students to demonstrate their learning. The goal: To provide timely information to teachers, help enhance classroom instruction and identify student learning needs.

Three times a year, EIPS students in Grade 1 complete the Star Early Literacy assessment and students in grades 2-12 complete the Star Reading assessment. Both assessments are administered electronically and take about 20 minutes. Students in grades 2 through 10 also complete the Star Math, a mathematical screening tool. It, too, is administered electronically and takes about 30 minutes for students to complete. The results offer teachers a clearer picture of a student's learning needs and help determine if subsequent instructional planning is required. NOTE: Semester students complete the Star Math twice, at the start and end of the course.

In addition to the Star assessments, Alberta Education now mandates all students in grades 1-3 complete additional literacy and numeracy assessments. Students in Grade 2 and Grade 3 complete these provincial assessments in September. Grade 1 students will complete the assessments in January 2023.

The scores of the assessments aren't used toward a student's grade, and there is no need to study ahead of time. The tools simply provide the teacher with information to better understand where each student is in terms of reading comprehension and mathematic ability. If, after analyzing the results, it's determined a student can benefit from extra support, the teacher will contact the family to discuss possible support strategies.

For more information about the Division's Star and MIPI assessment tools, contact EIPS Supports for Students at 780-464-3477.

Respiratory Illness Guidance

The health and safety of staff, students and visitors is a top priority. Continue to reinforce the following hygiene habits to protect staff and students from spreading respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19.

- Stay home if you're feeling sick.
- Wash or sanitize your hands often.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces regularly.
- Wear a mask if you get sick or develop symptoms while at school or work.

As per Alberta Health [guidelines](#), staff, students, contractors and visitors who have symptoms of respiratory illness or test positive for COVID, should stay home until:

- symptoms have improved,
- they feel well enough to resume normal activities, and
- they have been fever-free for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medications.

For anyone who has a respiratory illness or has tested positive for COVID, it is recommended that they wear a mask for a total of 10 days from the onset of symptoms—even if the symptoms have resolved or improved—when in indoor settings with other individuals.

Pay School Fees Online!

School fee information for the 2023-24 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.

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 fees and more.

If circumstances exist where you're unable to pay your 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 www.eips.ca/schools/fees and <https://www.mundareschool.ca/about/fees>. Alternatively, contact Mrs. Bartsch at 780-764-3962.

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 of its students, parents, caregivers 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 Division teachers for their dedication, hard work and commitment in guiding and educating students through their kindergarten to Grade 12 years.

Please see calendar below:

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| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|----------|
| 1 | 2 ECS Day Read In Week | 3 Dress Like Your Favourite Book Character Read In Week | 4 ECS Day Hat Day Early Dismissal: One hour earlier Read In Week | 5 Read In Week | 6 Professional Learning Day: No school for students Read In Week | 7 |
| 8 | 9 Thanksgiving Day - Stat. Holiday | 10 | 11 ECS Day | 12 | 13 ECS Day | 14 |
| 15 | 16 ECS Day | 17 | 18 ECS Day Picture Retakes | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 Book Fair ECS Day | 24 Book Fair Parent/Teacher Interviews | 25 Book Fair ECS Day | 26 Book Fair Parent/Teacher Interviews | 27 Book Fair ECS Day | 28 |
| 29 | 30 ECS Day | 31 Halloween Activities | | | | |