



# Mundare School Newsletter

November 2023  
**BE BRAVE – BE BOLD**

## Principal's Message



As the leaves have now fallen, along with our first week of snowfall, we find ourselves in the month of November, a time of reflection, gratitude, and remembrance. It is my privilege to share with you our collective sentiments as we approach Remembrance Day, a poignant occasion that serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made for our freedom and a call to cultivate unity and understanding.

Remembrance Day holds a significant place in our hearts, as it allows us to pay tribute to the brave individuals who selflessly served their countries. In our classrooms, we are taking time to educate our students about the historical importance of this day and the importance of peace. Through thoughtful discussions and meaningful activities, we encourage our students to embrace empathy and respect, core values that contribute to a harmonious world. Let us remember the past, not only for the lessons it imparts, but also for the hope it instills in the future.

In line with the spirit of unity, this month offers us an opportunity to come together as a school family. We will be hosting various events that promote collaboration, understanding, and friendship. It is through these interactions that we foster an environment of inclusivity and acceptance, where every member of our community feels valued and supported. As we gather for Remembrance Day assemblies and engage in acts of service, let's remember that it is our shared commitment to kindness and compassion that truly defines us.

As we navigate November's journey, let us be grateful for the freedoms we enjoy and the opportunities we have to create positive change. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated students, parents, and staff for their ongoing dedication to making Mundare School a place of learning and growth. Together, let us forge ahead with a sense of purpose, unity, and gratitude.

We will be hosting our next School Council meeting on Thursday, November 16 at 5:30pm, with our Mundare Parent Society (fundraising group) at 6:00pm. All parents and guardians are invited to attend. This is an important opportunity to stay connected to the goals of Mundare School. To see previous meetings and agendas, be sure to check our school website.

**Ms. Melissa Kerr**

### Upcoming events and important dates:

- November 1: Early dismissal
  - November 3: Remembrance Day Ceremony and Formal Day
  - November 6-10: November Break (schools closed to staff and students)
  - November 11: Remembrance Day
  - November 13-17: [Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week](#) and Metis Week
  - November 16: School Council and Society Meetings
  - November 24: Harvest Lunch
  - November 30: Spirit Day - Sports Day (dress up)
  - December 1: Elementary and junior high report cards
  - December 6: Early dismissal
  - December 14: Christmas Concert evening
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### 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.

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### Bell Schedule

- [Mundare School Bell Schedule 2023-24](#)

### Division Calendar 2023-24

- [EIPS Division Calendar](#)
  - [EIPS Kindergarten Calendar](#)
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### Harvest Lunch

We are excited to celebrate Kindness and Metis Week with a Harvest Dinner the following week. We will be hosting our harvest dinner for students and staff on Friday, November 24, 2023 at lunchtime. All students will eat lunch with their teachers in the gym.

This unique collaborative activity is used to celebrate the hard work of harvest and bring our school community together through the gathering, making, and feasting of a meal.

To make this meal a success, we are asking each class to donate a specific meal item, which that class will also help to prepare for this day. The school will be providing turkey and ham to complete this meal.

Your child’s teacher will be sending a message to families shortly, to specify what items each class will be looking to be donated. Please be sure to send your contribution in by **Wednesday, November 22, 2023**. Please reach out to your child’s teacher if you have any questions.

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**Inclement Weather**

With the winter season almost here, we want to remind families 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) advises families of any bus cancellations using various communications tools—automated-telephone messages, email, SMS, alerts posted on [eips.ca](http://eips.ca) and school websites, Twitter, Facebook, local radio stations, and notification through both the Bus Status and the Ride 360 apps. Morning bus cancellations are posted on [eips.ca](http://eips.ca) by 6:30 a.m.

Decisions regarding bus cancellations are guided by EIPS administrative procedures that state, “school bus service may be suspended...when there is a forecast or current temperature of -40 C, including wind chill factor, in one or more regions.” Other reasons for suspending or delaying school bus services include adverse weather and poor road conditions. When school bus services are suspended, schools remain open to students. EIPS believes families have the right and responsibility to make choices for their children based on their beliefs and perceptions of safety during times of inclement weather.

For more information, contact EIPS Student Transportation at 780-417-8151.

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**Where to Find the Information You Need**

Elk Island Public Schools and Mundare School use a handful of key systems to share information with students and families. Depending on the information you’re looking for, it’s important to know where to look.

PowerSchool is the primary student information system within the Division. There is an associated app, but the functionality is limited, and families don't need to download it. From the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#), you can:

- Access student grades and report cards;
- Review student absences;
- Pay school and transportation fees; and
- Submit official updates to student or family information.

The PowerSchool Student Portal provides similar access to grades and absence information for students directly.

Brightspace provides more of a day-to-day look at what's happening with your child's learning communicated directly from your child's teacher. From [Brightspace Parent & Guardian](#), you can see your child's:

- classroom activity feed,
- grade items and grade feedback from instructors,
- upcoming assignments,
- portfolio evidence and
- quizzes

depending on which of the program functions are specifically used by your child's teacher.

Brightspace for Students is where teachers share updates, calendar reminders and learning materials with students. Compatible with Google, it also allows students to submit assignments, complete quizzes, and see grades and teacher feedback. The Pulse app for students is associated with Brightspace for Students.

SchoolMessenger is the system the Division and schools use to send email and phone communication to families. The contact information in SchoolMessenger is populated from PowerSchool. Through [SchoolMessenger](#), families can:

- receive general, emergency and attendance messages by phone, email or both; and
- manage their subscription preferences for these types of messages.

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.

If you have trouble accessing any of these systems or have questions about them, contact the school at 780-764-3962.

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## **Pay School Fees Online!**

School fee information for the 2022-23 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 are 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, 2022.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines, visit [www.eips.ca/schools/fees](http://www.eips.ca/schools/fees) and [www.mundareschool.ca](http://www.mundareschool.ca). Alternatively, contact Ms. Bartsch, at 780-764-3962.

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## **Book Fair**

A huge thank you to everyone who purchased items from our book fair. We earned **\$820.00** in Scholastic Rewards to purchase new books for our library and classrooms. It was great to see the students so excited to purchase new books! Way to go Dragons

## **Counseling Corner**

Positive relationships build motivation; the connection between relationships, learning, and the brain.

Positive relationships are built on positive interactions. Each of these interactions has a powerful effect on the brain. When you authentically praise a student or have a positive interaction, the student’s brain releases dopamine. This creates a cycle:

- You provide positive feedback.
- The student’s brain releases dopamine.
- The student feels good and is motivated to feel that way again.
- With this increased motivation, students spend more time and attention working on a skill.
- They build those skills.
- You give more praise — sparking the release of more dopamine. And the cycle starts all over again.

On the flip side, when students don't receive positive feedback, they're less likely to enter the positive cycle of motivation and learning. But it can't always be sunshine and rainbows; there will be times when direction needs to be given or we need to correct a student's work. Researchers recommend having five positive interactions for every one negative interaction. Positive interactions like greeting students by name as they arrive, giving praise for working hard, or asking about a student's pet are all ways to provide their brains with that dopamine!

### **Bullying Awareness Week**

On November 13-17 Mundare School will be joining the international movement to Make a Noise About Bullying! Bullying has a profound impact on the emotional and psychological well-being of students. It can lead to feelings of isolation, anxiety, and even long-term emotional scars. Anti-Bullying Week is an opportunity for our entire school community to come together and reaffirm our commitment to kindness, empathy, and respect. Your active participation and support during Anti-Bullying Week can be a catalyst for positive change.

Students will engage in "What Would You Do" scenarios, story time based on kindness and friendship, and Odd Socks day on Tuesday November 14th!

### **Metis Week**

On November 13-17th, Mundare School is celebrating Metis Week! Students will engage in different meaningful activities such as Metis Would You Rather, Metis story time, informational videos made by Metis Crossing, and a school-wide Red River Cart STEM challenge.

Students are invited to Rock their Mocs on Wednesday November 15th!

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### **Caregivers 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.

## Numeracy Connection

Math Info for Parents: Supporting your student as they develop BASIC FACT FLUENCY!

When your child figures out a fact, you can ask them, “How did you figure that out?” because verbalizing their strategies can help children make connections and develop reasoning. You can also support your child by talking about numbers as they come up in your daily lives. If you’re cooking, shopping, building, crafting, setting the table, doing chores, and so on, you can ask questions about the mathematics you are already doing. For example:

- I wonder how many socks we just took out of the dryer? How many pairs could that be when we fold them?
- If a grown-up eats 2 eggs and a kid eats 1 egg how many eggs do we need to make scrambled eggs for all of us?
- We’ve already read 16 picture books this week! How many more do we need to read to get to 20?

Addition, subtraction, and place value are three of the most important topics in elementary mathematics. It’s so important that your child has sufficient time to explore and make sense of these concepts on their way to fluency.

Try solving these [fun math riddles](#)!

~Excerpt from Building Fact Fluency – Graham Fletcher and Tracy Johnston Zager

**See the calendar details below!**



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 ECS Day Hat Day Early Dismissal: One hour earlier Take Our Kids to Work Day	2	3 Remembrance Day Ceremony	4
5	6 November Break	7 November Break	8 November Break	9 November Break	10 Day in lieu for Remembrance Day - Stat. Holiday November Break	11 Remembrance Day
12	13 ECS Day Metis Week Nov 13 - 17 Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week	14 Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week	15 ECS Day Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week	16 Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week	17 ECS Day Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week	18
19	20 ECS Day National Child Day	21	22 ECS Day Junior High Honours Program Information Session 6:00 pm	23	24 ECS Day Harvest Lunch for Students	25
26	27 ECS Day	28	29 ECS Day	30 Jersey/Sports Theme Day		