



# Mundare School Newsletter

January 2024

**BE BRAVE – BE BOLD**

## Principal's Message



Happy New Year! As we bid farewell to the old year and step into January, a sense of renewed energy and excitement fills our school. The start of a new year marks a time for fresh beginnings, setting goals, and embracing opportunities for growth and learning.

In the coming months, we will continue to build upon the strong foundation of academic excellence and character development that defines our school community. January offers a chance for reflection and setting intentions for the year ahead. I encourage our students to approach their studies with enthusiasm, curiosity, and a commitment to their personal growth. Our dedicated teachers and staff are here to support and guide them on this journey.

Furthermore, the winter season brings its own charm, and we are prepared to make the most of it. From engaging classroom activities that encourage creativity and critical thinking to exploring winter-themed projects that embrace the spirit of curiosity, our students will have a well-rounded experience that extends beyond textbooks. As we navigate the frosty days together, let's remember that every challenge presents an opportunity for growth and every day is a chance to learn something new.

Starting at the beginning of February (semester 2), we will be hosting one class every 6 days for a Character Education or Christian Ethics class. Please look for a Permission Click form emailed home to indicate your preference for your child to participate in. During semester 1, we hosted one period a week (most weeks) for school-wide activities in cross grade groups. Students worked on different literacy and numeracy initiatives together, along with different thematic activities based on the time of year.

We will be hosting our next School Council meeting on Thursday, January 18 at 5:30pm, with our Mundare Parent Society (fundraising group) at 6:30pm. 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.

Please regularly visit our school website [www.mundareschool.ca](http://www.mundareschool.ca) to see all school related information. I wish each of our families a wonderful break with lots of time spent with family and friends, holiday traditions, and time reflecting on the past year. Here's to a fantastic 2024 new year!

**Ms. Melissa Kerr**

## Upcoming events and important dates:

- **January 10:** Early dismissal and Hat Day
  - **January 10:** Gathering of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Families and Allies
  - **January 15:** [Division High School Information Night](#)
  - **January 17:** Division French Immersion Information Session
  - **January 18:** School Council and Fundraising Group 5:30pm and 6:30pm
  - **January 24:** Division Logos Christian Program Information Night
  - **January 25:** Division Advanced Placement Information Night
  - **January 25:** Swimming for grade 4-8 in the AM
  - **January 26:** Swimming for kindergarten to grade 3 in the AM
  - **January 30:** Division Ukrainian Language and Culture Information Night
  - **January 30:** Bell Let's Talk Day
  - **January 30-31:** Ribbon Skirt and Shirt Workshop at Fort Saskatchewan High
  - **January 31:** Professional Learning Day (schools closed to students)
  - **February 1:** Second semester begins
  - **February 1:** 2024-25 kindergarten registration opens
  - **February 6:** International Baccalaureate Programme Information Night
  - **February 7:** Early dismissal
  - **February 8:** Returning student registration opens
  - **February 8-9:** North Central Teachers' Convention (schools closed to students)
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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 2022-23](#)

## Division Calendar 2022-23

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

To view the 2023-24 calendar, visit [www.eips.ca](http://www.eips.ca).

Did you know you can sync the Division calendar to your personal calendar? You can. Simply, visit [www.eips.ca/calendar](http://www.eips.ca/calendar) and click "subscribe to calendar." It's that easy.

## Returning Student Registration for 2023-24

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) will once again conduct an online returning student registration process to confirm student registrations for the 2023-24 school year. Families of all current students—with the exception of graduating Grade 12 students—must complete the process to confirm the school their child plans to attend in the 2023-24 school year or advise the Division of their plans not to return to EIPS. Additionally, students who want to attend a non-designated school need to make that request through the returning student registration process—acceptance is based on available space. The 2023-24 returning student registration takes place Feb. 1-28, 2023.

Access to the Returning Student Registration Form is provided through the PowerSchool Parent Portal. If you don't have a [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) account, you need to set one up before Feb. 1, 2023. Create a PowerSchool Parent Portal account

For more information, contact the school office at 780-764-3962.

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## EIPS Annual Education Results Report 2022-23: Now available!

EIPS' *Annual Education Results Report 2022-23* is now available online. The report details how EIPS is doing relative to Alberta Education's performance measures; how it's supporting students to achieve the best possible outcomes; and its successes, challenges and priority strategies moving forward. What shines through in this year's *Annual Education Results Report* are the myriad programs and initiatives taking shape throughout the Division to ensure high-quality education, support student growth and achievement, and develop learners with the skills and knowledge needed to help them succeed.

EIPS invites you to read through this year's *Annual Education Results Report 2022-23*. Celebrate our collective achievements and discover how EIPS fosters environments for all students to learn, grow and thrive—and why it matters.

### [\*Annual Education Results Report 2022-23\*](#)

Also available is a condensed version of the report: [AERR 2022-23: Overview](#)

## RELATED INFORMATION

[EIPS Four-Year Education Plan: 2022-26](#)

[EIPS Three-Year Capital Plan: 2024-27](#)

## Did you know?

The *Education Act* requires every public school division in the province to have a Board of Trustees. The Board is made up of elected representatives who are accountable to you, the families, and to the community members of a school division who have elected each trustee. For EIPS, the Board provides overall direction and leadership, accepting responsibility for the Division's policies and procedures. You can view all current policies and procedures on the [EIPS website](#).

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## Cybersecurity Update: Important information for families

As part of EIPS' ongoing commitment to maintaining a secure and effective digital learning environment for students, the Division is implementing an important update to its cybersecurity protocols **Jan. 19, 2024**.

### Enhanced Location-based Security for Student Accounts

Starting Jan. 19, 2024, access to student user accounts—used for platforms like PowerSchool, Brightspace and Google—will be limited to within Canada's geographical boundaries. This change is an essential step in strengthening our cyber defenses and ensuring the digital safety of students.

### What Does This Mean for You and Your Child?

**Location-limited Access:** Your child's account will be accessible only when they're physically located in Canada. This includes all activities related to their schoolwork, such as submitting assignments, accessing study materials or sending EIPS account emails.

**Seamless In-country Use:** While in Canada, students will experience no change in how they access and use their accounts. The process remains as straightforward and user-friendly as always.

**PowerSchool Access for Parents and Caregivers:** This change will NOT impact parent and caregiver access to PowerSchool during periods of travel.

### Why This Change?

The safety and privacy of students are paramount. This location-based access control is a proactive measure to prevent unauthorized access to students' accounts and protect sensitive information from potential cyber threats.

## Questions?

For more information, contact the school office at 780-764-3962.



Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter. Together, we can ensure a secure and thriving digital learning environment for all students.

### High School Information Nights

To help you make an informed decision about high school, students in grades 8 and 9 and their families are invited to attend the upcoming Division High School Information Session to learn more about the senior high program. The session will provide information about senior high courses, instruction, programming and extracurricular opportunities throughout the Division, as well as details about diploma requirements and various career path options.

**Date:** Monday, Jan. 15, 2024

**Time:** 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Location:** The Park Church, 1 Brower Dr., Sherwood Park, AB

Individual schools are also hosting open houses for interested students and their families. The sessions allow students and families to meet the staff; tour the school; learn about the curriculum, course offerings and alternative programming available; discuss diploma requirements and various career paths; plus, more. Refer to the event calendar on each school website for details in the coming weeks. Make sure to take part to learn everything you need to know about the Division's senior high programs and courses.

[EIPS senior high programming and information night details](#)

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### Junior High Honours Program: 2024-25 applications

Is your child considering the Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Junior High Honours program for the coming school year? The [EIPS Junior High Honours program](#) is designed for students in grades 8 and 9 with high achievement in their core courses and who enjoy a challenging academic environment. Students enrolled in Junior High Honours are expected to complete 25 hours of community service in an area of passion and will be automatically enrolled in the "CTF: Enterprise and Innovation" option course. Students must have a **minimum 80 per cent** average in **each** of the four core subjects to be eligible to apply to the Junior High Honours program.

On January 15, the parent/guardian identified in PowerSchool as the one to receive forms for all current grades 7 and 8 students will receive direct communication from EIPS outlining the application process for the EIPS Junior High Honours program—including a link to the application form. The email will come from Permission Click at [\*notifications@permissionclick.com\*](mailto:notifications@permissionclick.com). The subject of the email will be "Elk Island Public Schools - John Doe - 2024-25 Junior High Honours Program Application." Check your spam

or junk folder if you, as the parent/guardian responsible for completing forms, don't receive the email.

**Applications for the 2024-25 EIPS Junior High Honours program are due Jan. 26, 2024.**

Between February 1 and 2, EIPS will confirm conditional acceptance in the 2024-25 Junior High Honours program—based on a student's marks as of January 29. Students currently in Honours are conditionally accepted for the 2024-25 Junior High Honours program because they're enrolled in the program but must also complete the 2024-25 EIPS Junior High Honours Program Application Permission Click form. All applicants must maintain their honours standing on the year-end report card in June to receive final acceptance in the Honours program for the upcoming year.

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**Kindergarten Registration Starts Soon!**

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2024? If so, it's almost time to register for kindergarten.

Kindergarten registration opens for the 2023-24 school year on Feb. 1, 2024.

To help families prepare, Elk Island Public Schools has put together an [online EIPS Kindergarten Tool kit](#) to make the transition as smooth as possible. The kit includes information on registration, important dates, programming options, what to expect, eligibility, how to find your designated school, transportation and more.

Additional information regarding Mundare's kindergarten program is available at [www.mundareschool.ca](http://www.mundareschool.ca).

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**Returning Student Registration for 2024-25**

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) will once again conduct an online returning student registration process to confirm student registrations for the 2024-25 school year. Families of all current students—with the exception of graduating Grade 12 students—must complete the process to confirm the school their child plans to attend in the 2024-25 school year or advise the Division of their plans not to return to EIPS. Additionally, students who want to attend a non-designated school need to make that request through the returning student registration process—acceptance is based on available space. The 2024-25 returning student registration takes place Feb. 8-21, 2024.

One contact for each current PALS to Grade 11 student will receive the Returning Student Registration Form link through Permission Click on February 8. The recipient is based on which contact has been identified as the one to receive forms as listed on the most recent registration form, Correction and Verification Form or Student Information Update

submitted to the Division. To review the contacts listed for each student, refer to the Student Information Update available through the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). Only one contact can be selected to receive forms.

For more information, contact the school office at 780-764-3962.

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### **Counseling Corner**

On January 24th, Mundare School will be recognizing Bell Let's Talk Day! Since 2010, this initiative has partnered with communities across Canada to increase access to mental health services and to end the stigma around mental illness. At Mundare School, students will participate in discussions and activities on self-care strategies, and ways to create positive change!

### **MHCB Report**

Happy New Year! In December, the Grade 1 and 2 students started a new program called Social Emotional Learning for Elementary and we covered the topics of kindness, fairness, respect, and courage. In January, we will discuss cooperation, responsibility, and trustworthiness. The Grade 3/4 class completed the GoZen program before Christmas and we will start a new program in January called Building Mental Wellness. The Grade 5/6 class and 7/8 class are continuing to learn about internet safety in the Ignition program. We have been discussing how to keep ourselves and our information safe while being online. December was a busy time with Christmas concert prep for the school, so the classes participated in some mindfulness activities, such as holiday themed yoga for the Grade 1 and 2 students and the Brain Smoothies program for the older students, which is a mindfulness painting activity. The Kindness Club also continued throughout the month and will resume again in January.

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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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### **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, alerts posted on [www.eips.ca](http://www.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 [www.eips.ca](http://www.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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**See January’s Calendar Below**

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# January 2024

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Christmas Break New Year's Day - Stat. Holiday	2 Christmas Break	3 Christmas Break	4 Christmas Break	5 Christmas Break	6
7	8 Classes Resume ECS Day	9	10 ECS Day Hat Day Early Dismissal: One hour earlier Gathering of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Families and Allies 5:30 pm	11	12 ECS Day	13
14	15 ECS Day Division High School Information Session 6:00 pm	16	17 ECS Day Grades 7 and 8 Exam: English Language Arts Part A	18 Parent Council 5:30 pm	19	20
21	22 ECS Day	23 Grades 7 and 8 Exam: Mathematics Part(ie) A	24 ECS Day	25 Gr 4-8 Swimming AM Grades 7 and 8 Exam: Science	26 ECS Day K-3 Swimming AM Grades 7 and 8 Exam: English Language Arts Part B	27
28	29 ECS Day Grades 7 and 8 Exam: Mathematics Part(ie) B	30 Grades 7 and 8 Exam: Social Studies Ukrainian Language and Culture Program Information Night 5:30 pm	31 Professional Learning Day: No school for students			