



Mundare School Newsletter

February 2024

BE BRAVE – BE BOLD

Principal's Message



As we step into February, a month often associated with love and compassion, I am delighted to share our collective commitment to fostering kindness and unity within our school. This month presents us with opportunities to not only celebrate love in its various forms but also to address the importance of standing up against bullying and promoting a safe and supportive environment for all.

One of the highlights of February is Pink Shirt Day, a day when we unite in the fight against bullying. On this day, our school will come together, dressed in pink, to raise awareness about the power of kindness and the negative impact of bullying. Through discussions, workshops, and engaging activities, we will reinforce the message that every single person deserves respect and acceptance. By wearing pink, we demonstrate our solidarity in creating a nurturing environment where every student feels valued, included, and empowered to be themselves.

Beyond Pink Shirt Day, we will celebrate Random Acts of Kindness Week from February 11-17th. Acts of kindness, big or small, have the power to create ripples of positive change in our community. We encourage our students to reach out to one another, offer a helping hand, or simply share a smile. These small gestures remind us that compassion is at the core of who we are as a school family.

As we navigate February's journey, let's continue to cultivate a culture of empathy, respect, and understanding. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the lives of our students and the world around us.

We will be hosting our next set of Parent/Teacher interviews on Monday, February 6 and Tuesday, February 7 from 4:15 - 7:00pm. Parents and guardians can book their interview time directly from our school website. Go to <https://www.mundareschool.ca/bookings> to make an appointment with your child's teacher.

As we focus on different initiatives like Pink Shirt Day on February 28, this month will be the honorary month of kindness. From practicing kindness to ourselves to extending it to others, we benefit when kindness is at the root of our interactions. What are some ways you can extend this lesson into your home and community life? Perhaps families can initiate different random acts of kindness or send positive notes to others. It would be great to see how everyone shares kindness throughout the month.

Parents and guardians of students from grade 4 -8 will be receiving some important mail from Alberta Education in the upcoming weeks. Every year, Alberta Education collects information from families in their Assurance Survey. This is an important survey to complete as it helps Mundare School identify the things we are doing really well and the areas we need to enhance. Data collected from this survey is also shared with our Board of Trustees in the fall. I cannot stress how important this data is to collect. All students in grade 4-8 will complete the Assurance Survey at school, along with teachers. This survey closes on March 3, 2023. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the school at 780-764-3962. To see what we've been up to the first half of the year, check out our [Mid-Year Review](#).

Returning student registration is now open. All parents need to complete this process. This is particularly important for families that would like to move to a non-designated school. See below for more information.

We will be hosting our next School Council meeting on Monday, February 15 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. We are hoping to get parent volunteers to help us start a Hot Lunch Committee. If you are interested in helping please email me or come to this meeting! Our fundraising committee has a new [Facebook Page](#) for parents to get involved with. Check it out!

Please regularly visit our school website www.mundareschool.ca to see all school related information.

Ms. Melissa Kerr

Upcoming events and important dates:

- February 1: Second semester begins
- February 1: 2024-25 kindergarten registration opens
- February 5 and 6: Parent/Teacher Interviews
- February 6: International Baccalaureate Programme Information Session
- February 7: Early dismissal
- February 7: EIPS Ribbon Day
- February 8: Returning student registration opens
- February 8-9: North Central Teachers' Convention (schools closed to students)
- February 11-17: Random Acts of Kindness Week
- February 14: Valentine's Day
- February 15: 100th Day of School
- February 17: [Random Acts of Kindness Day](#)
- February 19: Family Day (schools closed to staff and students; Central Services closed)
- February 21: Returning student registration closes
- February 22: Sunridge Ski Trip for only grades 3-8

- February 23: Strathcona Wilderness Centre Trip only for kindergarten to grade 2
 - February 28: Pink Shirt Day
 - March 1: NO SCHOOL for students
 - March 6: Early dismissal
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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.

Bell Schedule

- [Mundare School Bell Schedule 2023-23](#)

Division Calendar 2022-23

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

To view the 2023-24 calendar, visit www.eips.ca.

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

Complete the Alberta Education Assurance Survey - Very Important for all families grade 4-8!

Once again, Alberta Education is surveying teachers, students and families through its annual Alberta Education Assurance (AEA) Survey. The survey gathers feedback on the quality of education provided by school authorities and their schools, which they then use to help understand how they're doing and plan for the future.

Throughout February, Grade **4-8** students at **Mundare School** are completing the survey online at the school. Student participation is voluntary and completely anonymous. Students are assigned a random username and password to ensure survey responses aren't linked to any individual student. The survey doesn't take long to complete and is done within the school day during regular class time.

Additionally, parents and guardians of students in these grades are also asked to take a

survey online. Alberta Education has mailed families information about the survey directly. As with the student and teacher survey, it's anonymous and asks questions about your school experiences. If you have a child in these grades, we encourage you to participate. The survey deadline is March 1, 2024.

Results from the AEA Survey are provided to Elk Island Public Schools each spring. The Division then uses the data to inform its four-year education plan, school education plans and strategies for continuous improvement. Each fall, the results are also shared with EIPS families and school communities in the Division's *Annual Education Results Report*.

To help you get a sense of the great things that have been happening at Mundare School, check out our [Mid-Year Review](#).

RELATED INFORMATION

[AEA Survey: Information for parents and guardians](#)

[AEA Survey](#)

[Assurance and Accountability: Alberta's K-12 education system](#)

Counseling Corner

This month we are gearing up for a heartwarming celebration of kindness with Kindness Week and Pink T-Shirt Day! On February 11-17 Kindness Week is just around the corner, and we are eager to transform our school into a haven of warmth, compassion, and support. Throughout the week, we have planned various activities and discussions to instill the importance of kindness for ourselves, for others, for our community and for the environment. Our goal is to cultivate an environment where every act of kindness, no matter how small, is acknowledged and celebrated. Following Kindness Week, we have another fantastic event planned - **Pink T-Shirt Day on February 28th**. On this day, we encourage all students and staff to wear pink to symbolize our stand against bullying and to promote a culture of kindness and acceptance.

Kalyna Kalyna Family Resource Network

Lamont County Region FEBRUARY 2024 programming is here! Come join us!

Cooking With Your Littles:

- Andrew – February 7th from 10-11:30am at the Andrew Lions Club
- Bruderheim – February 12th from 10-11:30am at the Bruderheim Memorial Hall
- REGISTRATION REQUIRED: <https://signup.com/go/BQbzRUj>

Let's Get...Creative:

- At Lamont Arena Meeting Room
- Ages 7-11 program runs from 10am-noon
- Ages 12-18 program runs from 1-3pm
- REGISTRATION REQUIRED: <https://signup.com/go/FVkhjJc>

Connecting Generations:

- February 13th from 10:00am-11:30am at Beaverhill Pioneer Lodge in Lamont
- REGISTRATION REQUIRED: <https://signup.com/go/MuRXuZO>

Family Activity Night:

- February 22nd – Drop-in from 5:00-7:00pm at the Mundare Hub (Victory Park)
- No registration required.

Grace in Progress:

- February 28th from 7-9pm at the Lamont Arena Meeting Room
- REGISTRATION REQUIRED: <https://signup.com/go/OHogmMS>

Book Fair

We are so excited to announce that our school will be hosting another book fair starting February 1 to 7. The book fair will be open for students during lunch recess and in the evening of parent/teacher interviews on February 5 and 6.

All purchases from our book fair earn us rewards to buy new books for our library and classrooms. Your support is greatly appreciated!

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.

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 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 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.

EIPS Annual Education Results Report

Every year, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) publishes an Annual Education Results Report, which outlines the Division’s Four-Year Education Plan, opportunities for growth and how it’s supporting students to achieve the best possible outcomes. Read through the most recent [EIPS Annual Education Results Report 2022-23](#) and discover how EIPS fosters learning environments for all students to learn, grow and thrive—and why it matters.

February Spotlight: Student Growth and Success

- [Early Learning](#): Ensuring early learners reach developmental milestones
- [Culture of Literacy](#): Dive deep into the data and learn how students are developing strong literacy skills
- [Math Matters](#): Enhancing reasoning, understanding and achievement through numeracy-rich classrooms
- [Boosting Educational Outcomes](#): Discover how EIPS supports the growth and achievement of students who self-identify as First Nations, Métis or Inuit
- [Beyond High School](#): Supports and strategies that are creating real-life career pathways for learners

RELATED INFORMATION

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

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

Did you know?

Within EIPS, schools consistently offer a broad range of educational choices for students of varied backgrounds and interests—from specialized language and faith-based programs to advanced academic opportunities and competitive sports to specialized supports and continuing education. Through this, students are then able push their limits and find meaningful ways to contribute to and enhance their communities. Learn more about Division programs and services on the [EIPS website](#).

Kindergarten Registration is Now Open!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2024? If so, it's now time to register for kindergarten. To register, simply complete the online registration form at eips.ca/kindergarten.

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 **Mundaress** kindergarten program is available at <https://www.mundareschool.ca/>

EIPS Summer School: Registration opens March 15

Mark your calendars! Registration for EIPS Summer School opens March 15. For more information, see the [Summer School](#) page on Next Step's website.

See February's Calendar Below:

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Book Fair Second semester begins Kindergarten registration 2024-25 opens at 9 a.m. 9:00 am New student registration 2024-25 opens at 9 a.m. 9:00 am	2 Book Fair ECS Day	3
4 Book Fair ECS Day Parent/Teacher Interviews	5	6 Book Fair Parent/Teacher Interviews	7 Book Fair ECS Day Hat Day EIPS Ribbon Skirt-Shirt Day Early Dismissal: One hour earlier	8 Hot Lunch - Taco in a Bag North Central Teachers' Convention: No school for students Returning student registration 2024-25 opens at 9 a.m. 9:00 am	9 North Central Teachers' Convention: No school for students	10
11 ECS Day Random Acts of Kindness Week	12	13	14 ECS Day Hot Lunch - Mac and Cheese	15 101th Day of School Parent Council 5:30 pm	16	17 Random Acts of Kindness Day
18 Family Day - Stat. Holiday	19	20	21 ECS Day Hot Lunch - Chicken Bacon Ranch Wrap 12:00 am Returning student registration 2024-25 closes	22 Field Trip Grade 3-8 Sunridge Ski Hill	23 ECS Day Field Trip For K-2 Strathcona Wilderness Centre	24
25 ECS Day	26	27	28 ECS Day Hot Lunch - Pulled Pork Sandwich Pink Shirt Day	29		