

September 3, 2021

*Principal's Message,*



Welcome back to another school year. I would like to take a moment to introduce myself to the Andrew School community. I am so proud to be the new principal of this amazing school. I have been an educator within EIPS for the past 19 years. Within that time, I had the privilege of teaching grades 4-9; specifically social, science, and physical education. Over the past 10 years, I have had the opportunity to serve at A.L. Horton Elementary School (Vegreville K-6) and Lakeland Ridge School (Sherwood Park K-9) as an assistant principal. I

have enjoyed both the rural and urban experiences very much. The appointment to Andrew School is a very special one to me. My family is rooted in this tiny village. It is where my Nana and Gido (we called Gidi) lived and farmed their whole life, my father went to school, as well as where my family spent many weekends, summers, and holidays.

With the first week of school completed, I am amazed by this learning community. Our teachers have dedicated so much time to ensure their classrooms are engaging and welcoming for students. It's a great feeling to have students walk through the doors, to hear their laughter, and to see their excitement as they learn.

I look forward to meeting each of you and learning more about the great work that is happening at the school. Please visit our school website regularly to see new updates.

Melissa Kerr

Principal - Andrew School

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**Meet the Teacher September 15**

We will be hosting our Meet the Teacher event in person on Wednesday, September 15 from 4:30 – 5:15 PM. This event is designed to have families meet new staff and see your child's learning space this school year. Both students and adults attending this event are reminded that masks will need to be worn during your time inside the school.

### Breakfast Program

We will be continuing to offer healthy snacks to students in the morning as they arrive at school. However, we will not be congregating in the crush area to eat as a group. Mrs. Andruchow will deliver the snacks to each homeroom for students to eat at their desks. All of our snacks will be pre-packaged items. This is a free program meant to make sure no student starts the day off hungry. As we rely on financial donations to keep this program running, any help from local businesses or individuals is greatly appreciated.

### Pre-School

Andrew's licensed pre-school begins on September 13. The fee is \$80/ month. However, due to different donations, there will be no fees until potentially November. Any child aged 3-5 is welcome to attend. You may attend Monday and Wednesday or just choose one day of the week. Parents will be permitted to help ease their children into the classroom and enter the building. Pre-school children do not wear masks. However, everyone must complete the COVID-19 Screening questionnaire and all pre-school students will undergo a temperature check when they enter the school. This is to align with the provincial rules for childcare licensing, which are separate from the plans school authorities have put in place. [Please click here to register for preschool.](#)

### Upcoming Dates and Events

- September 1 – First Day back for students
- September 6 – **No School** for staff or students
- September 8 – Early Dismissal at 2:01 PM
- September 15 – Meet the Staff from 4:30 – 5:15 PM
- September 28 (*tentative*) – Andrew Parent Council Meeting at 6:30 PM
- September 30 – **No School for staff or students** - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Please continue to check our school website for the most up-to-date listing of school events.

## Bell Schedule

- [Andrew School Bell Schedule 2021-22](#)

## Division Calendar 2021-22

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

## Visitors in Schools

All visitors, couriers, and contractors must sign in at the front main doors and check-in at the office, complete the COVID-19 [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#), and be wearing a mask properly. If any of the answers to the questions are “YES”, DO NOT enter the school. Similarly, if you are feeling unwell or have COVID-19 symptoms – fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat, shortness of breath, loss of smell and taste, pink eye, nausea – DO NOT enter an EIPS operated school or workplace.

## Video surveillance on Buses

Did you know each EIPS bus is equipped with video surveillance? Video surveillance and equipment helps:

- 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 Act (FOIP Act). The recordings assist the department with monitoring student and driver conduct and may be used as evidence in a disciplinary matter.

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

## 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

### **Update Your PowerSchool Information**

The "Correction and Verification Form" is now available online through your [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). Families can use the form to access and update their child's information—including address, parent and guardian information, emergency contacts and any medical information. Reviewing the form and submitting updates ensures the school has the most up-to-date information regarding your child.

If you've recently moved, now is the time to ensure the Division has your updated address information. In particular, please also pay close attention to all phone numbers, email addresses and emergency contact information. The Division will undoubtedly continue to have important information to communicate with families throughout this school year, and we want to ensure you receive this information. If you haven't already done so, we ask all Andrew School families to review their child's PowerSchool information by Sept. 22, 2021.

For more information about the PowerSchool Correction and Verification Form, contact the school office at 780-365-3501

### **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 Math Intervention/Programming Instrument (MIPI) assessment tools in the 2021-22 school year. The 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 ensure student learning needs are identified.

Three times a year—in September, January/February and May/June—EIPS students in Grade 1 complete the Star Early Literacy assessment and students in grades 2-12 complete the Star Reading assessment. The assessments take approximately 20 minutes and are administered on a digital device. Also, in September, students in grades 2 through 10 will complete the MIPI assessment, which is a mathematic screening tool used to inform teachers about a student's math skills—students enrolled in math for Semester 2 will complete the MIPI assessment in February. For students in grades 7 through 10, the MIPI takes approximately 50 minutes, and for students in



grades 2 through 6 it takes approximately 20 minutes. The results offer the teacher a clearer picture of a student's learning needs and help determine if subsequent instructional planning is required.

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.

### **Pay School Fees Online!**

School fee information for the 2021-22 school year is expected to be posted on the PowerSchool Parent Portal by late September. All fees are due within 30 days of being posted. To access your fee information, simply login to the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) and go to "Student Fees." There you can view your fees and pay online using Visa, MasterCard or debit card—when available from your financial institution.

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 circumstances exist where you're unable to pay your school fees, you can apply to have [fees waived](#) by submitting an [Application for a Waiver of Fees](#). The application deadline is Dec. 15, 2021.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines visit [eips.ca/schools/fees](https://eips.ca/schools/fees). Alternatively, contact Marie Andruchow Registrar/Secretary at Andrew School at 780-365-3501.

### **Sync the School Calendar to Your Calendar**

Did you know you can sync the school calendar to your own calendar? You can. Simply, visit <https://www.andrewschool.ca/about/calendar> and click on the applicable subscription option:

- Download to iCal
- Add to Google Calendar

- [Subscribe to Calendar](#)

NOTE: Options are located above the calendar.

Once you click on the desired subscription option, follow the instructions. Within seconds, your calendar will contain all Andrew School's important dates including holidays, school-closures days, planned activities, events and more.

### **Questions or Concerns**

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call the office at 780-365-3501.