

December 1, 2021

Principal's Message,



I am reminded about how much I love this time of year, when I see the festive decorations begin to transform a space. I truly appreciate the time staff take to ensure that our school feels welcoming and festive. Mrs. Andruchow has added a touch of magic to the front entrance and gathering area of our school. To me the decor brings about a feeling of joy and connectedness.

The school has been a very busy place over the month of November. We hosted Parent-Teacher conferences and had our term 1 report cards go online. If you missed the opportunity to speak with your child's teacher, please do not hesitate to phone or email staff to set up a meeting.

Classes also participated in Bullying Awareness & Prevention Week, which we called Kindness Week. Students spent the week learning how to be kind to themselves, others, animals and the environment. It was a great week to see how interconnected we all are. We all experience the same emotions and we learned that we are more similar than different.

Many of you are aware that during the November Break, one of our families experienced a devastating fire, losing most of their possessions. As our students have just learned the importance of the connections we have with each other, we are hoping to have our school community lift up this family through donations. We have organized a spreadsheet of needed goods that we are hoping our school community can help donate to the family. Any donations can be dropped off at the school. Please [click on the link](#) to see how you can help anonymously. If you only have a hard copy of this newsletter, please go to our school website and click on the online newsletter for link access.

As we prepare for the Christmas season, our staff and students are working hard on our presentation of Twas the Night Before Christmas. Similar to our Remembrance Day Ceremony, this presentation will be emailed to families. This concert will highlight our preschool to grade six students.

Finally, I want to ensure that we are meeting the needs of all families. With that, our school is always looking for ways to keep families connected to school news. I am asking that you take part in a [very short survey](#) on how we can best provide you with school information. I truly appreciate your time and feedback! Again, if you only have a hard copy of this newsletter, please go to our school website and click on the online version.

I wish all of our Andrew School families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Melissa Kerr

Bell Schedule

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

Division Calendar 2021-22

- [EIPS Division Calendar](#)
 - [EIPS Kindergarten Calendar](#)
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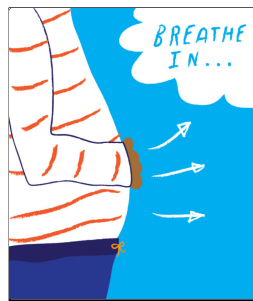
Upcoming events and important dates:

- **December 1:** Early dismissal
 - **December 3:** Theme Jersey Day
 - **December 10:** Theme Twin Day
 - **December 17:** Theme Festive Day
 - **December 21:** Twas the Night Before C
 - Christmas Presentation shared with families
 - **December 22 - January 4:** Christmas Break (schools closed to staff and students)
 - **January 5:** Classes resume
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Counsellor's Corner

During the past two months, Andrew students have been learning about how healthy people are proactive versus reactive, as well as learning that we have control over ourselves but not others.

Students have also been practicing mindfulness, as a way to give their brain a one minute break from a challenging task by focusing on a sound (our singing bowl), as well as learning and practicing mindful breathing. We use candle breaths: a breath in through the nose and a gentle breath out through the mouth which would just make a candle's flame flicker. In the next few weeks, we will be learning to engage our diaphragm using belly breaths. Engaging our diaphragm helps reduce our heart rate, triggers a relaxation response, and helps us feel grounded. You may do something similar to prepare yourself for a challenging task where you take a deep breath in through your nose, a slight pause, and then out your nose again (a deep sigh). If you are interested in reading more about this technique and practice it with your child, please connect to the link: <https://www.pbs.org/parents/crafts-and-experiments/practice-mindfulness-with-belly-breathing>



Christmas Break

Andrew School will close for the Christmas break at the end of the day on Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2021. The school will reopen on Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2022. During this time, if you have any school-related questions or concerns, contact Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Central Services at 780-464-3477.

EIPS Central Services Christmas Break Hours

- Open December 22 and 23; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Closed Dec. 23, 2021 to Jan. 3, 2022
- Open January 4 - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. *for location and contact information visit www.eips.ca.

From everyone at Elk Island Public Schools, we wish all of you a happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year.

Christmas Food Hampers

- Let's help make everyone's Christmas be merry and bright!
 - Collections will run from Nov 22/21 – Dec 10/21
 - Deliveries/Pickup will take place Dec 14/21
 - Donations will be given to our School Families
 - If we receive more than is needed for our families, we will donate to the Lamont County Food Bank.
 - We will have a Pizza Lunch for the class that collects the most items per student (after Christmas Break)
 - Gift cards will be purchased with any monetary donations. Receipts issued for donations over \$10.
 - PLEASE CHECK EXPIRY DATES BEFORE SENDING IN YOUR DONATIONS.
 - If you know a family in need or if you are in need of some assistance this Christmas please let us know. Call Melissa Kerr or Marie Andruchow at 780-365-3501 or you can email us at melissa.kerr@eips.ca or marie.andruchow@eips.ca.
 - All families will remain anonymous
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Learning Disruption Funding for Grades 2-3

At the end of last school year, the Government of Alberta announced 2021-22 funding for school divisions to help address learning disruptions for grades 1 to 3 students caused by the pandemic. Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) has received \$791,840 in learning disruption funding to support students in grades 2 and 3, a portion of which has been allocated to Andrew School.

The funding will provide targeted programming for specific students identified as requiring additional support in literacy and numeracy. At our school, grades 2 and 3 students participated in the Star Reading Assessment and the Numeracy Assessment Screener earlier this year to assess students' literacy and numeracy levels. Those below the 25th percentile were identified as needing additional support and eligible for funding. The Government of Alberta learning disruption funding received—at a per-student funding rate of \$490—will support targeted intervention programming for these students.

If your child was identified as needing additional support, you'll receive more information directly from the school. Intervention programming for identified students will begin in December.

If you have questions about the intervention programming, contact the school office at 780-365-3501.

Parent Council Update

Please visit the [school's website](#) under "Andrew School Council (ASC)" tab to see our meeting agendas and minutes. Feel free to reach out to our executive if you have any questions at all! We really hope to see you join us at one of our upcoming virtual meetings. Our next meeting is on January 20 @ 6:30 pm. We welcome new ideas!

Here are a few of the School Council's initiatives this month:

- Christmas Store
 - We are very excited to offer the Christmas Store again this year. And we are happy to announce that the kids will be able to pick gifts in person (in small groups). This will be taking place on December 6 & 8! Following the kids' gift selections, invoices will be sent home for payment of the gifts. Parent council volunteers will be wrapping the gifts to send home on December 17.
- Christmas Raffle
 - We have started gathering donations for our raffle which will consist of various gift baskets, some for adults and some for kids. The adult basket tickets will be \$10 each and \$5 each for the kids baskets. Tickets will be available throughout the community and we are asking parents to help us sell tickets also. Parents can pick up tickets at the school or by contacting a member of our executive.

Our goal for this fundraiser is to raise enough money to cover the cost of swimming lessons for all kids in kindergarten to grade 6. The winners will be announced during the virtual Christmas concert.

Returning Student Registration for 2022-23

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) will once again conduct an online returning student registration process to confirm student registrations for the 2022-23 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 2022-23 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 2022-23 returning student registration takes place Feb. 1-28, 2022.

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, 2022. Create a PowerSchool Parent Portal account

For more information, contact the school office at 780-365-3501.

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.

Looking for Staff Contact Information?

We’ve recently made changes to how families can contact Andrew School staff.

If you’d like to reach out to your child’s teacher directly, simply log in to your PowerSchool Parent Portal account. From the Grades and Attendance page, you can click on the name of any of your child’s teachers to email them directly.

To connect with school administration and main office staff, refer to the online contact form to send an email to the applicable person directly. From the online contact form, you can also send an email to the school to report your child’s absence.

If you’re having trouble with your PowerSchool account, contact the school office. And, of course, we’re always just a phone call away if you have questions or need assistance, 780-365-3501.

County of Lamont Food Bank

Holiday Schedule

- Applications for Christmas Hamper start on **Monday, November 15**
- Last day to apply for a Christmas Hamper is **Monday, December 6**
- Christmas Hamper distribution is on **Sunday, December 19**
- We start taking applications for 2022 on Monday, January 6
- First regular hamper for 2022 is Thursday, January 9

The Food Bank Board and volunteers wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

Phone: 780-619-6955

Website: CountyLamontFoodBank.ca

Facebook: County of Lamont Food Bank

Village of Andrew Public Library

Welcome back to another year of fun reading! The Public Library has been very busy over the past couple of months not only ordering new books and DVD's, but getting donated books and DVD's ready for our patrons. As you will see, we have received many donations which have been added to our collection. Thank you once again to anyone who has donated any books or DVDs to our Public Library. It is greatly appreciated!

If there are any books or DVD's that you would like to see added to our library, please let us know and we will see what we can do.

Just a reminder that it is time to renew your library memberships.

- Adult membership is \$ 5.00
- Family membership is \$ 10.00

For a complete list of new books [click this link](#).

Andrew Lions Calendar Fundraiser

The Andrew Lions Club will be doing the 2022 Calendar this year. We have been fortunate to have the Vegreville Advertiser assist us this year! This calendar is very community oriented towards the Village of Andrew and surrounding areas. Your business advertising will make it easier for residents to access your business.

You may submit your payment via Lions Members or by mail to:

Andrew Lions Club
Box 509
Andrew, Alberta

To those that wish to put their birthdays, anniversaries or memorials the cost is as follows:

- \$1.00 per listing
- A calendar is \$15.00
- To advertise your business \$75.00 (This includes one calendar)

Please email these announcements and request to:

- Izabrick@mcsnet.ca
- telephone: 780-365-2238 or to any Lion Member you may know.

Thank you for supporting our Community Calendar!