



*Andrew*

# ADVISER

*What's new* at Andrew School



January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## *Principal's Message,*

Welcome to February. Semester 2 begins, which means we are halfway through the school year. This is a great time to reflect upon the first 5 months of school. With a middle of the year check in, we should all be asking ourselves if the goals and plans we set in September are moving ahead as expected. If not, we still have time to change our plans and adjust our goals if need be. Students will be updating their reading levels with another round of STAR benchmark tests. As a school, we strive for each student to achieve at least one year's growth each year. So, at this point we expect see each student to have grown half a grade level from September. As a staff, we use this data to adjust our own practices to help each student achieve that one year of growth by the end of June. This is true of all of the assessments teachers conduct in the classroom, which includes observations, conversations, and products created by the students. Our staff has been heavily focused on building strong lesson and unit plans as part of our professional development. February is a time when we too as learners reflect on how far we've come and what we've achieved. We trust that the first half of the school year has been a successful and enjoyable one far all and look forward to the great opportunities coming our way in the second half of the 2019-20 school year.

Sincerely,

Greg Cruickshank- Principal

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## Important dates:

Every Monday- Archery 3:00-4:00

Every Tuesday- Basketball 3:00-4:00

February 4<sup>th</sup>- School Council

February 5<sup>th</sup> Early Dismissal

February 6-7<sup>th</sup> Teachers' Convention (No School)

February 14<sup>th</sup> School Closed

February 17<sup>th</sup>- Family Day No School

February 24<sup>th</sup>- School Ski Trip to Tawatinaw 5:30 Return

March 4<sup>th</sup> Early Dismissal

March 6<sup>th</sup> PD Day (No School)

March 13<sup>th</sup> Report Cards

March 17<sup>th</sup> Student/Parent/Teacher Interviews 3:30-7:30

March 27<sup>th</sup> – April 3<sup>rd</sup> Spring Break

## February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Kindergarten	4	5 Kindergarten Staff Meting. 1:50 PM Dismissal 1:50 pm	6 Teachers' Convention Thursday and Friday 12:00 am	7	8
9	10 Kindergarten	11	12 Kindergarten	13	14 School Closed	15
16	17 Family Day 12:00 am	18	19 Kindergarten	20	21 Kindergarten Friday	22
23	24 Kindergarten School Ski Trip	25	26 Kindergarten	27	28	29



Please see our website [andrewschool.ca](http://andrewschool.ca) for the most current calendar.

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook to see our #rockstaroftheday

**@andrewwildcats**

## March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Kindergarten	3	4 Kindergarten Staff Meting. 1:50 PM Dismissal 1:50 pm	5	6 Professional Learning Day. No School	7
8	9 Kindergarten	10	11 Kindergarten	12	13 Kindergarten Friday Report Cards 12:00 am	14
15	16 Kindergarten	17 Student / Parent/ Teacher Interviews 3:30 pm	18 Kindergarten	19	20	21
22	23 Kindergarten	24	25 Kindergarten	26	27 School Closed	28
29	30 Spring Break 12:00 am	31				

### Returning Student Registration

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) will once again conduct an online returning student registration process to confirm student registrations for the 2020-21 school year. Families of all returning students must complete the process to confirm the school their child plans to attend in the 2020-21 school year. 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 2020-21 returning student registration takes place Feb. 1-29, 2020.

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, 2020.

### Measuring our Success: Complete the Accountability Pillar Survey

Once again, Alberta Education is conducting its Accountability Pillar Survey—an annual check-up on the province's education system. Every year, Alberta Education conducts the survey to gather information about the quality of education provided by Alberta schools and school authorities. The survey looks at various measures such as engagement levels, student wellness, student outcomes, and the classroom(s) and school climate.

Throughout February, Grade 4-9 students and teachers at Andrew 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 takes about 40 minutes to complete and is done within the school day during regular class time.

Additionally, parents and guardians of students in grades 4-9 are also asked to take a survey, either online or by mail. Information about the survey was sent to these families in January. Like the student and teacher survey, it's anonymous and asks questions about your school experiences. If you have a child in grades 4-9 we encourage you to participate. The survey deadline is Feb. 28, 2020.

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

For more information about Alberta Education's Accountability Pillar Survey visit [alberta.ca/accountability-education-system.aspx](http://alberta.ca/accountability-education-system.aspx).

### **Kindergarten Registration is Now Open on February 1st!**

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2020? If so, it's now time to register for kindergarten. To register, simply complete the online registration form at [eips.ca/kindergarten](http://eips.ca/kindergarten).

To help families prepare, Elk Island Public Schools has put together an online toolkit—available at [eips.ca/kindergarten](http://eips.ca/kindergarten)—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 kindergarten is available on our school website at [www.andrewschool.ca](http://www.andrewschool.ca)

### **Read Aloud Day Contest**

Do you have a favourite book your parents or grandparents read to you when you were young? Is there a book you enjoy reading to your children or grandkids? Maybe a teacher once shared a great book with your class that captured your imagination and set you on a lifelong love of reading?

On February 5, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) wants to hear from you—about the story you'll always remember. Write a post and include a photo. Or, even better, record a short video reading a favourite quote or passage from the book. Then, tweet it and tag the EIPS Twitter account [@eips](https://twitter.com/eips) or reply to the Read Aloud Day post on the Division's [Facebook page](#). And, be sure to use the hashtag: #eipsreads aloud.

**NOTE:** The Read Aloud contest is open to community members, students, and teachers and staff throughout the Division—everyone who posts is automatically entered in a draw to win one of nine EIPS prize packages. Winners will be announced on Feb. 7, 2020.

## Superintendent's Update

*If what we're forecasting is accurate, we have to concentrate on what's important—our core work, which is teaching and learning in the classroom*

I've had quite the hiatus from my blog. And, I must confess, I don't have a good excuse as to why. Sometimes though, when you have something on your mind, that's the precise time to put pen to paper.

So far, the school year is off to a good start. We have much to celebrate—engaged students, dedicated staff, and supportive families and school communities. Overall, students continue to achieve at high levels, we're making headway in areas we've identified as challenges, and our annual results indicate we're providing students with a high-quality education and opportunities to learn, grow and thrive in and out of school.

That's not to say we haven't also had our challenges. We have.

As you know, the provincial budget was delivered much later than usual—in fall 2019 as opposed to spring 2019. Provincewide, the late release created implications for education. Within EIPS, the budget revealed a shortfall of roughly \$5.5 million from what was estimated in the spring. For the current school year only, the Division is accessing its operating reserves to absorb the funding gap. So, we will get through this year. And, thanks to prudent actions from both schools and central departments, students will feel little impact in the classroom in the 2019-20 school year. That said, there are clouds on the horizon.

The reality: Alberta's fiscal situation is deteriorating. The economy isn't turning around as quickly as we had hoped, and there are economic factors working against the province—capital has fled, companies have relocated, and jobs have been lost. As a result, we're starting to feel the effect in education, and in many other sectors for that matter.

As a Division, we're still waiting to find out the exact impact. For now, what we know is the province is developing a new funding framework for education and the overall education budget is frozen for the

next three years. In the coming months, we'll know more. We'll learn what the new framework looks like and how the government plans to fund education for the 2020-21 school year.

While we wait, schools throughout EIPS are being proactive and planning for the next school year. Part of that planning includes conversations with families, mainly about school fees—field trips, course options, sports teams and tournaments. The outcome of these conversations will ultimately influence what schools end up charging to families. The fact is, school fees impact the programming available in a school and, to some degree, staffing. As such, it's essential these conversations take place, that they take place soon and revolve around what schools can realistically provide, given our current fiscal situation. Simply put, schools need to determine the nice-to-haves versus the need-to-haves.

Going forward, if what we're forecasting from a fiscal perspective is accurate, we have to concentrate on what's most important, what has the biggest impact on learners and our core work, which is education—teaching and learning in the classroom. Simultaneously, we have to do this in a way that ensures our finite resources—time, people and finances—are utilized well and sustainably. We will get it right. We have to. And, by doing so, we're in a position to continue to focus on teaching and learning, offer programming choices to learners and support the success of all students under our care.

Collectively, education is top of mind for all of us within the Division, and there's a lot of work to do. As such, it's crucial we engage in these hard and important conversations, at both the school level and Division level. We'll know more in a few months. When we do, we'll make sure to continue to communicate with all our families, school communities and stakeholders. That way, we can find solutions to the challenges we're facing together.

Mark Liguori  
Superintendent