

## November 1, 2021

## Principal's Message,



Another month has come and gone and our students have continued to show growth, enthusiasm and a strong desire to learn.

I am so impressed with the work ethic of our students, their kindness to one another, and their ongoing aspiration to make our school a great place to be.

Throughout October students participated in Read in Week, in which we celebrated the theme of "To Each Their Own Story". Teachers prepared daily activities for students to read and discuss a wide variety of books, including activities to enhance the reading experience.

Our school enjoyed participating in a "Name that Sound" presentation from our local Fire Department. Students were able to practice their fire extinguishing skills and most importantly, how to react to different fire-related situations. Thank you to Martin and his crew for making sure our students stay safe.

We were blessed to have a huge donation of pumpkins for our preschool to grade 6 students to decorate for fall and Halloween festivities. Our little community continues to have the biggest heart of all. We appreciate all the calls and donations to ensure our students are getting the best opportunities and experiences. To see the highlights of school activities, check out our <u>school website</u>.

Our school has been working hard to create a Remembrance Day Ceremony presentation that we can share out to families. The presentation will highlight the work students have been doing within their classrooms. For example, art, writing and reading of poems. Classes will also be participating in a formal ceremony on November 5, where each class will share how they remember and continue to honour Canadian Troops. As a way to include our community and honour our family and friends who had served or continue to serve, we are inviting students to bring in or send photos electronically to teachers to be included in the presentation. This was a fantastic suggestion brought up at our recent Andrew School Council meeting. The combination of classroom activities



and our ceremony will be shared as a presentation for families following November Break on Brightspace. Look for specific details to be communicated in a School Messenger.

Andrew School Council is a great way to hear about a variety of things that are happening at the school. Meetings are held every third Thursday of the month and we welcome all parents to these virtual meetings. November will not follow this schedule and so please take note that the meeting will be held on Thursday, November 25, as the executive committee has a training session on the regular Thursday evening. You can always learn more about our Andrew School Council by going to the school website.

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 <u>very short survey</u> on how we can best provide you with school information. I truly appreciate your time and feedback!

Melissa Kerr Principal - Andrew School

### Bell Schedule

• Andrew School Bell Schedule 2021-22

#### Division Calendar 2021-22

- <u>EIPS Division Calendar</u>
- <u>EIPS Kindergarten Calendar</u>

## Upcoming events and important dates:

- November 1: Website open to book parent/teacher interviews
- November 3: Early dismissal
- November 5: Andrew School Remembrance Day Ceremony
- November 5: Theme Day: Formal Day (wear your best)
- November 5: Harvest Lunch Perogies and Sausage
- November 5-11: <u>Veterans' Week</u>
- November 8-12: Fall break (schools closed to staff and students)



- **November 11:** Remembrance Day
- November 15-19: <u>Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week</u>
- November 17: Parent/Teacher Interviews (3:15 6:15)
- **November 18:** Parent/Teacher Interviews (3:15 6:15)
- November 18: Andrew School Council Executive ASCA virtual training at 6:30pm
- **November 19:** Theme Day: Dress like a Teacher Day
- November 20: National Child Day
- November 23: Your Future: Post-secondary and Career Fair
- November 25: Regular Andrew School Council virtual meeting at 6:30pm
- November 26: Elementary Report Cards published on PowerSchool
- November 26: Theme Day: Tie-Dye Day

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## Signing Up for Parent/Teacher Interviews

Families will be able to sign up for Parent/Teacher Interviews using our <u>school website</u>. Interviews will be held on <u>Wednesday, November 17 and Thursday, November 18, 2021 from 3:15pm - 6:15pm.</u> Families will have the option when booking to have a phone call interview or a video call through Microsoft Teams.

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# Gratitude to our Family and Community Partners

It surely takes a village to support the school and we are so grateful for the continued support. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to the following donors:

- Andrew School Council Halloween Treats
- Lamont County Food Bank
- Robert Hennig supporting the Breakfast Club
- Courtlyn Custom Dog Food 80 Pumpkins Donated
- Terry Mendiuk Extra Large Pumpkin Donation



## Literacy News from the Division

# Literacy at Home: The Importance of Vocabulary

Parents often ask for tips on working with their children at home to build literacy skills. Daniel Willingham, a psychology professor at the University of Virginia who writes about the science behind reading comprehension, explained that whether or not readers understand a text has a lot to do with how much background knowledge and vocabulary they have relating to the topic. That's because writers leave out a lot of information that they assume readers will know.

In fact, a study by Nagy & Herman showed the following results:

Student A reads 1 minute each day in a school year

Student B reads 5 minutes each day in a school year

Student C reads 20 minutes each day in a school year

Learns 8000 new words

Learns 282 000 new words

Learns 1 800 000 new words



You can see that the difference is significant!

So, what can you do at home? Here are some ideas:

- Read with and to your child for 20 minutes each day.
- Have conversations with your child and try to include "big words" and new words.
- Tell stories to your child and encourage them to ask questions.
- Involve your child in the activities you do
   -- cooking, fixing the car, etc. Use terms
   specific to the activity to build
   vocabulary.

### **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

<sup>\*</sup>Sources: Iowa Reading Research Centre, Nagy, William and Herman, Patricia: Breadth and Depth of Vocabulary Knowledge: Implications for Acquisition and Instruction, Willingham, Dan: The Reading Mind



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.

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## No Child Without: Free MedicAlert for students

In our ongoing effort to provide safe and caring schools for students, Andrew School is registered in the Canadian MedicAlert Foundation's No Child Without program. The program is a national initiative that provides no-cost MedicAlert services to children—between the ages of four and 14 years—who have chronic health conditions. The goal is twofold: to help children with severe allergies, medical conditions or special needs and to assist schools with medical-emergency plans for students.

Once a child is registered, the school is provided with advice on a medical-emergency plan for that student and given a list of medications, allergies and medical conditions the student has. If your child has a serious medical condition or allergy and could benefit from MedicAlert services, contact the school office at 780-365-3501. To learn more about the No Child Without program, visit www.nochildwithout.ca.

# 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.

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# 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

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### 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 AndrewLions 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, AB TOB 0C0

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!

