

March 1, 2022

*Principal's Message,*



We have almost made it! Spring is just around the corner and we couldn't be more excited! Andrew staff and students have just wrapped up a very successful February and we look forward to growing in March.

Over the past month we hosted virtual Parent/Teacher Interviews, had fun with Valentine's Day, focused on random acts of kindness, and finished the month with Pink Shirt Day. Be sure to check out our

school website for photos from all our fantastic activities at

[www.andrewschool.ca/school-activities](http://www.andrewschool.ca/school-activities).

Parents and guardians may have received some important mail from Alberta Education in the last week. Every year, Alberta Education collects information from families in their Assurance Survey. This is an important survey to complete as it helps Andrew 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. In order to have this very important information shared with us from Alberta Education, we need more than six respondents. In the past two years, we have not had enough parent/guardian respondents to have data released. So I would ask a huge favour that when you receive this information, please complete the survey. All students in grade 4, 5, and 6 will complete the Assurance Survey at school, along with teachers. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the school at 780-365-3501.

I would like to invite all parents and guardians to attend our virtual School Council meeting on Thursday, March 17 at 6:30pm. This is a great forum to discuss school-related issues and topics and learn how you support our school community.

Finally, I would like to remind all parents and guardians that we do our best to provide all relevant information about school-related topics on our [website](http://www.andrewschool.ca). From school closure days to different weekly activities, this is your best opportunity to know what's happening at the school. Take time on Sunday's to check in on what's happening the week ahead.

Melissa Kerr

## Bell Schedule

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

## Division Calendar 2021-22

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

## Division Calendar 2022-23

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

## Upcoming events and important dates:

- **March 1:** National Pancake Day
  - **March 2:** Early dismissal
  - **March 4:** Professional Learning Day (schools closed to students)
  - **March 7:** Swimming Lessons
  - **March 8:** [International Women's Day](#)
  - **March 9:** Swimming Lessons
  - **March 11:** Theme Day - Country Wear Day
  - **March 14:** Schools start considering non-resident registrations
  - **March 14:** [Pi Day](#)
  - **March 14-18:** Week of Inspirational Math
  - **March 18:** Theme Day - Crazy Hair Day
  - **March 18:** Term 2 report cards are live on PowerSchool Portal
  - **March 21:** [World Poetry Day](#)
  - **March 23:** Swimming Lessons
  - **March 25:** Day-in-lieu for parent-teacher interviews (all schools closed)
  - **March 28 to April 1:** spring break (all schools closed)
- 

## Measuring Success: Complete this year's Alberta Education Assurance Survey

Once again, Alberta Education is surveying teachers, students and families through its annual Alberta Education Assurance (AEA) Survey. The survey acts as 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 education quality, citizenship, family involvement, engagement levels, school climate and student wellness.

Throughout March, Grade 4, 5, and 6 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 doesn't take long to complete and is done within the school day during regular class time.

Additionally, parents and guardians of students in grades 4, 7 and 10 are also asked to take a survey, either online or by mail. Alberta Education will send 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 grades 4, 7 or 10, we encourage you to participate. The survey deadline is March 25, 2022.

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.

#### RELATED INFORMATION

- [AEA Survey: Parent letter](#)
- [AEA Survey: Methodology for rate calculation](#)
- [Assurance and Accountability: Alberta's K-12 education system](#)

---

### Have your say! The 2022 EIPS Parent Survey Opens March 14-27

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) wants to hear from you. Make sure to complete the 2022 EIPS Parent Survey—open from March 14-27.

Annually, EIPS conducts a parent survey to gauge its progress toward meeting the goals and priorities outlined in its [Four-Year Education Plan](#). Families are asked a series of questions about their experiences with EIPS and the school their child attends, the overall performance of the Division, the quality of education being provided to students and areas for improvement. The survey feedback helps the Division develop new strategies to better serve students and the wider community.

- Visit [www.eips.ca](http://www.eips.ca) to take the survey: March 14-27

NOTE: The survey is anonymous and only takes a few minutes to complete. If you want to share the experience of more than one child attending an EIPS school, simply complete the survey again.

---

## Counsellor's Corner

### Supports for Parents in Lamont County

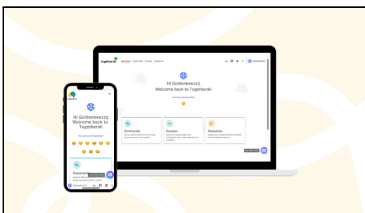
Alberta Health Services | Children, Youth and Families Addiction and Mental Health in collaboration with The Mental Health Foundation are offering to parents and caregivers of children and youth FREE online programming. Sessions are offered online through Zoom conferencing where the link is emailed to registered participants. To see which sessions are being offered in the "Caregiver Sessions," "Drop-In Parenting Series," and "Lunch and Learn Webinars" click on the following link:

- [CYF Caregiver Education Newsletter - March 2022.pdf](#)

### Free Counselling Support for Rural Albertans

City University in Edmonton (<http://www.cityuclinic.ca/>) is offering FREE virtual counselling sessions remotely to new clients across Alberta using secure video conferencing (telepsychology). Use the following hyperlink to access more information and request an appointment:

[City U Edmonton Counselling Clinic](#)



An alternative to attending counselling sessions is a safe, inclusive, online community, where people support each other anonymously to improve mental health and wellbeing, called, **Togetherall** (<https://togetherall.com>). Watch a 60 second video to get an understanding of how **Togetherall** can help you or someone you love.

Working with AHS, Rural Mental Health Network, Healthy Campus Alberta, and CMHA Alberta.

This past February we have been focussing on the Pink Shirt Day's theme, "Lift Each Other Up!" Reading the story, "I Can't Do That Yet" led us to showing ourselves kindness while colouring affirming statements (such as "I am loved"), and writing on the white board one self-affirmation, "I am...". This Pink Shirt day's follow-up activity had us personally experience how "We rise by lifting others" - Robert Ingersoll.



**Finger Touch Affirmations** are used with a controlled breath while touching each of your four fingers with the thumb (using both hands as shown in the poster) as you state each word or word-grouping.

---

### **Kindergarten Registration is Now Open!**

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2022? If so, it's now time to register for kindergarten. To register, simply complete the online registration form at [eips.ca/kindergarten](https://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 Andrew School's kindergarten program is available at [www.andrewschool.ca](http://www.andrewschool.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.

---

### **Look at How Andrew School is Achieving its Goals!**

- See below for all the great things Andrew School has been doing!

## All about ADW

Look how we are growing in 2021-22!

### Literacy & Numeracy Initiatives

- ✓ Levelled Literacy Intervention - small group instruction for students who require a boost to get to grade level in reading
- ✓ Small group instruction through Reader's and Writer's Workshop and Words Their Way
- ✓ Science of Reading best practices used
- ✓ Math benchmarking assessments - identifying areas of growth for students at-risk in math
- ✓ Literacy & Numeracy bulletin boards to display student work, along with contest boards

You can be sure to see us reading in all the cozy spots throughout the school. We also love working with all our math manipulatives and showing our learning on our Wipe Boards!

### Connect with US



Here are the different ways you can connect with us as a parent:

- Participate in School Council and/or Andrew School Society (fundraising group)
- Virtual Meet the Staff presentation
- Virtual Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Virtual Christmas Concerts and Remembrance Day Ceremony
- Complete Parent Surveys from EIPS and the school
- Call, email, or come to the main office any time you have a question or concern
- Stay tuned to our Facebook and school website for all the most relevant information

We value our parents as partners. Actively participating in our school community is so important to us!

### Need more information?

Check us out at:

- [www.andrewschool.ca](http://www.andrewschool.ca)
- Subscribe to School Messenger notices
- PowerSchool Parent Portal
- Facebook: Andrew School
- Twitter: @AndrewEIPS
- Instagram: @andrews\_wildcats



### Quality of Education at ADW

#### Areas of Focus



Evidence-based literacy and numeracy instructional strategies



Learning Disruption Funding used to provide small group instruction in literacy and numeracy.



Bi-weekly professional learning for staff in literacy, numeracy, and technology



Weekly social-emotional lessons and activities for all students



Local and global community initiatives throughout the year: Operation Christmas Child, Food Bank donations, Pen Pal letters, Valentine's letters for Veterans

### First Nations, Metis, & Inuit

- Leader Teacher sharing knowledge and coaching
- EIPS Consultant leading PD & sharing resources.
- EIPS Indigenous FSLW connecting with teachers and families
- Edukits used in classrooms to support foundational knowledge
- Education of Reconciliation - National Day of Truth Reconciliation activities and art, Orange Shirt Day



MINDSET



SAFE & CARING



SPEAK UP

We keep safety in mind with:

- Emergency Preparedness
- Bus Safety Week
- Bullying Awareness & Prevention Week
- February Month of Kindness Initiative
- Pink Shirt Day



## Goals at

# ADW

Look at what we've been up to so far!

### Literacy Initiatives

- Use of reading screeners and STAR assessments
- Fountas & Pinnell Benchmarking
- Brightspace Discussion Boards
- Book Clubs
- Book Reviews
- Small group instruction
- Words Their Way
- Google Read & Write
- 4 Corner Book Talk
- Use of Wipe Books
- Small group poetry reading
- Clicker Writer



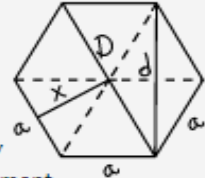
### Safe and Caring Initiatives

- Operation Christmas Child
- First Nations, Metis, Inuit Edukits
- Christmas Concert
- Hockey vs. Andrew Fire District
- Christmas Elves for Parents
- Food Bank Donations
- Pen Pals
- Valentine's for Students and Veterans
- Kindness Initiatives
- Weekly Social-Emotional Lessons



### Numeracy Initiatives

- Building Fact Fluency
- Card Games
- Vertical Math
- Math Talks
- Protractor Window Activity
- Math Benchmarking Assessment
- Subitizing Games
- Vertical Non-Permanent Surfaces
- Math Centers
- Mathletics
- Manipulatives vs. Drawing vs. Whiteboards



### Moving Forward

- ✓ Continue collaborative time with staff to create common tools and practices
- ✓ Continue use of consultant time to promote evidence-based instructional strategies
- ✓ Prepare for new draft curriculum to be released by Alberta Education



- ✓ Increase parent engagement in surveys and at Andrew School Council Meetings
- ✓ Increase parent engagement on the school website and Andrew School Facebook

### Andrew School Goals Simplified

- **Numeracy** - Students will improve throughout the year within number sense.
- **Literacy** - Students will show 1 year's growth in literacy.
- **Safe and Caring Environment** - All stakeholders will indicate that Andrew School is a great place to be!





## See below for Lamont County Programming

- Connection Cafe
- Cooking with Your Littles



**Connection Cafe**

BONDING WITH CONVERSATION

Effective communication helps develop more positive relationships, creating an open environment where they feel comfortable opening up about their problems, successes, and... well...anything The bonus? Effective communication now makes it easier for us to talk about more difficult topics as they arise.

Register by March 6, 2022 at noon to receive the first of four weekly emails with conversation starters that push beyond that yes/no answer.

Email: [erin.t@lamontcounty.ca](mailto:erin.t@lamontcounty.ca)  
Info needed: Your name, ages of each of your children





\*The locations we use are following current AHS regulations. Please do not attend if your or your child(ren) are feeling ill.

Please notify Erin ASAP if unable to attend.



## COOKING WITH YOUR LITTLES

(Because who doesn't like a little adventure)

Join us for cooking, socializing, and laughter as we cook with our littles (ages 0-6). While making March-themed cookies, we will focus on engaging children in the kitchen and its importance.

Please sign up for one Session by link or QR code: <https://signup.com/go/QXyAytU>

Andrew Lions Club - Thursday, March 10 (10:30am - noon)

Lamont Meeting Room - Thursday, March 17 (10:30am - noon)

Chipman Hall - Thursday, March 24 (10:30am - noon)

Max 5  
families  
/session

Sign up deadline is the Friday at noon the week before.

Contact Erin @ [erin.t@lamontcounty.ca](mailto:erin.t@lamontcounty.ca) for more information.



Scan me

