

December 1, 2022

If you have entered Andrew School over the past week you will note that Mrs. Andruchow has pulled out all of the Christmas decor and added a magical touch to the school entrance, the office and the crush area! Given this and the fresh falling, blustery snow we have seen this week, it feels as though Christmas has arrived at Andrew School! I love walking into the school in the morning, seeing the Christmas decor and feeling the warm and caring atmosphere. We have so much to celebrate here at this wonderful school.

November was a busy month for us at Andrew School. Our teaching staff have done an incredible job of adapting to a new format of inputting and recording for student report cards which aligns better with the new K-6 curriculum. As a reminder, student report cards are now available through PowerSchool Parent Portal and can be accessed by clicking on the "Report Card" button in the lefthand sidebar. Please let us know if you require any assistance accessing your students report card.

Classes participated in Bullying Awareness & Prevention Week during November. As we have done in the past, we spent our week focusing on kindness. Students spent the week discussing the impact of a kind action and brainstorming ways to be kind to themselves, each other and the greater Andrew community. Students participation in the Great Kindness Challenge was excellent. It is our hope of course that students continue to engage in acts of kindness as we move through the year together.

We are very excited to open up Andrew School to everyone in the community on December 15 from 6:30 - 8 pm for the **Andrew School Christmas Social**. We will be inviting the Andrew community into the building for a short Christmas performance by students beginning at 6:30 and then inviting them to stay for a Christmas Social. There will be snacks, music, crafts for the kids, an area to take pictures with a Christmas sleigh (outdoors) and a visit from Santa. Board members from the Andrew Municipal Public Library will be handing out gifts for each student. Our hope is that this will be an opportunity for the community of Andrew to socialize, connect and celebrate the season together. We will be asking students to dress in their 'Sunday best' and invite other attendees to do the same.

And lastly, a reminder to digitally sign in or check in at the office when entering the school. It's imperative that we know who is in the building in the case of an emergency evacuation or drill.

We hope to see you all on December 15 for our **Andrew School Christmas Social!** Have a wonderful month and stay warm! Please read below for some more important information regarding Andrew School events, Andrew Community offerings and EIPS news.

Kelly Sawatzky

Bell Schedule

- [Andrew School Bell Schedule 2022-23](#)

Division Calendar 2022-23

- [EIPS Division Calendar](#)
- [EIPS Kindergarten Calendar \(Schedule A\)](#)

Upcoming events and important dates:

- **December 2:** Jersey Day
- **December 7:** Early dismissal
- **December 9:** Theme Twin Day
- **December 15:** Andrew School Christmas Social 6:30-8
- **December 16:** Theme Festive Day
- **December 19:** Rainbow Club visit for Floor Curling & Cookie Decorating
- **December 20:** Earth Rangers Virtual Presentation
- **December 21 - January 3:** Christmas Break (schools closed to staff and students)
- **January 4:** Classes resume

Christmas Food Hampers

Let's help make everyone's Christmas be merry and bright! Christmas food hamper collections will run from Nov 21/22 – Dec 9/22. Please check expiry dates of items prior to sending them in. If you

prefer to donate cash, we will use it to purchase gift cards for families. For those interested, receipts will be issued for any cash donations over \$10.

Donations will be prepared in hampers for school families. Hamper deliveries or pick up will take place on December 16. If you know a family in need or if you are in need of some assistance this Christmas please let us know. Call Mrs. Sawatzky or Mrs. Andruchow at 780-365-3501 or you can email us at kelly.sawatzky@eips.ca or marie.andruchow@eips.ca. All families will remain anonymous. If we receive more donations than is needed for our families, we will donate to the Lamont County Food Bank.

Thank you so very much for your generosity.

Christmas Break

Andrew School will close for the Christmas break at the end of the day on Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2022. The school will reopen on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023. 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. 26, 2022 to Jan. 2, 2023

Open January 3; 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.

Parent Council Update

We welcome new members at all times! Feel free to reach out to our executive if you have any questions at all. Our next meeting is on January 19 @ 6:30 pm.

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. As per the note that went home, gifts will range between 0.50 cents and \$5.00. Each student has been given a budgeting form which will allow you and your child to plan for gift purchases

that fit for your family. Please send this note, along with payment back to school prior to our Christmas store days, which will be December 12th and 13th. Gifts will be wrapped and ready to send home the following week.

- Christmas Raffle
 - We have started gathering donations for our raffle which will consist of various gift baskets, some for adults and some for families. The adult basket tickets will be \$10 each and are available throughout the community. 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. Winners will be announced during the Christmas concert.

Lamont County Food Bank Christmas Hampers

The County of Lamont Food bank is accepting applications for Christmas Hampers beginning on November 10. Please call 780-896-2402, by Friday December 8th to request a hamper. Distribution will be on Sunday, December 18.

The Food Bank Board and volunteers wish you a safe and happy holiday season. Should you find yourself needing support with accessing food and are living within the County of Lamont, please call 780-619-6955. More information can be at <https://countylamontfoodbank.com/> or by searching County of Lamont Food Bank on Facebook.

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 2023-24 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 2023-24 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 2023-24 returning student registration takes place Feb. 1-28, 2023.

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,

2023. [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.

Have your say, EIPS wants to hear from you!

The Annual Education Results Report 2021-22 is now available. The report is a summary of how EIPS is doing relative to Alberta Education’s performance measures; how it's supporting students to achieve the best possible outcomes; and its successes, challenges and priority strategies moving forward. Both the full report and an overview are available for readers.

Reflecting on this report and the past school year, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) wants to hear from you to gain a deeper understanding of your confidence in the Division and its strategic

direction. As such, the annual EIPS Year-in-Review: Stakeholder Confidence Survey is open December 1-18.

The survey covers a range of topics, including student growth and achievement, learning supports, teaching and leading, governance and resource allocations. The information gathered will help EIPS:

- assess stakeholder confidence—families, staff, Grade 12 students and community members;
- gather input to guide future decision-making;
- gather feedback to enhance its Four-Year Education Plan; and
- provide a platform for families, students, staff and community members to have a voice in ensuring high-quality, student-centred learning environments in EIPS schools.

EIPS will share the results in the Annual Education Results Report 2022-23. TAKE THE SURVEY NOW! Survey closes Dec. 18, 2022

NOTE: EIPS encourages everyone to respond honestly. Your identity and answers are confidential and cannot be linked to you or your child's school. Grade 12 students will have an opportunity to complete the survey at school. Families who do not want their child to complete the survey simply need to advise their child's school.

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

To contact the Village of Andrew Public Library, please call 587-957-2130.

Fee Waiver Application Deadline

If circumstances exist where you're unable to pay school or transportation fees, you can apply to have [fees waived](#) by submitting an [Application for a Waiver of Fees](#). The application deadline is Dec. 15, 2022. If you're new to the Division, the deadline is the latter of Dec. 15, 2022, or 45 days after registration.

To access your fee information, simply log in to the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) and go to "Student Fees." There you can view your fees and pay them online using Visa or MasterCard. All fees are due within 30 days of being posted.

Don't forget to also 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 various school activities such as field trips, class projects, extracurricular activities and more.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines, visit www.eips.ca/schools/fees and <https://www.andrewschool.ca/about/fees>. Alternatively, contact Mrs. Andruchow at Andrew School at 780-365-3501.