**January 4, 2022**

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a restful break. While as staff we were happy to have the break and as always, it seemed timely, we were excited to welcome the students back yesterday and to hear them excitedly share about their Christmas break. With that being said, we are looking forward to the last half of this school year and to watching the students learn and grow as we grow in our professions alongside them.

As always, the Andrew School Food Drive was highly successful. Our small school has a huge heart and we were able to collect approximately 780 items for Christmas hampers with $2400 in cash donations. This allowed us to give 10 Andrew School families Christmas hampers and/or Christmas gifts. Thank you to all of our school families as well those in our school community for the generous donations. Once again, it is so evident what a safe and caring school community we have here in Andrew.

Thank you to everyone who came out for our Andrew School Christmas Social. We hope you enjoyed the event as much as we did. It was so wonderful to see the school gym filled with students, parents and guardians as well as our wider school community. The students enjoyed both preparing and performing for you all. Thank you to everyone who donated in any way towards the Christmas Social and for your partnership in making it such a successful event.

Students participated in a field trip to the Rainbow Centre in December where they decorated cookies and learned how to floor curl with some of our senior friends! Students thoroughly enjoyed themselves while there and it was fun to see how quickly students improved at floor curling.

Just a quick update regarding hot lunch. For the month of January, hot lunch will not be offered. However, we do plan to go back to our weekly hot lunch days in February. The February hot lunch forms will be sent home within the next week or 2. Also, please note that in the future, should a hot lunch day fall on a bus cancellation, hot lunch will then be postponed for that day. We will then of course reschedule that lunch for a future day. If you have any questions about this, please call the school.

Finally, I would like to invite all parents and guardians to attend our School Council meeting on Thursday, January 19 at 5:30pm. Our meeting will be in-person, however if you prefer to attend virtually please call the school office and we will send you a link. One topic that we will be discussing will be school fees for the 2023-24 school year. This is a great forum to discuss school-related issues and topics and learn how you can support our school community and engage in your child’s education.

As always, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school! Have a wonderful month!

Kelly Sawatzky

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**Upcoming events and important dates:**

* **January 4:** Students return to school
* **January 4:** Early dismissal
* **January 6:** Theme day - Musician Day
* **January 13:** ECS Friday
* **January 13:** Theme Day - Beach Day
* **January 19:** Parent Council Meeting
* **January 20:** Theme day - Wacky Sock Day
* **January 27**:ECS Friday
* **January 27:** Theme Day - Disney Day
* **January 30**: Professional Learning Day (schools closed to students)
* **February 1**: [Kindergarten](https://www.eips.ca/registration/kindergarten) and [grades 1-12](https://www.eips.ca/registration/new-students) new student registration opens for 2023-24
* **February 1**: [Returning student registration](https://www.eips.ca/registration/returning-students) opens for 2023-24
* **February 1**: Early dismissal

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**Bell Schedule**

* [Andrew School Bell Schedule 2022-23](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WFR7FsF-7eiX3g_5onrZvjLzZ0RI4lCl/view?usp=sharing)

**Division Calendar 2022-23**

* [EIPS Division Calendar](https://www.eips.ca/download/379266)
* [EIPS Kindergarten Calendar (Schedule A)](https://www.eips.ca/download/379267)

**Kindergarten Registration Starts Soon!**

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2023? If so, it’s almost time to register for kindergarten.

Kindergarten registration opens for the 2023-24 school year on Feb. 1, 2023.

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 andrewschool.ca.

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**Returning Student Registration for 2023-24**

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.

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**Inclement Weather**

With the winter season well underway, 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) will advise 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 Procedure 131: Inclement Weather, which states: “school bus service may be suspended … when there is a forecast or current temperature of -40 C including wind chill, 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 what they feel is safest during times of inclement weather.

For more information, contact EIPS Student Transportation at 780-417-8151.

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**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.