

Sherwood Heights Junior High School

www.sherwoodheights.org

Welcome back everyone, and Happy New Year!

Our school staff hope that you had an enjoyable Christmas break. We are right back into classes and have a busy January ahead of us with semester one wrapping up on January 30th. Our first day of semester two will begin on Wednesday, January 31st.

Students have received a copy of their semester two option courses in September, and are aware that all requests to change option courses were completed at the start of the school year. Semester one option courses will have final marks available on PowerSchool for Tuesday, February 6th. We will be handing out a copy of the semester two timetable to students on Wednesday, January 24th, and students will attend classes for this schedule beginning on a day one January 31st.

As we use a semester system to schedule options, we also require a day to clean up our PowerSchool data to facilitate the semester change with core and physical education classes. Please be advised that we will be turning off access to the PowerSchool parent portal during the school day on Tuesday, January 30th, and real time attendance and access to course marks will be unavailable. We will be providing access to PowerSchool for the morning of Wednesday, January 31st for the start of semester two. As we have many different programs here at Sherwood Heights, we need to run some behind the scenes data changes to accommodate our scheduling, which in turn results in needing to turn off access to PowerSchool for January 30th.

Our next formal reporting period is scheduled for Tuesday, February 6th. An online report card will be available through PowerSchool for parents to print. If you would like a paper copy of the report, please contact the general office and a copy will be sent home with your student.

School Fees

A reminder that if you have not paid school fees or made arrangements, please contact the school at 780-467-5930.

Please see information in this Newsletter regarding the registration and requests for non-designated school procedures for 2018.

Upcoming Events

Jan 30 - School Council 7:00pm

Jan 31 - Semester 2 begins

Feb 7 - Early Dismissal

Feb 8 & 9 - Teachers Convention

Feb 16 - School Closure Day

Feb 19 - Family Day

Message from School Council Chair

I hope January finds everyone well and that each one of you had a wonderful break.

We've been having a successful School Council this year. In November, we had a robust discussion about fees and which fees parents are willing to pay and how to decide about refunds. I will be taking this feedback to the Committee of School Councils meeting this week.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 30 at 7:00 pm in the library.

We plan to discuss assessment and grading. The agenda with specific discussion questions will be circulated closer to the date. We hope you can join us.

Jacquie Surgenor
School Council Chair

REQUEST TO ATTEND A NON-DESIGNATED SCHOOL

Effective for the 2018-19 school year, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is changing the way in which students apply to attend a non-designated school. From March 1 to 15, 2018, parents of all EIPS students are being asked to pre-enrol their children online and indicate whether their child will be attending their designated school or if they wish to register at a different school. Acceptance at a non-designated school is based on available space—families will be advised of the outcome by April 13, 2018. Because of high enrolment numbers, some schools won't be accepting any non-designated students. Schools with closed boundaries will be identified prior to the pre-enrolment process.

Please note that should you request a non-designated school for your child and need busing, there are fees associated with this choice. Visit [Transportation Services](#) for more information.

As part of the pre-enrolment process, parents are also asked to check and update phone numbers, email addresses, mailing address and other important data – doing so will both make sure that the Division has the most current information available and eliminate the need to fill in the paper Correction Form that has traditionally been sent home every fall. Better yet, families will be able to go online and update their child's data throughout the year as circumstances change.

To determine your child's designated school, please check [EIPS school boundary maps](#).

EIPS 2018-19 Division Calendar: Now available!

The official 2018-19 EIPS calendar is now available online. The calendar includes important dates during the 2018-19 school such as school-closure days; breaks; the first and last day of classes; professional learning days; and early dismissal days.

Highlights from the 2018-19 EIPS calendar include:

September 4	First day of classes (after long weekend)	February 7-8	Teachers' Convention
November 12-16	November break	March 25-29	Spring break
December 24 to January 4	Christmas break	June 27	Last day of classes
January 31	Second semester begins	June 28	Schools close for Summer break

To view the 2018-19 calendar, visit www.eips.ca. Also available online: the current school calendar and the 2019-20 calendar.

Did you know you can sync the Division calendar to your own personal calendar? You can. Simply, visit www.eips.ca/calendar and click on "subscribe to calendar." It's that easy.

Inclement Weather

With the winter season well underway, we want to remind parents 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 parents of any bus cancellations using various communications tools including: automated-telephone messages, alerts posted on www.eips.ca and school websites, Twitter, Facebook, local radio stations, and on Versatrans My Stop.

Decisions regarding bus cancellations are guided by EIPS administrative procedures that states: "school bus service may be suspended when...Environment Canada reports a temperature of -40 C." Other reasons for suspending or delaying school bus services include adverse weather and poor road condition.

When school bus services are suspended, schools will remain open to students. EIPS believes parents 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.

Accountability Pillar Survey Information for Parents from Alberta Education

As an annual check-up on the education system, the Accountability Pillar provides an opportunity for Alberta Education and school authorities to ensure that we are equipping students for success.

The Accountability Pillar uses a set of 16 indicators. Data on these indicators consists of surveys of students, parents and teachers on various aspects of education quality, student outcomes such as dropout and high school completion rates, and provincial assessments of student learning.

From January to the end of February, Alberta Education will be conducting the annual Accountability Pillar Survey.

- In January, parents of students in grades 4, 7 and 10 will receive a survey from Alberta Education.
- In February, students in grades 4, 7 and 10 and all teachers will be completing their surveys online at school.

All surveys are anonymous and ask questions about experiences with your school. In addition to English and French, the parent survey is available in Chinese, Punjabi, Arabic, Blackfoot, Dene, Cree, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog and Urdu.

Your participation in the survey helps provide important information on the quality of education your child is receiving, so we encourage you to return your survey promptly.

Survey results will be available to school authorities in May 2018, and will be reported publicly as part of their 3-Year Education Plans and Annual Education Results Reports.

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Another way to stay connected: Follow EIPS on Twitter and Facebook

With 42 schools and close to 17,150 students there's a wealth of events, activities and stories taking place across the Division every day. You can find these stories and more by following Elk Island Public Schools on both [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Each uses the combination of news articles, videos and photographs that showcase the latest news, updates, events and alerts taking place across the Division.

Plus, if you're a member of an EIPS school community and want to share in the storytelling, simply tag the Division using the hashtag *#EIPS*.

Stay in the loop, follow EIPS on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

NOTE: The Division Facebook and Twitter accounts are managed by EIPS Communications Services. The account is updated and monitored intermittently during regular office hours from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. The Division welcomes feedback and ideas from followers but does ask everyone interacting on the EIPS Facebook page to be respectful. Personal attacks and offensive language will not be allowed and may be deleted.