



# SHERWOOD HEIGHTS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- January 28 – Parent Council Meeting – 7:00 pm
- January 29 – School Closure Day
- February 3 – Early Dismissal – 2:05 pm
- February 4-5 – Teacher's Convention – No School
- February 10-11 – Grade 7 Band Camp to Gull Lake
- February 12 – School Closure Day
- February 15 – Family Day – No School
- February 24 – SHBPA Executive Meeting – 6:30 pm
- February 25 – Parent Meeting for Campbelltown – 6:30 pm

## Semester 2 is Just Around the Corner!

We are flying through our school year and have semester break upon us at the end of January. Most of our option programs are run in a semester format, students will be attending different option classes on February 1<sup>st</sup>. We will be sending a progress report home on February 3<sup>rd</sup> to conclude semester one; the report will include a final grade for all first semester option courses as well as a mark update for all year long courses. Updated marks will also be available on the PowerSchool parent portal from February 3<sup>rd</sup> until February 11<sup>th</sup>.

## Registration for 2016/2017

Registration for Jr. and Sr. High schools is typically completed in April or May. Elk Island Public Schools has a boundary exemption process that runs from February 1<sup>st</sup> through April 14<sup>th</sup>. We will be registering our students upon the completion of the boundary exemption process.

During registration we will be discussing programming at the Jr. and Sr. High level with all of our current students. For our students who are moving on to High School, we will be working with their respective school to ensure a smooth transition. Our students will be working in Career Cruising in the near future; this is an online program about Jr. and Sr. High programming as well as career exploration that can be used both at school and at home. We will be communicating the registration process and timelines with both students and parents, please stay tuned.

## School Council Meeting

We will be meeting in the library on Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. We welcome any new parents.

## Grade 9 Farewell

Our Grade 9 Farewell format needs to change from previous years as our usual facility is unavailable. We have booked a facility in Sherwood Park for Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. We would like to invite parents of grade 9 students to form a committee to help in planning and preparation for this year's celebration. The meeting will be held on February 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the library. Please email [weylin.gilewich@eips.ca](mailto:weylin.gilewich@eips.ca) if you plan to attend. Information regarding farewell will be sent out following our committee meeting with our volunteers. Thanks and hope to see you there!

## Accountability Pillar Survey

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) has partnered with Alberta Education and The Learning Bar ([www.thelearningbar.com](http://www.thelearningbar.com)) to survey students regarding their level of engagement in learning, student wellness, classroom(s) and school climate. Gathering student feedback through the survey will support our

school and Division plans for continuous improvement. In addition to student feedback, we will also be seeking teacher and parent feedback from select grades. Grade 4 students will complete Alberta Education's Accountability Pillar survey and grades 7 through 12 students will complete a longer survey, entitled OurSCHOOL|TTFM, which has the Accountability Pillar survey questions included in it. As an annual check-up on the education system, Alberta Education conducts surveys of students to gather information on the quality of education provided by Alberta school authorities and their schools. The results are provided to school authorities to inform the development of their three-year education plans, Annual Education Results Report, and to evaluate the performance on Accountability Pillar survey measures.

Throughout the month of February, students and teachers will be completing the survey online at school. Student participation is voluntary and completely anonymous. Students are assigned a random username and password to ensure survey responses aren't linked any individual student. Students in Sherwood Heights will be surveyed between February 1 and February 26. The online survey takes about 40 minutes and will be completed within the school day during regular class time.

Parents and guardians of students in grades 4, 7, and 10 will also be receiving a survey in the mail. The surveys are anonymous and we highly encourage you to participate. The results of the survey will be provided to EIPS in May 2016, which will then be shared with our families and school communities next fall in the Division's Annual Education Results Report.

If you have any questions about the OurSCHOOL|TTFM survey, please contact Weylin Gilewich, Principal. For more information about Alberta Education's Accountability Pillar survey, please contact Keith Bowen, the director at Alberta Education's System Assurance Branch, at [keith.bowen@gov.ab.ca](mailto:keith.bowen@gov.ab.ca) or 780-422-4750 (or toll-free at 310-000).

### **Boundary Exemption Request Process is Now Open**

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) boundary exemption request process for the 2016–2017 school year is now open. Students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 wanting to attend a non-designated school in the upcoming school year can now apply to do so. All, interested families must fill out a Boundary Exemption Request Form and submit it directly to their requested school. The application deadline is April 14, 2016. Boundary exemption requests received after April 14, 2016 will be declined. There is no late or secondary process.

Additional information about the boundary exemption request process including the Boundary Exemption Request Form, schools with closed boundaries, and frequently asked questions can be found by visiting [www.eips.ca/schools/boundaries/boundary-exemption-request-process](http://www.eips.ca/schools/boundaries/boundary-exemption-request-process).

Final decisions will be made by April 22, 2016.

*NOTE:* Students already accepted into their non-designated school don't need to reapply.

### **Managing your Synrevoice Email Subscription**

As many of you know, Elk Island Public Schools and Sherwood Heights uses SchoolConnects Synrevoice to communicate with our families by phone and email regarding information such as bus cancellations or delays, inclement weather, upcoming events, last-minute cancellations, parental engagement opportunities, emergency notices, and more. Recent upgrades have made it even easier for families to subscribe, unsubscribe, and re-subscribe from email messages to ensure we continue to comply with federal anti-spam legislation. It's a very easy process and takes only minutes to complete. Simply visit <http://www.eips.ca/contact/synrevoice> to "subscribe" or "unsubscribe" from email messages.

Sherwood Heights encourages parents to subscribe to our Synrevoice messages to ensure you stay up-to-date on all the latest news and events taking place in our school.