



Box 329, Lamont, AB T0B 2R0
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lamontelementary.ca

Judy Anderson, Principal
Jay Robertson, Assistant Principal

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

We are really looking forward to the month of February with all sorts of great activities and learning happening! We are just days away from Parent/Teacher Interviews which are happening on February 5 and 6 as a way for parents to touch base with their child's teacher to identify areas of strength and growth before report cards are issued on March 16. If you haven't had the opportunity to book a time, please see the information below or contact us at the school office for some assistance.

In staffing news, I would like to welcome Mr. Robert Mcweeny who will be stepping in to teach music for Mrs. Oviatt when she goes on maternity leave. Mr. Mcweeny comes to us with a very extensive music background as well as lots of energy and enthusiasm. We will certainly miss Mrs. Oviatt and wish her all the best as she begins the wonderful adventure of being a mom. We welcome Mr. Mcweeny to our staff on February 22. We also have Tamara Knudsen joining our staff as an educational assistant in kindergarten. She will be working part time to offer additional support to some of our kindergarten students for the remainder of the year.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the Lamont Elementary School Council (LESC) for their generous donation towards furnishing our *Student Learning Common*. This alternate learning space is being well used and we are very pleased with how it is coming together. When you are here next week for Parent/Teacher Interviews, please drop in and take a peek.

The next School Council meeting will be on Thursday, March 15 at 6:30 in the library. We are so appreciative of the time, energy, hard work, and support of our LESL. All parents are welcome and we look forward to seeing you there.

Every year, Alberta Education conducts a survey as a way of ensuring schools are equipping students for success. If you are a parent of a student in grades 4-6, please take the time to fill out the survey and return it to Alberta Education. This is a way for us to receive feedback on how we are doing and use the information to improve the quality of education. Your input is greatly valued and appreciated.

Please continue to ensure your child is dressed for the weather as we seem to be in for some additional frosty winter days. On the days that the busses are cancelled within Elk Island Public Schools, the school will always remain open.

We would like to thank you for your continued support. If you ever have any questions, concerns, or comments, please stop in or call our school office at 780-895-2269.



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Sincerely,
Judy Anderson M. Ed.
Principal

VALENTINE CARNIVAL

Wednesday, February 14 is our annual Carnival, from 1:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Please come and join your child for an afternoon of fun and games! **The games are \$.25 each to play, your child will need change to take part in the games.** We are looking for volunteers, donations of raffle prizes, and donations for the purchase of cakes for our very popular Cake Walk. If you are able to volunteer or have a donation, please return the pink form or contact your child's teacher. We look forward to seeing you there.

LAMONT ELEMENTARY TRACK TEAM

The Track Team is off and running! We are very excited to be participating in the 40th annual Running Room Indoor Games. On February 20th, we will be competing in a boys 8 x 200m relays and a girls 8 x 200m relay. If any of the teams are in the top 60, they would then qualify for the quarter finals on March 17. Good luck to all our runners in this event. **Go Lions!**

BASKETBALL

February brings on the start of basketball season at Lamont Elementary. The season runs from late February to early March and offers players lunch time practices, two tournaments and a couple of friendly exhibition games against Bruderheim Elementary. Tryouts will be held February 5 and 6. All students in grades 4-6 are welcome to come participate in tryouts and the exhibition games against Bruderheim Elementary. Dates for these games are still to be determined but will be confirmed in the next couple of weeks. Tournaments are hosted by Lamont High School on March 3 and Rudolph Hennig Junior High School in Fort Saskatchewan on March 10. Due to tournament restrictions we are limited with the amount of students we can take; two teams of 5-6 students of each gender will be chosen to represent Lamont Elementary at the tournaments. **Go Lamont Lions!**

COUNSELLOR'S CORNER

February 17, 2018 is *Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) Day* and we are encouraging our students to try RAK throughout the month. Parents often ask how they can teach kindness at home so I have included a list of Random Acts of Kindness that your family can do together this month. These suggestions are meant to give you ideas but another great way to approach RAK Day is to sit down with your child(ren) and brainstorm ways that you can be kind in your house, neighbourhood and



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school. Performing acts of kindness as a family not only betters the world around you but strengthens the bonds within your family. Have fun being kind!

1. *Shovel a neighbour's sidewalk (especially those who struggle to do it themselves).*
2. *Bake a tray of cookies and deliver them to a neighbour or friend.*
3. *Let someone go in front of you in line at the store.*
4. *Write a thank you note to someone who doesn't get thanked enough.*
5. *Set the table for dinner and clean up afterward without being asked,*
6. *Donate gently used clothes or toys.*
7. *Pick up garbage that you see in the park or in your neighbourhood.*
8. *Write and mail "Just because" cards to an out of town family member or neighbour.*
9. *Bring hot chocolate to someone working outside.*
10. *Give flowers to someone not feeling well.*
11. *Donate food to the Food Bank.*
12. *Make a bird feeder.*
13. *Write "I Love You" notes to members of your family and hide them around the house where they will find them! (behind the bathroom mirror, behind the car visor, in a lunchbox)*
14. *Invite another family over for dinner.*
15. *Open the door for someone entering a store behind you.*
16. *Draw a picture of your local emergency responders and thank them for the work they do.*
17. *Make a list of things you love about someone and send it to them.*
18. *Offer to walk a neighbour's dog.*
19. *Make someone else's bed.*
20. *Give every member of your family a hug every day this week.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 5	Parent Teacher Interviews, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Feb. 6	Parent Teacher Interviews, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Feb. 7	Early Dismissal, Winter Walk Day
Feb. 8, 9	No School, Teachers Convention
Feb. 14	Valentine Winter Carnival
Feb. 16	School Closure Day
Feb. 19	Family Day, No School
Mar. 2	No School, Professional Learning Day
Mar. 7	Early Dismissal



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LIBRARY NOTES

Hedgie the Hedgehog, Berlioz the Bear, and the Gingerbread Man will be making an appearance this month in the library as we celebrate one of our favorite authors and amazing illustrators, **Jan Brett**. Jan Brett has written over 30 books and her newest book *The Mermaid* is a Goldilocks story of three octopuses and a mermaid. During February, the Kindergarten to Grade 3 students will learn about her books and how she gets her writing and drawing ideas. Stop by and see the giant mitten on our hallway bulletin board.



To celebrate the **Olympic** theme the older grades will be looking at gold medal books – books that have won a Newbery Gold medal. The Newbery Medal was named for eighteenth-century British bookseller John Newbery. It has been awarded annually, since 1922, by the Association for Library Service to Children, to the author of the most distinguished contribution to literature for children. LES Library has some of the first Newbery winning books from the 1920's. Come see our display of award winning books.

Thank you to all students and parents for **finding library books** this past month. We still have a few more books from before Christmas to locate. Please keep searching! Students who do not return their library book on their library day have been receiving a reminder slip in their agenda. If the book is truly lost please reimburse the library for the cost of the book. At the end of February, students who have returned all their library books will receive a scratch and win card - scratch the card to reveal the prize!

Lamont Elementary will be sending six grade 4-6 students to the Elk Island **Young Author's Conference** on February 24, 2018. At the daylong conference students will meet and learn from children's authors and illustrators, including Sigmund Brouwer, Natasha Deen, Jacqueline Guest and cartoonist Gary Delaine.

The **Scholastic Book Fair** is scheduled to arrive in Lamont Elementary on April 17, 2017.

**For up to date Library information and photos
please check out the Library tab on the school website.**



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MAKERSPACE DONATION REQUEST

Thank you so much to those parents and community members who dropped off Makerspace donations in the first couple months of our program! We are running low on quite a few items and are putting out the call for donations if you have extra craft supplies or odds and ends kicking around.

Donations can be dropped off at the Front Office. We are looking for the following items:

- Pipe Cleaners
- Stamps/Ink
- Styrofoam Cups/Containers
- Toilet paper or paper towel rolls
- Stickers
- Foam Letters/Shapes
- Tape
- Building Supplies
- Scissors
- Feathers
- Plastic Toys (trucks, cars, army figurines, wheels, shovels)
- LEGO

These are only a few items...anything else you think we could use would be much appreciated!

MEASURING OUR SUCCESS: COMPLETE THE ACCOUNTABILITY PILLAR SURVEY

Once again, Alberta Education is conducting its Accountability Pillar Survey—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 engagement levels, student wellness, student outcomes, and the classroom(s) and school climate.

Throughout the month of February, Grade 4, 5, and 6 students and all teachers at Lamont Elementary School are completing the survey online at the school. Students are assigned a random username and password to ensure survey responses aren't linked to any individual student. The survey takes about 30 minutes to complete and is done within the school day during regular class time.

Additionally, parents and guardians of students in grades 4 to 6 are also being surveyed—the province mailed the surveys in January. Again, all surveys are anonymous and ask questions about experiences



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with your school. Your participation in the survey helps provide important information on the quality of education your child is receiving, so we really encourage you take a few moments to complete and return your survey by February 23 to Alberta Education.

We value your opinions and appreciate the opportunity to reflect on how we are doing here at Lamont Elementary. 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.

For more information about Alberta Education's Accountability Pillar Survey visit www.education.alberta.ca/accountability-pillar.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2018? If so, it's time to register for kindergarten. Kindergarten registration is now open for the 2018-19 school year. To register, simply complete the online registration form at www.eips.ca/registration/kindergarten.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION CHECK LIST:

- Determine your child's designated school
- Scan and upload all required documents: proof of name, residence, date of birth and citizenship.
- Additional documents to scan, if applicable include: Guardian Letter and Parental Custody Agreement if restrictions on access.
- Once the online registration is complete and submitted, a confirmation notice is sent to the given email address.

NOTE: The paper copy is no longer available. For step-by-step instructions on how-to use the online form visit the [EIPS Registration](#) web page.

Families will be advised in April about the results of the application process.

Additionally, to help families prepare for kindergarten, Elk Island Public Schools has put together an online toolkit 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. Find it by visiting www.eips.ca/programs-services/kindergarten.



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EIPS LAUNCHES NEW PRE-ENROLMENT PROCESS

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is launching a new pre-enrolment process to simplify the way it registers students for the upcoming year, collects information, and manages requests to attend a non-designated school. The pre-enrolment process allows the Division to verify all student information for every child prior to the start of the new school year.

Each spring, EIPS families will receive an email from the Division asking them to confirm their child's enrolment in a school for the upcoming year using a secure online pre-enrolment form. By logging in to PowerSchool, families can indicate which school their child plans to attend; apply to attend a non-designated school, if applicable; and update any required student information—such as phone numbers, addresses and emergency contacts. If circumstances change, families also have the ability to update their child's data throughout the year.

The pre-enrolment process for the 2018-19 school year takes place from March 1-15 of this year.

Applying to attend a non-designated school?

The new pre-enrolment process also eliminates the former Boundary Exemption Request Process. Now, returning students who want to apply to a non-designated school can do so through the pre-enrolment process by indicating on the form the school they want to attend. Acceptance is not guaranteed; rather, it's based on available space. Some EIPS schools have closed boundaries because of high enrolment numbers and will not accept non-designated students for the 2018-19 school year.

These schools will be identified prior to the pre-enrolment process. All families who apply to attend a non-designated school will be contacted and advised of the outcome in April.

NOTE: Any requests to attend a non-designated school or out-of-boundary program for returning students in grades 1-12 must be completed during the two-week pre-enrolment process to be considered for the next school year. The only exception: Students who move into the Division from outside the geographic area, or another community within the Division, following the deadline.

For more information visit www.eips.ca.

STAY CONNECTED: SUBSCRIBE TO EIPS EMAIL NEWS

Want to stay up-to-date on the latest news and events taking place at your school? Make sure to subscribe to Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) email distribution list. Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) now requires the Division to have direct consent before engaging in electronic communication with its families. If you haven't yet subscribed, simply visit www.eips.ca/contact/synrevoice. Once



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subscribed you'll begin receiving Division- and school-related news—newsletters, information about upcoming events, parent- and community-engagement opportunities, important school-based updates and more.

NOTE: Even if you're not subscribed, you will continue to receive emails regarding emergency situations and financial matters. Those who received notifications about high school attendance will also continue to receive those messages.

EIPS appreciates your co-operation in ensuring its distribution lists are compliant with CASL and you continue to receive only the information you feel is important.

PINK SHIRT DAY

Join us in taking a stand against bullying and wear PINK on Wednesday, February 28, 2018.



The dawn of social media brought with it a whole new way to interact, communicate, and even bully. In this digital world where filtered photos and crafted messages can be posted in an instant, it often takes more time and effort to say something mean than it does to say something nice. Kindness requires no manipulation, no focusing on the negatives, and no filtering of yourself. **It's easy to be nice.** This year our campaign focuses on our online behavior, and we encourage everyone to remember that **Nice Needs No Filter.**