



Box 329, Lamont, AB T0B 2R0  
p 780-895-2269 f 780-895-7468

[lamontelementary.ca](http://lamontelementary.ca)

## Welcome Back for the 2018 – 2019 School Year

The first week of school has been wonderful! It has been so much fun visiting classrooms and seeing the excitement of a new school year; students proudly unpacking their school supplies, wearing fancy new shoes, making new friends and settling in to classroom routines. I continue to feel blessed to work with such a caring, supportive and dedicated staff as I watch their friendly and welcoming interactions with their new students. It is going to be a great year!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our Lamont Elementary families to drop in and meet the staff between 5:00 and 7:00 pm on Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. This is a wonderful opportunity to have your child introduce you to their teacher. Please take a moment to drop by the office and introduce yourself or say hello. To accommodate the busy evening schedules families often have, the evening will be an open house, drop in format. We look forward to seeing you sometime between 5:00 and 7:00 pm. A special welcome to our new staff members including: Mrs. Watson (music), Ms. Budd (PALS), Mrs. A. Kelly (grade 3), Mrs. Lechelt (grade 5) and Ms. Teolis (educational assistant).

Thank you for your help with the parking situation. We have four designated VISITOR parking spots available for guests. **Please do not park in any of the numbered stalls in our paved south parking lot as they are designated for staff members.** Just because they are empty, does not mean they are free as we have several staff members that have varied start times to their work day. Several of our educational assistants arrive between 8:25 – 8:50 and are finding that their designated spots are not open when they are trying to park. Again, we really appreciate you utilizing only the visitor stalls or simply pulling through to drop off your children. We are asking that students use their designated door to enter the school unless they are arriving late to school.

For the upcoming school year, as a staff we have decided to focus on honoring and recognizing students who are making positive choices on a regular basis. One way we will be doing this is by having a **monthly celebration lunch with the principal and assistant principal.** Based on positive choices, students will have the opportunity to have their names entered into a draw. Each month we will select two students from each classroom to join us for a special lunch. We look forward to spending some fun time with students where we can celebrate their success!

The month of September will fly by! Already the students are active and engaged in their classroom activities. If you have any questions, concerns or feedback, please feel free to contact us at the school office. We appreciate your ongoing support!



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### Upcoming Events

Sept. 12	Group B Kindergarten
Sept. 13	Meet the Staff 5pm – 7pm
Sept. 19	Group A Kindergarten
Sept. 26	Group B Kindergarten
Sept. 27	Terry Fox School Run
Oct. 2, 4, 9, 11	Grade 2 Swimming Lessons
Oct. 3	Early Dismissal
Oct. 5	No School, Professional Learning Day
Oct. 8	Thanksgiving Day

### Stay Connected: Subscribe to our news

As of the 2018-19 school year, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is moving to a new service provider for sending phone and email notifications to families, School Messenger. Families won't notice much of a difference—all email subscription are being transferred so, there is no need to resubscribe.

If you're new to EIPS and want to start receiving Division news and update, or just want to review your subscription information, visit [www.eips.ca/contact/subscribe](http://www.eips.ca/contact/subscribe). Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) requires the Division to have direct consent before engaging in electronic communication with its families. Only those who have subscribed to receive emails will get information about Division and school-related news, such as 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.

### Pay School Fees Online!

School fee information for the 2018-19 school year is expected to be posted on the PowerSchool Parent Portal by the end of September. All fees are due within 30 days of being posted. 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, MasterCard or INTERAC Online—when available from your financial institution.

Don't forget to 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, athletic-team fees and more.



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If circumstances exist where you are unable to pay your student fees you can apply to have [fees waived](#) by submitting an [Application for a Waiver of Fees](#). The application deadline is Dec. 15, 2018.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines visit [www.eips.ca/schools/fees](http://www.eips.ca/schools/fees).

### **Quick Facts: EIPS buses are all equipped with video surveillance**

Did you know each EIPS bus is equipped with video surveillance? The video surveillance and equipment helps:

- ensure the safety of all students, drivers and property; and
- deter from destructive acts.

On a regular basis, EIPS Student Transportation reviews the video recordings, in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIP). The recordings assist the department with monitoring student and driver conduct, and may be used as evidence in a disciplinary matter.

For more information about the collection, use and disclosure of personal information, contact the EIPS FOIP co-ordinator at 780-464-3477.

### **Improving Home-School Communication**

To enhance communication between families and schools, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) has developed a how-to guide entitled, "Communication Protocol for Schools." Topics include appropriate channels to use, standard formats and structures, timing and sequencing for regular and ongoing home-school communication, and ways to bring forward questions or concerns. Additionally, the manual offers useful tools and resources schools and families can use to enhance face-to-face meetings, emails and any social media efforts. The "Communication Protocol for Schools" is available at [www.eips.ca/download/40981](http://www.eips.ca/download/40981).

### **Caregiver Education Series**

The Division, in partnership with Strathcona County and Elk Island Catholic Schools, is hosting a series of caregiver information sessions focused on ways to support youth mental health. The free sessions provide parents, caregivers, teachers and community members with information about challenges that can impact children and adolescents. Some of the session topics include: dealing with anxiety, teenagers and technology, cannabis, understanding depression and self-injury, test anxiety, building executive functioning skills, and limit setting.

Visit the [Division calendar](#) to see all scheduled caregiver sessions.



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### **Sync the School Calendar to Your Personal Calendar**

Did you know you can sync the school calendar to your own personal calendar? You can. Just visit <http://lamontelementary.ca/about/calendar> and click on one of the following calendar options you want to subscribe to:

- Add to Google Calendar
- Subscribe to Calendar (Outlook)
- Download iCal

*NOTE:* Using a mobile device, these options are located above the calendar. Using a computer, these options are located below the calendar.

Once you click on the calendar option you want to subscribe to, follow the instructions. Within seconds, your personal calendar will contain all of Lamont Elementary School's important dates including holidays, school-closures days, planned activities, events and more.

### **Enhancing literacy and numeracy**

As part of Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) ongoing efforts to enhance the literacy and numeracy of students in all grade levels, the Division is once again administering the STAR 360 and Math Intervention/Programming Instrument (MIPI) assessment tools in the 2018-19 school year. The tools focus on literacy and numeracy, are digitally based and offer an opportunity for students to demonstrate their learning. The goal: to provide timely information to teachers, help enhance classroom instruction and ensure student learning needs are identified.

In September and May, EIPS students in grades 1 through 12 will complete the STAR 360 assessment, which evaluates reading comprehension. The assessment takes approximately 20 minutes and can be taken on any digital device. Also in September, students in grades 2 through 10 will complete the MIPI assessment, which is a mathematic screening tool used to inform teachers about a student's math skills. For students in grades 7 through 10, the MIPI takes approximately 50 minutes and for students in grades 2 through 6 it takes approximately 20 minutes. The results of each offers the teacher a clearer picture about a student's learning needs and helps determine if subsequent instructional planning is required.

The scores of the assessments are not used towards a student's grade and there is no need to study ahead of time. Both simply provide the teacher with information to better understand where each student is in terms of reading comprehension and mathematic ability. If, after analyzing the results, it's determined a student can benefit from extra support, the teacher will contact the family to discuss possible support strategies.



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For more information about the Division's STAR 360 and MIPI assessment tools, contact Deb Barron, the Director of Learning Supports, at 780-464-3477.

Have a wonderful month of September!