



Elmer Elson ELEMENTARY

NEWSLETTER - May 2023

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ADMIN TEAM MESSAGE

It is hard to believe May has arrived and we are into the final term of the school year.

The June 5th School Council meeting is the final one for this school year. We plan to share the staffing plan for the 2023-2024 school year at this time.

We are excited for what the remainder of this year will bring.



Learning Uplifts All

EDUCATION WEEK MAY 1 - 5

The first Alberta School Week (Education Week) was held December 2-8, 1928. Its purpose then, as now, is to call attention to the importance of education and to show the public the good things happening in Alberta schools.

EDUCATION WEEK ACTIVITIES AT EEE

During the week of May 1 - 5 the students and staff at Elmer Elson will be involved in a variety of activities to celebrate Education Week.

- ♦ **May 1** - Bus Driver Appreciation Day
- ♦ **May 3** - Hats On for Mental Health - all staff and students can wear a hat for mental health awareness and receive a tasty treat donated by the Dickinson family.
- ♦ **May 5** - Reading buddies will be paired up to read with other classes.
Jersey Day

Throughout the week Mrs. Feser and Mr. A. will be guest readers in the classrooms to share their love for literacy.

ECS to grade 3 students are decorating placemats to be delivered to the Auxiliary Hospital and Pleasantview Lodge. Grade 4 to 6 kids are decorating special book marks to donate to the public library.

BOOKS FOR GIFTS

"The Gift that Keeps on Giving"

Many years ago a member of our School Council proposed a "Books for Gifts" program

The purpose of this program was to enable a parent or guardian to have a book purchased in honor of a staff member at EEE and have it placed in the school Library. Staff members appreciate this donation to our Library in place of gifts at Christmas or year end. If you are interested in this program, please contact Mrs. LeClercq. Payment may be made by cheque, cash or through School Cash online.



SCHOOL START SCHOOL SUPPLIES

We will be offering parents the opportunity to pre-purchase next year's school supplies for their children. This is completely optional for parents and all orders will be delivered directly to parents.

Teachers have reviewed the supply lists soon and more information will soon follow. The website is www.schoolstart.ca if you wish to find out more information.

A supply list for each grade will also be sent home on the last day of school if you would prefer to purchase your own supplies.



We hope everyone had a wonderful spring break. Despite our busy schedules, I hope you can take some time to join us at our last school council meeting of the year on Monday, June 5th in the EEE staffroom.

Falon Boll
School Council Chairperson

STUDENT DRESS CODE

Now that the weather is warming we want to review our student dress code. Our expectations are:

- All students are expected to wear clothing that is appropriate for school
- No inappropriate messages or images
- All students must dress to ensure coverage for midriffs and backs as well as no low cut tops or short shorts (shorts must ensure coverage even when students are active, bending or sitting - a mid thigh length or longer is acceptable.)

EASTER RAFFLE

Thanks to the overwhelming support of our Easter Raffle, we proudly donated \$827.65 to the Mayerthorpe Food Bank. We had almost 100 students take home small prizes from the draws.

Thank you to our school family for generously supporting this initiative.

Gr. 5-6 ATHLETICS

Students can participate in after school badminton on Tuesdays after school. It started on April 25th and will end on May 30th. Students are permitted to bring their own racket or use the school rackets.

RUN 4 FUN and KIDS KILOMETRE CLUB

We are excited to offer the running club to all grades this year and are amazed by the interest in the Kids' Kilometre Club at EEE and/or the Run 4 Fun event in Whitecourt.

All kindergarten to grade 3 students have the opportunity to participate in the Kids' Kilometre club around the school playground at noon hour recess. The vast majority of primary students have joined the Kids' Kilometre club. We want to thank our grade 4, 5, and 6 student volunteers for helping during primary recess.

57 Kindergarten to Grade 3 students will be running in the 1 km Kids 4 Run at 10:30 a.m. in Whitecourt on June 3rd.

44 of our grade 4-6 students will run 5 km on Saturday, June 3rd at 8:45 a.m. at the Kids Run 4 Fun. They are training twice a week with the staff volunteers; Mrs. Chittick, Mrs. Gour, Mrs. Mosher, Mrs. Chayka, Mr. A, Mrs. King, and Mrs. Hagman.

MAY LONG WEEKEND

We are excited that our families will have an extra long May weekend. The dates are as follows:

May 19th Day in Lieu of Parent/Teacher Conferences

May 22nd Victoria Day

**Classes will resume on
Tuesday May 23rd**



Please note:

May 29th - Staff Planning & Development Day (No School)

ATTENDANCE

Although we appreciate the effort parents are putting forth to keep kids home who are sick, we also acknowledge the importance of regular attendance.

The visual on the next page shows how every day counts toward your child's success.



EVERY DAY COUNTS!

1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem like much, but...

If your child misses...	That equals	Which is....	And over 13 years of schooling, that's...
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 1/2 years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 1/2 years
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

**How about 10 minutes late a day?
Surely that won't affect my child.**

If your child misses...	That equals	Which is....	And over 13 years of schooling, that's...
10 mins per day	50 mins per week	Nearly 1 1/2 weeks per year	Nearly 1/2 year
20 mins per day	1 hr 40 mins per week	Over 2 1/2 weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
30 mins per day	1/2 day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 1/1 years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 1/2 years

If you want your child to be successful at school then,
YES, attendance does matter.



Elmer Elson
ELEMENTARY

If you require support in getting your child to school consistently and on time, please talk to your Principal.

BEING THE CALM

If there is anything that all parents have in common is an insatiable desire to protect our children. It is an instinct unlike no other. Just a quick scroll through the news or social media instills an unfathomable fear of impending risk to our children and with that fear is a deep knowing that there is literally nothing we would not do to protect them.

When frightening things happen in the world, or even in our community, we are often torn about what to say and how much information to share to reassure our children that they are safe. Honesty is ALWAYS best. Stick to the facts and what we know to be true. Consider the age and maturity level of the child. Not every child can handle all the details of every scary or stressful situation.

In 24 years of crisis and trauma work with families, the most common needs I hear children express:

Am I safe?

Can I trust the adults in my life?

When can things go back to normal?

How we discuss frightening situations with our children can impact their beliefs about the world we live in. Will we focus on fear and all the bad things that COULD happen? Or will we focus on the good people who are working at keeping the world safe? As the safe adults in our children's lives, our message should be: scary things may happen in this world but together, as family, school, community, we are strong enough to handle it.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO CREATE CALM FOR OUR CHILDREN?

We can point out the good we see everyday, particularly amidst a crisis: look for the *heroes* and the *helpers*, look for *kindness*, *bravery* and *courage*.

We can remind our children that most people are *good* and *kind* and have no intention of hurting them.

- ♦ We can monitor the amount of negative news and social media we ingest as a family.
- ♦ We can take time to self-reflect about our own feelings and behaviors. We are the models for our children and they will follow our lead.
- ♦ We must ask ourselves: are we adding to the stress or are we creating calm?
- ♦ We can ensure that our words match our behaviors. Are we saying to our children that everything is okay and not worry, yet they watch us cry or act angry? If our children do hear our voice tremble or see tears, it's important we are comfortable with our emotions and concerns, then explain our feelings AND reassure them we love them and will support them always.
- ♦ We can be sure to keep the focus on our children's feelings and not to make stressful situations about US.



This article was submitted by Tammy Charko BA, BSW, RSW. Tammy is Northern Gateway Public School's Student Support Facilitator. She is a support for schools, students, parents and caregivers to encourage success in school. Tammy advocates for students and provides a link between the student and other supports within the community. Tammy has been a social worker for over 24 years and is a mother to 4 children.

W E D N E S D A Y

MAY 3
2023



can we talk?

CANWETALK.CA

Wear a special hat to school,
to raise awareness of the importance
of good mental health.

Hats On!
FOR MENTAL HEALTH



The Alberta
Teachers' Association



Canadian Mental
Health Association
Canada

Global



Lemonade Day!TM

REGISTER NOW!

BUILDING THE **FUTURE** STIRRING UP **SUCCESS**

Mandatory Training Sessions for Kids & Mentors

4PM-6PM

- **May 9th - Fox Creek & Swan Hills - Virtual Training Session -**
https://us02web.zoom.us/join/tZYvc-CprDwuEtemRa10o1eDXjfo_nmTMGfh
- **May 17th Whitecourt & Woodlands County - Whitecourt Library - 5201-49 Street**
- **May 23rd - Mayerthorpe - Mayerthorpe Library - 4601-52street**
- **May 24th Barrhead - Rotary Room Barrhead Aquatic Center**
- **May 25th Onoway/Lac Ste Anne County/ Alberta Beach - Virtual Training Session:**
https://us02web.zoom.us/join/tZwrf-2prT4pEtbzDIXwWZn_PQZMKG2QXEQL

Presented by Community Futures Yellowhead East



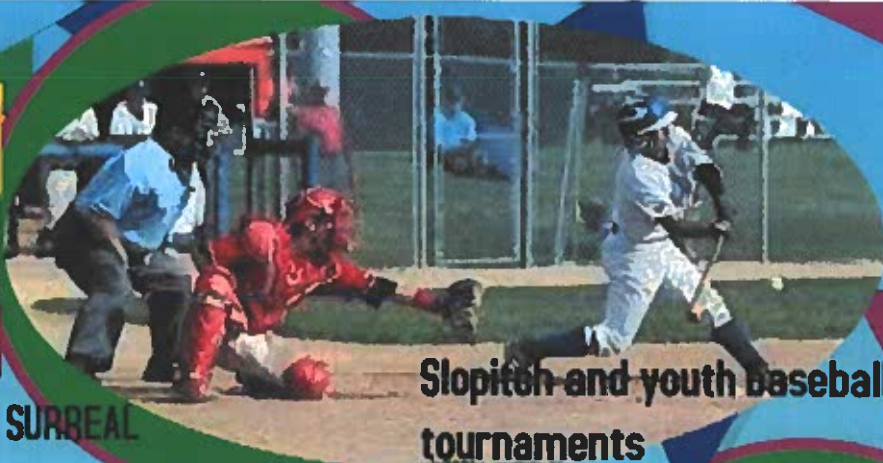
Register Today - lemonadeday.org/northern-alberta

LEMONADE DAY - JUNE 17, 2023

Youth Entrepreneur Event with Sponsorship Opportunity and Contest Prizes



BOUNCY HOUSES AND CIRCUS SURREAL



Slopitch and youth baseball tournaments



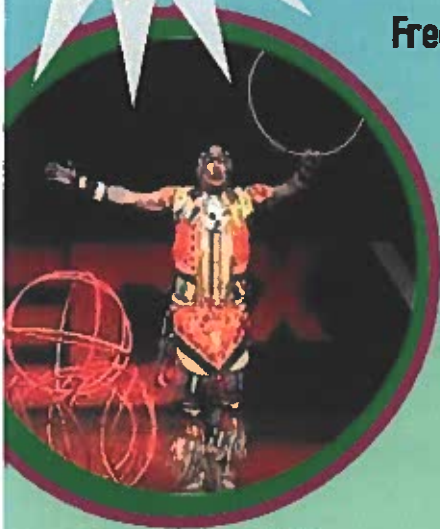
KIDS GAMES

PARADE

FAIRTHORPE...

Building our Future from the Past

Free grounds admission to all activities!!



**DALLAS ARCAND HOOP DANCE
PERFORMANCE AND WORKSHOP**

MAY 26-28, 2023

**MAYERTHORPE
SPORTS GROUNDS**

**FLEA MARKET &
TACK SALE**



RODEO

**FOOD
TRUCKS**

**visit our website for more details
<https://fairthorpe.ca>**

...AND SO MUCH MORE!!