

# Elk Point Elementary School

## January 2025



Box 600, 5410—50 Street, Elk Point, Alberta, T0A 1A0

Principal: Mr. Garth Finlay

Asst. Principal: Mrs. Reanne Mudryk

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### Upcoming EVENTS JANUARY

- 6 First Day Back—DAY 1—KA
- 6-17 Bottle Drive Fundraiser
- 15 Parent Council Meeting
- 21 February Milk & Hot Food  
Orders Due
- 28 Animal Day
- 28 Student Assembly
- 31 PLC DAY, no school



- Jan. 9- Hamburgers
- Jan. 16—Poutine
- Jan. 23- Magic Pizza
- Jan. 30—Taco-in-a-Bag



We are looking for volunteers to help with the Hot Food Program!

Please contact the office if you can help.

## 3rd Annual Bottle Drive Fundraiser

January 6 - 17 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Drop off your recycle bottles/cans in the trailer in the staff parking lot!

YOUR GENEROSITY HELPS SUPPORT STUDENT ACTIVITIES @ EPE

# School F E E S

If you have not yet paid your school fees for 2024/2025 please do so as soon as possible. Fees can be paid through Schoolcashonline

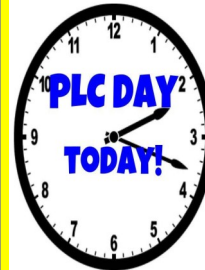


Thank You to everyone who supported Santas Anonymous this year. You made Christmas special for so many!

## January 28th



## Animal Day



**NO SCHOOL  
FRIDAY,  
JANUARY 31**

## INSIDE RECESS

When the Temperature/Wind Chill reach  $-25^{\circ}\text{C}$  or colder, it is our Division and school policy that students stay in at recess time. This does not change the fact that students need to come dressed appropriately everyday! For bus cancellations, please listen to 840 CFCW, Real Country 97.7 or check the Division website at [www.stpaueducation.ab.ca](http://www.stpaueducation.ab.ca) or download the Bus Status app.



**Please ensure your child comes to school with appropriate winter clothing every day!**



**PARENT COUNCIL**

**MEETING**

**6:30 PM**

**EPE SCIENCE LAB**



SPORTS

NEWS

## Skating Program Wrap-Up

Our school skating program has now concluded for this school term. Thanks to all those that submitted the Grade 3-6 skating fee of \$10.00. If you missed the opportunity, this fee can still be submitted through schoolcashonline or at the school office. Thank you.

A BIG SHOUT OUT goes to Christine Smith, our Grade 4 Skate Tying Coordinator. Your help was greatly appreciated and certainly did not go unnoticed:

Also, a HUGE thank you to all the family members who came out to help our students with skate tying and getting them on the ice quickly. Your help and support is the reason for the success of our Skating Program.



## Upcoming Events

BATTLE OF THE SIXES VOLLEYBALL - WEDNESDAY, JAN. 29<sup>TH</sup>

GRADE SIXES VS STAFF VOLLEYBALL – THURSDAY, JAN. 30<sup>TH</sup>

WINTER WALK DAY – WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5<sup>TH</sup>

# WINTER WALK DAY

On Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> the entire school will be meeting out in the parking lot after noon recess (12:38 pm) & taking part in our annual Winter Walk Day.

Every winter, thousands of Albertans celebrate winter and walking by participating in the Winter Walk Day in February & we will be joining them by walking for a minimum of 15 minutes in our EPE Families. Walking is great for our health, the environment, reducing traffic and building community.

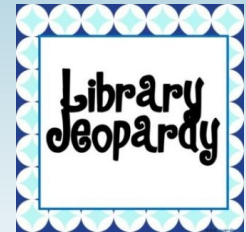
We would like extend an invite to all our EPE family members to come out and join us on our Winter Walk Day on February 5<sup>th</sup> at 12:38pm after noon recess. Hope to see you there!

# News from the Learning Commons



Welcome back! I hope you all had a well deserved break!  
Things are busy in the Learning Commons this month!!

WE ARE CONTINUING  
LIBRARY JEOPARDY  
WITH THE GRADE 5 & 6'S!!



THE GRADE 3'S ARE STARTING TO LEARN HOW THE DEWEY DECIMAL  
WORKS!! (ASK THEM WHO CREATED THE DEWEY DECIMAL SYSTEM).  
AS THEY MAKE THEIR AR GOAL THEY WILL BE ABLE TO  
TAKE OUT NON FICTION BOOKS!



## AR CHRISTMAS MARATHON!

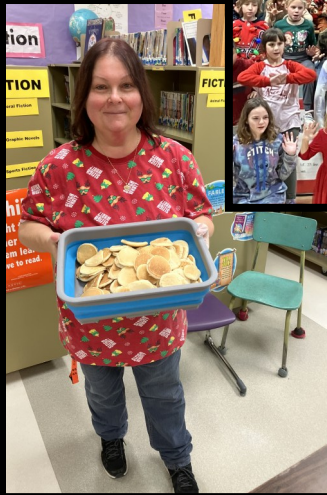
Each grade came to the Learning Commons for one period to listen to Christmas stories and take AR tests on them to earn points towards their goal.



Image by pngtree.com



After School Athletics  
will run every  
Wednesday in January



Elk Point  
Elementary

# BOTTLE DRIVE

SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

January 6 - 17

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**SCHOOL PARKING LOT**

Drop your recycle containers off  
in the collection trailer!



BOARD MEETING

# HIGHLIGHTS



## Remembrance Day

Schools across the Division held ceremonies to honor the sacrifices made for our freedom. We extend our gratitude to the special guests who joined us, making these moments of remembrance truly meaningful.

## Kutryk Presentation

Two community members from Two Hills approached the Board of Trustees seeking support for a tribute recognizing the accomplishments of Canadian astronaut and Two Hills School alumnus, Joshua Kutryk. Trustee Rajoo will represent the Division on the tribute planning committee.

## Council of School Councils Meeting

The Board is hosting a Council of School Councils Engagement Meeting on November 25, 2024 at 7 p.m. at the St. Paul Education Division Office.

## Criminal Record Check Bylaw

New provincial rules for local elections are resulting in boards and municipalities needing to decide whether to implement a bylaw requiring a criminal record check for individuals submitting nomination papers before running in an election. Such a bylaw would need to be passed before December 31, 2024. The new rules state that a conviction does not necessarily disqualify a candidate. Given the tight timeline, St. Paul Education trustees chose to defer the Board's response until after the next election and consider addressing a criminal record check requirement in policy for any elected trustees.

## Election Update

Nomination packages for individuals who might be interested in running in the October 2025 school board election will be available in January 2025. The Board is not planning any changes to its ward structure.

## New Curriculum Update

Alberta's government is working with education partners this fall to develop the junior high and career education curriculum. Drafts for Grades 7-9 mathematics and social studies, Grades 7-10 physical education and wellness, and Career and Life Management (CALM) will be created this school year, with input from teachers, system leaders, and subject experts. A public release of the refined curriculum is anticipated in spring 2025, and schools will have the option to pilot it in the 2025-26 school year.



## Education Act Changes

Bill 27: Education Amendment Act, 2024, was introduced by the provincial government to improve transparency and support student choice regarding topics of gender identity, sexual orientation, and human sexuality. The bill also establishes a right to education during emergencies, emphasizing access to in-person learning, with new requirements for emergency learning plans. If passed, these changes are expected to take effect for school authorities on September 1, 2025.

## December Board Meeting Date

The next Board meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2024, at 12:30 p.m. at the Division Office. A livestream will be available on the Division's [YouTube](#) channel.



## Literacy Update

A literacy consultant has been hired to provide direct support to teachers and staff, enhancing their ability to build early literacy and reading skills. The Acadience tool has been instrumental in identifying areas where students need support, allowing for the development of targeted interventions. To further support a systemic approach to literacy, a speech-language pathologist has also been hired to aid language development.

## Enrolment Update

Enrolment is down 70 students compared to last year but is 32 higher than projected, which will positively impact funding.

**For more information,  
contact:**

**Dr. Peter Barron**  
**Superintendent of Schools**  
[barrpete@sperd.ca](mailto:barrpete@sperd.ca)



**St. Paul Education**

*Learning Together, Growing Together*

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## BOARD MEETING

# HIGHLIGHTS



### **Personal Mobile Devices and Social Media in Schools**

The Board reviewed a new administrative procedure aligning with the [Ministerial Order](#) while allowing principals flexibility in decision-making. Parents and junior/senior high school students will be invited to provide feedback through a survey. The final procedure will be revisited and finalized in January.

### **2025-2026 Calendar**

The Division is in the early stages of planning the 2025-26 learning calendar. Two options will be presented, following a process similar to last year and incorporating feedback from staff, parents, and community stakeholders through a survey.

### **Public Engagement Survey**

Alberta's government is seeking public input for Budget 2025 to set financial priorities and support the province's growing population. Albertans can share their views through an [online survey](#) available December 3, 2024 to January 12, 2025.

### **Doug Yeo Award**

Congratulations to École Mallaig School for being the recipient of the Doug Yeo - Youth in Action Award for 2024-25. This annual award recognizes student participation in class or group projects in areas of community service, character development and healthy lifestyles. The school will use the \$500 scholarship to support their student-led Good Works projects that focus on spreading kindness and bringing value to the lives of others within their school and community.

### **Election Update**

The nomination period for the upcoming municipal election opens on January 1. Due to uncertainty with provincial regulations, the release of election packages may be delayed. The nomination deadline is September 22, 2025, with Election Day on October 20, 2025. The Returning Officer position will be advertised early in the new year. For more information, contact Secretary-Treasurer Jean Champagne.

## Christmas Concerts

Thank you to our staff for their hard work in preparing for school concerts. Parents and community members are invited to attend a concert in their area. Dates and times are available on our [website](#) and social media.

## Feeding the Future

Thank you to Cornerstone Co-op for their generous donation of \$18,200 to our school breakfast programs. This donation was made possible through the Feeding the Future initiative.



## Transportation Update

Transportation Coordinator Amy Whalen presented an overview of the Division's transportation services. The Division manages 21 bus routes covering approximately 7,000 kilometers daily. A key challenge is renewing the transportation fleet amidst rising bus and operating costs. Despite these challenges, the department has improved operational efficiency and cost management while maintaining a strong focus on safety and reliability.

Parents and guardians are reminded that inclement weather can impact bus routes. Downloading the Bus Status app is the quickest way to receive route updates. More information can be found on our [website](#).

The Division is actively seeking bus drivers and encourages anyone interested to apply.



## Audited Financial Statements

The 2023-24 Audited Financial Statements are now available on the Division [website](#). The year ended with a small surplus of \$197,178, compared to a \$617,136 deficit last year. While many variables impact financial outcomes, we are pleased to have aligned expenses with revenues after several years of deficits.

## January Board Meeting Date

The next Board meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2025, at 12:30 p.m. at the Division Office. A livestream will be available on the Division's [YouTube](#) channel.

**For more information,  
contact:**

**Dr. Peter Barron**  
Superintendent of Schools  
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**Introduction to Nicotine**

Nicotine is a drug that affects the brain and body:

- acts as a stimulant in small doses, but in large amounts can interfere with the body’s nervous system
- it can mess with the brain’s ability to focus and learn
- it makes youth more likely to get addicted to nicotine
- can make depression and anxiety worse and increase stress
- can cause short-term problems like loss of appetite, diarrhea, nausea, faster heart rate and blood pressure
- is a highly addictive chemical

**Reasons youth say they use nicotine:**

- to reduce stress
- curiosity & social influence
- they crave the high sensation (buzz)

**Ways to counter the reasons:**

- help them learn strategies to manage their emotions and feelings; like being creative, practicing mindfulness, and being physically active
- talk to your teen about their goals and values in life and how nicotine might interfere with them
- knowledge is power – take away the curiosity and kill the cool

**Tips to support your youth to be nicotine-free; help your youth:**

- learn how to make informed decisions: together, learn the facts about nicotine and cigarettes, vaping, pouches, and smokeless tobacco
- understand the physical and mental health risks of using nicotine, and how their brain develops
- express their individuality and pursue their interests and passions
- calculate the financial cost and help them plan how they can use their money to achieve their dreams and goals

**Help your kids create a future free from nicotine addiction - support them to:**

- stand up to industry tactics to market their nicotine delivery products to youth
- ask government to “protect them” from being the target of the industry with their “cool devices and candy flavours”
- be role models for their peers and younger children and youth
- advocate for nicotine-free spaces to play, to learn, to live

**MORE RESOURCES, visit:**

[Canada.ca](http://Canada.ca) – [Keep your Kids Smokefree](http://Keep your Kids Smokefree)

[TruthInitiative.org](http://TruthInitiative.org)



For information on mental health, community supports, programs and services in your area:



Addiction Services Help Line  
1-866-332-2322

Mental Health Help Line  
1-877-303-2642

# HOW SICK IS TOO SICK FOR SCHOOL?



## SEND TO SCHOOL

- A runny nose or just a little cough but no other symptoms.
- Sore throat but no other symptoms.
- No fever in the past 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine.
- No vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours.



## KEEP AT HOME

- Fever higher than 100.4 degrees F (38 degrees C).
- Sore throat, with other symptoms such as a persistent cough.
- Vomiting or diarrhea in the past 24 hours.
- Eyes are pink and crusty.
- Has been exposed to an illness where isolation is recommended.



St. Paul Education



[stpauleducation.ab.ca](http://stpauleducation.ab.ca)



# EXTREME WEATHER

## Is my child's bus running? Coming home early?

Throughout the winter, weather and road conditions are constantly monitored with the safety of students and staff at the center of all of our decisions. We strive to inform parents of any delays or cancellations as quickly as possible. Here's how you may be notified:

- Bus driver contact
- Call/text from your school
- Local radio stations
- Bus Status app
- Division social media (Facebook and Instagram)
- Division website  
<https://www.stpauleducation.ab.ca/transportation/bus-status>



### How we decide:

When temperatures and/or wind chill is -40 or colder, buses are CANCELLED. Notice may be given the night before or in the morning.

-40°C



Buses may run in the afternoon during extreme cold weather under certain circumstances.

Weather checks start very early with The Weather Network and phone calls to designated staff living in each local area.



Even if buses are cancelled schools remain **OPEN**.

- If your child attends: meaningful learning still occurs
- If your child is absent: efforts will be made to ensure they do not fall behind



Decision is based on:

- Local road conditions
- RCMP travel advisories
- Weather and wind warnings
- Local municipality

Your bus driver also has complete discretion to cancel a route should they feel travel is unsafe.



If a decision is required around temperature and/or road conditions, the Director of Transportation consults with:

- Local bus drivers
- School principals
- Superintendent of Schools















Parents always have the final say about their child's safety and well-being and can always choose whether or not to have their child take the bus.



*The Nations of Saddle Lake, Whitefish Lake and Frog Lake make independent decisions about their buses. Please contact them directly for any questions regarding their transportation policies.*

# JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 	2	3 	4
5	6 Day 1 KA 	7 Day 2 KB 	8 Day 3 KA After School Athletics	9 Day 4 KB HAMBURGERS	10 Day 5 KA 	11
12	13 Day 6 KB 	14 Day 1 KA 	15 Day 2 KB parent council meetings After School Athletics	16 Day 3 KA POUTINE	17 Day 4 KB	18
19	20 Day 5 KA	21 Day 6 KB Feb. Milk & Hot Food Orders Due! 	22 Day 1 KA After School Athletics	23 Day 2 KB MAGIC PIZZA	24 Day 3 KA	25
26	27 Day 4 KB	28 Day 5 KA <b>ANIMAL DAY</b> Assembly  	29 Day 6 KB Battle of the 6S After School Athletics	30 Day 1 KA Family Activity  6S VS Staff TACO-IN-A-BAG	31 PLC DAY 	FEB. 1