

Box 329, Lamont, AB T0B 2R0
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Judy Anderson, Principal
Jay Robertson, Assistant Principal

September Newsletter

Welcome back to the 2019 -2020 school year! The first week of school has flown by with all the excitement a new year brings! Again, we would like to extend a warm welcome to our new families to Lamont Elementary School. 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 into classroom routines. My favorite part of a new school year is feeling the positive energy and excitement throughout the school!

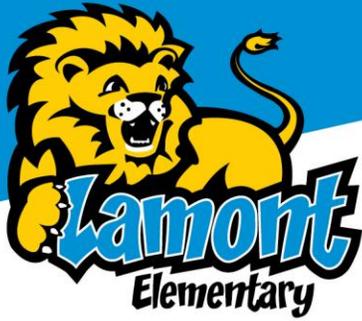
We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our Lamont Elementary families to drop in to **Meet The Staff on Wednesday, Sept. 11**. This is a wonderful opportunity to have your child introduce you to their teacher. To accommodate the busy evening schedules families often have, the evening will be an open house, drop in format. **Lamont Community Awareness** will also be hosting an open house in the Activity Room to showcase community clubs and organizations. We look forward to seeing you sometime between 5:00 and 7:00 pm. A special welcome to our new staff members including Ms. Sawyer (music teacher), Mrs. Lindberg (educational assistant in PALS) and Mrs. Kuzio (educational assistant in Grade 5/6).

The bell schedule remains the same for this school year with the day beginning at 8:40 a.m. The bell for students to enter the school is at 8:32 and dismissal time is 3:08. If you are dropping your children off, please have them use their designated door unless they are coming in late and require a late stamp from the office.

For the upcoming school year, we will continue to focus on honoring and recognizing students who are making positive choices on a regular basis. Last year we had so much fun at our monthly pizza lunches with the principal and assistant principal and will continue to do this on a monthly basis! Each month we will select two students from each classroom to join us for a special lunch. We look forward to spending some enjoyable 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. Please join us at the **Lamont Elementary School Council (LESC) Annual General Meeting on Thursday, Sept. 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the library.** Elections for school council executive positions will take place at this meeting and we hope to see many of you there!

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. 11	Meet the Staff 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Sept. 17, 20, 24, 27	Swimming Lessons - Grade 5
Sept. 19	LESC Meeting 6:30 p.m.
Sept. 26	Terry Fox School Run 10:45 a.m., Elder Wilson Visit 1 p.m., Girl's Night 3:10 p.m.
Oct. 2	Early Dismissal – Loonies4Lamont
Oct. 1, 4, 8, 15	Swimming Lessons - Grade 2
Oct. 11	Professional Learning Day - No School
Oct. 14	Thanksgiving Day - No School
Oct. 21 & 22	Picture Days

Upcoming Event...

**Lamont
Elementary's**
2019

Girl's Night

Who: Grade 5 and 6 girls
What: Baking, manicures and team building
When: September 26 from 3:10-6:00
Where: Lamont Elementary School- meet in Activity Room
Why: To have fun, focus on wellness and develop relationships



Moms, Aunties & Grandma's are also invited to join us on the night! If you would like to come, email jess.miskiw@eips.ca to RSVP



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First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education

Elder Wilson will be visiting our school on Sept. 26. He will be talking about Orange Shirt Day with students in grades 1 to 6. Orange shirt Day is on Monday, Sept. 30. We ask that all students and staff wear orange shirts on this day to recognize the Indigenous children who had to experience residential schools. If you would like to order an orange shirt, the form along with \$13.00, needs to be returned to the school by Wednesday, Sept. 11.

Update Your PowerSchool Information

The [PowerSchool Correction and Verification Form](#) is now available online, which replaces the paper form sent to families each fall. Families can use the form to access and update their child's information—including address, parent and guardian information, emergency contacts and any medical information. Reviewing and updating the form ensures the school has the most up-to-date information regarding your child. All **Lamont Elementary School** families are asked to review their child's [PowerSchool Correction and Verification Form](#) by Sept. 20, 2019.

For more information about the PowerSchool Correction and Verification Form and opt-out options contact the school directly.

NOTE: Parents or guardians who've opted out of having the Correction and Verification Form visible on PowerSchool, will receive a paper version to review from the school.

Pay School Fees Online!

School fee information for the 2019-20 school year is expected to be posted on the PowerSchool Parent Portal by late 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 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 certain school activities such as field trips, class projects, athletic-team fees and more.

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, 2019.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines visit eips.ca/schools/fees. Alternatively, contact **Wendy Motiuk, Secretary at Lamont Elementary School at 780-895-2269**.



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EIPS Launches New Cellphone Policy

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Board of Trustees has approved a new policy regarding cellphones. [Policy 24, Personal Communication Devices](#) outlines how students and staff use cellphones and personal devices within EIPS schools. The goal: To ensure all students use technology responsibly and develop skills in digital citizenship.

To develop the policy, the Board undertook a comprehensive review of the Division's existing procedures and practices used to oversee the use of student-owned technology in the classroom. It also conducted extensive public consultations with students, teachers, school administrators and EIPS families. Overall, the feedback was invaluable and provided a clear picture of how to best manage the use of these devices.

Policy highlights:

Students in kindergarten to Grade 6: No access to cellphones or personal devices during the school day, including during breaks and the lunch hour—the only exception, students with a diagnosed medical condition or an identified inclusive-educational need.

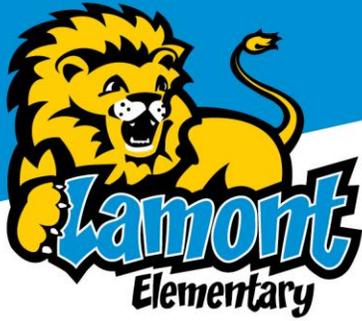
Students in grades 7 to 9: No access to cellphones or personal devices during class time—the only exceptions, students with a diagnosed medical condition or an identified inclusive-educational need, and when given permission by a teacher for a specific educational task or purpose. Students can access their device during identified break periods, including between classes and the lunch hour.

Students in grades 10 to 12: No access to cellphones or personal devices during class time—the only exceptions, students with a diagnosed medical condition or an identified inclusive-educational need, and when given permission by a teacher for a specific educational task or purpose. Students can access their device during spare periods and identified breaks, including between classes and the lunch hour.

The purpose of the policy is to ensure learning takes place in an environment with fewer distractions. When students can focus on what's taking place in the classroom and can interact directly with the teacher and other students, they're in a better position to grow and succeed.

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. The manual also



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offers useful tools and resources schools and families can use to enhance face-to-face meetings, email communication and various social media efforts.

Caregiver Education Series

The Division, in partnership with Alberta Health Services and Elk Island Catholic Schools, is hosting a series of caregiver information sessions focused on ways to support students' mental health. The sessions are free and geared toward parents, caregivers, teachers and community members who want to learn more about challenges impacting children and adolescents. This year, session topics include anxiety, ADHD, depression, self-harm, technology, teens and teaching leadership skills, and more.

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

Quick Facts: Video surveillance

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

ensure the safety of all students, drivers and property; and
discourage 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.

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 2019-20 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 is administered on a digital device. Also, in September, students in grades 2 through 10 will complete



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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 offer the teacher a clearer picture of a student's learning needs and help determine if subsequent instructional planning is required.

The scores of the assessments aren't used toward a student's grade, and there is no need to study ahead of time. The tools 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.

For more information about the Division's STAR 360 and MIPI assessment tools, contact EIPS Supports for Students at 780-464-3477.

Have a wonderful month of September!