

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

December Newsletter

Season's Greetings!

December is an exciting month as the holiday spirit finds us! We are really looking forward to the Christmas Concert as well as spreading joy to others. Our Grade 6 students are planning some Reindeer Games for us during the last week of school and of course the Holiday Gift Shop is in full swing this week!

Report cards will be available for you on Thursday, December 5 at 3 p.m. We certainly encourage you to celebrate your child's successes as well as discuss some goals moving into the next portion of the school year. A special thank you to our wonderful teachers who put in a great deal of time and energy to provide meaningful feedback about your child's progress. If you have any questions, concerns or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

The next **School Council meeting will be on Thursday, January 16 at 6 pm** in the school library so please join us if you can. We will be discussing school fees for the 2020-2021 school year.

Thank you for your continued support. Have a safe and restful holiday season!

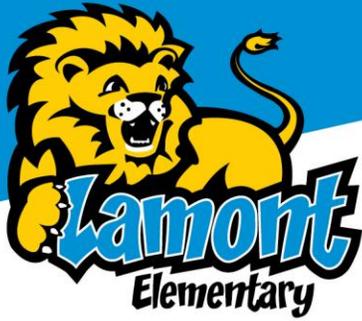
Sincerely,
Judy Anderson M. Ed.
Principal

Upcoming Events

Dec. 4	Early Dismissal
Dec. 5	Report Cards live @ 3 p.m.
Dec. 2 – 5	Holiday Gift Shop
Dec. 12	Christmas Concert @ LHS, 6:30 p.m. (dress rehearsal @ 1 p.m.)
Dec. 23 – Jan 3	Christmas Break
Jan. 6	School Reopens
Jan. 8	Early Dismissal

Christmas Concert ~ *A Christmas Wish*

Please join us for the **Lamont Elementary School Christmas Concert on Thursday, December 12, 6:30 p.m.** Thank you very much to Lamont High School for allowing us to use their gym for the concert. Ms. Sawyer would like all students to arrive at Lamont High at 6 p.m. and meet their teacher in the designated waiting room. There will be a **“Best Seats in**



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the House” raffle as well as a **silver collection** for the Lamont Food Bank. We look forward to seeing you at the concert as the students have been working very hard to prepare! There will be a first run through rehearsal at 1 p.m. on Thursday afternoon. You are welcome to attend this performance if you want to avoid the crowd of the evening!

Spreading Joy

Tis' the season for giving and helping others in our community. Mrs. Janssen and Mrs. Payter have spearheaded the **Spreading Joy** campaign for Lamont Elementary to collect donations of non-perishable food items and toys for the Lamont County Food Bank up until December 18. Thank you to everyone who has donated so far to our "Spreading Joy" campaign. If you find yourselves in need of support, please contact the Food Bank directly to arrange a food hamper. The number is 780-619-6955.

Counsellor's Corner

Scholastic recently provided some tips for parents to help reduce stress during the holidays that I wanted to share with you as we move toward this busy season:

1. Simplify Your Priorities

Ask yourself what your top priorities are this month, then write them all down: *Ex: Being with family as much as possible. Eggnog. Spirituality. An absence of fruitcake. Stress-free joy.* Now the hard part: Cross them off until you are left with the single value (or two, if you really can't choose) that is your absolute priority. The point here is to focus on what you care most about. Now ask yourself how you can arrange the season to be true to this one value as much as possible.

2. Take the Focus Off Gift Giving

From gag mugs to random electronics, a get-together can feel more like a bargain sale gone awry than a gathering of loved ones — to say nothing of the mall whirlwind that came before and the bills that come after. You can tone down the chaos with these less consuming ways to celebrate:

Establish a one-person/one-gift tradition. Try putting all the names in a hat, matching kids with kids and adults with adults. Sites like Elfster can help organize a gift exchange if you aren't near enough to physically draw names.

Whip up edible treats that can be enjoyed, then (phew) gone.

Give a single gift for the group to enjoy: a board game (Dixit is a favorite of ours) or a family outing like a cinema gift card.

3. Tame Toy Lust



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Lose the list. Instead of encouraging your child to spool out an endless tally of wanted items, ask her about the one or two things she might most like to receive.

Start stuff-less traditions. Try creating new traditions like a night spent in sleeping bags under the tree, a walk in Elk Island National Park or eggnog with breakfast. It's nice to be able to indulge the kids over the course of the season with a focus on experiences rather than things.

Nutrition Program – Lunch Crew Update

We can't believe we are heading into December. Our Christmas lunch will be on Thursday, Dec 19. Thank you to the Lamont Ag Society for donating the Christmas Hams. Watch for a new menu item on December 12 – three cheese tortellini!

Just so you know, our meatballs are always gluten free. Sweet and sour sauce is optional on rice meals. We offer pizza buns with no cheese or no meat. We are going to change up the baked potatoes based on feedback from the students. Please let your child know that we will be washing them in our kitchen from now on. Thank you to the students who let us know they had gritty potatoes so we can ensure quality lunches for everyone!

In January we are going to try oatmeal for lunch, lazy cabbage rolls as a side and lasagna. The lasagna will be very plain – meat, tomato sauce, cheese and lasagna noodles in layers.

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who help us serve lunch. If you ever have feedback or questions about our menu items, or if you would like to come in to help serve lunch, don't hesitate to text Judy Taylor at 780-405-1901 or inquire at the school office.

Library News

The Library will be **SPINNING** December 9-12. All students who return their library books have a chance to spin the Library Prize Wheel. Please help your child find those lost and misplaced library books.

Reading Club: On Tuesday and Thursdays, during lunch recess, students in Grade 5 and 6 can come to the library to read. Spending time reading should be part of each child's day and we would just like to encourage our students to curl up with a good book and read.

Library Leaders: Thank you to my Grade 6 library helpers who have been such a great help in the library. They are willing to tackle any job from collecting books, tidying the library, helping with bulletin boards, and decorating the library for Christmas.





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One final thought as you consider gifts for your child this Christmas
Books make wonderful gifts that keep on giving!

LME Athletics Update

Volleyball season has come to an end. Thank you to Ms. Budd, Mrs. Lechelt, Mrs. Marouelli and Mr. Robertson for coaching this season. We had over 30 students take part in our weekly practices and the students have shown great improvement. Congratulations to the players selected to represent the school in the Waskatenau games and in the Fultonvale tournament. Great job in both events, way to go Lions!

Basketball season and Track season are just around the corner. Stay tuned for tryout announcements as we get set to offer both these sports starting in January.

Kindergarten Registration Starts Soon!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2020? If so, it's almost time to register for kindergarten.

Kindergarten registration opens for the 2020-21 school year on **Feb. 1, 2020**.

To help families prepare, Elk Island Public Schools has put together an online toolkit—available at www.eips.ca/kindergarten—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.

Returning Student Registration for 2020-21

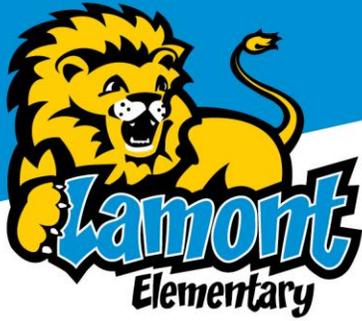
Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) will once again conduct an online returning student registration process to confirm student registrations for the 2020-21 school year. Families of all returning students must complete the process to confirm the school their child plans to attend in the 2020-21 school year. Additionally, students who want to attend a non-designated school need to make that request through the returning student registration process—acceptance is based on available space. The 2020-21 returning student registration takes place between Feb. 1-29, 2020.

Access to the Returning Student Registration Form is provided through the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). If you don't have a PowerSchool Parent Portal account, you need to set one up before Feb. 1, 2020.

[Create a PowerSchool Parent Portal account](#)

For more information contact please contact us directly at the school office.





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Winter Break

Lamont Elementary School will close for the winter break at the end of the day on Dec. 20, 2019. The school will reopen on Jan. 6, 2020. During this time, if you have any school-related questions or concerns, contact Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Central Services at 780-464-3477.

EIPS Central Services Winter Break Hours

Closed December 25-January 1
Open January 2-3 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

*for location and contact information visit www.eips.ca.

From everyone at Elk Island Public Schools, we wish all of you a happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Board of Trustees

For many, including myself, December is a time for reflection and gratitude. As we wind down 2019 and head into the winter break, I want to extend warm holiday wishes to all our students, staff and families on behalf of the Elk Island Public Schools Board of Trustees. I also want to sincerely thank of each you for the contributions you bring to the Division on an ongoing basis. You are our partners in education. And, because of that, we're making a difference in the learning experiences and opportunities of all students within EIPS.

We hope all of you enjoy this special time of year and have a chance to attend some of the many school concerts and special events taking place Divisionwide. To all of you, have a wonderful holiday season and a new year filled with joy.

We look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday, Jan. 6, 2019.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays,

Trina Boymook
EIPS Board Chair