



## September 2020 Newsletter

Welcome back to the 2020 -2021 school year! My name is Kari Huk and I am very excited to be the new principal of Lamont Elementary. The first week of school has flown by with all the excitement a new year brings and this year will definitely be a memorable one as we learn new ways of having fun at school while staying safe. The staggered start has been a wonderful way to have smaller groups settle into the routines and ease back into school. Thank you for your support, understanding, feedback and positivity as we implement procedures and protocols to support our re-entry plan. We have missed you! 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, 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!

A special welcome to our new staff members including Mrs. Teri-Lynn Whitrow (Grade 2/3), Ms. Karie Howatt (PALS) and Mrs. Jessica Moen (FSLW). Welcome back to Mrs. Nicole Oviatt (Music) who is returning from her maternity leave.

**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 8:35 and dismissal time is 3:08.** When students arrive at school, they will line up with their class at their designated door. Their teacher will meet them outside and bring them in the school. If children are late, they will enter the school through the front doors to sign in at the office. Please call the office (780) 895-2269 to let us know when your child arrives and we will let them in.

For the upcoming school year, we will continue to focus on honoring and recognizing students who are making positive choices on a regular basis. Each month we will select two students from each classroom to receive a special lunch delivered to their classroom. 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 Wednesday, September 23 at 6:30 p.m. We will be meeting virtually through Google Meet and will send a link for the meeting closer to the date.** 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!

### **Upcoming Events**

Sept. 23      LESC Meeting 6:30 p.m. Virtually on Google Meet  
Sept. 30      Orange Shirt Day  
Oct. 7        Early Dismissal – Loonies4Lamont  
Oct. 9        Professional Learning Day - No School  
Oct. 12      Thanksgiving Day - No School  
Oct. 19&20   Picture Days

### **Yearbook**

Our 2019/2020 yearbook is here! If you ordered a copy you should have received it by now. If you have not received it, please call the office at 780-895-2269. There are a few extra copies that can be purchased for \$20.00.

### **Update Your PowerSchool Information**

The "Correction and Verification Form" is now available online through your [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). 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. In particular, please pay close attention to all phone numbers, email addresses and emergency contact information. We will undoubtedly continue to have important information to communicate with families throughout this school year—whether your child is registered in in-school or out-of-school learning—and we want to ensure you receive this information. If you haven't already done so, we ask all Lamont Elementary School families to review their child's PowerSchool information by **Sept. 20, 2020**.

For more information about the PowerSchool Correction and Verification Form, contact the school directly.

### **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 for all in-school learners in the 2020-21 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.

At three points throughout the year, EIPS in-school 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. At least once throughout the year, in-school 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 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.

#### 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.
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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.