



## October Newsletter

The month of September flew by and we have had a wonderful start to the school year. We are blessed with an amazing staff who demonstrate their commitment and dedication to making Lamont Elementary School a warm and caring place to be on a daily basis!

Thank you also for supporting our **Terry Fox Run**. Ms.Budd, Mrs.Kelly and Mrs. Marks did a fantastic job organizing the run in a COVID friendly way and we were reminded why it is so important to do our part for cancer research. We also recognized Orange Shirt Day this week. We hosted Jeremy Albert, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Advisor at EIPS. Using the Giant Indigenous Floor Map, he worked with our grade 3-6 students to learn about the history of residential schools in Canada, showing a commitment toward the ongoing process of reconciliation. Thank you to Mrs. Calder for organizing the events for this day.

On September 23, the **Lamont Elementary School Council (LESC)** held its first virtual meeting of the school year. Thank you very much to all of you who were able to attend. The efforts and support of the Lamont Elementary School Council is greatly appreciated. The next meeting will be on **Thursday, October 29 at 6:30 p.m. Via Google Meet**. I will send out an invite to join us closer to the next meeting date.

Mr. Robertson and I had a great time delivering **Pawsitive Choices** Pizza Lunches this week! The students have been working hard to follow the school rules, treat each other with respect and kindness, and make positive choices. It's a wonderful way to celebrate and recognize some of the good things happening around the school.

October starts with the excitement of **Read-In Week!** The theme for this year is **Read Around the World!** Mrs. Wisselink and Mrs. Whitrow have planned a fun filled week including a special day

on Thursday, October 8 where we can wear a costume or bring something from our cultural background to share!

In October we also look forward to parent teacher interviews that will be held on Tuesday, October 20, Wednesday October 21 and Thursday, October 22. These interviews will take place over the phone. Having parent teacher interviews prior to report cards will give you and your child the opportunity to focus on targeted areas for growth as well as celebrate the successes thus far.

We have a professional learning day coming up for staff on Friday, October 9 which leads into an extra-long weekend for families. I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Thank you for your continued support. If you ever have any questions, feedback or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,  
Kari Huk

#### **Upcoming Events**

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Oct. 7          | Early Dismissal, Loonies4Lamont   |
| Oct.5 – 9       | Read-In Week  |
| Oct. 9          | Professional Learning Day, Schools Closed to Students   |
| Oct. 12         | Thanksgiving Day, Schools Closed  |
| Oct. 21 & 22    | Picture Days  |
| Oct. 20, 21, 22 | Parent/Teacher Interviews (Phone) 3:30 – 5:15<br>Kindergarten Interviews – Oct. 20 & 21 from 1:30 – 5:15; and<br>Oct 22 3:30 – 5:15 |

#### **First Nations, Métis & Inuit Update**

September was busy with Orange Shirt Day happening on September 30th. There were lots of orange shirts throughout the school to remember the Indigenous people who endured residential schools. We also had the pleasure of having Cultural Advisor, Jeremy Albert, come out on this day to do some activities with students from grade 3-6 using the giant Indigenous Floor Map. Also, during the week of the 30th, each student created a tile for Project of Heart. They talked about residential schools and drew on their tile, symbols of hope and kindness, as well as Indigenous symbols such as: the buffalo, the Métis Infinity Flag, the Inuksuk and the Medicine Wheel. We will be combining all these tiles together to display within the school. Coming up in October, we look forward to having Cheryl Devin come and assist with delivering the “Blanket Exercise” with our grade 5 & 6 students.

## School Pictures

The dates for school pictures are **Monday, October 19 and Tuesday, October 20**. Even if you do not intend to buy any pictures, we ask that every student get their picture taken for our school yearbook. On Monday, October 19, Kindergarten, PALS, and grades 1 through 3 will have their pictures taken. On Tuesday, October 20, Kindergarten, PALS, and grades 4 through 6 will have their pictures taken, as well as any students who were absent on Monday. **After Picture Day, order pictures on [mylifetouch.ca](http://mylifetouch.ca) using your Portrait ID and Access Code which can be found on your Picture Day order form.**

## Parent/Teacher Interviews - Phone

Parent/Teacher Interviews will be held by phone on Tuesday, October 20, Wednesday, October 21 and Thursday October 22, **from 3:30 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.** (Kindergarten parents will also be able to book for Wednesday and Thursday afternoon between 1:30 and 3:30 pm.) These phone interviews will be **10 minutes**. Report Cards will be available on November 27 so there is ample time for students to demonstrate their learning and achieve their goals after the interviews. We encourage you to book a time slot for a phone call. Please book your interview at [schoolinterviews.ca](http://schoolinterviews.ca) using the event code **wky4a**. Bookings are now open and will close on October 19. If you do not have access to a computer, please call us at 780-895-2269 and we would be happy to book a time for you.

## Library Notes

**Read Around the World** is the theme for READ-IN Week, October 5-8, 2020

*Sometimes the world feels like a very large place, but with globalization and new technology, it can feel very small too! No matter where you are in the world and where you are reading from, everybody has a story to share. This year's READ IN Week, let's celebrate kids' voices from around the world.*

*Whether we are sharing stories in person or virtually, whether we are near or far, whether we're physically together or physically distant, we are all connected.*

Our "covid friendly" celebration of Read-In week will include sharing of stories from around the world including stories in different languages. Mrs. Huk will travel around to the classrooms as our special guest reader. We would also like to create a digital "Foods from Around the World" recipe book. Please help your child find a favourite recipe that reflects part of your family's cultural heritage. The submitted recipes will be gathered and will be available on the Library's Microsite. Look for the World Recipes tab. Finally, on **Thursday, October 8 we are asking all**

**students to wear a costume or bring an item/souvenir that represents their country or countries of origin.**

### **What does Library Time look like this year?**

You will have noticed that your child is bringing home library books each week. YAY!! We are so happy to be able to put books in the hands of your children. The Library space is closed to students but books are being brought to your child's classroom during a scheduled Library Time. Students in Grades 3-6, have received instructions for logging on to the Library program – Destiny. Once they are logged on they are able to request up to 3 books. Each week I will sign out one of the available requested books to your child. Students can have a total of 3 books signed out at a time. Returned books are placed in the classroom Library cart. The carts are brought to the library on Friday, where they are “quarantined” for 72 hours. On Monday morning the books are checked in and new books are found for the students. Students in PALS to Grade 2/3 receive a new pre-selected book each week.

Parents, if you would like to be involved in helping your child choose books from the library, you may log into the Destiny program. You will find the link to Destiny under Student Links on the [Elk Island Public website](#) home page. Or you can go to the [Lamont Elementary Website](#) and click on the [Library microsite](#). I have included a link to Destiny as well as instructions for how to log-in and place books on hold.

### **Caregiver Education Series**

Alberta Health Services is hosting a series of virtual 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. Session topics include anxiety, ADHD, depression, self-harm, technology, teens and teaching leadership skills, communication, resiliency, and more

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

### [Communication Protocol for Schools](#)

Most email communication from the Division will come from [communications@eips.ca](mailto:communications@eips.ca). From the school level, messages will often come from [kari.huk@eips.ca](mailto:kari.huk@eips.ca) or [general.LME@eips.ca](mailto:general.LME@eips.ca). We encourage families to add these email addresses to your address book or safe senders list to

help prevent Division and school messages from filtering to a junk, spam or other folder in your email inbox.

### **Read In Week 2020 taking place October 5-9**

Read In Week returns on October 5. The theme for this year is “Read Around the World.” Through various activities, students—both in-school and out-of-school learners—will spend the week reading and learning how stories have the power to teach lessons, broaden perspectives and foster empathy.

Read In Week is a Divisionwide initiative held annually to encourage a lifelong love of reading and to enhance literacy awareness among students, staff, parents and community members. We invite all our families to participate in Read In Week with us by reading yourself, with your child or with someone in the community.

Don't forget to share what you've learned throughout the week using the hashtag *#eipsreads*. We hope you discover some amazing stories.

For more information visit [eips.ca](http://eips.ca) and [La Samaine de Read In](#)

### **Sync the School Calendar to Your Calendar**

Did you know you can sync the school calendar to your own calendar? You can. Simply, visit [lamontelementary.ca/about/calendar](http://lamontelementary.ca/about/calendar) and click on one of the following calendar options you want to subscribe to:

- Add to Google Calendar: Google calendar
- Subscribe to Calendar: Outlook
- Download to iCal: Apple calendar

*NOTE:* Options are located above the calendar.

Once you click on the calendar option you want to subscribe to, follow the instructions. Within seconds, your calendar will contain all of Lamont Elementary School's important dates including holidays, school-closures days, planned activities, events and more.

### **School Fees: Now available**

School fee information for the 2020-21 school year is now posted on the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). When you log on, you'll notice the fee schedule is different from previous years. Instead of a fee based on the entire year, fees are charged on a quarterly basis.

The fee schedule change accommodates students switching from out-of-school learning to in-school learning; the four-semester system in place at some schools, and possible fee adjustments if the province decides to transition to Scenario 2—partial return to school—or Scenario 3—the suspension of in-school classes. Fees for kits or equipment kept by the student are charged in full at the start of the course.

Each quarter, you'll receive an email notification letting you know fees are posted on the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). To access your fee information, go to "Student Fees" on PowerSchool. There you can view your fees and pay online using Visa, MasterCard or INTERAC Online—when available from your financial institution. All fees are due within 14 days of being posted. *NOTE:* School Fees apply to in-school learners only.

If circumstances exist where you are unable to pay your fees, you can apply to have [fees waived](#) by submitting an [Application for a Waiver of Fees](#). The deadline is Dec. 15, 2020—if new to EIPS, the deadline is the latter of Dec. 15, 2020, or 45 days after registration.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines, visit [eips.ca](#) or [lamontelementary.ca/about/fees](#). Alternatively, contact the school at 780-895-2269.

### **Celebrating World Teachers' Day: October 5**

October 5 is World Teachers' Day! Launched in 1994 by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Teachers' Day is celebrated annually around the world to recognize teachers and the integral role they play in providing quality education to students. On October 5, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) encourages all of its students, parents and community members to show their appreciation for their teachers and the positive impact they make on our lives.

To honour the day, EIPS is running its World Teachers' Day contest inviting friends, family, students and staff to share a story about how a teacher inspired them. Thank you to all those who have shared stories to date. Collectively they tell a story about the vital role teachers play in shaping the minds of youth and supporting their journey of success.

EIPS extends a heartfelt thank you to all its teachers for their dedication, hard work and commitment in guiding and educating our students through their kindergarten to Grade 12 years.