

Cougar Chronicles - February 4th, 2024

Staffing Update

We would like to welcome Mrs. Maya Underschultz to ÉCPS. Mrs. Underschultz has been on maternity leave and will be taking over the teaching duties in the Pre-K classes that Mrs. Osmond has been teaching. We wish Mrs. Osmond all the best as she leaves our school to substitute teach within our school division.

Alberta Education Assurance Survey

Each year the Alberta Education Assurance (AEA) survey gathers feedback on the quality of education provided by school authorities and their schools. Schools and school authorities use this information to understand how they are doing and plan for the future.

Parents or guardians of students in Grades 4, 7, and 10 will receive a survey invitation package by mail and have the option to complete the survey on paper or online using the provided Random Access Code (RAC). We urge you to complete the survey, as it provides us with useful information for planning. Please contact Mrs. Brunken should you have any questions about the survey or require additional information.

Report Cards

If you have not yet checked out your child's report card, it is available to view on your PowerSchool account. Report cards are no longer being emailed out. Please log into your PowerSchool Parent Portal, and under the Navigation pane on the left-hand side click **Student Reports** to view your student's report card.

Pink Shirt Day - February 28

Pink Shirt Day is held in Canada and other parts of the world, when people wear a pink-coloured shirt to take a stand against bullying. The initiative was started in Canada, where it is held on the last Wednesday of February each year.

The idea comes from two incredible Nova Scotia high school students in 2007. When a fellow student was being bullied for wearing a pink shirt they decided to take a stand. They went out and bought pink shirts to give to fellow students to show their support for a boy who was being bullied simply for wearing a pink shirt.

Help us create a kind and caring school and community by wearing pink on February 28.

Attendance Survey for the 2024-25 School Year

To assist in planning for next school year, a registration intent survey has been sent out to all families to complete. There will be many changes with the new attendance boundaries, and therefore we would like you to complete the survey to ensure that we have the most accurate information to begin our class planning for the fall. This helps us to know where students will be attending next year and assists in transition planning for students. Please complete the appropriate survey(s) by February 23.

For students currently in Kindergarten - Grade 5, fill out this survey.

For students currently in Grade 6, fill out this survey.

Spell-a-thon Fundraiser

Our Spell-a-thon fundraiser will soon be underway. More details will be sent home with students on Monday, February 12.

ECPS Carnaval

Our school Carnaval takes place the week of February 5-7 with fun activities and events promoting an appreciation of French culture. Check out all of the dress up days and events here!

ATA Teachers' Convention

The annual Teachers' Convention for northern Alberta takes place in Edmonton this upcoming week. There will be no classes for students on Thursday and Friday, February 8 & 9th.

School Division Photos and Parent Consent

The School Division has hired a photographer to update the photo collection that we use for Facebook and website posts, promotional brochures, and other school division purposes. The photographer will be at ÉCPS on Friday, March 1, and will be taking photos of students and staff at each grade level. These photos will be used for the next 5-10 years.

Consent is required for your child to be photographed for this purpose. If you consent to have your child included as a model for school division photos, please complete the 2024 School Division Photo Consent form on your PowerSchool.

Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten Registration

Registration is now open for both Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten programs.

Kindergarten: Children who turn **5** years old in 2024 and reside in our attendance area are eligible to register. Both English and French Immersion programming is available. For more information, please visit the Black Gold School Division website.

Pre-Kindergarten: Eligible children may begin our Early Intervention Programs (EIP-PreK) in a school within the Division in September if they are **4** years of age as of December 31 of the respective school year.

Children who qualify for Program Unit Funding (PUF) may qualify if they are **3** years of age as of December 31 of the respective school year and meet the criteria for PUF. Click here-for-more-information or to register your child for the upcoming school year.

School Fees are Now Overdue

School fees are now past due. Please log onto your PowerSchool account to view and pay your child's school fees. If you have trouble paying the full amount, please call the school to make payment arrangements or to request to have your fees waived. Fees for the school year are:

Grade 1- 3 Technology Fee - \$20.00 Grade 4-6 Technology Fee - \$50.00 Kindergarten Enhanced Program Fee - \$100.00 PreK 3 Year Old Program - \$60.00 PreK 4 Year Old Program - \$80.00

Other school fees may be charged for field trips, sports, and special events throughout the school year. A full list of all possible fees is available on our website under **Parents - Fees and Payments - 2023/24 Student Fees.**

Online Student Absence Reporting Form

We now have an Online Absence Reporting Form on the school website. This gives parents and caregivers another way to communicate upcoming absences with the office which will hopefully alleviate some of the extra calls and emails home every day.

You can find the form in the "Popular Pages" section on the main page of the website, as well as under the "Parents" section.

Dress for the Weather

Please ensure your student is set up for a good day by wearing appropriate outdoor clothing to school every day. Colder temperatures require students to wear warm clothing and be prepared to go outside - toque, jacket, gloves, snow pants, and boots. And on the warmer days like we had last week, waterproof pants and boots, and even an extra pair of socks or set of clothes in your student's backpack will help them stay dry and comfortable.

No parking zone

Parents and caregivers are reminded that there is <u>no public parking at any time</u> along the fence on the west-side of the school (by the bike racks). Parking here, especially during busy drop-off and pick-up times is a potential safety hazard for staff and students.

Clothing Donations Needed!

We are looking for donations of gently-used and clean clothing to replenish our supply for emergency-use at the school. Specifically, we are in need of sweatpants and leggings (please no jeans) for boys or girls in sizes 5-10. If you are able to donate, please send it to the school with your child with a note saying it is a donation for the office. Thank you!

Free LRC Pass

Spend some fun time with your family! We have a **FREE family LRC pass** that can be borrowed from the school library to use. You can check it out just like a library book! Contact our librarian, Mrs. Bendfeld, to get your name on the list to borrow the pass. Her email is: jennifer.bendfeld@blackgold.ca

School Council & Parent Association News

Our next School Council and Parents' Association Meeting takes place on Tuesday, February 21st @ 7:00 pm in the library. Come and meet our executive and find out what we are doing to support ÉCPS students! They are always happy to welcome new faces and hear new ideas - thank you to everyone who has come out to a meeting so far this year.

Nut-Free Bake Sales

Thank you to all of the parents who have provided items for our bake sales so far this year. We have had a tremendous response! All items at the bake sale are priced at 50¢ each.

Our next Bake Sale is on February 20 and will be hosted by **Gr. 1/2 Huber & Gr. 2 Boisvert - 18 items each.** Click **here** to see the full schedule for this year's bake sales.

Bakers: Please

- Our Bake Sale is "NUT-FREE" so please don't send things with nuts.
- Label your baking if it is catered to certain dietary needs (gluten free / dairy free).
- Label containers & reusable bags so they can be given back to the students.
- Cookies, brownies, squares, etc. need to be individually packaged (ex. Ziploc bags, plastic wrap) for safe food handling and distribution.

Buyers: Please

• Try to only send change for your child to purchase items. No bills (especially \$10/\$20 bills). We aren't always able to make change for bills.

Popcorn Day

Our next Popcorn Day will be February 29. Students can purchase a bag of popcorn for 50¢ with a maximum of two bags per child. Money can be sent with your child prior to or on the day of the sale. **Popcorn Day Schedule**.

Hot Lunch

Hot Lunch takes place each Friday (Thursdays if there is a PD day). Hot Lunch is available for students **GRADE 1-6 ONLY**. If you would like to order lunches for your child, please go to <u>Healthy Hunger</u>. **Hot Dog** orders are open for **Kindergarten - Grade 6** students. The order deadline is five days before the lunch date (Saturdays for Friday lunches). No refunds are available. If your child is absent on a hot lunch date, you may come and pick the lunch up at noon or donate it to the school to feed a child in need.

If you have any questions, concerns or feedback about the Hot Lunch Program, please email marleemoreau@hotmail.com.

Volunteers Needed for Hot Lunch, Bake Sales and Popcorn Days

We are in need of volunteers to make these programs a success. Please sign up through Sign Up Genius to join the crew! Click on the link below or sign up on our website under the Parents tab and then Bake Sale, Hot Lunch, or Popcorn Day. One time or on a regular basis - everything helps! The school requires that you have a Volunteer Form completed prior to starting. Thank you for your support!

Popcorn Day Volunteer

Hot Lunch Volunteer

Bake Sale Volunteer

Community & Parent Information

Early Childhood Development Expo

The <u>Early Childhood Development Expo</u> on February 7th is an event for parents, caregivers, and educators to explore the valuable resources available for their children in Leduc County. Think of it as a one-stop destination for individuals seeking programs, services, and insights to support their child's developmental and school readiness journey.

Family Oriented Programming

The Black Gold Occupational Therapy Team is presenting three topics related to supporting children from PreK through Grade 3. The next topic - Supporting Toilet Training - will be presented at ÉCPS on March 14. Click here for more information.

AMH Caregiver Education Jan/Feb 2024 Newsletter

To find more information on Virtual Education Sessions that are offered please click the link below. <u>AMH Caregiver Education</u>

Free Maclab Events

- The Maclab Centre offers free family events throughout the year. There are two more
 wonderful events coming up in the new year. They are free, however, tickets are required and
 are available at the library. All events take place at the Maclab Theatre. Please click on the
 links below for more information:
- Daniel Gervais Free Event Mar. 11/24
- BachTots-Zoo Dance Fee Event April 7/24

See below for upcoming Important Dates!

- Feb 5-7: ÉCPS Carnaval
- Feb 8 & 9: ATA Teachers' Convention NO SCHOOL
- Feb 12-16: Random Acts of Kindness Week
- Feb 13: Grade 5B to Extendicare
- Feb 14: Grade 4C, 4S, & 4/5R Skating (LRC)
- Feb 15: Ski Club @ Rabbit Hill (Grades 4-6)
- Feb 16: Hot Lunch Day
- Feb 19: Family Day NO SCHOOL
- Feb 20: Nut-Free Bake Sale (Grades 1/2H & 2B to provide the treats)
- Feb 20: Grade 4/5R to Extendicare
- Feb 21: School Council & Parents' Association meeting (7pm)
- Feb 23: School Spirit Mix & Match Day
- Feb 23: Hot Lunch Day
- Feb 26: No Pre-K classes (PD Day)
- Feb 26: Hot Dog Day
- Feb 28: Pink Shirt Day



