

February 2021

Principal's Note:

Holy Moly! Can you believe we are at the end of January? And we had only one day when buses weren't running and two days of inside recesses? That is something to be thankful for! Since being back to in-school learning, our kids have been busy and working hard. Having them back with us has been the best part of this year ... so far!

Our high school students had exam week the last week of January, some students have completed their first aid training, and we are busy preparing for the next semester and quarter. New high school courses begin on February 1. Our junior high students will have some changes in their schedules too in February. Because our teachers teach both high school and junior high courses, the junior high schedules are affected. We have been preparing our junior high students to follow a new schedule beginning on February 1.

February is the month that we focus on Kindness and to help us, we have planned a number of spirit days and activities. Please see the calendar at the end of this newsletter. For the first week of February we are really focusing on **Catching Kids being Kind**. Each time a teacher catches an elementary child being kind, they will receive a sticker on their shirt. The more times they are "caught", the more stickers they will receive. When your child comes home with a sticker, please use this as an opportunity to discuss what act of kindness they did, praise them and encourage them to continue to be kind - always! Our junior high and high school students will also be recognized for their acts of kindness ... just in a slightly different way. PJ Day will end our first week of February. We also have Teachers' Convention this month. Students will not have school February 10-15. This year teachers will be virtually attending sessions. We hope you and your family enjoy the six day break. We will

be celebrating Valentine's Day a bit late this year (on the 16th) and 100th Day on February 18th. February 24th is **National Pink Shirt Day**. Students are encouraged to wear pink that day in support of anti-bullying initiatives. And finally, to wrap the month up, we are having Tropical Day on February 26th - dreaming of distant vacations, and warmer weather. Just one way we will help kids fight the winter blues and stay positive.

February is also Black History Month. Throughout this month, teachers will be sharing stories, poetry, and discussing historic events with our students to honour the legacy of Black Canadians, past and present.

Can't wait to begin Kindness Month - Check us out on Facebook as we share our amazing students' acts of kindness!

Valentine's Day Celebrations



On **February 16th** EPS students will be celebrating Valentine's Day. Students are encouraged to wear red, pink, purple, hearts and anything Valentine's. We are trying our best to make each day special for our students and as "normal" as possible. This year Valentine's Day requires us to plan ahead and we need your assistance. If your child would like to give Valentine's Day cards to classmates and friends, we ask that they bring them to their homeroom teacher no later than **February 9th**. On **February 16th**, students will receive their cards from their friends. If classroom parties are happening, we ask for prepackaged store items to distribute to students in order to follow AHS guidelines.

Valentine's Carnations for Sale



Carnations will be pre-sold the week before Valentine's Day for \$3/carnation. Buy a flower for a

friend, parent, or someone special in your life. The money raised from this fundraiser will go towards our Spirit Day prizes and activities.



Still I Rise Conference

Some of our grade 7-12 students were able to take part in the Still I Rise Conference on Friday, January 22nd.

This conference was sponsored by Ever Active Schools and provided students with the opportunity to learn more about positive mental health and well-being for the benefit of themselves, their families, and their communities. Participants were able to attend an open Elders circle and three workshops with guest speakers. Thank you to Mrs. Grygus for arranging this opportunity for our students, as well as to Ms. Nevill and Ms. Delorme who attended the virtual conference with the students.

Breakfast Program Grant

Ecole Plamondon was approved for a food grant of roughly a grant of \$6545.00 to support the breakfast program for the remainder of the school year. This grant was given by the Breakfast Club of Canada Organization who is working towards helping children reach their full potential one breakfast at a time! The organization will provide our



school with some equipment for our kitchen including a Vitamix for making smoothies. The rest of the grant goes towards providing nutritious breakfasts for our students. This year our students are using the program even more than in past years and we thank all the staff who put in the time and effort to apply

(Thanks, Miss Kim) for grants, purchase items and deliver breakfast to our students each day. Go Hawks!

School Council

EPS School Council Executive

Bailey Walsh - Chair

Connie Williams - Vice Chair

Chasidy Bourassa (with Kim Gauthier assisting) - Treasurer

Christine Tredger - Secretary

We are still looking for **division reps**. This position is important as you will provide insight and perspective for students/parents in your child's division. There are three positions still available: Grades 4-6 (Division 2), and Grades 10-12 (Division 4). We are excited to work together to steer through this year of Covid, move forward in our planning, and continue to improve EPS. Thank you for donating your time and energy to this important council.



We would like to invite all parents to join our next meeting on **February 23rd** at 6:30 in a ZOOM meeting. The invitation will be on our school website and our Facebook page on February 22nd.

School clothing is available to purchase throughout the year and there are many items and sizes. The items can be seen by visiting: [Buy School Swag Here!](#)

Winter Clothing, Please!

Going outside is important to get fresh air, exercise and have some fun. Please help us make this time enjoyable for all. Children should bring **snow pants, toques, and mitts**

(maybe even an extra pair) to school each day. Junior High and High School students need to bring a winter jacket with them for the bus ride ... just in case. If the bus driver does not feel a child is appropriately dressed, the driver can refuse to pick up the student.

Preschool News

This month our class looked like Under the Sea. We created many creatures, our favourite was the jelly fish, We loved the "Pout Pout Fish" story and made ms Colleen read it almost every day



Our pet fish Goldy had many paintings done for him on one of Mrs Grygus's visits we invited her into our house for tea



Kindergarten

New Centres In Kindergarten! Our Kindergarten class has been transforming with some new areas for students to play and learn. Some highlights: a new dollhouse, post office - letter mail and parcels (this helps us practice writing our names and numbers),new lego, and our flower garden station bringing in some flower joy for Valentine's Day. How many ways can you represent the numbers on the snowman! We are crazy for diamond dots, look in the spring when we silent auction off our hard work. We miss nature, so bringing in the sticks, stones and shells we miss so much. So much learning, so many centres.... We love learning through play!!!!



Grade 1-2

The Grade 1-2 class have been learning about dinosaurs in many subject areas. Rawwwwr!



Grade 2



Grade 2 s are studying Arctic animals and have started our new social studies unit called "Journey to Iqaluit" to take advantage of our wintery weather right now. The students are busy reading, writing and

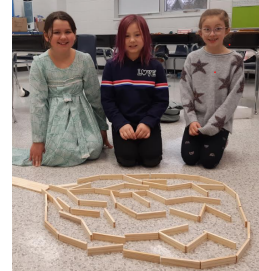
researching how animals and people survive in the snow and cold weather. Polar bears, Northern Lights and Arctic landscapes art projects are decorating the halls and our classroom. We are looking forward to Groundhog Day so we can learn about this tradition and some creative snow play. "Kindness" will be our focus virtue at school and we will be learning ways to show this to people in our lives.

Grade 3

This month the grade three students enjoyed a relaxing start of the new 2012 year! We played in the snow, built a humongous snowman and various structures with wooden planks. We also learned that palindromes are words or numbers read the same backward as forward, like level and kayak. Our class participated in a



school-wide palindrome challenge and won a prize - popcorn!



During online learning, in January the grade 3 class was required to make a bridge of

their choice (beam, suspension, or an arch bridge) from recycled materials, building blocks, or it could have been made outside using materials from nature such as snow, ice, wood, and anything else they could think of. They were also asked to research their bridge and write a report about what they built. We are currently continuing to do the research in



class.

Grade 4

It has been great to see all the grade fours via Google Classroom for the first week of January and now back in school. We have continued to work on our math fluency and keywords to look for when solving word problems such as, sum (addition), difference (subtraction), product (multiplication) and share something equally (division). In Language Arts, we've continued to

work on our descriptive writing through journaling and writing pieces in first and third person perspectives. In Science, we have culminated our Lights and Shadows unit by experimenting with luminescent glow sticks!

On another note, we have been receiving updates regarding our virtual classroom calf 'Adele' who is located at the Zahncroft Dairy in Pennsylvania. The grade fours have found it interesting and exciting to watch the development of our heifer calf.



Grade 5



Proudly, our Grade 5 students are 'going green' and working to complete their electric cars. Some of our cars still require improvements and modifications before the students race them to see which car travels

the furthest. If our designs make



new discoveries, we'll be sure to update you in the next Hawks Newsletter.

Did you know that the first electric car was invented nearly 200 years ago, in 1832, by Scottish inventor Robert Anderson! His car ran on a single charge, and then in 1842, Gustav Plante improved the design to use rechargeable batteries.



Grade 6

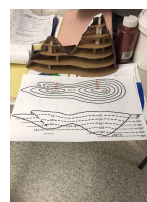
Grade 6 students are developing models of how Earth's atmosphere and the effect of climate on different habitats.



Students are working to create models from Contour Maps as we develop a better understanding of Ancient Greece in comparison to our local habitats and regions in Canada, and areas on Mars.

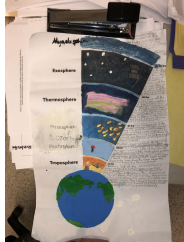
Mars is also known as the '**Red Planet**' because, well, it's red! This signature color comes from a large amount of a chemical called **iron oxide** (or 'rust' as you might know it) in its rocks and soil.

Mars is the second smallest planet in the solar system after **Mercury**. With a diameter (distance through the middle) of **6,791 kilometers**, it's roughly **half the size of Earth**.



It can get pretty cold on Mars — much **colder than our own planet**, since it's further away from the sun. At the equator, temperatures can reach **20°C**, but at its poles, they can plummet to as low as **-140°C**. *Brr!*

Mars is home to the **highest mountain in our solar system** — a volcano called **Olympus Mons**. Standing a whopping **24 kilometers high**, it's about three times the height of Mount Everest!



You could **jump around three times higher on Mars** than you can on Earth. *Boing!* This is because the planet's **gravity** — the force that keeps us on the ground — is much weaker.

Do you like to look at the **moon** at night? Well, check this out — **Mars has two moons!** One is called **Phobos** and the other **Deimos**.

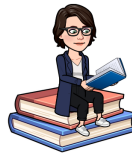
A day on Mars is **24 hours and 37 minutes** — only a little bit longer than a day on our own planet. A year on Mars, however, is almost twice as long, lasting **687 Earth days!** This is because it takes a lot longer than Earth to complete its orbit around the Sun.

Until recently, scientists believed that there was no liquid water on the surface of Mars — only rocks, soil dust, and ice. But... News flash! In 2018, they found **evidence of a lake** under the planet's south polar ice cap. Exciting stuff!

[Grade 9 English Language Arts](#)

Over the last month and a half, the grade 9 students have been studying the novel, [Touching Spirit Bear](#). This novel, written by Ben Mikalsen is a coming of age novel with the main character Cole learning how to deal with his anger.

[Learning Commons News](#)



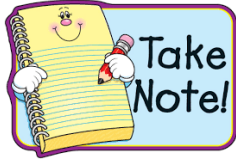
Hello from Mrs. Hilligas! I'm not a big fan of goodbyes but sometimes it's inevitable. After 4 years in the Learning Commons and over 21 years with École Plamondon School, I have decided to pursue a new career. I will miss everyone here at ÉPS, especially the students! I have so many favorite memories from working in the Learning Commons It's hard to pick just one or two. I loved how much the students and staff enjoyed the new library/learning commons refresh and how students from Grade 12 right down to Kindergarten loved playing on the Lego wall. It was especially rewarding to have students tell me how much they loved reading the books that I suggested and being able to read the books that they suggested to me. Makerspace and Literacy week were definitely highlights for me, even though they were a ton of work it was so great to see the students having fun and learning at the same time. I've loved being a part of the team here at ÉPS and wish everyone the best.



Hawks Athletics

Thank you for your patience as we wait to hear from Alberta Health Services and Alberta Government on how we can move forward with school athletics this year. If we are able to, we would like to see sports restart - even if it is just for practices. We are keeping our fingers crossed ... stay tuned!

Dates to Remember



Please check out our February Calendar at the end of the newsletter for important dates and fun activities.

March Dates:

March 5: Family Friday - No School

TBD in March: Parent Teacher Interviews















March 17: St. Patrick's Day

March 19: Day in Lieu No School

April 2: Good Friday/Spring Break Begins

April 12: First Day Back from Spring Break

February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February is Black History Month 	1 Kindness Week Semester 2/Quarter 2 begins 	2 Kindness Week 	3 Kindness Week 	4 Kindness Week 	5 Kindness Week Pajama Day 	6 
7	8	9	10 ½ day staff PD No school for students	11 NO SCHOOL	12 NO SCHOOL	13
14 Valentine's Day 	15 Family Day- NO SCHOOL 	16 Valentines color day (Pink Red, White, hearts) Carnation Sales! 	17	18 Happy 100 Days! 100 th day of school 	19	20
21	22	23 School Council 	24 PINK SHIRT DAY 	25	26 Tropical Day 	27
28						