



February 2023

Principal's Note:

February is Heart Month. This month we celebrate the gifts of generosity and kindness. We take time to appreciate the kind things people do for us, say to us and how they make us feel. We're also practicing the gift of giving. Both the elementary and senior high students are actively looking out for others. The elementary school is looking after our physical heart by raising money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation through Jump Rope for Heart. On February 10th our students will be skipping up a storm to raise money from kind donations. So far they have raised over \$800 of their \$1000 goal. If the students raise \$1000, they earn an extra recess and I have agreed to wear a clown wig for the day! Thank you to Mrs. Evdokimov, Mrs. Lein and Mrs. Ross for organizing this event. That same day, our grade 9-12 students are raising money for the Lakeland Out-of-the-Elements Shelter Society by hosting a wake-a-thon. Students are raising money by staying awake all night in the school. It should be a nighttime of fun! We are still looking for volunteers to help supervise our wide awake kids. If you are able to supervise for a couple of hours, please contact Ms. Stromquist at the school. Thank you Students Union and Ms. Stromquist for planning this fun yet important night!

January was a busy month for our high school students. Students studied, wrote exams, and earned credits. We began the second semester on February 2. There were 16 students and 2 staff members who completed their First Aid training over the last days of first semester. Thank you, Mr. Reid, for organizing this and to Mr. B Germain for returning to EPS to teach.

February looks to be a fun month. We began the new semester with a pancake breakfast for all - thank you, Baba Fedosia for making the pancakes! Due to the cold weather day on February 2, we enjoyed the pancake breakfast

on

February 7. So delicious! We have many activities planned: Groundhog Day, Jump Rope for Heart, Wake-a-thon, 100th Day, Curling playoffs, basketball tournaments and playoffs, six days with no school (Feb 15-21) which includes Family Day, Tropical Day, and of course Valentine's Day! So much fun in such a short month. Please look at our February calendar at the end of the newsletter.

Although February began with cold weather, too cold to go outside for recess, most days we explore outside fun during recess time. Please continue to send warm clothing with your PK-6 students to ensure they are warm while out for recess. As well, all students need to have warm clothing for the bus ride to and from school. During cold weather days, all students need to have a jacket with them ... just in case! Thank you for always working with us!

Hot lunches are once again available for purchase through Love Eats. If you would like to order lunches for your kids, take a look at our Facebook Page for order forms. A Google Form Link was also emailed out to each family. We are grateful for Love Eats and the amazing food!

Please take a look at our school event calendar at the end of the newsletter for all important dates. As always, feel free to come on in and have a visit. We look forward to seeing you!



Happy
Valentine's
Day

Valentine's Day Fun



The Students' Union will be selling chocolate treats and carnations on Valentine's day, February 14th. Carnations and Chocolates are for sale as a fundraiser.

Bring some pocket change to support our amazing Students' Union.

Formal Day: This is the students opportunity to dress in their finest for formal day. Tuxedos and Tiaras are always welcome!

Sock Hop

There will be a Sock Hop for pre-K to Grade 6 students in the gymnasium on Valentines Day, February 14, from 12:00-12:20pm. There will be colorful lights, music, and the gym for students to move around and get active for Valentine's Day!

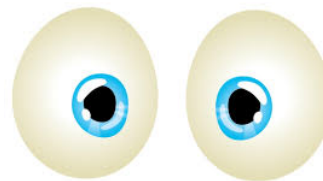


Jump Rope for Heart

On Friday afternoon our Kindergarten to grade 6 students will be skipping to raise money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada. Throughout the week students have been raising money in hopes to reach their \$1000 goal. If they do, they will have earned an extra

recess and Mrs. Grygus will wear a clown wig for the day!

Wake-a-Thon




Wake-A-Thon is a fundraising event for students in grades 9–12 where students will collect pledges/donations, and then stay

awake for 24 hours at the school. Our Wake-A-Thon will take place from **8 AM on Friday February 10th, until the next day at 8 AM on Saturday February 11th.** This year we are fundraising for the Lakeland Out-of-the-Elements Shelter Society. The shelter provides support for both men and women from Lac La Biche and surrounding areas. They are a Non-Profit organization that consists of a few volunteers who are passionate about bringing homelessness to an end in Lac La Biche.

Preschool

It was a month about creatures that live under the Sea. Our fav song was Slippery Fish, with an octopus, great white shark and humongous

whale  The book we loved to hear was The Pout Pout Fish. We climbed to the top of the snow hills and searched our classroom for a different Color each day. January ended with a fun filled Beach Day, with fishing, toss games and then we made our own mini aquariums.





Kindergarten

Happy New Year everyone! Our Kindergarten students have spent this last month returning back to our classroom routines. We have started our new bucket filling challenge this month since we reached our last goal of earning a pajama party.

We are continuing to work on letter recognition as well as letter sounds with various games and read aloud books. Students are also working on their speaking and listening skills with our show and tell unit that has started this month!

We will continue to look at numbers 1-10 and patterning in math. This month we have started looking at geometric shapes. The students are investigating 2-D and 3-D shapes. We will learn which ones can roll, stack or slide.

Grade 1

Mrs. Ross

The Grade Ones were busy in the month of January completing their study of alphabet letter names and sounds. We are now learning how to write words using the letter sounds. We will continue to practice our phonemic skills in February and continue to learn new sight words. The Grade Ones are learning how to add and subtract numbers up to 20. They are also learning how to skip count by 2s up to 20 and by 5s and 10s up to 100. We are continuing to learn about our families, and we are exploring ways families celebrate traditions.

Mrs. Sprecker

Over December and January we have been playing with numbers. Students put together combinations of numbers to make the number

of the day! See our pictures to see some of the creative ways the students made 13.

We are counting down and we are less than a week and a half until the hundredth day of school . We will be doing a number of activities with 100 over the next week!

We are learning to read!!! We are blending sounds and making words with short vowels. We are able to read all the books sent home daily. Ask your child to read them to you to practice their blending skills!



Grade 2

This month the Gr 2's have been studying various liquids in Science. They have learned the 3 states of water - Liquid, Solid, Gas. In Social they're learning the difference between living here and in the community of Meteghan on the Atlantic Ocean in Nova Scotia. Two more students have read books to the Preschool class and that class is asking for more to come be their guest readers! At Christmas they made and sent Christmas cards to Canadian soldiers based around the world. We have just participated in making Valentines for Veterans which will also be distributed by the Armed Forces. For several PE classes they

have had a blast climbing and sliding on the long snow hill at the north end of the school yard. We went to The Hungry Caterpillar play performed by Gr 4 students demonstrating the use of light and shadows from their Science unit. We participated in Reading Buddies with the Gr 4 class.



Grade 3

In science we are learning about three different bridges including beam, arch and suspension bridges. The students are researching and creating a poster about the bridge they picked. For the students that completed their poster they have been able to start working on a model of their bridges. The students were excited to find out that they would be able to use the newly purchased glue guns for our class.



Grade 4

This month we have been experimenting with lights and shadows in our science class. Students have been practicing what they know about shadows and light sources by performing engaging shadow puppet plays for elementary classes. It was a lot of fun!

Reading buddies are back! Our class has begun reading with our lower elementary friends again. This has been a positive addition to our Friday's as well as fostering confidence and leadership roles with the fours.

We're moving into short story writing in February. When students have completed their stories, students will be turning their creations into puppet plays. Check out the newsletter next month for picture updates.

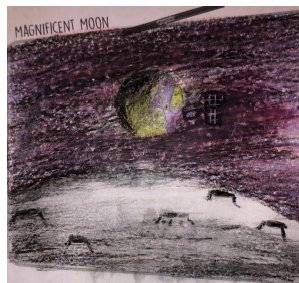
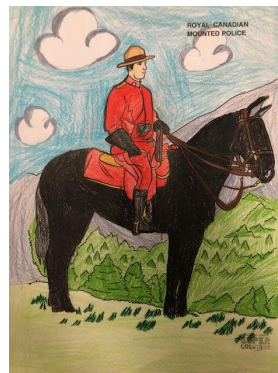
Just a reminder that if you'd like your child to study his/her spelling words at home, they do have the option to bring an extra list home. If one doesn't make its way to your kitchen counter, please let me know. I will send a list via email or send another home with your child.



Grade 5

The Grade 5 class has booked their field trip for May 18, 2023. Along with the Grade 4 and 6 classes, we will be attending the Telus World of Science. We have some of the fundraising done already from a few years ago, but we will need to do some more to pay for the coach buses that we will be taking that day. We are hoping to sell some tupperware. If you have any other ideas for fundraising, please email chris.mccullough@nlsd.ab.ca. Also, Grade 5 (along with Grade 4) will be attending swimming lessons on June 12, 13, 24 and 16. Further information on all this will be coming soon.

Grade 5 Students continued their learning about Settlers in Alberta, and the important role that the RCMP played in the development of forts and trading posts as settlement in Canada moved westward.





School Council - We Need You!
Join us in supporting the students and staff of EPS!

Executive

President - Connie Williams
Vice President - Anntonina Martushev
Secretary - Lindy Forbes
Treasurer - Colleen Shapka

Division Representatives

Div 1 - Heather Gauthier
Div 2 - Debbie Nipshank-Johnson
Div 3 - Destiny Alisby
Div 4 - Charlene Rutledge

Thank you to the parent volunteers listed above who have taken on positions. Although all positions are filled, we invite and encourage all parents to be a part of EPS School Council and PAC so you can be kept up to date on what is happening at our school and help guide our decision making.

The next meeting is scheduled for **February 28 at 6:30**. To make attendance easier, you can either attend in person or online.

EPS PAC has several **Bingos** to work throughout the year. If you are able to work one of the Bingos listed below, please contact Connie Williams at connie.williams@nlsd.ab.ca or at the school office 780-798-3840. Start time is 5:00 pm at the Lc La Biche Bingo Hall.

March 23 (Thursday)
June 4 (Sunday)

July 7 (Friday)
August 11 (Friday)
September 22 (Friday)
November 30 (Thursday)

EPS PAC is amazing! Thank you PAC for helping support our students and bring fun activities to our building!

Junior/Senior High Options

As the second semester begins, so begins a new set of option opportunities for our students. In order to supplement their option programs we are asking for a small fee from each student.

Junior High students will be asked to contribute \$10 per exploratory which will be a total cost of \$20.00 for the remainder of the year. High School students will be asked to pay \$30 per semester if they are taking cosmetology or drama as an option. We are asking for \$50 per semester if the student is taking any classes in the shop.

Fees are set up and can be paid for via School Cash Online or by cheque/cash in the office. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Mrs. Rebkowich at the school.

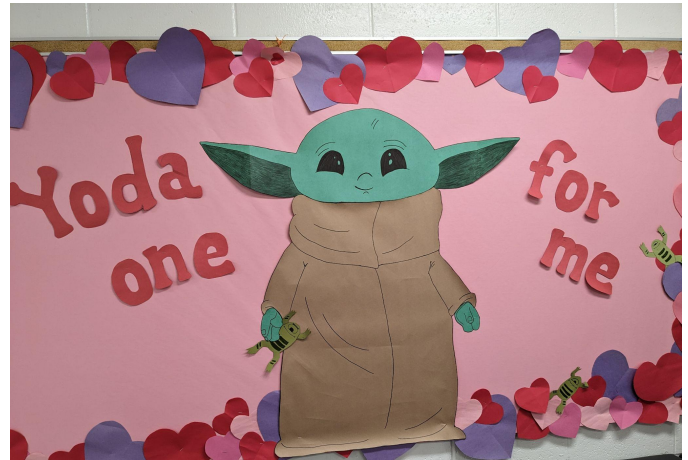
Learning Commons

Wow! It is the end of January already! We have been getting back into the swing of things in the Learning Commons! Our great new helper Eli has been cleaning up the lego wall and getting ready for some Valentines Day Cheer. He was also a great help creating this month's bulletin boards. Great job, Eli! We have purchased some new makerspace items and comfy bean bags for the Learning Commons with our

Scholastic Book Fair points which we will be receiving soon. More Legos!! Yay!!



The Grade 6 class enjoyed some story time with their librarian-of-the-day, Aftanom!



We have been reading all about Arctic and Antarctic animals.



Our bulletin boards are getting ready for our favourite Lovey-Dovey Holiday!



Graduation 2023

We have made it through exams, grads, great job! One more semester to go until you move on to the next chapter of your life.

As the term gets started there are a few items that we will need to take care of in order to prepare for the upcoming celebration in June. First, please ensure that you have brought in your photos for the slideshow. Ms. Kim will scan them for you and get them back to you as soon as possible. Remember that the students

working on the slideshow also need time to prepare as they have coursework to complete. Please give them the time that they need by getting your pictures in early. Second, please ensure that you have made arrangements to pay for your grad fees - either in one single payment or installments as long as you have started the process. Finally, it is time for another meeting which will be in person and virtually so that all parents and graduates can participate in a way they are comfortable. The next meeting will take place on February 27th at 6:30 pm. You may attend the meeting in room 150 at the school or at this link - [Grad Meeting Feb 2023](#) An email will be sent out prior to the meeting to remind everyone to attend. Committees will be expected to report on the work that they have

prepared in order to give everyone the opportunity to provide feedback.

FREE
Grad dresses and suits

Castle Downs Family YMCA (11510 153 Avenue) is partnering with Sherwood Park Elks Gowns4Grads to offer students a chance to pick a new or used dress or suit for free!

Friday, Feb 10, 2023 4-9pm
Saturday, Feb 11, 2023 11am-3pm

It's your night.
Go in style!

Y ELKS OF CANADA

Grad Photos - Friday March 10th

*Please sign up for your time slot on the prestigeportraits.ca link. If you need help, please see Lisa at the office

Hawks Athletics



Hawks Basketball

Basketball Season is in the midst of a fast-break and the Hawks are representing our school with pride! Our JV Boys placed 4th at an 8-Team tournament in Bonnyville on Jan 20/21, defeating Marwayne in the opener but dropping two close games in the Semi-Finals and Bronze game. The Jr. Boys Basketball Team was also in action for their first games of the season at the Bold Centre on January 21st. The teams dropped all 3 games but showed a tremendous amount of improvement



throughout, especially as they played with a short bench of only 7 players for the tournament. In their last game the team trailed at one point by 17 around half but rallied to pull within 1 point in the final minute before eventually falling to Aurora 47-44. Great determination, perseverance and teamwork was on display throughout...way to go Hawks!

Practice Schedule Link: [Hawks Basketball Practice Schedule 2023](#)



Hawks Curling Team (10-12): Coach Reid & Coach Watson

It has been an excellent start to our season and Coach Reid and Coach Watson are extremely proud of the dedication and work ethic of the Hawks Mixed Curling Team (Carleigh Reid, Ryllynn Campbell, Abby St. Jean, Erin Cyre, Braden Reid, Jacob Cyre and Afasik S.). The team has rattled off 2 straight wins in Plamondon Open League play and has shown consistent improvement throughout and looks to be peaking at the right time as we approach Playoffs. The team faced-off against Notre Dame (Bonnyville) on February 6th. EPS HAWKS won advancing them to Zones at the end of the month.



- ★ February 11 JV (Gr. 9-10)
Boys Basketball (Light of Christ LLB)
- ★ February 24/25 NE Zone Curling
Championships (Cold Lake)
- ★ February 25 Jr. (Gr. 7-8) Boys
Basketball West Wards (TBD)
- ★ March 4 Jr. (7-8) & JV
(9-10) Basketball District
Championships (TBD)

Physical Education

The end of January saw the 2023 edition of the EPS Stanley Cup Playoffs in Mr.



Reid's PE classes. All classes in Grade 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 were assigned to a team for the week to practice and compete in preliminary matches

before the series of playoff matches. Congratulations to all of the participants for a great show of sportsmanship and to the winning teams who will have their name added to our Stanley Cup!



Grade 8 Predators

Upcoming Athletic Tournaments & Events

- ★ February 6 District 3 Curling
Playoffs (Plamondon)

March Dates to Remember:

March 3 EPS Oiler School Night & Jersey Day

March 8 - Purple Day - Empowering Women Day

March 9 & 10 - Teacher PD/Family Friday

March 16 - Green Day - St. Patrick's Day

March 24 - Family Friday

Jr. Family Night
Simple Connections.
Stronger Families.



WINTER DATES NOW AVAILABLE
VISIT FACEBOOK TO FIND OUT MORE
5:30 - 7:30 PM - LIGHT OF CHRIST CATHOLIC SCHOOL - FREE MEAL

For more information: Call 780-520-9868
or 780-623-6743
or email cornelia.fechner@laclabichcounty.com



Family Day Movie



Monday February 20, 2023 1:00 pm
Free to attend
Concession items: \$2
Pamondon Festival Centre, Canadian Natural Theatre

PDCDS

SUPER KIDS



For Kids
7-9 yrs

FEB. 18
The Bold Center - 11 -1PM

Snacks will be provided.
Registration is required.
For more information call 780-520-9868

Tween Scene



Nerf Gun Fun
For Preteens 10 to 12 years old
Friday, Feb. 17 • 5 pm - 7:30 pm
Supper provided
The Bold Center
*Registration is required

To register call 780-520-9868,
or email cornelia.fechner@laclabichcounty.com



February



2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5		6 	8	9 Semester 2 Begins	10 Jump Rope for Heart Gr K-6 Wake-a-thon 9-12 	11 Wake-a-thon Ends Basketball Tourney 5 & 6 
12		13 Valentine's Day  Formal Day Grade 4-6 Sock Hop	15 No School 	16 Teacher's Convention No School 	17 Teacher's Convention No School 	18
19	20 Family Day 	21	22 PINK Shirt Day 	23 Tropical Day 	24 HS Curling Zone Playoffs 	25 HS Curling Zone Playoffs 
26	27	28 School Council Meeting 6:30	March 1 Grade 9 Meeting 6:30			