



## Elmer Elson ELEMENTARY

### NEWSLETTER - October 2024

Elmer Elson Elementary  
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Mayerthorpe, AB.  
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Fax: (780) 786-2050

#### ADMIN TEAM MESSAGE

Wow! It is hard to believe that we are through one month of school already.

We recognize that there has been a lot of paperwork for you, as parents, this month. It has been that way for teachers as well. Thank you for your patience, understanding, and time in completing these required forms.

The front entrance showcase has been completed. Each student has their picture as part of the display to promote school spirit and a sense of belonging.

Our current enrollment is 321 students. In September we welcomed Aubrey Hewitt, Hailey Neuman, Nelson Neuman, Cole Plamondon, Rhea Plamondon, Waylon White, Nevaeh Wells, Paisley Wells, and Harley Chapman to our school family.

We encourage our students to embrace new challenges, seek help when needed, and celebrate their progress, no matter how big or small it may be. We appreciate the invaluable support of our parents and guardians and encourage you to continue to engage in your children's learning and reach out to us as needed.

Together, we will make this the best year yet!

#### PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

We will provide you with more information regarding the booking of appointments later in the month. The dates for Parent Teacher Conferences are:

**November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>  
from  
5:00 - 7:30 p.m.**

**Please call the school starting  
October 28<sup>th</sup> to book your  
appointment.**

#### POWERSCHOOL REPORT CARDS

Your child's assessments and progress updates will be available for you to view through our student information system "Power School". You will require a log in password in order to access the information.

If your child was registered at Elmer Elson last year, you should have received the log in information. If your child is new to the school, we will provide you with the information so you may access their information online. You will be able to log in anytime and see the progress of your child(ren).

Information sheets will be sent home this week with all students who do not have a Powerschool account set up. If you need assistance please call the office.

#### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER



**October 11<sup>th</sup>** - Staff Planning & Development Day (No School for Students)

**October 14<sup>th</sup>** - Thanksgiving Day (No School)

**October 29<sup>th</sup>** - Individual Retakes and Class Photos

## SCHOOL COUNCIL 2024-2025 VOLUNTEER TRAINING 2024-2025

The first School Council Meeting will be held on October 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m. The start up meeting will follow a quick volunteer training session that will begin at 5:00 p.m. for new volunteers who have not received the training.

The Parent Fundraising Society will have their organizational meeting after the School Council meeting.

The next School Council meeting is Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 p.m. in the EEE staffroom. Please do not hesitate to join the Council.

## HALLOWEEN

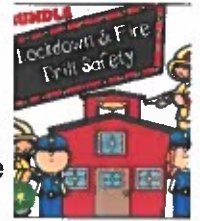


Halloween activities will take place on **Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>**. for Kindergarten to grade 6.

Students can come to school dressed in their costumes. Everyone is welcome to watch the parade a 9:15 a.m.

## FIRE DRILLS & LOCKDOWN

As parents, you send your children to us with the expectation that they will be safe. At times, circumstances may arise where we may need to put specialized procedures in place to ensure this happens. As such, we practice fire drills and lockdowns throughout the school year. Our school continues to find creative and safe ways to practice fire drills and lockdowns to increase preparedness.



## STUDENT SNACK SHOP

Mrs. Rizzoli, our famous snack shop lady brings the snack shop trolley to primary classes each day. The grade 4-6 students meet her at the snack shop during their lunch.

Most items are .50 cents however some items cost \$1.00.

The snack shop is not intended to provide the students' lunches but rather add to them.

## HOLD AND SECURE

In September we were asked by the RCMP to engage in an active Hold and Secure to ensure the safety of our staff and students.

This meant that our doors remained locked and no one entered or left the building until we received news from the RCMP that it was safe to follow regular protocols. We thank everyone for their cooperation and understanding that the safety of everyone was our first priority.

The Remind APP was used as our primary source of communication to inform and update parents as we received information.

## NGPS TECHNOLOGY AND MAINTENANCE FEE

There is a **\$32.00 Technology fee** for students in grades one to six and **\$16.00 for Kindergarten students**.

This mandatory fee enables school to keep current hardware for our students.

**This fee must be paid by October 28<sup>th</sup>.**

Please call Mr. Andriuk if you would like to set up a payment plan.

## BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Breakfast is available for students who have not eaten breakfast before they come to school or if they have had a long bus ride and are in need of additional breakfast before school. It is open for everyone!

Students wishing to have breakfast can go to the Community Kitchen when the 8:40 bell rings. It is important for them to be prompt so they are ready for classes at 8:50 a.m.

Due to the high demand for the breakfast program, we always appreciate donations toward the expenses of the program.

## BUSSING

We have had a relatively smooth start to the year with regards to bussing.

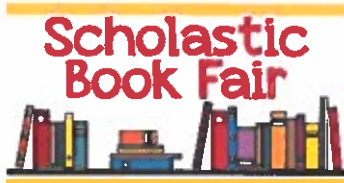
- ⇒ Please do not enter the bus zone between 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. as well as 3:00 p.m. to 3:20 p.m.
- ⇒ If your child rides the bus in the morning and will not be riding the bus in the afternoon, the driver must be informed. Please contact the driver directly or phone the school and ask for a bus note.
- ⇒ If your child did not ride the bus in the morning, the driver will not be expecting your child to ride the bus in the afternoon. Therefore, if you wish your child to ride in the afternoon, it is important to inform the school or the driver.
- ⇒ Please do not walk between buses when they are parked in the bus zone.

**Please call the school by 3:00 if you are making alternate arrangements for your child unless you have a last minute emergency.** We need time to contact your child's teacher and the bus driver.

## BOOK FAIR RETURNS TO EEE!

We are excited to be hosting an in School Book Fair  
November 4-7

Please watch for more information in the coming weeks!



## NATIONAL SCHOOL LIBRARY DAY



Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup> marks the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of National School Library Day.

Each year schools across Canada recognize the importance of school libraries and their connection between the school and the community.

## SCHOOL REMIND APP



Thank you to those parents who have already signed up for this app. We use it to inform parents of school activities and events. If you have not signed up yet, you still can join. This will certainly enhance school to home communication and keep you informed about school happenings.

**Enter (587) 316-2959 Text @eesch**

Each classroom also has their own class remind. Please be sure to join so you don't miss out on key information.

## DRIVE AWAY HUNGER CAMPAIGN

In previous years, we have partnered with Farm Credit Canada in support of their "Drive Away Hunger Campaign".

If you would like to make a monetary donation to help support our local food bank, please send it to the school by **Thursday, October 10th.**

## SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

You can register to pay all school related fees for your child online. Please call the school if you would like assistance with this program.

To register please go to:

<https://ngps.schoolcashonline.com>

You may also find the link on the Northern Gateway web page or on our Elmer Elson website under registration.

### ATHLETICS - MINI-HANDBALL

Mini Handball for grade 5 and 6 students will run after school Mondays and Wednesdays until 4:15 p.m. beginning Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Regular commitment from students help to improve skill levels associated with the sport.

Thanks to Mr. Andriuk and our wellness coach Mr. Schalm for being our volunteer coaches.

### MINI-HANDBALL 2024

We are excited to be able to participate in the annual Mini Handball Tournament in Edmonton once again. Students in grades 3 & 4 have the opportunity to participate in the tournament on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Grade 5 & 6 will participate on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

Registration forms and payment are due to the office by **Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

Please contact Mr. Andriuk if you have any questions regarding the tournament.

### TERRY FOX SCHOOL RUN

Our staff and students participated in the Terry Fox School Run on September 24<sup>th</sup>. We are proud to send \$1390.00 to the Terry Fox Foundation to support funding for cancer research.

Thank you for your generosity.



### JERSEY DAY

We have declared Wednesday, October 9th as Jersey Day to celebrate the Edmonton Oilers' season opener.



If you or someone you know is interested in opening your heart and your home to foster children please see the contact information.



<http://Alberta.ca/foster-and-kinship-care.aspx>

[1-844-957-0552](tel:1-844-957-0552) and

email [fostercaregiving@gov.ab.ca](mailto:fostercaregiving@gov.ab.ca)

# Help for Parents in Keeping Their Children Safe Online

October 2024

Online safety is a regular topic of conversation everywhere. Whether it is about a child's compulsive gaming, cyber bullying, obsession with social media or worse: online extortion or sextortion. It all causes stress and worry for parents and school staff alike.

I do not consider myself an expert in this area at all, however as a school division social worker, in contact with over 5000 students, a mother to four young adults, aunt to seven and pseudo parent to many others I have had my share of youth telling me their personal stories of the challenges and dangers they experience online. I also regularly communicate with mental health professionals, law enforcement, child protection workers and Cybertip (Canada's national tip line for reporting online exploitation of children) who have similar concerns.

## Disturbing statistics

Cybertip and the RCMP saw an **88%** increase in sextortion reports between 2022 and 2023 in Canada.

Cybertip received **2500** sextortion reports between January 1, 2023 and December 2023

91% of sextortion incidents affected boys between 12 - 20 years old

According to [The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#), between 2021 and 2023, reports of online enticement have increased by 323%.

It is impossible for parents to oversee all their child's online activity. Social media platforms and online video games can have unsupervised access to children 24-7. How can parents possibly stay up to date on the best parental control software available or be savvy on every video game and app that could be dangerous? It is daunting to think where to start in protecting the most precious and vulnerable members of our society.

## What are the best ways a parent can protect their child?

**TALK TO THEM.** Not to instill fear, but to teach them to be WISE, PRUDENT and SENSIBLE. Reassure them that no matter what, they can ALWAYS talk to you. Have open, honest, lighthearted and frequent conversations with your child at whatever age you first hand them a device that can connect to the internet. Two and three years old is not too young to talk about safety everywhere in your little one's life, even internet safety.

**KNOW THE PASSWORDS** and go through devices regularly. It is your right and responsibility (after all, you are most likely the one who paid for the device and whose name is on the account).

**PRACTICE GOOD DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP** and guide your child on healthy relationships and boundaries online, no different than when you teach them to be a good friend in their offline world. Show them how to report and block profiles that appear harmful or inappropriate. An excellent and thorough resource for families is [Canadian Centre for Child Protection](#).

**FOSTER RELATIONSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES OFFLINE** to have a healthy balance for everyone in the family. Face to face conversations will always trump screen time.

## Signs your child may be a target of online child exploitation

New "friends"

New things - material items or digital items like new apps or video games

More time online than usual

More secretive

Unexpected language

More emotional or volatile

Change in appearance

## Where to go for help if you suspect your child has been targeted online

Tell your child to never comply with any requests for pictures, money, etc.

Screenshot the message, report any and all extortion activities to the platform your child is using and block the user.

Complete a report to [cybertip.ca](#) or [tel:1-866-658-9022](#)

Report to the police

For more support go to [needhelpnow.ca](#)

When a person has been victimized online, they can feel alone, ashamed and desperate. It is important that they are supported. For more help [Kids Help Phone](#), [Recovery Alberta](#) or Canada Suicide Hotline 988. *his article was written by Tammy Charko BA, BSW, RSW. Tammy is Northern Gateway Public Schools Division's Social Worker. She advocates for students and parents, providing a link to other supports within the community. Tammy has been a social worker for over 25 years and is a mother to 3 university students and 1 in high school.*

# COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## ST AGNES PARISH



INVITES THE COMMUNITY

To Their

### ANNUAL FALL SUPPER

**DATE:** October 27, 2024

**PLACE:** Mayerthorpe Diamond  
Centre

**TIME:** 4:30—6:30 Meal  
Meal Tickets available at the door!

**Age 13 and up:** \$18.00

**Age 4-12 :** \$10.00

**Age 3 & Under:** FREE

**\*\*Bag Raffles & 50/50 Raffle  
also taking place\*\***



**EVERYONE WELCOME!!**



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mainstreet Mayerthorpe



All children welcome accompanied by an adult

PRESENTS

# Treat Street



**THURSDAY  
31ST OCTOBER**

FOOD BANK DONATION



SPOOKY TUNES AND LOTS OF TREATS  
**4-6 PM**  
ALL BUSINESSES MUST HAVE UP TO DATE INSURANCE PLEASE