



HERITAGE HILLS

ELEMENTARY

Heritage Hills Parent Weekly

December 4 - December 11, 2023

This Week at Heritage Hills:

Monday, December 4

- [Canada Learning Code Week Begins](#)
- [Computer Science Education Week](#)
- Christmas Food Bank Drive - Collecting items until Friday, December 8.
- Senior Ukulele

Tuesday, December 5

- Chess Club at lunch recess
- Ms K in the School

Wednesday, December 6

- Early Dismissal

Thursday, December 7

- Christmas Concert - Please see below for details
ECS concert - starts at 2:30 pm and runs until the end of the school day
Grades 1,2,3 - 6:00 pm
Grades 4,5,6 - 7:15 pm
- Ms K in the School

Friday, December 8

- Grade Three Ukulele

Monday, December 11

- Ms K in the School
- Senior Ukulele

Principal:

As we move into December we now have three weeks of school until our winter break. This Thursday, we will be hosting our first Christmas Concert at Heritage Hills Elementary School. We are very excited to have this event at our school, but there are a great deal of logistics to consider. We thank you in advance for your support and patience as this is a learning experience and opportunity for all of us.

Literacy at HHE:

Literacy is one of Heritage Hills Elementary's top [School Education Plan](#) goals. We pride ourselves on creating a culture of literacy and ensuring all students have equal access to resources and materials throughout the school year. Since the school opened in 2020, HHE has ensured we have extensive resources to help teachers provide whole and small group instruction. We also have a large learning commons and book room where students have access to a variety of book series and genres. We embed literacy initiatives throughout the year starting with Dot Day. Some other highlights include, Global Read Aloud, Read In Week & Young Author's Conference,

Your parental involvement is a huge part of our literacy at HHE. We thank you for your help in promoting home reading at home, participating in literacy initiatives, asking your child about their day, attending parent/student/teacher conferences and looking at their writing pieces on lockers.

Food Bank Donations:

From December 4 - 8 we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Strathcona Food Bank. Feel free to bring items the evening of the Christmas concert as we will have a table set up.

Counsellor:

The holidays are an exciting and happy time for many people. However, it is important to acknowledge that the holidays can also be very stressful for a lot of parents and families. [Psychology Today](#) offers some ideas for parents and guardians on ways to help their children through the season.

Registration is open for [Strathcona County's, Family Resource Networks](#) free programming for children, youth, parents, and guardians available from January through to March.

Programming for youth includes;

Confident Kids (Grades 1 to 3), Challenge and Chill (Grades 5 and 6), Move Your Mood (Grades 5 and 6), Creative Outlet (Grades 3 and 4)

Programming for parents and guardians includes;

Straight Talk About Teens, Emotional Coaching (specific to 2 to 9 years olds), Triple P - Dealing with Disobedience (specific to 2 to 10 year olds) and Triple P - Teen Rudeness and Disrespect.

Christmas Concerts



Our Concert will be on December 7th and will be divided into three parts.

- ECS concert - starts at 2:30 pm and runs until the end of the school day
- Grades 1,2,3 - 6:00 pm
- Grades 4,5,6 - 7:15 pm

5:40 pm - Doors Open for Grades 1, 2, & 3 Concert. Families will enter through the main doors.

Once families enter, students can go to their respective classrooms and wait. Grades 4, 5, & 6 students coming with Grades 1, 2, & 3 families can also go to their respective classrooms.

6:00 pm - 6:45 pm - Grades 1, 2, & 3 Concert

6:45 pm - 7:15 pm - Transition Time For Families - After gathering child/children, families will leave out Grade 2 Hallway doors with children or the Grades 4, 5, 6 doors if they are picking up students from the English Grade 1 classrooms.

7:00 pm - Main Doors Open for Grades 4, 5 & 6 Concert. Once families enter, Grade 4, 5, 6 students can go to their respective classrooms and wait. Families who were present for Grades 1, 2, 3 concert and are staying for the second concert, their child/children will just stay in their respective classrooms.

7:15 pm - 8:00 pm - Division Two Concert

Christmas Concert Rehearsal:

Parents and Grandparents are welcome to attend our Christmas Concert rehearsal on December 6th. The Grades 4,5 and 6 rehearsal will start at 9:00 am and run for approximately one hour. The grades 1,2 and 3 concerts will start at 10:30 and run for approximately an hour as well. If you plan to attend the rehearsal, please arrive 10 - 15 minutes early to be seated.

Lunch Tips

- Send any cutlery needed for student lunches.
- Students are asked to take home any food they did not eat rather than throwing food out at school. This allows you to have a conversation about why something was not eaten and avoid sending items your child(ren) will not eat.
- Do not send food in glass containers. We have had a number of containers break this fall.
- Do not overtighten thermoses - it makes them very hard to open.
- Be allergy aware. Avoid sending Nutella, nut-granola bars, etc.
- Keep sending all the amazing lunches with healthy snacks and fruit and veggies!



Share Your Thoughts on Budget Planning for 2024-25

Alberta Education allocates funds to school boards to fulfill their delegated responsibilities of providing education programs for students in kindergarten to Grade 12. As part of Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) commitment to stakeholder engagement and to continue allocating resources according to local priorities, the Division conducts an annual budget planning survey to seek input from staff, families, Grade 12 students and community partners.

The survey is voluntary, anonymous and takes about five to 10 minutes to complete. The survey questions suggest possible budget areas for EIPS to focus its resources, which align with the Division's current [Four-Year Education Plan](#). If you believe there are other areas where the Division should concentrate its resources, you can also indicate what these are. EIPS will consider all budget planning input to guide future decision-making.

[COMPLETE THE SURVEY NOW](#)

Survey closes Dec 20, 2023

Grade 12 students will complete the survey at school.

Thank you for sharing your input to help inform Division planning.

HHE Athletics:

Due to the postponement of the volleyball tournament, we will provide an opportunity for grade 5 and 6 volleyball players to play on December 15th from 12-2:45 in the HHE gymnasium. Parents are welcome to come and watch as we will be playing against Westboro and Campbell Town. The purpose is to

have fun, meet new people and practice skills and sportsmanship. [Tentative schedule](#).

Athletics [schedule](#) for the year.

Christmas Break:

Heritage Hills Elementary will close for the Christmas break at the end of the day on Friday, Dec. 22, 2023. The school will reopen on Monday, Jan. 8, 2024. During this time, if you have any school-related questions or concerns, contact Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Central Services at 780-464-3477.

EIPS Central Services Christmas Break Hours

Closed Dec. 25, 2023 to Jan. 1, 2024

Open Jan. 2, 2024; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. *for location and contact information visit www.eips.ca.

From everyone at Elk Island Public Schools, we wish all of you a happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year.

Fee Waiver Application Deadline:

If circumstances exist where you're unable to pay school or transportation fees, you can apply to have fees waived by submitting an Application for a Waiver of Fees. The application deadline is Dec. 15, 2023. If you're new to the Division, the deadline is the latter of Dec. 15, 2023, or 45 days after registration.

To access your fee information, simply log in to the PowerSchool Parent Portal and go to "Student Fees." There you can view your fees and pay them online using Visa, MasterCard or debit card—when available from your financial institution. All fees are due within 30 days of being posted.

Don't forget to also log in to the PowerSchool Parent Portal regularly throughout the year. Fees are often added to your child's account to cover the cost of various school activities such as field trips, class projects, extracurricular activities and more.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines, visit www.eips.ca/schools/fees and <https://www.heritagehillselementary.ca/about/fees>. Alternatively, contact Amanda Trach, Business Manager at Heritage Hills Elementary at 780-467-7447.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Board of Trustees:

I want to extend warm holiday wishes to all students, staff and families on behalf of the Elk Island Public Schools Board of Trustees.

We're grateful to have school communities full of hard-working families committed to the success of their children. Education doesn't just happen in school, it happens at home too—in every homework assignment completed, every textbook chapter read and every test reviewed. Thank you for taking the time out of your day to cultivate learning at home, so that students are eager to strive for their best at school the next day. We also appreciate the countless hours school councils put into planning events and appreciate all the people who volunteer at and attend them. Your support is invaluable.

We hope you enjoy all the holiday concerts and festivities happening at your schools, and that you get some well-deserved rest during the break. To each and every person, have a wonderful holiday season and a healthy and happy New Year.

We look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Jan. 8, 2024.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays,

Cathy Allen EIPS Board Chair

Spread the Word: EIPS is Hiring Substitute Educational Assistants:

Do you know someone who may be interested in part-time, flexible work as a substitute educational assistant (EA)? Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is hiring—spread the word!

EAs are integral to the school team, assisting teachers with instructional and non-instructional tasks in the classroom and other school activities. Whether it's working one-on-one with individual students or with a small group of students in a class or special program, EAs provide support and assistance to help students achieve success.

Substitutes are needed to fill positions at all school locations until the end of the school year. The application deadline is December 8. If you know someone who'd be great in this role, encourage them to [apply today](#).

Kindergarten Registration Starts Soon!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2024? If so, it's almost time to register for kindergarten.

Kindergarten registration opens for the 2024-25 school year on Feb. 1, 2024. To help families prepare, Elk Island Public Schools has put together an online EIPS Kindergarten Tool kit to make the transition as smooth as possible. The kit includes

information on registration, important dates, programming options, what to expect, eligibility, how to find your designated school, transportation and more.

Additional information regarding Heritage Hills Elementary's kindergarten program is available at <https://www.heritagehillselementary.ca/>

Returning Student Registration: 2024-25:

Mark your calendars! Returning student registration for the 2024-25 school year will take place Feb. 8-21, 2024.

Families of all current students—with the exception of graduating Grade 12 students—must complete the process to confirm the school their child plans to attend in the 2024-25 school year or advise the Division of their plans not to return to EIPS. Additionally, students who want to attend a non-designated school need to make that request through the returning student registration process—acceptance is based on available space. Watch for more details in the new year.

Has your contact information recently changed?

Have you recently moved or has your contact information changed? Heritage Hills Elementary encourages families to review the information the Division has on file to ensure it's up to date. Using the Student Information Update available through the PowerSchool Parent Portal, families can review the current information on file for each student—including addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, parent and guardian information, emergency contacts, medical details and other related information—and submit any updates needed.

Reviewing and updating the form ensures the school and Division have the most up-to-date information regarding your child. Your review is especially important as the Division prepares for 2024-25 registration processes beginning in the new year.

NOTE: Only submit updates for the changes that have already taken place. If you're moving later this school year, you'll submit the necessary updates to your information through the Student Information Update after you've moved.

If you have questions about the form or any trouble with your Parent Portal account, contact the school office at 780-467-7447.

School Council and FAHHE News:

Thank you for your support of the FundScrip fundraiser. Gift cards will hopefully be available to pick up at the Christmas Concert. If not, we will let you



know. If you need to make alternate arrangements, please contact Lisa at fahhe.president@gmail.com.

Christmas Concert Silver Collection and Concession

We will be having a silver collection at the Christmas Concerts to collect change to go towards our outdoor playspace project. Also, after the Kindergarten concert and then between the Grade 1-3 and 4-6 concerts we will have a small concession available with some items left over from the Halloween Dance. Items include chips, candy, pop and cotton candy. All items will be \$1-2 cash only and in limited quantities.

Milk and Cookies

School Council and FAHHE are excited to bring a Holiday treat to the staff and students. On December 18th/19th we will be delivering some milk and cookies to everyone in the school.

We are looking for donations of nut free cookies, if you're interested, please click [HERE](#) to sign-up. Cookies are to be dropped off at the school on Friday, December 15th.

Hot Lunch

Did you know there is a universal hot lunch fund to assist families who can't afford the special lunch at this time. If you would like to access the fund, please email hhehotlunch@gmail.com.

Upcoming Hot Lunch:

Chopped Leaf Thursday, December 21st (Kinder B, ordering closes Dec 16th)

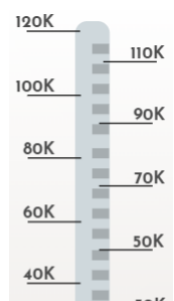
Chopped Leaf Friday, December 22nd (Kinder A and Grades 1-6, ordering closes Dec 17th)

All lunches must be ordered through healthy hunger at www.healthyhunger.ca, all families must create an account and register their children.

Any questions or concerns, please email Jaclyn at hhehotlunch@gmail.com

** Please note: if your child is absent and you would like to pick up their order you **MUST** email hhehotlunch@gmail.com **BEFORE** 10:00am and it will be available **AFTER** 1:00pm at the office. Please do not come earlier as it disrupts the distribution to the classes.

Fundraising Focus



Our fundraising focus for the 2023-2024 school year is the completion of our outdoor playspace. We currently have about \$23,000 raised to go towards this project. We are hoping to reach a goal of at least \$120,000. To help reach this goal we will be applying for a provincial matching grant in the spring so every dollar we raise until then counts!

We are so thankful to the County Clothesline Foundation for awarding us a \$2500 Grant.

Ongoing Fundraisers



Order online through Mabel's Labels and choose support a fundraiser, then a portion of your purchase will go back to FAHHE.



Stop by COBS on Wye Road and tell them you're from Heritage Hills Elementary and a portion of your purchase will go back to FAHHE.



Shop at Save-on-Foods on Wye Road, submit your receipts to the office and we will receive 5% back.



All orders will be shipped directly to your home for free on orders over \$50. Simply click on our link to shop and 20% of each sale goes back to FAHHE.

tru-earth.sjv.io/FAHHE

Next Meeting: January 17th @ 630pm followed by FAHHE @7:45pm following.

Enjoy a great week everyone.

"The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be."

– Ralph Waldo Emerson