

# SCA Elementary Newsletter



Our Mission: To invite students, through Christ-centered education, to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord in order to pursue a life of godly character in service to others and achieve their academic potential.



December 2024 Edition

## Celebrating our Saviour

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:18-21



# MERRY CHRISTMAS

*We hope your holidays  
are filled with love!*

## REMINDERS

- **Tues./Thurs., December 3 & 5 – Parent/Teacher Interviews & Library Book Fair**
- **Wed., December 4 – Early Dismissal at 2:15 pm**
- **Fri., December 6 – Hope Mission New Toy Drive**
- **Thurs., December 12 – Christmas Concert (Gr. 1-6)**
- **Fri., December 13 – Grade 1-6 Hot Lunch**
- **Wed., December 18 – Chip Day**
- **Thurs., December 14 – Christmas Concert (Gr. 1-6)**
- **Fri., December 20 – Christmas Caroling Chapel**
- **December 23 to January 3 – NO SCHOOL – Christmas Break**
- **Mon., January 6 – School Resumes**



Strathcona Christian Academy Elementary School  
52362 Range Road 231, Sherwood Park, AB, T8B 0A3  
Phone: 780-449-2787 Email: [general.sce@eips.ca](mailto:general.sce@eips.ca)  
Principal: Mr. Jonathan Elzinga

Assistant Principals: Mrs. Jaime Peters & Mr. Jon Alstad



# PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS



Parent/Teacher interviews will be held on **Tuesday, December 3 & Thursday, December 5**. Appointments can be booked through the School Interviews site at [www.schoolinterviews.ca](http://www.schoolinterviews.ca) using the access code **9kn gb**

The booking system will be open until Sunday, December 1.

**Kindergarten Parents:** We ask that you consider booking your interview for **Monday, December 2**. This option is only available for booking with our kindergarten teachers. This extra day helps them to accommodate all kindergarten families over the 3 days of interviews.

**\*Please note, there is no childcare provided on Monday.**



## CHILDCARE

There will be childcare available both evenings (**December 3 & 5**) during interviews from 5:00 – 9:00 pm in the gym for all elementary and pre-school aged children that are here during their parent interview time.

There is no charge for this service, however donations are gratefully accepted and will be put towards our Missions program.

This is for your convenience during interview times only.

We would request that no children be wandering around or playing in the hallways while you attend your interview.



## A WORD OR TWO BOOK FAIR



We will be hosting Lamplighter Books & Gifts and Scholastic Book Fairs during Parent-Teacher Interviews. We will have a full selection of great quality books, offering a wonderful place to do some Christmas shopping and a great financial benefit to our school.

**Parents are welcome to come in before and after your interview times from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 3 or Thursday, Dec 5.**

Parents are encouraged to purchase for their children and themselves during these evenings, however students of parents not able to attend the evening interviews will be allowed to purchase Wednesday or Thursday during the school day.

We look forward to seeing you at the Book Fair and thank you in advance for your support of a great fund-raiser!

## BOOK FAIR CONTEST

For our accompanying book fair contest, Gr 1-6 students are encouraged to enter by submitting their own short story version of The Gingerbread Man.

We are excited to partner with Sobeyes Nottingham, who are donating prizes! Visit the library website after the book fair to see who the lucky winners will be.

  -Mrs. Wielinga



# HOPE MISSION NEW TOY DRIVE

Friday morning, **December 6**, is our Hope Mission New Toy Drive!

We would ask each elementary family to consider bringing one new toy that will be passed on to a needy family.

Need ideas? Hope Mission has provided a suggestion list below.

Please send items in the morning as they will be picked up by noon.

**Thank you for your support!**

## Ages 5-12

- LEGO
- STICKERS
- SQUISHMALLOWS
- JEWELRY MAKING KIT
- POKEMON
- NINJA TURTLES
- ACTION FIGURES
- LARGE TOY CARS
- PAW PATROL TOYS
- BLUEY TOYS
- BEADING/FRIENDSHIP BRACELET SUPPLIES
- TECH DECKS FINGER (SKATEBOARDS)
- LITTLEST PET SHOP
- K'NEX
- LOL SURPRISE DOLLS
- SHOPKINS
- PLAYMOBIL
- MELISSA & DOUG TOYS

## All Ages

- FINGER GLOVES
- TOQUES (*no scarves needed*)
- SOCKS (*kid & adult sizes*)
- SWEATPANTS
- HOODIES
- SCIENCE KITS/SLIME

## Ages 12-18

- SPORT EQUIPMENT (basketballs, soccer balls, etc.)
- MAKE UP & NAIL POLISH
- FACE & BODY WASH
- BODY SPRAY, BATH BOMBS, ETC.
- ACCESSORIES (earrings, watches, etc.)
- HATS
- BAGS/PURSES/BACKPACKS/GYM BAGS
- WALLETS
- WATER BOTTLES
- EAR BUDS/HEADPHONES/SPEAKERS
- SPORT APPAREL/SWEAT SHIRTS/SWEAT PANTS
- CARD & BOARD GAMES
- COLOURING BOOKS FOR ADULTS
- ART SUPPLIES (markers, paint & brushes)
- GIFT CARDS (maximum \$20)

## Other items:

- BLANK CHRISTMAS CARDS
- WRAPPING PAPER
- RIBBON & TAPE

## Please Note the Following:

- \$20 MAXIMUM ON GIFTS
- GIFTS SHOULD BE NEW (NO USED ITEMS)
- NO KNIVES, TOY GUNS, OR VIOLENT TOYS
- NO VIDEO GAMES OR MOVIES



SCA Elementary School is Proud to Present:

**A WINTER WOODLAND CHRISTMAS - GRADES 1-3**  
**BECAUSE OF THE MANGER... - GRADES 4-6**



### **Grade 1-6 Christmas Concerts**

**Thursday, December 12**

**Sherwood Park Alliance Church**

Parents please drop off your child(ren) 15 minutes prior to their assigned concert time.

Drop off rooms will be clearly marked. **Doors open at 5:45 pm**

<b>Drop Off Time</b>	<b>Performance Time</b>	<b>Drop Off Location</b>	<b>Pickup Location</b>
6:15 pm	6:30 – 7:30 pm Grade 1, 2 & 3	South Gym	Auditorium
7:45 pm	8:00 – 9:00 pm Grade 4, 5 & 6	North Gym	Auditorium

#### **Things to Keep in Mind:**

- It's a special night and students are encouraged to dress up for this evening.
- Grade 1, 2 & 3 will be wearing a 'woodland' hat during their concert performance.



#### **JUST A REMINDER!**

Our Kindergarten students do not participate in the formal Christmas Concert evening. Their teachers prepare a series of very special activities over the days leading up to the Christmas break.

# HEALTHY HUNGER



## HOT LUNCH

Dec. 11 - KA/KC (Deadline Dec. 6 )

Dec. 12 - KB/KD (Deadline Dec. 7)

Dec. 13 - Gr. 1-6 (Deadline Dec. 8)

Please visit the [Healthy Hunger](#) website to place your order.

## CHIP DAYS

December 18 - Gr. 1-6

December 18 - KA/KC

December 19 - KB/KD

If you did not pre-pay for chip days for the year, your child can bring a Loonie on chip day to participate.

## Kindergarten Siblings for 2025-26



Do you have a child(ren) in the home that will turn 5 by December 31, 2025? If so, please contact the school office as soon as possible to ensure that we have the information on file before registration opens on February 1, 2025.



## What a year it was!

A **HUGE** thank you to all of the Parents, Grandparents and Friends of SCA Elementary School who continue to encourage and support our staff in the many ways you do! We are truly blessed!

We cannot thank you enough and could not do what we do without you!

**The staff & students of SCA Elementary School would like to wish all of our families a wonderful, safe and healthy holiday season!**



## Share Your Thoughts on Budget Planning for 2025-26

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 18, 2024

Grade 12 students will complete the survey at school.

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



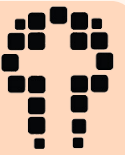
## Yearbooks

If you would like to order a 2024-25 yearbook, you can find the option under "School Fees" on Parent Portal. Select your student's individual tab and you will see the option under "School Items".

**The deadline for ordering a yearbook is March 31, 2025.**

Yearbooks will be delivered to the students at the end of June 2025.

## A Note from Sherwood Park Alliance Church (SPAC)



We would love to have you join us at SPAC for one of our **Christmas Eve Services!**

**Monday, December 23 at 6:00 pm**

**Tuesday, December 24 at 2:00 pm, 4:00 pm or 6:00 pm**

Everyone is welcome!

Visit [spac.ca/Christmas](http://spac.ca/Christmas) for more information



## CALLING ALL GRANDPARENTS!

Are you a past, present, or future grandparent of a student who attends SCA Elementary or Secondary Schools?

We would love your prayer support! An update is emailed out each week of ways you can support our school in prayer. If you are able, we meet once a month to pray for our students. Please email Pastor Driedger at [darren.driedger@eips.ca](mailto:darren.driedger@eips.ca) or phone the school office at 780-449-2787 to get involved.

**We meet the first Thursday of every month at 1:00 pm at SCA Elementary. Our next prayer meeting of this school year is Thursday, December 5 at 1:00 pm and you are welcome to join!**

We want to cover the schools and the children with prayer. Your wisdom and experience is needed for this.

*Psalm 71:16 says: "I will come and proclaim your mighty acts, O Sovereign LORD!"*

Read the rest of Psalm 71 to discover your mandate as a spiritual grandparent for all of our students.

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS ONLINE

On the last school day of each month we post the newsletter for the upcoming month on our website. Please visit [www.scaelementary.ca](http://www.scaelementary.ca) to view our calendar and newsletter to find out about important information and upcoming events at SCA Elementary.



NEWSLETTER

## School Theme 2024-25

*The Lord is my Shepherd, I lack nothing.*  
*Psalm 23:1*

## School Facebook Group

Did you know we have a school Facebook Group?

Find us on Facebook under:  
**SCA Elementary Parents**

## December Prayer Focus

Pray for EIPS Bus Drivers.



# HELP US HELP YOU!

## REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES, EARLY PICKUPS AND END OF DAY CHANGES

Parents, we ask you to help our office and teaching staff when it comes to reporting absences, early pick ups and changes to end of day transportation. We do appreciate your punctual communication in these situations!

Below you will find a handy guide to help you navigate what steps to take in these scenarios.

### REPORTING AN ABSENCE

If it is a **planned absence** (*you know in advance of the day*): Email the teacher directly. Alternatively, you could send a note in with your child.

If it is a **last-minute absence** (unplanned): Call or email the school office.

### REPORTING AN EARLY PICK-UP

If it is a **planned early pick-up** (*you know in advance of the day*): Email the teacher directly. Alternatively, you could send a note in with your child.

If it is a **last-minute early pick-up** (unplanned): Call or email the school office.

Please note, **we will dismiss your child upon your arrival at the school**. Once you arrive at the school, please call the school office or pop in to ask for your child to be dismissed.

**Please plan to give yourself some extra time to allow for their dismissal.**

### REPORTING A CHANGE IN END OF DAY TRANSPORTATION

If it is a **planned change in end of day transportation** (*you know in advance of the day*): Email the teacher directly.

Alternatively, you could send a note in with your child.

If it is a **last-minute change in end of day transportation** (unplanned): Call or email the school office **by 2:00 pm**.

The earlier you can let us know, the better.

There is a lot going on in the school office every day and we do our best to ensure parent messages are passed on. However, when messages come to the office after 2:00 pm, we cannot guarantee that your message will be passed on in time.



**SCA Elementary Contact Information:**  
**Phone:** 780-449-2787  
**Email:** [general.sce@eips.ca](mailto:general.sce@eips.ca)  
**School Secretaries:** Shauna Box & Jeaninne Elford





## HAS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION RECENTLY CHANGED?

Have you recently moved or has your contact information changed since the start of the year?

SCA 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. **Updates completed by December 10 are especially helpful as the Division prepares for 2025–26 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.



## MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

As busy as we know this time can be, it's nice to take a moment to look back with gratitude on the past year. We are thankful for the incredible parents and caregivers in the communities we serve, who consistently step up to support both students and educators—day in and day out. We appreciate our staff members, in schools and at Central Administration, for their commitment to excellence in learning. And we celebrate students across the Division, who work so hard and make us proud.

We hope you enjoy all the wonderful concerts, shows and festivities happening at your school, and that you get a chance for rest and reflection during the break. To all of you—have a joyous holiday season, and a healthy and happy New Year.

We look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Jan. 6, 2025.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays,

Cathy Allen  
EIPS Board Chair





## DID YOU KNOW?



Alberta's publicly funded systems—public, Catholic and francophone—serve the educational interests of almost 720,000 kindergarten to Grade 12 students across the province. Funding diverted to alternative educational institutions, both for infrastructure and programming, negatively impacts the public system's ability to provide comprehensive, equitable, accessible and mandated programming for 90 per cent of the province's students.



## JOIN EIPS FOR A MÉTIS KITCHEN PARTY!

The Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education team invites you to the upcoming Métis Kitchen Party. The evening will include food, fiddle, dancing and activities. All EIPS First Nations, Métis and Inuit families and their allies are welcome to attend.

**Monday, December 9; 5:30–7:30 p.m.**

Salisbury Composite High, 20 Festival Way, Sherwood Park  
With special guests, Métis fiddlers Brianna Lizotte and Ethan Graves

Refer to the [invitation](#) for more details. **RSVP** by **December 6**.

If you have any questions about the upcoming gathering, or the ongoing First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education work within EIPS, reach out to the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education lead at SCA Elementary, Janet Vader.



## SPREAD THE WORD: EIPS IS HIRING!

Do you know someone who may be interested in part-time, flexible work as a substitute educational assistant or substitute teacher in the specialty areas of French Immersion or CTS/CTF? Elk Island Public Schools is hiring. Spread the word!

Substitute teaching and non-teaching staff are critical to filling planning and unexpected vacancies when Division staff are away. Substitutes are needed to fill various positions at all school locations until the end of the school year. Upcoming application deadlines are **December 12 and 13**. If you know someone who'd be great in this role, encourage them to

[apply today](#).



# DECEMBER



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Parent/Teacher Interviews & Book Fair	4 Early Dismissal 2:15 pm	5 Parent/Teacher Interviews & Book Fair	6 Hope Mission New Toy Drive KA/KC Hot Lunch Order Deadline	7 KB/KD Hot Lunch Order Deadline
8 Gr. 1-6 Hot Lunch Order Deadline	9	10	11 KA/KC Hot Lunch	12 Grade 1-6 Christmas Concert KB/KD Hot Lunch	13 Gr. 1-6 Hot Lunch	14
15	16	17	18 Chip Day (KA/KC, Gr. 1-6)	19 Chip Day (KB/KD)	20 Christmas Caroling Chapel @ 9:15 am January Newsletter Online	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<b>--CHRISTMAS BREAK--</b>						
29	30	31				
<b>--CHRISTMAS BREAK--</b>						

**MERRY**  
CHRISTMAS

**2024**