



CLOVER BAR KNIGHTLY NEWS

50 Main Blvd. Sherwood Park, AB T8A 0R2

780-467-2295

www.cloverbar.ca

Aiming for the Future

IMPORTANT DATES

September 4	Early Dismissal
September 6	Photo Day
September 12-14	EIPS Sr Volleyball tournament
September 18	EIPS Cross Country
September 19-21	EIPS Jr Volleyball Tournament
September 25	Zones Cross Country
September 26	Terry Fox School Run
September 27	Grade 9 River Watch Fieldtrip
September 30	Orange Shirt Day
October 2	Early Dismissal Pep Rally / Food Drive / Hat Day
October 4	Jasper Place Sr Girls' Volleyball
October 6	World Teachers' Day

Click the following link to access the school calendar:

[School Calendar](#)

SCHOOL NEWS

Newsletters

Newsletters will be sent home electronically through our voice messaging system, Synervoice, on the first Friday of each month. They can then be found on the website.

Cell Phone Policy

In order to align with the EIPS personal Communication Policy, Clover Bar Junior High has developed expectations with regards to cell phone and tablet use in the school. Please familiarize yourself with the Personal Communication Devices Policy found on our school website and do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Hats / Hoods and Tuques

A reminder that students should dress appropriately for school. We are asking students to make sure that they do not wear tuques or hats inside our school. In addition, we will request that students keep hoods lowered while in our building. Thanks for your support!

Traffic Circulation Changes

Just a gentle reminder that we are asking parents to refrain from dropping students off or picking them up in front of the school. The County of Strathcona completed a traffic circulation review last year which changed the traffic patterns to allow for drop off at the base of the driveway in front of the school in the bus lane. The lanes in front of the school are dedicated to bussing lanes. You may receive a reminder from one of our staff in the mornings or after school. Spread the word! Thanks for helping us out with this

Student Handbook

Please take time to review our student handbook. This may help to answer many of your questions and provides a valuable tool for your reference. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

STAR and MIPI

Over the month of September, students will be tested using a literacy and a numeracy tool endorsed by Elk Island Public Schools. This is simply one method of assessment that we use to identify student strengths and / or areas of need. They are not considered part of the summative assessments. Results of these tests can be shared upon request. For more information, please read the section "Enhancing literacy and numeracy" in the district news.

Pep Rallies – Hat Day

The first Wednesday of each month we will be holding a Pep Rally in our gym for all students. This is time for us to build some school spirit, get to know our staff and to contribute to one of our school projects which is collection of donations for the Strathcona Food Bank. On this day, we encourage students to bring a food donation if they are able. We also encourage students to wear a hat this day!

River Watch Field Trip

The science department runs a field trip every year for grade 9 students called River Watch. It is a day of rafting down the North Saskatchewan River while we test water quality and tour the Clover Bar Wastewater Treatment Plant. The trip is a wonderful bridge from Science 8's Fresh and Saltwater Systems unit to Science 9's Environmental Chemistry unit. Beyond that, the trip serves as a great team building activity for the start of our Grade 9 students' last year at Clover Bar Junior High. This year it will take place on September 27. Watch for more information coming home!

Athletics

Students at Clover Bar have many opportunities to get involved in activities throughout the school year.

Schedule

Our school schedule has changed from the past year. This does not affect pick up or drop off times, but if you wish to print off a copy, please find it on our school website.

Grade 7 Office Introduction

In order to make sure our new students are feeling comfortable at Clover Bar Junior High, administration will be trying to meet with each new student individually over the next few weeks. Don't be surprised if your child comes home and tells you they met with the Principal! Many, many thanks to our PLACE classroom who will be baking muffins for our meetings!

Course Outlines

If you wish to receive a hard copy of course outlines, please contact your child's teacher directly. Course outlines are also available digitally from your child's teachers for all subjects through e-teacher pages, google classroom or whatever is the preferred method of communication by your child's teacher.

Forms

Early next week, please look for several forms to come home with your child. These forms need to be corrected, signed or reviewed and returned to the school as soon as possible.

Homeroom Change Requests

Over the past week the office has received many requests for homeroom changes. We have met these as we are able, given numbers and circumstances. Thank you for your patience and support. We will no longer accept further requests. Thank you!

Option Change requests will be taken only starting Wednesday and will be determined on a one-to-one basis. Consideration to program choice and class sizes will be instrumental in allowing these changes to occur. Option changes will not be entertained after September 13.

Orange Shirt Day

www.orangeshirtday.org

Orange shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada. In the spring of 2013, It grew out of Phyllis' story of having her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the Mission, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually.

The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their home to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year.

Orange Shirt Day is also an opportunity for First Nations, local government, school and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.

DISTRICT NEWS

Enhancing literacy and numeracy

As part of Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) ongoing efforts to enhance the literacy and numeracy of students in all grade levels, the Division is once again administering the STAR 360 and Math Intervention/Programming Instrument (MIPI) assessment tools in the 2019-20 school year. The tools focus on literacy and numeracy, are digitally based and offer an opportunity for students to demonstrate their learning. The goal: To provide timely information to teachers, help enhance classroom instruction and ensure student learning needs are identified.

In September and May, EIPS students in grades 1 through 12 will complete the STAR 360 assessment, which evaluates reading comprehension. The assessment takes approximately 20 minutes and is administered on a digital device. Also, in September, students in grades 2 through 10 will complete the MIPI assessment, which is a mathematic screening tool used to inform teachers about a student's math skills. For students in grades 7 through 10, the MIPI takes approximately 50 minutes, and for students in grades 2 through 6 it takes approximately 20 minutes. The results offer the teacher a clearer picture of a student's learning needs and help determine if subsequent instructional planning is required.

The scores of the assessments aren't used toward a student's grade, and there is no need to study ahead of time. The tools simply provide the teacher with information to better understand where each student is in terms of reading comprehension and mathematic ability. If, after analyzing the results, it's determined a student can benefit from extra support, the teacher will contact the family to discuss possible support strategies.

For more information about the Division's STAR 360 and MIPI assessment tools, contact EIPS Supports for Students at 780-464-3477.

Quick Facts: Video surveillance

Did you know each EIPS bus is equipped with video surveillance? Video surveillance and equipment helps:

- ensure the safety of all students, drivers and property; and
- discourage destructive acts.

On a regular basis, EIPS Student Transportation reviews the video recordings, in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIP). The recordings assist the department with monitoring student and driver conduct and may be used as evidence in a disciplinary matter.

For more information about the collection, use and disclosure of personal information, contact the EIPS FOIP Coordinator at 780-464-3477.

Caregiver Education Series

The Division, in partnership with Alberta Health Services and Elk Island Catholic Schools, is hosting a series of caregiver information sessions focused on ways to support students' mental health. The sessions are free and geared toward parents, caregivers, teachers and community members who want to learn more about challenges impacting children and adolescents. This year, session topics include anxiety, ADHD, depression, self-harm, technology, teens and teaching leadership skills, and more.

Visit the [Division calendar](#) to see all scheduled caregiver sessions.

Improving Home-School Communication

To enhance communication between families and schools, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) has developed a how-to guide entitled, “Communication Protocol for Schools.” Topics include appropriate channels to use, standard formats and structures, timing and sequencing for regular and ongoing home-school communication, and ways to bring forward questions or concerns. The manual also offers useful tools and resources schools and families can use to enhance face-to-face meetings, email communication and various social media efforts.

[Communication Protocol for Schools](#)

EIPS Launches New Cellphone Policy

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Board of Trustees has approved a new policy regarding cellphones. [Policy 24, Personal Communication Devices](#) outlines how students and staff use cellphones and personal devices within EIPS schools. The goal: To ensure all students use technology responsibly and develop skills in digital citizenship.

To develop the policy, the Board undertook a comprehensive review of the Division’s existing procedures and practices used to oversee the use of student-owned technology in the classroom. It also conducted extensive public consultations with students, teachers, school administrators and EIPS families. Overall, the feedback was invaluable and provided a clear picture of how to best manage the use of these devices.

Policy highlights:

Students in kindergarten to Grade 6: No access to cellphones or personal devices during the school day, including during breaks and the lunch hour—the only exception, students with a diagnosed medical condition or an identified inclusive-educational need.

Students in grades 7 to 9: No access to cellphones or personal devices during class time—the only exceptions, students with a diagnosed medical condition or an identified inclusive-educational need, and when given permission by a teacher for a specific educational task or purpose. Students can access their device during identified break periods, including between classes and the lunch hour.

Students in grades 10 to 12: No access to cellphones or personal devices during class time—the only exceptions, students with a diagnosed medical condition or an identified inclusive-educational need, and when given permission by a teacher for a specific educational task or purpose. Students can access their device during spare periods and identified breaks, including between classes and the lunch hour.

The purpose of the policy is to ensure learning takes place in an environment with fewer distractions. When students can focus on what’s taking place in the classroom and can interact directly with the teacher and other students, they’re in a better position to grow and succeed.

Update Your PowerSchool Information

The [PowerSchool Correction and Verification Form](#) is now available online, which replaces the paper form sent to families each fall. Families can use the form to access and update their child's information—including address, parent and guardian information, emergency contacts and any medical information. Reviewing and updating the form ensures the school has the most up-to-date information regarding your child. All Clover Bar Junior families are asked to review their child's [PowerSchool Correction and Verification Form](#) by Sept. 20, 2019.

For more information about the PowerSchool Correction and Verification Form and opt-out options contact the school directly.

NOTE: Parents or guardians who've opted out of having the Correction and Verification Form visible on PowerSchool, will receive a paper version to review from the school.

Sync the School Calendar to Your Calendar

Did you know you can sync the school calendar to your own calendar? You can. Simply, visit [Clover Bar Junior High](#) and click on one of the following calendar options you want to subscribe to:

- Add to Google Calendar: Google calendar
- Subscribe to Calendar: Outlook
- Download iCal: Apple calendar

NOTE: Options are located below the calendar.

Once you click on the calendar option you want to subscribe to, follow the instructions. Within seconds, your calendar will contain all of Clover Bar Junior High's important dates including holidays, school-closures days, planned activities, events and more.

Pay School Fees Online!

School fee information for the 2019-20 school year is expected to be posted on the PowerSchool Parent Portal by late September. All fees are due within 30 days of being posted. 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 online using Visa, MasterCard or INTERAC Online—when available from your financial institution.

Don't forget to 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 certain school activities such as field trips, class projects, athletic-team fees and more. Additionally, junior high and senior high fees can change as courses are added and deleted—the course change deadline is **September 13, 2019**.

If circumstances exist where you are unable to pay your student fees, you can apply to have [fees waived](#) by submitting an [Application for a Waiver of Fees](#). The application deadline is Dec. 15, 2019.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines visit eips.ca/schools/fees. Alternatively, contact Darla Hennig, Business Secretary, at Clover Bar Junior High School at 780-467-2295.

A FINAL THOUGHT...

We would like to take a moment to welcome all new students and families to Knights Nation! In addition, we welcome back returning students and families. We are looking forward to a wonderful year of new experiences, friendships, learning and fun! Please feel free to stop in and say “Hello” as our door is always open. Mr. Fiddes and myself, Ms. Alpern, are excited and proud to become part of this amazing school community as we aim for the future together!

Have a wonderful year of learning!