

February 3, 2020

Glen Allan Elementary Principal's Message

Where has the first half of the school year gone? Hard to believe we are already in February and halfway through the school year. January was a very busy month but also a great month for learning. Our students continue to impress me with their strong work ethic, positive attitudes and dedicated focus on their learning. Our students are learning about Bloom's Taxonomy higher level thinking strategies and are doing a great job implementing that throughout their assignments. Critical thinking and high-level thinking skills are so important in ensuring our students have successful futures. We are so proud of their accomplishments and encourage them to put forth their very best all the time.

As the cold weather and snow descends upon us, please be reminded that we do go outside for recess the majority of the time. Here are a few little reminders to help us provide the best care we can for your children.

- Please be sure your child has warm clothing before they leave for school.
- Students should have a toque and mittens/gloves with them
- It is also a great idea for students to have snow pants as students may head outside for daily physical education as well.
- Please make sure your child has a pair of indoor and outdoor shoes.

February is a short but action packed month at the school. There is lots going on including parent teacher interviews, teacher's convention and family day as well as all of the curriculum and learning that also has to happen. February tends to fly by and soon we will be into March with spring just around the corner.

We are starting to examine our School Education Plan for next year and would like your input through the following survey link. <https://goo.gl/forms/0asvcVPuHhQSgDPJ2> At Glen Allan Elementary we are about building partnerships with our parents, working together for the future success of our students and the school. With that in mind, we would appreciate your input regarding our school education plan for next year. I have created this short survey to provide you the opportunity to share your input. Thank you for taking the time to fill out our survey.

Well that's it for now. Have a great February and stay warm.
When we work together, Great things happen! ;^)

Mr. Tracey Arbuthnott
Principal
Glen Allan Elementary

BLOOMS TAXONOMY



UPCOMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE

February

- 3 Capital Care - Class 41
- 5 Early Out/Staff Meeting 2:15PM
- 6-7 Teacher's Convention/School Closure Day
- 11 Fit Kids - Lacrosse
- 11-12 Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences 3:30PM to 7:00PM
- 11-12 Book Fair Sale
- 13 Musical Treats
- 14 School Closure Day
- 17 Family Day/School Closure Day
- 19 GASC Meeting - 7:00PM
- 20 Legislature Field Trip - Grade 6
- 21 School Spirit/Hot Lunch Day
- 22 Young Author's Conference
- 24 Teacher's Pet - Wheels and Levers - Grade 4
- 26 Pink Shirt Day



School News

Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences and Book Fair - February 11-12

Our parent/teacher/student conferences will be held from 3:30PM to 7:00PM. During the parent/teacher/student conferences please drop in and check out our Book Fair! To book time with your students' teachers please go to schoolinterviews.ca and use the event code **m8n8r**.



Musical Treats - February 13

Musical Treat Day is much like musical chairs with the lucky person winning a cake or sweet treat! After our planned activities, if there are any remaining cakes, they are given away in classroom draws. Good luck to all our students!



Pink Shirt Day - February 26

Pink Day started in 2007, when a grade nine student in Cambridge, Nova Scotia was bullied by classmates for wearing a pink shirt to school. Taking notice, two students rallied their peers to send a message to the bullies. The next day, the halls were filled with students in pink T-shirts.

Red Cross Pink Day started because two boys chose to do something about bullying rather than stand by and watch it happen. Now the movement is worldwide, educating and inspiring others to stand together and take action against violence and bullying.

Their actions sparked a world-wide movement shedding light on the issues surrounding bullying and inspiring others to Be Someone's Hero by speaking up when they see bullying happening. This year's theme for Pink Shirt Day is Be Some Ones Hero.



Division News

Kindergarten Registration is Now Open!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2020? If so, it's now time to register for kindergarten. To register, simply complete the online registration form at eips.ca/kindergarten.



To help families prepare, Elk Island Public Schools has put together an online toolkit—available at eips.ca/kindergarten—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 kindergarten is available on our school website at www.glenallanelementary.ca

Read Aloud Day Contest

Do you have a favourite book your parents or grandparents read to you when you were young? Is there a book you enjoy reading to your children or grandkids? Maybe a teacher once shared a great book with your class that captured your imagination and set you on a lifelong love of reading?

On February 5, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) wants to hear from you—about the story you'll always remember. Write a post and include a photo. Or, even better, record a short video reading a favorite quote or passage from the book. Then, tweet it and tag the EIPS Twitter account [@eips](https://twitter.com/eips) or reply to the Read Aloud Day post on the Division's [Facebook page](#). And, be sure to use the hashtag: #eipsreadsaloud.

NOTE: The Read Aloud contest is open to community members, students, and teachers and staff throughout the Division—everyone who posts is automatically entered in a draw to win one of nine EIPS prize packages. Winners will be announced on Feb. 7, 2020.

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.

Complete the Returning Student Registration: February 1-29

Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) returning student registration process is now open. All returning students must complete the online Returning Student Registration Form to confirm their child's enrolment in a school for the upcoming 2020-21 school year. 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. **All returning EIPS students are required to complete the form by Feb. 29, 2020.**

Access to the Returning Student Registration Form is provided through the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). If you don't have a PowerSchool Parent Portal account, you need to set one up before Feb. 1, 2020.

[Create a PowerSchool Parent Portal account](#)

For more information contact the school directly.

Measuring our Success: Complete the Accountability Pillar Survey

Once again, Alberta Education is conducting its Accountability Pillar Survey—an annual check-up on the province's education system. Every year, Alberta Education conducts the survey to gather information about the quality of education provided by Alberta schools and school authorities. The survey looks at various measures such as engagement levels, student wellness, student outcomes, and the classroom(s) and school climate.



Throughout February, Grade 1- 6 students and teachers at Glen Allan Elementary are completing the survey online at the school. Student participation is voluntary and completely anonymous. Students are assigned a random username and password to ensure survey responses aren't linked to any individual student. The survey takes about 40 minutes to complete and is done within the school day during regular class time.

Additionally, parents and guardians of students in grades 4, 7 and 10 are also asked to take a survey, either online or by mail. Information about the survey was sent to these families in January. Like the student and teacher survey, it's anonymous and asks questions about your school experiences. If you have a child in grades 4, 7 or 10, we encourage you to participate. The survey deadline is Feb. 28, 2020.

Results from the Accountability Survey are provided to Elk Island Public Schools each May. The Division then uses the data to inform its four-year education plan, its annual school education plans and strategies for continuous improvement. The results are also shared with EIPS families and school communities each fall in the Division's *Combined Education Plan and Annual Education Results Report*.

For more information about Alberta Education's Accountability Pillar Survey visit alberta.ca/accountability-education-system.aspx.

Do more this summer!

Next Step Continuing Education Summer School and Camps: Registration opens March 9

Summer School: Open to students entering grades 10-12 and mature students

With more than 25 credit courses, there are lots of ways to get ahead. Students can earn high school credits, upgrade marks and finish pre-requisite courses.

Courses include:

- CALM (in class or self-paced)
- Physical Education 10
- Extreme CALM and Physical Education 10 combined
- English – 10-, 20- and 30-levels
- Math – 10-, 20- and 30-levels
- Social – 10-, 20- and 30-levels
- Sciences – 10-, 20- and 30-levels
- Film Production
- Work Experience and RAP

Summer Camps: Open to participants in grades 5-9

From sports to cooking to babysitting, campers enjoy a fun-filled program while making friends and learning new skills.

Camps include:

- Sports – volleyball, basketball and handball
- computer gaming and design
- cooking and baking
- babysitting

Registration opens on March 9.

Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Mark Liguori shares his thoughts on the Division in his latest blog column: Top of Mind – If what we're forecasting is accurate, we have to concentrate on what's important—our core work, which is teaching and learning in the classroom. [Read more](#)

GASC News

The next GASC meeting will be held on Wednesday February 19, 2020 @ 7pm in the school library. If anyone has the opportunity to join us, we would appreciate your input on the very important topics we will be discussing at the meeting.

GASC will be holding its annual election for the school council positions at the May 20th meeting. If anyone is interested in a position on the Council for 2020/21, including the Chair position, please contact Jessica at jessica.winship@gmail.com or 780 819-7258.



HOT LUNCH

Our next hot lunch will be held on Friday Feb 21st. Orders can be placed online at <https://gln.hotlunches.net/> before Jan 10, 2019 at midnight. Thank-you so much to all the volunteers that are making this year's program such a great success! Anyone wishing to lend a hand at any of the hot lunches can email Chandel Plester at chandel.plester@shaw.ca or Marcie Evanochko at marcie@evanochko.com for more information.



BOTTLE DRIVE

Just a reminder. We will be holding our first GASC bottle drive on February 11th and 12th, 2020. We are asking Glen Allen families to save their empty bottles and cans for collection at the next Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences. The bottle depot trailer will be in the front parking lot of the school. Anyone wanting to help with this fundraiser can contact Jenn at scottjenn@shaw.ca



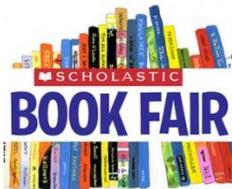
MUSICAL TREATS

Our annual Musical Treat day will be held on February 13, 2020.

The kids are really excited for this event!

The more donated treats we receive, the more happy faces we can create! If possible, please plan to bring a donation of a baked good (cake, cupcakes, cookies) or any type of special treat to the front doors of the school on the morning of the 13th.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Amanda Trach at atrach@shaw.ca



BOOK FAIR

Our next book fair is coming up soon! It will be held on February 11th and 12th in the school library during Parent/Teacher/Student conferences. We would love your help to set up, take down and/or work a short shift at the sale itself. If you are willing to give us a hand, please contact Chandel at chandel.plester@shaw.ca. These book fairs are a big reason why the Glen Allan library continues to be such a wonderful place for our kids to find their love of reading!



We will be needing a lot of volunteers in the coming months to keep our wonderful programs and fundraisers successful. If you can help out or would like any information about the coming events please do not hesitate to contact Sheila at theconnollys45@gmail.com.

Don't forget to order a yearbook so your children can treasure their fond memories for years to come!



Home & School CONNECTION[®]

Working Together for School Success

February 2020

Glen Allan Elementary School



SHORT NOTES

Measure up

Who can make the longest “inchworm”? Your child will practice measuring with this game. Take turns rolling a die. Using a ruler, measure a “worm” out of clay to match the number rolled (roll a 2, make a worm 2 inches long). Add to the worm on every turn. The player with the longest worm after five rolls wins.

Make time for family meals

Research shows that family meals can improve your youngster’s well-being and help him do better in school. Look over your schedules each Sunday to find times when everyone can eat together. If one parent is working late on Wednesday and can’t make dinner, for instance, plan to meet for a nice breakfast instead.

DID YOU KNOW?

Asthma is a leading cause of school absences. If your child has asthma (or another chronic medical condition), talk to her doctor and the school nurse about ways to ensure good attendance—and good health. Examples might include avoiding triggers like dust and mold and taking medication as directed.

Worth quoting

“The most wasted of all days is one without laughter.” *e. e. cummings*

JUST FOR FUN

Q: How many letters are in the alphabet?

A: Eleven (t-h-e a-l-p-h-a-b-e-t).



We respect each other

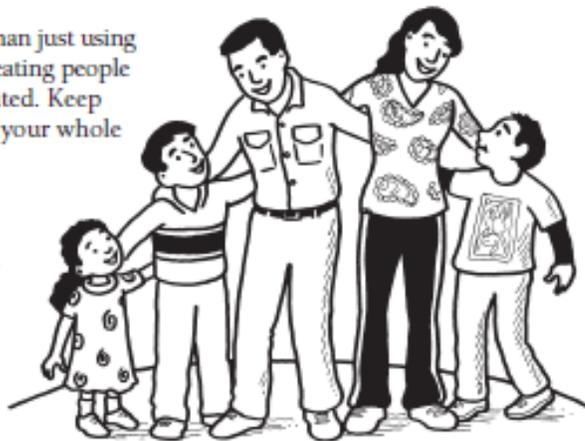
Being respectful is more than just using good manners—it means treating people the way you want to be treated. Keep these ideas in mind to help your whole family focus on respect.

Use peaceful tones

It’s a fact that shouting often leads to more shouting. Ask your child to speak in a normal tone to show respect for the person he’s talking to—and for everyone around him. If he starts yelling, speak to him in a whisper. He’ll likely lower his voice to match your volume. Or if he shouts from another room, wait until he comes to you so he learns that you don’t respond to yelling.

Avoid making assumptions

Your youngster can respect others’ feelings by giving them the benefit of the doubt. For example, encourage him to rephrase an accusation like “Who took my water bottle?” Instead he could ask, “Has anyone seen my water bottle?”



That’s more respectful because it won’t make anyone feel accused or defensive.

Accept different opinions

With your child, role-play ways to respect opinions that are different from his own. He might start a sentence with “That’s one way to look at it, but I think...” or “A lot of people would agree with you. In my opinion...” If a conversation is getting heated, he could simply say, “Let’s agree to disagree and talk about something else.”♥

My studying tool kit

Developing strong study skills now will help your youngster throughout elementary school and the rest of her school career. Suggest that she add these tools to her studying tool kit.



- **Color:** Let your child use highlighters to color-code her notes for easy reference. Perhaps she’ll highlight dates in yellow, people’s names in pink, and vocabulary terms in blue.
- **Recordings:** Encourage your youngster to record herself asking questions about the material. She can hit “play” to hear the questions and “pause” to give each answer.
- **Sticky notes:** Your child could write a one-sentence summary of each textbook section on a sticky note, then use the notes to bookmark the section.♥

Here's how I use math!

Give your child real-world reasons to use math—she'll see connections between what she's learning in school and what she enjoys in everyday life.

Do a craft. Maybe your youngster would enjoy knitting or making friendship bracelets. In each case, she'll count and work with patterns. Or she could explore shapes and symmetry with



tissue-paper mosaics or origami. Let her tell you about the math in her project.

Examples: "The pattern for this hat is knit 2, purl 2, knit 2, purl 2." "My mosaic has hexagons, right triangles, and trapezoids."

Plan an outing. Whether you're running errands or going to the zoo, your child can use math to plan your schedule. Say you have three hours for a zoo trip. Your youngster wants to see the parrots, and her brother wants to visit the meerkats. Ask her to calculate how

long it will take to drive to and from the zoo, then figure out how long you can spend at each exhibit. Remind her to allow time for walking from one area to the next.♥



ACTIVITY CORNER

A vivid vocabulary

"Draw a magenta bird with a plethora of polka dots and a quirky tail playing a harmonica." Would your youngster know what to draw if you gave him those instructions? Try this fun art project to help him learn new words.

1. Together, flip through a book or magazine and pick out words that you each think look interesting.
2. Write the words on separate slips of paper, and mix up the slips in a bowl.
3. Take turns pulling three words from the bowl and using them to describe something for the other person to draw. *Note:* Check a dictionary if you don't know what a word means.
4. Let your child describe his finished picture to you—he'll practice using the new words.♥



PARENT TO PARENT

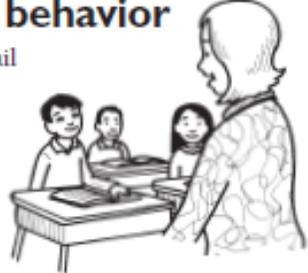
Good classroom behavior

Yesterday I received an email from my son Simon's teacher saying she had to move his seat because he talks too much in class. I replied to ask whether there should be a consequence at home, too.

Mrs. Roberts said she emailed me because she wanted Simon to know that she and I work together to help him succeed. She wasn't asking me to punish him, but she suggested that I might speak to him.

Simon complained that his friends start the conversations. I pointed out that he didn't have to respond, and I asked him what he could do next time. He said he will keep his eyes on the teacher or his work and talk to his friends at recess.

I'm glad his teacher told me what was happening. Now she and I will stay in touch to help Simon behave better in the future.♥



Q & A Your child's IEP review

Q: I have a meeting next month to review my daughter's Individualized Educational Program (IEP). Any tips on how to get ready for it?

A: The first step is knowing what's in your child's IEP. Ask for a copy if you don't have one. There's a lot of information in there, so before the meeting, try to read over her goals and her accommodations (tools and strategies to help her). Jot down

questions about anything you don't understand, and ask for explanations during the meeting.

Also, write down what you want to tell the IEP team about your daughter. Perhaps she struggles with certain subjects at homework time or sometimes has meltdowns.

Finally, plan to take notes during the meeting. That way, you can refer back to what you wrote and follow up with your child's teachers.♥



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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