

January 2023

Message from Mrs. Lee

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had an enjoyable holiday with their families. I am so glad that so many family members were able to come to our Christmas Parties and listen to the children sing. The students were so excited to have their families come to the preschool.

I'm really looking forward to 2023! We have many exciting activities and learning opportunities planned!

Kindergarten Registration

For parents of children in the 4 year old class who will be going on to kindergarten in Sept 2023, it is time to start thinking about registering for kindergarten! Some kindergarten programs have already started their registration and most have an open house where you can go and meet the teacher, see the classroom, and find out about the school's philosophy. I would strongly suggest going to a few open houses, because every school has a different focus and you need to find the school that is right for you and your child. It is also a good idea to ask other parents about their experiences with different elementary schools in the area.

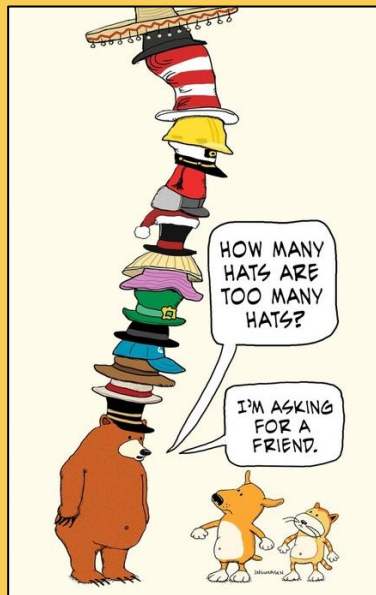
You can go to the Edmonton Public School Board website: www.epsb.ca and the Edmonton Catholic School Board website: www.ecsd.net to find out about the different schools in your area. They should be posting dates of open houses shortly on their websites.

Mitten Tree

Thank you to everyone that donated mittens, hats and other warm clothes to our "Mitten Tree" in December. All the items that were collected were given to the Bissell Centre. It was wonderful to see so many donated articles of clothing going to a good cause.

Hat Day

On **Wednesday January 25** (4 year old class) and **Thursday January 26** (3 year old class) we will be having a Hat Day at preschool. Children can wear any hat they would like to wear to school. Examples of hats that children could wear are: baseball hat, summer hat, cowboy hat, Santa hat, construction toy hat, crown, toque, etc.



Sick Children

Please ensure that you keep your child at home when he/she is not feeling well. This helps from spreading the sickness to other children and the teachers at school. We want your child to rest when they are sick so they are feeling better soon. Alberta Health Services has requested that we record all the illnesses that the children at the preschool develop over the year to monitor any outbreaks. Please let Mrs. Lee know when your child gets sick and the symptoms that they have.

Class Photos

We will be having a photographer from *Studios Photography* come to the school to take individual pictures of the children as well as class photos. The photographer will take individual photos of ALL the children in the class even if you are not interested in purchasing photos later on. The proofs will be returned to you a week or two later and at that time you can order any photos you are interested in. No money is required before the photos are taken. Payment is required when you order what sizes of photos you would like. You will be given the list of prices for the photos when the proofs are returned. Class photos will also be available to buy. Ordering the photos is optional.

Please ensure your child is **ON TIME** for class so that everyone can be in the class photo. Photos will be taken during our regular class time on the following days:

3 Year Old Class - **Thursday Feb 16**
4 Year Old Class - **Friday Feb 17**

Steinhauer School Music Room Visit

The preschool will be visiting the Steinhauer Elementary School music room during our regular class time. The children will be able to play a variety of different instruments and learn a new song in the music room.

The 4 year old class will be visiting the music room on **Monday January 23**. The 3 year old class will be visiting the music room on **Tuesday January 24**.



Scholastic Orders

You will receive the link to the monthly Scholastic Reading Flyer each month. You should also receive a paper copy of the monthly flyer in your child's backpack. You click on the link to view the books, place your order online and then your books are shipped to your house. Enter our class code before you submit your order.

Ermineskin Preschool's CLASS CODE:
"RC201406".

Ordering is optional. However, the preschool benefits by receiving free books when orders are placed by parents. There are many more items (books, learning resources, etc.) that you can order from the Scholastic website, www.scholastic.ca.

When you enter in the preschool's class code you will receive free shipping on orders of \$40 or more. Orders under \$40 cost \$7.50 to ship. Happy Reading!

Here is the link to the Scholastic Reading Flyers:

<https://classroomessentials.scholastic.ca/s/cec-ca/en/digital-catalogues>

A Note from the Preschool Executive Board

As we start the New Year, please remember that class begins at 9:00 when the Busy Bear turns the sign to the green light, and that parents must wait with their child in the hallway or in the gym if you arrive early.

Duty parents must arrive at 8:45 so that you can receive all the instructions for the day and class can start on time. There is also an instruction sheet for duty parents posted by the door in the classroom if you need any reminders about your role.

Thanks to everyone for your support and help in the classroom! Your efforts are very much appreciated.

Penguin Visit

On **Wednesday January 18**, both preschool classes (3 year old and 4 year old class) will be meeting together for a visit from a penguin! A penguin from the West Edmonton Mall Sea Life Caverns is coming to the preschool with a trainer to teach us more about penguins. The visit will take place in the community league gym. We will need extra parent helpers on this day to stay and sit with the children. Please let Mrs. Lee know if you are able to help.

Please read the plan for your child's class:

4 Year Old Class

On Wednesday January 18, you will come to preschool during regular class time 9:00-11:30. The penguin visit will be from 10:30-11:15. Please bring your backpack with your regular snack and water bottle inside.

3 Year Old Class

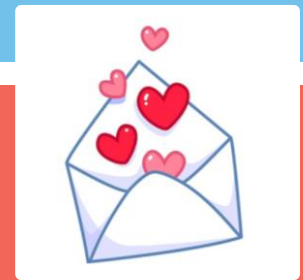
On Wednesday January 18, you will come to preschool from 10:20-11:20. You will only be at the preschool for the penguin visit. The penguin visit will be from 10:30-11:15. You do not need to bring a snack or your backpack to school on this day. You will still have regular class on Tuesday January 17 and Thursday January 19 (Wednesday January 18 is a BONUS day for your class).

Thank you to the Alberta Emerald Foundation for funding this penguin visit field experience for our preschool classes through their Emerald Youth Grant!



Music Visitors

We are still looking for parents/grandparents/friends that can come to the preschool and share their musical talents with us. If you (or someone you know) play a musical instrument and you are willing to come into the preschool, we would love to have you share your talents with us. Don't worry; you do not have to be a musical expert to impress the children at the preschool. The children would even enjoy just seeing your instrument. Please let Mrs. Lee know.



Valentine's Day Party

The 4 year class will be having their Valentine's Day party on **Monday February 13** and the 3 year old class will be having their party on **Tuesday February 14**.

Children are encouraged to bring Valentine cards for the other children in their class on the day of their party. You can either buy cards or make them at home from paper.

Attached to the February's newsletter will be a list of all the children's names in the class. At school we have been talking about the different letters in the children's names in our class. Making Valentine cards at home with your child is a great literacy activity that you can do together. Please let Mrs. Lee know if you have any questions about this. More information will follow in February's newsletter.

Fundraising Updates

Thank you to families for participating in the FundScrip Fundraiser! We were able to fundraise an additional \$690. Our yearly goal is \$2500, and we are now at \$1905. The rest will hopefully be raised at our Preschool Garage Sale which is in May.

Ways to contribute to the garage sale event include: donating sale items, volunteering for set up/take down, managing booths at the garage sale, and taking left-over donation items to Value Village. Some of those roles have already been signed up for at our AGM. Roles and other details will be finalized closer to the event date. Thank you!

Registration

Preschool registration for the 2023/2024 school year begins soon. Registration will be online via the preschool's website:

<http://www.ermineskincommunity.ca/registration-and-programs.html>

Registration for current students and preschool alumni opens on **January 9, 2023**.

Registration for community league members opens on **January 31, 2023**.

Registration for the general public opens on **February 6, 2023**.

Contact Information

If any parent/guardian has questions or concerns, please contact Danielle Lang - our Volunteer Preschool President.

She can be reached by text, call or email, via the contact info below.

Cell: (780) 293-5533
ermineskinpreschool@gmail.com



Professional Development Day

There will be no preschool on **Monday January 30** as this is a teacher professional development day.

Change of Information

If any of your information changes throughout the year (new phone number, new address, etc.) please let Mrs. Lee know. We need to ensure that our records are kept updated.



Our preschool will soon be hosting an open house! The purpose is to give prospective families an opportunity to see the classroom and meet the teachers as general registration for the upcoming school year opens. Parents and children are welcome to attend the open house. Our best form of advertising is through word of mouth, so please spread the word about our fabulous preschool to your friends, families, and neighbours!

When: **Tuesday January 31, 2023**
from **6:30-7:30 pm**

Where: **Ermineskin Preschool Classroom (10709 32A Ave)**

Important Dates

Wednesday January 18 – Penguin Visit for 3 & 4 Year Old Class

Monday January 23 – Music Room Visit (4 Year Old Class)

Tuesday January 24 – Music Room Visit (3 Year Old Class)

Wednesday January 25 – Hat Day (4 Year Old Class)

Thursday January 26 – Hat Day (3 Year Old Class)

Monday January 30 - No School (Professional Development Day)

Tuesday January 31 – Open House from 6:30 – 7:30 PM

Monday February 13 – Valentine's Day Party (4 Year Old Class)

Tuesday February 14 – Valentine's Day Party (3 Year Old Class)

Thursday February 16 - School Class Photos (3 Year Old Class)

Friday February 17 - School Class Photos (4 Year Old Class)



January Birthdays

Caleb – Jan 1 (3 year old class)

Blake – Jan 7 (4 year old class)

Jensen – Jan 19 (4 year old class)

Eugenia – Jan 22 (3 year old class)

Lawrence – Jan 23 (3 year old class)