

EAST ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER



JANUARY

2026



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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year, East Families!

I hope your winter break brought rest, laughter, and time spent with the people who matter most. As we return to school and begin a new year together, I am looking forward to the learning, growth, and shared experiences that 2026 will bring for our students and staff.

January is always a wonderful time to reset and refocus. In classrooms, students are settling back into routines and diving into new learning with enthusiasm. This month, our school-wide theme is perseverance—encouraging students to keep trying, take risks, and recognize that improvement comes with effort. You can support this at home by talking with your child about a goal they have for this month and celebrating the small steps they take toward achieving it.

Below are a few important reminders for January: Kindergarten registration for the 2026–27 school year is now open, and Report Cards will be available in PowerSchool on January 30th.

Thank you for the care and support you show our school every day. Our success is rooted in strong partnerships with families, and I truly appreciate the collaboration and positivity you bring to our community.

Wishing each of you a bright and encouraging start to the year ahead. I'm excited for everything we will accomplish together in 2026!

Warm regards,
Carla Fisher

HOT LUNCH



EAST

EXPERIENCES

Did You Know?

Our school offers Hot Lunch Fridays through Healthy Hunger! 🍕

Parents can place orders online at www.healthyhunger.ca, with weekly ordering available and a deadline each Sunday.

★ New this year! We've added Hot Dog Days on select weeks. Hot dogs are just \$2.00. ★

Getting started is easy! Simply create an account on the Healthy Hunger website and you're all set.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're excited to offer this tasty option for our students!

East Elementary Essentials

Winter Wear Reminder

As the temperatures continue to drop, please make sure your child comes to school dressed in weather-appropriate winter gear. Warm jackets, hats, mittens, boots, and snow pants help keep our students comfortable and ready to enjoy outdoor play safely.

Thank you for helping us keep everyone cozy this season!



Gently Used Clothing Donations Needed

East Elementary is collecting gently used clothing to keep on hand for students who may need extra items during the school day. If you have any gently used clothing that could benefit our students, please bring your donations to the school office.

Thank you for your kindness and support!



SCHOOL COUNCIL
& PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Welcome back!

We hope you've come out of the holiday with memories and rejuvenation!

Our School Council and Parents' association are right back into the swing of things. We'd love your help and hope to see you soon.

Staff Appreciation Days

Our five ways and days to sprinkle our appreciation over the school year continues... The fall school supplies donation and morning coffee & pastries days were MUCH LOVED! Everyone is invited to help make these days wonderful. There are opportunities to donate items, food, or time, please sign up!

- Jan 13 - Smoothies, wings, veggie lunch
- Mar 17 - Pastries, Coffee & Tea
- May 26 - Sit down lunch

STAFF APPRECIATION
SIGN-UP



NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday Jan. 6, Wellness Room #110

Parents' Association (6:30pm-7:30pm)

Special visit: School Resource Officer Brad Agnotes joins at 7pm. And bring your ideas to help brainstorm fundraisers for the next school year!

School Council (7:30-8:30pm)

Overview of AB Education Assurance Framework School & School Division Annual Education Results Report and 3 year education plan highlights

VOLUNTEER

Lice Busters - Date TBD (1hr) Join a small team of 5 parents for our 2nd of 3 head lice education and screening sessions held throughout the year. Interested? email ees.council@gshare.blackgold.ca

Hot Lunch - Available Fridays 11:30 - 12:30 pm? check 'yes' at the top of your Healthy Hunger order or email eastelementaryhotlunch@gmail.com

Upcoming Bingos)

Tues. Jan 13, 5:30-9:30pm (3/9 filled)

Sat. Feb 28, 5:30-9:30pm (2/9 filled)

Sat. Mar 21, 5:30-9:30pm (2/11 filled)

Sat. May 2, 11:30am-3:30pm (1/11 filled)

BINGO SIGN-UP



Congratulations to our 2 fall winning teams! A new pizza party race has begun. Help earn your child's grade team a pizza party this spring! eastbingos@gmail.com

RAISE MONEY & WIN!!!

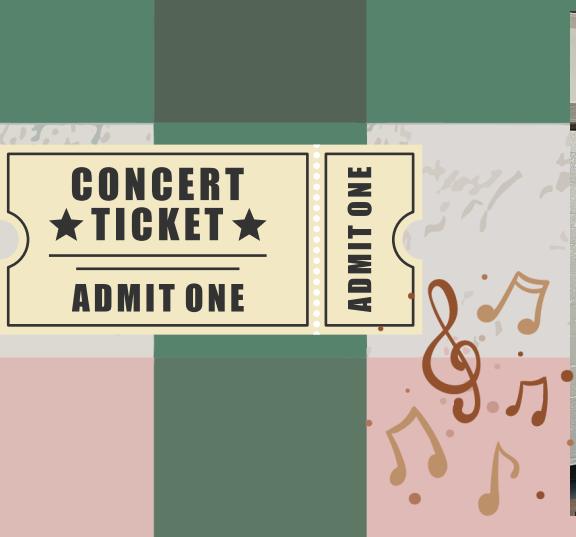
Online 50/50! Our online 50/50 via rafflebox will return, more details coming soon! Win big bucks, last year's winner received \$1337.





- Paul Jennings

Wouldn't We be cute Elves?



Christmas CONCERT

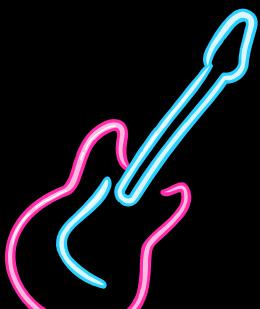




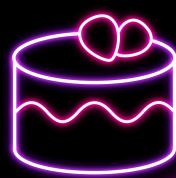
HELP OUR GRADE 6'S



6 **LEVEL UP!** 7



A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Cake Fundraiser during the Christmas Concert! Thanks to your support, our Grade 6 students are on their way to a fantastic year-end celebration!



BOTTLE DRIVE

Help support our Grade 6 students as they prepare for their big send-off! You can donate anytime by taking your bottles directly to the Leduc Bottle Depot and dropping them off under "East Elementary Grade 6."

Every bottle donated helps our amazing 6's turn into confident 7's, making their year-end celebrations extra special. Thank you for supporting our students and helping them finish the year strong!



JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 NO SCHOOL NEW, YEAR'S DAY 2026	2 NO SCHOOL	3 
4 	5 WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL Boys Basketball Practice 12:00  DIV 1 Popcorn Day	6 Girls Basketball Game 3:00 Boys Basketball Game 4:30 EEPA/SC Meeting 6:30	7		8 Girls Basketball Practice 12:00 Boys Basketball Practice 3:00	9 Hot Lunch: NITZA'S PIZZA <small>A PART OF YOUR COMMUNITY FOR OVER 20 YEARS</small>
11	12 Boys Basketball Practice 12:00 Girls & Boys Basketball Games 3:00  DIV 2 Popcorn Day	13 Girls Basketball Practice 3:00	14		15 Girls Basketball Practice 12:00 Boys Basketball Practice 3:00	16 Hot Lunch: Hot Dog 
18	19	20 Girls Basketball Practice 3:00	21		22 Girls Basketball Practice 12:00	23 Hot Lunch: Boston Pizza 
25	26	27	28	29 Assembly 8:40am Perseverance Hot Lunch: Hot Dog 	30 PD DAY NO SCHOOL	31 

Absence Reporting/ Student Sign Out

SafeArrival -Reporting Student Absences

Dear Parents / Guardians,

To enhance our existing absence-checking procedure, we are introducing a new, more efficient student absence reporting system called SafeArrival. This new system will reduce the time it takes to verify student attendance, make it easy for you to respond to your child's absence and easy for staff to respond to unexplained student absences.

With *SafeArrival*, you are asked to report your child's absence in advance using any of these 3 convenient methods:

On your mobile device:

- Using your mobile device, download and install the SchoolMessenger Home app from the *Apple App Store* or the *Google Play Store*.



- The first time you use the app, select *Sign up* to create your account.
- Select *Attendance* then *Report an Absence*.

Use the SchoolMessenger Website:

- Go to the *SchoolMessenger Website*. <https://go.schoolmessenger.com/#/home>
- The first time you use the website, select *Sign Up* to create your account.
- Select *Attendance* then *Report an Absence*.

By Telephone:

- Call the toll-free number 780-955-4526 to report an absence using the automated phone system.

These options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at anytime.

The automated notification system will attempt to contact the parents at multiple contact points (email, text, push notification & phone call) until a reason is submitted for the absence. If our system is unable to reach the designated contact's, office staff will follow up. If you report your child's absence in advance using the *SafeArrival* toll-free number, website or mobile app, you will NOT receive these notifications.

Starting Wednesday, August 27, 2025, please report absences in advance using *SafeArrival* instead of sending notes or calling/emailing the school.

Starting Wednesday, August 27, 2025 staff will begin using the *SafeArrival* notifications to let you know if your student is absent and the absence is unexplained.

Please download the *SchoolMessenger Home* app or sign into the website. If you are having trouble logging in, please contact your school.

If you do not already receive text messages from your school and would like to start, please ensure your school has your mobile phone number and then text "Y" to 987338. (Standard message and data rates may apply.)

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we implement this new system.



LEDUC RECREATION CENTRE FREE FAMILY PASS

Sign out a Family Pass to the
Leduc Recreation Centre at the Library!



How does the pass work?

- The LRC Family Pass is valid for 2 adults and all children living in the same household.
- Sign out your LRC Family Pass for FREE from the Library.
- This pass will provide you and your family with access to all of the amenities at the LRC. Enjoy the Aquatic Centre, Arenas, Courts, Fieldhouse, Fitness Centre and Indoor Track.
- Passes are valid for a one week time period.
- After your one week rental, return the LRC Family Pass back to the Library for other families to enjoy.

Visit Live.Leduc.ca for the latest drop-in activity schedule.

Get moving. Start having fun. Be connected - today!

Mental Health Symposium

Parents and guardians from all Black Gold schools are invited to attend this years Mental Health Symposium. This event is designed to equip you with valuable resources, information, and direct connections to the mental health services, organizations, and support networks available within our community.

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

5:30 - 7:00 PM

Maclab Centre for the Performing Arts

Door prizes to be won!



INTERNET CHILD EXPLOITATION PRESENTATION



JOIN US

DATE

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

TIME

Starts immediately following the Symposium (approx. 7:00 p.m.)

LOCATION

Maclab Centre for the Performing Arts, Leduc

PRESENTERS

Constable Stephanie Bosch (Edmonton Police Service) and Constable Scott Sterling (RCMP) from ALERT's Northern Alberta Internet Child Exploitation unit (NAICE).

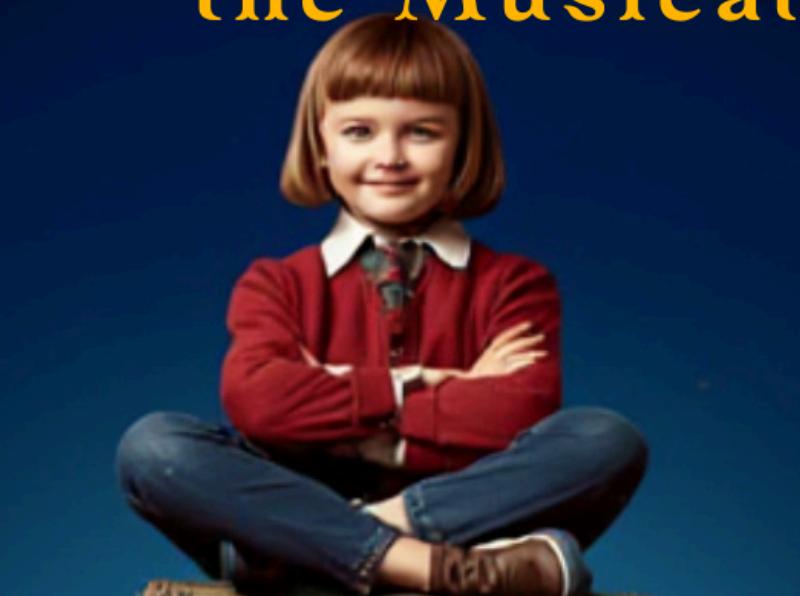


ESBCHS Presents:

Matilda

the Musical

Tickets on
sale now!



January 28 - 31, 2026
Beaumont Comp. Atrium



BRAD AGOTNES

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

 780-920-1893

 bagotnes@leduc.ca

My name is Brad Agotnes, and I am a Community Peace Officer with the City of Leduc.
I currently serve as the School Resource Officer (SRO) for both the Black Gold and STAR Catholic School Divisions, working with students from Kindergarten through Grade 6 in schools across the City of Leduc.

I want to build strong relationships with students, staff, and families, while promoting safety, respect, and community engagement.

My mission is simple: *to help create a fun, safe space where all students are able to succeed.*

I have several responsibilities while serving the schools. They include:

- School visits with students and staff
- Patrols of the school halls and playgrounds
- Interacting with parents inside and outside of the school
- Proactive safety enforcement in the school zone
- Safety presentations
- Attending school events

If you wish to speak to me about specific visits, presentations, or concerns, you may contact me by either telephone or email.

DISCOVERY NATURE PLAY

A Year-Round Outdoor Learning Adventure!



 Learn more: www.discoverynatureplay.com

 Launching in September at Telford Lake!

 JUL 17 Class Times: Tuesdays & Thursdays

 9:00am–12:00pm or 12:30pm–3:30pm

 Ages 3–7 years



WHO ARE WE:

We're Erica Frick and Amry Gavin, Directors of Discovery Nature Play — a play-based outdoor exploration program for children ages 3–7.

WHAT WE OFFER:

Hands-on outdoor learning
Nature-based play and discovery
Builds confidence, independence, self-regulation, motor skills, communication & leadership





Families have the option to purchase Voluntary Student Accident Insurance through our Division's insurance partner, StudyInsured.

This extra insurance can help cover costs if your child is injured in an accident.

To learn more about the plans available and what they cover, please visit:

👉 www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com/compare-plans

A plan for every need

Whether your child is a star athlete, naturally rambunctious, or just accident-prone, we've got you covered. Choose the plan that works best for you, your family, and your wallet.

Family pricing available when insuring 3 or more siblings at the same school board.



Follow StudyInsured™ on Social Media:

[LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#)

Please note:

This insurance is completely optional and is separate from the coverage already provided by the Division. It is for families who would like extra protection for their child.