Elk Point Elementary School

December 2023

Box 600, 5410—50 Street, Elk Point, Alberta, T0A 1A0

Principal: Ms. Leanne Vinge Asst. Principal: Mrs. Reanne Mudryk

Phone: 780-724-3880 Website: www.elkpointelementaryschool.ca

Text: 780-900-8288 Email: epe@sperd.ca Facebook: Elk Point Elementary SPERD

DECEMBER

1	Rodeo Day
4-19	Skating Program for Gr.3-6
7	Santas Anonymous Deadline
8	PLC DAY, no school
18	Christmas Sweater Day
19	Jan. Milk/Hot Food Orders Due
19	North Pole Day
20	Formal Day
20	Christmas Concert 1:00 pm
21	Red/Green Day
22	Pajama Day

Christmas Concert

Wed., Dec. 20th

Show Starts @ 1:00 PM

Doors Open @ noon

Admission by donation.

Tickets $5 each or
5 for $20
Supporting Student Activities

Christmas Spirit Week

Monday, December 18

CHRISTMAS SWEATER DAY

Tuesday, December 19

NORTH POLE DAY

Dress like anything that makes you think of the North Pole

Wednesday, December 20

FORMAL DAY

Dress in your Christmas Best for our Christmas Concert

Thursday, December 21

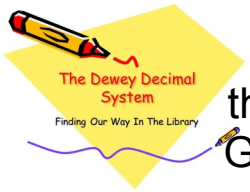
RED/GREEN DAY

Friday, December 22

PAJAMA DAY

Learning Commons Facility

Christmas is just around the corner!!!! During the Holiday season I don't want to see any books go missing in the Library so I am asking all students to please return all of your NON-AR books to the Library by December 7th. I can also start organizing those shelves as well!!



This month the Grade 3 class will be learning about the Dewey Decimal System! I will also be teaching the Grade 4 class how to search for books within our library!

We have started Library Jeopardy! The winners will receive a free lunch from a restaurant of their choice in town!!

A BIG THANK YOU goes out to all students and staff who have participated in Santa's Anonymous! The deadline for donations is December 7th!

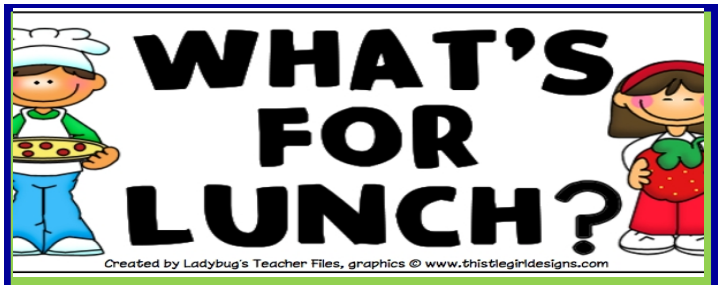
Accelerated Reader

Our 1st Reporting period is done for AR and I am beyond ecstatic to congratulate our whole school (Grade 3-6) who have made their AR goal!! KEEP IT UP STUDENTS!!

Our 2nd Reporting period has begun!! Students have until March 8th to make their AR goal!

TOP 10 AR READERS

10. **GRADE 6** Nicholas Habiak 352 %
9. **GRADE 3A** Nolan Dones - Janzen - 354 %
8. **GRADE 3A** Jake Labiuk - 372 %
7. **GRADE 4A** - Mya Letawsky - 397 %
6. **GRADE 3B** - Landon St. Arnault - 448 %
5. **GRADE 4A** - Bryan Tetlock - 466 %
4. **GRADE 4A** - Jason Friesen - 500 %
3. **GRADE 3A** - Tytus Gadwa - 538 %
2. **GRADE 3A** - Raihan Singh - 562 %
1. **GRADE 5A** - Gracie Beck - 659 %



Thursday, December 7 (KA Day)

Grilled Cheese

Thursday, December 14 (KA Day)

Subway

January Orders will be due on

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

Volunteers are needed to run this program.

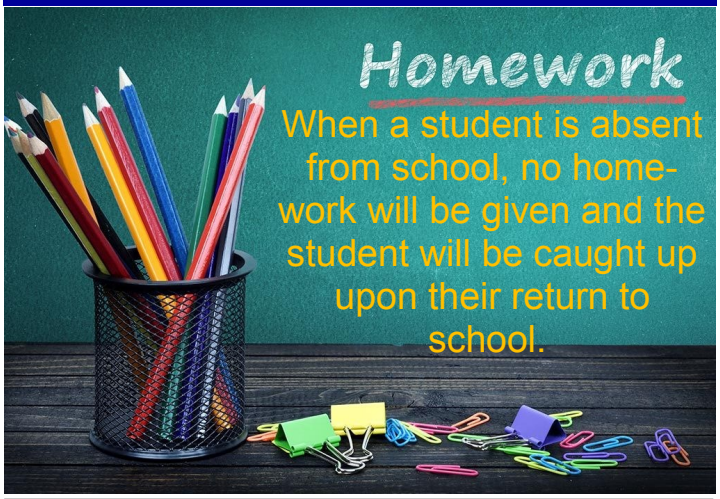
Please call the office if you are able to assist.

TIGER TUESDAYS

Every Tuesday we encourage students and staff to show their school pride by wearing either school attire or orange/black.

School gear can be purchased online at

elkpointelementary.entripyshops.com



Skating Program for Grade 3—6 students December 4-19

Please be sure your child is coming with skates, helmets, mitts and a warm coat every day.

Skates need to be brought in a sturdy bag and please bring a rag to wipe off blades.

Fri. Dec. 1st

RODEO DAY

Dress like a COWBOY or COWGIRL

Made with PosterMyWall.com

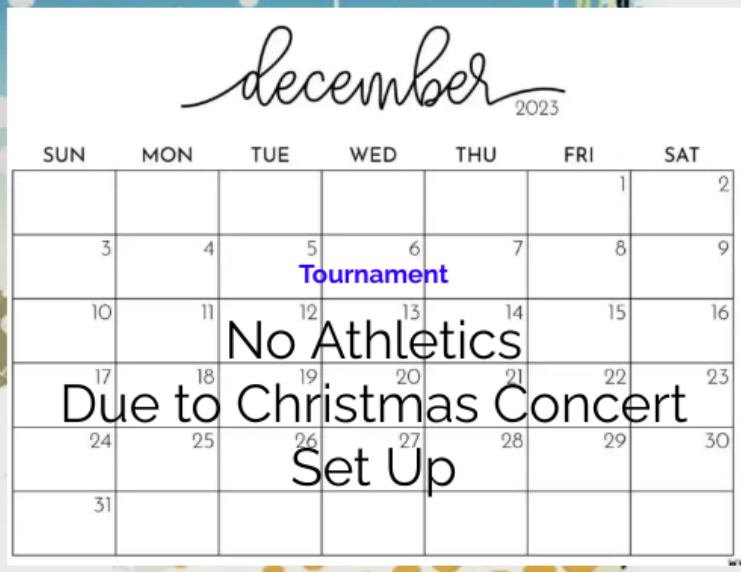
HANDBALL

TOURNAMENT

Wednesday

DECEMBER 6

3:30 - 5:00PM



Parents/Guardians welcome to watch!

Elk Point Elementary

BOTTLE DRIVE

SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

JANUARY 8 -12

8:00 AM –4:00 PM

SCHOOL PARKING LOT

Drop your recycle containers off in the collection trailer!

November 8, 2023

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

St. Paul Education

Community Consultations
As part of its strategic plan and evaluation, the Board indicated its desire to hold community consultations. The intent is to promote engagement and gather feedback from parents and community stakeholders on educational issues. This initiative will be done in consultation with Division leadership. The Board approved a motion to create a community consultation committee that will be a committee of the whole.

ATA Agreement:
The Board and teachers have ratified local terms for a new collective agreement.

2024-25 School Calendar
The Division is in the early stages of creating the 2024-25 learning calendar. Planning will follow a similar process as last year and incorporate feedback from staff, parents and other community stakeholders.

SchoolMessenger
We are in the early stages of phase one of SchoolMessenger implementation across the Division. This communication tool will allow schools to send notifications to families via phone, text and email. Parents have been invited to opt-in or out of receiving text messages. Phase two of SchoolMessenger implementation will include activating the attendance reporting feature, Safe Arrival, and is expected to begin early in 2024.

2022 Scholarship Program
A video will soon be released recognizing our Local Scholarship Recipients for our division-wide scholarship program. We recognize the hard work and accomplishments of our students and would also like to thank all of our local scholarship sponsors for supporting our students.

Local Authorities Election Act Review
Alberta's government is seeking input from the public and stakeholders on the Local Authorities Elections Act which governs school trustee and municipal elections. A public survey is open until December 6 and will help inform potential changes. Additional information and the link to complete the surveys is available here.

Financial Report
The transition to a new insurance provider has been finalized with the new policy year starting November 1. The Division is pleased to report that the premiums have gone down significantly and will result in a positive budget adjustment of $350,000.

The Province announced additional Learning Disruption grant funding which is intended to provide targeted programming in literacy and numeracy for the remainder of this school year. The Division will be receiving $64,125.

The Board will review the year-end audit on November 23, 2023. Two public members are still being sought for the audit committee.

Myrnam Community Library
Northern Lights Library System (NLLS) has served notice that they will cease operating the municipal library located in New Myrnam School effective December 22, 2023. The Board is hopeful that community and municipal stakeholders can find a solution to keep the program in operation.

Minister of Education Visit
SPERD representatives had an opportunity to meet with Minister Demetrios Nicolaides on October 12.

For more information, contact:
Mr. Peter Barron
Superintendent of Schools
barrpete@sperd.ca

Learning Together, Growing Together

HOW SICK IS

TOO SICK FOR SCHOOL?

SEND TO SCHOOL

- A runny nose or just a little cough but no other symptoms.
- Sore throat but no other symptoms.
- No fever in the past 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine.
- No vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours.

KEEP AT HOME

- Fever higher than 100.4 degrees F (38 degrees C).
- Sore throat, with other symptoms such as a persistent cough.
- Vomiting or diarrhea in the past 24 hours.
- Eyes are pink and crusty.
- Has been exposed to an illness where isolation is recommended.

St. Paul Education

stpauleducation.ab.ca

St. Paul Education

EXTREME WEATHER

Is my child's bus running? Coming home early?

Throughout the winter, weather and road conditions are constantly monitored with the safety of students and staff at the center of all of our decisions. We strive to inform parents of any delays or cancellations as quickly as possible. Here's how you may be notified:

- Bus driver contact
- Call/text from your school
- Local radio stations
- Bus Status app
- Division social media (Facebook and Instagram)
- Division website https://www.stpauleducation.ab.ca/transportation/bus-status

How we decide:

When temperatures and/or wind chill is -40 or colder, buses are CANCELLED. Notice may be given the night before or in the morning.

-40°C

Buses may run in the afternoon during extreme cold weather under certain circumstances.

Weather checks start very early with The Weather Network and phone calls to designated staff living in each local area.

If a decision is required around temperature and/or road conditions, the Director of Transportation consults with:

- Local bus drivers
- School principals
- Superintendent of Schools

Even if buses are cancelled schools remain **OPEN.**

- If your child attends: meaningful learning still occurs
- If your child is absent: efforts will be made to ensure they do not fall behind

Decision is based on:

- Local road conditions
- RCMP travel advisories
- Weather and wind warnings
- Local municipality

Your bus driver also has complete discretion to cancel a route should they feel travel is unsafe.

Parents always have the final say about their child's safety and well-being and can always choose whether or not to have their child take the bus.

The Nations of Saddle Lake, Whitefish Lake and Frog Lake make independent decisions about their buses. Please contact them directly for any questions regarding their transportation policies.

St. Paul Education
Regional Division No.1

www.stpauleducation.ab.ca 780.645.3323

EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS

Information for Parents

lockdown

LOCKDOWN

- There is an immediate THREAT OF VIOLENCE to students and staff INSIDE the school building.
- Objective of a Lockdown is to protect the safety of people by getting them behind locked doors.
- Students and staff placed into secure areas and school will not operate as normal inside the building.
- No one allowed in or out of the school.
- Lockdown ends when Person in Command on-site issues the ALL CLEAR.
- Doors are unlocked by Person in Command or the police.

In the event of a Lockdown it may not always be possible to send out information until after the incident has ended.

Parents will be notified and kept informed (as soon as it is safe to do so) should this protocol be initiated.

Parent Do's:

- Please rest assured school officials are doing their best to ensure your child's safety.
- Please await information via school/division websites and social media.

Parent Don'ts:

- Don't call or text your child during an emergency situation as ringtones and vibrations make your child's whereabouts known to possible aggressors.
- Don't rush to the school. Additional interference makes it difficult for police/authorities to do their jobs.

hold and secure

HOLD AND SECURE

- There is an emergency situation in close proximity to the school, outside the school, on the school grounds and/or unrelated to the school.
- All exterior doors to the school are locked.
- School operates as normal, inside the school walls.
- Outdoor activities, field trips, etc. are cancelled.
- Access to and from the school is restricted and carefully monitored.
- Hold and Secure ends when Person in Command issues the ALL CLEAR.

Parents will be notified when the protocol is initiated and kept updated via school and division websites and social media accounts.

Parent Do's:

- Please rest assured school officials are doing their best to ensure your child's safety.
- Please await information via school/division websites and social media.

Parent Don'ts:

- Don't call or text your child during an emergency situation so classes can proceed as usual. Calls and texts are disruptive and, if circumstances change, can interfere with teacher communication with students.
- Don't rush to the school. Additional interference makes it difficult for police/authorities to do their jobs.

shelter in place

SHELTER IN PLACE

- There is an ENVIRONMENTAL emergency in close proximity to the school, outside the school, on the school grounds and/or unrelated to the school. Examples can include; dangerous goods spill, wildlife on the playground, tornado, etc.
- If the threat is immediate, students and staff will be gathered into safer spaces, such as away from outside walls and large vented areas.
- Access to and from the school will depend on the ENVIRONMENTAL emergency.
- The protocol will continue until Person in Command issues ALL CLEAR.

Parents will be notified and kept informed (as soon as it is safe to do so) should this protocol be initiated.

Parent Do's:

- Please rest assured school officials are doing their best to ensure your child's safety.
- Please await information via school/division websites and social media.

Parent Don'ts:

- Don't call or text your child during an emergency situation. Calls and texts are disruptive and, if circumstances change, can interfere with teacher communication with students.
- Don't rush to the school. Additional interference makes it difficult for police/authorities to do their jobs.

classroom hold

CLASSROOM HOLD

- There is a situation happening inside the school that does not meet the requirement for a Lockdown/Hold and Secure/Shelter in Place but does require action to temporarily keep students in the classroom. Examples may include keeping traffic out of the hallways in the event of a medical situation or an RCMP investigation or arrest.
- Students are kept in the classroom to protect the integrity of the person(s) involved.
- Parents will not likely be notified of a Classroom Hold.

emergency evacuation

EMERGENCY EVACUATION

- There is possible danger INSIDE the school. Examples can include fire, chemical spill, gas leak, etc.
- Students escorted by staff to a safe location away from the school.
- No one will re-enter the school until Person in Command issues the ALL CLEAR.

Parents will be notified and kept informed (as soon as it is safe to do so) should this protocol be initiated.

Parent Do's:

- Please rest assured school officials are doing their best to ensure your child's safety.
- Please wait information via school/division websites and social media.

Parent Don'ts:

- Don't call or text your child during an emergency situation. Calls and texts are disruptive and, if circumstances change, can interfere with teacher communication with students.
- Don't rush to the school. Additional interference makes it difficult for police/authorities to do their jobs.

Important Note Regarding Bussing and all After School Events

Depending on the nature of the situation:

- Morning and after school bussing may be interrupted.
- After school sporting events, practices, clubs, etc may be interrupted/delayed/cancelled.
- Parents will be notified as soon as possible.

Any media requests must be directed to the Superintendent of Schools

What are the "winter blues" or seasonal affective disorder?

Seasonal Affective Disorder or SAD occurs in up to 17% of people, and often is seen in more than 1 family member. It is a type of depression that usually happens in the colder months, when the days are shorter.

Winter blues impacts about 15% of Canadians and involves a lower mood or waves of emotions in the colder months.

These tend to be more common in adults, but can still show up in children and youth. It you see signs in yourself or your children, speak to a healthcare provider.

Ways to combat "winter blues"

If you notice your children have lower moods in the winter, there are some strategies that may help:

- Open curtains and allow natural light in your space
- Spend time outdoors and get fresh air
- Get regular exercise and eat healthy food
- Talk to a doctor or a therapist
- Ask your doctor or pharmacist about vitamin D supplements
- Help your child understand what increases their stress and how they can better manage it

Ways to combat "winter blues" as a family

- Watch a funny show or movie together; make a night of it!
- Put on your favourite music and have a dance party
- Make a winter bucket list, come up with some activities the whole family is interested in
- Try new recipes
- Create new family traditions
- Have conversations and check in with each other if you notice any changes in behaviour

Stress Busters

Stress can impact your overall mood and wellbeing. If you notice yours or your children's moods are fluctuating in the cold winter months, you may need to take extra special care. This could include things like:

- Deep breathing strategies
- Try "mindful crafts" or "stress reduction crafts for kids"
- Mindfulness strategies like focusing on your 5 senses (5 things you see, 4 things you touch, 3 things you hear, 2 things you smell, 1 think you taste)

MORE RESOURCES

Winter Blues and SAD

Parent Information Series | AHS

Mindfulness for Kids

Information on mental health, community supports, programs and services in your area:

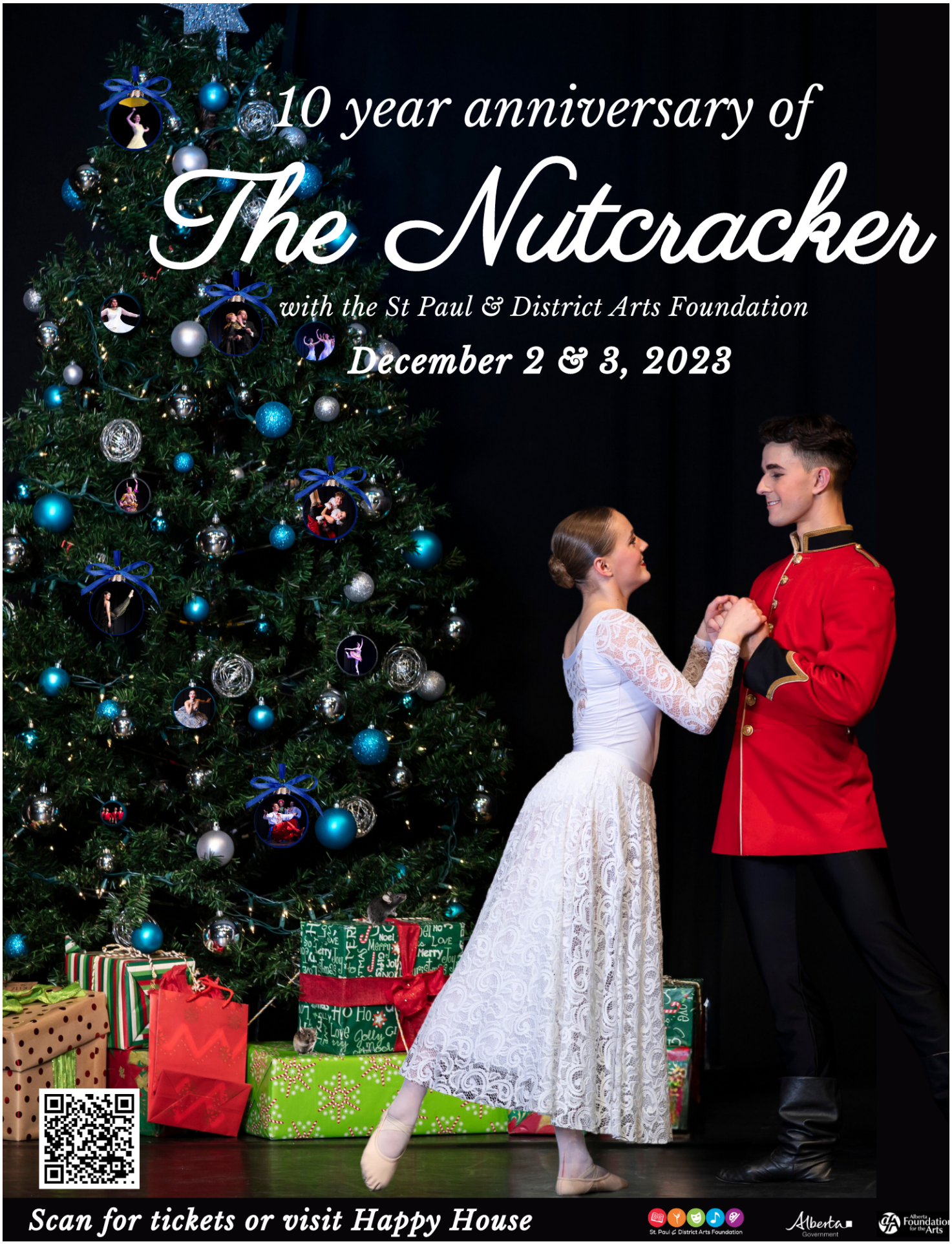
MyHealth.Alberta.ca

Addiction Services Help Line
1-866-332-2322

Mental Health Help Line
1-877-303-2642

811 Health Link Health Advice 24/7

Alberta Health Services


10 year anniversary of
The Nutcracker
with the St Paul & District Arts Foundation
December 2 & 3, 2023
Scan for tickets or visit Happy House
St. Paul & District Arts Foundation
Alberta Government
Alberta Foundation for the Arts

2023

Elk Point LOCATION

December

WHICH PROGRAM IS FOR ME?
child development & well being
ages 0-6 (blue)
ages 7-18 (red)
caregiver support, building, classes
all ages (Grey)
community events
all ages (White)

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
MERRY Christmas AND HAPPY NEW YEAR				**01** Christmas Cards for Seniors 10am - 12pm **DROP IN**
04 Say HELLO to friends you know and EVERYONE you meet!	**05** Office **OPEN** 8:30am - 12:30pm 1:30pm - 4:30pm	**06** Office **OPEN** 8:30am - 12:30pm 1:30pm - 4:30pm	**07** Youth Group Christmas Ornaments 3:30pm - 5:30pm **REGISTER**	**08** **NO PROGRAM**
11 Go walking in A WINTER WONDERLAND!	**12** Office **OPEN** 8:30am - 12:30pm 1:30pm - 4:30pm	**13** Office **OPEN** 8:30am - 12:30pm 1:30pm - 4:30pm	**14** Youth Group Gingerbread Houses 3:30pm - 5:30pm **REGISTER**	**15** Christmas Ornaments 10am - 12pm **REGISTER**
18 Enjoy the festive season with FAMILY and FRIENDS!	**19** Office **OPEN** 8:30am - 12:30pm 1:30pm - 4:30pm	**20** Office **OPEN** 8:30am - 12:30pm 1:30pm - 4:30pm	**21** Youth Group Games 3:30pm - 5:30pm **DROP IN**	**22** **NO PROGRAM**
25 **CLOSED** **Have a MERRY CHIRISTMAS!**	**26** **CLOSED**	**27** **CLOSED**	**28** **CLOSED**	**29** **CLOSED**

fcss
St. Paul Regional Family and Community Support Services
Lakeland FAMILY RESOURCE NETWORK

4906 - 48 St
Elk Point AB T0A 1A0
Call: 780-724-3800
Text: 780-614-1941
Web: stpaulfcss.ca

st.paul_fcss
St. Paul Regional FCSS & Family Resource Network

Christmas Cards for Seniors

AGES 0-6

LFRN Elk Point 4906-48ST

Friday
December 01

10am-12pm

FREE

DROP IN
780-724-3800

fcss
St. Paul Regional Family and Community Support Services

Promoting intergenerational connections and community building.

Lakeland
FAMILY RESOURCE NETWORK

Connect with us for more information.
Call **780-724-3800** or visit our website at **stpaulfcss.ca**
Providing services and support for ages 0-18yrs, parents and caregivers.

Christmas Ornaments

YOUTH 7+

LFRN Elk Point 4906-48 St

Thursday
December 07

3:30pm-5:30pm

FREE TO REGISTER
780-724-3800

Encouraging listening skills, attention span and creativity.

Lakeland
FAMILY RESOURCE NETWORK

fcss
St. Paul Regional Family and Community Support Services

Connect with us for more information.
Call **780-724-3800** or visit our website at **stpaulfcss.ca**
Providing services and support for ages 0-18yrs, parents and caregivers.

Gingerbread Houses

YOUTH 7+

LFRN Elk Point 4906-48 St

Thursday
December 14

3:30pm-5:30pm

FREE TO REGISTER
780-724-3800

Create it, build it and eat it using our senses!

Lakeland
FAMILY RESOURCE NETWORK

fcss
St. Paul Regional Family and Community Support Services

Connect with us for more information.
Call **780-724-3800** or visit our website at **stpaulfcss.ca**
Providing services and support for ages 0-18yrs, parents and caregivers.

Christmas Ornaments

AGES 0-6

LFRN Elk Point 4906-48 St

Friday
December 15

10am-12pm

FREE

REGISTER
780-724-3800

Encouraging listening skills, attention span and creativity.

Lakeland
FAMILY RESOURCE NETWORK

Connect with us for more information.
Call **780-724-3800** or visit our website at **stpaulfcss.ca**
Providing services and support for ages 0-18yrs, parents and caregivers.

fcss
St. Paul Regional Family and Community Support Services

YOUTH 7+

LFRN Elk Point 4906-48 St

Motivates, promotes & encourages learning in a variety of ways.

Board Games Play

Thursday December 21

3:30pm-5:30pm

FREE DROP IN

780-724-3800

Lakeland FAMILY RESOURCE NETWORK

fcss St. Paul Regional Family and Community Support Services

Connect with us for more information.

Call **780-724-3800** or visit our website at **stpaulfcss.ca**

Providing services and support for ages 0-18yrs, parents and caregivers.

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 DAY 5 KA Rodeo Day	2
3	4 DAY 6 Skating Starts Today for Grades 3-6	5 DAY 1 KA	6 DAY 2	7 DAY 3 KA SANTAS ANONYMOUS DEADLINE GRILLED CHEESE	8 PLC DAY no school	9
10	11 DAY 4	12 DAY 5 KA	13 DAY 6	14 DAY 1 KA SUBWAY	15 DAY 2	16
17	18 DAY 3 KA CHRISTMAS SWEATER DAY January Milk/Hot Food Orders Due Concert Rehearsal	19 DAY 4 North Pole Day	20 DAY 5 KA Formal Dress Day Christmas Concert 1:00 PM	21 DAY 6 RED & GREEN DAY	22 DAY 1 KA Pajama Day	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

MERRY CHRISTMAS

SEE YOU BACK ON MONDAY, JANUARY 8TH