

ELROSE COMPOSITE SCHOOL

Newsletter #8 - 2019/2020

May 8, 2020

Principal: TJ Wright

tj.wright@sunwestsd.ca



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE - MR. TJ WRIGHT

Hello to all, I hope this newsletter finds you well. As a staff, we thought it might be nice to reach out and keep you updated the best we could in these crazy times. I hope everyone is enjoying learning in this new normal we are experiencing. As a staff, we have been busy meeting with students over Microsoft Teams and using Seesaw to stay connected, not only to each other, but also to our students.

I thought I might give an update on a few things that we are working on. We have officially rolled out the parent portal, and all parents now have the ability to look up their child's grades. We are currently looking at timetabling for next year, and we should be sending home some specific information on that right away. The SCC will meet one more time this year to tie up any loose ends. We usually have a chance for parents and community members who are interested in joining are SCC , but unfortunately we have to postpone until a later date. We are also looking at options for Graduation and what we are capable of doing for our graduates. We are proud of you, and we look forward to celebrating your day with you.

We also have a new addition to our staff I would like to tell you about. Miss Aidan Morari will be leaving us in the Fall, and will be missed very much. Her position will be filled by Alysa MacDonald, so congratulations to Alysa and we look forward to working with you.

I would like to thank all staff, parents, and students for their continued patience as we try to navigate this situation. I truly miss being able to walk in to our school and interact with each and every one of you. I know we have a great staff, great students, and great parents in Elrose and that is why we will succeed.

Stay safe in the field, and for the Mom's out there, Happy Mothers Day on Sunday. Hope to see you all soon!

Mr. Wright



Follow
ELROSE COMPOSITE SCHOOL
on Facebook & Twitter!



<http://www.elrosecomposite.sunwestsd.ca/>



Delivering Student Items/
supplies...
6 feet apart!
We hope we put a smile on
some of your faces!



**WAYS TO
CONNECT**



COVID-19:
We're all in this together. Be safe.



Elrose Composite School

Tor Vaughn Josdal

Hailey Mary-Ann Augast Mus

Mackenzie Anne Sather

Katie Dawn Elizabeth Watson

Congratulations

CLASS OF 2020

Due to Covid-19, there will not be a Ceremony at this time.

KINDERGARTEN/GRADE 1 - Ms. J. WATSON

We have had quite the turn of events over the last few months! It has been a learning curve for all of us in K/1 to shift from learning at school to now learning at home! I myself have had to learn more than I thought possible about technology (it usually is not my friend) and the K/1 students and parents have been incredibly supportive and patient with me as I figured out how to teach and support their learning from home. We do most of our schoolwork through an app called Seesaw, where the students can complete lessons and activities from their ipads or computers. The Grades Ones are working on addition facts to 20 and the Kindergartens are working on numbers to 100 and beginning addition to 5. For ELA, the Grade One students are given a daily writing prompt and access to leveled reading books online. The Kindergartens are continuing their work with the alphabet and CVC word families. All the students are able to participate in weekly science scavenger hunts and a science inquiry of the week. I am really missing seeing my students each day, and I cannot wait until we are able to be together in our building again. Take care and stay safe.

GR. 2/3 - MRS. R. NISBET

I hope everyone is staying safe and taking care of themselves. Even though we may not be in our 2/3 classroom anymore, the Grade 2/3's have certainly not stopped all of their hard work and learning. They are continuing to practicing reading, writing and of course spelling. Students have got to practice their weekly spelling words doing activities like writing with chalk, writing in the dirt or making their words using sticks and rocks.

In Math, the Grade 2's have been working away at their adding and subtracting unit. They were very successful at adding 2 digit numbers together. Now they are perfecting their subtracting. The Grade 3's have began their multiplication unit. So far, we have worked on what exactly multiplication means and looking at multiplication and repeated addition.

One week, we took a virtual field trip to an aquarium. At the aquarium, we met 2 turtles, a shark, fish and of course, dolphins! Another week, we learned about how animals protect themselves from getting a sunburn. The Grade 2/3's learned a lot of cool facts during that activity, including how pigs, elephants and hippo's keep themselves protected from the sun!

Take Care.

Sun West selects new DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

See link for more details...



<https://www.sunwestsd.ca/blog/2020/05/01/sun-west-selects-new-director-of-education>

GRADES 4/5 - Ms. C. CLARK

The Grade 4/5 class has been working on their weekly learning packages from Miss Clark! Each week, the students focus on a different skill in Reading, Writing, and Math, and there is always a special activity as well. Each week, Miss Clark surprises the Grade 4/5's with a challenge that they have to complete and send photos of over Class Dojo! So far, the students have been cooking and baking, creating things out of cardboard, and doing lots of exploring outside in our beautiful weather!



GR. 6-12 - MR. J. KINGWELL

I hope everyone is doing well. Many of you have settled into a good routine of supplemental learning in our middle years math courses. I have connected with most of you through Teams and have been able to help work through math concepts in our virtual world by sharing my screen and using a whiteboard app to do step by step problems/explanations, as well as connecting with voice calls and chat messages. It is nice to see students invested in their learning and striving to get through their math units.

Students in Math 6-9, I have created a Teams group where I will be posting weekly math puzzles and different activities that you could do at home by yourself or with family members. I have also scheduled a weekly get together to play a game of operations mixer. Thanks to Mia and Clinton for joining this week's game.

Students in ELA 10-12 who are continuing with supplemental learning will be doing some book club activities in the coming week. ELA 30 students will be reading the novel Lord of the Flies, while ELA 10 students will be reading the classic Of Mice and Men. If anyone out there would like to take part in any of our novel discussion meetings/virtual get togethers, please feel free to contact me by email at jeff.kingwell@sunwestsd.ca and we can try to accommodate.

Outside school hours, I have been busy completing much overdue yard work, as well as building some projects for our home and yard, including a sandbox with a folding lid for Rhett. It has been nice to see students out there sharing some of the things they have been doing outside of school work as well.

Take care everyone and stay safe!

STUDENT SUPPORT, PEBL, ART 6, 7, 10 - MS. AIDAN MORARI

What a strange time indeed! As I am winding my time down in Elrose, I wish for nothing more than one last morning where I can stand in the foyer and see all your smiling faces. Unfortunately, matters are out of our control, but I am grateful for technology allowing me to see some of you virtually!

I am all set up on Microsoft Teams, and would love to hear from you! If you were in my PAA cooking class, perhaps we could bake together virtually! If you are looking for a cool Visual Arts project, I would be happy to help! Or, if you just want to chat, I would welcome that very much. My days are spent looking at a computer screen and talking to my cat and dog!

If you are not a fan of this type of communication, feel free to email me @ aidan.morari@sunwestsd.ca

There are a lot of great resources available in the Sun West School Division Resource Bank - anywhere from phonological awareness and reading activities to creative projects for core subjects. I cannot think of a more appropriate time to be utilizing these great resources.

I hope everyone is doing well and making sure that they stay connected with their peers and teachers. We are all here for you!

Can't wait to see everyone again!

GR. 6-12 - MRS. J. DREWS

I want to start off by saying that I miss everyone very much! It has been very strange interacting with my students through a computer but it is starting to become our new normal.

For students who have decided to continue in ELA from Grades 6-9, there are many writing, media, and reading assignments available to you through Teams. My favourite projects are the Good News Project and the Video/Vlog assignment. I am looking forward to seeing some newscasts from the Good News Project and what you are up to during your time at home in your Video assignments. Please continue to let me know where I can help you (whether it is with technology or with assignments in Teams).

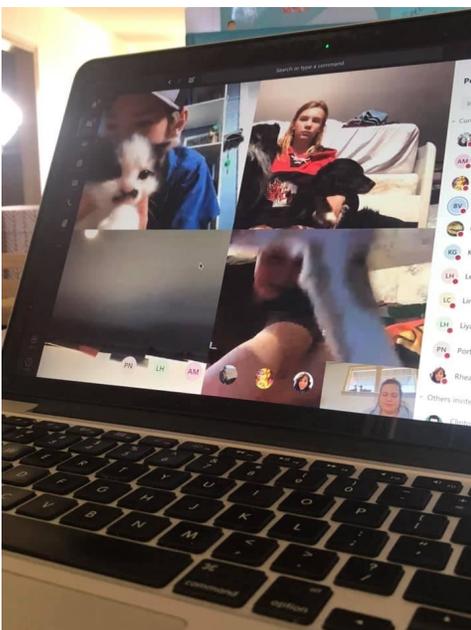
We have three book clubs running currently for students from Grades 6-9 and several staff members. In these clubs we are listening to audio books (through audible) and meeting once a week to talk about the book. We are currently reading *White Fang*, *The Liar's Daughter*, *Stepping on the Cracks*, and will soon be starting another group to listen to *90 Miles to Havana*. I have really been enjoying this time with the students! I look forward to our book club meetings every week!

Most recently we have started meeting to have mini grammar lessons every Monday morning. We have a different focus every week where I am able to deliver an online mini lesson to students through Teams. It is a great way to start the week, but a very strange way for me to be teaching!

On Fridays, we have been having weekly FRIYAY meetings for our 6/7 group and our 8/9 group. During these meetings we get to chat, play, games, and check in with friends. So far, we have had an in house scavenger hunt (super fun) and we attempted to play charades (this was a little bit trickier). I am looking forward to this week!

For students in History 30, even though our class has essentially come to an end, please keep in mind that there is always an opportunity to improve your final mark. I have some projects that are ready to go for mark improvement. Please email me if you are interested.

I hope everyone is staying safe and sound at home! I love hearing from you. Please continue to stay in touch through email and teams so we know what you are up to! I hope to see everyone again soon.



**"In the middle of difficulty
lies opportunity."**

- Albert Einstein



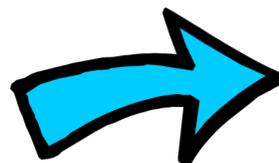
GRADES 6-12 - MRS. R. LEHMKUHL

As I am writing this, I can't help but reflect on the quarantine journey we have all been on. In many ways, this pause in normal life and routines has been somewhat of a blessing, depending on your perspective. Never in my life will I get the chance to be with my children for 24 hours a day for *so many* consecutive days. Sometimes, it feels like we have entered the movie *Groundhog Day* and I wake up wishing to return to normal. On those days, I remind myself that I have much to be grateful for. For the most part, I'm healthy. Although the scale may be telling me the quarantine snacks and beverages are catching up. I'm still able to work and although I'm not essential per se, I'm thankful we have brave people who are risking their lives daily for all of us. I'm happy for the relationships I have. It amazes me to think of all the connections we have with each other, especially now that we can't visit or see everyone face to face. And although technology has allowed for us to virtually connect, it's just not the same as a warm hug with a person you truly care about.

Working from home is definitely different than we're all used to. My new coworkers, aka my children, have certainly helped with filling the void of missing my students and colleagues as they always seem to find a way to keep me busy. Not only are my kids perpetually hungry for snacks, they have a way of challenging me like no other and ultimately, help expand my patience. It seems that every time I am trying to help a student with their senior math class via Facetime, my little ones decide that it is time for my body to become their new personal playground and they start crawling all over me because God forbid, I was not paying attention to them for a moment. One time, I decided to setup office in our bathroom so I could let my kids don their swim suits and visit our new pool, aka the bathtub, for a couple of hours while I worked. Many of you are facing similar challenges while you find yourselves working from home and simultaneously trying to parent and convince your children that school is still in session. I may not have the same kids as you, but I can't help but feel a sense of comradery with you. Hang in there, parents! We've got this!

Learning from home has shifted gears. In many ways, our school is lucky to have already been relatively tech-savvy. Our students have personal devices and mostly decent Wi-Fi to allow them to continue their studies. Some have been learning real-life skills by helping their families with various jobs around the farm or at home. Others have tried their best to maintain the curricular path. Regardless, we are all trying to learn how to live our new normal.

Personally, I have found it somewhat difficult to balance this new life where I am both the teacher and the parent. I meet some students online daily for their classes and although I'd rather be in the classroom, the virtual approach works. I look forward to FriYAY where my colleagues and I meet online with the Grade 6-9 students for some fun activities every Friday morning. I've loved seeing the creative side of the students as they have been sharing their work on various projects they've completed at home. Students were invited to partake in a virtual science fair. Some science fair projects explored topics such as handwashing and taste-testing which both seem fitting given the current situation.



At my own home, we have been following somewhat of a non-traditional approach to learning. We've been exploring the concepts of engineering and architecture almost daily with Lego, or by building forts out of large storage totes. We've dressed up in costumes to parade around town while returning school supplies to students' houses. One day, our house became a ladybug sanctuary because my kids decided it was time to have pets again. (No ladybugs were harmed and all were returned to their natural habitat by bedtime.) Math class has become playing card games like Crazy Eights where my son is the score keeper. I can't help but wonder if my kids are old enough for me to introduce the fine art of poker. Our gym class varies from yoga and dancing at home to bike rides and walks around town. Story time and journaling have replaced English class. We are trying our best to keep learning with reminders to ourselves that learning takes place in many ways. It's not always about the brick and mortar and paper and pencils.

A break from normal routines has allowed me to stop and smell the roses. I've allowed my mind to wonder while gazing at the night sky. I have made more time to snuggle my children without the pressures of a busy schedule whispering to my mind that I should be doing something more productive. Quarantine has allowed me to appreciate more and when life returns to normal, I hope I don't lose this perspective. Every day is a blessing. Good days are an obvious gift but bad days serve a purpose as they provide us with lessons to learn from. I challenge all of you to keep an appreciative perspective. When we finally reunite, we will be more grateful for each other than ever before. Take care!

Mrs. Lehmkuhl's Puzzle:

Digit Swapping

Ali programs three buttons in a machine to swap some digits in a 4-digit number.

Red button: swaps the thousands and tens digits

Blue button: swaps the thousands and hundreds digits

Yellow button: swaps the hundreds and units (ones) digits

Ali types a 4-digit number into the machine. She then presses the following sequence of buttons to produce 6943 as the output.

Red Yellow Blue Red Yellow

What would the output have been if Ali had instead pressed the following sequence of buttons after typing in her original number?

Blue Red Yellow Blue



ELROSE SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

THANK YOU to the 2019/2020 SCC for all they have done this year.

Chairperson - Melissa Wilinski

Secretary - Christy Shaw

Members at Large:

Kerri Calwell

Lisa Watson

Bonnie Fortin

Becky Giles

Kristie Jans

Teri-Lynn Hayes

School Representatives: TJ Wright, Rheanne Lehmkuhl, Thomas Brown

School Community Council duties vary as needs change in schools, but members are commonly involved in:

- School learning improvement planning;
- Family and community engagement;
- Review of school finance and activities; and
- School Community Council development.

Learning Improvement and Wellness

School Community Councils in Sun West and throughout the province work with school staffs to help improve student achievement and wellness. In Sun West, all schools set an improvement goal based on data and the needs of their students. Areas for improvement could include achievement in the literacies of reading, math and writing, increased student engagement and increased mental/physical health and wellness.

School Community Councils play a critical role in helping schools with improvement planning and meeting their goals. Each fall, SCC members are invited to join the school staff in the development of the school's Level 3 School Strategic Plan and contribute a parent and community perspective into areas for improvement. This planning results in actions that the staff takes with students and parents and actions that involve the staff and SCC working together. When schools and SCCs work together good things happen for our students.

Sun West School Division SCCs:

- Recognize the importance of parents/families in identifying and addressing children's needs.
 - Help build positive relationships and create a welcoming school climate.
 - Support parents and make families feel valued and connected.
 - View all parents/families as important and equal partners in their children's well-being.
 - Focus on families' skills and strengths.
 - Build strong connections between schools and community organizations.
- Engage in planning that creates and promote multiple opportunities for parents and the community to participate in school activities

If you are interested in becoming an SCC member talk to your school principal about how you can get involved or call the Sun West School Division office and ask to speak to the Division SCC Representative. The partnership among families, schools and communities creates the best opportunities for students to reach their potential as students and people. We welcome you to our team.

<https://www.sunwestsd.ca/families/scc>



*** DUE TO COVID-19, THE ANNUAL
SCC ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING
WILL BE POSTPONED UNTIL SCHOOL RESUMES.**

LIBRARY NEWS - MRS. A. PARSON

Hello ECS Students! I miss you all so much. I was just starting to get into the swing of things in the library. I had so many things planned and didn't get to do them. I guess we will have to look forward to them! An escape room, Robert Munsch weeks, mystery murder party and more...

Before we left the school, I was able to take down the jungle theme that has been up for several years and was hoping you guys could help me... **WE NEED A NEW THEME IN THE LIBRARY!!!** Email me ashley.parson@sunwestsd.ca or facebook the Elrose Composite school your ideas for what the new theme in the library should be. I hope that I can set up the new theme and everyone can be surprised when we get back into the school!

I've been keeping busy. Seeding at the farm has started. Taking care of Henrix and Alaina and trying to work from home. I am planning on planting a huge garden this year as it is one of my favorite things to do.

I hope you are all doing well and keeping up with your schoolwork. If nothing else, try to read something every day!

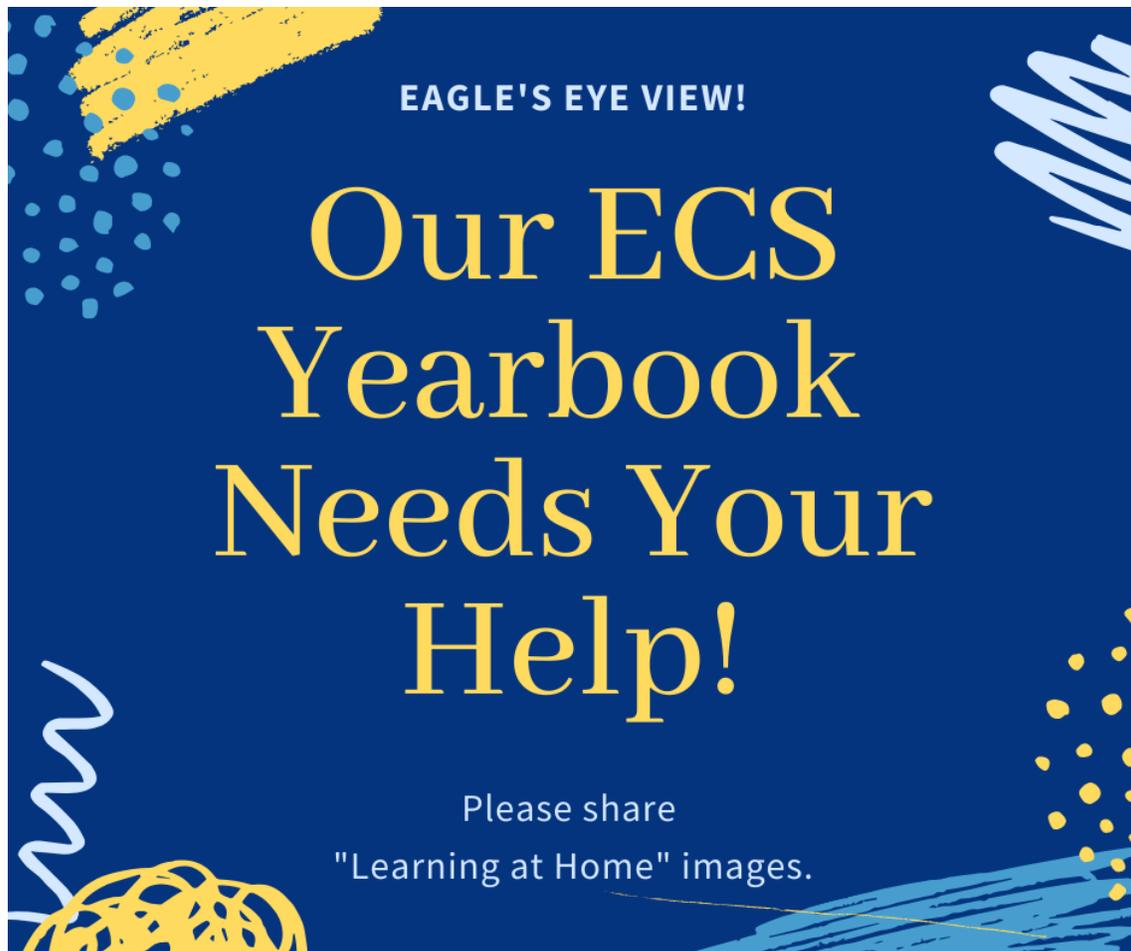


KIDS IN THE KITCHEN - MS. PRESTLEY, MISS WATSON, MRS. NISBET

We are so sad that our Kids in the Kitchen year was cut short. What a great crew!

It is especially unfortunate that we were unable to have our annual "Parent Meal", where the kids prepare, set up, and cook a beautiful meal for their parent(s). It is such a fun event for the kids, and we will be especially excited for next year's!





Attention ECS Families! ECS Yearbook Update!

Our Yearbook Committee recently met online via TEAMS to make some adjustments to our planned Yearbook. Advisors are grateful for the enthusiasm of our student team and their plans to continue to create this year's yearbook during these unprecedented times. To do this, we need your help...

There is so much incredible learning happening at home! We wish to document this school year as it continues to unfold so we can preserve these moments and reflect on them in the years ahead. Thank to those who are submitting pictures to laurie.mckillop@sunwestsd.ca.

Since we are not able to meet in person, we are trying to gather pictures in other ways. For any families who submitted signed permission to publish forms at the beginning of the school year, we may utilize some student submissions from newly created TEAMS classes as well as pictures submitted for use by the school.

If you have any questions or concerns about this process, please feel free to reach out to Mrs. McKillop. We appreciate your help and value your Eagle's Eye View!

Sincerely, ECS Yearbook Staff and Advisors

Speaking of Brain Health During a Pandemic...

I hope this finds you all healthy and well and rested and all caught up on episodes of Ozark. Or perhaps just showered and fed (who says Hawkins Cheesies are not a suitable supper once in a while?), but still caught up on Ozark? For some families, this “stay at home period” has been a great chance to just slow down, reconnect with each other, cook meals together (anyone else putting on the “quarantine 15”?) and appreciate the things that sometimes get missed during the rapid pace of “normal life”.

But for others, this has been really difficult. Being at home with our families during summer vacation is one thing – but this is different. We aren’t going away on holidays, to swimming pools or playgrounds – we are confined to our homes. We aren’t on a completely “free time” schedule – many of us are trying to help our kids continue with their education from home plus all the regular house-hold tasks (can anyone say “dishes”?). We, as parents, are also not on holidays – we may be trying to figure out how to work from home while looking after our kids and helping them with school, or continuing to go out to work while our partner is at home with the kids, or maybe we are trying to figure out how to pay our bills after being laid off or unable to start our spring/summer jobs – while looking after our kids and helping them with school. The stress of it all can become really overwhelming sometimes.

So it’s important to do our best to try to take care of our basics every day:

- **Try to get outside** – just that fresh air in your lungs, the feelings of the changing of seasons, the awesome vitamin D we might snag a shot of can all really help to clear our heads, shift our thoughts and just sit still for a moment
- **Move your body energetically** – kitchen dance parties used to be my kids favorite (now they just roll their eyes and laugh at my moves – ugh!); walking your dog, playing an active Wii video game (does anyone have those anymore?) or if you’re more adventurous – there are literally millions of guided online exercise ideas at your google fingertips
- **Put some healthy stuff in your body** – drink water as often as you can (it’s amazing how much better that one thing can make you feel) and try to include some fruit, veggies and whole grains into your “Hawkins Cheesies” supper plans (I have done this a few times – just so you know...)
- **Take some time to just sit still and breathe** – you know I am a big believer in the power of mindfulness (superpower, actually); just slowing down and focusing on your breath or your senses or a sound in the distance can just help reset your stress level and help you keep going

- **Get 7-9 hours of sleep** – this is the most important “recharge” of your day (your 2nd superpower); if you’re having difficulty with this (which is often the case in times of stress), seek out ideas to help get sleep back on track (refer back to my previous newsletter article on sleep)

Although we are not doing any direct student counseling in the school division right now, I am available to parents for support, sharing ideas and connecting your family to any resources you might need right now.

If you are needing some support, you can email me directly at shannon.mcjannet@sunwestsd.ca.

Please remember that I only check my email during work days/hours – so if the support you need is more urgent, please reach out to a 24/7 service like:

Kids Help Phone (1-800-668-6868)
SK Health Line (811)
Saskatoon Mobile Crisis (1-306-933-6200)

Take good care of yourself and each other. Hope to be able to see your kiddos face to face soon!

Shannon McJannet

COVID-19: Five steps to look after yourself and others



Elrose School Community Calendar

The Community Calendar is still a go!!!

This year the Calendar Funds will be going to the Student Leadership Team (SLT) to help purchase items for the school.

We are still gathering birthdays and anniversaries for the calendar.

Please fill in the pre-order form in your last year calendar or use the attached form below.

Mail your order form to:

**Elrose Composite School
% Laurie McKillop
PO Box 400
Elrose, SK S0L 0Z0**

OR

***drop off at :
304 1st Ave West
in bin by back door between
8am -12am Mon.-Fri.***

Make cheques payable to: **ECS SLT**

Please feel free to email laurie.mckillop@sunwestsd.ca with any questions.

Orders are due no later than May 22nd.

Order forms may also be found on the bulletin boards at the Post Office, Royal Bank & the Credit Union.

Elrose School Community Calendar

Please Return By **May 22nd, 2020**

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Calendars: _____ X \$15.00 ea. = _____

B'day/ Anniv. _____ X \$.25 ea. = _____

Total owing : _____

Address (for delivery):

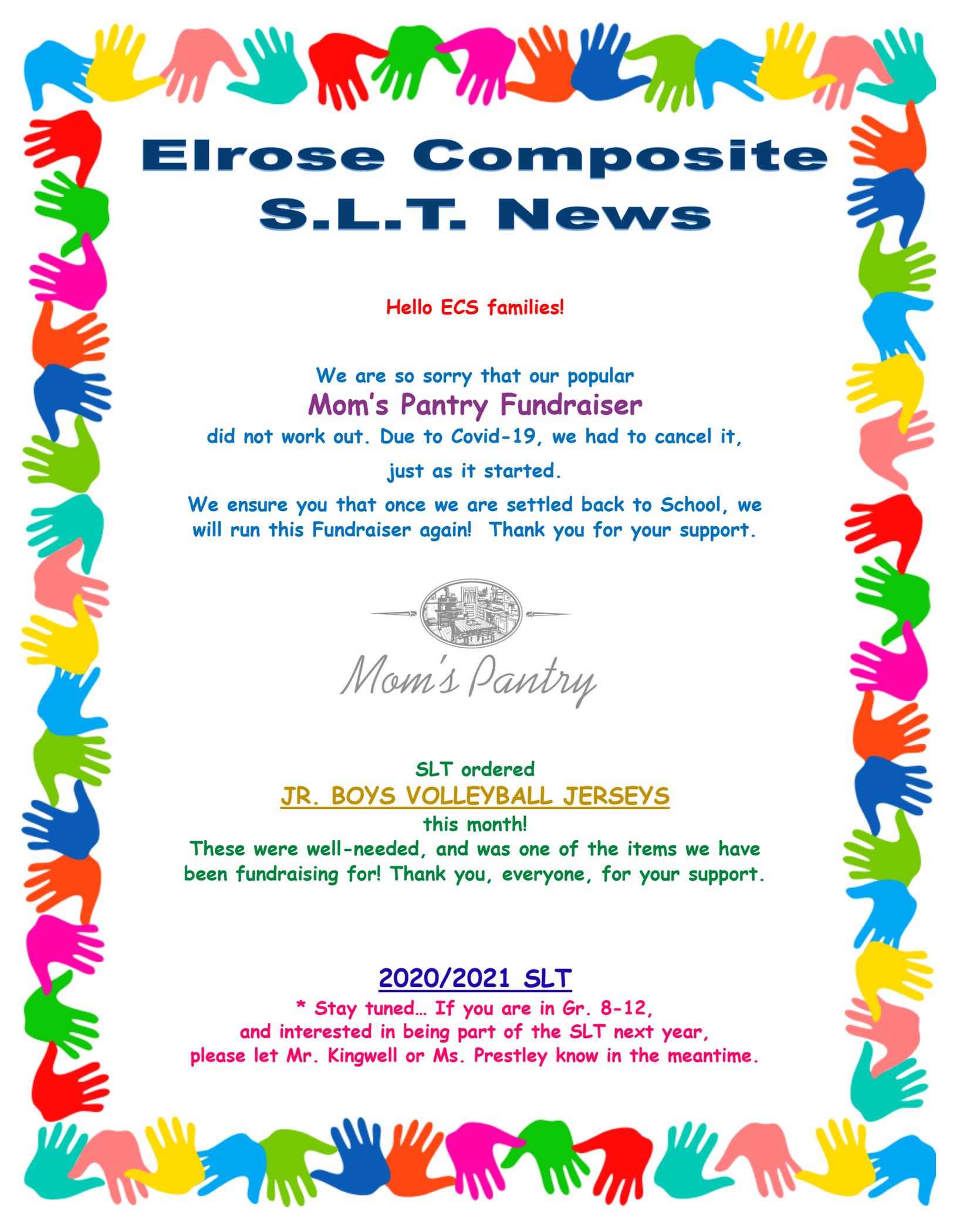
_____ **Same as last year!!**

Name	Date	Birthday Anniversary

Make Cheque payable to: **ECS SLT**

Mail Reorder Sheet to: Box 400, Elrose, SK. S0L 0Z0
or **drop off** at **304 1st Ave W** in bin by back door,
between **8am - 12am Mon.-Fri.**

Thank You For Your Support and Cooperation!!



Elrose Composite S.L.T. News

Hello ECS families!

We are so sorry that our popular
Mom's Pantry Fundraiser
did not work out. Due to Covid-19, we had to cancel it,
just as it started.

We ensure you that once we are settled back to School, we
will run this Fundraiser again! Thank you for your support.



Mom's Pantry

SLT ordered
JR. BOYS VOLLEYBALL JERSEYS
this month!

These were well-needed, and was one of the items we have
been fundraising for! Thank you, everyone, for your support.

2020/2021 SLT

* Stay tuned... If you are in Gr. 8-12,
and interested in being part of the SLT next year,
please let Mr. Kingwell or Ms. Prestley know in the meantime.



SPIRIT DAY ALERT!

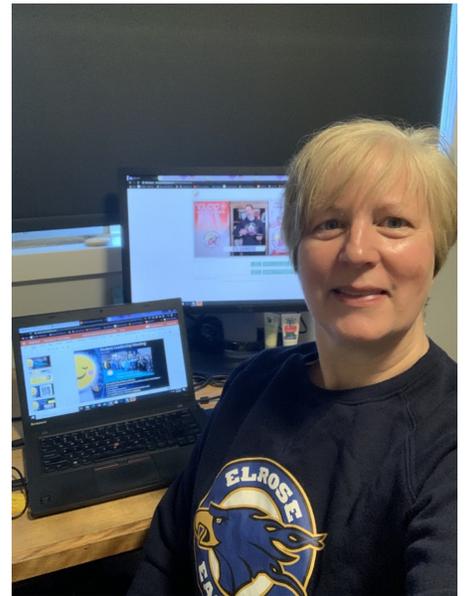


EAGLES DAY WEDNESDAY MAY 6

Wear any of your Eagles Clothes/Outfits and share them with us!

PIC-COLLAGES





SPIRIT DAY ALERT!



EAGLES DAY WEDNESDAY MAY 6

Wear any of your Eagles Clothes/Outfits and share them with us!

PIC-COLLAGE



“SUPERHERO” Spirit Day pics to come...!
(be sure to share yours)

THANK YOU to our SLT for initiating continued School Spirit!



Together, but apart...
We miss you all!



