

SEPTEMBER 2017

Newsletter

Principal's Message

Welcome to SouthPointe School! We had a smooth start to the school year. Students seem to be settling into classes nicely. This year will be a year of firsts. We appreciate parents and students working with us as we establish our school community. We may have to try things in one or two different ways before we find what works best for us. Thank-you for your continued patience and flexibility.

We are looking forward to making this year a great success and we invite all parents and students to join us on Wednesday, September 13th from 6:30-8:00 for our Meet the Staff Evening. Parents and students will meet in the gymnasium for some quick introductions. Afterwards, please visit your child's classroom to meet their teacher.

Please continue to check our website on a regular basis for updated information as well as your child's teacher e-page regarding specific class news and events.

We are looking forward to a successful school year. We hope to have an opportunity to meet everyone at the Meet the Teacher evening. If you have any questions or concerns throughout the school year please do not hesitate to contact your child's teachers or administration.

Carol Brown, Principal

Parking

Parents, when dropping off or picking up your children, please use the parent drop off located at the front of the school. Please do not stop or park in the

bus lanes or in the staff parking lot at any time during school hours. As well, we also ask parents not to park in the accessible stalls at the front of the school. Thank you for modeling respect and safety in this manner.

Parent Waiting Area

Picking up your child? Please wait at your child's designated doors as this is where they will exit the building at the end of the day. If you need to pick up your child earlier for an appointment etc., we would be happy to call them to the office for you. Thank you for continuing to sign in at the office if you are volunteering at the school.

Entrance and Exit door info

To help our students and their families, we have labeled the exterior doors of the school with pink signs to indicate the entrances and exits for each grade. Please pick up and drop off your children at their designated doors. Designated doors are as follows:

- ECS** Main Entrance Doors (located on Allard Way)
- Grade 1 & 2** East Entrance – directly in front of Staff Parking Lot on the tarmack behind the school
- Grade 3** West Entrance – along side the parent drop-off parking area
- Grade 4** East Entrance – directly in front of Staff Parking Lot on the tarmack behind the school
- Grade 5 & 6** North Entrance doors (bus parking lot)





Bell Schedule

School starts: 8:15 a.m.
Lunch: 11:12 - 11:52 a.m.
Regular school ends: 2:51 p.m.
Early Out school ends: 1:51 p.m.

Absence Check

Parents/guardians are asked to inform the school in advance, whenever possible, if their child is going to be absent. Messages may be sent by telephone (780) 998-2747, reported through the school website under Student Attendance or by note. If a child is absent and no reason has been received in the office by 9:00 a.m., the office staff will attempt to contact parents/guardians or emergency contacts.

2017 - 18 Staff List

Certificated Staff

ECS	Ms. Sharp and Mrs. Salkeld
Grade 1	Mrs. Large, Mrs. Bossert, Miss Hiebert
Grade 2	Mrs. Werner and Miss Freitag
Grade 3	Ms. Oram Miss Gusniowsky
Grade 4	Mrs. Rosato and Miss Melynk
Grade 5	Mrs. O'Neill
Grade 6	Mr. Nyznyk and Ms. Cohan
Music	Mrs. Zapesocki
Principal	Miss Brown
Assistant Principal	Mrs. Kropp
Counselling Services	Mrs. Kropp

Classified Staff

Educational Assistants:

ECS	Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Butler, Ms. Walker
Grade 1	Ms. Gaudet, Mrs. Zielinski, Mrs. Scott
Grade 2	Mrs. Jacobsen
Grade 3	Mrs. Charity
Grade 4/5	Mrs. Dykstra
Grade 6	Mrs. Hammel

Library Assistant	Miss O'Gorman
Secretary	Mrs. Warwa

Meet the SouthPointe School Staff

The staff at SouthPointe School would like to invite you to ***Meet the Staff*** on Wednesday, September 13th. Our program will start at 6:30 p.m. in the gym.

SouthPointe School Grand Opening Ceremony

SouthPointe School's Grand Opening will occur on Saturday, September 23rd at 1:30pm. This will be an opportunity for us to thank all of the people that made the building of SouthPointe School a possibility. Members of the local and provincial government, the school board and the companies that helped design and build the school will be on hand. Please feel free to join us if you wish.

Updating Your PowerSchool Information

During the first week of school, families will receive a PowerSchool Correction Form for each student enrolled in **SouthPointe School**. The form ensures the school has the most up-to-date information regarding each of its students. When you receive the form, please review it carefully and make sure all the information is correct. If any changes need to be made, please update the form and add any new details you think are necessary. If you have any technical questions regarding PowerSchool, please contact the school office at **780-998-2747**. Thank you for your assistance.

Pay School Fees Online

School fee information for the 2017-18 school year is expected to be posted on the PowerSchool Parent Portal by early October. All fees are due within 30 days of being posted. The simplest, and most convenient way to pay schools fees is using ACORN by logging into the PowerSchool Parent Portal. To access your fee information, simply log in to the PowerSchool Parent Portal and go to "Student Fees." There you can view your fees and pay them online using Visa, MasterCard or INTERAC Online—when available from your financial institution.

If circumstances exist where you are unable to pay your students fees you can apply to have fees waived by submitting an Application for a Waiver of



Fees which is located on the Elk Island Public Schools division website. The application deadline is December 15, 2017.

Terry Fox Run – Help Us Celebrate!

Terry Fox is a Canadian hero. He gives us hope and inspires us to continue to strive to find a cure for cancer. In his memory, our students will be participating in the Terry Fox School Run scheduled for Thursday, September 28 at 1:00 p.m. Please bring a toonie for Terry to help raise funds for this wonderful cause.

Parent Volunteers

Thank you to our many volunteers who support our students in their learning and enrich the life of the school. The *Volunteers in Schools* policy of Elk Island Public Schools requires that all volunteers complete a form that includes:

- a declaration that they do not have a criminal record or a child welfare record
- a confidentiality undertaking

The form was sent home with students this week. We will also have the form available in the office for people to sign before the first time they volunteer.

Also, volunteers are also asked to please sign the Volunteer Binder in the office each time they work at the school. You are also required to wear a Volunteer name tag at all times. This will allow us to know, for safety and security purposes, who is in the school at any given time. Such a log may also be valuable if we apply for government matching grants when we are involved in work on fundraising projects.

We ask all visitors to the school, including volunteers, to **report to the office** before commencing volunteer duties.

Fundraising Society / School Council for SouthPointe School

All parents interested in joining the fundraising society will meet in Learning Commons on September 13 at 7:15 p.m. for information. The first

SouthPointe School Council and Fundraising organizational meeting will be held Wednesday, September 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the Learning Commons. At this meeting elections will occur. The following positions are available for the School council:

School Council Chair:

It is expected that the school council chairperson will be a parent of a student attending the school. The chair should be someone who can work collaboratively and knows how to organize both programs and people. The chair should actively encourage others to become engaged in meaningful ways.

Typical chairing duties include:

- chair all meetings of the school council
- coordinate with the principal to establish meeting agendas
- ensure that the operating procedures are current and followed
- be the official spokesperson of the school council
- ensure there is regular communication with the whole school community
- stay informed about school board policy that impacts school council
- comply with the *School Councils Regulation* by providing the school board with an annual report that summarizes the school council's activities for the previous school year, including a financial statement relating to money, if any, handled by the school council

Vice-Chair:

On some school councils, the role of chair is shared, either through the creation of co-chairing positions or through the chair's dependence on the vice-chair to undertake part of the work.

Typically, the vice-chair's duties are, in the event of resignation, incapacity or leave of absence of the chair, to fulfill the chair's responsibilities, and in the absence of the chair, supervise the affairs and preside at meetings of the school council.

Secretary:

The school council secretary typically acts as a recorder at each meeting and ensures that the minutes are prepared accurately to reflect the directions agreed to at the meeting.

The following executive positions need to be filled for Fundraising Association:

President:

- main spokesperson for the Association; attends and Chairs all meetings of the Association.
- communicates with members via school newsletter write-ups and emails.
- prepares the Agenda for meetings, a report for all meetings, and an annual summary report for the AGM.
- has signing authority.
- works collaboratively with the SouthPointe School Council Chair and the school administration.

Vice President:

- attends all meetings of the Association and acts as Chair when the President is absent.
- assists the President and assumes duties as required

(ie. Chairing a committee).

- has signing authority.
- learns the duties of the President (generally being groomed to become the President).

Treasurer:

- attends all meetings of the Association.
- has signing authority.
- ensures the Association's financial records are up to date (accounting for all deposits, receipts and expenditures).
- pays invoices approved by the Association.
- prepares monthly financial reports for Association meetings.
- prepares all annual financial reports (for AGM, Corporate Registry and AGLC).

Secretary:

- attends all meetings of the Association.
- has signing authority.

- records minutes of meetings and posts them on the school website.
- distributes correspondence to members (emails).
- keeps the Register of Members up to date using the Association Membership Forms.

Hot Lunch Chair:

- collaborates with the Executive Officers and the school administration to determine the budget, vendors, ordering process, and distribution and clean-up process for the school hot lunch program.
- prepares monthly reports for meetings.
- Chairs the Hot Lunch Committee and coordinates the volunteers.
- submits all receipts to the Treasurer for prompt payment.

Picture Days

- Tuesday, September 12th – all classes including Tues/Friday Kindergarten



full day and AM kindergarten

This Photo by

- Monday, September 18th –

Monday/Thursday full-day kindergarten

Picture Re-takes

- Monday, Oct 16th - all classes including Mon/Thurs full-day kindergarten and AM kindergarten
- Tuesday, Oct 17th – Tues/Friday Kindergarten full day

Nut Aware

We are a nut aware facility. We have several students who are severely allergic to peanuts and tree nuts. We kindly ask that there are no peanuts or products containing peanuts / tree nuts sent to school in lunches or snacks.





Stay Connected: Subscribe to our news

Want to stay up-to-date on the latest news and events taking place at your school? Make sure to subscribe to Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) email distribution list. Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) now requires the Division to have direct consent before engaging in electronic communication with its families. If you haven't yet subscribed, simply visit www.eips.ca/contact/synrevoice. As soon as you sign up and confirm, you'll begin receiving Division- and school-related news—newsletters, information about upcoming events, parent and community engagement opportunities, important school-based updates and more.

NOTE: Even if you're not subscribed, you will continue to receive emails regarding emergency situations and financial matters. Those who received notifications about high school attendance will also continue to receive those messages.

EIPS appreciates your co-operation in ensuring its distribution lists are compliant with CASL and you continue to receive only the information you feel is important.

Student Transportation

Quick Facts: EIPS buses are all equipped with video surveillance

Did you know each EIPS bus is equipped with video surveillance? The video surveillance and equipment helps:

- ensure the safety of all students, drivers and property; and
- deter from destructive acts.

On a regular basis, EIPS Student Transportation reviews the video recordings, in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIP). The recordings assist the department with monitoring student and driver conduct, and may be used as evidence in a disciplinary matter.

For more information about the collection, use and disclosure of personal information, contact the EIPS FOIP co-ordinator at 780-464-3477.

Enhancing literacy and numeracy

As part of Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) ongoing efforts to enhance the literacy and numeracy of students in all grade levels, the Division is once again planning to administer two assessment tools during the 2017-18 school year—STAR 360 and Math Intervention/Programming Instrument (MIPI). The tools focus on literacy and numeracy, are digitally based and offer an opportunity for students to demonstrate their learning. The goal: to provide timely information to teachers, help enhance classroom instruction and ensure student learning needs are identified.

In September and May, EIPS students in grades 2 through 12 will complete the STAR 360 assessment, which evaluates reading comprehension. Grade 1 students will take the STAR 360 exam in October. The assessment takes approximately 20 minutes and can be taken on any digital device. Also in September, students in grades 2 through 10 will complete the MIPI assessment, which is a mathematic screening tool used to inform teachers about a student's math skills. For students in grades 7 through 10, the MIPI takes approximately 50 minutes and for students in grades 2 through 6 it takes approximately 20 minutes. The results of each offers the teacher a clearer picture about a student's learning needs and helps determine if subsequent instructional planning is required.

The scores of the assessments are not used towards a student's grade and there is no need to study ahead of time. They simply provide the teacher with information to better understand where each student is in terms of reading comprehension and mathematic ability. If, after analyzing the results, it's determined a student can benefit from extra support, the teacher will contact the family to discuss possible support strategies.



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p 780-998-2747 SouthPointeSchool.ca



For more information about the Division's STAR 360 and MIPI assessment tools, contact Deb Barron, the director of Learning Supports, at 780-464-3477.

Upcoming Dates:

- September 12: Picture Day
- September 13: Meet the Staff 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
- September 18: Picture Day (Mon/Thurs full day ECS)
- September 23: School Grand Opening Ceremony @ 1:30 p.m.
- September 28: Terry Fox Run @ 1:00 p.m.
- October 4: Early Dismissal Day (end of the day 1:51 p.m.)
- October 5 & 6: NO SCHOOL – Professional Learning Day for staff
- October 9: NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Day
- October 11 & 12: Parent-Teacher Interviews
- October 16: Picture Re-takes
- October 17: Picture Re-takes (Tues/Fri full day ECS)