



DECEMBER 2017

Principal's Message

December is already upon us and November seemed to fly by. Our ECS and grades 1-6 Winter Concerts were held on December 5th & 7th. Both were a great success! Thank-you to all of the students and staff that worked so hard - it was a fantastic event.

We have started to collect a variety of items for local charities as part of our 12 days of Christmas. We will be collecting the following:

- December 7-12: Food Bank items - specifically cereal
- December 13-18: Boys and Girls Club - craft supplies (glue, scissors, glitter, etc.)
- December 19-22: Families First - socks, toques, mittens.

Thanks to everyone for showing such phenomenal holiday spirit.

Thank you to our Fundraising Society for planning the Stawnichy's Ukrainian Sausage fundraiser. All proceeds will be used to help build our playground! Just a reminder that orders can be picked up at the school on December 21st from 1-6 p.m.

I would like to take this time to wish everyone a Happy Holiday. I hope the break allows you to enjoy time with family and friends. School will reopen January 8th, 2018.

Kindergarten Registration Starts Soon!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2018? If so, it's almost time to register for Kindergarten.

Kindergarten registration opens for the 2018-19 school year on Jan. 15, 2018. To register, simply complete the online registration form at www.eips.ca/kindergarten.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION CHECK LIST:

- Determine your child's designated school
- Scan and upload all required documents: proof of name, residence, date of birth and citizenship.
- Additional documents to scan, if applicable include: Guardian Letter and Parental Custody Agreement if restrictions on access.
- Once the online registration is complete and submitted, a confirmation notice will be sent to the given email address.

NOTE: The online registration form is available as of Jan.15, 2018—the paper version is no longer available.

To help families prepare, Elk Island Public Schools has put together an online toolkit to make the transition as smooth as possible. The kit includes information on registration, important dates, programming options, what to expect, eligibility, how to find your designated school, transportation and more. Find it by visiting <http://www.eips.ca/programs-services/kindergarten>.

Additional information regarding kindergarten at SouthPointe School can be found on our school [website](#).

Elder Wilson Bearhead

The staff and students at SouthPointe School will have the opportunity to work with Elder Wilson Bearhead. During Wilson's visits, he will share traditional teachings, stories, songs and dances with the students. Wilson brings an authenticity to our FNMI/Truth and Reconciliation work and a recognizable face to our teachings.

Our long term goal is that our SouthPointe students understand that our First Nations, Metis, and Inuit are still alive today and that their culture is worth knowing and experiencing, for our indigenous people have much to teach us.

Wilson Bearhead (Nakota) is a member of the Wabamun Lake Indian Band in Treaty 6 territory, Alberta. He has served as a Chief in his community, the Grand Chief of the Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations and Alberta Regional Chief for the Assembly of First Nations. Wilson has served his people for many years as a koashka tayzun (traditional helper) in ceremony and community events. Wilson currently serves on the Elders' Wisdom Circle for Alberta Human Services (Child Welfare) as well as providing guidance and support on Family Group Conferencing and Elder support for Native Counselling Services of Alberta. Wilson was the cultural coordinator for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) National Event in Edmonton in March 2014 and is an intergenerational survivor of the IRS system himself. He enjoys bringing healing through stories, song and teachings to both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people of all ages.

Playground Fundraiser

The Fundraising Association for SouthPointe School is raising money for the new playground. Stawnichy's Ukrainian Sausage order forms were due on December 5th and pickup will be on December 21st between 1-6 pm.



School Council

Calling all parents and guardians! SouthPointe School Council is hoping to host the first SouthPointe school dance! We're looking for a few good men and women to help us plan this event and make it a huge success. The first meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 13th at 7:00pm at Original Joe's. Please email Heather (spsc.cochairtwo2017@gmail.com) or Monica (spsc.cochairone2017@gmail.com) if you're interested in helping out.

Parking

Parents, we need your help! Our staff is having difficulties in the morning accessing their parking stalls because parents are dropping off their children in the staff parking lot. 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.

Recess: Dressing for the Weather

Winter is upon us. Thank you for making sure that your child has the necessary winter gear to keep warm. Our students participate in outdoor recesses except in the most extreme cold weather. Hat, mitts and a warm coat are necessary during outdoor play. We have indoor

recess when temperatures, including the wind chill factor, reach -22 degrees Celsius or lower.

Enjoy the Winter Break

SouthPointe School will close for the winter break at the end of the day on Dec. 22, 2017 and will reopen on Jan. 8, 2018. During this time, if you have any school-related questions or concerns, contact the Central Administration office at Elk Island Public Schools.



EIPS Central Administration Office Winter Break

Hours:

Closed December 25-29

Open January 2-5 from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

*for location and contact information visit www.eips.ca.

From everyone at Elk Island Public Schools, we

wish all of you a happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year.

Happy Holidays from the Board of Trustees

It's the holiday season once again and the winter break is just around the corner. Before we take time off to enjoy with our loved ones, I want to extend warm holiday wishes to all our students, staff and families, on behalf of the Elk Island Public Schools Board of Trustees. We hope you have a wonderful and safe holiday, and a new year filled with joy.

We look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday, Jan. 8, 2018.

Thank you and best wishes,

Trina Boymook, EIPS Board Chair

IMPORTANT DATES

- December 4: Winter Concert Tickets (Gr. 1-6) sent home
- December 5: Kindergarten Winter Concert @ 12:30 pm
Playground Fundraiser (Stawnichy's Ukrainian Sausage) Order Forms Due
- December 6: Early Dismissal (1:51 pm)
- December 7: Winter Concerts (Grade 1-6) @ 1:00 pm and 6:30 pm
- December 21: Fundraiser (Stawnichy's Ukrainian Sausage) Order Pickup (1-6pm)
- December 22: Last Instructional Day before Winter Break
- Dec 25 – Jan 5: Winter Break (No School)
- January 8: First Instructional Day after Winter Break