

January 2018



Principal's Message

Welcome back to school! It is hard to believe that January is already upon us. We hope that everyone had a good Winter break and was able to fit in some time for relaxing. January is shaping up once again to be a busy month.

We would like to encourage all grade 4, 5 and 6 parents at SouthPointe School to provide feedback to us by completing the Accountability Pillar Survey. The data collected through the survey provides feedback on areas where we are doing well and areas where we need to improve. This feedback helps us to measure how we are doing in reaching our school and district goals. The survey is short but the information provided is greatly appreciated. Please take the time to provide your input. All parents will receive survey packages mailed from Alberta Education.

The school calendar for the 2018-2019 school year has been approved. A copy has been posted on the website for your information. We are beginning to start the process for enrolment and registration for next year. If you have a child that will be entering ECS in the fall of 2018, registration will open January 15 and we encourage parents to register their children as early as possible. This allows us to have a better idea of how many classes will be needed for next year. Please remember that your child must be 5 years old by December 31, 2018 to enter ECS in the fall. All ECS registrations for the 2018-19 school year will be completed online. The online registration form can be found on our school website www.eips.ca/kindergarten.

Effective for the 2018-19 school year, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is changing the way in which students apply to attend a non-designated school. The process for boundary exemptions is clearly outlined under the BOUNDARY EXEMPTIONS: REQUEST TO ATTEND A NON-DESIGNATED SCHOOL section of our newsletter, as well as the dates that material needs to be completed by. If you have any questions about the boundary exemption processes please contact the school office.

Our next Parent/Teacher/Student interviews will take place on January 31 & February 1, 2018 from 4:30-7:30 p.m. We will once again be using the online booking system for scheduling interviews. Bookings will be open Thursday, January 18th at noon. Go to www.schoolinterviews.ca and use event code: **qpdjy**

Just a reminder that in January the SouthPointe School and Society Council meets January 17th at 7:00pm in the Learning Commons. District Office personnel will be in attendance to discuss the school's playground construction timeline.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

With the winter season well underway, we want to remind parents to dress children appropriately for the weather when getting ready for school or the bus. The weather often changes unexpectedly throughout the day, so please select suitable outerwear and ensure your child is prepared for changing conditions.



If inclement weather conditions occur, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) will advise parents of any

bus cancellations using various communications tools including: automated-telephone messages, alerts posted on www.eips.ca and school websites, Twitter, Facebook, local radio stations, and on Versatrans My Stop.

Decisions regarding bus cancellations are guided by EIPS administrative procedures that states: "school bus service may be suspended when...Environment Canada reports a temperature of -40 C." Other reasons for suspending or delaying school bus services include adverse weather and poor road condition.

When school bus services are suspended, schools will remain open to students. EIPS believes parents have the right and responsibility to make choices for their children based on their beliefs and perceptions of safety during times of inclement weather.

For more information, contact EIPS Student Transportation at 780-417-8151.

BOOK FAIR

We invite you to share in a celebration of books and reading during our Parent/Teacher/Student



Interviews on January 31st and February 1st from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Learning Commons. The fair will also be open during those days at lunch and recess, for those students who have money. By supporting our Scholastic book fair you are helping to obtain new resources for our school library as well as adding to classroom libraries.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION STARTS SOON!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2018? If so, it's 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 is sent to the given email address.

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

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 can be found on our [school website](#).

BOUNDARY EXEMPTIONS: REQUEST TO ATTEND A NON-DESIGNATED SCHOOL

Effective for the 2018-19 school year, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is changing the way in which students apply to attend a non-

designated school. From March 1 to 15, 2018, parents of all EIPS students are being asked to pre-enroll their children online and indicate whether their child will be attending their designated school or if they wish to register at a different school. Acceptance at a non-designated school is based on available space—families will be advised of the outcome by April 13, 2018. Because of high enrolment numbers, some schools won't be accepting any non-designated students. Schools with closed boundaries will be identified prior to the pre-enrolment process.

Please note that should you request a non-designated school for your child and need busing, there are fees associated with this choice. Visit [Transportation Services](#) for more information.

As part of the pre-enrolment process, parents are also asked to check and update phone numbers, email addresses, mailing address and other important data – doing so will both make sure that the Division has the most current information available and eliminate the need to fill in the paper Correction Form that has traditionally been sent home every fall. Better yet, families will be able to go online and update their child's data throughout the year as circumstances change.

To determine your child's designated school, please check [EIPS school boundary maps](#).

Fundraising Association for SouthPointe School (FASS)

Happy New Year! Our Mundare Sausage fundraiser was a huge success! We raised over \$2,500 in total. Thank you to all the volunteers that helped and everyone who made purchases. We are in awe of all the support our new school has received already!

We have lots of things coming up with FASS. On Wednesday, January 17 at 7pm, we will have our next meeting at the school. District Office personnel will be attending to talk to us about the tender process and the grant we are receiving from the government for the new playground. At this meeting we will have a "Playground Dreams" survey available for anyone who wants to provide input for the new playground. Meetings are a great way to voice your opinions and find out what is happening.

Our first hot lunch will be with Panago on Friday, February 2nd. More details to come.

Please also join us on Facebook, Fundraising Association for SouthPointe School, for continually updated information.

EIPS 2018-19 DIVISION CALENDAR: Now Available!



The official 2018-19 EIPS calendar is now available online. The calendar includes important dates during the 2018-19 school such as school-closure days; breaks; the first and last day of classes; professional learning days; and early dismissal days.

Highlights from the 2018-19 EIPS calendar include:

- September 4: First day of classes
- Nov 12-16: November break
- Dec 24–Jan 4: Christmas break
- Jan 31: 2nd semester begins
- Feb 7-8: Teachers' Convention
- Mar 25-29: Spring break
- June 27: Last day of classes
- June 28: Schools close for the Summer break



To view the 2018-19 calendar, visit www.eips.ca. Also available online: the current school calendar and the 2019-20 calendar.

Did you know you can sync the Division calendar to your own personal calendar? You can. Simply, visit www.eips.ca/calendar and click on “subscribe to calendar.” It’s that easy.

ANOTHER WAY TO STAY CONNECTED: Follow EIPS on Twitter and Facebook

With 42 schools and close to 17,150 students there’s a wealth of events, activities and stories taking place across the Division every day. You can find these stories and more by following Elk Island Public Schools on both [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Each use the combination of news articles, videos and photographs that showcase the latest news, updates, events and alerts taking place across the Division.

UPCOMING DATES

- January 17: Parent Council Meeting (7:00 pm)
- January 18: School Wide Assembly
- January 18: On-line Interview Booking open at NOON (12:00 pm)
- Jan 31 & Feb 1: Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews & Scholastic Book Fair (4:30 – 7:30 pm)

Plus, if you’re a member of an EIPS school community and want to share in the storytelling, simply tag the Division using the hashtag #EIPS.

Stay in the loop, follow EIPS on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

NOTE: The Division Facebook and Twitter accounts are managed by EIPS Communications Services. The account is updated and monitored intermittently during regular office hours from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. The Division welcomes feedback and ideas from followers but does ask everyone interacting on the EIPS Facebook page to be respectful. Personal attacks and offensive language will not be allowed and may be deleted.