

February 2018

Principal's Message

It is hard to believe that January has come and gone and that February is upon us. With the extremely cold temperatures that we have been experiencing, we ask that parents help to ensure that students are wearing appropriate clothing for the elements.

A number of extracurricular activities are currently taking place at SouthPointe School. We have students from grade 1-6 that are involved in choir twice a week. A spring musical is in rehearsal for students in grade 3-6 and the grade 5-6 students are involved in practicing for a couple of upcoming basketball tournaments and games.

A couple of very important meetings regarding SouthPointe School playground are coming up. On Tuesday, February 20th at 7pm in our Learning Commons, a few companies that have been shortlisted will be presenting their design and layout suggestions for the playground. All parents are welcome to attend. You will have an opportunity after the presentation to ask questions of the vendors and provide feedback to your playground representative from the fundraising society.

On Wednesday, February 21 at 7pm we will have our regular school society meeting and school council meeting. You will have an opportunity to provide further feedback to the society regarding the playground before the final scoring of the proposal are given.

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 is now open for the 2018-19 school year. To register, simply

complete the online registration form at www.eips.ca/registration/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 paper copy is no longer available. For step-by-step instructions on how-to use the online form visit the EIPS Registration web page. Families will be advised in April about the results of the application process.

Additionally, to help families prepare for kindergarten, 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 www.eips.ca/programs-services/kindergarten.

Additional information regarding kindergarten can be found on our school website.

EIPS Launches New Pre-Enrolment Process

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is launching a new pre-enrolment process to simplify the way it registers students for the upcoming year, collects information, and manages requests to attend a non-designated school. The pre-enrolment process allows the Division to verify all student information for every child prior to the start of the new school year.

Each spring, EIPS families will receive an email from the Division asking them to confirm their child's enrolment in a school for the upcoming year using a secure online pre-enrolment form. By logging in to PowerSchool, families can indicate which school their child plans to attend; apply to attend a non-designated school, if applicable; and update any required student information—such as phone numbers, addresses and emergency contacts. If circumstances change, families also have the ability to update their child's data throughout the year.

The pre-enrolment process for the 2018-19 school year takes place from March 1-15 of this year.

Applying to attend a non-designated school?

The new pre-enrolment process also eliminates the former Boundary Exemption Request Process. Now, returning students who want to apply to a non-designated school can do so through the pre-enrolment process by indicating on the form the school they want to attend. Acceptance is not guaranteed; rather, it's based on available space. Some EIPS schools have closed boundaries because of high enrolment numbers and will not accept non-designated students for the 2018-19 school year. These schools will be identified prior to the pre-enrolment process. All families who apply to

attend a non-designated school will be contacted and advised of the outcome in April.

NOTE: Any requests to attend a non-designated school or out-of-boundary program for returning students in grades 1-12 must be completed during the two-week pre-enrolment process to be considered for the next school year. The only exception: Students who move into the Division from outside the geographic area, or another community within the Division, following the deadline.

Stay Connected: Subscribe to EIPS email 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. Once subscribed 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.

Measuring our Success: Complete the Accountability Pillar Survey

Once again, Alberta Education is conducting its Accountability Pillar Survey—an annual check up on the province’s education system. Every year, Alberta Education conducts the survey to gather information about the quality of education provided by Alberta schools and school authorities. The survey looks at various measures such as engagement levels, student wellness, student outcomes, and the classroom(s) and school climate.

Throughout the month of February, Grade 4, 5 and 6 students and teachers at **SouthPointe School** are completing the survey online at the school. Student participation is voluntary and completely anonymous. Students are assigned a random username and password to ensure survey responses aren’t linked to any individual student. The survey takes about 40 minutes to complete and is done within the school day during regular class time.

Additionally, parents and guardians of students in grades 4, 7, and 10 are also being surveyed—the province mailed the surveys in January. Again, the survey is anonymous and asks questions about experiences with your school. If you have a child in grades 4, 7 or 10, we highly encourage you to participate. The completed survey must be returned to Alberta Education by the end of February.

Results from the Accountability Survey are provided to Elk Island Public Schools each May. The Division then uses that data to inform its three-year education plans, its annual school education plans and strategies for continuous improvement. The results are also shared with EIPS families and school communities each fall in the Division’s *Combined Education Plan and Annual Education Results Report*.

For more information about Alberta Education’s Accountability Pillar Survey visit www.education.alberta.ca/accountability-pillar.

S.Y.N.C Update

Hello!

I am really excited about our S.Y.N.C. (Senior’s and Youth Networking Communities) program. Currently, we have 28 students from grades 5 and 6 that go to Southfort Bend Gardens once per month to do crafts, sing songs and to build relationships with the seniors that live there. The students and seniors enjoy it immensely and there is a real sense of community when we are there. The smiles on everyone’s faces are contagious and there is a real sense of ‘joy’ when you come into the room. I often find myself just ‘listening’ as the seniors and students share their stories, their lives and their laughter. This program would not be possible without the generous funding that has been given to us from the Rotary Club and the Elks Club in Fort Saskatchewan. Because of their generosity, our students receive free bussing to and from the program as well as all the craft supplies for our activities when we are there. I would also like to thank Jenny Polischuk and Jamie Nelson for volunteering their time to help out with planning, buying the supplies and for their participation in the program! Thank you! Mrs. Carole Bossert

Scholastic Book Fair

We would like to thank our parents for their generous support of our book fair. We raised \$4,541.50 during the Scholastic Book Fair that ran during parent/teacher/student interviews. All of the money raised is used to purchase books for our library.



Dream Playground Survey for Parents & Community Members

What would you like for our new playground?
Fill out this survey to share all your wonderful ideas!

<https://goo.gl/forms/eSsS59WbedF9bYCO2>

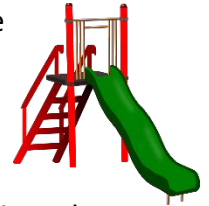
Fundraising Association of SouthPointe School Update

We have an exciting month ahead of us as a Fundraising Association! As was discussed at the last meeting, we are going ahead with getting a playground built by the end of the summer! We are currently in the process of finding a builder who will help make our dream a reality. There are two very important dates to keep in mind. On Tuesday, February 20th at 7:00 p.m., 3-4 builders will be at the school to give a

UPCOMING DATES

February 14	Valentine's Day
February 15	Elder Wilson Visit
February 16	School Closure Day
February 19	Family Day (Schools are closed)
February 20	S.Y.N.C (Gr 5/6) – Southfort Bend Gardens
February 22	Grade 1 Field Trip – Harbour Pool
February 24	Young Author's Conference
February 28	Pink Shirt Day - Cyberbullying

presentation on their vision for the new playground. Any and all parents and community members are welcome to come to this presentation. There will not be an opportunity to ask questions that night, so we invite everyone to join us for our regular general meeting the following night, Wednesday, February 21st, at 7:00 p.m. This will give you a chance to voice your opinions and ask any questions you might have.



We would also like to extend our greatest thanks to Jodie Robertshaw and her team of volunteers for executing our very first hot lunch! The day went off without a hitch, and it was a major success. We are excited to see the different options we will have for hot lunch in the future.