

October 2018



Principal's Message

September has been a very busy month. We would like to thank all staff, students and parents for a great start to the year.

Parent Teacher Interviews will be held on Wednesday, October 17th and Thursday, October 18th from 4:30-7:30. Information will be sent home on how to sign up online for appointment times. If you are having any difficulties please contact the office and we would be happy to help you.

October 1st to the 5th was Read in Week. SouthPointe School students participated in a number of activities this week to celebrate the joys of reading. We encourage all parents to take some time during the week to read with their kids. Our first book fair will be October 17-18 during the day and will also be open during the evenings of Parent-Teacher Interviews.

School Picture retakes will be occurring on October 24th for those students that were away or requested a retake. Please come prepared to have your picture taken.

I hope all families have an opportunity to enjoy their Thanksgiving weekend. As always if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call.

Yours Sincerely,

Carol Brown
Principal

Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews

Parent/Teacher/Student interviews will be held between 4:30-7:30 PM on Wednesday, October 17 & Thursday, October 18, 2018. We will be using the online booking system for scheduling interviews. Bookings will be open on Tuesday, October 9, 2018 at noon. Go to www.schoolinterviews.ca and use event code: **zdwk**

These interviews give parents and teachers an opportunity to discuss the progress students have made to this date. This will also give students opportunity to improve before report cards are sent home. Report cards will be posted on PowerSchool Parent Portal on November 28, 2018.

Scholastic Book Fair

We invite you to share in a celebration of books and reading during our Parent Teacher Interviews on **October 17 and October 18** 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. Be sure to enter your child's name for the chance to win \$50 worth of books for your child and his/her classroom.



The Scholastic Classroom Wish List program will be part of our fair once again. To assist in adding to classroom libraries you may purchase a book at the fair that is on your child's teacher's wish list or donate money for the purchase to be made for their classroom. If you would like to assist with this program the display will be setup in the library during our fair.

Please watch for the Scholastic flyers being sent home to you with your child. Just a reminder that the fair now accepts all forms of payments (debit, credit, cash or cheque) for your convenience.

Thank you in advance for supporting this very important library fundraiser. We look forward to seeing you there!

Pay School Fees Online!

School fee information for the 2018-19 school year is now posted on the PowerSchool Parent Portal. All fees are due within 30 days of being posted. 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.

Don't forget to also log in to the PowerSchool Parent Portal regularly throughout the year. Fees are often added to your child's account to cover the cost of various school activities such as field trips, class projects, athletic-team fees and more.

If circumstances exist where you are unable to pay your fees, you can apply to have [fees waived](#) by submitting an [Application for a Waiver of Fees](#). The application deadline is Dec. 15, 2018.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines, visit www.eips.ca/schools/fees and www.southpointeschool.ca/about/fees. Alternatively, contact Joanne Warwa, business manager at SouthPointe School at 780-998-2747.

F.A.S.S. and School Council Update

Now that we all have a full month of school under our belts, it's time to start thinking about joining our School Council/Fundraising Association community and having a say in what goes on around our kids' school! Our next meeting will NOT be on the 3rd Wednesday of the month this month. We have pushed it back by one week to **OCTOBER 24, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Learning Commons, so as not to coincide with Parent Teacher Interviews on the 3rd Wednesday. We hope you will all join us as we talk about new and exciting events happening this year!

At last month's AGM, both School Council and FASS elected new Boards of Directors. For School Council, our two Co-Chairs are Ariane Taylor-Brzoza and Candace Dealey, with Steph Vandermeulen being



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Secretary. For our Fundraising Association, Kathryn Kerelchuk was re-elected as President, Jodie Robertshaw stepped up to be our Vice President, Ryan Nelson became our new Treasurer, and Courtney Lee was re-elected as Secretary.

If you would like to give feedback and suggestions for this year's fundraisers, please fill out the google form by clicking this link [here](#).

Our first fundraiser of the year happens on October 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Roustabouts. We will be painting awesome signs that make great gifts or great décor for your own home. See more details in the newsletter below. Come out and join us for a fun night!!!

As part of an ongoing fundraiser, we have teamed up with Boston Pizza to raise funds for our school. Every time you eat at Boston Pizza in Northern Alberta, keep your receipts and bring them to the school. Boston Pizza will donate a portion of all sales back to our school! You can bring them to the office or send them to school with your child. Who knew feeding your family could also help fund your school? We have dates for hot lunch for the rest of the year. They are posted on the school website, but are also posted below:

Friday, October 19-Panago Pizza
Friday, November 23-Edo Japan
Friday, December 14-Panago Pizza
Friday, January 18- Boston Pizza
Friday, February 22-Panago Pizza

Friday, March 15-Pita Pit
Friday, April 12-Panago Pizza
Friday, May 24-Fatburger
Friday, June 14-Panago Pizza

SouthPointe School Spirit Wear!

This year at SouthPointe School, we have set up an online ordering store for our school community to purchase apparel items. Please click [here](#) for more information.



Terry Fox Run

Thanks to all students, parents and staff that participated in the Terry Fox School Run on Thursday, September 27 at 1:00 p.m. We raised **\$405.75** for this wonderful cause!

Battle of the Books

We are very excited to announce our school will be participating, for the first time, in the *2018-2019 Battle of the Books Competition*. The competition will include other schools in the Elk Island Public Schools district.

Battle of the Books is a reading club for grades 4, 5 and 6 that encourages and recognizes students who enjoy reading. Students read six novels carefully selected for each grade group featuring a variety of genres and authors. They read the books at their own pace, discuss them, quiz each other on the contents and compete to correctly answer questions based on the books. The questions used all begin with **"In what book..."** so the answer will always be the title of a book.

In the spring, a district wide Battle of the Books Competition will be held at **Fultonvale Elementary Junior High School**, culminating in students competing to be crowned Battle Champions.

There are multiple copies of the Battle Books available for checkout in the SouthPointe School Library. Alternatively, students may wish to borrow them from the public library. Should you have any questions, please contact Kate.Harland@eips.ca

Grade 4 Book List

Speechless by
Jennifer Mook-Sang
Dorko the Magnificent by
Andrea Beaty
Pie by Sarah Weeks
Confessions of an Imaginary Friend
by Michelle Cuevas
Mary Poppins by P.L Travers
Pippi Longstocking by
Astrid Lindgren

Grade 5 Book List

Circus Mirandus by
Cassie Beasley
Framed! by James Ponti
*Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's
Library* by Chris Grabenstein
The Fourteenth Goldfish by
Jennifer L. Holm
Matilda by Roald Dahl
Among the Hidden by
Margaret Peterson Haddix

Grade 6 Book List

Airborn by Kenneth Oppel
When You Reach Me by
Rebecca Stead
Wonder by R.J. Palacio
Firegirl by Tony Abbott
The Night Gardener by
Jonathan Auxier
The Girl Who Could Fly by
Victoria Forester

Be a Wee Read Volunteer!

SouthPointe is pleased to announce that we are once again participating in an exciting program called Wee Read. This eight-week program was designed by Alberta Reads (www.albertareadsnetwork.com) to help Kindergarten and Grade One children strengthen the foundations for reading and school success, and help children develop a love for books.



We are looking for volunteers who can come to our school for about 30 minutes, once a week, for eight consecutive weeks to read with two children, talk about books, and play games that support literacy skills. If you are interested in being part of this fun and meaningful opportunity, or know of someone who might be, there will be a new volunteer training session on Wednesday, October 17th, at SouthPointe School from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. We hope that you will consider partnering with us. If you are planning to attend the session, please contact Kim Johnson at kimberly.johnson@eips.ca. Thank you! For more information about Wee Read, please follow this link: <http://calgaryreads.com/>.

Read In Week took place October 1-5

Read In Week 2018 returned on October 1. The theme for this year was Bringing Books to Life. Through various activities, students spent the week learning how stories live on, even when the book is finished. Some of the activities planned for Read In Week included:

- Book quote guessing game
- Guest readers in the library
- PJ book picnic

Read In Week is a Divisionwide initiative held annually to encourage a lifelong love of reading and to enhance literacy awareness among students, staff, parents and community members. We hope you discovered some amazing stories.

Seniors and Youth Networking Communities

The SYNC (Seniors and Youth Networking Communities) Program builds important links between elementary-aged children and senior citizens in Fort Saskatchewan. By taking part in joint visits and activities at Dr. Turner Lodge and Southfort Bend Gardens, students from [James Mowat Elementary](#), [Fort Saskatchewan Christian](#) and [SouthPointe School](#) make connections with seniors in our community that foster greater understanding and empathy, and reduce isolation and loneliness.

Thank you to our 2018-19 sponsors for making this program possible:

- Ed Sperling
- The Elks Club
- Fort Saskatchewan Co-op
- The Rotary Club
- Straightline Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram

School Fundraiser

Let's Get Together... for an evening of fun with **Nailed It Custom Wood & Vinyl Signs** to Support SouthPointe School!!!



Details: Come out for an evening of painting (don't worry, very little skill required). Bring home a beautiful 12x20 inch rustic sign made by YOU! Food and Drink menu will be available for purchase.

Everyone is Welcome (over the age of 18) so bring your friends!!

When: Friday October 19, 2018

Where: Roustabouts Restaurant and Bar Banquet Room (10115 88th Ave, Fort Saskatchewan)

Time: 6:30 - 9:30PM

Register Today by:

1. Following the [registration link](#) OR
 2. Joining **SouthPointe School Sign Paint Night Fundraiser** on Facebook and follow the registration link
- ** Registration closes Friday October 12, 2018****

Stay Connected: Subscribe to Our News

As of the 2018-19 school year, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is moving to a new service provider for sending phone and email notifications to families, School Messenger. Families won't notice much of a difference—all email subscriptions are being transferred so, there is no need to resubscribe. If you're new to EIPS and want to start receiving Division news and update, or just want to review your subscription information, visit www.eips.ca/contact/subscribe. Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) requires the Division to have direct consent before engaging in electronic communication with its families. Only those who have subscribed to receive emails will get information about Division and school-related news, such as 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

[Manage your subscription preferences](#) online or through the School Messenger app, available through the App Store or Google Play.

- The first time you log in, select **Sign Up** in the top, right corner and create your account using the same email address on file with your child's school

If you have questions about School Messenger or need help creating your account and managing your preferences, contact EIPS Student Transportation at 780-417-8151 or through our [online contact form](#).

School Bus Safety Week: October 22-26

Schools throughout Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) are celebrating School Bus Safety Week October 22-26. The theme: School Bus...Bully Free Zone, which is all about promoting the importance of healthy relationship among students, staff and school bus operators. Throughout the week, various activities are planned including information sessions, bus-safety lesson plans and bus-evacuation drills.



As part of School Bus Safety Week, we'd like to remind our students and our families all EIPS school buses are equipped with both a bus-pass scanner and GPS technology, which allow Student Transportation to better monitor and manage its more than 170 buses and 600 bus routes. Thanks to this technology, parents and students also have access to the Versatrans My Stop app, a mobile tool to help determine the location of a bus, projected arrival times and when a child scanned onto a bus.

More information about School Bus Safety Week and EIPS Student Transportation services can be found by visiting www.eips.ca/transportation or by contacting Student Transportation (780-417-8151, st@eips.ca) directly.

Celebrating World Teachers' Day: October 5

October 5 is World Teachers' Day! Launched in 1994 by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Teachers' Day is celebrated annually around the world as a way to recognize teachers and the integral role they play in providing quality education to students. On October 5, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) encourages all students, families and community members to show their appreciation for their teachers and the positive impact they make on our lives.

EIPS extends its heartfelt thank you to all its teachers for their dedication, hard work and commitment in guiding and educating our students through their kindergarten to Grade 12 years.

REMINDER: Make head checks for lice a regular routine!

Head lice is one of the most common problems faced by school-aged children and their families. Typically, head lice are tiny, greyish-brown insects that live on the scalp and lay their eggs, or nits, in the hair close to the scalp—itching is the main complaint. Lice don't jump from head to head nor are they dangerous. Having a head lice infestation, however, can cause stress, anxiety and hardship for staff, students and parents. As such, it's essential each of our families do their part at home by undertaking weekly routine head checks and, if head lice and nits are found, physically removing them. While head lice prevention and control is primarily the responsibility of the parent, the school does work discreetly with the teacher, students and families to prevent further transmission. To prevent the spread of head lice, we strongly encourage you to speak to your child about preventative behaviour such as avoiding head-to-head contact and not sharing combs, hats, pillows and hair accessories. It's also important to teach children not to tease other students about head lice—anyone can get head lice. If head lice are found on your child, notify the school, physically remove the lice and nits using the proper lice comb, and keep your child home until all signs of active head lice are gone.

For more information about head lice prevention and treatment, visit www.eips.ca/programs-services/healthy-schools/head-lice. Alternatively, you can contact the school at 780-998-2747.

No Child Without: Free MedicAlert for Students

In our ongoing effort to provide safe and caring schools for our students, SouthPointe School continues to be registered in the Canadian MedicAlert Foundation's No Child Without program. The program is a national initiative that provides no-cost MedicAlert services to children—between the ages four of 14—who have chronic health conditions. The goal is twofold: to help children with severe allergies, medical conditions or special needs and to assist schools with medical-emergency plans for students.

Once a child is registered, their school is provided with advice on a medical-emergency plan for that student and given a list of medications, allergies and medical conditions the student has. If your child has a serious medical condition or allergy and could benefit from MedicAlert services, contact the school office at 780-998-2747 to learn more about the No Child Without program, visit www.nochildwithout.ca.

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.



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Parking

Parents, when dropping off or picking up your children, please use the parent drop off located at the front of the school on Allard Way. 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.



UPCOMING DATES

October 5	NO SCHOOL – Professional Learning Day for Staff
October 8	NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Day
October 11-12	School wide Bus Evacuation Drill
October 19	Hot Lunch – Panago Pizza
October 17 & 18	Parent-Teacher Interviews & Scholastic Book Fair (4:30-7:30 p.m.)
October 24	Picture Re-takes (Grade 1 – 7 and Tues/Fri Kindergarten)
October 24	School Council & Fundraising Society Meeting @ 7:00 PM in the Learning Commons
October 25	Picture Re-takes (Mon/Thur Kindergarten)
November 7	Early Dismissal Day (end of the day 1:51 p.m.)
November 12–16	NO SCHOOL - November Break
November 23	Hot Lunch – Edo Japan