



November 2018

Principal's Message

October was a very busy month and it looks like November is going to be more of the same. I would like to thank all of the volunteers who came into classes to help make our Halloween activities such a huge success. There were so many great costumes and the hallways and classrooms were filled with a great deal of excitement and energy.

Thank-you to all parents that were able to attend our Parent Teachers conferences that occurred on October 17-18. We would also like to thank our parents for their generous support of our book fair. We raised \$5,953.50. Thank-you to Mrs. Harland for all of her hard work to make the book fair a possibility for the students of SouthPointe School. All of the money raised is used to purchase books for our library.

SouthPointe School held our Remembrance Day ceremony Friday, November 9 at 10:30. We are pleased to have Wesley Kopp a veteran from the Canadian Armed Forces as our guest speaker during our ceremony. A special thanks to Mrs. Zapesocki, Mrs. Harburn, Mr. Bratton, Mrs. Gillam, Mrs. Booker and Mrs. Dykstra for their help in planning and organizing the ceremony. I would also like to thank all of our student leaders for their help during the ceremony. We would also like to thank the grade 7 student volunteers that participated in the Legion's Field of Honour "No Stone left Alone" ceremony held at the Fort Saskatchewan Cemetery on November 9, 2018 at 1pm.

The junior high volleyball season has come to an end. The student athletes had a great first season at SouthPointe School. Thank-you to all of our students for their hard work and dedication throughout the season. A big thank-you to Mrs. McKee for coaching the boys' team, Mr. Templeton for coaching the girls and Mrs. Gillam for acting as the staff liaison for the girls team. These teams would not be possible without the support of staff and parent volunteers.

Please mark your calendars - the next School Council and Fundraising Association of SouthPointe School meeting will be on Wednesday, November 21, 2018 at 6pm in the Learning Commons. Please come out and join us to learn information on what is happening at our school.

The SouthPointe School Winter Concert, is just around the corner. The concert will be on December 6th so please make sure you save the date on your calendar. There will be two performances that day, one at 1:00 pm and 6:30 pm at SouthPointe School. The ECS concert will be on December 3rd at 12:30pm. More information regarding tickets will be sent home soon.

I hope that the November break allows for some rest and relaxation for both the students and staff at SouthPointe School.

Yours Sincerely,

Carol Brown
Principal

Scholastic Book Fair

We would like to thank our community for their generous support of our Scholastic Book Fair. We sold \$5,953.50 during the book fair that ran during parent/teacher/student interviews. A large portion of this total will go towards the purchase of books and supplies for our Learning Commons as well as funding the new Birthday Book Program. This program is giving a book to every student around their birthday month. Money from the book fair helps make sure that the Birthday Book Cart is full of interesting books for students to choose from.

The Learning Commons also accepts donations from your home, if you are cleaning up your bookshelves. Thank you for your support of the Learning Commons!

Report Cards

We are pleased to announce that your child's Term 1 Report Card will be available for online viewing and/or printing by 3:00 pm on December 7.

To access the online report card, log onto your PowerSchool Parent Portal account and click on "Communicating Student Learning".



If you wish to print the report card, click on the *print* button found on the right hand side of the top banner on the report card page. If you have any difficulty accessing, setting up, or printing the report card, please contact the office or email the school.

Parents of Junior High students, please log on to your PowerSchool Parent Portal account to access term 1 marks.

Parent Survey

The staff at SouthPointe School recognizes the need for parents and the school to work collaboratively to help students achieve success. At SouthPointe School, we are continually working towards strengthening the partnership between the school and our families. In order to continue to do so, we would like to collect as much information as possible regarding parental involvement opportunities within our schools. Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your feedback is important to us. The survey will remain open until November 19, 2018.

[SPS Parent Survey October 2018](#)

Inclement Weather



With the winter season already here, 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) advises parents of any bus cancellations using various communications tools—automated-telephone messages, alerts posted on



www.eips.ca and school websites, Twitter, Facebook, local radio stations and on Versatrans My Stop. Any morning bus cancellations are posted on www.eips.ca by 6:30 a.m.

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 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.

Lunches and Snacks

Please ensure your child has sufficient food and snacks each day. We do have a small supply of food in case of emergencies but the office has seen an increase in the number of children who do not have a lunch or have an insufficient amount to make it through the day. Also, if your child is responsible to make their own lunches, please ensure that they are packing enough each day.

New SchoolMessenger Call-display Number

Effective November 1, all phone calls going out through SchoolMessenger will display one of the following toll-free numbers rather than the school or Division number.

- Messages programmed from Student Transportation: 1-833-298-5234
- Messages programmed from schools and the Division office: 1-833-202-1419

With this change, parents/guardians have the ability to call back to this number to replay all recent phone messages they’ve received through SchoolMessenger. If you’ve missed a call or would like to replay a message to confirm you have all the details, simply call back the applicable 1-833 number and follow the prompts to repeat any recent messages.

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

We are excited to announce that we will now be offering child care at our School Council/FASS meetings! There will be room for only 10 children, ages 3 and up, and we require you to confirm that you need childcare by the **Monday before** our Wednesday meetings. Ariane Brzoza, the co-chair of School Council, is the contact person for child care southpointe.schoolcouncil@gmail.com. The students in charge of the child care are volunteers and do not necessarily have their babysitting course. The children will be in the sensory room near the Learning Commons.

We will also be moving the start time of our meetings up to 6 pm in the hopes that our meetings will not interfere as much with bed times. Our next meeting is Wednesday, November 21 at 6 pm. We hope to see you there!



We are happy to announce our next fundraiser will be Stawnichy sausage. Order forms will be sent home before fall break so please check your child's backpack. You can also order online [here](#). Orders are due November 27 by 2:51 pm. No late orders will be accepted. Pick up for orders is December 17 from 2 to 6 pm. Please make arrangements for pick up because orders will not be sent home with students. All food is delivered frozen and we do not have space to keep it frozen, which makes pick up date important.

Kathryn Kerelchuk
President, Fundraising Association for SouthPointe School

Sienna Road Extension

As many of you are aware we are still awaiting the completion of the road which will connect Sienna to SouthPointe School. We have hit a wall at this point. In hopes that we may see a road completed prior to next school year we are asking for your help. We would encourage all parents to contact the Mayor's office and let them know that this is an important issue for the families of students at SouthPointe School.

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. The online store will open on the 3rd day of each month and close monthly on the last day to allow for the orders to be processed. Please click [here](#) for more information.



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.

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 subscription 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](#).

Caregiver Education Series

The Division, in partnership with Strathcona County and Elk Island Catholic Schools, is hosting a series of caregiver information sessions focused on ways to support students' mental health. The free sessions provide parents, caregivers, teachers and community members with information about challenges that can impact children and adolescents. Some of the session topics include: dealing with anxiety, teenagers and technology, cannabis, understanding depression and self-injury, test anxiety, building executive functioning skills, and limit setting.

Visit the [Division calendar](#) to see all scheduled caregiver sessions.

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.

Community News

Sneak Attack Atomic Girls Volleyball

Atomic Volleyball is an 8 week program with adapted rules for youth ages 8-12. Each session is 1.5 hours, with every session being 45 minutes of practice, followed by 45 minutes of game play. Atomic Volleyball is part of the Long Term Athlete Development Model that stresses FUN, FAIRPLAY and PARTICIPATION.



For more information visit the [Attack Volleyball Club website](#).

UPCOMING DATES

November 11	Remembrance Day
November 12–16	NO SCHOOL - November Break
November 19-23	Bully Awareness Week
November 21	School Council & Fundraising Society Meeting @ 6:00 PM in the Learning Commons
November 30	Hot Lunch – Edo Japan
December 3	ECS Winter Concert (12:30 in gym)
December 5	Early Dismissal Day (end of the day 1:51 p.m.)
December 6	Grades 1-6 Winter Concert (1:00 & 6:30pm)
December 7	Report Cards Published @ 3:00pm