



January 2019

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 and 7 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. We will also have laptops set up during parent teacher interviews for parents to complete the survey online while they are waiting to see their child's teacher.

The school calendar for the 2019-20 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 2019, registration will open February 1, 2019 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, 2019 to enter ECS in the fall. All ECS registrations for the 2019-20 school year will be completed online. The online registration form can be found on our school website www.eips.ca/kindergarten.

Effective for the 2019-20 school year, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is once again conducting an online student registration process to confirm the school their children will attend. Access to this form will be through the PowerSchool Parent Portal. All student registration need to be confirmed from February 1-28, 2019.

Our next Parent/Teacher/Student interviews will take place on February 5-6, 2019 from 4:30-7:30 p.m. We will once again be using the online booking system for scheduling interviews. Bookings will be open Friday, January 25 at noon. Go to www.schoolinterviews.ca and use event code: **ymc4e**. We will be hosting a book fair during interview nights.

Just a reminder that in January the SouthPointe School and Fundraising Society Council meets January 16 at 6:00pm in the Learning Commons.

Kindergarten Registration Starts Soon!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2019? If so, it's almost time to register for kindergarten.

Kindergarten registration opens for the 2019-20 school year on **Feb. 1, 2019**. Details are available at www.eips.ca/registration/kindergarten.

To help families prepare, Elk Island Public Schools has put together an online toolkit—available at www.eips.ca/kindergarten—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.



Additional information regarding kindergarten can be found on our school website at <http://southpointeschool.ca/programs/kindergarten>.

Returning Student Registration for 2019-20

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) will once again conduct an online returning student registration process to confirm student registrations for the 2019-20 school year. Families of all returning students will need to complete this process to confirm the school their children will attend for the 2019-20 school year, and to request to attend a non-designated school, if applicable. Returning student registration will take place at the same time as all registrations for the 2019-20 school year: **Feb. 1-28, 2019.**

Access to the Returning Student Registration Form is provided through the PowerSchool Parent Portal. If you don't have a PowerSchool Parent Portal account, you will need to set one up before Feb. 1, 2019. To create a PowerSchool Parent Portal account:

1. Go to <https://powerschool.eips.ca/public/>.
2. Click the button labelled, "Create Account."
3. Enter the parent or guardian information. Each account must have a unique email address and username—only one parent account is required regardless of the number of children you have attending EIPS schools.
4. Create a username and password of your choice—you'll need both the username and password to log in to your PowerSchool Parent Portal.
5. You must have an Access ID and Access Password for each student that is added to your account. Contact your child's school to obtain this information.
6. Press "Enter."

If you have any problems setting up the PowerSchool Parent Portal account, please contact the school office at 780.998.2747 for further assistance.

EIPS 2019-20 Division Calendar: Now available!

The official 2019-20 EIPS calendar is now available online. The calendar includes important dates during the 2019-20 school such as school-closure days; breaks; the first and last day of classes; professional learning days; and early dismissal days.

Highlights from the 2019-20 EIPS calendar include:

- September 3 First day of classes (after long weekend)
- November 11-15 November break
- December 23 to January 3 Christmas break
- January 31 Second semester begins



- February 6-7 Teachers' Convention
- March 30 to April 3 Spring break
- June 26 Last day of classes
- June 29 Schools close for the Summer break

To view the 2019-20 calendar, visit www.eips.ca. Also available online: the current school calendar and the 2020-21 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.

Book Fair

We invite you to share in a celebration of books and reading during our Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews on February 5th & 6th from 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the Learning Commons. By supporting our Scholastic book fair you are helping to obtain new resources for our school library as well as adding to classroom libraries.



Positive Office Referrals

Starting this month at SouthPointe School, we are encouraging all staff members to look for the positive things students are doing each day. When a student receives a positive office referral they will bring it to the office, where it will be entered in a monthly draw for a Sharks t-shirt! Students will be selected monthly from each division (division 1: kindergarten to grade 3, division 2: grades 4-6 and division 3: grade 7). We look forward to our weekly shout-outs, celebrating all of the great things students at SouthPointe are doing to help others in our school community!

Fundraising Association and School Council Update

Please join us for our next meeting on January 16th at 6:00pm in the Learning Commons. All are welcome! The fundraising association is excited to announce that we will be holding the Little Caesars Pizza fundraiser again this year! More information will come home in early Spring.

SouthPointe Valentine's Family Dance

Join us for a fun night of dancing! All family members welcome!

Where: SouthPointe School Gym

When: Friday, February 22, 2019

Time: 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Cost: \$20 per family or \$5 each

Tickets will be available during Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews during February 5-6, 2019 from 4:30-7:30 p.m.



Accountability Pillar Survey

As an annual check-up on the education system, the Accountability Pillar provides an opportunity for Alberta Education and school authorities to ensure that we are equipping students for success.

The Accountability Pillar uses a set of 16 indicators. Data on these indicators consists of surveys of students, parents and teachers on various aspects of education quality, student outcomes such as dropout and high school completion rates, and provincial assessments of student learning.

From January to the end of February, Alberta Education will be conducting the annual Accountability Pillar Survey.

- In January, parents of students in grades 4, and 7 will receive a survey from Alberta Education.
- In February, students in grades 4 and 7 and all teachers will be completing their surveys online at school.

All surveys are anonymous and ask questions about experiences with your school. In addition to English and French, the parent survey is available in Chinese, Punjabi, Arabic, Blackfoot, Dene, Cree, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog and Urdu.

Your participation in the survey helps provide important information on the quality of education your child is receiving, so we encourage you to return your survey promptly.

Survey results will be available to school authorities in May, and will be reported publicly as part of their 3-Year Education Plans and Annual Education Results Reports.

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 photograph that showcases the latest news, updates, events and alerts taking place across the Division.

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.

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.

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.



UPCOMING DATES

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| January 16 | School Council & Fundraising Society Meeting @ 6:00pm in the Learning Commons |
| January 18 | Hot Lunch – Boston Pizza |
| January 25 | On-line Interview Booking open at NOON (12:00 pm) |
| January 31 | Term 2 Junior High elective courses begin |
| February 5-6 | Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews & Scholastic Book Fair (4:30 – 7:30 pm) |
| February 6 | Early Dismissal Day (end of the day 1:51 p.m.) |
| February 7-8 | NO SCHOOL – Teachers’ Convention |
| February 15 | NO SCHOOL – Professional Learning Day |
| February 18 | NO SCHOOL – Family Day |
| February 22 | Hot Lunch – Panago Pizza |
| February 27 | Pink Shirt Day |