

February 2019



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. We also have students in grade 6 and 7 who are continuing to practice and play in the EIPS junior high extracurricular basketball league.

We would like to thank all of the parents that were able to join us on February 5-6 for parent teacher interview nights. We appreciate the many parents that were able to join us on two very cold nights to discuss their children's progress to date.

Parents in grades 4 and 7 you should have received an Accountability Survey in the mail from the Alberta government. We ask that you take a few minutes to complete the survey online or the parent copy that was sent to you. The information that we receive from you is valuable and lets us know how we are doing in meeting our goals. Students in grade 7 and 4 will be completing the survey at school this week and next.

On February 22 from 6:30-8:30 pm the school council is hosting a Family Dance. Tickets are \$5 each or \$20 per family and are available at the door. Please come out and join us for a fun night of family fun.

A reminder to parents to please access the school and Sienna through Allard Way for the safety of the students and parents that are walking through the fields. We have parents that have been travelling on the snow road. This access is currently blocked off with concrete blocks and saw horses. Thank-you for your cooperation.

On Wednesday, February 20 at 6pm we will have our regular school society meeting and school council meeting. Please feel free to join us.

Carol Brown, Principal

Complete the Returning Student Registration: February 1-28

Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) Returning Student Registration Process is now open. On February 1, all EIPS families received an email from the Division asking them to confirm their child's enrolment in a school for the upcoming year by completing the online Returning Student Registration Form—available by logging in to the PowerSchool Parent Portal. Using the form, families can indicate the school their child plans to attend and apply to attend a non-designated school, if applicable. All returning EIPS students are required to complete the form by Feb. 28, 2019.

Don't have a PowerSchool Parent Portal account: Follow the instructions below to set an account up:

1. Go to <https://powerschool.eips.ca/public/>.
2. Choose "Create Account."
3. Enter the parent or guardian information—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 the PowerSchool Parent Portal.
5. Enter your school-provided Access ID and Access Password for each student being added to the account.
6. Then, select "Enter."

For more information or assistance, contact your child's school.

Kindergarten Registration is Now Open!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2019? If so, it's now time to register for kindergarten. To register, simply complete the online registration form at www.eips.ca/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 www.southpointeschool.ca.

Scholastic Book Fair

We would like to thank our parents for their generous support of our book fair. We raised \$3,576.84 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.

Healthy Snack Initiative

A big thank-you to **Freson Bros** for partnering with SouthPointe School to provide a healthy snack to our students once a month. All of the fruit and produce are provided by Freson Bros. The purpose of this program is to encourage healthy eating by exposing students to different fruits and vegetables. Students are given information about the product including fun facts about nutrients and the environment. In January students were given Tangelos to try. They were fabulous and the students really enjoyed them.

Junior High Parent Information Night

On March 5 from 6:00 - 7:00 pm we will be hosting a Parent Information night to go over the electives choices for the 2019-20 school year. An information package will be sent home on February 14 with your child. We will also be available to answer any questions that you may have. Students will sign up for their elective courses starting March 6. These forms will go home for parents to review and sign.

Positive Office Referrals

Starting in January 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

Our next hot lunch, Panago Pizza, is on February 22, 2019. Order forms went home last week and are due on Tuesday, February 19 at 2:51pm, please get your forms in by then.

Please join us for our next meeting on Wednesday, February 20th at 6:00pm in the Learning Commons.

All are welcome! If you require child care for the meeting, please contact Ariane at

southpointeschool.schoolcouncil@gmail.com

A note was sent home today to remind everyone about the upcoming Valentine's Family Dance along with a plea for volunteers for the dance.

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 are available at the door!



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 and 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, which can be done online or by mail—information about the survey was mailed to these families in mid-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 survey must be completed 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 four-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.

Caregiver Education Series

The Division, in partnership with Alberta Health Services, Elk Island Catholic Schools, New Horizon School and Eastern Edge RCSD, is hosting a series of caregiver information sessions focused on ways to support students' addiction and mental health challenges. The sessions are free and open to parents, caregivers, teachers and community members. Session topics include: dealing with anxiety, teenagers and technology, sleep and how it impacts the developing brain, understanding depression and self-injury, test anxiety, and building problem-solving and goal-directed skills.

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

Next Step Continuing Education Summer School and Youth Camps: Registration opens March 11 **There's something for everyone**

Summer School: Open to students entering grades 10-12

With more than 25 credit courses, there are lots of ways to get ahead. Students can earn high school credits, upgrade marks and finish pre-requisite courses.

Courses include:

- CALM, Physical Education 10, and Extreme CALM and Physical Education 10 combined
- English, math, social and all the sciences at the 10-, 20- and 30-levels
- Film Production
- Work Experience

Summer Youth Camps: Open to participants in grades 5-9

From sports to babysitting, campers enjoy a fun-filled program while also making friends and learning new skills.

Camps include:

- sports
- cooking and baking
- babysitting
- Handball—new

Registration opens on March 11.

Related information:

[Summer School](#)
[Youth Camps](#)

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

February 15	NO SCHOOL – Professional Learning Day
February 18	NO SCHOOL – Family Day
February 19	WISEST Conference
February 20	School Council & Fundraising Society Meeting @ 6:00 pm in the Learning Commons
February 21	WEM Marine Life Field Trip – Grade 3
February 22	Hot Lunch – Panago Pizza
February 22	Valentine’s Family Dance
February 23	Young Author’s Conference
February 27	Pink Shirt Day
March 5	Junior High Parent Information Night @ 6:00 pm
March 6	Early Dismissal Day (end of the day 1:51 p.m.)
March 8	NO SCHOOL – Professional Learning Day
March 22	NO SCHOOL – Day-in-Lieu for Parent Teacher Interviews
March 25 – 29	NO SCHOOL – Spring Break