

February 2020



Principal's Message

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

Several 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 the parents that were able to join us on February 3-4 for parent teacher interview nights. We appreciate the many parents that were able to join us 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 completed the survey at school.

On February 21 from 6:30-8:30 pm the school council is hosting a Family Dance. There is no cost to attend the dance, but students must be accompanied by a parent. We hope you will join us for a night of family fun!

We are looking for feedback on fees for next year. We are asking parents to complete the survey that is posted on our school website. This survey will be open until Friday, February 21, 2020.

Returning student registration is currently open. Please log on to the parent portal and indicate if your child will be returning for the 2020-21 school year. The portal will remain open until February 29, 2020.

On Wednesday, February 19 at 6:00 pm we will have our regular fundraising society meeting and school council meeting. Please feel free to join us.

Carol Brown, Principal

Complete the Returning Student Registration: February 1-29

Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) returning student registration process is now open. All returning students must complete the online Returning Student Registration Form to confirm their child's enrolment in a school for the upcoming 2020-21 school year. Additionally, students who want to attend a non-designated school need to make that request through the returning student registration

process—acceptance is based on available space. **All returning EIPS students are required to complete the form by Feb. 29, 2020.**

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 need to set one up before Feb. 1, 2020.

[Create a PowerSchool Parent Portal account](#)

For more information contact the school directly at 780-998-2747.

RELATED INFORMATION:

[Returning Student Registration Process](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[EIPS School Boundary Maps](#)

[Closed boundaries 2020-21](#)

[Find my designated school](#)

[Applying to a non-designated school](#)

Kindergarten Registration is Now Open!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2020? If so, it's now time to register for kindergarten. To register, simply complete the online registration form at eips.ca/kindergarten.

To help families prepare, Elk Island Public Schools has put together an online toolkit—available at 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 is available 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 \$4,990.35 during the Scholastic Book Fair that ran during parent teacher interviews. All of the money raised is used to purchase materials for our library.

Popcorn Sale



Due to the success of our first Popcorn Day, we've decided to have another on February 27! Students can purchase popcorn for \$1.00/bag. Money will be collected first thing in the morning on Wednesday, February 26. Late orders will not be guaranteed but, if we have extra bags, we will sell them on a first come, first serve basis on Thursday and Friday. Please send exact amount as change will not be given. Limit 1 bag per student. Proceeds will go to support our growing school community.

If you would like to volunteer to help fill popcorn bags please contact the school at 780-998-2747 or general.sps@eips.ca. Your help is much appreciated!



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School Council News

Please join us on Feb 21 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm for our SPS Sharks Dance! Free admission to families! Concession, spot dance prizes and door prizes! We hope your family is there to help celebrate our wonderful school. If you are able to help out please contact our volunteer coordinator, Kathryn @ Kathryn.goos@gmail.com.

Did you know that the school council gives a monthly teacher appreciation treat to thank our amazing teachers? From hot chocolate and cookies to mailbox treats we hope to brighten our teachers' days and let them know how much they mean to our families. If you have new ideas or would like to help out please contact us at southpointeschool.schoolcouncil@gmail.com.

A huge thank you to everyone who made it out to our last meeting. It was great to see so many new faces. Attending meetings is a great way to learn about what is going on at our school. Our next meeting is Feb 19 at 6:00 pm. We hope to see you there!

SouthPointe Spirit Wear Now Available to Order!

SouthPointe School spirit wear is available to order from now through the end of March. Delivery of items will be in April. Please click [here](#) to order.

Moving forward, spirit wear will be available to order **only twice per year**; in the Fall (September & October, for delivery before the holidays) and Spring (February & March, for delivery in April).

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 February, Grade 4 and 7 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 asked to take a survey, either online or by mail. Information about the survey was sent to these families in January. Like the





student and teacher survey, it's anonymous and asks questions about your school experiences. If you have a child in grades 4, 7 or 10, we encourage you to participate. The survey deadline is Feb. 28, 2020.

Results from the Accountability Survey are provided to Elk Island Public Schools each May. The Division then uses the data to inform its four-year education plan, 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 alberta.ca/accountability-education-system.aspx.

Junior High Parent Information Night

On March 24 from 6:00 - 7:00 pm SouthPointe will be hosting a Parent Information night to go over the electives choices for the 2020-21 school year. Before that date an information package will be sent home with your child. Staff will be available that evening to answer any questions that you may have.

Read Aloud Day Contest

Do you have a favourite book your parents or grandparents read to you when you were young? Is there a book you enjoy reading to your children or grandkids? Maybe a teacher once shared a great book with your class that captured your imagination and set you on a lifelong love of reading?

On February 5, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) wants to hear from you—about the story you'll always remember. Write a post and include a photo. Or, even better, record a short video reading a favourite quote or passage from the book. Then, tweet it and tag the EIPS Twitter account [@eips](https://twitter.com/eips) or reply to the Read Aloud Day post on the Division's [Facebook page](#). And, be sure to use the hashtag: #eipsreadsaloud.

NOTE: The Read Aloud contest is open to community members, students, and teachers and staff throughout the Division—everyone who posts is automatically entered in a draw to win one of nine EIPS prize packages. Winners will be announced on Feb. 7, 2020.

Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Mark Liguori shares his thoughts on the Division in his latest blog column: Top of Mind – If what we're forecasting is accurate, we have to concentrate on what's important—our core work, which is teaching and learning in the classroom. [Read more](#)

Caregiver Education Series

The Division, in partnership with Alberta Health Services and Elk Island Catholic Schools, is hosting a series of caregiver information sessions focused on ways to support students' mental health. The sessions are free and geared toward parents, caregivers, teachers and community members who want to learn more about challenges impacting children and adolescents. This year, session topics include anxiety, ADHD, depression, self-harm, technology, teens and teaching leadership skills, and more.

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



Next Step Continuing Education Summer School and Camps: Registration opens March 9
Do more this summer!

Summer School: Open to students entering grades 10-12 and mature students
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 (in class or self-paced)
- Physical Education 10
- Extreme CALM and Physical Education 10 combined
- English – 10-, 20- and 30-levels
- Math – 10-, 20- and 30-levels
- Social – 10-, 20- and 30-levels
- Sciences – 10-, 20- and 30-levels
- Film Production
- Work Experience and RAP

Summer Camps: Open to participants in grades 5-9
From sports to cooking to babysitting, campers enjoy a fun-filled program while making friends and learning new skills.

Camps include:

- Sports – volleyball, basketball and handball
- computer gaming and design
- cooking and baking
- babysitting

Registration opens on March 9.

Related information:

[Summer School](#)

[Summer Camps](#)

UPCOMING DATES

February 14	NO SCHOOL – School Closure Day
February 17	NO SCHOOL – Family Day
February 18	S.Y.N.C/Connecting Communities (Gr 4/5)
February 19	Spirit Day – Dress like you are 100 for 100 Day!
February 19	WISEST Conference School Council & Fundraising Society Meeting - 6:00 pm, Learning Commons
February 21	Hot Lunch – Panago Pizza Family Dance
February 22	Young Author’s Conference



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	Science Olympics, U of A
February 26	Pink Shirt Day
February 27	Popcorn Day
February 28	Reynolds Museum Field Trip – Grade 8
March 4	Early Dismissal Day (end of the day 1:51 p.m.) Cash 4 Care – Bring \$2.00 for the Stollery to wear a hat for the day
March 6	NO SCHOOL – Professional Learning Day
March 24	Junior High Parent Information Night - 6:00 pm
March 27	NO SCHOOL – Day-in-Lieu for Parent Teacher Interviews
March 30–Apr 3	NO SCHOOL – Spring Break