



December 2020

Principal's Message

December is upon us. Report cards and junior high marks are being released through the PowerSchool Parent Portal on December 4, 2020. We encourage all parents to log on and see how your child is progressing in school.

Currently, our grade 7-9 students are accessing online learning. Students are following their regular scheduled classes. Attendance is being taken every class and students are expected to have their cameras on during the instruction portion of each class. We encourage all junior high students to continue to work hard and reach out to their teachers if they are experiencing difficulties. Parents, if your child needs access to technology, please contact the school office so we can arrange to sign out a Chromebook.

Mrs. Johnson's International Teacher Exchange is coming to an end. Mrs. Johnson joined us from Australia last January and Mrs. Harburn left us for Australia. We want to thank Mrs. Johnson for all her hard work with our grade one students. She has done an amazing job and we will miss her. We wish her all the best upon her return to Australia. Mrs. Harburn will be returning to SPS starting in the new year.

A reminder to parents that the weather is beginning to turn cold. Please ensure that students are dressed properly for the conditions. Warm jackets, scarves, toques and gloves are all necessities. Snow pants are highly recommended. We are noticing a few students that are underdressed as they are coming off the bus. We want to ensure that if a bus breaks down during the morning or after school ride that students will be comfortable until help arrives.

We are hoping that everyone will enjoy the holiday break this year. The last day of school for students is December 22. All students return to online learning on January 6, 7 and 8. In school learning will resume on January 11 for all students. We hope the break will provide you with some time to enjoy the holiday season.

Carol Brown, Principal

Report Cards

We are pleased to announce that our grades 1-6 term 1 report cards and grades 7-9 term 1 marks will be available for online viewing and/or printing by 3:00 pm on Friday, December 4. Kindergarten report cards will be printed and sent home with your child. 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 at 780-998-2747.



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

School and Transportation Fee Waiver Applications: Deadline extended

Elk Island Public Schools recognizes the global pandemic has put a strain on some families' finances and available income can change quickly in the current situation. As such, the Division has extended the deadline for requesting a waiver of your 2020-21 school and transportation fees. If you encounter circumstances where you're unable to pay your fees, you can apply to have **fees waived** by submitting an [Application for a Waiver of Fees](#). Because of the pandemic, the new deadline is Feb. 15, 2021—if you're new to EIPS, the deadline is the latter of Feb. 15, 2021, or 45 days after registration.

Each quarter—or trimester, as applicable—you'll receive an email notification letting you know fees are posted on the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). To access your fee information, go to "Student Fees" on PowerSchool. There you can view your fees and pay online using Visa, MasterCard or INTERAC Online—when available from your financial institution. All fees are due within 14 days of being posted. *NOTE:* School Fees apply to in-school learners only.

For more information about school fees, transportation fees, waivers and payment deadlines, visit eips.ca or southpointeschool.ca/about/fees. Alternatively, contact the school at 780-998-2747.

Fundraising Association and School Council Update

Our next virtual meeting will be held on January 20, 2021 at 5:00 pm. If you would like to participate in the meeting, please email Corey Kropp at coreykropp@eips.ca to request an invite.

For those parents who have had a credit for the hot lunch program from last year, we will be mailing out the reimbursement cheques next week. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jodie Robertshaw (Treasurer) at treasurer.fass1@gmail.com.

The Fundraising Association is still looking for volunteers for the positions of vice-president, marketing coordinator and volunteer coordinator. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Laelia Winstone (President) at president.fass@gmail.com.

Want to have a say in what's happening in your child(ren)'s school? Become a member of the Fundraising Association! [Membership forms](#) can be filled out online and sent to Danielle Collette (Secretary) at secretary.fass@gmail.com.

Ongoing Fundraisers:

Our goal is to raise \$30,000.00 to complete a space for junior high students outside! How can you help?

- Every time you eat at **Boston Pizza** in the Edmonton area and Northern Alberta, **SAVE YOUR RECEIPTS!** There is a collection envelope on the FASS bulletin board in the front entry way of the school to leave your receipts in. Boston Pizza will give back 5% of what we spend!
- When shopping at **Cobs Bread**, just mention Southpointe School! 5% of what you spend will go back to the school.
- **FLIPGIVE** - Who doesn't love online shopping? Go through the app to shop at Amazon, Under Armour, Starbucks, Old Navy and lots more or purchase gift cards. Whenever you buy something through the app, money is raised for FASS! Download the FLIPGIVE app, join the FASS team, enter code **K2TQ9X** and start shopping! We've already raised over \$1,000 using this app! Keep it going!
- **Year-round bottle drive!** Beverly Bottle Depot has partnered with the Fundraising Association for this huge event! You no longer need to stockpile your bottles waiting to support your school! Just give them a call at 780-479-3991 or 587-340-8803 and you can set up a date and time for them to come pick up your bottles and donate the refunds plus an extra 10% directly to our Fundraising Association!

Dentons Grant – Make Your Mark on Poverty!



We received a grant from Dentons called, “Make Your Mark on Poverty!” For those of you who do not know, we received this grant two years ago and did a ‘Warm Hands Warm Hearts’ initiative.

This year as a school and a community, our initiative is going to be called **SNOCKS!!** We will be collecting **SNACKS** and **SOCKS** that will be given to schools/families in Fort Saskatchewan, similar to what we did with the mittens. (see links for information about our grant two years ago)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G8NTI2buQOM>



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p 780-998-2747 SouthPointeSchool.ca



<https://www.fortsaskatchewanrecord.com/news/local-news/massive-mitten-mountain-revealed-by-southpointe-school>

IF you are able, please send new socks and snacks to school with your child!! We are super excited about this initiative!!!! Let us cover the City of Fort Saskatchewan with SNOCKS!!!!

Christmas Break

SouthPointe School will close for the Christmas break at the end of the day on Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2020. The school will reopen on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021. During this time, if you have any school-related questions or concerns, contact Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Central Services at 780-464-3477.

EIPS Central Services Christmas Break Hours

Closed	December 23–25
Open	December 28–31; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Closed	January 1
Open	January 4–5; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



*For location and contact information, visit www.eips.ca.

From everyone at Elk Island Public Schools, we wish all of you a happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year.

Discounted Software for EIPS Students

All Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) students now have access to discounted software through the new EIPS OnTheHub webstore, available at eips.onthehub.com. Through OnTheHub, students can purchase software at significant discounts off standard retail prices. Users must sign in using their EIPS email address and password to access the product selection and take advantage of discount pricing. Included in the discounts is student-only access to Windows 10 for Education completely free! More information is available through the Help menu within OnTheHub.

No Child Without: Free MedicAlert for students

In our ongoing effort to provide safe and caring schools for our students, SouthPointe School is 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 years—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, the 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.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Board of Trustees

As we draw closer to the end of 2020—a year like no other—I want to extend warm holiday wishes to all our students, staff and families on behalf of the Elk Island Public Schools Board of Trustees. Thank you for your partnership, co-operation and understanding throughout the past year. The holidays are often a time of reflection and gratitude, and we want you to know how much we appreciate the contributions you make to the Division on an ongoing basis. By working together, we're making a difference in the learning experiences and opportunities of all students within EIPS.



While this Christmas will undoubtedly look very different than past years, we hope you have the opportunity to celebrate the season—whether that be an intimate holiday meal with your immediate family or a virtual celebration with extended family and friends.

Stay safe this holiday season, and we look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Jan. 6, 2021. Merry Christmas and happy holidays,

Trina Boymook
EIPS Board Chair

UPCOMING DATES

December 4	Term 1 Report Cards/Grades Published Online - 3:00 pm
December 18	Red and Green Day
December 21	Tacky Sweater Day
December 22	Last Instructional Day before Winter Break PJ Day
Dec 23 – Jan 5	NO SCHOOL - Winter Break
January 6	First Instructional Day after Winter Break (Online) Early Dismissal Day (end of the day 1:51 pm)
January 11	First In-School Instructional Day after Winter Break
January 20	School Council & Fundraising Society virtual meeting - 5:00 pm
January 29	NO SCHOOL – Professional Learning Day