

January 2021



Principal's Message

Welcome back to school! We are excited to have all our students joining us in person starting on January 11. We hope that everyone had a good Winter Break and was able to fit in some time for relaxing.

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.

The school calendar for the 2021-22 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 2021, registration will open February 1, 2021 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, 2021 to enter ECS in the fall. All ECS registrations for the 2021-22 school year will be completed online. The online registration form can be found on our division website www.eips.ca/kindergarten.

Effective for the 2021-22 school year, Elk Island Public Schools is once again conducting an online returning student registration process to confirm the school their children will attend. Access to this form will be through the PowerSchool Parent Portal. All student registrations need to be confirmed from February 1-28, 2021. Just a reminder that SouthPointe School will once again be a closed boundary school.

This month all students enrolled in 7-9 classes for the 2021-22 school year will complete an elective survey. Parents will also be asked to complete this survey to help us determine what our elective course offerings will be. A virtual information night for grade 6 parents will be held Thursday, January 28 at 6:00pm. More information will be sent to parents by January 22, 2021.

For families that will be entering grade 10 next year, Fort Saskatchewan High School will be hosting a virtual open house on January 27, 2021 from 6:00-7:30 pm. Information about this event will be shared with families next week.

A reminder our next virtual School Council and Fundraising Association meeting is January 20, 2021 at 5:00 pm. At this meeting we will be discussing school fees for the upcoming school year. Please email Corey Kropf (Corey.Kropf@eips.ca) for the meeting code if you are interested in attending.

Carol Brown, Principal



11 SouthPointe Blvd., Fort Saskatchewan, AB T8L 0T9
p 780-998-2747 SouthPointeSchool.ca



Kindergarten Registration Starts Soon!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2021? If so, it's almost time to register for kindergarten.

Kindergarten registration opens for the 2021-22 school year on Feb. 1, 2021.

To help families prepare, Elk Island Public Schools has put together an online [EIPS Kindergarten Tool kit](#) 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 SouthPointe's kindergarten program is available at www.southpointeschool.ca/programs/kindergarten

Returning Student Registration for 2021-22

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) will once again conduct an online returning student registration process to confirm student registrations for the 2021-22 school year. Families of all returning students must complete the process to confirm the school their child plans to attend in the 2021-22 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. The 2021-22 returning student registration takes place between Feb. 1-28, 2021.

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, 2021.

[Create a PowerSchool Parent Portal account](#)

For more information contact the school directly.

Parent Teacher Interviews

Parent Teacher Interviews will be held Monday, February 1 through Wednesday, February 3, 2021 from 3:30-5:30 pm. We will be using the online booking system for scheduling a phone call or Google Meet conversation between parents and teachers. Bookings will open at **noon** on Thursday, January 21. At that time, go to schoolinterviews.ca and use event code: **3vsw7**. An email will be sent to parents with further details.

These interviews give parents and teachers an opportunity to discuss the progress students have made to this date. This will also give students opportunity to improve before report cards are published. Elementary report cards and junior high marks will be posted on the PowerSchool Parent Portal on March 19, 2021.

Involving Parents at SouthPointe School survey results

On November 16-20, 2020, the school conducted a survey to find out the extent to which parents feel engaged in school life generally and, more specifically, with their children's learning. The key objectives of the survey were:

- a. To identify ways the school can improve communication and engagement with parents so they can more effectively support their children's learning, and

- b. To identify ways that the school can provide opportunities for parental involvement in educational decision making.

Key Findings:

- Parents are overwhelmingly happy with SouthPointe and most feel reasonably well-informed about what goes on at school.
- Many parents feel they could do more to support their children's learning but are unsure how to do this. Ability to support learning was weakest in numeracy. Parents felt they did not understand the methods being taught in school.
- Parents would find it helpful to have more regular updates about what their children are learning in school.
- There are many examples of good practice in communications with parents (e.g., emails, phone calls, agenda messages, monthly classroom newsletters, teacher Brightspace pages and school surveys).
- Parents would like the option to conduct upcoming Parent Teacher Interviews virtually.

Please click [here](#) for more information about parent engagement.

Wellness and Connections

Family School Liaison – Melanie Morrison: melanie.morrison@eip.ca; Phone: 780-998-2747



Welcome to 2021! My name is Melanie Morrison and I am the Family School Liaison here at SouthPointe School. I hope that the holiday break was a wonderful and peaceful time for you and your family. Just as the days get brighter and longer and the sunshine warms your face, I hope that January will be the beginning of a brighter, sunshinier year for all of us.

“Celebrate what is right in the world.” Dewitt Jones, TED Talk



Resource Center

- **FCSS** 780-992-6267 or COVID-19 Support Line 780-992-6281
- **The Bridge** (Youth programming ages 11-24) Wednesday and Thursday: 2:00 – 8:00pm

Services available include food security, computers, wifi, peer support, feminine hygiene products, Elder and Indigenous support.

Wednesday – 1 on 1 appointments can be made for counselling, Boys and Girls Club peer support staff and Restorative Justice

Thursday – LGBTQ2+ Peer support, Saffron Support, Youth Outreach worker (peer support), Addictions Counsellor-Alateen

- **Kids Help Phone** 1-800-668-6868 or Text CONNECT to 686868 or live chat www.kidshelpphone.ca
- **Mental Health Help Line** 1-877-303-2642 (24/7)
- **Child and Youth Counselling Services Intake** 780-342-2701

- **Access 24/7** 780-424-2424 adult mental health services
- **Primary Care Network** 780-997-0046
- **AHS** [AHS list of resources for “Help in Tough Times”, specific to COVID-19](#)
- [Text4Hope](#) Get daily texts that provide positive messages
- **Families First Society** 780-998-5595
- **Boys and Girls Club Fort Saskatchewan** 780-992-0103
- **Children’s and Family Services** 780-992-6700 Crisis Line 780-422-2001
- **Fort Saskatchewan Food Bank** 780-998-4099
- **Strathcona County** [List of Crisis Contact Number](#)

Denton's Grant – Make Your Mark on Poverty!

SNOCKS was a huge success!! We were very thankful to have been the recipients of the Denton's Make Your Mark on Poverty! Our students were able to learn about poverty awareness and how important they are in educating and helping others even though they are 'only' in grade 5. We were fortunate to have been joined (virtually) by Sarah Chan, Jennifer Lucas, and Arjun Randhawa, who spoke to us about the importance of contributing to community, and we received a letter of gratitude from our MLA, Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk.

We were also featured on Global News: <https://globalnews.ca/news/7506603/fort-saskatchewan-students-donations/> and River Radio: <https://www.riverradio.ca/2020/11/support-snocks-with-southpointe-school/>.

Thank you to our school community and our Fort Saskatchewan community for helping us fill SO MANY bins with snacks and socks!! Next week, the bins will be delivered to: Fort Saskatchewan Christian School, Fort Saskatchewan Elementary, James Mowat, École Parc, Win Ferguson, Our Lady of the Angels, St. John XXIII, John Paul II, Fort Saskatchewan Families First, The Fort Saskatchewan Boys and Girls Club, Gibbons Family Resource Centre and, of course, one will stay here at SouthPointe School!

EIPS 2021-22 Division Calendar: Now available!

The official 2021-22 EIPS calendar is now available online. The calendar includes important dates during the 2021-22 school year, such as school-closure days, breaks, the first and last day of classes, professional learning days, early dismissal days, plus more. Highlights from the 2021-22 EIPS calendar include:

- September 1 – first day of classes
- November 8-12 – November break
- December 22 to January 4 - Christmas break
- February 1 – second semester begins
- February 10-11 – Teachers’ Convention
- March 28 to April 1 – spring break
- June 28 – last day of classes
- June 29 – last operational day before the summer break



To view the 2021-21 calendar, visit eips.ca.

Did you know you can sync the Division calendar to your personal calendar? You can. Simply, visit eips.ca/calendar and click on “subscribe to calendar.” It’s that easy.

Fundraising Association and School Council Update

Just a reminder for parents that our next virtual meeting will be held on January 20th at 5pm. If you would like to participate in the meeting, please email Corey Kropp at corey.kropp@eips.ca to request an invite.

Refund cheques are still being distributed for those parents who still had credits on their hot lunch accounts from last year. 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!

Another way to stay connected: Follow EIPS on Twitter and Facebook

With 43 schools and close to 17,000 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 uses a combination of news articles, videos and photographs 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 **#eips**.

Stay in the loop, follow EIPS on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

NOTE: Communications Services manages the Division's Facebook and Twitter accounts. The account is updated and monitored intermittently during regular office hours from 8 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 are not allowed and may be deleted.

Inclement Weather



With the winter season well underway, we want to remind families 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 families of any bus cancellations using various communications tools, including automated-telephone messages, alerts posted on eips.ca and school websites, Twitter, Facebook, local radio stations and on Versatrans My Stop.

Decisions regarding bus cancellations are guided by EIPS' Administrative Procedure 131: Inclement Weather, which states: "school bus service may be suspended ... when there is a forecast or current temperature of -40 C including wind chill, in one or more regions." 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 families have the right and responsibility to make choices for their children based on what they feel is safest during times of inclement weather.

For more information, contact EIPS Student Transportation at 780-417-8151.

UPCOMING DATES

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| January 13 | Wacky Hair Day! |
| January 20 | School Council & Fundraising Society virtual meeting - 5:00 pm |
| January 21 | Parent Teacher Interview on-line booking opens at NOON (12:00 pm) |
| January 27 | Family Literacy Day |
| January 29 | NO SCHOOL – Professional Learning Day |
| February 1 | Second semester junior high elective courses begin |
| February 1-3 | Parent Teacher Interviews |
| February 3 | Early Dismissal Day (end of the day 1:51 pm) |
| February 4-5 | NO SCHOOL - Teachers' Convention |
| February 15 | NO SCHOOL - Family Day |