



October 2021

Principal's Message

September has been a very busy month. We would like to thank all staff, students and parents for a great start to the year.

October 4-8 was Read in Week. SouthPointe School students have participated in several activities this week to celebrate the joys of reading. We encourage all parents to take some time during the weekend to read with their kids.

School Picture retakes will be occurring on October 19 (Tuesday/ Thursday ECS and grade 1-6 students) and October 20 (Monday/Wednesday ECS and junior high students) for those students that were away or would like a retake. Please come prepared to have your picture taken.

Parent Teacher Interviews will be held October 20 & 21 between 4:00-7:00 pm. These interviews will be conducted over the phone. Information can be found in the newsletter on how to sign up online for appointment times. If you are having any difficulties, please contact the office and we would be happy to help you.

We hope all families have an opportunity to enjoy their Thanksgiving weekend. As always if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call.

Carol Brown & Jay Robertson
Principal & Assistant Principal

Parent Teacher Interviews

Parent Teacher Interviews will be held between 4:00-7:00 pm on Wednesday, October 20 and Thursday, October 21, 2021. We will be using the online booking system for scheduling a phone call conversation between parents and teachers. Bookings will open on Wednesday, October 13 at 12:00 pm (noon). Go to schoolinterviews.ca and use event code: **b69pf**.

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 November 26, 2021.

Makerspace at SouthPointe!

We are bringing back our Makerspace this year! What do you do in a Makerspace you ask? You create! Things that you are curious about, that come up in your imagination, that inspire you! Makerspace is a place for engineering, technology, art, and architecture! We'll be dabbling in robotics, coding, design, and much more!

We would love your help with some of the supplies that need to be refilled! Recyclables and old art/sewing/decorating supplies are great for building and creating! For example:

- Cereal & cracker boxes
- Clean yogurt containers

- Paper towel and toilet rolls
- Popsicle sticks
- Masking tape & regular tape
- Ribbon
- Yarn
- Crayons, markers, pencil crayons
- Pipe cleaners & pompoms
- Scrap booking paper
- Small pieces of cardboard
- Bread tags
- Buttons
- Newspaper
- Straws



These items can be dropped off in the bin of the front entrance of our school. We will have the bin labeled! Please ensure all items are clean. Thank you!

Mrs. Jefferis & Mrs. Adams

SouthPointe Spirit Wear Store Launch



We are excited to announce the launch of the year-round SouthPointe spirit wear store! Click on the [Shop](#) tab on our [website](#) to browse a wide selection of products from a variety of brands that you can then customize with approved logos and graphics. Display your pride in fantastic apparel customized entirely by you. The site lets students, parents, staff, and fans choose from approved merchandise to fit their needs 24/7 with no minimum order quantities.



Free shipping to your home with orders over \$85.00. Use discount code **INTRO10** at checkout to get **10% off your order**.

Improving Home-School Communication

To enhance communication between families and schools, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) has developed a how-to guide entitled, "Communication Protocol for Schools." Topics include appropriate channels to use, standard formats and structures, timing and sequencing for regular and ongoing home-school communication, and ways to bring forward questions or concerns. The guide also offers useful tools and resources schools and families can use to enhance face-to-face meetings, email communication and various social media efforts.

[Communication Protocol for Schools](#)

School Bus Safety Week: October 17-23

Schools throughout Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) are celebrating School Bus Safety Week October 17-23. The theme: Bus Rules Rock!, which focuses on the importance of being a responsible rider. Throughout the week, various activities are planned, including information sessions, bus-safety lesson plans and bus-evacuation drills.



As part of School Bus Safety Week, SouthPointe reminds students and families all Division school buses are equipped with a bus-pass scanner, GPS technology, the Child Check-Mate system and surveillance equipment, which allows Student Transportation to better monitor and manage its more than 160 buses. Families and students also have access to the Traversa Ride 360 app, a mobile tool to help determine the location of a bus, projected arrival times and when a child is scanned onto a bus.

For more information visit [EIPS Student Transportation](#) or contact 780- 417-8151.

Pay School Fees Online!

School fee information for the 2021-22 school year is now posted on the PowerSchool Parent Portal. All fees are due within 30 days of being posted. To access your fee information, simply log in to the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) and go to “Student Fees.” There you can view your fees and pay them online using Visa, MasterCard or debit card—when available from your financial institution.

Don’t forget to also log in to the PowerSchool Parent Portal regularly throughout the year. Fees are often added to your child’s account to cover the cost of various school activities such as field trips, class projects, extracurricular activities fees and more.

If circumstances exist where you are unable to pay your fees, you can apply to have [fees waived](#) by submitting an [Application for a Waiver of Fees](#). The application deadline is Dec. 15, 2021.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines, visit www.eips.ca/schools/fees and www.southpointeschool.ca/about/fees. Alternatively, contact Joanne Warwa, Business Manager at 780-998-2747.

Terry Fox Run

Thank you to all students and staff that participated in the Terry Fox School Run on Tuesday, September 28. We raised **\$558.15** for this wonderful cause!

Counsellor’s Corner

MENTAL
HEALTH



Hello, my name is Lindsey Arnason and I am the school counsellor at SouthPointe. I can be reached at lindsey.arnason@eips.ca. If you have heard stories at home from SouthPointe students of the Blue Crayon or Nanny Sharky, that is me 😊 but shhhh don’t blow my cover by telling students who is really in those costumes.

As we enter Thanksgiving weekend whether it is a holiday your family participates in or not, I would like to encourage you and your family to take time to express your gratitude together. Expressing gratitude improves our ability to cope with stress and improves our overall mood. When we engage in gratitude daily it has a huge positive impact on our

mental health and well-being. Often during times of uncertainty (such as covid) we can unintentionally forget to take the time to be grateful for what we have and what we still have control of. One thing we do have control over is taking time to pause and search for snippets of time in our day when we can express and/or experience gratitude. For example, you could take time to thank someone else for something they do, or personally acknowledge and experience something we are grateful for (could be as simple as a good hair day!). How will you include gratitude into your family routines? On the drive home from school? While you eat dinner? Maybe you will have a jar on your kitchen counter where family members can drop a slip of paper in with something they are grateful for and then read the papers together. Perhaps you will start a gratitude journal as a family. This way you can document the things you are grateful for and look back together and read about the great experiences you have had. Whatever it might be, I look forward to hearing what families are doing to intentionally express and experience gratitude.

Please take time to check out the following resources:

[Reading Rainbow](#) is a new program offered through FCSS and altview.ca to bring you 2SLGBTQ+ stories each Friday evening followed by a kid friendly discussion and an activity. The stories are streamed live each Friday at 6:30pm and you can find more information including how to watch by clicking on [Reading Rainbow](#) and following the links on their website.

Alberta Health Services, in collaboration with The Mental Health Foundation, is proud to offer free online programming for parents and caregivers of children and youth. Upcoming Caregiver Education Sessions, Lunch & Learn Webinars, Drop-in Series and SEEDS Series are outlined in the [October Caregiver Education Team Newsletter](#).

[Bell Let's Talk](#) is a great resource to support mental and physical health. Click the [link](#) to access resources that include videos, information sheets, websites and much more for supporting and managing mental health as well as managing stress, anxiety, and panic. There are also covid-19 specific resources such as strategies to talk with kids about covid-19.

Alberta Health Services [Help in Tough Times](#) is an update to date website where Albertans of all ages can access information about coping and stress management, community supports, and virtual mental health supports. Please check out the [Alberta Covid-19 Youth Mental Health Resource Hub](#) where youth, educators, and parents can find easy to access tools and support.

Family and Youth Community Resources

- ❖ [Parenting Through Connection program](#): A 6-week program starting Monday, October 18.
- ❖ [The Bridge Wellness Hub for Young](#): Bridging the gap between youth and access to mental health supports.

Fundraising Association and School Council Update

NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING:

- October 13, 2021 at 4:30 pm
- This is the Annual General Meeting - very important as this is when voting for all board positions will happen (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer)

- Check your email for the invitation link next week to join the meeting

HOT LUNCH:

- Hot lunch is starting again this month! YAY!
- October 29 will be Pizza Day with Papa John! (October 28 for Tues/Thurs kindergarten)
- Keep an eye out for an information sheet about Munch A Lunch coming home with students soon!
- If you have any questions or concerns or are interested in helping out with our hot lunch program, please reach out to Danielle at secretary.fass@gmail.com.



VOLUNTEERS:

We will be looking for lots of volunteers this year! Please let us know if you are able to help us out! In addition to board positions, we will be looking for volunteers for a variety of other positions:

- Committee Heads and members (Hot Lunch program, Bottle Drives, Fundraisers, etc)
- Marketing Coordinator
- Volunteer Coordinator

Email Laelia at president.fass@gmail.com for more information

MEMBERSHIPS:

Become a member of the Fundraising Association! Have a say! Let your voice be heard!

- Membership forms can be found [here](#) or you can email Danielle at secretary.fass@gmail.com for more information.

FUNDRAISERS:

******BOTTLE DRIVE****** **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!**

- October 16th from 10am - 2pm
- We are looking for volunteers to help deliver flyers (Oct 14 or 15) and for volunteers with trucks to help pick up the bottles (Oct 16th)
- Please contact Laelia @ president.fass@gmail.com

COBS (Fort Sask location)

- Just mention Southpointe School when you are making a purchase
- Cobs gives back 5% of what we spend!

FLIPGIVE

- For online shopping (Old Navy, Indigo, Canadian Tire, Walmart, Home Depot, Starbucks and more!)
- Just download the app, use the code K2TQ9X and start shopping!



SOUTHPOINTE SCHOOL
BOTTLE DRIVE FUNDRAISER
SATURDAY 10AM - 2PM
OCT 16

PLEASE LEAVE BOTTLES ON THE PORCH BY 10AM FOR PICK UP, PLEASE ATTACHED THIS FLYER

ALTERNATIVELY, YOU CAN DROP OFF BOTTLES AT SOUTHPOINTE SCHOOL

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL!

Celebrating World Teachers' Day: October 5

October 5 was World Teachers' Day! Launched in 1994 by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Teachers' Day is celebrated annually around the world as a way to recognize teachers and the integral role they play in providing quality education to students.

EIPS extends its heartfelt thank you to all Division teachers for their dedication, hard work and commitment in guiding and educating students through their kindergarten to Grade 12 years.

Municipal Election 2021: Vote October 18

The next municipal election, which includes the election of local school board trustees, takes place on Monday, Oct. 18, 2021. It's your opportunity to get involved in public education by casting your vote for a public school trustee.



[EIPS Trustee Election information](#)

[EIPS Trustee Candidate List](#)

Electors can cast their votes for municipal candidates—mayors, Reeves, councillors, as applicable—and school board trustee candidates—public or separate. Voting stations are typically open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Each municipality conducts the election for its residents and establishes formal voting station hours and procedures.

To learn more about election day procedures in your area, including opportunities for advance voting and voting by special ballot, visit:

[County of Minburn](#)
[Fort Saskatchewan](#)
[Lamont County](#)
[Strathcona County](#)
[Town of Bruderheim](#)
[Town of Lamont](#)
[Town of Mundare](#)
[Town of Vegreville](#)
[Village of Andrew](#)
[Village of Chipman](#)

UPCOMING DATES

October 4-8	Read In Week
October 5	World Teachers' Day
October 18	NO SCHOOL – Professional Learning Day for Staff
October 10	World Mental Health Day
October 11	NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Day
October 20-21	Parent-Teacher Interviews
October 13	School Council & Fundraising Society virtual AGM, 4:30 p.m.
October 16	FASS Bottle Drive, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
October 17-23	School Bus Safety Week
October 19	Picture Re-takes for Tues/Thurs Kindergarten and Grades 1-6
October 20	Picture Re-takes for Mon/Wed Kindergarten and Grades 7, 8 & 9
October 22	Hat Day! (Bring a food or cash donation to wear a hat for the day)
November 3	Early Dismissal Day (end of the day 1:51 p.m.)
November 8-12	NO SCHOOL – November Break



Parenting Through Connection

Have you ever wondered what is going on in your child's brain?

Join us for this 6 week program where you will learn:

- ways to connect with your child.
- ways to help your child understand their big emotions.
- ways to support your child in building positive relationships.
- about your child's brain development.

When: Mondays
October 18 to November 22, 2021

Who: Parents/caregivers with
children aged 3 to 12 years

Where: Virtual, meet us on ZOOM!

Time: 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

To **REGISTER** please call 780-998-5595 ext. 221

Deadline for Registration: Wednesday, October 13 at 12:00pm



THE BRIDGE

WELLNESS HUB FOR YOUTH

**BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN YOUTH AND ACCESS TO MENTAL
HEALTH SUPPORTS .**

Services include:

- Drop-In Counselling Services
- Restorative Justice Circles
- Addictions Counselling
- Rainbow Alliance Group
- 2SLGBTQ+ Peer Supports
- Casual Hang Out Space
 - Free WIFI
 - Spiritual Space
 - Nurse Clinic

Open for youth age 11 - 24. Support services can be accessed
privately and discreetly.

Hours

Wednesdays from 2:00pm - 8:00pm

Thursday from 2:00pm - 8:00pm

For more information, please call The Bridge: Wellness Hub for Youth at 780-589-0224.