



## November 2021

### Principal's Message

October was a very busy month, and it looks like November is going to be more of the same. I would like to thank all the staff and student leaders who helped make our Halloween activities such a huge success. There were so many great costumes. A special thanks to the teachers who created a virtual Halloween parade video of all our classes.

SouthPointe School held our Remembrance Day ceremony Friday, November 5, at 10:30 am. A special thank you to our Remembrance Day committee for all their work planning and organizing our ceremony. I would also like to thank all our student leaders for their help during the ceremony. Students participated in viewing PowerPoint presentations, watching videos, listening to student speakers, and watching student musicians and the choir perform. Students also laid wreaths outside of their classrooms.

Please mark your calendars - the next School Council and Fundraising Association of SouthPointe School meeting will be on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 4:30 pm. An email reminder will be sent out to parents on November 16, 2021 with the meeting code.

During our October Council and Society meetings the Annual General meeting occurred. Thank -you to the following people: Whitney Nerbas and Jamie Nelson- Co-chairs of the School Council, Laelia Winstone-President FASS, Amanda Osicki- Vice President, Deanna Sievers-Treasurer-FASS and Danielle Collette- Secretary FASS who agreed to continue in their positions for the 2020-21 school year.

Parents we need your help! We have an opening for a parent to act as the Secretary for the School Council. The Secretary's duties and responsibilities are to act as a recorder at each meeting and ensure that the minutes are prepared accurately to reflect the directions agreed to at the meeting. Meeting minutes are to be sent to the school office staff to be uploaded to the school website.

If you have an interested in being the Secretary of the School Council, please contact the school office.

I hope that the November break allows for some rest and relaxation for both the students and staff at SouthPointe School.

### Report Cards

We are pleased to announce that your child's term 1 report card will be available for online viewing and/or printing by 3:00 pm on November 26. 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.

### **Remembrance Day**



Every year Canadians pause in a moment of silence to honour and remember the men and women who have served, and continue to serve Canada during times of war, conflict and peace. We remember the more than 2,300,000 Canadians who have served throughout our nation's history and the more than 118,000 who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Even though we were unable to gather as an entire school this year, we felt it was important for our school to honour Remembrance Day. Today, November 5, our students participated in a virtual school-wide ceremony and a moment of silence. The ceremony included a reading of "In Flanders Fields," songs from the choir, grade 6 recorder ensemble, and junior high vocal ensemble as well as a History of the Poppy presentation by our grade 5 classes. Each class also laid a wreath outside their classroom.

Students received a poppy to wear today that was provided by our local legion. If you would like to make a donation that supports veterans and their families, you can do so at the [Royal Canadian Legion website](#).

### **Looking for Staff Contact Information?**

We've recently made changes to how families can contact SouthPointe School staff.

If you'd like to reach out to your child's teacher directly, simply log in to your [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) account. From the Grades and Attendance page, you can click on the name of any of your child's teachers to email them directly.

To connect with school administration and main office staff, refer to the [online contact form](#) to send an email to the applicable person directly. From the online contact form, you can also send an email to the school to report your child's absence.

If you're having trouble with your PowerSchool account, contact the school office. And, of course, we're always just a phone call away if you have questions or need assistance, 780-998-2747.

### **PowerSchool Student Portal Login Credential Update**

After early dismissal on the afternoon of November 3, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is updating the student log in process for the [PowerSchool Student Portal](#). Once updates are complete, students will use their EIPS credentials to login to the PowerSchool Student Portal or the PowerSchool mobile app. Student access to the portal and app may be intermittently unavailable while updates are taking place. Effective November 4, students will use the new EIPS login credentials to access the portal or app. Students who use the mobile app will be required to log out and back in after the updates are complete.

If students are having trouble logging in to PowerSchool after the change, they can contact their teacher or a school office staff member for assistance. This update does not affect the log in process for parents or guardians for the PowerSchool Parent Portal.



### Lost and Found

The school has accumulated a large amount of clothing, water bottles, masks and other items in our lost and found. We would appreciate if you and/or your child would have a look through the items to claim anything that belongs to them.

### Fundraising Association and School Council Update

#### **NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING:**

- November 17, 2021 at 4:30 pm
- All parents are welcome to join our meetings each month! Keep up to date on what's happening in your child(ren)'s school!
- Watch for an email with the virtual link to join the meeting

#### **HOT LUNCH:**

- Hot lunch with Papa John in October was a success!
- November's Hot Lunch will be Boston Pizza on **November 26** (Kinder B class will be on **November 25**). If you haven't placed an order for your child and would like to, please make sure to have your order submitted online by **November 19**.
- Grades 7-9 have their own menu this month with larger portion sizes!
- If you have any questions or concerns or are interested in helping out with our hot lunch program, please reach out to Laelia at [president.fass@gmail.com](mailto:president.fass@gmail.com).
- **FROM 2020/2021 HOT LUNCH:** Credits have been applied to accounts for those that hadn't recovered their refunds from the previous year. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this, please feel free to contact Laelia at [president.fass@gmail.com](mailto:president.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! We will be looking for volunteers for a variety of positions and fundraisers!

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

Email Laelia at [president.fass@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:secretary.fass@gmail.com) for more information.

#### **FUNDRAISERS:**

#### **UPCOMING!! STAWNICHY'S FUNDRAISER!! – Just in time for Christmas!**

- Information will be coming home with your child soon! You definitely don't want to miss out on these deals!
- Order deadline is **November 17th** and orders will be at the school on **December 10th** for pick up! Orders **MUST** be picked up on **December 10th** as we do not have freezers to store orders in.

### **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!



MENTAL  
HEALTH



### **Counsellor's Corner**

#### **November Theme**

During the week of November 15-19 our school will be focusing on how one kind word can spread throughout the school and connect us by fostering healthy relationships and building resiliency. Students will be participating in a variety of lessons to support character education targeted towards building healthy and rewarding relationships.

Connecting our experiences of kindness with how we feel when we give or receive kindness develops empathy and promotes positive mental health. On Monday, November 15 we will Rock our Mocs and Odd Socks as a way to stand in unity in our diversity. Students and staff are invited to wear moccasins and/or odd socks as a way to stand together.

#### **Community News and Resources:**

- ❖ If you are an adult of a teen and looking for resources to support your teen check out the [Alberta Teen Health website](#). It covers a variety of teen related concerns such as acne, relationships, eating disorders, depression, anxiety, substance use, growth and development, and much more.
- ❖ [Youth Care Packages!](#)
- ❖ Saffron is hosting a virtual event called "Cyberword: What happens when you press send". This event takes place November 18 @ 6:00pm. In this presentation parents and caregivers are provided with information on popular websites, games, and apps that are being used by children and youth. They will discuss legal consequences and potential dangers online. They will share helpful tips on starting conversations with children and youth. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83961771681?pwd=dHRDSUUySWpFTG01WjZRTytIcnZJUT09>  
Meeting ID: 839 6177 1681  
Passcode: 852617

#### **Roots of Empathy Program:**

At SouthPointe we are looking to participate in the Roots of Empathy program in our grade one classes. This program supports the mental health and well-being of children by supporting the development of empathy. In order to participate in this program, we need a parent who is willing and able to come to classrooms with their baby aged 2-4 months old. If you are interested, please click [here](#) for more information.



## Literacy at Home

# Literacy at Home: The Importance of Vocabulary

Parents often ask for tips on working with their children at home to build literacy skills. Daniel Willingham, a psychology professor at the University of Virginia who writes about the science behind reading comprehension, explained that whether or not readers understand a text has a lot to do with how much background knowledge and vocabulary they have relating to the topic. That's because writers leave out a lot of information that they assume readers will know.

In fact, a study by Nagy & Herman showed the following results:

Student A reads 1 minute each day in a school year

Learns 8000 new words

Student B reads 5 minutes each day in a school year

Learns 282 000 new words

Student C reads 20 minutes each day in a school year

Learns 1 800 000 new words



You can see that the difference is significant!

So, what can you do at home? Here are some ideas:

- Read with and to your child for 20 minutes each day.
- Have conversations with your child and try to include "big words" and new words.
- Tell stories to your child and encourage them to ask questions.
- Involve your child in the activities you do -- cooking, fixing the car, etc. Use terms specific to the activity to build vocabulary.

\*Sources: Iowa Reading Research Centre, Nagy, William and Herman, Patricia: Breadth and Depth of Vocabulary Knowledge: Implications for Acquisition and Instruction, Willingham, Dan: The Reading Mind

## Correction and Verification Form Reminder

There are still a number of families who've not reviewed the student Correction and Verification Form, which is available online through the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). If you haven't reviewed your child's form yet, please do so as soon as possible.

Filling out the form is easy and takes only a few minutes to complete. Simply log onto a desktop computer/laptop/Chromebook (will not work on a mobile device), review the form and each of its sections, make revisions where required, and then select "Sign & Submit," for the school to review.

The Correction and Verification Form replaces the paper version that was previously sent each fall. Every year, school divisions are required to give families the opportunity to review and update their child's information—including address, parent and guardian information, emergency contacts, medical



details, parent consents and other related information. Reviewing and updating the form ensures the school has the most up-to-date information regarding your child.

*NOTE:* Parents or guardians who've opted out of having the Correction and Verification Form visible on PowerSchool, must contact the school directly to request any changes or updates to their child's information.

If you require more information about this process or the form, contact the school office at [general.sps@eips.ca](mailto:general.sps@eips.ca) or 780-998-2747.

### **Your Future: Post-Secondary and Career Fair**

Thinking about attending post-secondary school after graduation? Exploring career options? Not sure on the career or sector? Plan to attend this year's hybrid Your Future: Post-Secondary and Career Fair on Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2021. Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is excited to once again be partnering with the Educational Liaison Association of Alberta for the event.

The in-person portion of the event brings together a wide variety of colleges, universities, polytechnic and private schools, and sector experts in one place. The event is free and open to all students in grades 9 through 12. The event will follow the provincial Restrictions Exemption Program, as well as adhere to Alberta Health Services and local guidelines.

The virtual component will include additional opportunities to attend sessions from numerous colleges, universities and sector experts. Participation is free and open to all grades 9 through 12 students.

Participating students and family members in either the in-person or virtual sessions will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from each attending post-secondary institutions, ask questions, talk to experts about various career sectors, learn about future career trends and much more.

#### **Event Details:**

*Date:* Nov. 23, 2021

*In-person:* 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

*Location:* Strathcona County Agora  
401 Festival Lane, Sherwood Park

*Virtual:* Times and schedule to be confirmed

Visit [www.eips.ca/students/your-future](http://www.eips.ca/students/your-future) for a detailed list of vendors once finalized.

### **Young Women in Trades & Technologies Mentorship Series -INDUSTRIAL TRADES**

**Tuesday, November 30 @ 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm**

Presentation for Grades 9-12

Cost: Free

Join us on to learn about pursuing a career in the skilled trades, connect with other young women who share similar interests, and receive important information on how you can land an awesome paid internship. Meet tradeswomen who are currently leading the way in the industry, as they share their career paths stories and help you to navigate the career options that suit you best. Examples of

Industrial Trades: Welding, Gas fitter, Steam Fitter-Pipefitter, Industrial Mechanic (Millwright), Ironworker, Sheet Metal Worker and more!

## YOUNG WOMEN IN TRADES & TECHNOLOGIES VIRTUAL MENTORSHIP SERIES



**CAREERS** is breaking down barriers and paving a path for women in skilled trades and technologies. Learn about opportunities available in a variety of industries and hear from some amazing companies dedicated to inclusion.

INDUSTRIAL TRADES  
NOVEMBER 30 • 5PM

AGRICULTURE & COOKING  
JANUARY 12 • 5PM



GRADES 9 - 12  
REGISTER HERE

for more information email or call  
[events@nextgen.org](mailto:events@nextgen.org) | 1.888.757.7172



### Inclement Weather

With the winter season almost here, 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) advises families of any bus cancellations using various communications tools—automated-telephone messages, alerts posted on [www.eips.ca](http://www.eips.ca) and school websites, Twitter, Facebook, local radio stations, and notification through both the Bus Status and the Ride 360 apps. Morning bus cancellations are posted on [www.eips.ca](http://www.eips.ca) by 6:30 a.m.

Decisions regarding bus cancellations are guided by EIPS administrative procedures that state, “school bus service may be suspended...when there is a forecast or current temperature of -40 C, including wind chill factor, in one or more regions.” Other reasons for suspending or delaying school bus services include adverse weather and poor road conditions. 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 their beliefs and perceptions of safety during times of inclement weather.

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

### **No Child Without: Free MedicAlert for students**

In our ongoing effort to provide safe and caring schools for students, SouthPointe 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 of four and 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](http://www.nochildwithout.ca).

### **UPCOMING DATES**

<b>November 5-11</b>	<a href="#">Veterans' Week</a>
<b>November 8-12</b>	NO SCHOOL – Fall Break
<b>November 11</b>	Remembrance Day (Central Services closed)
<b>November 15</b>	Rock Your Mocs & Odd Socks Day
<b>November 15-19</b>	<a href="#">Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week</a>
<b>November 17</b>	Stawnichy Fundraiser Order Deadline School Council & Fundraising Association virtual meeting - 4:30 pm
<b>November 19</b>	Dress Like Your Bitmoji Day Hot Lunch Order Deadline – Boston Pizza
<b>November 20</b>	<a href="#">National Child Day</a>
<b>November 23</b>	<a href="#">Your Future: Post-secondary and Career Fair</a>
<b>November 25</b>	Tues/Thurs Kindergarten Hot Lunch – Boston Pizza
<b>November 26</b>	Hat Day – bring a cash/foodbank donation to wear a hat for the day Hot Lunch – Boston Pizza Report Cards/Marks Published - 3:00 pm
<b>December 1</b>	Early Dismissal Day (end of the day 1:51 pm)
<b>Dec 22 - Jan 4</b>	NO SCHOOL – Christmas Break





## YOUTH CARE PACKAGES!

Could you use a  
pick me up?

Know someone  
who could use a  
boost?

Request a self-  
care box! Designed  
for teens 12-18



To request your box or to nominate a friend contact Kristi:  
[fcssinfo@fortsask.ca](mailto:fcssinfo@fortsask.ca) or call 780-992-6267





## Are you a proud parent with a new baby? Will your baby be 2 – 4 months old in November?



You and your baby could be a Roots of Empathy Family

Roots of Empathy is a program for elementary school children. The program's aim is to increase empathy - the ability to understand how another person feels.

To Be a Roots of Empathy Family.

- Ten times over the school year, you and your baby will virtually visit a classroom with the Roots of Empathy Instructor. You will help the children learn all about your baby and in turn they will learn about themselves, their feelings, their temperament traits and their relationships with family and others.
- Babies must be between 2 and 4 months old in November.

*"Roots of Empathy is about changing the world, child by child."*

- Mary Gordon, Founder/President

For more information please contact:  
Kristi Wahl at FCSS  
[fcssinfo@fortsask.ca](mailto:fcssinfo@fortsask.ca)  
780-992-6267

