



southpointeschool.ca

SouthPointe Newsletter

Every Day, Every Student, A Success.



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.

November typically brings in some colder temperatures. Please ensure that students are dressed appropriately for the conditions. Hats, mitts, scarves, snowpants and boots are recommended for our elementary students as they will need them for recess.

SouthPointe School held our Remembrance Day ceremony Friday, November 4, at 10:45 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 a virtual performance that showcased a variety of SouthPointe students reading poetry, providing historical details, singing songs, and observing a moment of silence.

Please mark your calendars. The next School Council and Fundraising Association of SouthPointe School meeting will be on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at 4:30 pm in the large flex space. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend.

During our October Council and Society meetings the Annual General meeting occurred. Thank you to the following people: Whitney Nerbass and Amanda Osicki – School Council Co-chairs, Laelia Winstone – FASS President, Tracy Patrick – FASS Vice President, and Deanna Sievers – FASS Treasurer who agreed to take on these important leadership positions for the 2022-23 school year.

Parents we need your help! We have an opening for two parents to act as the Secretary for the School Council and the Fundraising Association. 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 upon at the meeting. Meeting minutes are to be sent to the school office staff for upload to the school website.

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If you have an interest in being the Secretary of the School Council or the Fundraising Association, please contact the school office and we will forward your name.

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

Carol Brown, Principal



Why was the clock rushed to the hospital?
HE FELL BACK FOR AN HOUR

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.

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 4, our students participated in a virtual school-wide ceremony and a moment of silence. The ceremony, which was led by grade 6 students included songs from the choir and a reciting of, "Why Wear a Poppy" and "In Flanders Fields," by the grade 5's. Each class also laid a wreath in the front foyer.

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

New Report Cards

To best communicate student learning, some changes have been made to report cards, including a slight redesign. This November, parents and guardians will continue to access report cards through PowerSchool—simply log in to your account and click on the "Report Card" button in the lefthand sidebar.

Similar to the previous report card, grade 1-6 students will still be assessed on a Learner Attributes Scale and Achievement Scale. Some categories have been modified to align with the new curriculum.

Term 1 report cards for grade 1-9 will be available for online viewing and/or printing at 3:00 pm on November 25. Detailed instructions for printing report cards are at the bottom of the Report Card page. Kindergarten report cards will be sent home with students on their last school day of the week of Nov 25. If you have any difficulty accessing or printing the report card, please contact the office at 780-998-2747.

Book Fair

We would like to thank our SouthPointe families for their generous support of our Scholastic Book Fair that ran during parent teacher interviews. We raised \$11,410.55! All the money raised will purchase new materials for our learning commons.



EIPS 2023-24 Division Calendar: Now Available!

The official 2023-24 EIPS calendar is now available. The calendar includes important dates during the 2023-24 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 2023-24 EIPS calendar include:

first day of school – Aug. 31, 2023

November break – November 6-10

Christmas break – December 25 to January 5

second semester starts – February 1

Teachers' Convention – February 8-9

spring break – March 25-29

last day of classes – June 26, 2024

To view the 2023-24 calendar, visit eips.ca.

Winter Concert

Save the Date! SouthPointe School is excited to put on a Winter Concert on Thursday, December 8 LIVE and in person in the gym. As our school has grown since the last in-person concert, we will be splitting the concert into Division 1 (Grade 1-3) and Division 2 (Grade 4-6) at the following times:

Thursday, December 8

Matinee: Division 1 at 1:00 pm
Division 2 at 2:00 pm

Evening: Division 1 at 6:00 pm
Division 2 at 7:00 pm



Each concert will be about 30 minutes long. If you have students in both age groups, there will be an intermission in between the concerts to allow for the audience to change out. Splitting the concert allows more audience members to attend and see the performance in person. Tickets will be distributed closer to the event. Please reach out to Ms. Basaraba (Maureen.Basaraba@eips.ca) if you have any questions. More details to come!



The Family and Community Support Services of Fort Saskatchewan is presenting an Anxiety Workshop with Dr. Caroline Buzanko. Please see the [flyer](#) for more details.

Counsellor's Corner

November 14-18 is Bullying Awareness and Prevention week. At SouthPointe we are focusing on kindness and how being inclusive and embracing diversity builds a strong school community. Students will participate in a variety of classroom lessons on inclusion to support the formation of strong connections to each other and build school community. On Monday, November 14 we encourage all staff and students to participate in Odd Socks Day. On this day we wear mismatched or unique socks to stand in unity and celebrate uniqueness.



Where to Find the Information You Need

Elk Island Public Schools and SouthPointe School use a handful of key systems to share information with students and families. Depending on the information you're looking for, it's important to know where to look.

PowerSchool is the primary student information system within the Division. There is an associated app, but the functionality is limited, and families don't need to download it. From the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#), you can:

- Access student grades and report cards;
- Review student absences;
- Pay school and transportation fees; and
- Submit official updates to student or family information.

The PowerSchool Student Portal provides similar access to grades and absence information for students directly.

Brightspace provides more of a day-to-day look what's happening with your child's learning communicated directly from your child's teacher. From [Brightspace Parent & Guardian](#), you can see your child's:

- classroom activity feed,
- grade items and grade feedback from instructors,
- upcoming assignments,
- portfolio evidence and
- quizzes

depending on which of the program functions are specifically used by your child's teacher.

Brightspace for Students is where teachers share updates, calendar reminders and learning materials with students. Compatible with Google, it also allows students to submit assignments, complete quizzes, and see grades and teacher feedback. The Pulse app for students is associated with Brightspace for Students.

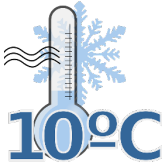
SchoolMessenger is the system the Division and schools use to send email and phone communication to families. The contact information in SchoolMessenger is populated from PowerSchool. Through [SchoolMessenger](#), families can:

- receive general, emergency and attendance messages by phone, email or both; and
- manage their subscription preferences for these types of messages.

The easiest way to stay connected is to download the SchoolMessenger app. Get the latest updates direct to your mobile device and enable push notifications to never miss a message. Families can also check back on past messages—for up to 30 days—directly in the app rather than searching to find an old message buried in your inbox.

If you have trouble accessing any of these systems or have questions about them, contact SouthPointe School at 780-998-2747.

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 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 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.

Numeracy at Home

Supporting your student as they develop BASIC FACT FLUENCY!

When your child figures out a fact, you can ask them, “How did you figure that out?” because verbalizing their strategies can help children make connections and develop reasoning. You can also support your child by talking about numbers as they come up in your daily lives. If you’re cooking, shopping, building, crafting, setting the table, doing chores, and so on, you can ask questions about the mathematics you are already doing.



For example:

- I wonder how many socks we just took out of the dryer? How many pairs could that be when we fold them?
- If a grown-up eats 2 eggs and a kid eats 1 egg how many eggs do we need to make scrambled eggs for all of us?
- We’ve already read 16 picture books this week! How many more do we need to read to get to 20?

Addition, subtraction, and place value are three of the most important topics in elementary mathematics. It’s so important that your child has sufficient time to explore and make sense of these concepts on their way to fluency.

Excerpt from Building Fact Fluency – Graham Fletcher and Tracy Johnston Zager

Spread the Word: EIPS is Hiring Substitute Educational Assistants and CTS/CTF Teachers

Do you know someone who may be interested in part-time, flexible work as a substitute educational assistant (EA) or substitute teacher specializing in Career and Technology Studies (CTS) and Career and Technology Foundations (CTF)? Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is hiring—spread the word!

EAs are integral to the school team, assisting teachers with instructional and non-instructional tasks in the classroom and other school activities. Whether it's working one-on-one with individual students or with a small group of students in a class or special program, EAs provide support and assistance to help students achieve success.

Substitute teachers are needed every day across the Division, and vacancies in CTF and CTS classrooms require a specific skillset. Applicants must have or be eligible for an Alberta Teaching Certificate and have related CTS/CTF training or experience.

Substitutes are needed to fill positions at all school locations until the end of the school year. The application deadline is November 18. If you know someone who'd be great in one of these roles, encourage them to [apply today](#).

Fundraising Association Update

NEXT MEETING:

- November 16, 2022 at 4:30 pm in the large flex space.
- Volunteer for the secretary position is urgently needed.
- All parents are welcome to join the FASS meetings each month. Keep up to date with what's happening in your child(ren)'s school!

VOLUNTEERS:

We are looking for many volunteers this school year for a variety of positions and fundraisers. Please let us know if you would like to help! Email Laelia at president.fass@gmail.com for more information.

- Board members, committee heads and members, hot lunch program administrator, bottle drives, volunteers for fundraisers, etc.
- Marketing Coordinator (Facebook posts, posters, etc.)
- **We cannot have fundraisers or run these programs without volunteer help!**

HOT LUNCH:

- Hot Lunch for November will take place on:
 - * Wednesday, Nov 23 - Grades 1, 2, 3 & KAF
 - * Thursday, Nov 24 - Grades 4, 5, 6 & KBH/KBS
 - * Friday, Nov 25 - Grades 7, 8 & 9
- **The deadline to order is November 18.**
- Please remember that we have transitioned to a new [website](#) to place orders.
- Volunteers will be needed for hot lunch days (approx. 1 1/2 to 2 hours). If interested, email volunteer.fass@gmail.com or spsshotlunch@gmail.com.
- If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions or are interested in helping run our hot lunch program, please reach out to Laelia at president.fass@gmail.com.



MEMBERSHIPS:

- Become a member of the Fundraising Association! Have your say and be able to vote on things that matter to your child(ren) and school!
- Membership forms can be found [here](#) or you can email Laelia at president.fass@gmail.com.

ONGOING FUNDRAISERS

COBS (Fort Saskatchewan location only):

- Just mention Southpointe School when you are making a purchase.
- Cobs gives back 5% of what we spend! Last year \$350.00 was given back to the school from this fundraiser!

FLIPGIVE

- Perfect timing to start Christmas shopping!
- For online shopping! (Old Navy, Indigo, Canadian Tire, Walmart, Home Depot, Starbucks and more!)
- You can even get/reload your gift cards here!
- Just download the app, use the code **K2TQ9X** and start shopping!

FALL FUNDRAISERS

BOTTLE DRIVE

Our fall bottle drive was a success and we couldn't have done it without our amazing volunteers! Thank you so much for helping make this happen!

BEAR TRACKS ICE MELT

For those of you that had pre-ordered Bear Tracks either through Facebook or by email:

- Unfortunately, the pick-up date for the ice melt has been moved out slightly. The two options for pick up will be:
 - Pick up at the school: Friday, Nov 18 from 2:30 - 3:30 pm (U-Haul truck)
 - Pick up from house (4 Becker Cres): Friday, Nov 18 from 3:45 to 6 pm
- Payment of \$30 per pail (what you pre-ordered) must be made in CASH at the time of pick up
- If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Laelia at president.fass@gmail.com

STAWNICHY'S:

The Fundraising Association is working on getting our annual Stawnichy's fundraiser going.

- Watch for more information to come home after the fall break!

UPCOMING DATES

November 7-11	NO SCHOOL – November Break
November 11	Remembrance Day (Central Services closed)
November 14	Odd Sock Day
November 14-18	Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week
November 16	School Council & FASS Meeting, 4:30 pm in the large flex space
November 20	National Child Day
November 23	Hot Lunch – Grade 1-3 & Mon/Wed kindergarten (order deadline Nov 18)
November 24	Hot Lunch – Grade 4-6 & Tues/Thurs kindergarten (order deadline Nov 18)
November 25	Hot Lunch – Grade 7-9 (order deadline Nov 18)
	Hat Day – bring a food or cash donation for the food bank
	Report Cards available in PowerSchool, 3:00 pm
December 7	Backwards Day!
	Early Dismissal (end of the day 1:51 p.m.)
Dec 21 - Jan 3	Christmas Break



FCSS Presents Dr. Caroline Buzanko

Anxiety Workshop

January 30, 2023

Shell Theatre, Dow Centennial Centre

Professionals 9:00am-12:00pm

Parents/Guardians 1:30pm-4:30pm

*Free tickets are available at
the Shell Theater or at
fortsask.ca*

In this workshop, you will gain a better understanding of anxiety, how it shows up, and the key skills needed to manage it.



For more info contact

780-992-6267 or

FCSSinfo@fortsask.ca

