

# Shark Bites NEWSLETTER

SouthPointe School

## Principal's Message

It's been an exciting and busy week here at SouthPointe School! Our Junior High Badminton teams are wrapping up their seasons, and both the junior and senior teams represented us well at the Elk Island Athletic Association (EIAA) tournaments this week. We were proud to host the Senior Tournament on Tuesday—thank you to our incredible parent volunteers who organized and ran the canteen for all the athletes, fans, and our Junior High students. Your support truly makes events like these possible!

Our elementary students are also staying active. Track athletes are training hard for the upcoming EIAA relay meet in early May, and we have several elementary students preparing for their own badminton tournament happening on May 6<sup>th</sup>. We're so proud of their dedication and enthusiasm!

This week we also enjoyed a delicious hot lunch, generously organized by our amazing parents and School Council—thank you! We held both our FASS and School Council meetings, and to top it all off, students and staff had a blast showing off their creativity for Wacky Hair Day! Thank you for your continued support, and we wish everyone a wonderful weekend!

Warm regards, Laurie Caines, Principal

## NEXT WEEK

Spring Into Action Food Drive!

April 14-30!

Monday (28)	Gr 4-6 Track Practice @ 3:00PM-3:45PM Federal Election (SPS is a Voting Station)
Tuesday (29)	Grade 6 & Jr High Band @ 3:00-3:45PM
Wednesday (30)	Last Day for the Spring Food Drive Gr 4-6 Track Practice @ 3:00PM-3:45PM
Thursday (1)	Gr 4-6 Track Practice @ 3:00PM-3:45PM
Friday (2)	Professional Learning Day (No School)

# April

Coming Up this Month

April 26	SPS Bottle Drive @ 10:00AM
April 28	Federal Election (SPS is a Voting Station)
May 2	Professional Development Day (No School)
May 7	Early Dismissal @ 1:46PM
May 7	Spring Plant Fundraiser Ordering Deadline at Noon
May 8	EIAA Track Meet
May 8	Kindergarten Information Night @ 5:30PM
May 11	Yearbook Orders Due
May 19	Victoria Day (No School)
May 21	School Council & FASS Meeting
May 22	Hot Lunch Orders Due at Noon
May 22	Spring Plant FUn draiser Pick Up
May 26	Grade 7 & 8 ELA Part A Final Exam
May 28	Grade 6 ELA Part A PAT
May 28	Grade 1-3 & Mon/Wed Kinder Hot Lunch

# May



## School Start & End Times

8:10AM - School Begins

11:08AM to 11:48AM - Lunch

2:46PM - School Dismissed

(1:46PM - Early Dismissal Days)

*Please note supervision begins at 7:55AM and ends at 2:55PM*

## Important Notice: Limited Parking on April 28

**IMPORTANT  
MESSAGE**

Please be aware that our school will be serving as a voting station for the federal election on Monday, April 28. As a result, parking will be very limited throughout the day. We encourage families to plan ahead for drop-off and pick-up and consider walking or carpooling if possible. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

## Note:

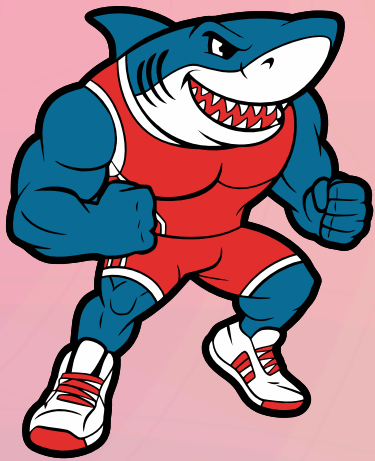
May (Tim's & Papa John's) Hot Lunch  
online ordering is now  
open

### May Hot Lunch

Grades 1-3 and Mon/Wed K	28 May
Grades 4-6 and Tues/Thur K	29 May
Grades 7-9	30 May

To order next month's hot lunch, go to  
<https://spschool.hotlunches.net/admin/>





**Elementary  
Track**



**SHARKS ATHLETICS**

<b>Monday (28)</b>	Gr 4-6 Track Practice @ 3:00-3:45PM
<b>Tuesday (29)</b>	EIAA Badminton Championship Evening
<b>Wednesday (30)</b>	Gr 4-6 Track Practice @ 3:00-3:45PM
<b>Thursday (1)</b>	Gr 4-6 Track Practice @ 3:00-3:45PM
<b>Friday (2)</b>	No School (Professional Learning Day)

Elementary Track practices will take place Mon/Wed/Thur from 3:00-3:45PM throughout April & the first week of May. Our Track Coaches are preparing the team for the EIPS Track Meet on May 8th where they will compete in relay races against EIPS schools.

# Final Exam SCHEDULE

## Grade 6 PATs

- May 28 - ELA Part A
- June 12 - ELA Part B
- June 13 - Math Pat A
- June 17 - Math Part B
- June 18 - Social

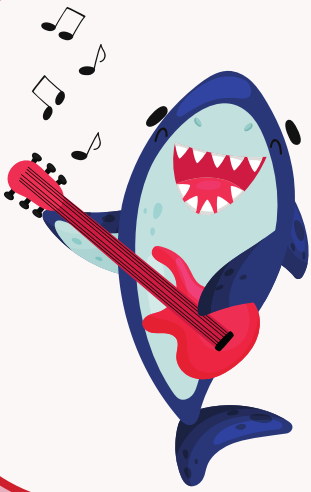
## Grade 7 & 8 Common Exams

- May 26 - ELA Part A
- June 17 - Math Part A
- June 18 - ELA Part B
- June 19 - Science
- June 23 - Social
- June 24 - Math Part B

## Grade 9 PATs

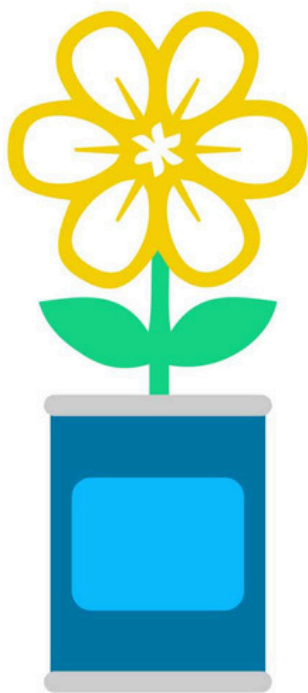
- May 29 - ELA Part A
- June 12 - ELA Part B
- June 13 - Math Part A
- June 17 - Math Part B
- June 18 - Social
- June 19 - Science

**“Believe you can and you’re halfway there.”**  
**Theodore Roosevelt**



# MUSIC

Gr 4-6 Recorder Club is now finished for the year  
Gr. 6 Hand Chime Club is now finished for the year  
Gr 4-6 Choir will begin again on May 6<sup>th</sup> on Tuesdays at  
Lunch Recess  
Gr. 6 & Jr High Band is on Tuesdays from 3:00-3:45PM



## Spring — INTO — ACTION FOOD DRIVE

### **Spring Food Drive**

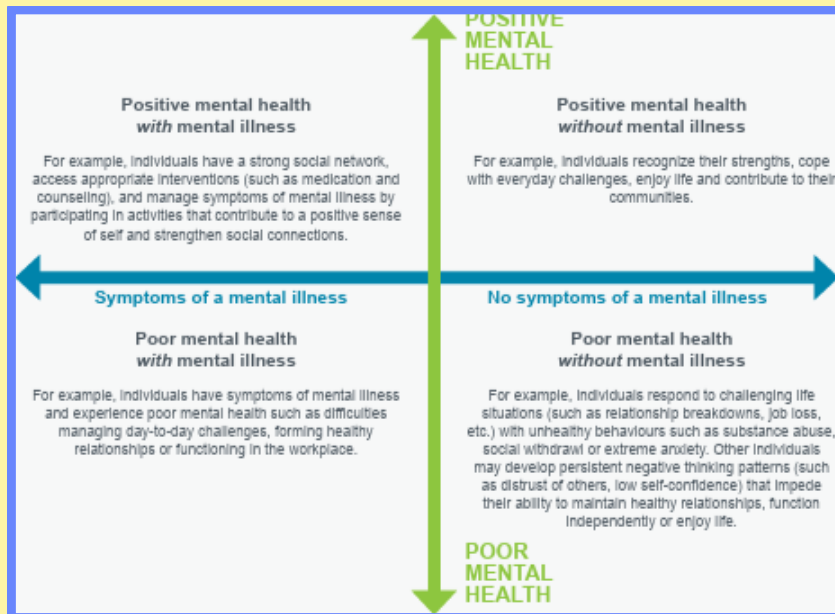
Beginning **Monday, April 14** and continuing through to **Wednesday, April 30**, Southpointe School will be collecting Food Bank donations. In addition to the regular school days, we will have bins available at the gym doors to collect donations during the **Night of Music**, (6:00pm Wednesday, April 16). We gratefully accept any toy, non-perishable food, or personal care items that you generously donate.

**Your generosity is appreciated!**

**April 30<sup>th</sup> is the last day of our  
Spring Into Action Food Drive!**

# Counsellor's Corner...

## The Importance of Working Together to Support Mental Health in Schools



Current research clearly identifies the importance of mental health to learning, as well as to students' social and emotional development. Students who experience positive mental health are resilient and better able to learn, achieve success and build healthy relationships. Given the important relationship between positive mental health and academic success, schools have an important role in nurturing students' positive mental health and well-being.

It is important to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness and mental health issues. Stigma (or negative stereotypes) can make experiences and situations even more challenging. For people with mental health difficulties, other peoples' reactions to their appearance, behaviour, and/or their need for services and treatment may result in discrimination, prejudice and even social exclusion. The stigma of mental illness can also discourage students and their families from reaching out for help and pursuing needed services and treatment. Along with the stigma faced by the individual, associative stigma can impact the family and friends of that individual.

Increasing understanding of mental health and mental illness is one of the most effective strategies for reducing stigma. It is important to provide opportunities for students, school staff and community partners to talk about mental health and build an understanding of biases.

(Courtesy of <https://www.alberta.ca/mental-health-in-schools> )

# What's Happening AROUND SOUTHPOINTE...

SouthPointe School YEARBOOK

[ybpay.ca](https://ybpay.ca)

Order Deadline: <b>May 11, 2025</b>	Price: <b>\$20.00</b>	Yearbook ID Code: <b>14214925</b>
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Don't miss out!  
Order your yearbook today!



Scan the QR code or visit:  
<https://ybpay.lifetouch.ca/>  
To purchase your copy.



## MAY 11

## YEARBOOK

Hey, families! The school year is almost over, and it's time to grab your very own yearbook! It's full of fun photos and special memories from the year. Yearbooks are only \$20 each. Be sure to order before **May 11** - don't miss out on this cool keepsake!

Order your yearbook [HERE](#) and use the code 14214925.



Due to the muddy conditions outside, we kindly ask parents to send extra pants & socks with their child to school to help keep them comfortable and dry throughout the day.



## Frog Moon

April

[Click Here for EIPS' First  
Nation Metis Inuit April  
Newsletter](#)

# FASS/School Council Info

**FASS' Bottle Drive is THIS SATURDAY from 10:00AM-12:00PM!**

**We need your help collecting bottles!**

**Please bring any bottles you have to SPS this Saturday (April 26) between 10:00AM-12:00PM.**

**Thank you to our volunteers who have delivered flyers and are driving around picking bottles up!**



## Growing Smiles Spring Plant Fundraiser

The Growing Smiles Spring Plant Fundraiser offers a beautiful selection of hanging baskets, patio planters, vibrant flowers, herbs, and vegetables—perfect for brightening up your home and garden. **Order now** to support our school and get high-quality plants just in time for spring!

## Fundraising Association for SouthPointe School

**Order Deadline: May 7 at 12PM**

**Pickup Date: May 22 @ SPS**

**Mark your calendars! Our next School Council Meeting is MAY 21 at 5:00PM in the Large Flex Space.**

# HOT LUNCH

## **Hot Lunch is OPEN for May!**

To order hot lunches, we use the [spschool.hotlunches.net](https://spschool.hotlunches.net) website.

**Deadline to order for MAY is coming up on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at NOON.**

**Failure to pay for the order by the deadline will result in the order being cancelled.**

If your child is sick on the day of their hot lunch, please call the office **before 10:30AM** and let them know. No refunds will be given if a student is absent on the day of their hot lunch.

**Once the deadline has passed orders cannot be changed or cancelled.**

Should you have any comments, suggestions, or questions you can reach out via email at [spschoolhotlunch@gmail.com](mailto:spschoolhotlunch@gmail.com).

**REMINDER:**  
**Please still send**  
**SNACKS on Hot**  
**Lunch Day**

## Hot Lunch Volunteer Opportunity:

We're looking for volunteers to assist with our hot lunch program! As a thank-you, each volunteer will receive a \$5 discount on one child's hot lunch account for their help.

If you are able to volunteer, please email [spschoolhotlunch@gmail.com](mailto:spschoolhotlunch@gmail.com).

# News from EIPS



## *Explore Collegiate Pathways*

In 2025-26, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) will be expanding its Collegiate Pathways programming to provide more opportunities for more students across the Division. Opportunities are available for students entering or returning to Grade 12 in the fall. For students entering grades 10 or 11 next year, the available information will help with course planning throughout senior high.

[Learn more about Collegiate Pathways](#)

[Planning for Grade 12](#)

[Course planning for grades 10 and 11](#)

## **Pre-Kindergarten Programming at EIPS**

Is there a preschooler in your life experiencing identified developmental delays or challenges with speech-language—big or small? If so, Elk Island Public School's Play And Learn at School (PALS) program could help.

Early learning lays the foundation for success in primary grades and beyond. As such, EIPS offers the pre-kindergarten PALS program in five of its elementary school locations. Applications are now open for free speech-language assessments for those interested in registering in the PALS program this fall. The assessment helps determine if PALS is appropriate for your child.

If you know a preschooler, born in 2021 or 2022, who could benefit from pre-kindergarten programming or want to book an assessment, fill out the [PALS Program Request Form](#) or call 780-417-8219. For more information, visit [eips.ca](https://eips.ca).

### **A big THANK YOU to EIPS Volunteers**

National Volunteer Week takes place April 27 to May 4. On behalf of the Board of Trustees at Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS), I want to say a giant thank you to all EIPS volunteers. This year's theme is Volunteers Make Waves, and that's certainly true in our Division. No matter whether you've chaperoned a field trip, helped out at a hot lunch day or provided support in a classroom—every time you've stepped in a school—you've made a ripple effect that washes over your community. These waves of positivity, hard work and dedication build up and make a momentous impact on a student's experience at school.

So, thank you again for being a part of our ocean at EIPS. The waves you've made—and will continue to create—all contribute to our collective goals of ensuring learning and working environments sustain student learning and amplifying the importance of public education in our province. This

National Volunteer Week, I encourage everyone to celebrate the hundreds of volunteers and thousands of hours put into supporting student growth and achievement at schools across the Division.

Cathy Allen Chair, EIPS Board of Trustees

# News from EIPS



Every year, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) publishes an Annual Education Results Report, which outlines the Division's Four-Year Education Plan, growth opportunities, and how it supports students in achieving the best possible outcomes. Read through this year's [EIPS Annual Education Results Report 2023-24](#) and discover how EIPS fosters learning environments for all students to learn, grow and thrive—and why it matters.

March Spotlight: Student Growth and Success

·[Early Learning](#): Ensuring early learners reach developmental milestones

·[Culture of Literacy](#): Dive deep into the data and learn how students are developing strong literacy skills

·[Math Matters](#): Enhancing reasoning, understanding and achievement through numeracy-rich classrooms

·[Boosting Educational Outcomes](#): How EIPS supports the growth and achievement of self-identified First Nations, Métis or Inuit students.

·[Beyond High School](#): Supports and strategies that are creating real-life career pathways for learners

RELATED INFORMATION

[EIPS Four-Year Education Plan: 2022-26](#)

[EIPS Three-Year Capital Plan: 2025-28](#)

## NAVIGATING THE SHIFT:

### APRIL 2025

**28**  
MON

#### CHILDHOOD ADHD: FROM STRUGGLING TO THRIVING

VIRTUAL

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Join this lunch and learn to learn ways to support your child with ADHD as they move from Elementary to Junior High

**28**  
MON

#### SAFFRON PRESENTS: FOUNDATIONS OF CONNECTION

DOW CENTENNIAL CENTRE;  
LIONS PRIDE

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

This training provides parents with strategies for communicating with children and youth at different developmental stages to encourage healthy relationships and build on trust and open communication. The goal is to help every caregiver act as a trusted adult for the children and youth in their lives.



**nextSTEP**

## Make the most of your summer with EIPS Summer School

With more than 40 senior high courses, students can earn credits, upgrade marks, lighten their workloads or finish needed prerequisites.

Bev Facey Community High  
99 Colwill Blvd, Sherwood Park

### 4-WEEK SESSIONS

JULY 7-31 8:30 AM to 1 PM

### 2-WEEK SESSIONS

JULY 7-18 8:30 AM to 1 PM  
JULY 21-31 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM

#### Courses include:

- Core Senior High Courses
- CALM
- Physical Education
- Land-Based Learning
- Work Experience & RAP
- Workplace Safety

Plus, online options for English and Social Studies, as well as other complementary courses



Registration opens March 17  
[eipsnextstep.ca/summer-school](https://eipsnextstep.ca/summer-school)



TO REGISTER: [WWW.FORTSASK.CA/FCSSWORKSHOPS](https://WWW.FORTSASK.CA/FCSSWORKSHOPS)

# News from EIPS



## DID YOU KNOW?

EIPS prepares a budget in the spring based on projected enrolment, funding, estimated costs and Board of Trustees budget priorities. Before the Division can finalize its budget for the next school year, we need to wait for the provincial government to provide the funding manual for school authorities and EIPS' funding profile. This year's funding manual is expected to be released in early April and the funding profile should be available mid-March. EIPS plans to publish its spring budget in May. [Learn more](#)

## Get Ready for Kindergarten...

Do you have a child registered in kindergarten next year?  
If so, make sure to attend SouthPointe's upcoming Kindergarten Information Night on May 8<sup>th</sup>. You'll get to:

- tour the school;
- meet the teachers;
- gain insight on play-based learning; and
- see what a typical day looks like



### Kindergarten Information Night 2025

Date: May 8<sup>th</sup>

Time: 5:30-6:30PM



Location: SouthPointe School in the Large Flex Space

To make the transition to school as smooth as possible, Elk Island Public Schools has put together a toolkit for families. The kit includes information about registration, important dates, programming options, what to expect, eligibility, finding your designated school, transportation and more.

Additional information about SouthPointe's kindergarten program is available on the [school website](#).