

Shark Bites NEWSLETTER

SouthPointe School

Principal's Message

As we begin October, I want to thank you for your patience and support during this time of uncertainty. As you may be aware, the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) announced its members voted against the latest contract offer from the province. As such, ATA members across Alberta—including all teachers from Elk Island Public Schools—plan to initiate a strike involving a complete withdrawal of services starting on Oct. 6, 2025. **As a result, EIPS has no choice but to close schools as of October 6. All student transportation services, EIPS activities and school extracurricular activities, including field trips; clubs; committee meetings; and sports competitions, practices and games, are also suspended until classes resume.** All EIPS families should make alternate arrangements for their children throughout the strike. Childcare centres located in EIPS schools can remain open—contact the childcare provider directly for specific details.

Please note that teachers will not have access to their email or school platforms during a strike. While schools are closed to the public, our office phone lines will be answered by our office staff. For the most current information and answers to frequently asked questions, please visit the EIPS website: www.eips.ca.

SouthPointe is built on care, kindness, and connection — values that remain strong even in challenging times. We look forward to welcoming students back as soon as possible. In the meantime, thank you for your understanding and continued support. Laurie Caines, Principal

NEXT WEEK



Monday (6)	Jr Boys & Girls Volleyball Practice @ 3:00-4:15PM
Tuesday (7)	Gr 4/5/6 Choice @ Lunch Recess Chorus Open @ Lunch for Gr 5-9 Cub Scouts @ 3:00-4:00PM Jr Girls/Boys Volleyball Game @ SPS @ 4:00-5:00PM
Wednesday (8)	Jr Boys & Girls Volleyball Practice @ Lunch Early Dismissal @ 1:50PM Jr Boys & Girls Volleyball Practice @ 3:00-4:30PM
Thursday (9)	Gr 6 Hand Chimes @ Lunch Recess Jr Girls/Boys Volleyball Game @ VEG @ 4:15PM Sr Girls/Boys Volleyball Game @ SPS @ 4:00PM/5:00PM
Friday (10)	Dungeon & Dragons @ Lunch Recess

**SCHOOL CLOSED
UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE**



OCTOBER

Coming Up this Month

October 8	Early Dismissal
October 13	Thanksgiving (No School)
October 15	Early Dismissal
October 16	Hot Lunch Deadline at 12:00PM
October 18	FASS Bottle Drive Fundraiser
October 20	Municipal Election
October 21	School Photo Day for KBH and Grades 1-4
October 21	Gr. 5 Community Building
October 22	School Photo Day for Grades 5-9
October 22	Gr 1-3 Hot Lunch Day
October 22	Early Dismissal
October 23	School Photo Day for KAH and KAS
October 23	Gr 4-6 & M/Th Hot Lunch Day
October 24	Gr 7-9 & T/Fr Hot Lunch Day
October 29	Gr 6 Immunizations
October 29	Early Dismissal
October 29	Parent Teacher Interviews @ 4:00-7:00PM
October 30	Wear Orange & Black Day
October 30	Parent Teacher Interviews @ 4:00-7:00PM



A NOTE TO OUR FAMILIES

As we head into a pause in our school year, we want to say how deeply grateful we are for the incredible students and families who make SouthPointe such a special place. We truly love what we do, and it's an honour to support your children every day. Though this is our last newsletter for now, please know we carry our SouthPointe community in our hearts, and we'll be thinking of you during this time.



****Deadline to order Hot Lunch for October is on October 16th at 12:00PM****

Note:

With the upcoming strike, hot lunch plans may change. Please check our website for the latest updates.

October Hot Lunch

★ Grades 1-3	22 Oct
★ Grades 4-6 and Mon/Th K	23 Oct
★ Grades 7-9 and Tues/Fr K	24 Oct

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

Counsellor's Corner...

Belonging & Awareness



As we settle into the rhythm of the school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on two powerful themes that shape our school community: **belonging and awareness**.

Belonging isn't just about fitting in—it's about feeling seen, valued, and safe to be your authentic self. When students feel a sense of belonging, they're more likely to take risks in learning, build meaningful relationships, and develop resilience. It's something we build together, through kindness, inclusion, and shared responsibility.

Awareness is the lens that helps us understand each other. It's noticing when someone is struggling, recognizing our own emotions, and being open to perspectives different from our own. Whether it's cultural awareness, emotional awareness, or awareness of learning needs, it helps us respond with empathy and intention.

This month, we're encouraging students to:

- Celebrate what makes them unique
- Practice active listening and respectful dialogue
- Reach out to peers who may feel left out
- Reflect on how their actions impact others



Families can support this at home by asking questions like: "Who made you feel welcome today?" "What's something new you learned about someone else?" "How did you show kindness this week?" Together, we can create a school culture where every student feels they belong—and where awareness leads to deeper connection and understanding.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Mr. Frimpong any time at kofi.frimpong@eips.ca

NOTE: During the strike, Mr. Frimpong will not have access to his email

SCHOOL PHOTOS!

Get ready to smile!

School photos will be taken on:

October 21 – Photos for KBH and students in Grades 1–4

October 22 – Photos for students in Grades 5–9

October 23 – Photos for KAH and

REVISED

KAS



LET'S
RAISE
SOME DOUGH!

COBS BREAD



RAISE SOME DOUGH FOR SOUTHPOINTE SCHOOL!

DO YOU SHOP AT COBS BREAD IN FORT SASKATCHEWAN? IF SO, THERE'S AN EASY WAY TO SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL WHILE PICKING UP YOUR FAVOURITE BAKED GOODS!

SIMPLY MENTION "SOUTHPOINTE SCHOOL" AT THE CHECKOUT, AND COBS BREAD WILL DONATE 5% OF YOUR PURCHASE BACK TO OUR SCHOOL! IT'S THAT SIMPLE — NO EXTRA COST TO YOU!

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES AND HELPING SOUTHPOINTE SCHOOL AT THE SAME TIME. COBS BREAD IS COMMITTED TO GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITIES THAT SUPPORT THEM, AND WE'RE GRATEFUL TO BE PART OF THAT PARTNERSHIP.

LET'S RAISE SOME DOUGH TOGETHER!

CANTEEN

**FOR THIS FALL & WINTER, THE CANTEEN
WILL BE OPEN TO STUDENTS IN
GRADES 5-9 **ON TUESDAYS ONLY.****

PRICES:

CHOCOLATE BAR - \$2.00

CHIPS - \$1.50

HOT ROD - \$1.00

CHEEZIES - \$1.50

WELCH'S - \$0.50

WAGON WHEEL - \$0.50

HI-CHEWS - \$0.75

GATORADE - \$2.00

WATER - \$1.00

JUICE - \$1.00

SKITTLES - \$2.00

BUBLY - \$1.25

MINI EGGS - \$2.00

Grateful at the Pointe....

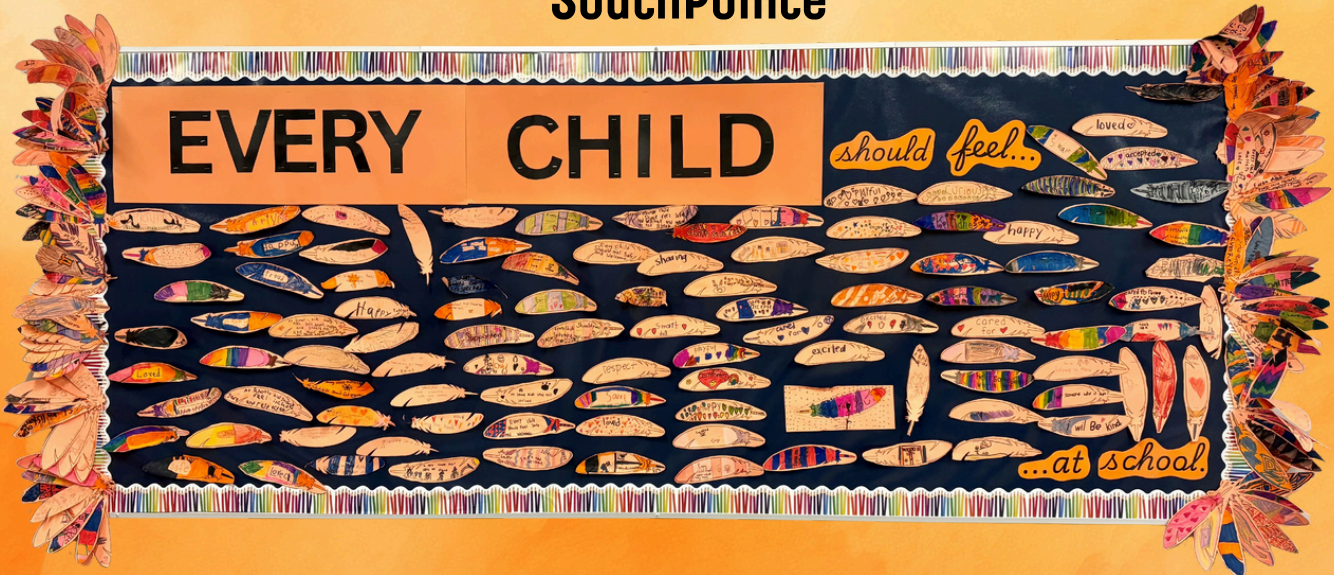
Welcome to “Grateful at the Pointe”, a weekly spotlight where our SouthPointe staff and students share what they’re thankful for — and we hope it inspires your family to reflect on what you're grateful for, too.



I am grateful for a roof over my head, food, and running water.
-Lexi C



Bridging Cultures: First Nation, Metis, Inuit Learning at SouthPointe

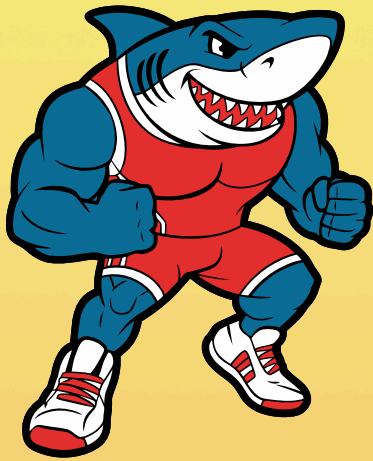


We are proud to share our District’s First Nations, Métis and Inuit Newsletter — a great resource to learn about the initiatives, stories, and voices of our Indigenous communities. You can read the latest issue [here](#).

Stay tuned — there is rich history, inspiring student work, and ways to be involved in supporting Indigenous education in every issue.

The Talking Stick

September 2025



SHARKS ATHLETICS

Monday (6)

Jr Boys & Girls Volleyball Practice @ 3:00-4:15PM

Tuesday (7)

Jr Girls Volleyball Game @ SPS @ 4:00PM

Boys Volleyball Game @ SPS @ 5:00PM

Wednesday (8)

Jr Boys & Girls Volleyball Practice @ Lunch

Jr Boys & Girls Volleyball Practice @ 3:00-4:30PM

Thursday (9)

Jr Girls & Boys Volleyball Game @ VEG @ 4:15PM

Sr Boys Volleyball Game @ SPS @ 4:00PM

Sr Girls Volleyball Game @ SPS @ 5:00PM

Friday (10)



Great job to our Sr Boys Volleyball Team who had a great time at our annual SPS Invitational Tournament last weekend!

Thank you to all our staff, students & families who helped make the tournament a success!

MUSIC

Exciting Music Clubs available at SouthPointe:

- Gr 4/5/6 Choir – TUESDAYS at Lunch Recess
- Gr. 6 Hand Chime Club – THURSDAYS at Lunch Recess
- Junior High Band – TUESDAYS after school until 4:00 PM

No experience needed — just bring your enthusiasm! A great way to make friends, build confidence, and explore music!

These are great ways for students to make new friends, build confidence, and explore the joy of music. Encourage your child to check them out — we'd love to see them there!

On Hold During the Strike



What's Happening AROUND SOUTHPOINTE...

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU, MRS. WARD!

As we prepare for Mrs. Das to return from her maternity leave, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks and best wishes to Mrs. Ward, who has been an incredible teacher for 5W during this time. Her warmth, dedication, and care have made a lasting impact on her students and our school community. We are so grateful for the time she spent with us and wish her all the best in her next chapter!



READ IN WEEK!

Hello SPS families!

We are excited to share our love of reading with students during Read-In-Week! During the week of October 6th-10th, we will have various activities to celebrate reading with students. Throughout the week, we will have guest readers visiting classrooms to read to students, including staff from the Fort Saskatchewan Public Library, our excellent administrative team, our School Resource Officer, Constable Ann, and a member of the Edmonton Police Service. Our READ-In bulletin board will showcase our SouthPointe school group enjoying books together. Students will have the opportunity to celebrate Read-in-Week with their buddy class to share the joy of reading and create bookmarks together. We encourage you to take the time to enjoy reading one of your favourite books with your SPS child this week!

Thank you!

Read-in-Week Team



What's Happening AROUND SOUTHPOINTE...

SYNC

We are so grateful to **Twice But Nice** for their incredibly generous donation covering all bussing costs and craft supplies for our SYNC (Seniors Youth Network Communities) program. Their support helps create meaningful connections between students and seniors in our community – and makes programs like SYNC truly possible.

As they celebrate their 40th anniversary, we want to recognize the incredible impact Twice But Nice continues to have on Fort Saskatchewan. From supporting schools to local organizations, their kindness and community spirit have touched countless lives. Thank you for all that you do – and congratulations on 40 amazing years!



FASS/School Council Info



*Looking for a Great Way to Get Involved?
Read On!*

Want to get connected and make a real impact at our school?

FASS is a fun, welcoming group of parents & caregivers who support school events, fundraising, and student activities—and we'd love for you to join us! Our **Annual General Meeting is Thursday, October 23 at 5:15 PM**, and all are welcome. Elections for new positions will be held, and we're currently looking for a Canteen Coordinator to help organize snacks and meals during school sports tournaments and special events.

Joining is easy—just fill out this quick form

👉 <https://forms.gle/rpyBlw9i7ot4fwuJ9>



We're also looking for volunteers to help run the canteen during our next tournament on Oct 24–25. It's a great way to be part of the action!

Have questions? Reach out to us at president.fass@gmail.com.

We'd love to hear from you!

Upcoming Fundraisers

Bottle Drive – Saturday, October 18

Clear out those recyclables and help raise funds for our school! Volunteers are needed—please email president.fass@gmail.com if you can lend a hand.



BearTracks Ice Melt – Order Deadline: October 31

Orders to be pre-ordered in the Hot Lunches application (link below) The price is \$31 per bucket. <https://spschool.hotlunches.net> *Please ensure your orders are paid for in full* Depending on the number of orders entered will depend on the pick up date. The current closing date of this fundraiser is Oct 31



SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, October 23rd at 5:15PM

All caregivers welcome to attend!

This will be our Annual General Meeting



HOT LUNCH INFO



HOT LUNCH HELPERS NEEDED – WE'D LOVE YOUR HELP!

Our Hot Lunch Program is a big hit with students (and staff!) — but we can't do it without our amazing volunteers! If you're a parent, grandparent, or caregiver with a bit of time to spare, we'd love to have you join us.

We're looking for help during the following dates:

☞ **October 22, 23 & 24**

☞ **November 26, 27 & 28**

It's a fun way to connect with the school community, see the kids' smiling faces, and be part of something special. If you're available to lend a hand, please email Amanda, our Hot Lunch Coordinator, at spschoolhotlunch@gmail.com.

Thank you for helping make this program a success!

How to Order Hot Lunch:

1. Create an account (or log in) at spschool.hotlunches.net
2. Add your child(ren) and update their new teacher info
3. Place your order and pay online with PayPal (guest checkout available)
4. Unpaid orders will be automatically cancelled after the deadline

If Your Child is Sick:

Call the school office to make arrangements.

No refunds are given for absences on hot lunch days.

Need to Cancel or Make Changes?

You can edit or cancel your order before the deadline.

✓ Refunds for cancelled orders are added as a credit for future use.

✗ No changes or cancellations after the deadline.

**Orders must be placed by Thursday at noon the week before hot lunch is served.

REMINDER:
Please still send
SNACKS on Hot
Lunch Day

OCTOBER HOT LUNCH

Tim Hortons & Papa John's – October 22, 23 & 24

Order deadline: Thursday, October 16 @ Noon

Don't forget to update your child's grade and teacher when ordering to ensure correct delivery!

With the upcoming strike, hot lunch plans may change. Please check [our website](#) for the latest updates.

Community **RESOURCES**

Life doesn't always follow a smooth path—and for many students and families, this season may feel especially heavy. Whether you're facing emotional stress, financial strain, or simply feeling overwhelmed, please know: you are not alone. Sometimes the hardest part is asking for help—but it's also the bravest.

Financial Support Resources

1. Alberta Supports – Income Support
-24/7 emergency income assistance and guidance on provincial benefits.
☎ 1-877-644-9992
2. Fort Saskatchewan Families First Society
-Offers home visitation, parenting support, and advocacy for families with children.
☎ 780-998-5595 ext. 221
3. Fort Saskatchewan Food Bank
-Provides emergency food hampers to individuals and families in need.
☎ 780-998-4099
4. Heartland Community Hospice – Community Pantry
-Provides pantry items and support for those facing food insecurity.
☎ 780-589-2222
5. NeighbourLink Fort Saskatchewan
-Offers food hampers, clothing, and household items to those in crisis.
☎ 780-912-2157

Additional Support Resources

1. Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) – Fort Saskatchewan
-Offers help with housing, transportation, emergency financial support, and referrals.
☎ 780-992-6267

Mental Health Support Resources

1. Access 24/7 – Alberta Mental Health Services
-For adult mental health and addiction concerns.
☎ 780-424-2424 (Adult Intake)
☎ 780-342-4415 (Children's Intake)
2. Kids Help Phone
-24/7 confidential support for youth.
☎ 1-800-668-6868
📠 Text CONNECT to 686868
3. Distress Line – Edmonton Region
-24/7 crisis support for emotional distress.
☎ 780-482-4357
4. Hope for Wellness Helpline
-Culturally sensitive support for Indigenous families.
☎ 1-855-242-3310
5. Wellness Together Canada
-Free online mental health and substance use support.



News from EIPS

Municipal Election 2025: Vote October 20

The next municipal election, which includes the election of local school board trustees, takes place on Monday, Oct. 20, 2025. 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 your local municipality's website.

Read In Week 2025 is taking place October 6-10.



Read In Week is an initiative celebrated throughout the Division annually to encourage a lifelong love of reading and to enhance literacy awareness among students, staff, families and community members. This year's theme: "Books to Bytes."

SouthPointe invites all families to participate in Read In Week by reading yourself, with your child or with someone in the community. For more information, visit the [Read In Week website](#).

Pay School Fees Online!



School fee information for the 2025-26 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. If you're unable to pay your school fees, you can apply to have certain fees waived. The application deadline is Dec. 15, 2025.

NOTE: 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.

For more information, visit SouthPointe's School Fees page on our school website. Alternatively, contact Chantelle Grieve at SouthPointe at 780-998-2747.

Celebrating World

Teachers' Day: October 5

October 5 is World Teachers' Day! World Teachers' Day recognizes the integral role teachers play in providing quality education to students. On October 5, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) encourages all of its students, parents, caregivers and community members to show their appreciation for their teachers and the positive impact they make on our lives. 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.

