



Shark Bites

Weekly Update

Every Day, Every Student, A Success.



Hello SouthPointe Families,

We are hoping that everyone will enjoy the holiday break this year. The last day of school for students is December 20 and we return on January 4. We hope the break will provide you with the opportunity to enjoy the holiday season with family and friends.

Carol Brown, Principal

Jay Robertson, Assistant Principal

Week at a Glance:

Monday, December 19	Mon/Wed ECS Cookies and Santa Visit Holly Jolly Outfit Day!
Tuesday, December 20	Tues/Thurs ECS and Grade 1-9 Cookies and Santa Visit Pajama Day!
Wednesday, Dec 21 – Tuesday Jan 3	Christmas Break (School closed to staff and students)
Wednesday, January 4	Classes Resume Early Dismissal (end of day at 1:51 pm) Tie-dye Rainbow Day!
Thursday, January 5	
Friday, January 6	Ordering for January Hot Lunch is Open (Canadian Brewhouse)

Coming Up In January:

January 18 – Fundraising Association Meeting @ 5:30 pm

January 25 – ECS Mon/Wed & Grade 1-3 Hot Lunch

January 26 - ECS Tues/Thurs & Grade 4-6 Hot Lunch

January 27 – Grade 7-9 Hot Lunch

January 30 – NO SCHOOL - Professional Learning Day

January 31 – Second Semester Begins

Community Involvement

Thank you to all of our students that contributed to our toilet paper tree in support of the Fort Saskatchewan Food Bank!



Fundraising Association Update

The next fundraising meeting will be January 18, 2023 at 5:30pm. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The fundraising association needs a volunteer to be a part of the board as a secretary. If you are interested, please email president.fass@gmail.com.

January hot lunch is January 25, 26, and 27. Hot lunch will be from the Canadian Brewhouse, and ordering will be open on January 6, 2023. The deadline to order is January 20 at 3:00pm. Any unpaid orders will be cancelled.

❖ 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! You can even get/reload your gift cards here!
- 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!

Counsellor's Corner

Cheers



As we enter the holiday season it can bring up many emotions. We often think of the holidays as being “Merry and Bright” but for some it can bring up hard to have emotions. It is my hope that you find time this holiday season to seek out something that brings you joy. Be kind to yourself, slow down, and be intentional about recognizing what you are grateful for.

The Canadian Mental Health Association recognizes five ways the holidays can be overwhelming and provides practical suggestions of how to protect your mental health. Check out this link to [“Five Ways to Protect Your Mental Health This Holiday”](#).

Wishing you all the very best holiday season and I look forward to seeing all the students back in the new year.

AHS Caregiver Series

Alberta Health Services offers free online programming for parents and caregivers of children and youth, as well as sessions for adults. Sessions are offered through Zoom. Upcoming topics for **December** include mindfulness and understanding autism. Upcoming topics for **January** include understanding anxiety and how sleep affects your family’s mental health. The lists of [December 2022](#) and [January 2023](#) sessions are now available.

Dragon Fly Support Group

A Monthly group for parents whose children face mental health challenges

A safe and supportive place for parents and caregivers to share their challenges and concerns

Next Meetings

- December 19th 7:00 - 8:00 pm
- January 16th 7:00 - 8:00 pm
- February 20th 7:00 - 8:00 pm
- March 20th 7:00 - 8:00 pm
- April 17th 7:00 - 8:00 pm
- May 15th 7:00 - 8:00 pm
- June 19th 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Location:

Families First Society
9901 - 99street
Fort Saskatchewan

For more information please contact 780-992-6267



Childcare is available to register call 780-998-5595 ext.221 by the Friday prior



Division News:

Christmas Break

SouthPointe School will close for the Christmas break at the end of the day on Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2022. The school will reopen on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023. During this time, if you have any school-related questions or concerns, contact Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Central Services at 780-464-3477.

EIPS Central Services Christmas Break Hours

Open December 22 and 23; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Closed Dec. 26, 2022 to Jan. 2, 2023

Open January 3; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

*for location and contact information visit www.eips.ca.

From everyone at Elk Island Public Schools, we wish all of you a happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year!

Year-in-Review Survey

Have your say, EIPS wants to hear from you!

The [Annual Education Results Report 2021-22](#) is now available. The report is a summary of how EIPS is doing relative to Alberta Education's performance measures; how it's supporting students to achieve the best possible outcomes; and its successes, challenges and priority strategies moving forward. Both the full report and an overview are available for readers. Reflecting on this report and the past school year, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) wants to hear from you to gain a deeper understanding of your confidence in the Division and its strategic direction. As such, the annual EIPS Year-in-Review: Stakeholder Confidence Survey is open December 1-18.

The survey covers a range of topics, including student growth and achievement, learning supports, teaching and leading, governance and resource allocations. The information gathered will help EIPS:

- assess stakeholder confidence—families, staff, Grade 12 students and community members;
- gather input to guide future decision-making;
- gather feedback to enhance its [Four-Year Education Plan](#); and
- provide a platform for families, students, staff and community members to have a voice in ensuring high-quality, student-centered learning environments in EIPS schools.

EIPS will share the results in the *Annual Education Results Report 2022-23*.

TAKE THE SURVEY NOW!

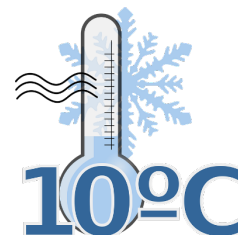
Survey closes Dec. 18, 2022

NOTE: EIPS encourages everyone to respond honestly. Your identity and answers are confidential and cannot be linked to you or your child's school. Grade 12 students will have an opportunity to complete the survey at school. Families who do not want their child to complete the survey simply need to advise their child's school.

Inclement Weather

With the winter season well underway, 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) will advise 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 Procedure 131: Inclement Weather](#), which states: "school bus service may be suspended ... when there is a

forecast or current temperature of -40 C including wind chill, 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 they feel is safest during times of inclement weather.

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

Junior High Honours Program: 2023-24 Applications

Is your child considering the Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Junior High Honours program for the coming school year? The [EIPS Junior High Honours program](#) is designed for students in grades 8 and 9 with high achievement in their core courses and who enjoy a challenging academic environment. Students enrolled in Junior High Honours are expected to complete 25 hours of community service in an area of passion and will be automatically enrolled in the “CTF: Enterprise and Innovation” option course. Students must have a **minimum 80 per cent** average in **each** of the four core subjects to be eligible to apply to the Junior High Honours program.

On January 9, the parent/guardian No. 1 on file in PowerSchool for all current grades 7 and 8 families will receive direct communication from EIPS outlining the application process for the EIPS Junior High Honours program—including a link to the application form. Applications for the 2023-24 EIPS Junior High Honours program are due Jan. 18, 2023.

EIPS will confirm conditional acceptance in the 2023-24 Junior High Honours program in late-January—based on a student’s marks as of January 18. Students must maintain their honours standing on the year-end report card in June to receive final acceptance in the Honours program for the upcoming year.

Returning Student Registration for 2023-24

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) will once again conduct an online returning student registration process to confirm student registrations for the 2023-24 school year. Families of all current students—with the exception of graduating Grade 12 students—must complete the process to confirm the school their child plans to attend in the 2023-24 school year or advise the Division of their plans not to return to EIPS. Additionally, students who want to attend a non-designated school need to make that request through the returning student registration process—acceptance is based on available space. The 2023-24 returning student registration takes place Feb. 1-28, 2023.

Access to the Returning Student Registration Form is provided through the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). If you don’t have a PowerSchool Parent Portal account, you need to set one up before Feb. 1, 2023.

[Create a PowerSchool Parent Portal account](#)

For more information, contact the school office at (780) 998 – 2747.

Kindergarten Registration Starts Soon!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2023? If so, it’s almost time to register for kindergarten.

Kindergarten registration opens for the 2023-24 school year on Feb. 1, 2023.

To help families prepare, Elk Island Public Schools has put together an online [EIPS Kindergarten Tool kit](#) to make the transition as smooth as possible. The kit includes information on registration, important dates, programming options, what to expect, eligibility, how to find your designated school, transportation and more.

