



# Shark Bites Weekly Update

Every Day, Every Student, A Success.



southpointeschool.ca

## Principal's Message

It looks like winter has finally arrived in Alberta.

Thank you to everyone for working with us during this cold spell. Please remember it is important to ensure that students are dressed appropriately, we often worry about our Junior High students who often are not dressed for the elements.

Our next School Council meeting is on Wednesday, January 17 at 5pm. At this meeting, we will be starting to gather feedback from parents regarding fees for next year. I am hoping that parents will join us to provide this valuable input.

On the horizon, January 24-25 are the dates for term 2 Parent Teacher Interviews. Booking information will be available soon. Please mark your calendars and register online for an opportunity to talk about your child's progress to date. Stay warm and enjoy the weekend.

Carol Brown,  
Principal



## WEEK AT A GLANCE

Monday, Jan. 15	Division High School Information Session
Tuesday, Jan. 16	
Wednesday, Jan. 17	
Thursday, Jan. 18	
Friday, Jan. 19	Spirit Day – Wear Jersey/Sport Shirt for First Day of Winter Olympics

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## COMING UP

January 24, 25, 26	Hot Lunch Days
January 24 & 25	Parent Teachers Interviews
Monday, January 29	Grades 7-9 Ski Trip

## Fundraising Association Update

### HOT LUNCH



January's Hot Lunch – **BOSTON PIZZA**

Wednesday, January 24 – Grades 1-3 & Monday/Wednesday Kindergarten  
Thursday, January 25 – Grades 4-6 & Tuesday/Thursday Kindergarten  
Friday, January 26 – Grades 7-9

Order Cutoff Date is Friday, January 19 at 3:00pm. (All orders not paid for by this time, will be deleted).

The Hot Lunch Dates for the rest of the year have been added to the School Calendar and the Hot Lunch Calendar. **January to May is all now LIVE!**

In June we will be doing a Hot Dog Lunch again for all students.



Hot Lunches Online ordering and payment processing for schools  
[spschool.hotlunches.net](http://spschool.hotlunches.net)

\*\*Please remember if your child is away on their hot lunch day, plan to either pick it up from the school office or donate it. Unfortunately, if we are not aware, the lunch will be donated to another person, refunds will not be given. We ask that you please contact the school if your child is away.

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

**\*\* BEAR TRACKS\*\***

There are people who have ordered Bear Tracks that have not yet picked it up. Please text 403-612-9580 or email [president.fass@gmail.com](mailto:president.fass@gmail.com) to arrange a time.

We also have extra for anyone who is looking for some. \$30 per pail.

**FASS Secretary**

We are looking for a volunteer to join the FASS team! If interested, please contact Laelia @president.fass@gmail.com. This is a great way to get involved with the school.

**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!

**BOSTON PIZZA (all locations)**

- Collect your receipts and drop them off at the school
- Boston Pizza donates 5% back

**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!

**LOST & FOUND**

Once again, our Lost & Found is getting very full, please remind your child to have a look if they think they might be missing something. We will be putting all the items on tables outside the office during Parent Teacher Interviews on January 24 & 25, feel free to have a look then.

Anything not picked up, will be bagged and donated soon after.

### Division High School Information Session

To help grades 8 and 9 families make an informed decision about senior high, EIPS is hosting a Division high school information night. The session provides information about senior high courses, instruction, programming and extracurricular opportunities throughout the Division, as well as details about diploma requirements and various career path options.

Monday, January 15 6-7:30 p.m.

The Park Church, 1 Brower Dr., Sherwood Park  
High School Open Houses and Alternative Programs

<https://www.eips.ca/registration/senior-high>



**Barclay Spady, M.Ed.**

Principal

Next Step Outreach

P 780.464.1899 | C 780.984.3970

Twitter @eipsnextstep | Instagram @eipsnextstep



### Book Fair Volunteers

Dear Parents and Families,

I'm excited to announce that our next Scholastic Book Fair is quickly approaching! It will take place from **January 22<sup>nd</sup>- January 25<sup>th</sup>**.

This year's **Dino-Mite** Book Fair is going to be epic, but we need volunteers to make it happen.

Opportunities to assist include:

- Helping shoppers at the Fair
- Checkout

I am looking for volunteers during the school day on **January 22, 23, 24, & 25** for either the morning, afternoon, and/or full days (8:15AM-2:51PM) no help is needed during the lunch time (11:13-11:53).

If you're available to lend a hand at this upcoming event, please contact me at [stephanie.gauchier@eips.ca](mailto:stephanie.gauchier@eips.ca) with your availability.

For students, this is one of the most anticipated events of the school year—and as a volunteer, you'll have the chance to experience the Bookjoy firsthand!

I look forward to hearing from you.

Gratefully,

Miss Gauchier

## **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.

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## **Cybersecurity Update: Important information for families**

As part of EIPS' ongoing commitment to maintaining a secure and effective digital learning environment for students, the Division is implementing an important update to its cybersecurity protocols **Jan. 19, 2024**.

### **Enhanced Location-based Security for Student Accounts**

Starting Jan. 19, 2024, access to student user accounts—used for platforms like PowerSchool, Brightspace and Google—will be limited to within Canada's geographical boundaries. This change is an essential step in strengthening our cyber defenses and ensuring the digital safety of students.

### **What Does This Mean for You and Your Child?**

**Location-limited Access:** Your child's account will be accessible only when they're physically located in Canada. This includes all activities related to their schoolwork, such as submitting assignments, accessing study materials or sending EIPS account emails.

**Seamless In-country Use:** While in Canada, students will experience no change in how they access and use their accounts. The process remains as straightforward and user-friendly as always.

**PowerSchool Access for Parents and Caregivers:** This change will NOT impact parent and caregiver access to PowerSchool during periods of travel.

### **Why This Change?**

The safety and privacy of students are paramount. This location-based access control is a proactive measure to prevent unauthorized access to students' accounts and protect sensitive information from potential cyber threats.

Questions?

For more information, contact the school office at 780-998-2747.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter. Together, we can ensure a secure and thriving digital learning environment for all students.

# CYBERWORLD

JANUARY 25TH

6:30 - 8:30 PM

@ SOUTHPOINTE SCHOOL (11 SOUTHPOINTE BLVD)

A presentation for parents and caregivers on practicing internet safety with youth. The presentation also discusses online child sexual exploitation and how to respond to it.

Childcare available\*

For more info contact 780-992-6267 or [FCSSInfo@fortsask.ca](mailto:FCSSInfo@fortsask.ca)

[TO REGISTER FORTSASK.CA/FCSSWORSHOPS](https://www.fortsask.ca/FCSSWORSHOPS)



### **Kindergarten Registration Starts Soon!**

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2024? If so, it's almost time to register for kindergarten.

Kindergarten registration opens for the 2024-25 school year on Feb. 1, 2024.

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.

Additional information regarding SouthPointe School's kindergarten program is available at [www.southpointeschool.ca](http://www.southpointeschool.ca)

### **Returning Student Registration: 2024-25**

Mark your calendars! Returning student registration for the 2024-25 school year will take place Feb. 8-21, 2024.

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 2024-25 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. Watch for more details in the new year.



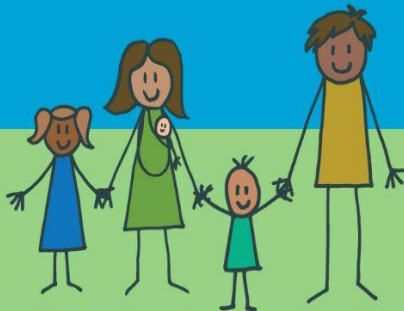


Families First Society  
FORT SASKATCHEWAN

# T.W.E.E.T

Today we engage and explore together

## IN - PERSON



## WINTER SCHEDULE 2024



### >>>>> DROP IN

Drop in with your children to this FREE play program filled with activities, songs, snacks and more. All are welcome, with activities geared for children aged 0 to 6 years.

**Learn more about how to help your children thrive**

### Saturday Mornings Fort Saskatchewan

Families First Building  
9901 90 Street

**9:30 am to 11:30 am**

- ☑ January 20
- ☑ February 10
- ☑ March 9 and 23



Families First Society  
FORT SASKATCHEWAN

# SILLY SPROUTS PLAY

WINTER SCHEDULE 2024

IN-PERSON

DROP-IN

Join us for songs, rhymes,  
stories and time to play!

Drop-in to this **FREE**,  
facilitated program for  
caregivers and their  
children aged 0 to 6 years.

*Alberta* Provincial Family  
Resource Networks

Program of the Fort Saskatchewan  
and Sturgeon Region  
Family Resource Network



## MONDAYS - CARDIFF

Cardiff Community Hall  
55320 RR 251 Sturgeon County

9:30 to 11:00 am

January 15, 22, 29  
February 5, 12, 26  
March 4, 11, 18

No program  
February 19

## MONDAYS - GIBBONS

Gibbons Cultural Centre  
5115 51 Street

9:00 to 10:30 am

January 15, 22, 29  
February 5, 12, 26  
March 4, 11, 18

No program  
February 19

## TUESDAYS - REDWATER

Pembina Place  
4944 53 Street

9:30 to 11:30 am

January 16, 23, 30  
February 6, 13, 20, 27  
March 5, 12, 19

## WEDNESDAYS - LEGAL

Citadel Centre  
4812 51 Avenue

9:30 to 11:30 am

January 17, 24, 31  
February 7, 14, 21, 28  
March 6, 13, 20

## WEDNESDAYS FORT SASKATCHEWAN

Families First Building  
9901 90 Street

9:30 to 11:30 am

January 17, 24, 31  
February 7, 14, 21, 28  
March 6, 13, 20

## THURSDAYS BON ACCORD

Town Office Basement  
5025 50 Avenue

9:30 to 11:30 am

January 18, 25  
February 1, 15, 22, 29  
March 7, 14, 21

No program  
February 8



**Families First Society**  
FORT SASKATCHEWAN

# FAMILY FUN NIGHT

WINTER 2024



## DROP-IN

Open doors to an evening of family fun, nutritious snack and a bedtime story.

Activities will be geared for children aged 0 to 6 years with the invitation open for all to play.

**Come spend some special time together as a family!**

Join us in the following communities:

### JANUARY:

- Thursday, January 18- Morinville Community Cultural Centre
- Monday, January 22- Legal Citadel Centre
- Tuesday, January 30- Gibbons Cultural Centre

### FEBRUARY:

- Wednesday, February 7- Redwater Pembina Place
- Wednesday, February 14- Bon Accord- Arena
- Thursday, February 22 - Morinville Community Cultural Centre
- Monday, February 26- Legal Citadel Centre

### MARCH:

- Tuesday, March 5- Gibbons Cultural Centre
- Wednesday March 13- Redwater Pembina Place
- Wednesday, March 20- Bon Accord- Arena



*Program of the Fort Saskatchewan  
and Sturgeon Region Family Resource Network*

**Time 5:30 to 7:00pm**

For More Information :

780-998-5595 ext. 221

[www.familiesfirstsociety.ca](http://www.familiesfirstsociety.ca)

*Alberta* Provincial Family  
Resource Networks



## CIRCLE FOR CAREGIVERS OF YOUTH

This is a support circle for caregivers of youth aged 8 to 13 years who are struggling with intense behaviours and feelings of overwhelm. It is a safe space to connect with other caregivers who are parenting through these important years. You will have the opportunity to share your strategies, successes and difficulties in raising youth.



### **Monday Night** **Fort Saskatchewan**

Families First Building  
9901 90 Street

**5:30 to 6:00pm Supper**

**6:00 to 7:30pm Circle**

WINTER 2024 DATES

- January 15 + 29
- February 12 + 26
- March 4 + 25

**Children's programming is available**

Please register for any of the sessions you can attend by calling 780-998-5595 ext. 221

In a circle we are all equal.  
There is no one behind you, no one above you, and no one below you.

Are you a caregiver navigating the unique challenges and joys of raising a neurodiverse child? We warmly invite you to join our monthly support group.

This is a safe space to share your journey, learn from others, and gain valuable insights into navigating the world of neurodiversity.

*Join our Village*

Register and reserve your child spot in advance by calling (780) 998-5595 ext 221 no later than the previous Monday.

**\*\*Children's Programming is Available!\*\***

Families First Society, 9901 90 St, Fort Saskatchewan, AB T8L 3T1

# DRAGONFLY SUPPORT GROUP



### Winter 2024 Dates

DATE	TOPIC	TIME
January 22	Speaker from Canada Revenue Agency	6:00 pm to 7:30 pm
February 05	Group Discussion	6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
March 18	Group Discussion	6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Drop In Is Open  
Tuesdays and Fridays  
From 3pm-6pm

# January

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 <b>CLOSED</b>	2 <b>CLOSED</b>	3 <b>CLOSED</b>	4 <b>CLOSED</b>	5 <b>CLOSED</b>
8	9 <b>GAMER TUESDAY</b> 3pm-6pm Drop-In PRIZES	10	11 <b>BASKETBALL</b> 6PM-730PM	12 Flex Fridays 3pm-6pm Drop-In BOARD GAMES Baking Cookies
	<b>Rockwall Climbing</b> 6pm-9pm Need a Wavier Painting			<b>NERF WAR</b> 6pm-9pm Just Dance Pizza pops
15	16 <b>GAMER TUESDAY</b> 3pm-6pm Drop-In PRIZES	17	18 <b>BASKETBALL</b> 6PM-730PM	19 Flex Fridays 3pm-6pm Drop-In BINGO Making Bracelets
	<b>Swimming</b> 6pm-9pm COSTS \$9			<b>Karaoke</b> 6pm-9pm <b>Dodgeball</b>
22 Snowboarding Field Trip 5pm-9pm Need a Wavier Cost 25\$	23 <b>GAMER TUESDAY</b> 3pm-6pm Drop-In PRIZES	24	25 <b>BASKETBALL</b> 6PM-730PM	26 Flex Fridays 3pm-6pm Drop-In MOVIE
	<b>CLOSED</b>			<b>Spa Day</b> Nails . Masks Watch A RomCom 6pm-9pm
29	30 <b>Tobogganing</b> 4pm-7pm FIELD TRIP TO 7 HILLS Need a Wavier Youth Center is Closed	31 <b>CLOSED</b>	<b>bgc</b> Fort Saskatchewan	Youth Night is on Tuesdays and Fridays 6pm - 9pm

# FINANCIAL LITERACY

WITH THE CREDIT COUNSELLING SOCIETY

All sessions are virtual and at 7 - 8pm  
Attend any or all of the sessions

Holiday Money Hangover  
January 17th

Vacations on a Budget  
February 20th

Home Ownership -Are You Ready?  
March 13th

Raising Financially Fit Kids  
April 10th

Register via [fortsask.ca/FCSSWorkshops](https://fortsask.ca/FCSSWorkshops)  
If you have questions please call  
780.992.6267 or [FCSSinfo@fortsask.ca](mailto:FCSSinfo@fortsask.ca)



## Celebrating Differences

Our differences make us stronger, more vibrant, and richer as a community. Whether it's our diverse backgrounds, unique talents or varied perspectives and abilities, embracing differences helps us to learn, grow, and connect - creating a more inclusive environment for everyone.

Talking to children about diversity can sometimes be difficult, especially as difference is often viewed negatively. They may ask us uncomfortable questions, and we may not have all the answers. However, when these questions are rooted in curiosity, it provides us an opportunity engage in meaningful conversation rather than shut it down. Diversity is what makes each one of us unique, with different perspectives. By reframing these differences positively, we provide the space to learn from one another.

Staying curious and asking questions is what leads to a better understanding and sense of belonging for all.

Amber Grant

Diversity, Inclusion and Community Development Coordinator

FCSS



# Grandparents who Parent Support Group

Connect with other grandparents who are raising their grandchildren

Meetings are 4th Monday of the Month

6:30 - 8:00pm

@BGC Fort Saskatchewan



## Meeting Dates:

January 22, 2024

February 26, 2024

March 25, 2024

April 22, 2024

May 27, 2024

June 17, 2024

To register for Childcare or  
for more info call 780-992-0103

ext. 303



# Family and Community Support Services

What's coming up?

## January

Credit Counselling: Holiday Money Hangover

**January 17th 7-8pm Virtual**

Cyberworld by SAFFRON

**January 25th 6:30 - 8:30pm @ SouthPointe School**

## February

Eating Disorders Info Session for Caregivers

**February 6th 6-7:30pm @ the Fort Sask Public Library**

Credit Counselling: Vacations on a Budget

**February 20th 7-8pm Virtual**

Co-Parenting 101

**February 22nd 6:30-7:30pm @ the Fort Sask Public Library**

Eating Healthy on a Budget with Kids

**February 27th 6:30-7:30pm @ the Fort Sask Public Library**

## March

Child Support - The Basics

**March 7th 6:30 - 7:30pm @ the Fort Sask Public Library**

Credit Counselling: Holiday Money Hangover

**March 13th 7-8pm Virtual**

Separation and Your Parenting Rights

**March 21st 6:30-7:30pm @**

**Fort Sask Public Library**



For more information: [fortsask.ca/fcss](https://fortsask.ca/fcss) or 780-992-6267