



Shark Bites Weekly Update

Every Day, Every Student, A Success.



southpointeschool.ca

Principal's Message

Thank you to all the families that were able to attend the family dance that occurred Friday, February 16. We had a wonderful turn out and it looked like everyone had a great time. A big thank you to the school council and the fundraising association for their help in organizing the dance, getting silent auction items, and running the concession.

We would like to welcome Mrs. Danielle Nelson as Acting Assistant Principal for the remainder of the school year. Mrs. Nelson will be joining Ms. Brown, Principal and Mrs. Caines, Assistant Principal in the office on a part-time basis. As SouthPointe School has grown, we now need some additional support managing all the administrative work that is required.

Mrs. Michelle Hayden will be taking over part of Mrs. Nelson teaching assignment. We welcome Mrs. Hayden to the SouthPointe team, and are excited to work with Mrs. Nelson as Acting Assistant Principal.

A reminder that February 28th is Pink Shirt Day. This is a day where we wear pink to show our commitment to providing a safe, welcoming, and respectful environment to all in our school. I encourage everyone to show their support by wearing Pink.

March 1 is a Professional Learning Day for all staff members so there will not be any school on that day. I hope everyone enjoys the upcoming weekend.

Carol Brown
Principal



WEEK AT A GLANCE

Monday, Feb. 26	
Tuesday, Feb. 27	
Wednesday, Feb. 28	Pink Shirt Day
Thursday, Feb. 29	
Friday, Mar. 1	PL Day – No School for Students

Inside this Issue:

[Principal's Message](#)

[Week at a Glance](#)

[Coming Up](#)

[Fundraising Update \(Hot Lunch\)](#)

[Kindergarten Registration](#)

[FCSS](#)

COMING UP

Wednesday, March 6	Early Dismissal – 1:51pm
Wednesday, March 13	Hot Lunch – Gr. 1-3 & Mon/Wed Kindergarten
Thursday, March 14	Hot Lunch – Gr. 4-6 & Tues/Thurs Kindergarten
Friday, March 15	Hot Lunch – Gr. 7-9
Friday, March 15	Report Cards Published

Counsellor's Message

Hi SPS Community! I wanted to introduce myself...my name is Tracy Russell, and I am very excited to begin my journey as the new school counsellor and a member of the SPS community.

I was born and raised in Ardrossan and currently live in Sherwood Park. With over two decades of experience in the field of education within EIPS, I bring a wealth of knowledge and a passion for fostering positive relationships within the learning environment. I firmly believe in the power of collaboration and community engagement to create an environment where every student can thrive.

Building strong connections with students, parents, and the community is at the core of my approach, and I am eager to get to know and work alongside each member of the SPS community and your family. Feel free to reach out via email at tracy.russell@eips.ca or by phone at 780.998.2747 (ext. 4674) if you have any questions or would like to connect.



Tracy Russell

School Counsellor | SouthPointe School
Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS)

P: 780.998.2747

ᐱᓐᓃᓐᓃᓐ Treaty 6 Territory

Fundraising Association Update

HOT LUNCH

March's Hot Lunch will be from Tim Hortons & Papa John's.

Wednesday, March 13 – Grades 1-3 & Mon/Wed Kindergarten

Thursday, March 14 – Grades 4-6 & Tues/Thurs Kindergarten

Friday, March 15 – Grades 7-9

The Hot Lunch for the rest of the year is LIVE!

**** Please ensure you double-check what month you are ordering for and that you complete your payment****

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

****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

****BEAR TRACKS****

There are still some buckets of bear tracks left, please text Laelia 403-612-9580 or email president.fass@gmail.com to arrange an order. \$30/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 and help with fundraising for the kids.

ONGOING FUNDRAISERS

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!

Just download the app, use the code [Grab your reader's attention with a great quote from the document or use this space to emphasize a key point. To place this text box anywhere on the page, just drag it.]

- **K2TQ9X** and start shopping!

The Grade 4-6 ski trip to Sunridge Ski Hill has been rescheduled to **Friday, March 15**. Updated permission forms will be sent out in early March. If you have any questions, contact our office at 780-998-2747.



Kindergarten Registration is Now Open!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2024? If so, it's now time to register for kindergarten. To register, simply complete the online registration form at <https://www.eips.ca/registration/kindergarten>

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 <https://www.southpointeschool.ca/>

EIPS Summer School: Registration opens March 15

Mark your calendars! Registration for EIPS Summer School opens March 15. For more information, see the [Summer School](#) page on Next Step's website.

Did you know?

Within EIPS, schools consistently offer a broad range of educational choices for students of varied backgrounds and interests—from specialized language and faith-based programs to advanced academic opportunities and competitive sports to specialized supports and continuing education. Through this, students are then able push their limits and find meaningful ways to contribute to and enhance their communities. Learn more about Division programs and services on the [EIPS website](#).

Complete the Alberta Education Assurance Survey

Once again, Alberta Education is surveying teachers, students, and families through its annual Alberta Education Assurance (AEA) Survey. The survey gathers feedback on the quality of education provided by school authorities and their schools, which they then use to help understand how they're doing and plan for the future.

Throughout February, Grades 4 & 7 students at SouthPointe School are completing the survey online at the school. Student participation is voluntary and completely anonymous. Students are assigned a random username and password to ensure survey responses aren't linked to any individual student. The survey doesn't take long to complete and is done within the school day during regular class time.

Additionally, parents and guardians of students in these grades are also asked to take a survey online. Alberta Education has mailed families information about the survey directly. As with the student and teacher survey, it's anonymous and asks questions about your school experiences. If you have a child in these grades, we encourage you to participate. The survey deadline is March 1, 2024.

Results from the AEA Survey are provided to Elk Island Public Schools each spring. The Division then uses the data to inform its four-year education plan, school education plans and strategies for continuous improvement. Each fall, the results are also shared with EIPS families and school communities in the Division's *Annual Education Results Report*.

RELATED INFORMATION

[AEA Survey: Information for parents and guardians](#)

[AEA Survey](#)

[Assurance and Accountability: Alberta's K-12 education system](#)

EIPS Annual Education Results Report

Every year, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) publishes an Annual Education Results Report, which outlines the Division's Four-Year Education Plan, opportunities for growth and how it's supporting students to achieve the best possible outcomes. Read through the most recent [EIPS Annual Education Results Report 2022-23](#) and discover how EIPS fosters learning environments for all students to learn, grow and thrive—and why it matters.

February 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](#): Discover how EIPS supports the growth and achievement of students who self-identify as First Nations, Métis or Inuit
- [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: 2024-27](#)

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

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
If you have questions please call
780.992.6267 or FCSSinfo@fortsask.ca



JOB FAIR



FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024
9:30 AM - 7:00 PM
9964 93 AVE
FORT SASKATCHEWAN

Are you an employer looking for people to join your team? Do you have current vacancies that you would like filled?

Join us for a day of networking, job opportunities, and career growth as we connect jobseekers with employers in the area.



**EIPS CAREER
PATHWAYS**

Career Pathways
Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS)
P 780.417.8114

www.eips.ca | [Twitter: eipspathways](https://twitter.com/eipspathways) | [Instagram: eipscareerpathways](https://www.instagram.com/eipscareerpathways)

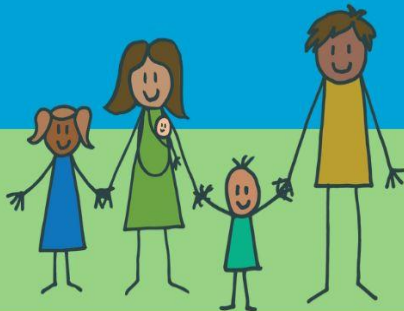


Families First Society
FORT SASKATCHEWAN

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

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.

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 or 780-992-6267



Confidence Courses

BABYSITTER TRAINING

Open to kids age 12 (or turning 12 within 6 months)

Gain the skills needed to take care of others.

**Fri, Feb 9: 9-4pm or
Mon, Mar 26: 9-4pm**

Heartland Alliance Church, Sh Pk

Cost \$75 GST included

Register online: confidencecourses.ca



Confidence Courses

HOME ALONE SAFETY

Designed for kids age 9+ new to staying home alone.

Thurs, Feb 8: 9-12pm or 1-4pm

Tues, Mar 26: 9-12pm or 1-4pm

Heartland Alliance Church, Sh Pk

Cost \$65 GST included

Register online: confidencecourses.ca