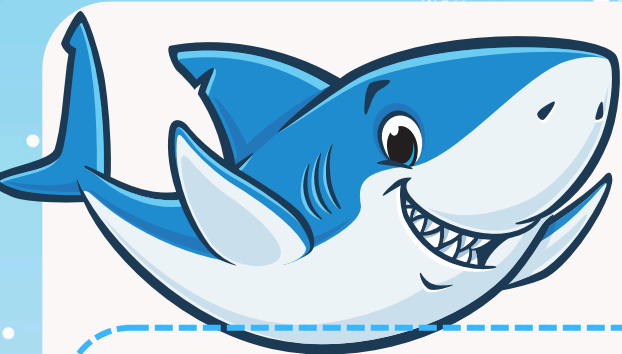


Shark Bites

NEWSLETTER



SouthPointe School

Principal's Message

I hope this message finds you well as we enter the second week of December. I want to take a moment to remind you that report cards were released last Friday and can be viewed on the PowerSchool Parent Portal. If you haven't had an opportunity to review your child's report card yet, I encourage you to do so. It's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments and engage in meaningful conversations about areas where they can continue to grow.

Our school's Holiday Food Drive is off to a great start! We are collecting new, unwrapped toys, non-perishable food items, and personal care items for our community. Please feel free to send in any donations with your students by next Friday, December 13th. You are also welcome to bring donations to the Winter Concert. We are grateful for your generosity and support of this important initiative. For those that supported our FASS Christmas Plant Fundraiser, don't forget to pick up your gorgeous plant this TUESDAY at the office between 2:30PM-3:30PM.

Ms. Yule, along with our dedicated staff and students, have been practicing hard for the Winter Concert, which will take place this coming Wednesday, December 11th. We will have both matinee and evening performances, and we look forward to sharing this festive event with you. More details can be found in this week's Shark Bites newsletter.

I wish everyone a wonderful weekend and look forward to seeing many of you at the Winter Concert next week!
Laurie Caines, Principal

NEXT WEEK

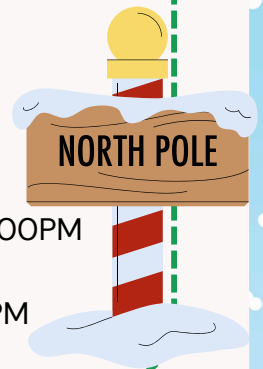
HOLIDAY FOOD & TOY DRIVE * DEC. 2-13



Monday (9)	Gingerbread House Decorating 
Tuesday (10)	Jr High Band Session 3:00-4:00PM FASS Christmas Plant Pick Up between 2:30PM-3:30PM 
Wednesday (11)	Hot Lunch for Grades 1-3 & M/W Kinder Winter Concert Matinee @ 12:30PM/1:15PM/2:00PM Evening @ 6:00PM/6:45PM/7:30PM 
Thursday (12)	Hot Lunch for Grades 4-6 & 11th Kinder Junior Girls Basketball Practice @ 3:00PM-4:15PM Junior Boys Basketball Practice @ 4:15PM-5:30PM Dungeons & Dragons @ 3:00-4:30PM
Friday (13)	Hot Lunch for Grades 7-9

Coming Up this Month

- December 4-18 Shark Island
- December 9-13 Class Gingerbread Decorating Contest
- December 10 FASS Christmas Plant Fundraiser Pick Up @ 2:30PM-3:30PM
- December 11 Christmas Concert Matinee @ 12:30PM/1:15PM/2:00PM
- December 11 Christmas Concert Evening @ 6:00PM/6:45PM/7:30PM
- December 11 Hot Lunch for Grades 1-3 and M/W Kindergarten
- December 12 Hot Lunch for Grades 4-6 and T/TH Kindergarten
- December 13 Hot Lunch for Grades 7-9
- December 16 Festive Headwear (Hats, Headbands)
- December 16 SYNC/Coding/Multicultural Session (Gr. 5 Only)
- December 17 Festive Socks Day
- December 18 Holiday Sweater Day
- December 18 Mon/Wed Henderson A Kindergarten Winter Concert @ 1:00PM
- December 19 Red & Green Day
- December 19 Tues/Thur Salkeld B Kindergarten Winter Concert @ 1:00PM
- December 20 Pyjama Day



School Start & End Times

- 8:10AM - School Begins
- 11:08AM to 11:48AM - Lunch
- 2:46PM - School Dismissed
- (1:46PM - School Dismissed on Early Dismissal Days)



Fee Waiver Application Deadline

If circumstances exist where you're unable to pay school or transportation fees, you can apply to have fees waived by submitting an Application for a Waiver of Fees. **The application deadline is Dec. 16, 2024.** If you're new to the Division, the deadline is the latter of Dec. 16, 2024, or 45 days after registration. 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 using Visa or MasterCard. All fees are due within 30 days of being posted.

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 and more.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines, visit www.eips.ca/schools/fees or <https://www.southpointeschool.ca/about/fees>.

Alternatively, contact Chantelle Grieve, Business Manager at SouthPointe School at 780-998-2747.



KINDERGARTEN PARENTS

Please check your mailbags for a letter with information about Kinder Winter Concerts.

December Hot Lunch

- Grades 1-3 and Mon/Wed K 11 Dec
- Grades 4-6 and Tues/Thur K 12 Dec
- Grades 7-9 13 Dec

To order next month's hot lunch, go to <https://spschool.hotlunches.net/admin/>
****Deadline to order is JANUARY 16****



Christmas at SouthPointe

SouthPointe School is excited to host our Grades 1 to 6 Winter Concert in person in the gym. With the growth of our school, we will be splitting the concert into three separate concerts as follows:

Wednesday, December 11

Matinee:

12:30PM Grades 1 & 2

1:15PM Grades 3 & 4 (with 2/30)

2:00PM Grades 5 & 6 (with 4/5E)

Evening:

6:00PM Grades 1 & 2

6:45PM Grades 3 & 4 (with 2/30)

7:30PM Grades 5 & 6 (with 4/5E)

Each concert will be about 20 minutes long.

Doors will be open 15 minutes prior to the concert's start time.

Admission: We have space to accommodate three audience members per family at each concert and request that families respect these seating limitations.

(Additional young children who will be sitting on laps can also be accommodated)

Arrival: Please use the bus lane doors (junior high entrance) located on SouthPointe Blvd and proceed to the gymnasium. Students will head to their homerooms upon arrival. **DO NOT park in the bus lanes for the matinee performance as the buses will be arriving to pick up students at the end of the day.**

What Students Wear: For all performances, students should wear something nice & festive. There is no required dress code but please remember students will be on stage and some will be playing instruments on the ground.

When to Show Up: For evening performances, **students should arrive 15 minutes early** for their performance and head to their homerooms upon arrival. If you have students in multiple age groups, there will be an intermission between the concerts to allow for the audience to change out.

After the Concert: If you have students in multiple age groups, they will remain in their classroom for the evening. **Please pick up students from their classrooms at the end of the performance.**



JR HIGH BAND CONCERT

SouthPointe Junior High Band is excited to join with the Fort Saskatchewan Community Band again for a Christmas Concert on Thursday, December 19. The concert will be from 6:30PM to 7:30PM at the hall of the Royal Canadian Legion.

This concert is open to the public and a very festive night.

Everyone is welcome to come out and support the band!

Dress Up Days

- December 16 Festive Dress Up Day (Hats, Headbands)
- December 17 Festive Socks Dress Up Day
- December 18 Holiday Sweater Dress Up Day
- December 19 Red & Green Dress Up Day
- December 20 Pyjama Day



SHARKS ATHLETICS

Monday (9)

Gym Closed for Winter Concert

Tuesday (10)

Gym Closed for Winter Concert

Wednesday (11)

Gym Closed for Winter Concert

THURSDAY (12)

Junior Girls Basketball Practice @ 3:00-4:15PM

Junior Boys Basketball Practice @ 4:15-5:30PM

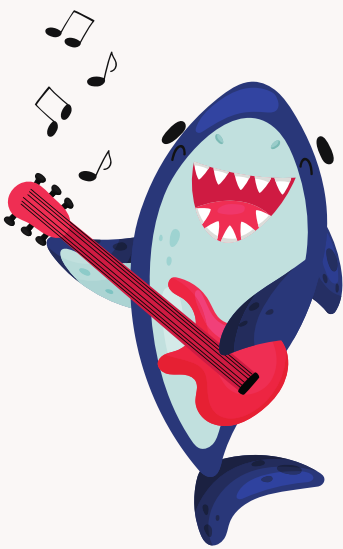
FRIDAY (13)



IT'S BASKETBALL SEASON...

Junior Girls Practice on
Thursday, December 12 at
3:00PM-4:15PM

Junior Boys Practice on
Thursday, December 12 at
4:15PM-5:30PM



MUSIC

Junior High Band: **TUESDAYS** after school until 4:00PM

*Last one for 2024 is Dec. 17

Gr 4-6 Choir, Gr. 6 Hand Chime Club & Jr High Band will start back up the week of January 13-17 after the Christmas Break.

You're Invited

SPS' JUNIOR HIGH BAND INVITES YOU TO
A MAGICAL EVENING OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC
ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19 FROM
6:30PM-7:30PM AT THE LEGION



Counsellor's Corner...

Early Warning Signs of Dysregulation



Recognizing Dysregulation:

Holiday seasons, school breaks, and significant calendar items can increase the stress in adults, teens, and children. We all have signs that we are starting to get a little dysregulated.

Some Regulation Ideas:

- Remember the little things: reading Christmas stories, watching a family movie together, baking goodies, and know that it is okay to say no to a commitment
- Provide routines because kids (and adults) thrive on consistency
- Involve your kids in planning activities and focusing on 3-5 traditions
- Meltdowns are normal and will happen, so look to co-regulate

Steps for Offering Co-Regulation

Using your presence and calm to reset your child's distressed brain

- 1 **Regulate yourself**
- 2 **Get close**
- 3 **Make eye contact**
- 4 **Listen**
- 5 **Be curious & seek to understand**
- 6 **Show empathy**
- 7 **Listen again**
- 8 **Offer warm affection (with consent)**

Image taken from: <https://insstituteofchildpsychology.com/holiday-meltdowns/>

Holiday self-care may have you thinking of balsam scented candles and cozy socks but there's more to it than that!

Don't Overcommit

You don't have to say yes to everything. Choose what matters and let the rest go, or else you'll be driving around everywhere and driving yourself crazy!

Set Boundaries

Set clear boundaries on your family's lifestyle when you have extended family visiting. You can be loving and firm at the same time. Schedule in some margin. Allow for buffers in your schedule so you can take a break.

Always feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns: Blake.Krause@eips.ca

December 2024

kickstand
Fort Saskatchewan

Operated by:

THE BRIDGE
WELLNESS HUB FOR YOUTH

The Bridge Wellness Hub for Youth

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Appointments 11-7 pm	3 ADHD Support Group 6-7:30pm Youth Employment Workshop 4:30-6pm Appointments 3-7pm	4 Holiday Decorations with Mitch NGT Youth Panel 4:30-5:30pm Nurse Clinic 2-6pm Psychologists by appointment	5 Dungeons & Dragons 5:00-7:45pm Youth Outreach Worker 2-7:45pm	6
9 Appointments 11-7 pm	10 Youth Employment Workshop 4:30-6pm Appointments 3-7pm	11 Sugar cookies & Karaoke Night December birthdays night Nurse Clinic 2-6pm Psychologists by appointment	12 Hot chocolate bar and Holiday movies! Youth Outreach Worker 2-7:45pm 	13
16 Appointments 11-7 pm	17 ADHD Support Group 6-7:30pm Youth Employment Workshop 4:30-6pm Appointments 3-7pm	18 Holiday Celebration & Dinner 4:30-7:45pm Nurse Clinic 2-6pm Psychologists by appointment	19 Dungeons & Dragons 5:00-7:45pm Youth Outreach Worker 2-7:45pm	20
23 Appointments 11-7 pm	24 We are Closed! Happy Holidays! 	25 We are Closed! Happy Holidays! 	26 We are Closed! Happy Holidays! 	27 rainbowALLIANCE Rainbow Alliance 6-8pm
30 Appointments 11-7 pm				

Contact Information

780-589-0224
info@thebridgewhy.com
 Linktree: @thebridgewellnesshubforyouth

Ages 11+ All Welcome

Youth drop-in nights are free to all youth ages 11-25.

Hours of Operation

We are open Monday 11-7 pm and Tuesday 3-7 pm for appointments. On Wednesday and Thursday we have youth drop-in nights from 2- 7:45 pm.

What's Happening AROUND SOUTHPOINTE...



THANK YOU SO MUCH to our School Council & Families for generously gifting our teachers with Christmas stockings filled with items from their wish lists during the month of December. Your kindness brings joy to our staff and helps create a festive spirit at SouthPointe. We truly appreciate your thoughtful support this holiday season!



SHARK Island



SouthPointe is excited to have SHARK ISLAND Back this December!

It's a reverse draw style competition with each class entered and the remaining 3 classes on the Island will get an Ice Cream treat the last week of school! Watch the bulletin board in front of the office to see where the sharks are!

Christmas Plant Pick Up



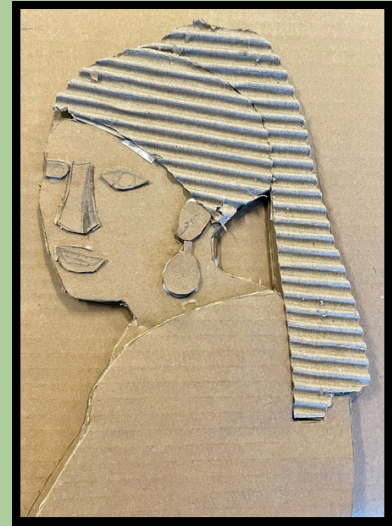
Thursday, December 10
between 2:30PM-3:30PM
at the office





What's Happening

AROUND SOUTHPOINTE...



Mrs. Dallyn's Creative Design 8 Students finished up their Cardboard Relief Scenes this week. The students found an image then created it into a layered cardboard art piece. They look so great!

LEGO



We are reaching out to our wonderful parent community for donations of new LEGO sets to have in the office. These sets will be used to support our students in a variety of ways. If you have any LEGO sets you are willing to donate, please drop them off at the school office any time. Your generosity will make a meaningful impact on our students' learning experiences.



Holiday



FOOD DRIVE



Holiday Food Drive will take place between **Monday, December 2** and **Friday, December 13**.

Southpointe School is collecting for the Food Bank. We'll gratefully accept any unwrapped toy, non-perishable food, or personal care items you can donate. We will collect donations during the matinee and evening Christmas Winter Concert Performance as well. Your generosity is much appreciated!

All non-perishable food and toiletries are gratefully accepted but the following is a list of the most urgently needed items.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nut-free school snacks (granola bars, fruit cups)• Jam – small jars• Instant oatmeal• Sugar• Coffee• Ready-to-eat soup• Pasta Sauce | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 L Juice• Rice• Kraft Dinner• Canned meat (ham, chicken, turkey)• Mr. Noodle or ramen noodle• Cookies |
|---|---|

Thank you for your generous support of our community!

FASS/School Council Info

Grab your BEAR TRACKS (Ice Melt)

FASS has a few pails of Bear Tracks left to sell for \$30 each.

To purchase, text: 403-612-9580

Canteen Coordinator Needed!

FASS is looking for a Canteen Coordinator; if you are interested, email the FASS president at president.fass@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Thank you for your continued support and for making a positive impact in our community! If you have questions about the available positions or want to learn more about how you can contribute, please email us at president.fass@gmail.com



CHRISTMAS
PLANT PICK UP
Tuesday,
December 10
between
2:30PM-3:30PM
at the office

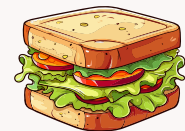
POPCORN DAY!



***For ALL SCHOOL**
Friday, December 20
\$1 per bag



HOT LUNCH



To order hot lunches, we use the spschool.hotlunches.net website. Parents must create an account and add their children. **All parents must go in and select their child's new teacher for this year.** To pay for your order the website uses PayPal. There is an option to check out as a guest through PayPal if you do not have an account. **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 and let them know. No refunds will be given if a student is absent on the day of their hot lunch.

If you need to cancel or change an order, you must do so before the deadline. A refund will be processed as a credit on your account to be used for future hot lunch orders.

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.

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.

December's Hot Lunch is from Canadian Brewhouse

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Board of Trustees

I wish to extend warm holiday wishes to all students, staff and families on behalf of the Elk Island Public Schools Board of Trustees.

As busy as we know this time can be, it's nice to take a moment to look back with gratitude on the past year. We are thankful for the incredible parents and caregivers in the communities we serve, who consistently step up to support both students and educators—day in and day out.

We appreciate our staff members, in schools and at Central Administration, for their commitment to excellence in learning. And we celebrate students across the Division, who work so hard and make us proud.

We hope you enjoy all the wonderful concerts, shows and festivities happening at your school, and that you get a chance for rest and reflection during the break. To all of you—have a joyous holiday season, and a healthy and happy New Year.

We look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Jan. 6, 2025.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays,

Cathy Allen EIPS Board Chair

Spread the Word: EIPS is Hiring!

Do you know someone who may be interested in part-time, flexible work as a substitute educational assistant or substitute teacher in the specialty areas of French Immersion or CTS/CTF? Elk Island Public Schools is hiring.

Spread the word!

Substitute teaching and non-teaching staff are critical to filling planning and unexpected vacancies when Division staff are away. Substitutes are needed to fill various positions at all school locations until the end of the school year.

Upcoming application deadlines are December 12 and 13. If you know someone who'd be great in this role, encourage them to apply today.

Share Your Thoughts on Budget Planning for 2025-26

Alberta Education allocates funds to school boards to fulfill their delegated responsibilities of providing education programs for students in kindergarten to Grade 12. As part of Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) commitment to stakeholder engagement and to continue allocating resources according to local priorities, the Division conducts an annual budget planning survey to seek input from staff, families Grade 12 students and community partners.

The survey is voluntary, anonymous and takes about five to 10 minutes to complete. The survey questions suggest possible budget areas for EIPS to focus its resources, which align with the Division's current Four-Year Education Plan. If you believe there are other areas where the Division should concentrate its resources, you can also indicate what these are. EIPS will consider all budget planning input to guide future decision-making.

COMPLETE THE SURVEY NOW

Survey closes Dec 18, 2024 Grade 12 students will complete the survey at school. Thank you for sharing your input to help inform Division planning.

Community RESOURCES

December Newsletter

What is happening at The Bridge?

Happy holidays! With the holiday season finally here, check out the cozy activities The Bridge Wellness Hub for Youth has planned for the month!

Upcoming Events

- Making holiday decorations: Dec 4
- Sugar cookies & karaoke night: Dec 11
- Hot cocoa & holiday movies: Dec 12
- Holiday celebration & dinner: Dec 18
- Dungeons and Dragons: Dec 5, 19
- Closed** Winter Break: Dec 24th - 26th

Hours

- Monday:** Appointments 11am - 7pm
- Tuesday:** Appointments 3pm-7pm
- Wednesday:** drop in 2-7:45pm
- Nurse Clinic Wed 2-6pm
- Thursday:** drop in 2-7:45pm
- Youth Outreach Worker 2-7:45pm



Operated by:



Tutoring at The Bridge

Struggling in a class or looking for extra guidance/support?

We have an on-site tutor who does it all! Email info@thebridgewhy.com to book a free one-on-one tutor session today! (for youth ages 11-25)

Resource Spotlight

Kickstand Connect

A free, confidential virtual clinic that can connect people ages 11-25 to mental health and substance use counselling, peer support, employment services and register for free workshops and support groups!

scan to take a look at the website!



Survey: Win a \$25 gift card!

Give feedback on community mental health supports for youth



JAYME-LEE K-12 Individual Tutoring

In-person at the Bridge - Kickstand Fort Sask. Book your first session today!



Free tutoring available

It's never too late to ask for help!



Personalized Learning

- Available for All Youth Ages 11-25
- Experienced & Qualified Tutor
- Tutors All Subjects and Grades
- Experience working with students with learning disabilities

Location: 10307 100 Ave Suite #2, Fort Saskatchewan, AB T8L 1Y9



For More Information
780-589-0224

programcoordinator@thebridgewhy.com



CRAM-A-THON

January 10, 2025

Fort Saskatchewan

Public Library

6:00PM - 10:00PM

For Student Studiers ONLY; Grade 7-12

- Drop-in event
- snacks & drinks!
- quiet study spaces
- tutors available
- study with friends or by yourself!

