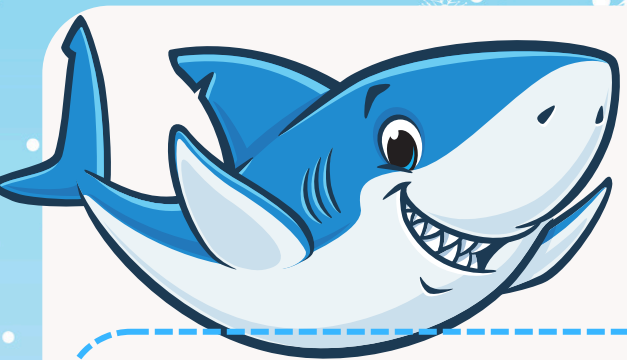


# Shark Bites

# NEWSLETTER



SouthPointe School

## Principal's Message

It's hard to believe that winter break is already upon us! As we wrap up this busy year, I would like to take a moment to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the Kindergarten students and staff for sharing their winter spirit during their wonderful concerts. We truly appreciate the support from the families who were able to join us in celebrating the season.

On behalf of the staff at SouthPointe School, we hope everyone has the opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends over the holidays. We are so grateful for the support and dedication of our community, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back when classes resume on January 6.

A big thank you to all our students and staff for participating in this week's festive themed dress-up days – your creativity and holiday spirit were a joy to see! We also want to express our appreciation to the School Council and FASS for organizing the popcorn day. Also, thank you to FASS for providing a McDonald's coupon for every student to get a treat! These events truly added to the excitement of the season.

Wishing everyone a peaceful and joyful holiday season! We look forward to seeing you in the New Year. Laurie Caines, Principal

## NEXT WEEK



Monday (23)	<b>Winter Break!</b>  Christmas Eve  The Staff of SouthPointe School would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Tuesday (24)	
Wednesday (25)	
Thursday (26)	
Friday (27)	

## Coming Up this Month

December 20	Last Day of School Before Christmas Break
December 24	Christmas Eve
December 25	Christmas Day
December 31	New Year's Eve
January 1	New Year's Day
January 6	First Day Back to School!
January 8	Early Dismissal @ 1:46PM
January 15	Numeracy Night
January 16	Deadline to Order Hot Lunch
January 22	Hot Lunch for Grades 1-3 & Mon/Wed Kinder
January 22	School Council & FASS Meeting @ 4:00PM
January 23	Hot Lunch for Grades 4-6 & Tues/Thurs Kinder
January 24	Twin Dress Up Day
January 24	Hot Lunch for Grades 7-9
January 27	Family Literacy Day
January 29	No School! *Professional Learning Day



# January

# 8



## 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)



## EIPS Annual Education Results Report 2023-24: Now available!



EIPS' Annual Education Results Report 2023-24 is now available online. The report details 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.

A brief overview of the report is also available.

# THANK YOU!

Thank you so much to our **FASS parents** for organizing and serving at our **Popcorn Day!** Staff & Students loved the **treat!**



## January Hot Lunch

Grades 1-3 and Mon/Wed K	22 Jan
Grades 4-6 and Tues/Thur K	23 Jan
Grades 7-9	24 Jan

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



# JANUARY

## SHARKS ATHLETICS

**Monday (6)**

Basketball Practices to be determined as soon as the league schedule is released

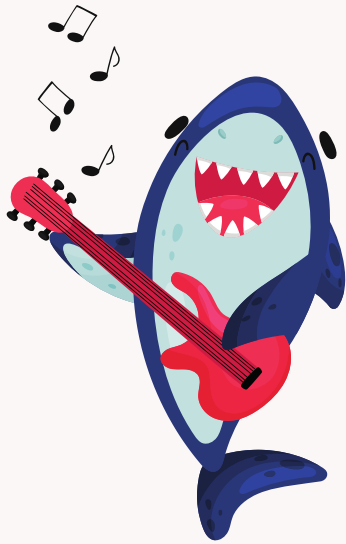
**Tuesday (7)**

**Wednesday (8)**

**Thursday (9)**

**Friday (10)**

Have fun staying active over the Winter Break!



# MUSIC

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.



## DID YOU KNOW?

**If your child misses just TWO DAYS a month for any reason for TEN of their school years, they'll have missed the equivalent of one entire year of school.**

**Students who frequently miss school, even as early as kindergarten, are also more likely to have difficulty in school, at post-secondary and in their career. As every family has unique circumstances, EIPS uses a multi-tiered approach to re-engage students with chronic absenteeism. In addition, the Division promotes strategies to support and encourage regular attendance for all students. If you're concerned about consistent student attendance for your child or youth, contact the school for support. An informative video is also available.**



# Counsellor's Corner...

## YOU'RE INVITED



Wes Hosford invites you to a workshop on Digital Wellness on January 30th in partnership with the Strathcona Family Resource Network. Learn how to help your teen with the social & technological pressures they face in the world today. Together we will go through research-based ways we can support teens when they are feeling the pressure of their digital lives. Issues addressed include interacting with strangers online, understanding their digital identity, and healthy relationships. The content of this workshop is geared for parents and caregivers with children between 9-14 years of age.

**WHEN: THURSDAY, JANUARY 30 @ 6:00PM-7:30PM**

**WHERE: WES HOSFORD SCHOOL**

**WHO FOR: PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF YOUTH AGES 9 - 14 YEARS**

For more info click [HERE](#)

# December 2024

**kickstand**  
Fort Saskatchewan

Operated by:

**THE BRIDGE**  
WELLNESS HUB FOR YOUTH

## The Bridge Wellness Hub for Youth

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

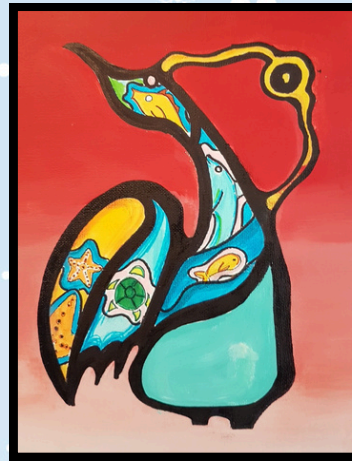
**Hours of Operation**  
 We are open Monday 11-7 pm and Tuesday 3-7 pm for appointments. On Wednesday and Thursday we have youth drop-in nights from 2- 7:45 pm.

# What's Happening AROUND SOUTHPOINTE...

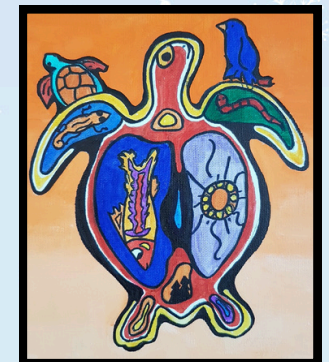
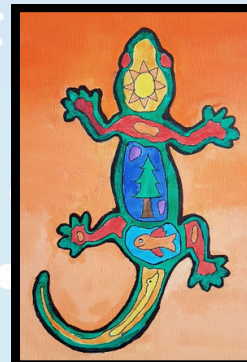
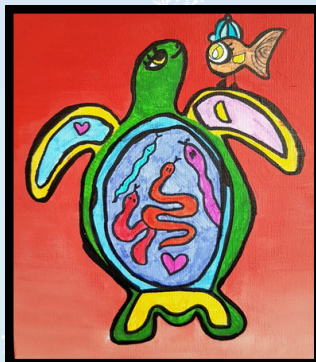
Thank you SouthPointe families for supporting our local Food Bank! Our bins were overflowing and the Food Bank was so grateful for how much our school collected for those in need this Christmas season.



**MS. LOUMA'S ART  
7 CLASS CREATED  
THESE GORGEOUS  
ART PIECES  
INSPIRED BY MARK  
ANTHONY  
JACOBSON - A BC  
WOODLAND ARTIST.  
THANK YOU ART 7  
FOR SHARING YOUR  
GORGEOUS ART  
WORK WITH US!**



**THESE ARE  
ABSOLUTELY  
BEAUTIFUL!**



# What's Happening AROUND SOUTHPOINTE...

THANK  
YOU!

# LEGO



Thank you SO much to our families that generously donated unopened LEGO sets to our school. Your generosity will make a meaningful impact on our students' learning experiences. You guys are amazing! Mr. G would gladly accept more sets in the New Year too!



Mr. Giesbrecht enjoyed the Grinch faces that 6H created in Art class.



SYNC had a wonderful time creating and painting the cutest gnomes with their senior friends. Thank you Mr. Nyznyk for cutting out & sanding all the triangles for the gnomes and to the Royal Canadian Legion Ladies Auxillary for paying for all the craft supplies and yummy cookies!



# FASS/School Council Info

**Tis the Season!**

**Grab your BEAR TRACKS (Ice Melt)**

FASS has more buckets of Bear Tracks to sell for \$30 each.

To purchase, text: 403-612-9580



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Canteen Coordinator Needed!**

FASS is looking for a Canteen Coordinator; if you are interested, email the FASS president at [president.fass@gmail.com](mailto:president.fass@gmail.com)

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](mailto:president.fass@gmail.com)

Next School Council Meeting is on January 22 at 4:00PM in the Large Flex Space. ALL Parents & Caregivers are invited to come out!



## HOT LUNCH

**Hot Lunch is OPEN for January, February & March!**

To order hot lunches, we use the [spschool.hotlunches.net](http://spschool.hotlunches.net) website.

**Deadline to order for JANUARY is Jan. 16th at NOON.**

**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 **before 10:30AM** and let them know. No refunds will be given if a student is absent on the day of their hot lunch.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:spschoolhotlunch@gmail.com).

## 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

## Inclement Weather

With the winter season in full effect, we have a few reminders for families:

- Ensure students have clothing appropriate for expected weather conditions
  - If weather conditions are bad enough to impact student transportation, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) advises families directly, as well as posting on social media and [eips.ca](http://eips.ca) as early as possible.
  - Decisions regarding bus cancellations are guided by an EIPS administrative procedure that states, "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
- For more information, contact EIPS Student Transportation at 780-417-8151.

## Division High School Information Session

To help you make an informed decision about senior high, EIPS is hosting a Division high school information night. All EIPS students in grades 8 and 9 and their families are invited to attend to learn more about the senior high program. The session will provide 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.

Event Details:

Date: Jan. 13, 2025

Time: 6:00PM to 8:00PM

Location: The Park Church (1 Brower Drive, Sherwood Park)



# News from EIPS

## **Junior High Honors Program: 2025-26 Applications**

Is your child considering the Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Junior High Honors program for the coming school year? The program is designed for students in grades 8 and 9 with high achievement in their core courses and who enjoy a challenging academic environment.

**Applications for the 2025-26 EIPS Junior High Honors program are open Jan. 13-26, 2025.**

When applications open, the parent/guardian on file in PowerSchool identified as the Permission Click contact for all current grades 7 and 8 students will receive an email through Permission Click outlining the application process for the program—including a link to an application form. Refer to the EIPS Junior High Honors program information page for details about specific courses within the program and eligibility requirements.

## **Kindergarten Registration Starts Soon!**

Is your child turning five on or before **Dec. 31, 2025**? If so, it's almost time to register for kindergarten.

**Kindergarten registration opens for the 2025-26 school year on Feb. 1, 2025.** 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's kindergarten program is available at**

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

## *Returning Student Registration for 2025-26*

The Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) returning student registration process for 2025-26 takes place Feb. 10-24, 2025. Through the online form, all families will confirm the school and program their child will attend next year or advise the Division if they aren't returning. For students who want to attend a non-designated school next year, these requests must be submitted through the returning student registration process—acceptance is based on available space.

On February 10, the parent/guardian on file in PowerSchool identified as the Permission Click contact for each pre-kindergarten to Grade 11 student will receive an email through Permission Click with a link to the form. If your family hasn't received any Permission Click forms this school year, contact the school office so we can investigate any technical issues before registration season.

# 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](mailto: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

Free tutoring available

It's never too late to ask for help!

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



### 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](mailto: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!

