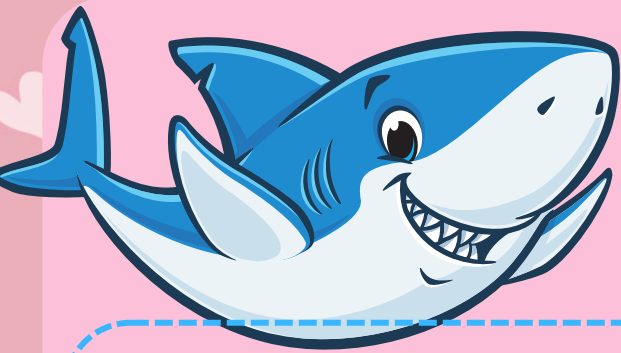


Shark Bites

NEWSLETTER



SouthPointe School

Principal's Message

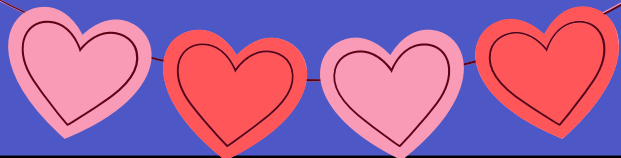
We have an exciting month ahead, but before we dive in, a quick reminder: the weather is expected to get quite cold next week with the windchill, so please be sure to send students to school bundled up for the weather. **When the weather reaches -22 degrees with the windchill, we have indoor recesses.** There will be **no school this Thursday and Friday due to North Central Teachers Convention**; enjoy the extra time with your families.

Next Monday, February 10, from 5:00 – 6:00 pm, we're kicking off the week with our **Junior High Open House**. It's a fantastic chance for grade 6 parents to connect with staff and learn more about what's happening at the junior high level. We welcome students and their families to join to learn about Junior High programming.

Then, don't miss our **Family Valentine's Dance on Friday, February 14th from 6-8 PM!** Our School Council & FASS will be selling treats, hotdogs, glow sticks and more at the canteen that night. There will also be a Silent Auction with great items to bid on (bring cash!) and of course, lots of dancing! Finally, Red and Pink Dress Up Day is on Friday, February 14th, so get creative with your outfits and join in the fun!

Looking forward to a fantastic week ahead despite the chilly weather and wishing you all a warm and wonderful February! Laurie Caines, Principal

NEXT WEEK



Monday (10)	Recorder Club @ First Recess Jr Boys Basketball Practice @ 3:00-4:15PM Sr Boys Basketball Practice @ 4:15-5:30PM SPS Junior High Open House @ 5:00-6:00PM
Tuesday (11)	Choir @ Lunch Recess Jr High Band @ 3:00-4:00PM Jr Girls Basketball Practice @ 3:00-4:15PM Sr Boys Basketball Game @ 4:00PM @ FSC Sr Girls Basketball Practice @ 4:15-5:00PM
Wednesday (12)	Recorder Club @ First Recess Jr Girls Basketball Practice @ Lunch Sr Girls Basketball Practice @ 3:00-4:15PM Jr Boys Basketball Practice @ 4:15-5:00PM
Thursday (13)	Gr 6 Hand Chimes @ Lunch Recess Sr Girls Basketball Game @ 4:00PM @ SAB Jr Boys Basketball Game @ 4:00PM @ SPS vs LAM Jr Girls Basketball Game @ 5:15PM @ SPS vs LAM
Friday (14)	Red & Pink Dress Up Day Family Valentine's Day Dance @ 6:00-8:00PM

HAPPY
Valentines
DAY

FEBRUARY

Coming Up this Month

February 9-15	Random Acts of Kindness Week
February 10	Returning Student Registration Opens
February 10	SPS Junior High Open House @ 5:00PM
February 14	Red & Pink Dress Up Day
February 14	Family Valentine's Day Dance @ 6:00PM
February 17	NO SCHOOL! (Family Day)
February 19	School Council/FASS Meeting @ 4:00PM
February 20	Deadline to Order February Hot Lunch
February 24	Returning Student Registration Closes
February 26	Pink Shirt Day
February 26	Hot Lunch for Grades 1-3 and Mon/Wed Kindergarten
February 27	Gr 4-6 Ski Trip
February 27	*No Hot Lunch Due to Ski Trip
February 28	Gr 7-9 Hot Lunch
March 3-8	Fort Saskatchewan Music Festival
March 5	Early Dismissal



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 Summer School

Registration opens March 17

Mark your calendars! Registration for EIPS Summer School opens March 17. For more information, see the Summer School page on Next Step's website.



Note:

Grades 4-6 & T/TH Kinder Hot Lunch has been cancelled due to the Gr 4-6 Ski Trip. All orders will be credited back to your account.

February Hot Lunch

Grades 1-3 and Mon/Wed K	26 Feb
Grades 4-6 and Tues/Thur K	CANCELLED
Grades 7-9	28 Feb

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



SHARKS ATHLETICS

Monday (10)

Jr Boys Basketball Practice @ 3:00-4:15PM
Sr Boys Basketball Practice @ 4:15-5:30PM

Tuesday (11)

Jr Girls Basketball Practice @ 3:00-4:15PM
Sr Boys Basketball Game @ 4:00PM @ FSC
Sr Girls Basketball Practice @ 4:15-5:00PM

Wednesday (12)

Jr Girls Basketball Practice @ Lunch
Sr Girls Basketball Practice @ 3:00-4:15PM
Jr Boys Basketball Practice @ 4:15-5:00PM

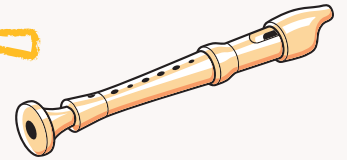
THURSDAY (13)

Sr Girls Basketball Game @ 4:00PM @ SAB
Jr Boys Basketball Game @ 4:00PM @ SPS vs LAM
Jr Girls Basketball Game @ 5:15PM @ SPS vs LAM

FRIDAY (14)



MUSIC



Gr 4-6 Recorder Club on Mondays & Wednesdays at First Recess

Gr 4-6 Choir on Tuesdays at Lunch Recess

Gr. 6 Hand Chime Club on Thursdays at Lunch Recess

Jr High Band on Tuesdays from 3:00-4:00PM

Fort Saskatchewan's Music Festival is coming up on March 3-8

DID YOU KNOW?

The next municipal election is on Oct. 20, 2025—an important component of this is the election of school trustees. Trustees are elected representatives who are knowledgeable about the communities they serve, and are accountable to students, families, staff and community members of a school division. Once sworn in, these individuals work diligently to promote and advocate for a strong public education system. [Learn more](#)

Counsellor's Corner...

February is Black History Month

Each February, people across Canada participate in Black History Month events and celebrations that honour the legacy and contributions of Black people in Canada and their communities.

The 2025 theme for Black History Month is: “Black Legacy and Leadership: Celebrating Canadian History and Uplifting Future Generations.”

This theme acknowledges the diversity of Black Canadians, the importance of Black leadership and the legacy being built for future generations. Black communities are diverse at many levels. Those with a long history in this country have established a legacy for the newer communities. The theme underscores that Black Canadians have a rightful place in the nation's narrative, with over 400 years of historical presence on these Indigenous lands, deserving acknowledgment and celebration.

We invite all Canadians to learn more about Black Canadian communities, and how they continue to help shape Canada.

Recognizing Black History Month in Canada

In 1978, the Ontario Black History Society (OBHS) was established. Its founders, including Dr. Daniel G. Hill and Wilson O. Brooks, presented a petition to the City of Toronto to have February formally proclaimed as Black History Month. In 1979, the first-ever Canadian proclamation was issued by Toronto. The first Black History Month in Nova Scotia was observed in 1988 and later renamed African Heritage Month in 1996.

In 1993, the OBHS successfully filed a petition in Ontario to proclaim February as Black History Month. Following that success, Rosemary Sadlier, president of the OBHS, introduced the idea of having Black History Month recognized across Canada to the Honourable Jean Augustine, the first Black Canadian woman elected to Parliament. In December 1995, the House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month in Canada following a motion introduced by Dr. Augustine. The House of Commons carried the motion unanimously.

In February 2008, Senator Donald Oliver, the first Black man appointed to the Senate, introduced the **Motion to Recognize Contributions of Black Canadians and February as Black History Month**. It received unanimous approval and was adopted on March 4, 2008. The adoption of this motion completed Canada's parliamentary position on Black History Month.

(Courtesy of <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/black-history-month>)

Events Around the Community:

Launch Celebration - February 2 @ Dow Centennial Lion's Mane Room @ 4:00PM to 6:00PM

Stories, Riddles, & Family Connections - February 16 @ West Rivers Edge @ 5:00PM to 7:00PM

African Drumming @ Calypso Singing Workshop - February 23 @ West River's Edge @ 5:30PM to 7:30PM



What's Happening AROUND SOUTHPOINTE...

Grades 4-6 Ski Trip!

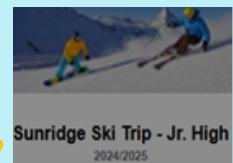


February 27th
@ Sunridge

Sunridge Ski Trip Grades 4-6	Total cost
Lift ticket, lesson, rentals and bus	\$52.00
Lift Ticket, lesson, bus (own equipment and helmet)	\$39.00
Season Passholder - discounted lift ticket, lesson, rentals and bus	\$42.00
Season Passholder - discounted lift ticket, lesson and bus (own equipment and helmet)	\$29.00

If your Grade 4-6 student would like to participate on the Ski Trip, please do the following:

- Fill out the Grade 4-6 Sunridge Ski Trip Permission Form
- Log on to the PowerSchool Parent Portal and click on this icon:
- Add it to your cart and enter your payment method
- Don't forget to press SUBMIT



**Deadline to Submit Payment & Permission Form
is February 25**

What's Happening AROUND SOUTHPOINTE...

Grades 7-9 Ski Trip RESCHEDULED!

March 17th
@ Sunridge

More
information to
come



Please Help the Office Out...

SouthPointe Families, if you could please take a moment this week to go through your PowerSchool (<https://powerschool.eips.ca/public/home.html>)

contacts and ensure the following:

- Address is up to date
- Email & Cell is current
- Emergency contact is current and lives locally
(this is who we call to pick up the student when they are sick and we are unable to get a hold of parents)

What's Happening AROUND SOUTHPOINTE...

We're excited to share that United Way is offering the opportunity to participate in the 'Blessing Bags' initiative at SouthPointe School once again this year! Let's join forces to make this initiative a success and showcase the generosity and caring spirit of our school and community.

The Grade 6 Community Building Club and class 5B are collecting the following items:

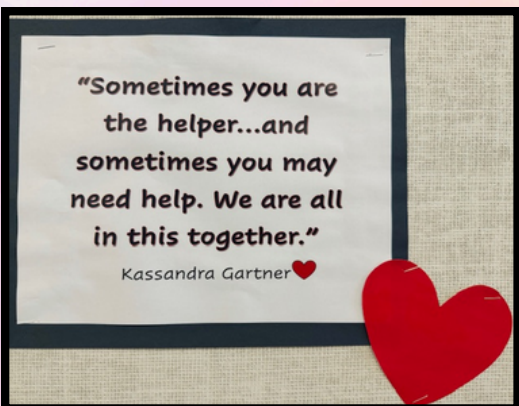
**Granola Bars - Lip Balm - Shampoo - Conditioner - Toothpaste - Toothbrushes
Candy - Gum - Socks - Small First Aid Kits**

Your contributions will make a real difference, and together, we can spread kindness and support those in need. Thank you for your support!

Grade 6 Community Building Club & Class 5B



**In Need Of:
Granola Bars
Lip Balm
Shampoo
Conditioner
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Candy
Gum
Socks
Small First Aid Kits**



What's Happening

AROUND SOUTHPOINTE...

FASS/School Council Info



Family Valentine's Day Dance!

Mark your calendars for **Friday, February 14th!** SouthPointe's School Council is excited to host a Family Valentine's Dance from **6:00PM - 8:00PM** in the gym, and everyone is invited!

This fun-filled evening is **FREE to attend**, so bring the whole family for an unforgettable night of music, dancing, & community spirit! A special request: We're encouraging families to bring non-perishable donation items for the Food Bank. As a thank-you, every family who donates will be entered into a prize draw!

Plus, **don't forget to bring cash** for the Canteen (hotdogs, ring pops, etc and glo-sticks!) and the **Silent Auction**—great items up for grabs!

We can't wait to see you there for a night of love, laughter, and giving back!

We will need volunteers to help with set-up, take down, Canteen and at the door. Please email: southpointeschool.schoolcouncil@gmail.com if you are able to help.



UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS

MARCH

Stay tuned for our upcoming Purdys Fundraiser coming in March! Orders will be due by March 30, with the order being submitted on March 31 for pickup locally on April 16.

A flyer will be sent home during the week of March 3 to provide further details.

The FASS is planning a **BOTTLE DRIVE** for later in April. Start saving your bottles, and we'll provide more details as the date approaches.

These fundraisers will help support the purchase of **40 Chromebooks** and a charging cart for our students, which will greatly enhance their learning experience.

APRIL

FASS/School Council Info

Please
register
your student
HERE

The more students
we have registered,
the more money we
can fundraise as
reading at school
counts too!



Prizes to be
won!

Our Read-A-Thon has begun and runs for the whole month of February! This fun event will help raise money for 40 new Chromebooks & a charging cart for our school!

Students will have the opportunity to win great prizes too!

Please make sure to register each child so that all their reading minutes, even those completed at school, are recorded.

Next School Council Meeting is on FEBRUARY 19 at 4:00PM in the Large Flex Space. ALL Parents & Caregivers are invited to come out!

HOT LUNCH

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

To order hot lunches, we use the spschool.hotlunches.net website.

Deadline to order for FEBRUARY is Feb. 20th 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.

**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.

**No Hot Lunch
on Feb. 27!
(due to ski trip)
All orders will be credited back to your
account**

News from EIPS

High School Open Houses

To help students and their families make informed decisions about next school year, senior high schools across the Division will host open houses throughout the upcoming registration season to share information about specific courses, programming and extracurricular opportunities available.

Plan to attend one or more of the open houses near you:

- Ardrossan Junior Senior High – February 10 @ 6-7PM
- Bev Facey Community High – February 11 at 6-8PM
- Fort Saskatchewan High – February 11 at 5-7PM
- Lamont High – February 12 at 6-7PM
- Next Step Fort Saskatchewan – January 15 at 6-7:30PM
- Next Step Sherwood Park – January 22 at 6-7:30PM
- Next Step Vegreville – February 13 at 6-7:30PM
- Salisbury Composite High – February 12 at 6-8PM
- Strathcona Christian Academy Secondary – January 20 at 6-7PM
- Vegreville Composite High – February 13 at 6-7:30PM



For those who were unable to attend the Division High School Information Session on January 13, a copy of the presentation and recording of the information is available on eips.ca

Kindergarten Registration NOW OPEN

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2025? If so, it's now time to register for kindergarten. To register, simply complete the online registration form at eips.ca/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.

New for the 2025-26 school year, EIPS is piloting three full-day, every-day kindergarten programs. If interested, families can register their children for these programs until February 28. Learn more

Additional information regarding SouthPointe's kindergarten program is available at <https://www.southpointeschool.ca/>



Community Resources

February 2025

The Bridge Wellness Hub for Youth



Fort Saskatchewan



Operated by: THE BRIDGE WELLNESS HUB FOR YOUTH

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>3</p> <p>Hours 11-7 pm Appointment Based</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Hours 3-7 pm Appointment Based</p>	<p>5</p> <p>PJs, Milkshakes, & Movies Night Drop-in Counselling 3-6pm Drop-in Nurse Clinic 2-6 pm Psychologists by appointment</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Making Dreamcatchers with Creating Hope Society Youth Outreach Worker 2-7:45pm Psychologists by appointment</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Drop-in Counselling 3-6pm Drop-in Tutoring 3:30-4:30pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Hours 3-7 pm Appointment Based</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Self-care & Valentines Day Crafts with Mitch 5:30-7:30pm Drop-in Nurse Clinic 2-6 pm Psychologists by appointment</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Dungeons & Dragons 5-7:45pm Youth Outreach Worker 2-7:45pm Psychologists by appointment</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Happy Family Day!</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Hours 3-7 pm Appointment Based</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Making Shrinky Dinks February Birthdays Night Drop-in Counselling 3-6pm Drop-in Nurse Clinic 2-6 pm Psychologists by appointment</p>	<p>20</p> <p>DIY Language Bookmark (International Mother Language Day) Youth Outreach Worker 2-7:45pm Psychologists by appointment</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Kickstand Qualitative Analysis Project: Youth Session 1-2:30pm Drop-in Counselling 3-6pm Drop-in Tutoring 3:30-4:30pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Kickstand Qualitative Analysis Project: Caregiver Session 5:30-7pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Bingo night Drop-in Nurse Clinic 2-6 pm Psychologists by appointment</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Dungeons & Dragons 5-7:45pm Youth Advisory Meeting @7pm Youth Outreach Worker 2-7:45pm Psychologists by appointment</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Rainbow Alliance 6-8 pm</p>

**Free Drop-in Activities,
Mental and Physical Health
Services for Youth Ages 11-25**

Hours of Operation
Wednesday: Drop-in 2-7:45pm
Thursday: Drop-in 2-7:45

Contact us
Phone: 780-589-0224
Email: info@thebridgewhy.com

**PJ's, Milkshakes &
Movies
5:30pm - 7:30pm**



**Nurse Clinic: 2pm-6pm
Drop-in counselling: 3pm-6pm**

FEB 5

**The Bridge - Kickstand Fort
Saskatchewan is having an event!**

**Join us to Enhance Youth Mental
Health Services in Alberta**

You need to :

- be a youth aged 11-25
- have used Kickstand in Fort Saskatchewan in the last 12 months

Why?

We want to hear your experiences and insights on the Kickstand hubs. You will discuss your experiences in a group with other youth. The group discussion will be guided by adults who are bringing their questions. The adults attending will be researchers from the University of Calgary.

**Join us on: Monday, February 24th, 1-2:30 pm
At: The Bridge - Kickstand Fort Saskatchewan
suite #2 10307 100 Ave**

If you come and participate on February 24 at 1-2:30pm you will get a gift card for \$25/hour redeemable at various vendors. There will be physical gift cards given for prizes on the day.

Let us know you are coming or if you have any questions by emailing: KickstandEval@ucalgary.ca



Are you a parent or caregiver to a youth who has used Kickstand in Fort Saskatchewan in the last 12 months?

**We are inviting you to join us to
Enhance Youth Mental Health
Services in Alberta**

Why?

We want to hear your experiences and insights on the Kickstand hubs. You will discuss your experiences in a group with other parents or caregivers of youth. The group discussion will be guided by researchers from the University of Calgary who hope to use that information to enhance mental health services in Alberta.



**Join us on: Tuesday, February 25th, 5:30-7 pm
At: Kickstand Fort Saskatchewan
Suite #2, 10307 100 AVE, Fort Saskatchewan, AB**

To show you that we appreciate your time and input you will receive a gift card at the rate of \$25/hour redeemable at various vendors. Please indicate a gift card preference when sending the RSVP.

**RSVP for the event by emailing:
KickstandEval@ucalgary.ca**



Drop-In Group Tutoring

Mondays 3:30PM - 4:30PM
In-person at the Bridge -
Kickstand Fort Saskatchewan



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



**Free tutoring!
It's never too
late to ask for
help!**



**Personalized
Learning**

- Available for all youth grades 5-12
- Experienced & qualified tutor who has experience working with students with learning differences

**For More Information
780-589-0224**

support@thebridgewhy.com

