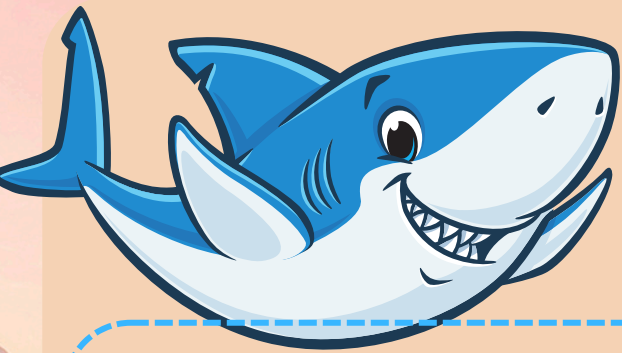


# Shark Bites NEWSLETTER



SouthPointe School

## Principal's Message

March has arrived, bringing a fresh energy to Fort Saskatchewan! We're excited for the month ahead, with playoffs underway for our junior high teams. Best of luck to all the teams in their upcoming games, and a HUGE thank you to our coaches for making this season a success!

A big shout-out to our parent community for organizing, preparing, and serving pancakes to over 740 students on Pancake Tuesday – it was a hit!

Our students have also been shining at the Music Festival this week, with performances from the band, hand chimes ensemble, recorder groups, and choir. Well done to all involved!

Please note there is **no school tomorrow (Friday, March 7)** due to a professional learning day for staff.

Also, don't forget our **School Council meeting** coming up next week on **Wednesday, March 12 at 4:00PM**. We'd love to see you there!

Second term **report cards** will be available on PowerSchool starting **Friday, March 14 after 3:00PM**. I encourage all families to review them carefully, as they provide valuable insights into student progress and areas for growth. This is a great opportunity for parents and caregivers to engage with their child's learning and discuss ways to continue supporting their success.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and I look forward to an exciting March! Laurie Caines, Principal

## NEXT WEEK

Spring  
**FORWARD!**  
THIS SUNDAY!



Monday (10)	Jr Boys & Girls Gold/Bronze Playoffs TBA Sr Boys & Girls Basketball Practices TBA Recorder Club @ First Recess
Tuesday (11)	Choir @ Lunch Recess Grade 6 & Jr High Band @ 3:00-3:45PM Sr Boys & Girls Gold/Bronze Basketball Playoffs TBA
Wednesday (12)	Gr 1-3 & M/W Kindergarten Hot Lunch Recorder Club @ First Recess School Council Meeting @ 4:00PM
Thursday (13)	Gr 4-6 & T/Th Kindergarten Hot Lunch Deadline to Submit Payment for Gr 7-9 Ski Trip Gr 6 Hand Chimes @ Lunch Recess
Friday (14)	Gr 7-9 Hot Lunch Year End Basketball Lunch/Awards Basketball Teams vs SPS Staff Games Report Cards Issued @ 3:00PM



# MARCH



## Coming Up this Month

- March 7 No School (Professional Learning Day)
- March 9 Daylight Saving Time Starts (Spring Ahead 1 Hour)
- March 12 Hot Lunch for Gr 1-3 and Mon/Wed Kindergarten
- March 12 School Council Meeting @ 4:00PM
- March 13 Hot Lunch for Gr 4-6 and Tues/Thur Kindergarten
- March 13 Deadline to Submit Payment for Gr 7-9 Ski Trip
- March 14 Hot Lunch for Gr 7-9
- March 14 Basketball Year End Awards & Lunch
- March 14 Report Cards Issued @ 3:00PM
- March 17 Wear Green Day (Happy St. Patrick's Day)
- March 17 EIPS Summer School Registration Opens
- March 18 P/T Interviews @ 4:00-7:00PM
- March 18 Feelin' Groovy Book Fair @ 4:00-7:00PM
- March 19 P/T Interviews @ 4:00-7:00PM
- March 19 Feelin' Groovy Book Fair @ 4:00-7:00PM
- March 20 Dress As Your Favorite Book Character



### 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:

Hot Lunch is early this month due to Spring Break



### March Hot Lunch

- ☀ Grades 1-3 and Mon/Wed K 12 Mar
- ☀ Grades 4-6 and Tues/Thur K 13 Mar
- ☀ Grades 7-9 14 Mar

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



Go Sharks!



## SHARKS ATHLETICS

**Monday (10)**

Jr Boys & Girls Gold/Bronze Playoffs TBA  
Sr Boys & Girls Basketball Practices TBA

**Tuesday (11)** Sr Boys & Girls Gold/Bronze Basketball Playoffs TBA

**Wednesday (12)**

**Thursday (13)**

**Friday (14)**

Year End Basketball Lunch/Awards  
Basketball Teams vs SPS Staff Games

## A Big Thank You to Our Basketball Coaches!

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our dedicated junior high basketball coaches for their hard work, commitment, and leadership throughout this season. Their time, energy, and passion for the game have made a positive impact on our athletes both on and off the court. Coaches, your guidance and support have helped our players grow, not just as basketball players, but as individuals. We appreciate everything you've done to make this season a memorable one! Thank you for your unwavering dedication to our team!



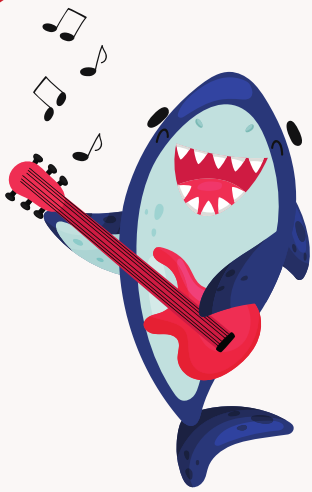
## DID YOU KNOW?

The colour of ice may be an indication of its strength. Clear blue ice is the strongest. White opaque is half as strong as blue ice. And, grey ice is unsafe—greyness indicates the presence of water.

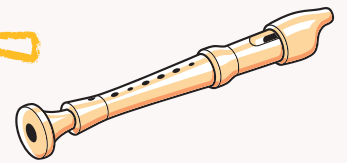
### Watch for Thin Ice!

Remember, be aware of thin ice this time of year. Depending on changing temperatures, ice can form and melt to varying degrees on outdoor bodies of water. Try to remind your child about the dangers of thin ice, obey all posted signs, take proper care and remain a safe distance from the ice.

For more information about ice safety, visit the [Canadian Red Cross](#).



# 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

Gr. 6 & Jr High Band on Tuesdays from 3:00-4:00PM

**Great job to all of our students who performed at the Fort Saskatchewan's Music Festival this week!**

## Night of

# MUSIC



## April 16 @ 6:00PM

SouthPointe School's annual Night of Music will be held on Wednesday, April 16 at 6:00 pm in the SouthPointe Gym. This will be the wrap up performance for extracurricular groups and feature performances by the SouthPointe Choir, Hand Chimes, Recorders, and Bands.

### GRADE 6 BAND

The Grade 6 music classes have been hard at work learning new instruments since January. These instruments include flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, and tuba. **Starting on Monday, March 10**, an after-school group will start up for any students wanting to participate in the **Spring Night of Music** on their band instrument. Grade 6 families should watch their emails for more information soon. Practices will be as follows:

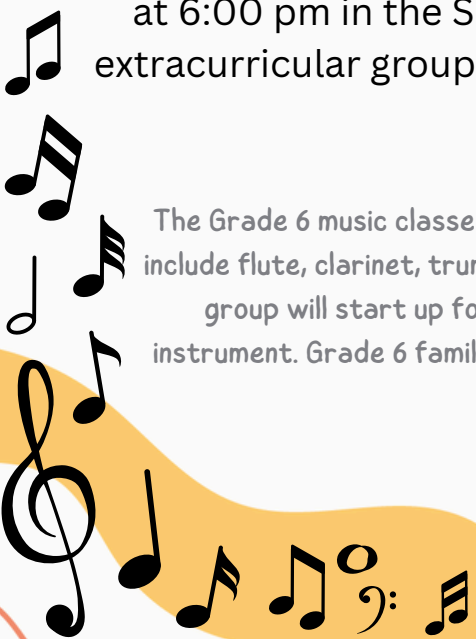
Tuesday, March 11 from 3:00-3:45

Tuesday, March 18 from 3:00-3:45

Tuesday, April 1 from 3:00-3:45

Tuesday, April 8 from 3:00-3:45

Tuesday, April 15 from 3:00-3:45



# Counsellor's Corner...



## CAREGIVER CIRCLE - DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS

Caregivers with children ages 8 to 18 are welcome.

Children's programming is available by request. Light refreshments and snacks available.

This discussion will build off of the information shared during the Foundations for Connection program presented by Saffron Centre Ltd.

Together we can:

- Dive deeper into some of the hard conversations between caregivers and youth
- Take the time to unpack some concerns and worries
- Practice language to leave them feeling heard and supported

**Wednesday, March 26**  
**6:00pm - 8:00pm**

**Location**  
Fort Saskatchewan  
Families First Building  
9901 90 Street

Register now to be a part of this unique program by calling 780-998-5595



## FOUNDATIONS OF CONNECTION

Caregivers with children ages 8 to 18 are welcome.

Children's programming is available by request. Light refreshments and snacks available.

Families First will be hosting guest speaker from Saffron Centre to provide caregivers with strategies for communicating with their children and youth, especially surrounding difficult topics like shame, rejection, conflict, cycles of abuse in relationships, accessing pornography, consent, and boundaries. The goal is to help every caregiver act as a trusted adult for the children and youth in their lives.

**Wednesday, March 19**  
**6:00pm - 8:00pm**

**Location**  
Fort Saskatchewan  
Families First Building  
9901 90 Street



For more info:  
[WWW.SAFFRONCENTRE.COM](http://WWW.SAFFRONCENTRE.COM)  
780-449-0900

Register now to be a part of this unique program by calling 780-998-5595



## DID YOU KNOW?

EIPS is seeking two volunteer community members to serve on its Audit Committee. The Audit Committee reports to the Board of Trustees and is comprised of three elected trustees and two volunteers residing within EIPS boundaries. This opportunity provides valuable experience in the financial oversight of one of Alberta's largest school divisions with an operating budget of approximately \$210 million. The committee keeps EIPS accountable for every dollar spent to enhance student success. The closing date for this opportunity is March 7, 2025. For more information and to apply, visit the [EIPS website](#).

# What's Happening AROUND SOUTHPOINTE...

## Grades 7-9 Ski Trip Coming Up!

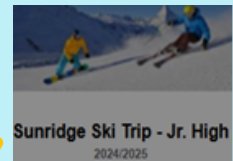
March 17th  
@ Sunridge



Sunridge Ski Trip Grades 7-9	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 7-9 student would like to participate on the Ski Trip, please do the following:

- Fill out the Grade 7-9 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 March 13**

# What's Happening AROUND SOUTHPOINTE...

## *Calling All Parent Volunteers for the Book Fair!*

Our Feelin' Groovy Book Fair is coming up on March 18 & 19, and I need your help! Volunteers are crucial to the success of this event, and it cannot run without your support.

I am looking for volunteers for full-day shifts (8:10 AM–2:46 PM) or half-day shifts (8:10 AM–11:08 AM or 11:48 AM–2:46 PM). The lunch break is from 11:08 AM–11:48 AM.

Please note: If I am unable to find enough volunteers for the daytime shifts, I will not be able to run the Book Fair during the day. Your help is essential to making this event a success!

### Volunteer positions include:

- Cashiers (running the new POS system & accepting payment, reorders)
- Boutique table (keeping an eye on the smaller items & restocking as needed)
- Assisting shoppers (helping students find books and count their money, restocking the books, tidying up, assisting with the guessing and door prize entries)

Your involvement will help create a fun and memorable experience for our students! If you're interested in volunteering, please sign up through the link below.

[Volunteer Sign Up](#) ←

I appreciate your time and support!

Warmly, Ms. Gauchier Library Technician



Jump Rope for Heart has begun at SouthPointe School for the month of March. We will be raising money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. All donations will need to be made online; we will not be accepting cash or cheque donations. Below is the link to make online donations:

<https://jumpropeforheart.crowdfunder.com/ca/81175>

A newsletter containing information regarding online donations and prizes has been sent home with your child. You can also watch the Jump Rope for Heart Virtual Kick-Off Assembly to find out more about this amazing organization:

[Kick-Off Video thank you prize](#)



March 3-20

# What's Happening

AROUND SOUTHPOINTE...

## FASS/School Council Info



Thanks to the hard work and support of our students, families, and community, our Read-A-Thon raised over \$17,000! This incredible success brings us closer to providing 40 new Chromebooks for our students. A big thank you to everyone who participated and donated—your support is helping us invest in our students' future! The prizes will be announced soon!



Join Our School Fundraising Association – Have a Say in How Funds Are Used!

Want to be part of the decisions that impact our school? Join the FASS! The membership is free and comes with no obligations—as a member, you'll be able to vote on financial decisions, access meeting records, and help shape fundraising efforts. Your input makes a difference, and meetings are a great way to stay informed and share your ideas. Sign up today: [HERE!](#)

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

### [Growing Smiles Spring Plant Fundraiser](#)

The Growing Smiles Spring Plant Fundraiser offers a beautiful selection of hanging baskets, patio planters, vibrant flowers, herbs, and vegetables—perfect for brightening up your home and garden. **Order now** to support our school and get high-quality plants just in time for spring!

[Fundraising Association for SouthPointe School](#)

Order Deadline: May 7 at 12 PM Pickup Date: May 22 @ SPS





# FASS/School Council Info

## PURDY'S FUNDRAISER

Want to know the most DELICIOUS way to support us? Order Purdy's chocolates from our fundraiser! This year, we're hoping to raise \$3000 for 40 Chromebooks and a charging cart to enhance our students' learning and we need YOUR help!

What you'll need to order:

1. Our campaign number: 79800
2. Go to our fundraising website: [CLICK HERE](#)
3. Click "Join Campaign"
4. Shop, shop, shop away!



Thank you EVERYONE for your support. Even if you can't buy chocolates from us, it would mean the world if you could share this fundraiser link to everyone you know! Happy chocolating!

(Pick-up date will Be April 16, 2025 see website for more details)

**Mark your calendars! Our next School Council Meeting is March 12 at 4:00PM in the Large Flex Space.**

## HOT LUNCH

### **Hot Lunch is OPEN for March!**

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

**Deadline to order for MARCH is coming up quick, Mar. 6th 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).

# News from EIPS

Every year, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) publishes an Annual Education Results Report, which outlines the Division's Four-Year Education Plan, growth opportunities, and how it supports students in achieving the best possible outcomes. Read through this year's [EIPS Annual Education Results Report 2023-24](#) and discover how EIPS fosters learning environments for all students to learn, grow and thrive—and why it matters.

March 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](#): How EIPS supports the growth and achievement of self-identified First Nations, Métis or Inuit students.

·[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: 2025-28](#)

## Pre-Kindergarten Programming at EIPS

Is there a preschooler in your life experiencing identified developmental delays or challenges with speech-language—big or small? If so, Elk Island Public School's Play And Learn at School (PALS) program could help.

Early learning lays the foundation for success in primary grades and beyond. As such, EIPS offers the pre-kindergarten PALS program in five of its elementary school locations. Applications are now open for free speech-language assessments for those interested in registering in the PALS program this fall. The assessment helps determine if PALS is appropriate for your child.

If you know a preschooler, born in 2021 or 2022, who could benefit from pre-kindergarten programming or want to book an assessment, fill out the [PALS Program Request Form](#) or call 780-417-8219. For more information, visit [eips.ca](http://eips.ca).

## *Update to EIPS Administrative Procedure 146: Social Media*

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) has updated EIPS Administrative Procedure 146: Social Media, as per the new legislation from the provincial government. The procedure includes rules for using personal devices at school and banned social media platforms. [Learn more](#)