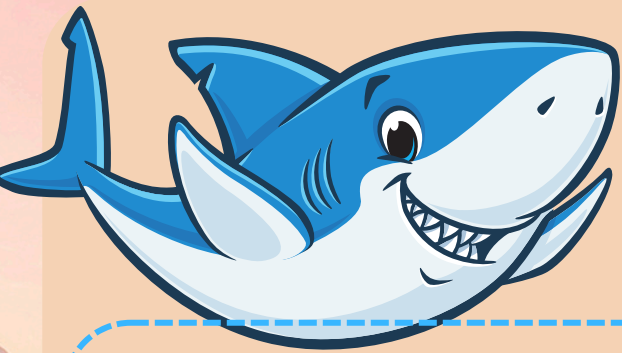


Shark Bites

NEWSLETTER



SouthPointe School

Principal's Message

March is flying by! Just a quick reminder to parents and students that Report Cards will be available today at 3:00pm for all K-9 students. Be sure to log into the Parent Portal to view your child's progress.

With the warmer weather arriving, we ask elementary parents to send extra socks and an extra pair of pants with your child to keep at school. We've had a few students fall into puddles this past week and a change of clothes would be helpful.

We're also excited for our Grade 7-9 students who will be heading to Sunridge for their ski trip on Monday! We hope they have a fantastic time and we're glad for the snow! Please dress appropriately.

Don't forget – Parent/Teacher Interview bookings can now be booked online (keep reading for link). We look forward to seeing everyone at the interviews on Tuesday and Wednesday. Monday is wear Green Day, while Thursday will be Dress as Your Favorite Book Character Day. Please note, there will be no school next Friday due to School Closure Day, and Spring Break will be from March 24th to 30th.

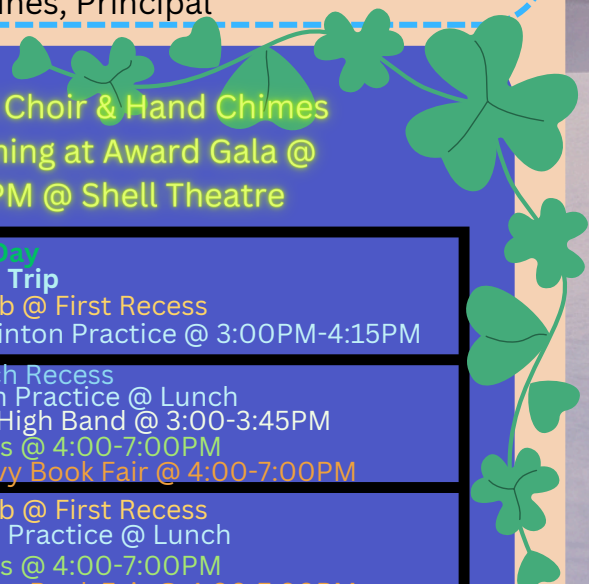
Wishing you all a wonderful weekend ahead!

Laurie Caines, Principal

NEXT WEEK

(16) SPS Choir & Hand Chimes
Performing at Award Gala @
2:00PM @ Shell Theatre

Monday (17)	*Happy St. Patrick's Day*	Wear Green Day Grade 7-9 Ski Trip Recorder Club @ First Recess Jr & Sr Badminton Practice @ 3:00PM-4:15PM
Tuesday (18)		Choir @ Lunch Recess Sr Badminton Practice @ Lunch Grade 6 & Jr High Band @ 3:00-3:45PM P/T Interviews @ 4:00-7:00PM Feeling Groovy Book Fair @ 4:00-7:00PM
Wednesday (19)		Recorder Club @ First Recess Jr Badminton Practice @ Lunch P/T Interviews @ 4:00-7:00PM Feeling Groovy Book Fair @ 4:00-7:00PM
Thursday (20)		Dress As Your Favorite Book Character Gr 6 Hand Chimes @ Lunch Recess Jr Badminton Practice @ Lunch First Day of SPRING
Friday (21)		No School (School Closure Day)



MARCH

Coming Up this Month

- March 14 Report Cards Issued @ 3:00PM
- March 16 SPS Choir & Hand Chimes Performing at Award Gala @ 2:00PM
- March 17 Wear Green Day (Happy St. Patrick's Day)
- March 17 Grade 7-9 Ski Trip @ Sunridge
- 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 First Day of Spring
- March 20 Dress As Your Favorite Book Character
- March 21 Deadline to Complete EIPS Annual Feedback Survey
- March 21 No School (School Closure Day)
- March 22-30 SPRING BREAK!
- March 31 National Indigenous Languages 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)



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:

April (BPs) & May (Tim's & Papa John's) Hot Lunch online ordering is now open

April Hot Lunch

- ☀ Grades 1-3 and Mon/Wed K 23 Apr
- ☀ Grades 4-6 and Tues/Thur K 24 Apr
- ☀ Grades 7-9 25 Apr

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



SHARKS ATHLETICS

Monday (17)

Jr & Sr Badminton Practice @ 3:00-4:15PM

Tuesday (18)

Sr Badminton Practice @ 11:08-11:48AM (Lunch)

Wednesday (19)

Jr Badminton Practice @ 11:08-11:48AM
(Lunch)

Thursday (20)

Jr & Sr Badminton Practice @ 11:08-11:48AM
(Lunch)

Friday (21)



Go Sharks!



A BIG CONGRATULATIONS to our Sr Boys who won the league championship this week with a win over Fort Christian 57-49.

WAY to go Sharks!

A Big Thank You to Our Basketball Coaches!

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our dedicated junior high basketball coaches & liaisons 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!

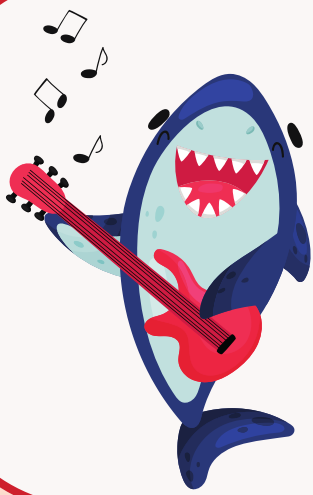
DID YOU KNOW?

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.

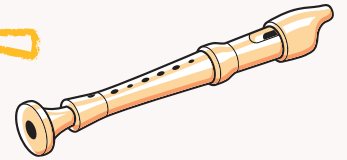
Watch for Thin Ice!

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 3:00-3:45PM



I am excited to share that our Hand Chime & Choir are winning an award as part of the Fort Saskatchewan Music Festival. Choir is a very competitive category, so it is a big deal we were chosen! Way to go Sharks!

The Awards Gala is this **Sunday, March 16 at 2:00PM** at the Dow Shell Theatre. No tickets are needed, this is free to our community and we would LOVE to have our school families attend!

Night of MUSIC

April 16 @ 6:00PM

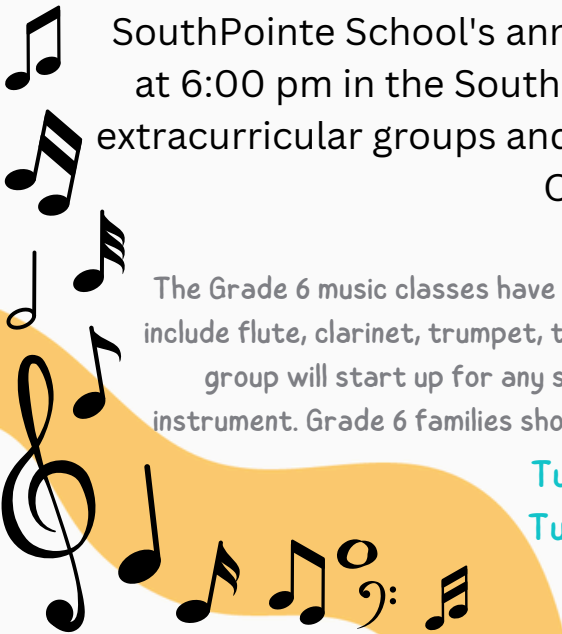


SouthPointe School's annual Night of Music will be held on Wednesday, April 16 at 6:00 pm in the SouthPointe Gym. This will be the wrap up performance for extracurricular groups and feature performances by the SouthPointe Choir, Hand Chimes, Recorders, and Bands.

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...

Seasonal Affect Disorder

As we go through different seasons and the weather and sunlight hours change, it's common for people to experience shifts in their mood and overall sense of well-being. For some, these changes may be small and relatively easy to manage. However, for others, the impact can be significant, leading to a disruption of daily activities and a decline in mental health. This condition is known as SAD: Seasonal Affect Disorder. SAD is a type of depression that occurs during specific seasons or times of the year, typically when it's dark and cold. However, it's important to note that it can impact people in different ways and may vary from one season to another.

(Courtesy of <https://medium.com/leeds-international-study-centre/physical-and-mental-health-during-changing-seasons-4928e1544036>)



APPETITE CHANGES

- Increased cravings for sugary or starchy foods
- Weight gain



FATIGUE

- Insomnia or sense of feeling tired all the time
- Daytime fatigue
- Difficulty in concentrating
- Lowered sex drive and desire for physical contact



HOPELESSNESS

- Sadness, guilt, excessive criticism of oneself
- Sense of hopelessness
- Avoidance of people or activities previously enjoyed

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

**Make
Your
Mark!**



**Thanks
for your
help!**

What's Happening AROUND SOUTHPOINTE...

Grades 7-9 Ski Trip Coming Up!

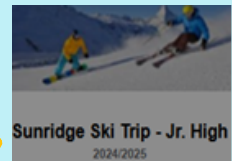
This
MONDAY
@ Sunridge



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 and 19**, and we need your help! Volunteers are essential to the success of this event, especially during the morning shifts (8:10 AM – 11:08 AM).

We're looking for volunteers to help with:

- Cashiers
- Boutique table helpers
- Shoppers' assistants

If you're able to volunteer, please sign up below. Your support is crucial in making this event fun and memorable for our students!

Volunteer Sign Up [HERE](#)

Thank you for your time and support – we couldn't do it without you!

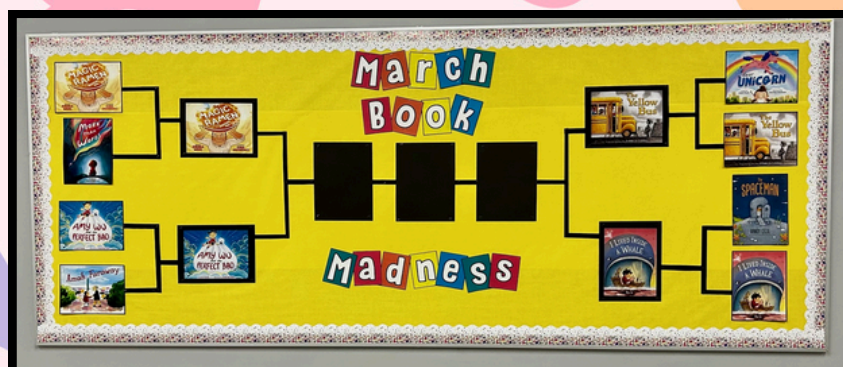
Warmly,

Ms. Gauchier, Library Technician



*Check out our Teacher's Wishlists too!
Items in their bins can be purchased
for your child's classroom.*

*Check out our March Book
Madness! It's down to the
Quarter Finals!*



What's Happening AROUND SOUTHPOINTE...

Junior High Band - Honours
Grades 4-6 Choir - Distinction
Recorder Club - Distinction
Hand Chime Chorus - Distinction

Congrats!

Congratulations to all our students who performed in the Fort Saskatchewan Music Festival last week. There were lots of private lesson performances as well as several from SouthPointe's music activities. Both the Choir & Hand Chime Chorus are up for WINNING AWARDS this year!

We invite our staff & students to come enjoy their performances at the Awards Gala this Sunday, March 16 at 2:00PM at the Dow Shell Theatre.

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.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...

Parent Teacher Interviews...

March 18 & 19 from 4:00PM-7:00PM

If you have not booked your P/T

Interviews yet, please book online [HERE](#)

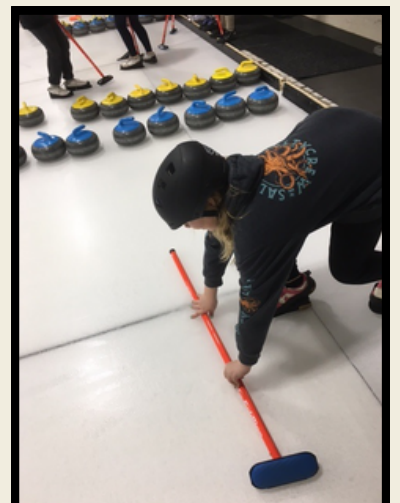


Please note for **KINDERGARTEN ONLY**, you are to bring your student to the P/T Interviews as they are student led.



Mrs. Percy's grade 6 class had a great time trying out Curling! Thanks to the Fort Sask Golf & Curling Club for their generosity in supplying transportation & the experience for our students at SouthPointe! Many students said they had fun trying something new!

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](#).

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 APRIL 23 at 5:00PM in the Large Flex Space.

HOT LUNCH

Hot Lunch is OPEN for April & May!

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

Deadline to order for APRIL is coming up on April 17th 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.


What's Happening

AROUND SOUTHPOINTE...

FASS/School Council Info

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!](#)



Have
Your
Say

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



For Chromebooks
for our students



[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

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.

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](#)

News from EIPS

It's Survey Season...

EIPS Annual Feedback Survey

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) wants to hear from you. Every year, EIPS conducts a feedback survey to gauge its progress toward meeting the goals and priorities outlined in its [Four-Year Education Plan](#). Collectively, the Division uses the survey feedback to help guide future planning, decision-making and strategies—all aimed at enhancing student learning and better serving the wider community.

Complete the [2024-25 EIPS Annual Feedback Survey: For Parents and Caregivers](#) by March 21.

Alberta Education Assurance Survey

The Alberta Education Assurance survey gathers feedback on the quality of education provided by school authorities and their schools. Schools and school authorities use this information to understand how they are doing and plan for the future. Grades 4 and 7 parents and caregivers have received information directly from the school on how to complete the survey. Complete the Alberta Education Assurance survey by March 21—[learn more](#). For questions or concerns, contact the school.

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.

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

