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Dec. 11, 2020

### Important Dates

December 14 - 18 - Grade 5 & 6 Spirit Week

- Dec. 14 - Bring a Stuffy Day
- Dec. 15 - Career Day (dress up in potential career attire)
- Dec. 16 - Christmas Sweater OR Dress in Red, White, Green
- Dec. 17 - Santa Hat OR Crazy Hair Day
- Dec. 18 - Pyjama OR Comfy Clothes Day

December 18 - Last Day of Classes Before Winter Break

January 4 - Return to Online Classes (All Grades)

January 11 - Return to In-School Learning (All Grades)

January 11 - 15 - Grades 1-8 Select Learning Mode for the Remainder of the Year.

### What's Going On at SMS?



December has come with new challenges, as our grade 7 and 8 students moved to online learning. Teachers rose to the challenge and are using various digital tools to stay connected with their students, deliver the curriculum, and help ensure learning takes place in the safety of students' homes. Many of our grade 7/8 teachers come to school to find quiet corners to work in while teaching online.

From November 30th to December 9th, our Leadership students exemplified global citizenship by coordinating the "Share Your Christmas" campaign, in conjunction with Springbank High School and Elbow Valley Elementary. As always, Springbank families were generous with their contributions of food, toys, and cash donations and we'd like to express our sincere thanks. Through the Cochrane Activettes, these donations will be distributed to families experiencing hardship at this time.



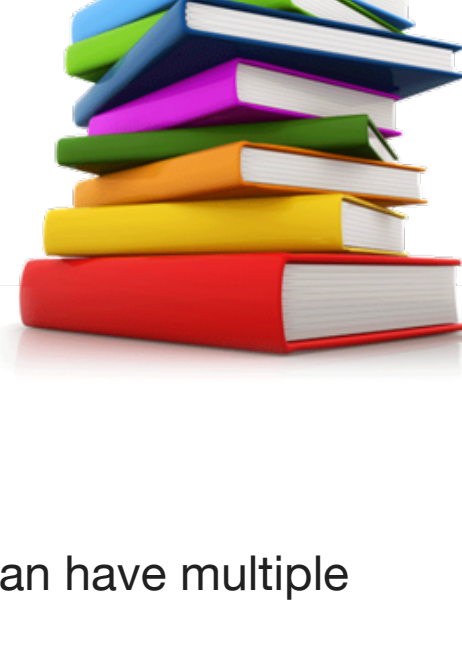
### Christmas Cards

One of the largest groups to be affected by COVID-19 has been our seniors. It has been exceptionally hard for them, especially those in assisted-living facilities. For many, contact with friends and family has been reduced to a small screen and/or phone calls. For others, outside contact has become almost non-existent. Part of our mission at Springbank Middle School is to encourage students to be contributing members of their community and the holiday season is a great opportunity to give back to those around us. With that in mind, grade 5 and 6 students will be making Christmas cards for residents of surrounding area assisted-living facilities. These will include the Bethany Care Centre and Big Hill Lodge in Cochrane. We are very excited to share some Holiday Cheer and bring some smiles to the faces of these very important people!

### Battle of the Books

This week we launched the "Battle of the Books"!

- Battle of the Books is a friendly RVS competition in which students are quizzed on books they've previously read.
- It is a team effort, so students from any level of reading or genre interest can join.
- Even if they are alone they can sign up! We usually create teams of 5 or 6 on the first meeting.
- Students are provided with the list of books to read.
- We provide copies of the books for the students to read.
- The virtual competition will allow everyone to participate this year, so we can have multiple teams.
- The Battle takes place on April 23 so students must make sure they are available on this date.



The first meeting was held in-person and on Zoom on Friday, December 11th.

### Spirit Week!!

With the goal of creating some holiday cheer, next week is "Spirit Week" for Grades 5 and 6! Grades 7 & 8 are welcome to join in from home!

Monday - Bring a Stuffy Day

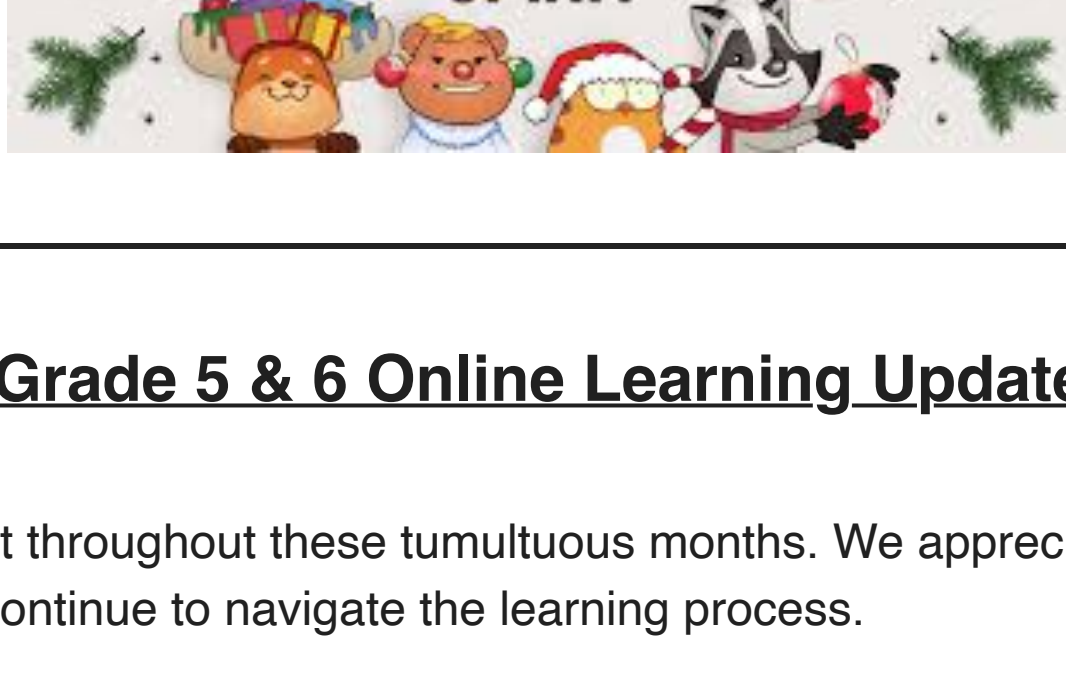
Tuesday - Career Day (dress like you're going to work, e.g. an apron for a chef; lab coat for a scientist, etc.)

Wednesday - Christmas Sweater OR Dress in Red, White, Green

Thursday - Santa Hat OR Crazy Hair Day

Friday - Pyjama OR Comfy Clothes Day

A big "thank you" to all our parents and guardians for your support in this community building activity!



### Grade 5 & 6 Online Learning Update

Thank you for your support throughout these tumultuous months. We appreciate all that families are doing to help students to continue to navigate the learning process.

Our grade 5's and 6's will be joining the at-home learning community from Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>-Jan-8<sup>th</sup>. During this week, students will be joining their teachers over Zoom during regular lesson times for core subjects and a modified schedule for Fine Arts and PE. Teachers will send a learning plan to parents and students by Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> to help you understand what this will look like. To provide more detail, we've attached the "Kindergarten to Gr. 6 Temporary at-Home Learning Parent/Student Guide"

[ParentGuide-K-Gr6TempAt-HomeLearning.pdf](#)

We hope all goes well for everyone during the break and we look forward to seeing students back in the school on January 11th!

**Note: If your child requires a computer for the week in January, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can have a device ready for your child to bring home.**

### Springbank Middle School Online Store!



We are very excited to announce the launch of the new Springbank Middle School Online Store! In partnership with Tuxedo Sports, we are offering a wide variety of items in assorted colours and styles, sporting the Springbank Middle School logos. **The next deadline for ordering is January 9, 2021.** Orders placed before December 4th will be available for pick up at the school on December 16th and 17th. Please ensure your order is correct before submitting, as there are no exchanges or returns. Go to the following link to start shopping! The school earns \$3 for each item purchased.

<https://tuxedo.itemorder.com/sale>

**Access Code: springbank**

### FLIPGIVE Fundraiser!!!

Now is the perfect time to take advantage of the convenience of shopping with Flipgive. Purchase your Christmas gifts and gift cards using Flipgive and it's a win/win; your Christmas shopping is made easy and Springbank Middle School increases its rebates! Please go to the following link to start shopping:

<https://flipgive.app.link/r?code=1375907>

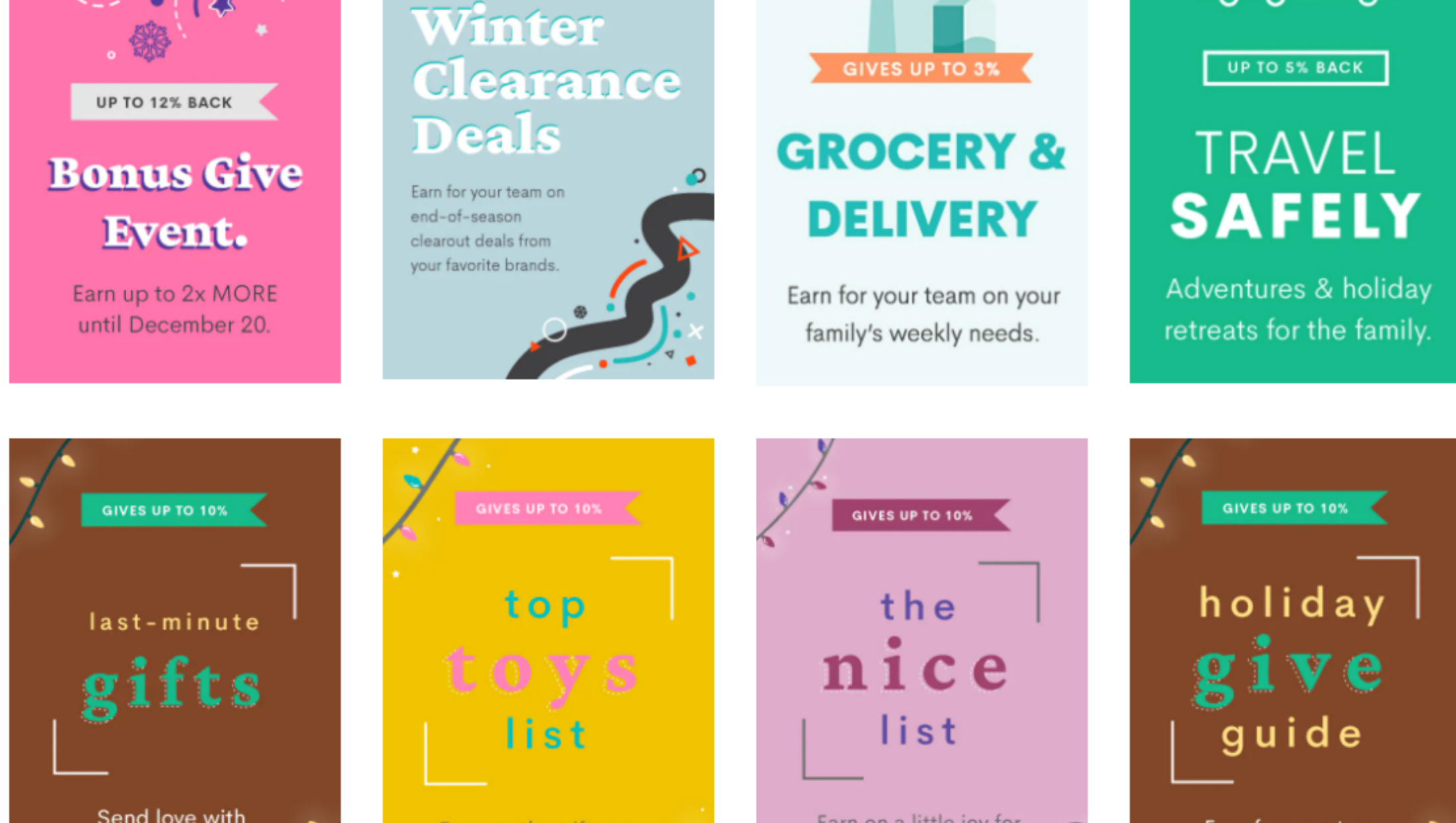
Thank you to those families who have already signed up for Flipgive! We continue to see new members joining who are taking advantage of the convenience of shopping from home while helping raise funds for our school! So far we have \$734 in rebates!

Please join the Springbank Middle School team and encourage your friends and family to do so as well. Join today by clicking on the following link:

[https://flipgive.app.link/teams/join?](https://flipgive.app.link/teams/join?fundraiser_name=Springbank+Middle+School+&joincode=7V9MZM)

[fundraiser\\_name=Springbank+Middle+School+&joincode=7V9MZM](https://flipgive.app.link/teams/join?fundraiser_name=Springbank+Middle+School+&joincode=7V9MZM)

If you're prompted for a "Join Code" please enter this code: **7V9MZM**



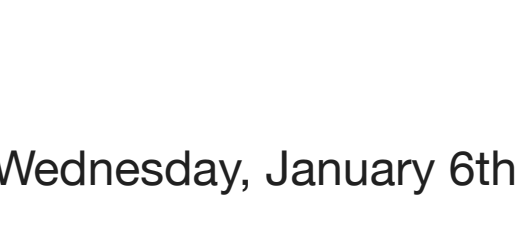
SMS now has an account at the Springbank Bottle Depot. You can drop your bottles off and donate to our school. Our Leadership group has created this poster to pass along the information about their latest initiative!



### We Want Parent Input

Parents are being asked to give their insight/feedback to schools to assist in the creation of a school "Playbook" (School Education Plan). Please go to the following link to complete a short survey that will help our administrative team create the Playbook for Springbank Middle School.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5W26GKS>



### SCHOOL COUNCIL

The next meeting of School Council is Wednesday, January 6th at 7:00 P.M.

Until further notice, there will be no in-person attendance. A Zoom link will be published in a future newsletter.

Please email Council in advance with any items you'd like to be addressed at an upcoming meeting.

If you're interested in volunteering, please email [sms\\_volunteers@outlook.com](mailto:sms_volunteers@outlook.com)

Arlene Abboud & Amal Jomaa

On behalf of the SMS Council

### FRIENDS OF SPRINGBANK MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIETY (FOSMSS)

Springbank Middle School has been awarded a casino in the early part of 2021. In the past, casinos have raised up to \$60,000 for our school and students. We will be sending out a sign-up to recruit volunteers as soon as we have the dates finalized. It's imperative we have enough volunteers to run the casino to continue to be on the list of eligible participants.

Arlene Abboud & Amal Jomaa

On behalf of FOSMSS

### Alberta Health Services Community Education Service

Please click on the following link for a list of upcoming, free webinars offered by AHS, Community Education Service. Sessions include topics such as: "Taming Anxiety Gremlins"; "Overcoming Mental Health Challenges in a Global Pandemic"; and "Everyday Banking and Budgeting"

<https://community.hmhc.ca/sessions/?p=online>

