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January 8, 2021

Important Dates

- January 11 - Return to In-School Learning (All Grades)
- January 11 - 15 - Grades 1-8 Select Learning Mode for the Remainder of the Year.
- January 15 - Conference Manager Opens for Booking Three-Way Conferences
- January 15 - House Teams Launch
- January 23 - Conference Manager Closes for Booking Three-Way Conferences
- January 25 & 27 - Three-Way Conferences (4:00 - 7:00)
- January 29 - Professional Learning Day - no classes

What's Going On at SMS?

Literacy!

Over the winter break we received dozens of new books which were purchased with the rewards earned from our Book Fair. Your student(s) will see a beautiful display of these books in our display case in the front foyer. Mme. Martin has been very busy cataloguing the books and creating the display. She's also created a digital display. Students will be able to "click" on a book cover and it will take them to the "GoodReads" review. The books will be available to check out from the Learning Commons. Teachers will also be sharing a link with student that shows them how to put a "hold" on their favourite books as we know they're going to fly out of the Learning Commons!



Returning Travellers

We're excited to have our students return to in-school learning on January 11th. We know most of our students spent a quiet holiday in the comfort of their own homes, however, for those who chose to vacation elsewhere, possibly for an extended period of time, please refer to the following link to review Alberta Health protocols upon return to Alberta.

<https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-travel-advice.aspx#:~:text=All%20non%2Dexempt%20travellers%20returning,monitor%20for%20symptoms>

In addition, we ask if your student is going to be absent you call the school Absence Line and notify their teacher(s). Teachers are regularly posting assignments on Google Classroom and students who are absent will be responsible to complete the work.

House Teams!

We are very excited to be launching our House Teams initiative on January 15th! Every student and staff member has been assigned to one of our four Houses:

- Fire (red)
- Water (blue)
- Wind (gold)
- Rock (black)

Teams will have the opportunity to earn colour coordinated beads throughout the year by completing challenges that will include academic, athletic, artistic, or civic activities. Houses will be comprised of students from each grade. The mission of our House program is to encourage relationship building, connection, and collaboration among the grades. Students are encouraged to wear their House colour on the 15th. Each team member will also receive a custom embroidered touque with their House logo. We are looking forward to growing our school culture and inspiring school spirit!!!

Exciting New Opportunity for Grade 8's!

Yearbook Option:

Photography/Yearbook is a new grade 8 option that will start on January 11. This year we are unable to have volunteers come into the school to help with the Yearbook, resulting in the addition of the Photography/Yearbook complementary course(option). This option will provide students with photography opportunities as well as planning and creating pages for the SMS 2020-2021 yearbook. It will be offered in the 8A option block on Day 2,4, and 6 during the second period. All grade 8 students currently registered in an 8A option for term 2 will be offered the opportunity to move into the Yearbook option. If your child is interested in making this change, please contact Ms. Borsato nborsato@rockyview.ab.ca or Mme Pothier spothier@rockyview.ab.ca

3-Way Conferences (Parent/Teacher/Student) via Zoom

January 25th and 27th

Three-Way Conferences will be taking place on January 25th and 27th from 4:00 - 7:00. Conference Manager will be open for booking a Parent/Teacher/Student conference from January 15th - January 23rd. Please go to the following link to book your appointment and/or confirm you have an account.

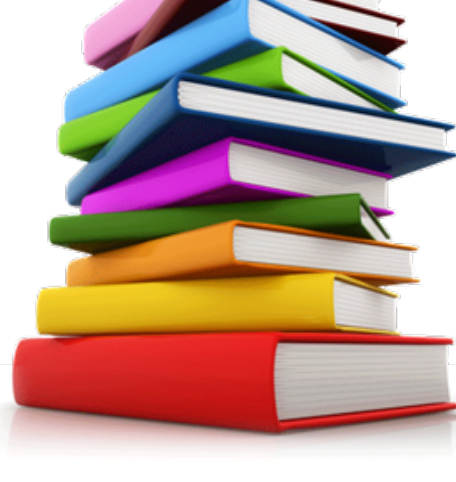
<https://springbankmiddle.schoolsoft.ca>

Once bookings are complete, teachers will send parents a Zoom invite for your appointment time.

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.



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.** 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!!!

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 \$890 in rebates!

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

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?fundraiser_name=Springbank+Middle+School+&joincode=7V9MZM

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



What's New



SCHOOL COUNCIL

The next meeting of School Council is Wednesday, February 3rd at 7:00 P.M. A link to the Zoom meeting will be posted at a later date.

Until further notice, there will be no in-person attendance.

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

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>

