

New Horizons School Council

Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2023 | Principal's Report

Intake day is Friday, March 3, 2023. NHS received more applications than most recent years — about 70 Kindergarten and 50 applications for Grades 1-9 for in-house testing.

Report cards will be sent out in the coming weeks. Student-led conferences will take place on March 21 & 22 which will give students an opportunity to show their families what's happening in the classrooms and throughout the school. NHS is working towards more effective communication so families are more aware of what's happening within the NHS community. Book Fair will also be returning at this time and will be taking up half of the gym since the Learning Commons is presently a classroom.

Ms. Watson is completing a handbook for volunteers and will offer orientation sessions to provide volunteers with more information on confidentiality, how to work with children in crisis, and to offer support for volunteers in various roles. Orientation sessions will be about 30 minutes and will be offered in the afternoon or evening, in person or virtually. Details to come.

Jr. High students are no longer completing independent studies in the same way as previous years. Instead, the entire school is working on specific types of learning.

- Div. 1: Wonder Learning
 - Inquiry based, ask questions on a regular basis.
- Div. 2: Discovery Learning
 - Pick a topic to complete a robust project.
- Div. 3: Investigations
 - Select something to learn and then teach this skill to others.

Grades 4-6 are booked for a ski trip at Sunridge Ski Area. Skiing will take place right before Spring Break. If scheduling allows, we will consider skiing for Grades 7-9 as well.

Grades 1 & 2 will have the opportunity to take swimming lessons from April 24 - June 19. It will be \$60/child for 8 lessons. Booking this year holds a spot for next year where we will potentially be able to extend lessons to additional grades.

The Makerspace is on track. Equipment, including tech and gadgets have been ordered including MACs and sewing machines. There will be plenty of bins that need to be filled, so a request for donations will be made for specific items i.e. LEGO bricks. We are currently looking at additional programming opportunities for weekly use of this

space. As we collect items, we will utilize them in other areas until the space is complete. Some Grade 5 students have started a Coding Club for students in Grades 3 & 4. Other lunch clubs inspired by the Makerspace are LEGO Club and LEGO Robotics – the potential for club opportunities with this space and items from this space are robust.

The Outdoor Classroom equipment, including sensory tables, has been ordered and quotes from landscapers have been obtained. This space will open in the Fall and will be all season friendly.

February was kindness and Black History Month. Throughout the halls, we showcased famous Black Canadian figures and our “Buddies” did a variety of kindness activities including the “kindness quilt” which is on display in front of the office.

The deadline for the Alberta Assurance Measures Survey has been extended to March 17. This has been sent to students, teachers, and families of children in Grades 4-9.