



Principal's Report to School Council  
September 4, 2024

Lori Vigfusson  
Principal  
New Horizons School

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**Welcome Back:** I hope everyone had a safe and restful summer break. We are excited to be back and are off to a good start to the school year.

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**Powerschool:** We have transitioned our Student Information System to Powerschool and have sent out parent information for the parent portal. As we make this transition, we will begin using the portal to send forms and report cards. Information on navigating Powerschool will be provided to families once this is up and running.

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**Staffing Updates:** We have had some staffing shifts since last school year. Ms Dinel is on medical leave and Mr. Wong has taken over in Grade 4 until her return. Mr. Dowler has taken over one of our our part-time Junior High positions. This position increased from last year so that we could add a Learning Support Teacher role. This is a collaborative position to work with teachers to provide enrichment to students.

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**Alberta Education Early Years Assessments:** Over the summer, Alberta Education announced that schools are required to administer Literacy and Numeracy Screens to students in Kindergarten and Grades 1-3. Some of these assessments were completed in the two previous years and some are new. These will be administered and reported in September and January for Grades 1-3 and in January for Kindergarten. Please visit the [Alberta Education website](#) for more information.

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**Meet the Teacher:** We are hosting our Meet the Teacher night for Grades 1-9 on September 12 from 6:00- 7:00 p.m. We will be gathering briefly in the gym at 6:00 for welcome and introductions before directing families to classrooms. School Council, FANHS and the Board are invited to attend to speak briefly about their roles at NHS and how caregivers can get involved.

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**Technology Update:** We have a new tech support company working with the school. They have done an excellent job ensuring we have had a smooth start to our year for our learning technology. We have also updated our Technology Use Agreement to reflect the new Alberta Education Regulations. These are being sent home to all parents to sign. Teachers have begun sending these home for review and signature.

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**Artist in Residence:** Our Artist in Residence for this school year is Mallory Chipman. She will be starting with some music class visits on September 16-18 to meet the students and get to know our music program. She will return for her 2 week residency at the end of November to work with the music classes on unique compositions for our Winter Concerts on November 29th. There will be 2 concerts on that day to accommodate families wishing to attend.

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**Lunch Supervision and Parent Volunteers:**

Any parents wishing to supervise at lunch are asked to fill in the Lunch Supervisor Application form on our website under School Information and Documents. We have received some applications already and look forward to more. This role can be done on a volunteer or paid basis and volunteers can sign up for one or days per week.

All new Parents/Caregivers wishing to volunteer for any role in the school do still need to complete the Criminal Record Check and Vulnerable Sector Check. All parents wishing to volunteer also need to complete our confidentiality agreement. Information on Volunteering can be found [here](#).

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**School Clubs**

We are excited to be offering a number of clubs for students again in all divisions. These will be updated on the clubs page soon.

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**Communication:**

We will continue to send out E-News and post on our website and Facebook regularly. Be sure to check the school calendar and our blog for information!

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**Student Supports:**

We will continue to have mental health support through ECSS. Counselling will continue 2 days a week with Liam rejoining us this year. Teachers will refer students for groups and individual counselling throughout the year as needed.

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