



Principal's Report to School Council

April 2, 2025

Lori Vigfusson

Principal

New Horizons School

Swimming Lessons: Grades 1s and 2s will begin lessons on April 14. These will end on June 16.

Volunteer Tea: Our annual volunteer tea takes place next Wednesday, April 9 at 10:30 a.m. We love to show our appreciation to all parent volunteers whether it is on field trips, in classrooms, at lunch, around the school for prep, at pick-up and drop-off, or on school council, the board, or FANHS. Our school is the amazing place it is because of our volunteers. RSVP using the link sent out. We would also like to gather feedback on ways our volunteers would like to be appreciated!

Spring Concert: Our Spring Concert for music and drama groups takes place on April 9. There will be 2 concert times-1:30-2:30 and 6:30-7:30.

Surveys: Board Surveys are still open until April 7. These surveys are used along with the Alberta Assurance Surveys to help set priorities for our Education Plan. They have been streamlined this year and also include opportunity to provide feedback around High School planning. Students in grades 4-9 and staff will also fill out these surveys at school.

Admissions: We had 175 complete applications with 74 in Kindergarten and the rest in a variety of grades. We have re-opened our Kindergarten Applications to ensure we fill all spaces for the upcoming school year. We have dropped off some information to pre-schools in Sherwood Park and will expand this to pre-schools in surrounding areas as well.

Celebration of Learning: We hosted our Celebration of Learning on March 18 and 19th. We are seeking feedback on this format as we plan for next year.

Bell Times: With early dismissal moving to every Wednesday in the 2025-2026 school year, we have confirmed our new bell times with classes starting at 8:30 and ending at 3:19 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. On Wednesdays, classes will begin at 8:30 and end at 2:19. This increases each day by 9 minutes from our current schedule.

30th Anniversary: We have moved the date of our 30th Anniversary celebration to early September. We would like to plan a full day of events including food, activities and ceremony with invited dignitaries and alumni. I

will connect with our planning committee to discuss next steps.

New Recognition Programs: We are introducing two new recognition programs at New Horizons. The first is our Traffic Star initiative. Staff and Volunteers who help with Traffic will be handing out Traffic Star Tickets to families that follow our Traffic Management Plan. One ticket will be given for each NHS student in the car. Students then enter their name into a draw for prizes. This program is intended to encourage and promote safety while raising awareness through student participation.

The second program was mentioned at the March School Council meeting with funds motioned for incentives. We are excited to unveil our Wings of Excellence program to show appreciation to students upholding our school beliefs by demonstrating exceptional citizenship.

School Teams

- Boys and Girls Basketball is finished and all teams had a successful season. Congratulations to our Senior Girls and Boys teams who both won bronze in their divisions.
 - Badminton has begun for Junior High with the tournaments on April 22 and 23rd.
 - Our division 1 Science Olympic team will be competing on April 5th at the University of Alberta.
 - Handball for Junior High is underway with one boys team this year.
 - Our School Reach Intermediate team will head to provincials in Red Deer on April 12.
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