



Principal's Report to School Council

January 8, 2025

Lori Vigfusson

Principal

New Horizons School

NAGC Conference: Vice Principal Watson and I attended the National Association of Gifted Conference in Seattle from November 21-24. This was an excellent opportunity to network with and learn from experts in the field of gifted education. We brought back some excellent information that we have already begun sharing with staff, particularly around engagement and twice exceptionalities. Many of the sessions were very affirming to the work we do here at NHS and appreciate the opportunity to attend.

Early Years Assessments:

Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 will complete Early Years Assessments in Literacy and Numeracy this month. These assessments are mandated by Alberta Education to be completed in Grades 1-3 in September and K-3 in January. Students who fall in the 'at-risk' range will also be reassessed in June following interventions needed.

Report Cards:

First Term Progress Reports were opened to parents at the start of December. These were available through the Parent Portal. We have developed a more robust report card that is similar to previous years to be distributed for Terms 2 and 3.

Calendar Update:

Elk Island Public Schools have announced that they will be moving to weekly early dismissals on Wednesdays for Professional Learning time rather than the current model. As we have a transportation agreement with EIPS, this has the potential to impact our calendar and schedule as well. This will be discussed at the upcoming Board meeting.

Stakeholder Forum:

We will be hosting our Annual Stakeholder Forum on February 3. This year the topic will focus on High School Planning. An invitation with more information and to RSVP was sent out by Superintendent Moghrabi this morning.

Information Night/Admissions:

Admissions opened in December and will close on February 18th. Our Information Night/Open House will be held January 15 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. for prospective parents. We would like a representative from the School Council to attend to say a few words.

30th Anniversary:

We are currently in our 30th year of operation and would like to plan some celebratory events for the upcoming school year. I would like to form a committee and invite members of Council, FANHS, the Board and community to help plan and organize.

School Clubs

Basketball season has begun and we have a Jr. Boys team along with a Sr. Boys and Sr. Girls team. Practices began before the break with games starting up this weekend. Thanks to the teachers and volunteer coaches that support our teams.

Grade 4 and 5 Debate Club continues on Tuesdays. This club was created and is run by students in Grade 5.