

## Principal's Report to School Council

October 2, 2024

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New Horizons School

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**Read-In Week:** Read-in week is October 7-11. We have guest readers coming in including MLA Kyle Kasawski and Superintendent Moghrabi. There will also be theme days for the week which will be posted on the website.

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**Photo Day:** Based on feedback from parents we will be contracting Fiddleleaf for our photos this year. Kindergarten to grade 3 photos will take place on October 9, Kindergarten and Grade 4-6 will take place on October 10 and Grade 7-9 will take place on October 17th. We will seek feedback at a future school council meeting on this change to see if this is a provider we wish to continue working with in the future.

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### **Linking Generations Volunteer Grandparent Program:**

A number of our classes will be participating in a Volunteer Grandparent Program this year. Under this program, Senior volunteers have the opportunity to go into elementary classrooms ( K-4) and share stories, skills, knowledge & experience throughout the year.

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### **National Day of Truth and Reconciliation:**

NHS recognized this day on September 27th as Orange Shirt Day as school was closed for this day on September 30th. Classes participated in a number of learning activities around Truth and Reconciliation including writing and discussing Land Acknowledgements, discussions on the TRC Calls to Action and Indigenous language learning.

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### **School Support:**

Liam McFarlane, our school counsellor continues to work with our students two days a week. He is currently meeting students individually and will begin groups in the near future. Teachers and Administration make referrals to Liam to help support kids with school related issues including social skills, anxiety, regulation and conflict resolution.

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**Pre-Service Teachers:** We will be hosting 4 pre-service teachers from the University of Alberta for their 9 week Advanced Field Experience beginning on Monday, October 7th.

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### **Technology Use:**

We have updated our Technology Use Agreement and created an Administrative Procedure to align with the Ministerial Order on Personal Mobile Devices and Social Media use at School. We are being responsive to student needs by allowing the use of these devices for medical or educational purposes in conversations with parents on a case by case basis.

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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. September Assessments have been completed and submitted to Alberta Education for Grades 1-3. Further testing will take place in January with new assessments being administered to Kindergarten.

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#### **Parent-Teacher Interviews:**

We will be having our Parent-Teacher Interviews on Tuesday, October 22nd and Wednesday, October 23rd. These meetings are held to discuss the student Individual Program Plans (IPPs).

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#### **School Spirit Orders:**

We have opened our online store for Nighthawks gear. The store includes shirts in house colours as well as a variety of other Nighthawk Gear. The store closes on October 14.

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#### **School Clubs:**

*Boys and Girls Volleyball* is underway. We have 3 teams participating. The season runs until Fall break with Finals taking place at the end of November.

*School Reach Trivia* will begin in the next couple of weeks. Practices happen after school every Monday.

*Chess Club* has also begun its first session on Thursdays after school for students in grades 1-6.

*Music Clubs* have begun for the year. Parents of students wishing to participate will receive a form home from Ms. Zelada confirming their participation.