

Principal's Report to School Council

June 3, 2025

Lori Vigfusson

Principal

New Horizons School

Assessments: Grade 6 and 9 students have written their first PAT (Provincial Achievement Test) on May 28th and 29th using the online digital assessment platform. The remainder of the PATs and final exams for grades 7 and 8 are scheduled for June 12th-19th. As in previous years, Jr. High students may leave after their finals with parental consent.

Three Year Education Plan: The three year Education Plan was approved by the board and posted at the end of May. Changes made included additional strategies to address the Individual Program Plans (IPP) as well as Investigations for Junior High.

Grade 9 Adventure Trip: The grade 9 trip to Rocky Mountain House through Hela Adventures will take place June 22-24. The trip will include canoeing, hiking and rafting with certified guides. Thank you to FANHS for the fundraising efforts through bottle collection and concessions to bring the cost for this adventure down. Thanks as well to Ms. Araujo for all her work in organizing and chaperoning the trip.

Awards Ceremony: We will be hosting our grade 4-9 awards ceremony at 1:00 on June 25. All parents/caregivers may attend and caregivers of students in Grade 9 or those receiving an award will receive a separate email invitation to the event.

Staffing Update: There will be some staff changes for the upcoming school year. While some decisions have been made, we will not know all teacher placements until closer to the fall. For this reason, students going into grade 2 and grade 4 will be informed of their class placement once decisions have been finalized rather than on the report card as may be expected.

Indigenous People's Month and Day: Classes have been spending additional time this month learning and celebrating Indigenous ways of knowing and being. For Indigenous Peoples' Day on June 21, classes will recognize the day on June 20 by participating in a variety of activities to recognize and celebrate the history, heritage and resilience of Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

Building Updates: The glass on the front doors will be replaced on June 16th. This will mean an adjustment to pick-ups from school. We will be asking parents picking students up early that day to call from the parking lot so we can walk students out as the buzzer will not be available while repairs occur. Drop off in the morning will be unaffected for students arriving on time.

Work to prepare the area for our new modular classrooms will begin mid-June. We are meeting with the contractors to discuss impacts to entry and exit and access to the playgrounds and field while this work begins. More information will go out to parents once we have a timeline and plan in place.

Instructional Minutes/ Bell Times for 2025-2026: With the change to early dismissal every Wednesday in the upcoming school year, we have adjusted our start and end times to ensure we have the required instructional minutes as set by Alberta Education. We will begin our day at 8:30 and end at 3:19 every day but Wednesday when we will end at 2:19. These times follow Elk Island Public schools to ensure our transportation schedule aligns.

Report Cards: Report Cards will be sent home through email on June 25. There will be a link to the supply lists and Calendar for the upcoming school year.

Funding Requests to FANHS: The school will be requesting funds from FANHS for the upcoming school year to support activities planned at the start of the year. These include a Back to School BBQ and the NHS 30th Anniversary Celebration .

I would also like to propose that the school ask FANHS to fund the cost of bussing for field trips for the upcoming year. As the cost of transportation continues to rise, this, in turn, means an increase in fees to parents. I feel that removing this additional cost from parents will be welcome especially as the start of the school year is often a high cost time for parents. I welcome feedback and discussion from school council on this proposal.

Thank You: I would like to thank the School Council, FANHS, all parents, staff and students for all of the support and hard work this past school year. I believe it takes a village to do the best for our kids and I am so thankful to our school community for the support to New Horizons and our students.
