

Principal's Report to School Council

October 1, 2025

Lori Vigfusson

Principal

New Horizons School

Read-In Week: Read-in week is October 6-10. Students will be participating in reading activities including theme days and guest readers.

Indigo Love of Reading: This is our final week of collections for the Indigo Love of Reading Campaign. Donations can be made in the Sherwood Park Indigo location or following the link on our website and social media. The campaign closes October 5th.

Linking Generations Volunteer Grandparent Program:

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

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation:

NHS recognized this day on September 29th 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.

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 6th. We also have 11 students from the University of Alberta completing an observation Field Experience every Wednesday morning until the end of November.

Parent-Teacher Interviews and IPPs:

We will be having our Parent-Teacher Interviews on Tuesday, October 21st and Wednesday, October 22nd. These meetings are held to discuss the student Individual Program Plans (IPPs). For parents with students in Jr. High, you will have received an email regarding the pilot program we are adopting for Jr. High this year in order to make IPPs more meaningful and effective for students. Data collected through stakeholder forums and Board Surveys indicated that changes were necessary. If this program, now called Advanced Learning Plans in Jr. High proves successful we will be expanding its use in younger grades.

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 6.

Job Action for Alberta Teachers: As communicated previously, New Horizons Teachers will not be participating in the strike scheduled to begin October 6th. Though our teachers ARE represented by the Alberta Teachers' Association as public school teachers, our Collective Agreement does not expire until 2026, thus taking job action at this time would be illegal. We understand that this is a complex situation for many of our families and staff members. Transportation information from Elk Island Transportation was shared with families regarding the transportation plan during a strike. There was an error in the communication stating that we are not part of the ATA which we have been assured will be corrected.

It is important to share that we support our colleagues in public education because we are a part of public education. While we want to share accurate information and correct the misconceptions about Charter Schools that has been circulating, especially in social media, we don't want to distract from the message that more support and funding is needed in public education in Alberta. We have posted some information on our website regarding this and will add more as questions arise.