Principal's Report to School Council
October 7, 2026

Lori Vigfusson
Principal
New Horizons School

Read-In Week: We are celebrating read-in week this week. Students are participating in reading activities including theme days each day. Guest readers include parents, grandparents, members of our administration and there will be special guest readers a little later this week!

Carton Council Grant: Thanks to work from our Fundraising Association President, Rebecca Koziak, we have received a $5000 grant from the Carton Council of Canada. This grant will allow us to expand our recycling efforts within the school. We have purchased some new recycling receptacles for cartons, bottles and cans and will purchase more items as needed. Bottles are collected by jr. high students and the money from these subsidizes the Grade 9 adventure trip.

Linking Generations Volunteer Grandparent Program:

Two 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. We're happy to welcome Katie Jones into Ms. Freeman's class and Laura McGladdery into Ms. Kooger's class this 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 have three pre-service teachers in the school completing their Advanced Field Experience. They will be with us until December 18th. We also have 3 students completing their Observational Field Experience until December 2nd. These students come on Wednesday mornings to observe in classrooms to become oriented in school cultures and contexts. Mentoring pre-service teachers is an important way to provide experience and understanding around Gifted Education as this area is not well-covered in University courses.

Parent-Teacher Interviews and IPPs:
We will be having our Parent-Teacher Interviews on Tuesday, October 20th and Wednesday, October 21st. These meetings are held to discuss the student Individual Program Plans (IPPs).

Scholastic Book Fair: The Scholastic program is off to a great start this year. Scholastic Book **Club** is an ongoing program that allows families to order books **throughout the school year**, either for home delivery or during designated ordering periods with orders shipped to the school. The first fall Book Club order deadline was October 2, with the school benefiting from the proceeds to support the library. Thank you to all the parents who ordered! Expected distribution: late next week.

The Scholastic Book **Fair**, on the other hand, is a separate event that takes place twice a year and gives students and families an opportunity to browse and purchase books in person, operating similarly as a pop-up shop. Our first Book Fair will be held the *week after* Parent/Teacher Interviews on October 27-28-29 with sneak peak flyers going home the week of the 19th.

Overall, the Scholastic program continues to encourage a love of reading while providing valuable support for our school library.