

Hidden Valley Elementary School
Kwata Kets'adan Ku
5 MacPherson Road
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 5S3
(867) 667-8164 / [Hidden Valley Elementary School - Kwata Kets'adan Ku](http://HiddenValleyElementarySchool-KwataKets'adanKu.yukonschools.ca)
(yukonschools.ca)



October 2, 2022

Principal's Message

It has been a beautiful September at Hidden Valley Elementary. Classes continued to take advantage of the amazing weather with many learning opportunities outside. Students participated in berry picking, harvesting sap, learning about Yukon animals, hiking in the mountains, and shelter building. Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Birkeland's classes also participated in their Harvest Campout for a night. Our staff would like to extend our gratitude to all of the parents who have been volunteering for school activities, thank you!

We would like to welcome Tu Shat K'e (Nicole Smith) to Hidden Valley Elementary as our Southern Tutchone teacher for the year. Welcome Tu Shat K'e!

This past week was Truth and Reconciliation week, and Hidden Valley staff spent time reflecting with students about Orange Shirt Day and Truth and Reconciliation. On Tuesday, September 27th, Hidden Valley staff and students wore orange shirts and painted rocks on which they added a message or symbol to be placed around the fire in remembrance of the children who attended residential schools. Tu Shat K'e led students and staff with drumming and a song to remember the children who did not return home and the survivors of residential schools.

October will be busy month for Hidden Valley Elementary as staff and students prepare for Kwata Kets'adan Ku (Learning House in the Woods) on October 20th. We look forward to seeing all of our families on this special night!

Sincerely,

Trine Dennis – Principal, Hidden Valley Elementary School

Jon Allen – Vice Principal, Hidden Valley Elementary School

With respect, we are grateful for the opportunity to learn and work on the traditional territories of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

New Principal

Yukon Education continues to work through the hiring process for a new principal for Hidden Valley. Trine Dennis will continue at Hidden Valley as the principal until October 19th.

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School Pictures

School pictures will be happening on October 11th and 12th. Bring your bright smiles on those days!

From the Ground Up

Pick up for From the Ground Up will be this coming Wednesday, October 5th from 3:00pm-6:00pm.

Sporting Events

The Road Relay was a great time for our HVES runners. Well done!



The Early Bird Volleyball tournament was held on Wednesday September 14th at the CGC, and all of the students who participated had a great time! Mondays are league games, and either the boys or girls will be playing in the gym after school. Good luck to both of our teams!

Our Terry Fox run was held on Friday, September 16th at 2:00pm. It was great to see families participating with their students. Thank you to all of our staff who pitched in to help!

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Notifications to the Office – Pick Up After School

If there has been a change of plans regarding your student's pick up after school, please have your message into the office by noon, so Shelley can ensure your child has the message in time. Many of our classes do Forest School after lunch, and it can be more difficult to give a child a message in a timely manner. We really appreciate your help with this.

Emails with Classroom Teachers

There will be times when families will communicate with classroom teachers by email. We encourage families to keep those communication lines open. When a family emails a teacher in the evening, you can expect a reply during school hours. Sometimes it may take more than a day, depending on how busy the school day is after the email has been sent. If your message is urgent, please phone the school. Thank you for your understanding.

Professional Development for HVE Staff – Wednesday, September 28th

This past Wednesday, as a staff, we were able to participate in professional development with Hannah Beach. She is the co-author, along with Tamara Neufeld Strijack of "Reclaiming Our Students". Staff members made many connections with their own practice as educators and parents, and Hannah was an engaging and thoughtful presenter. Gabor Mate has said this book is "an essential read for educators and for all concerned with the mentoring of our young" (Gabor Mate, MD, CM, Co-Author of Hold on to your Kids).

If anyone is interested in what our staff has been up to, I would encourage families to take a look at the following website for more information about Hannah and Tamara's book.

[Reclaiming our students - A new era for landing pages](#)

Visual Learning

Welcome Barbecue and Open House



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Harvest Camp with Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Birkeland



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Orange Shirt Day



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IMPORTANT DATES: 2022-2023: Dates may be added monthly ☺

- **Wednesday, October 5, 2022** – Ground Up – Pick Up – 3:00pm-6:00pm
- **Monday, October 10, 2022** – Thanksgiving Holiday
- **Tuesday, October 11, and Wednesday, October 12** – Picture Day
- **Thursday, October 20, 2022** – Kwata Kets'adan Ku (Learning House in the Woods) - 5:00pm-7:00pm
- **Thursday, November 10, 2022** – Remembrance Day Assembly – 10:30am
- **Friday, November 11, 2022** – Remembrance Day - **No School**
- **Friday, November 25, 2022** – Informal Reports to go home
- **Friday, December 16, 2022** – Last day of school before Christmas Break
- **Tuesday, January 3, 2023** – Students return to school after Christmas Break
- **Monday, January 16, 2023** – PD Day - **No School for Students**
- **Friday, February 17, 2023** – Progress Reports to go home
- **Friday, February 24, 2023** – Heritage Day Holiday
- **Thursday, Friday, March 9-10, 2023** – Student Led Conferences – Times to be announced – **No School for students on the 10th**
- **Friday, March 10, 2023** – Last day of school before spring break - **No School for students**

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- **Monday, March 27, 2023** - Students return to school after Spring Break
- **Friday, April 7, 2023** – Good Friday Holiday
- **Monday, April 10, 2023** – Easter Monday Holiday
- **Monday, May 1, 2023** – Staff PD - **No School for students**
- **Monday, May 22, 2023** – Victoria Day Holiday
- **Thursday, June 15, 2023** – Last day of school – Summative Reports to go home