

Hidden Valley Elementary School Newsletter

September 2, 2014

Newsletter #1

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On behalf of the staff, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all Hidden Valley parents and pupils. I trust that your summer has been filled with wonderful opportunities for you and your child/children and that you have had time for relaxation and renewal. It is great to see all the friendly and smiley faces back at school.

I would also like to welcome those families that are new to the school and the community. We look forward to the experience of working with your children.

Our focus at Hidden Valley School will be on providing each child with new challenges that will result in a rewarding school experience. Academic emphasis on the core content areas of reading, language arts and mathematics will remain a priority. Instruction in fine arts, technology, physical education, science, social studies, character education, French and Native language complete our program providing each student with the opportunity to develop areas of interest and skill.

Self-Regulation is coming to our school as part of our 2014-2015 School Growth Plan. We have a special opportunity to take the ground-breaking neuroscience research into self-regulation and bring it into our classrooms.

Self-regulation is the ability to manage your own energy states, emotions, behaviours and attention, in ways that are socially acceptable and help achieve positive goals, such as maintaining good relationships, learning and maintaining wellbeing. Self-regulation is able to deal effectively and efficiently with stressors so that the child is able to remain in a calm and alert state, able to learn. (www.self-regulation.ca)

We believe that self-regulation will help student's capacities for improved engagement in learning.

Stacey Burnard (Social-Emotional Learning Consultant) will be doing a presentation at our Barbeque.

Our School Council will be hosting the Welcome Barbeque on Thursday, 11th September at 5p.m. We look forward to seeing all of our past and present families at this special event.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the school. I look forward to working with you and your child/children throughout the school year and to provide a productive and safe learning environment that supports student success. In addition, ideas on how to make our school a great learning environment, are always welcome.

I would like you to know that my door is always open, and I welcome your suggestions. *Together we make a difference in the lives of our children.*

I consider it a great honour and privilege to be able to serve as your principal, thanks for your trust and support. I look forward to a wonderful year.

Sincerely,

Riana Robinson
Principal
Hidden Valley School

HVS School Council News

The HVS School Council AGM meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 9th at 6:00 p.m. in the School Library. All parents are welcome.

Welcome back BBQ is Thursday, September 11, starting at 5:00pm.

The Weekday Warriors will start on September 8. Parents can register now on-line or at the Boys and Girls club downtown at 6209-6th Ave. Parents should also look at the parent and guardian handbook online to see the rules for Weekday Warriors. All payments this year will be made at the boys and girls club downtown. The website is: bgcyukon.com or you can call 393-2824.

Parents' Evening

We would like to invite you to attend an orientation evening on Wednesday, September 17th in your child's classroom. The teachers will explain expectations and information about the school year. It will not be a time for individual conferences, but you are welcome to make an appointment, if you would like to meet with your child's teacher. If you are not able to make alternative arrangements with your child/children, they may attend the meeting with you.

It is important that at least one parent per family attends this meeting.

5:00 p.m.	Learning Together
5:30 p.m.	Kindergarten (D. McDiarmid)
6:00 p.m.	Gr ½ (S.Heal)
6:30 p.m.	Gr ¾ (C. MacLeod)
7:00 p.m.	Gr 4/5 (B. Allen)
7:30 p.m.	Gr 6/7 (P.Harms)

Thank you for keeping Hidden Valley School Peanut Free.



Learning Together Program

Learning Together is a drop in program that runs Monday-Friday from 8:45 – 11:15 every morning.

Learning Together is a positive, play based learning environment for parents/ caregivers and their children that provides learning opportunities to enhance children's skills in all areas of development. It is a program that targets 3-5 year old children although ages 0-5 are welcome.

The program is drop-in and free! Snack served as part of the program.

Play centers, gym time, storytelling, games, crafts and so much more!

Park at the front of the school in the parent parking lot and enter the school from the primary wing door.

For more information contact the school at 667-8164.

Toys/Stuffies

Please help us to keep these items at home. Teachers cannot be held responsible for these items, and they often cause a lot of unhappiness in the classrooms.

Hidden Valley School

Staff 2014-2015

We would like to welcome all our new staff members. We hope you are going to be very happy at Hidden Valley.



HVS Calendar Update/Changes

Our school calendar went home last week.

The upcoming events for the next month are included in the back of this newsletter. Please go through it to make sure you have the correct dates for school activities. Thank you.

HVS School Volunteers

We are looking for parent volunteers. If you have some time to spare to organize our school events, please call the school at 667-8164.

Those parents wanting to volunteer their time, please contact the office.

HVS School Day

First Bell	8:35 a.m.
A.M. Recess	10:10-10:25 a.m.
Lunch	Noon to 12:20 p.m.
Lunch Recess	12:20-12:55 p.m.
Dismissal	3:07 p.m.

Riana Robinson	Principal, Counsellor
Tracy Klein	Kindergarten
Shari Heal	Grade 1/2
Cheryl MacLeod	Grade 3/4
Brenda Allen	Grade 4/5
Pete Harms	Grade 6/7
Betty Byblow	Reading Recovery
Amber Ursich	Music, French
Lynn Poile	Learning Assistant/Library
Heather Boardman	Remedial Tutor
Dawn Bennett	Education Assistant
Tiana Zakus	Education Assistant
William Bellemare	Education Assistant
Mary Lumbers	Education Assistant
Amanda Workman	First Nations Language
Shelley McInnis	Admin Assistant
Blondine Aitchison	Custodian
Sharon Martin	Library Clerk
Netty-Anne Cupido	Learning Together Program

A Big Thank You

While most of us were away on vacation, others were busy cleaning and preparing the school. Our custodians Blondine and Parpon did a wonderful job of cleaning and polishing our hallways and classrooms – the school look great!

After School Bus and Ride Changes

At any time, if you are requesting your child to go on a different bus, or if you are giving permission for your child to take a bus to someone else's house, the bus driver requires a note from the parents. You can also call the bus company at 456-2745 to pass on this information or fax the notes to the school at 393-6316.

If you need to let your child know about a change in after school ride plans, please try to call the school at 667-8164 before 3:00 p.m. If you call and get the answering machine, please call again until someone answers. This will ensure that your child receives the message.

Fund Raising Idea - Raven Recycling

When a person takes in their refundable items to Raven, instead of taking the money for yourself, you can ask that the "money from the refundables" be donated to Hidden Valley School. There is an account set up at Raven Recycling for Hidden Valley School for cash refundable donations and once a month Raven adds up the donations and sends a cheque to the school.

This can also be done for students who belong to the Raven Recycling Club. They can have their points transferred to money from the refundables and donated to Hidden Valley School.

HIDDEN VALLEY SCHOOL LIBRARY!

Welcome back to a new school year! Our school library is always a great place to be. Students' family members are welcome to borrow books too - just come and see Mme Lynn at the school to sign out books. Remember too - you can access the school's library catalogue via the internet! Go to the school's website, then click on Library: <http://www.yesnet.yk.ca/schools/hiddenvalley/index.html>

Happy reading! *Bonne lecture!*
Mme Lynn

Health & Other Information

When children come together in close contact, they share many things. Some things you want them to share; some you are not so keen about. Here are some comments and information on two of the more unpopular items—head lice and pink eye.

Head lice are a very common occurrence when heads are touching and hats are shared. However, having lice is not actually a health condition—they are just a nuisance. On the November month in the school calendar are some tips for parents about head lice. Checking your child's head regularly is the best prevention to any major situations at home or at school.

Pink Eye is another common condition in the school and daycare settings. The following information is taken from a "Well Beings" book put out by the Canadian Pediatric Society.

Pinkeye (Conjunctivitis) is an infection of the covering of the eyeball. It is usually caused by a virus, but it can also be due to bacteria. Pinkeye can also be caused by allergy or by rubbing the eyes excessively.

Children with pinkeye complain of a scratchy feeling or pain in their eyes and may have a lot of tears and pus discharge. The infection turns the whites of the eyes pink or red. When the child wakes up after a sleep, pus or discharge often makes the eyelids stick together. Pinkeye is easily spread when:

- A child with the infection touches the discharge and then touches another child;
- An uninfected child touches an infected child's eye discharge and then touches his or her own eyes;
- An adult wipes an infected child's eye and then touches his or her or another person's eyes.

Pinkeye that is caused by bacteria can be treated and cured with an antibiotic. Antibiotics can also stop the infection from spreading to others. There is no treatment for pinkeye that is caused by a virus.

Things Parents Can Do:

- Watch your child for signs of pinkeye if another child has it.
- Contact your physician if your child has pinkeye. It is not easy to tell whether the infection is caused by bacteria or a virus. It may be necessary for the physician to prescribe antibiotics for the child.
- Ensure you and your child wash your hands very carefully after touching the child's eyes.
- Do not let your child share towels or wash cloths with anyone else, because this could spread the infection.
- If your child's eye have pus (yellow, thick) or a discharge, he or she should not return to school until after taking the antibiotics for two full days.

Help your child succeed in school

Our goal this year is to ensure that every student attends school regularly.

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and in life.

We realize some absences are unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances. But, we also know that when students miss too much school— regardless of the reason – it can cause them to fall behind academically. Your child is less likely to succeed if he or she is chronically absent—which means missing 18 or more days over the course of an entire school year. Research shows:

- Children chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade are much less likely to read at grade level by the end of 3rd grade.
- By 6th grade, chronic absence is a proven early warning sign for students at risk for dropping out of school.

Absences can add up quickly. *A child is chronically absent if he or she misses just two days every month!!*

Clearly going to school regularly matters!

We don't want your child to fall behind in school and get discouraged. Please ensure that your child attends school every day and arrives on time. Here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance:

- Make sure your children keep a regular bedtime and establish a morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Ensure your children go to school every day unless they are truly sick.
- Avoid scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments when school is in session.
- Talk to your child's teacher if your child/children feel anxious about going to school.

Let us know how we can best support you and your children so that they can show up for school on time every day. *We want your child to be successful in school!* If you have any questions, please contact us.

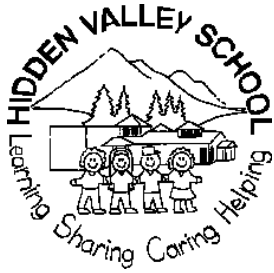
Hidden Valley Elementary Evacuation Sites 2014-2015

If we need to evacuate HVS in an emergency,
our primary site is Jack Hulland Elementary in Porter Creek.
In the event that we are unable to access Jack Hulland,
our alternate gathering places are:

Grades K, 1/2, 3/4 Location: #20 Marion Crescent

Grades 4/5, 6/7 Location: #18 MacPherson Rd.

Special Needs Students Location: Go with their classrooms



**LEARNING TO
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LIFE**

Hidden Valley School
#5 MacPherson Rd
Whitehorse, YT
Y1A 5S3

Phone:
(867) 667-8164

Fax:
(867) 393-6316

Administration E-mail:

Riana Robinson
Principal
Riana.robinson@gov.yk.ca

Shelley McInnis
Administrative Assistant
Shelley.mcinnis@gov.yk.ca

Web:
[www.yesnet.yk.ca/
schools/hiddenvalley](http://www.yesnet.yk.ca/schools/hiddenvalley)

HVS School Council:
hvscouncil@gmail.com

Landa Oshowy
Dental Therapist:
667-3049

Upcoming Events

Labour Day - No School	Sept. 1
School Council BBQ @ 5:00 p.m.	Sept. 11
Terry Fox Run @ 11:15 am	Sept. 12
Gr. 6/7 Rec Swim (1:00 - 1:45 pm)	Sept. 16
K - Gr. 2/3 Rec Skate (1:00 - 1:45 pm)	Sept. 16
Open Evening for Parents (Learning Together @ 5:00, K @ 5:30, ½ @ 6:00, 2/3 @ 6:30, 4/5 @ 7:00, 6/7 @ 7:30)	Sept. 17

