**Hidden Valley Elementary**

**School Newsletter**

**September 4, 2015**  **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.

We would like to invite you to attend an orientation evening on **Thursday, September 10th** 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 you children, they may attend the meeting with you.

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

5:30 p.m.             Kindergarten (D. McDiarmid)

6:00 p.m.             Grade 1 (T. Klein)

6:30 p.m.             Grade 2/3 (C. MacLeod)

7:00 p.m.             Grade 4/5 (B. Allen)

7:30 p.m.             Grade 6/7 (P. Morrissey)

Our School Council will be hosting the Welcome Barbeque on Thursday, 17th September at 5p.m. We look forward to seeing all of our past and present families at this special event.

Our goal this year is to ensure that every student attends school regularly and on time. Last year we had 1272 absences in the school and 1068 lates. We would like to reduce this number by 50%.

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



**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 and *on time 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.



**HVS School Council News**

Hidden Valley School Council Needs Members!

Hidden Valley School Council has a few vacancies as a result of some families moving, and is seeking new members including a Secretary/Treasurer.

The Council meets once a month, hosts a number of events through the year including the welcome to school BBQ and end of year sub lunch. There is remuneration available to members for attending meetings.

School Councils are a way to be directly involved in developing the educational institution that you would like to see for your children.

Please contact: [hvscouncil@gmail.com](mailto:hvscouncil@gmail.com) or call 393-3939 to learn more or visit

<http://www.education.gov.yk.ca/kto12/school_councils.html>

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

Welcome back BBQ is Thursday, September 17, starting at 5:00pm.

**Hidden Valley Huskies Fun Club** The program started on September 1st. The Huskies Fun Club is a drop-in based after school recreational program which runs between the hours of 3:07pm to 5:30pm, Monday through Friday. We offer healthy fresh from scratch snacks, provide homework help, bring in facilitators, and present fun and active themed programming, including games and crafts. Parents can register their children at school.

**Parents’ Evening**

We would like to invite you to attend an orientation evening on Wednesday, September 10th 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.**

5:30 p.m. Kindergarten (D. McDiarmid)

6:00 p.m. Gr 1 (T. Klein)

6:30 p.m. Gr 2/3 (C. MacLeod)

7:00 p.m. Gr 4/5 (B. Allen)

7:30 p.m. Gr 6/7 (P. Morrisey)

Learning Together Program

“Learning Together” is a positive, play based learning environment for parents or caregivers and their children. The program provides learning opportunities to enhance children’s skills in all areas of development. This program targets 3 – 5 year old children although ages 0-5 are welcome.

Learning Together is a “drop in” program that runs Tuesday-Friday mornings from 9:00-11:30am and Tuesday afternoon from 12:35-3:05. (The Tuesday afternoon program starts on September 14th.) This is a parent/child participation program. That said, it is the responsibility of the parent or caregiver to be engaged with their child’s/children’s learning throughout the entire morning. In addition, the program also provides a wonderful opportunity for parents of young children to meet other parents and their children.

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.

Thank you for keeping Hidden Valley School Peanut Free.



**HVS School Volunteers**

If you are able to help at school, or at school events, please call the office at 667-8164.

**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 | 12:20-12:50 p.m. |
| Dismissal | 3:07 p.m. |

***Hidden Valley School***

***Staff 2015 - 2016***

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

Riana Robinson Principal, Counsellor

Denise McDiarmid Kindergarten

Tracy Klein Grade 1

Cheryl MacLeod Grade 2/3

Brenda Allen Grade 4/5

Pamela Morrissey Grade 6/7

Betty Byblow Reading Recovery

Andrea McColeman Music

Stephen Fergusson 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

Martin Farrow Educational Assistant

Shelley McInnis Admin Assistant

Sharon Martin Library Clerk

Netty-Anne Cupido Learning Together Program

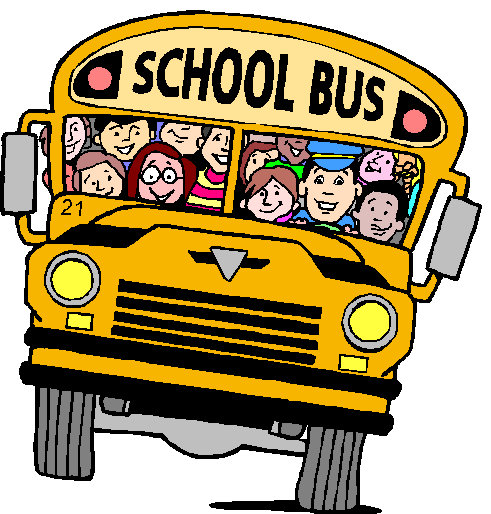
**A Big Thank You**

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! We would also like to say thank you and farewell to Blondine, as she has been transferred to Vanier Catholic Secondary School. Blondine , we would like to wish you all the best! The staff, parents and children will miss you terribly.

**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 456-3210 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 2:50 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://hve.yukonschools.ca/>

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.

**Website**

If you have not had the opportunity to look at our school’s new website, please do so. It is beautiful and will be updated regularly.

<http://hve.yukonschools.ca/>

**Hidden Valley Elementary Evacuation Sites  
2015-2016**

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**



|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Labour Day – No School   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Open Evening/Orientation for Parents  (K @ 5:30, 1 @ 6:00, 2/3 @ 6:30, 4/5 @ 7:00, 6/7 @ 7:30) |  | | School Photos |  | | Sept. 7  Sept. 10  Sept. 16 |
| School Council BBQ @ 5:00 p.m. | Sept. 17 |
| Terry Fox Run @ 11:15 am  PD (no school) | Sept. 18  Sept 21 |
| Kindergarten – Hearing Screening | Sept. 25 |
| PD –(no school – Aspen training for | Oct. 27 |
| Staff) |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |



**From the Ground Up Fundraiser**

Please support our first fundraiser of the year. The money will go towards our Husky school uniform, last year’s Destination Imagination Tournament, and teaching aids. Schools receive 40% profit for every box sold. Boxes will contain potatoes, carrots, beets and while supplies last cabbages. All forms should be handed in to the class teachers by September 14th.

**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**](mailto:Riana.robinson@gov.yk.ca)

**Shelley McInnis**

**Administrative Assistant**

[**Shelley.mcinnis@gov.yk.ca**](mailto:Shelley.mcinnis@gov.yk.ca)

**Web:**

<http://hve.yukonschools.ca/>

**HVS School Council:**

[hvscouncil@gmail.com](mailto:hvscouncil@gmail.com)

**Upcoming Events**

