

Hidden Valley Elementary School Newsletter

September 28, 2016

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.

I would like to thank our School Council and all the families who contributed their time and energy during our barbeque. We would like to extend a huge thank you to Lindsay and Wendy for coordinating the event.

We would like to thank all the parents who attended the Parents' meeting. We hope you found it informative.

As it gets colder, please ensure that your children are appropriately dressed for the weather. Conditions change quickly and we all know how hard it is to dress children in the cooler autumn but not quite winter season.

This year parent/teacher/student interviews will be held on October 20th (evening) and 21st (9 – 3p.m). Students are expected to attend the interview with their parents. There is no school for the students on Friday October 21st. Class teachers will send appointment forms home in October.

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 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.



Tips that will help your child stay involved at school:

- Help your child be alert by getting enough sleep, eating well, and coping with difficulties.
- Set expectations for learning at school.
- Attend school conferences, performances and other events.
- Talk with your child every day about what is happening in school.
- Make your home an engaging learning place.

2016 – 2017 School Growth Plan Goals: Mathematics

Rationale for goal:

We would like to continue with our Math goal and would like to use report card performance indicators for K - 3 and ongoing assessments for Gr 4-7 as our evaluative tools.

Targets:

Mathematics

Goal 1:

Primary students: (K – 3)

In 2015 – 2016, 88 % of all primary students fully met or exceeded Math expectations according to BC performance standards.

By the end of the 2016 - 2017 school year 92% of all students working at a primary level will meet or exceed Math expectations according to BC performance standards.

Intermediate students (Gr 4 – 7)

In 2015 – 2016 intermediate students achieved 75% in their ongoing unit tests. By the end of the 2016 - 2017 school year all students working at an intermediate level will receive 84% average in their ongoing unit tests.

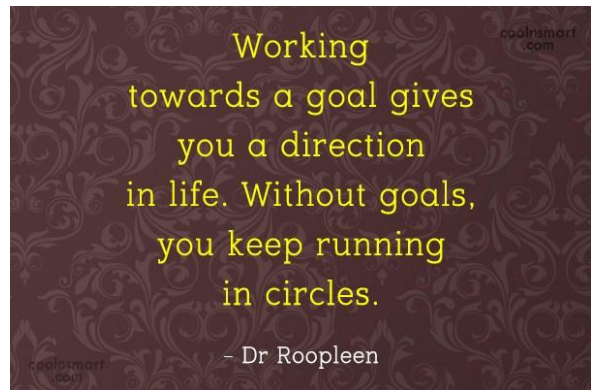
Maintenance Goal: Social Responsibility

We would also like to maintain our focus on strengthening social responsibility at our school.

Maintenance Goal

a) By the end of 2016 - 2017 school year, at least 72% of primary students and 88% of Intermediate students will fully meet or exceed expectations in social responsibility as measured in the BC Performance Standards.

Objective #1: Students will develop positive conflict resolution and problem solving skills.



Halloween Carnival

On Monday, October 31st from 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., students will be participating in the HVS Halloween Carnival. The Grade 6/7 students set up booths of games and activities just like at a fair. Students can bring change from home to play many fun games.

Money from the carnival is donated to charity.

Students can also dress up for this afternoon of fun! The gym becomes alive with many wonderful characters and creatures.

****Please note that the office will not be able to make change.**

HVS Book Fair

Hidden Valley School will be having a book fair from October 17 – 21st in the Library. Books will be available for sale from Tuesday, Oct. 18th to Thursday Oct. 20th at lunch time from 12:20 p.m. to 12:50 p.m., as well as after school Thursday, October 20th from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. and all day Friday, October 21st from 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

If you are interested in volunteering some of your time for this event, please call Ms. D at the school at 667-8164.



HVS School Council News

The Hidden Valley School council meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 5 at 6.00 p.m. in the School Library. All parents are welcome.

Hidden Valley Huskies Fun Club

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.

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. 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.



Allergy Alert!

We have students in the school who have severe reactions to some food products. The items that we are asking all parents to refrain from sending to school are *any nuts, peanut butter or any items containing nut products*. Contact with these items can result in severe situations for some of our students. We have had excellent support from our community on this and we thank you for your continued cooperation.

Thank you for keeping Hidden Valley School
Nut 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.

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 2:30 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.



Hidden Valley School

Staff 2016 - 2017

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 1/2
Shari Heal	Grade 2/3
Brenda Allen	Grade 4/5
Bryan Clubbe	Grade 6/7
Betty Byblow	Reading Recovery, L/A and EA
Andrea McColeman	Music
Stephen Fergusson	French
Lynn Poile	Learning Assistant/Library
Heather Boardman	Remedial Tutor
Dawn Bennett	Education Assistant
William Bellemare	Education Assistant
Mary Lumbers	Education Assistant
Shelley McInnis	Admin Assistant
Sharon Martin	Library Clerk
Netty-Anne Cupido	Learning Together Program
Lindsay Chambers	First Nations
David Bunbury	First Nations

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. 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.



Interested in joining swim club....

All prospective youth swimmers (ages 6 & up) are invited to complete a pool evaluation before registration in our 2016-17 swim season can take place. Depending on your child's swimming ability, our coaches may either recommend a specific group within the Club OR that your child continue to develop their skills through City swim lessons.

Our swim club accepts new members **ONLY** two times during the year (September OR January) *depending on our space availability.*

Attend One of these POOL EVALUATION TIMES:

FIRST COME FIRST SERVED

1. Wednesday, September 14 at at 4:00 pm
OR

2. Thursday, September 15 at 6:30 pm

Online Registration will be available on deck following Coach recommendation.

NEW this year => Teddy Bear 1/2 season sessions
Sept 12-Dec. 15, 2016 and/or Jan. 3-April 27, 2017

No bingo or volunteer requirements for Teddy Bear swim families only

Email: whseglacierbears@gmail.com your interest to attend
OR just show up!

Promoting a culturally inclusive environment at Hidden Valley School

Last year, utilizing the ‘spiral of inquiry,’ teachers Denise McDiarmid and Lynn Poile examined ways of creating a more culturally inclusive learning environment at the school. For 2016-17, teachers Shari Heal and Lindsay Chambers are joining the inquiry team. They are consulting regularly with all staff in order to implement embedded and authentic change to school environments and routines by utilizing traditional language and ways of knowing, expanding the school’s collection of Indigenous learning resources, and modifying instructional practices (for example, by conducting group discussions while sitting in a circle and using a talking stick). By working collaboratively with local First Nations and the *First Nations Programs and Partnerships Unit*, a Hidden Valley “Experiential Model” is being envisioned, linked to K-7 curriculum and the school’s environs. Please watch for updates through the school newsletter and website!

Dá Kwäändür – Our Story

Staff and students alike are increasing their knowledge of the Southern Tutchone Language (Táá’ an Män dialect). Here are the elements of a simple conversation – have fun practising at home! (*Keep in mind that the language is taught mainly orally; ask your child to help you pronounce the words!*)

Southern Tutchone basic greetings

*This is a general oral conversation that is used at the beginning of each class that will be built on throughout the year by changing the personal feelings.

Dzenù shàwkwathän – *Good day*

Dännch’a – *How are you?*

Shàw ilì – *I am good.*

Nän k’e? – *And you?*

Shà hù, shàw ilì. – *Me too, I am good.*

Basic weather conversation

*The weather song was taught last year, some students will be able to sing the song and do actions that go with each type of weather listed.

Chìch’a dakwäch’a? (dakwäch’e – weather song) – *How is it outside?*

Chìch’a sha kwänlì – *It is sunny outside.*

Chìch’a k’ú kwañlì – *It is cloudy outside.*

Chìch’a sha nìsha – *It is raining outside.*

Chìch’a ints’i nìts’i – *It is windy outside.*

Hidden Valley Elementary Evacuation Sites 2016-2017

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, 2/3 Location: #26 MacPherson Rd.

Grades 4/5, 6/7 Location: #20 Marion Crescent

Special Needs Students Location: Go with their classrooms



**LEARNING TO
LEARN.....FOR
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:
<http://hve.yukonschools.ca/>

HVS School Council:
hvscouncil@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Royal visit (K - 7)	Sept 28
YTA Conference - NO SCHOOL	Sept 29, 30
School Assembly (you are welcome to attend) at 11:20 am	Oct 4
Hearing Screening in Kindergarten	Oct 4
Thanksgiving (NO SCHOOL)	Oct 10
Volleyball Early bird tournament	Oct 12
Gr 6 Immunization	Oct 13
Volleyball game #1	Oct 17
Book Fair	Oct 17 - 21
Parent Interviews (evening)	Oct 20
Parent Interviews (9:00 am - 3:00 pm) NO SCHOOL	Oct 21
Volleyball game #2	Oct 24
Volleyball game #3	Oct 31
Halloween Carnival (1 p.m. - 2.30)	Oct 31

