

# Hidden Valley Elementary School Newsletter

September 5, 2017

Newsletter #1

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to welcome everyone back to Hidden Valley School for the 2017-2018 school year. I hope that you were all able to spend some quiet and exciting times with your family over the summer months.

We would also like to welcome the new 39 students and their families to our school community. We look forward to the experience of working with your children. Our focus at Hidden Valley School is to offer our students a balanced academic program that meets the needs of the individual student. We are following the curriculum redesign in our school, which will still focus on the core content areas of reading, language arts and mathematics. However, we also put a focus on the core competencies of learning: (a) communication, (b) thinking, and (c) personal and social.

We would like to thank our School Council and all the families who contributed their time and energy during our barbeque. This year the barbeque will be held on the evening of Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>. I hope to see everyone there this year.

We would like to thank all the students and parents for their understanding this fall with the class changes, due to the increase of enrolment. I would also like to thank my amazing staff for taking on the new appointments so close the beginning of the school year.

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 we will be emailing out the calendar and paper copies can be made available on demand. We are also planning on testing an electronic email update that will allow you to select and automatically add school events to your phone. We will be doing a test this fall and roll it out by the end of the calendar year (December 2017).

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,  
John Duclos  
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 1<sup>st</sup> grade are much less likely to read at grade level by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
- By 6<sup>th</sup> 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.
  - What are you learning and why is it important?
  - How are you doing?
  - What is your next step?
- Make your home an engaging learning place.

## 2017 – 2018 School Growth Plan Goals: Mathematics

### Rationale for goal:

We would like to continue with our Math goal and would like to use on-going assessments, portfolios, and performance indicators for K - 7 as our evaluative tools.

### Targets:

#### Mathematics

##### Goal 1:

##### Primary students: (K – 3)

In 2016-2017, our goal was that at least 92% of all primary students will achieve the following Numeracy Net Performance Indicator (develop number sense). By the end of 2016-2017, 88% of the primary students achieved their goal.

By the end of the 2017 - 2018 school year 90% of all students working at primary level, grades 1-3, will meet or exceed Math expectations according to Numeracy Net performance indicator #6, in reference to their individual education plans (IEP's) and student learning plans (StLP's).

##### Intermediate students (Gr 4 – 7)

In 2016 – 2017, our goal was that all students working at an intermediate level, will receive 84% average in their ongoing unit tests. By the end of 2016-2017, 78% of the intermediate students achieved their goal.

By the end of the 2017 - 2018 school year 90% all students working at an intermediate level will meet or exceed Math expectations according to Numeracy Net performance indicator “Developing Number Sense”, in reference to their individual education plans (IEP's) and student learning plans (StLP's).

#### Maintenance Goal: Social

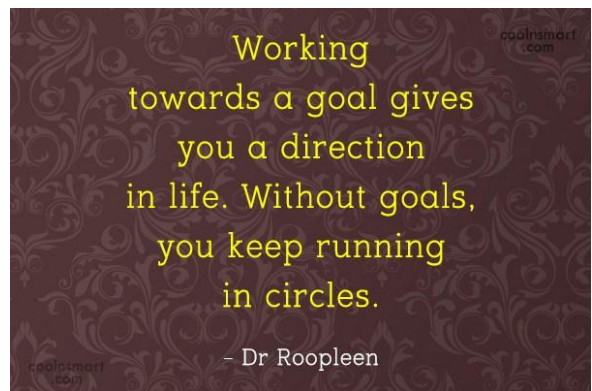
##### Responsibility

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.

By the end of the 2017 - 2018 school year 90% of all students working at primary level and 85% of all students working at intermediate level will meet or exceed social responsibility expectations according to BC performance standards.



#### **Halloween Carnival**

On Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> 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 – 20<sup>th</sup> in the Library. Books will be available for sale from Tuesday, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> to Thursday Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> at lunch time from 12:20 p.m. to 12:50 p.m., as well as after school Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. and all day Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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

## HVS School Council News

The Hidden Valley School council AGM will be held on Wednesday, October 11th 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 3:10 pm 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**.



## Reminder about school supplies

This is a reminder that if a student requires assistance with school supplies, please contact the school so we can make arrangements to make sure everyone has the supplies they need to get the school year started.



## 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	10:15-10:30 a.m.
Lunch	Noon to 12:20 p.m.
Lunch Recess	12:20-12:50 p.m.
Dismissal	3:10 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, fax the notes to the school at 393-6316 or e-mail the Admin Assistant at [shelley.mcinnis@gov.yk.ca](mailto:shelley.mcinnis@gov.yk.ca).

If you need to let your child know about a change in after school ride plans, please 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 2017 - 2018*

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

John Duclos	Principal, Counsellor
Jennifer Jerome	Kindergarten
Shari Heal	Kindergarten/Grade 1
Tracy Klein	Grade 1/2
Jon Allen	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
Deanna Paquin	Education Assistant
Kevin Greenshields	Education Assistant
Shelley McInnis	Admin Assistant
Sharon Martin	Library Clerk
Cate McCaw	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.

### School calendar survey

The Yukon government is asking students, parents, School Councils and communities to fill out an online survey and provide their opinion on how the school calendar should be organized.

We are asking for all of you to take the time to [fill out the survey](#). Hard copies are also available through the school.

It is important to voice your opinion so we can prepare a school calendar that works best for our school.

The survey will be open to complete until **October 16, 2017**.

The feedback from this survey will be considered when preparing school calendars for the next four school years, including 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact the school. If you require assistance filling out the survey, please contact Amanda Dieckmann at [amanda.dieckmann@gov.yk.ca](mailto:amanda.dieckmann@gov.yk.ca) or 867-456-6751.

For more information, you can also visit [www.education.gov.yk.ca](http://www.education.gov.yk.ca).

### Sondage sur le calendrier scolaire

Le gouvernement du Yukon invite les élèves, les parents, les conseils scolaires et les membres de la collectivité à répondre à un sondage en ligne afin de connaître leur avis sur la future planification des calendriers scolaires.

Nous vous encourageons à prendre un moment pour remplir [le questionnaire en ligne](#). Vous pouvez également vous en procurer un exemplaire papier auprès de votre école.

Il est important que vous exprimiez votre opinion, car cela nous permettra d'élaborer un calendrier scolaire adapté aux besoins de notre école.

Vous pourrez participer au sondage jusqu'au **16 octobre 2017**.

Les résultats du sondage seront pris en considération dans l'établissement des calendriers scolaires 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021 et 2021-2022.

Pour toute question relative au sondage, veuillez communiquer avec votre école. Si vous avez besoin d'assistance pour remplir le sondage en ligne, veuillez écrire à M<sup>me</sup> Amanda Dieckmann à l'adresse [amanda.dieckmann@gov.yk.ca](mailto:amanda.dieckmann@gov.yk.ca) ou lui téléphoner au 867-456-6751.

Pour en savoir plus, vous pouvez aussi consulter le site : [www.education.gov.yk.ca](http://www.education.gov.yk.ca).

# Upcoming Events



**LEARNING TO  
LEARN.....FOR  
LIFE**

**Hidden Valley School**  
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Whitehorse, YT  
Y1A 5S3

**Phone:**  
(867) 667-8164

**Fax:**  
(867) 393-6316

**Administration E-mail:**

**John Duclos**  
Principal  
[john.duclos@gov.yk.ca](mailto:john.duclos@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)

Gr. 4/5 Soccer @ Vanier	Sept. 14
Orientation Evening for Parents 5:30 - 8:00 pm	Sept. 19
PD Day (NO SCHOOL)	Sept. 20
School Council Welcome Back BBQ 5:30 - 8:30 pm	Sept. 21
Terry Fox Run at 11:00 am	Sept. 22
PD Day (NO SCHOOL)	Oct. 6
Thanksgiving Day (NO SCHOOL)	Oct. 9
School Council AGM	Oct. 11
Volleyball game #1	Oct 16
Book Fair	Oct 16 - 20
Parent Interviews (evening)	Oct 19
Parent Interviews (9:00 am - 3:00 pm)	Oct 20
NO SCHOOL	
Volleyball game #2	
Gr. 6/7 Swim Patrol (9:45 - 10:30 am)	Oct 23
Volleyball game #3	Oct. 24 -27
Halloween Carnival (1:00 - 2:30 pm)	Oct 31

