

Hidden Valley Elementary School Newsletter

October 4, 2019

Newsletter #1

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We want to welcome everyone back to Hidden Valley School for the 2019-2020 school year. I hope that everyone has had a great start to your fall.

We would also like to welcome all of the new 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 focus on place-based learning and literacy skills. This focus is rooted in individualized goal setting and working with a growth mindset.

Thank you, School Council and volunteers who contribute to our programming at HVES. This year the School Council will continue to run fundraisers in the school such as hot lunches, coffee sales, silent auction, and Rudolph's Ball.

Please ensure that the children are dressed for cold and wet weather when they come to school. Conditions change quickly, and we all know how hard it is to dress children in autumn for please send them with various layers. Also, please remember that we are using a place-based model of learning at the school; therefore, our students spend time outdoors almost every day.

For school closure information and other important dates, please refer to the school website (<http://hve.yukonschools.ca/>). The site also includes the Communicating Student Learning schedule and various information about the school and the BC Curriculum.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the school.

I consider it a great honour and privilege to be able to serve as your principal, thanks for your trust and support over the past three years. I look forward to another 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 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.
 - 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.

Kwata Kets'adan Ku Night

(Learning House in the Woods)

Date: October 9, 2019

Time: 5:30—7:00 (Drop-in)

**We are inviting you to the first
Communicating Student Learning night of the
year.**

**During the Kwata Kets'adan Ku night the
students will be leading you through some hands
on activities to demonstrate their learning
progress. You are free to move from one class to
another at your own pace but be prepared to
spend up to 30 minutes for each of your children.**

**Please come dressed to spend some time outdoors
as some classes may be using our local forest as a
vessel for learning during the
evening.**

HVES

Halloween Carnival

On Thursday, October 31st from 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., students will be participating in the HVS Halloween activities. The Grade 6/7 students are discussing possible activities. Students can dress up for this afternoon of fun! The gym becomes alive with many wonderful characters and creatures. All families are welcome to attend.

School Fundraiser Book Fair

October 8-10th - 25% of all sales will go directly to Hidden Valley School

Book sales will be available: At lunch hour from 12-12:50, after school from 3:05 - 3:45 and on the evening of October 9th at Kwata Kets'adan Ku night from 5:30-7pm

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

HVS School Council News

The Hidden Valley School council will have it's next meeting on Wednesday October 2nd at 5:30pm, in the school library.

Hidden Valley Huskies Fun Club

The Huskies Fun Club is a drop-in based after school recreational program which runs between the hours of 3:05 pm to 5:30pm, Monday through Friday. We offer a healthy snacks, provide homework help, present fun and active themed programming, including games and crafts. Parents can register their children at school.



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.

The list is found on the school website.



HVS School Volunteers

If you are able to help at school, or at school events, please call the office at 667-8164 or contact your child's teacher.

HVS School Day

First Bell	8:35 a.m.
A.M. Recess	10:15-10:30 a.m.
Lunch Recess	Noon to 12:25 p.m.
Lunch	12:25-12:50 p.m.
Dismissal	3:05 p.m.

Hidden Valley School

Staff 2019 - 2020

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
Jolene Campbell	School Counsellor
Melaynie Campbell	Kindergarten
Tracy Klein	Kindergarten/Grade 1
Jennifer Jang	Grade 1/2
James Mitchell	Grade 2
Jon Allen	Grade 3
Shari Heal	Grade 4
Meghan Adamsky	Grade 5
Andrea Webber	Grade 6/7
Lindsay Chambers	First Nations Language
Katie Vanderstelt	Reading Recovery, L/A
Kristy Reid	Physical Education, L/A
Allen Penny	Music & Learning Commons
Heather Boardman	Remedial Tutor
William Bellemare	Education Assistant
Deanna Paquin	Education Assistant
Kevin Greenshields	Education Assistant
Marie Kormos	Education Assistant
Crystal Desharnairs	Education Assistant
Tamara Hudson	Education Assistant
Donna McCann	Education Assistant
Fanny Saint-Onge	Administration Assistant

Terry Fox Run

Our Terry Fox Run was a great success this year. The weather held out for us, so we didn't have to run in the rain. Thank you to all the parents that came out to join us. A big thank you to all the students, families and staff who donated money. This year we made over \$1000.00 for cancer research.

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 Mr. Penny 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!*

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.

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.



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 fanny.saintonge@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.

meet the school counsellor

Hidden Valley Elementary School

Phone: 667-8164

Email: Jolene.Campbell@yesnet.yk.ca

a little about me

I am excited to be joining the amazing staff and students at Hidden Valley Elementary School! I have lived in Whitehorse for the past 5 years and prior to that I lived in the Northwest Territories and British Columbia. I have worked with children and families in the community and in schools for over 15 years. When not at school, I love spending time outside with my family and puppy or working out at the gym!



my role

I have a Masters degree in Counselling Psychology and I am a professional member of the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association. My role in the school is to provide support to all students in order to help them achieve their personal and academic potential! I can assist students to cope with life changes including crisis and trauma, and promote positive mental health. Through class meetings, small group work, and individual counselling, I can support students to in following areas: social skills, emotional awareness, decision-making, health and wellness, career exploration, and self-regulation. Referrals can be made to me by parents, teachers or other staff, or student self-referral. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.



Upcoming Events

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

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Phone:
(867) 667-8164

Fax:
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Administration E-mail:

John Duclos
Principal
john.duclos@gov.yk.ca

Fanny Saint-Onge
Administrative Assistant
fanny.saintonge@gov.yk.ca

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

HVS School Council:
hvscouncil@gmail.com

Grade 6/7 Mt. Mac	Sept. 27
Grade 5 - Poplar Flat Farms & Orange Shirt Pick up	Sept. 27
Volleyball game #1	Sept. 30
Orange Shirt day - HVS	Oct. 1
School Council Meeting @ 5:30	Oct. 2
K & K/1 - Safety with Noah Chaikel	Oct. 4
Volleyball game #2	Oct. 7
Book Fair	Oct. 8-10
Kwata Ketsadan Ku (Learning House in the Woods) (starting at 5:30)	Oct. 9
PD Day (No school)	Oct. 11
Thanksgiving Day (No School)	Oct. 14
Gr. 5-7 Swim to Survive Lessons (9:45-10:30)	Oct. 15-18
Kindergarten and Gr.2 - Rec Skate	Oct. 17
Volleyball game #3	Oct. 21
K & K1 - Health Nurse Lesson (Body Parts)	Oct. 24
Volleyball game #4	Oct. 28
Halloween Carnival (1:00 - 2:30 pm)	Oct. 31