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## Mini-Conference For Parents

### Illumination: Shedding Light on Your Gifted Child

Saturday, March 7

We are excited to announce a mini-conference on gifted education.

*Read more on page 2.*



## OUR SOCIAL CONTRACT



*Our school is a place of learning. It is a place where we treat each other with respect and honesty. It is a place where we play in a way that is safe and fair.*

[www.newhorizons.ab.ca](http://www.newhorizons.ab.ca)

## Gifted Conference

On Saturday, March 7, New Horizons School will be hosting a parent conference on gifted education. This is our first endeavor at organizing a gifted education conference, and we have hit some unexpected bumps along the way, so we are starting small.

We are excited to have four speakers from Alberta who will share their thoughts and expertise to shed light

on a special group of people- our gifted children.

**Janneke Frank**, PhD  
**Ken Boschman**, MEd.; R. Psych  
**George Georgiou**, PhD  
**Sal Mendaglio**, PhD

When all the speakers have finished their presentations, a fifth session will be offered - a Panel Discussion for a question and answer session with all four presenters.

We will be advertising in Strathcona County and Edmonton to offer parents of gifted children in the

wider community an opportunity to learn more about giftedness.

Time will be made available at the end of the conference for parents to interact and network with other parents of gifted children.

We will have an on-line registration system set up in the next few days. Our aim is to keep registration fees as low as possible so that we can reach as many parents as possible.

Expect complete information, including presenter topics in the next few days!

## Battle of the Plains of Abraham A Re-Enactment

Miss Ruck (center) recently transformed her Grade 7 Humanities class into the Plains of Abraham. The battle that occurred in 1759 eventually led to the surrender of Quebec.

The British invasion of Quebec was led by General Wolfe (Palak - right), whose troops defeated the French led by Marquis de Montcalm (Garrett - left).



*Wolfe and Montcalm prepare to deliver their speeches.*

## School Information Night January 28

We will be having our School Information Night on Wednesday, January 28 at our current location for parents interested in enrolling their children at NHS for the 2015-2016 school year.

The information session will begin with a general assembly in the gym at 7:00 p.m. Information regarding giftedness and our school in general will be presented.

After the large group session, parents will break out to the classrooms where grade specific information will be shared and questions can be asked. The kindergarten presentation will continue in the gym.

The junior high information will be a joint 7-9 presentation. Parents of current NHS Grade 6 students may wish to attend. We will be making a presentation to the Grade 6 class later in the spring after more junior high planning has occurred.



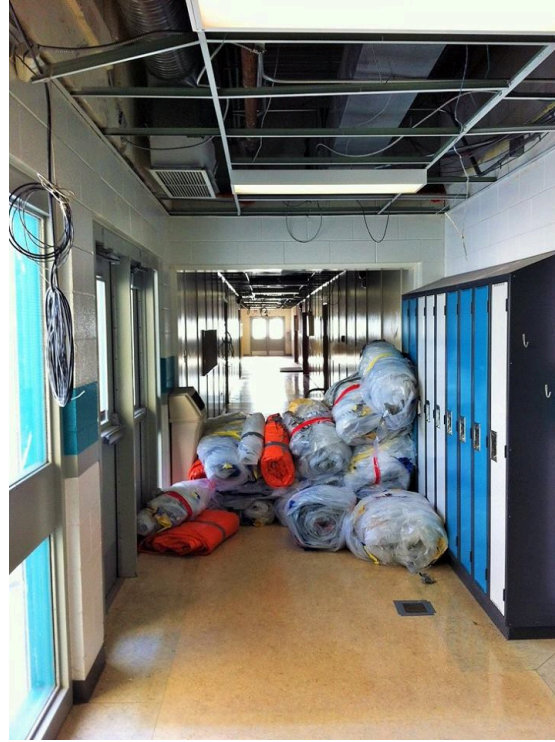
# The Excitement Mounts!

## Photos on the Progress of Our Sherwood Park Campus

The asbestos abatement portion of our new school's upgrades is now complete. Other renovation projects will continue through the spring!



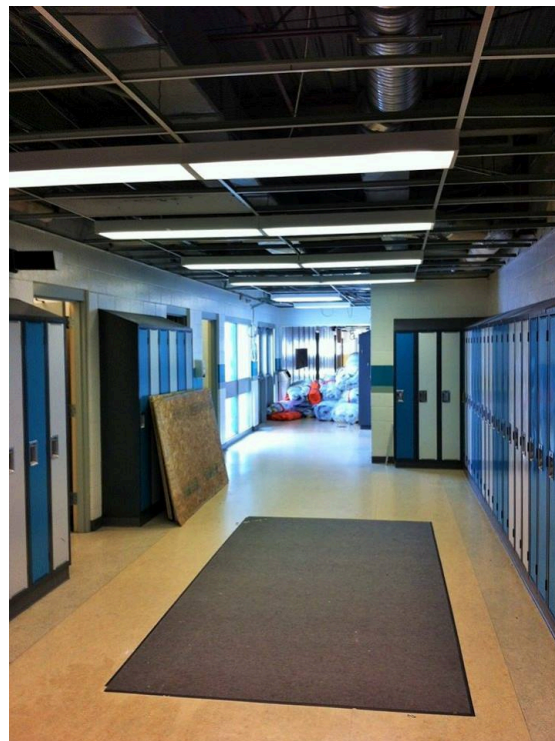
*One of the classrooms.*



*The final clean-up.*



*The Learning Commons (Library)*



*Look at all the full-size lockers!*



## The Weekly Scientist Club

WEEKLY SCIENTIST



The Weekly Scientist Club is a new club that is being offered to students from K-9. The club derives its name from the idea that once a week, one or more of our students will present something about their passion to other students, staff and parents in the school.

This club is a new concept that will likely change over time including the possibility of having a wider scope beyond science. The application process and other aspects of the club including the presentation approach will also likely change as we begin this new journey. Your feedback along the way will be helpful.

## NEW

The purpose of the Weekly Scientist Club is to provide students an opportunity to share their science passion with others.

The Weekly Scientist will

- allow students who have a passion for a science related topic to take the opportunity to share with others;
- provide a way for students who have a passion in a particular area in science to pursue their individual interest area;
- help develop leadership and presentation skills.

To learn more about the Weekly Scientist Club, visit the web-page by [clicking here](#).

## School Council Family Movie Event: See page 8

Maddy receives her Giuliano de' Medici t-shirt from entrepreneurs Justin (left) and Colin (right). Maddy says that she wanted a t-shirt with Giuliano on it after learning about him in Social Studies last year.

## ENTERPRISE AND INNOVATION FAIR



Evan helps Marcella fire the Smoke Canon he created for the Enterprise and Innovation Fair organized by Mr. Wilde.



## Accountability Surveys

As an annual check-up on the education system, the Accountability Pillar provides an opportunity for Alberta Education and school authorities to ensure that we are equipping students for success.

The Accountability Pillar uses a set of 16 indicators consisting of surveys of students, parents and teachers on various aspects of quality; student outcomes such as dropout and high

school completion rates; and provincial assessments of student learning.

From January to the end of February, Alberta Education will be conducting the annual Accountability Pillar Survey. In January, parents of students in grades 4-9 will receive a survey from Alberta Education. In February, students in grades 4-9 and all teachers will be completing their surveys online at school.

All surveys are anonymous and ask questions about experiences with the school. In addition to English and

French, the parent survey is available in Chinese, Punjabi, Arabic, Blackfoot, Cree, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog and Urdu.

Your participation in the survey helps provide important information on the quality of education your child is receiving, so we encourage you to return your survey promptly.

Survey results will be available to school authorities in May 2015, and will be reported publicly as part of their 3-Year Education Plans and Annual Education Results Reports.



### Invest in the future.

Alberta Education invites you to play an important role in your child's education.

By completing this survey, you are giving your school, your school authority and your provincial government important information to gauge the quality of education your child is receiving and make improvements where needed.

When you fill out the attached Accountability Pillar survey, you're adding your voice to the future of education in your school and throughout Alberta. Results are used by schools, school authorities and government to see what's working and what needs to be improved.

We all have a part to play in the important work of educating the next generation of Albertans.

Thank you for your participation.

Gordon Dirks  
Minister of Education

If you have any questions, please contact:  
Keith Bowen, Alberta Education  
E: Keith.Bowen@gov.ab.ca  
T: (780) 422-4750  
(toll-free access within Alberta by dialing 310-0000 first)

Please return your completed survey in the enclosed, pre-paid envelope by February 27, 2015.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### JANUARY 27

- Regular Board Meeting @ 7:0 p.m.

#### JANUARY 28

- School Information Night for Prospective Parents

#### JANUARY 30

- Professional Development Day
- Early Dismissal
- FANHS Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

#### FEBRUARY 4

- Early Dismissal
- FANHS Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

#### FEBRUARY 5-6

- Teachers' Convention.

#### FEBRUARY 10

- School Council Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

#### FEBRUARY 16

- Family Day Holiday

#### FEBRUARY 27

- Intake Day for New Applicants (NHS students not in attendance)

#### APRIL 28 TO APRIL 6

- Spring Break

#### APRIL 7

- Classes Resume.

## Student Voice

Student Voice (grades 3- 6) is a group of students who meet two or more times of month with the school principal to share concerns and ideas. Because of the large number of interested students there are two groups. Nighthawk 1 (gr. 3/4) and Horizons 1 (Gr. 5/6) make up one group and Nighthawk 2 and Horizon 2 make up the second group.

Student Voice has already met in December and the first task of the student representatives was to gather information from the students regarding the question, "What do you look forward to most in a new school?" We analyzed the responses in our first January meeting and will be preparing a report share with others next week.

## Jump-Rope-For-Heart Jumpers NEW

In a few weeks, the Volunteer Club will be kicking off the Jump-Rope-For-Heart Fundraiser. In preparation of the event, we will be inviting student to meet in the gym on Mondays during lunch recess and jump rope to some upbeat tunes.

## Grade 6-9 Dodge Ball

Since before Christmas, interested students have been involved in playing mixed grade Dodge Ball. The round-robin will continue for a few more weeks, and event will end with a tournament.

## PJ DAY

Recently the school had a PJ Day. Staff and students were in their comfy PJs. During lunch students were invited to spend time in the gym and participate in some buddy reading with their favorite books.







## Soapstone Carvers

Mrs. Wain and her grade two students explore the Inuit as part of their Social Studies. In order to help students appreciate Inuit culture and art, Mrs. Wain arranged to have Rubble Road Soapstone come into the class to provide students with a hands-on experience. Students ended up making such carvings as killer whales and wolves.

Thank you to School Council and FANHS for funding this and many more in-school and out-of-school field trips.

## D.A.R.E.

The RCMP's Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program has been coming to Ms. Dinell's grade six class for several years.

D.A.R.E is a school-based substance abuse prevention program in Canada. Its aim is to increase student knowledge, dispel myths and misinformation, reinforce attitudes supporting a drug free lifestyle and reduce the intention to use substances in the future.



*Const. Barb Hoffman is our school's D.A.R.E. Officer from the Strathcona County Detachment.*

## Positive Social Interaction

Our grade 9 students meet regularly with our kindergarten students in a buddy program. If you walk into a room when this buddy event is occurring you would be immediately struck by the intense engagement and the positive atmosphere. Conversation, laughter, reading, and positive relationship building are evident end results.





# FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

SPONSORED BY  
NEW HORIZONS SCHOOL COUNCIL

**Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>**  
in the school gymnasium

Doors open at 6:30pm

**Movie Starts at 7:00pm**



Bring the family, blankets, pillows, mats, and lawn chairs and join us for a big screen showing of the movie

**Mr. Peabody & Sherman**

(Note: Rated PG, 92 minutes)

We will have a "time out" station set up for small children who may need a break.

**FREE Admission**.....but please RSVP by emailing [baldwins@shaw.ca](mailto:baldwins@shaw.ca)

**\*\*Cash Concession\*\*** available with all proceeds going towards

**The JUNIOR HIGH ADVENTURE CLUB**



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*Lifetouch*  
CANADA



## Book Bistro

Mrs. Asquin's class held a Book Bistro to support and encourage independent reading.

Using novel of their choice, students shared their books with a larger audience by making dioramas, written documents, and a assortment of other artifacts to share the delicious things about their book.