



# New Horizons School

## Newsletter

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### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

- Early Dismissal @ 2:14 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

- Meet the Teacher Night (7:00 to 8:00 p.m.)

#### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

- Picture Day

#### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

- Professional Development Day (Project Based Learning)
- Grade 9 Farewell

## Welcome Back!

### The 2015-2016 school year begins!

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year. I am very excited about our new school and everything about it from the learning commons, to the large gym and extra storage – and everything in between.

The summer has been a busy one. The movers had the last items out of the Ardrossan school and into our Sherwood Park school by the end of the first week of July. Since then, staff has been busy unpacking and organizing the learning spaces for the new school year.

While the vast majority of items have found a spot, there are still some boxes and furniture items to deal with. Not all of our learning commons furniture has arrived; extra bookshelves and soft seating are just some of the things for which we continue to wait.

Seeing so many parents and students showed up at last

Thursday's open house and supply drop-off was wonderful. I hope that the tour was helpful and that it eased the burden of bringing in school supplies on the first day back.

Thank you to Lori Vigfusson, Andrea Watson, Kim Johnson, Tanya Penner, and Vicky Qualie for organizing the day.

There are some wonderful things in store this year, and some of them like after school volleyball and Reach For the Top are slated to begin in the next couple of weeks. We also have celebrations such as our Twentieth Year celebration and our grand opening.

I am looking forward to an exciting year. Welcome back!

Ted Zarowny  
Principal

### Celebrating 20 Years

1995

2015

#### 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.*

## Introducing Our Staff

New Horizons School would like to welcome new staff to our school. In grade one is former student teacher at New Horizons, Miss Allison Joly. Her grade partner is Mrs. Fehr. Another addition to NHS is Mrs. Holly Meek. Mrs. Meek has several years experience teaching elementary

school in British Columbia. She will be teaching grade 2, and her grade partner is Mrs. Wain.

Ms. Lisa Hutchison will be returning to the junior high staff teaching Language Arts & Social Studies (Humanities) and Grade 8 Math.

As well, Mrs. Lambert-Brown will continue to fill in at grade three. Finally, a “welcome back” is extended to Mrs. Fehr.

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PICTURE DAY IS SEPTEMBER 21

## Grade 5 Students Continue to Contribute to Research

You may recall that Mrs. Watson's grade 5 class contributed to some ongoing research involving

insects through the School Malaise Trap Program.

Once again, our grade 5s will participate in this program

Each year schools from across Canada are invited to participate in the School Malaise Trap Program, a free environmental education program offered by the Biodiversity Institute of Ontario.

The class is responsible for setting up the trap, recording weather data, and collecting insects from the trap.

The insects will be sent away for analysis, and the school will get its results after the analysis has been completed.

For more on the project, visit the [Malaise Trap Program](#).

## Junior High Volleyball

Junior high students (gr. 7-9) wanting to participate in our school volleyball team are invited to sign up this week. An survey taken last June indicated that we have enough interested students to create a school team.

Practices will be Tuesday and Thursday after school from 3:30 – 5:00. We look forward to seeing a good turn-out.

The first practice is this **Thursday, September 3.**

Students, please make sure you wear running shoes and gym clothing.

A sign-up sheet is posted in the junior high wing.

## Reach For The Top

Reach for the Top is an academic competition. While the national competition is a high school program, Alberta has a junior program.

We are excited to have Alex McPhee, former NHS student, come back to our school and help coach the team. Alex has spent several years as a team member for Old Scona.

Practices will be on Thursdays after school. The first Reach for the Top meeting is **Thursday, September 10** at 3:30 p.m.

A sign-up sheet is posted in the junior high wing.

## Bus Transportation

If you require bus transportation and have not received information or a bus pass, please contact Elk Island Transportation. Phone: (780) 417-8151 Toll free: 1-800-905-3477 Student Transportation Office Hours: Open Monday to Friday (school days only) 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## Bell Schedule and Year Calendar

**Warning Bell** 8:30 a.m.

**Classes Start** 8:35 a.m.

**Recess (K-6)** 10:15 – 10:30 a.m.

**Lunch** 11:56 – 12:41 (outside first; then eat)

**Recess (K-6)** 1:41 – 1:56 p.m.

**Classes End** 3:14 p.m.

A one-page full year calendar is available by [clicking here](#).

## Meet The Teacher Night

Parents are invited to our Meet the Teacher Night on **September 9** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This is a come-and-go event (ie. feel free to drop in at any time between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m.).

Please remember that this is an opportunity to meet your child's teacher and other parents in your child's class. If you wish to discuss your child, please make arrangements to meet on an alternate date.

Hope to see you there!

## Accelerated Math

During the next few days, we will begin the necessary assessments to identify accelerated math candidates.

Parents of potential acceleration candidates will be contacted soon. If you and your child feel that math acceleration might be an appropriate strategy to challenge your child in math, please contact your child's teacher. Those students who have already been accelerated will continue with their accelerated program without any further assessment.

## Early Dismissal Reminder

Every first Wednesday of the month is early dismissal. Students are dismissed at 2:14 p.m.

The first early dismissal is this Wednesday, September 2.

## Sign-In Upon Arrival

The only doors that will remain unlocked are the main front doors (entrance #2).

When entering the school, all visitors must report to the office immediately and sign in.

If you're here to pick up your child, please remain in the foyer in front of the office and wait for your child there.

If you are volunteering or supervising, please pick up your lanyard when you sign in. These must be worn at all times.

## Grade 3 Student Learning Assessment

The pilot administration period for the Grade 3 Student Learning Assessment (SLA) **digital component is September 14 to October 9, 2015.**

The pilot administration period for the Grade 3 SLA performance tasks is **September 14 to November 1, 2015,**

These are earlier dates, as compared to last year, which will allow students, teachers

and parents to know students' results earlier in the school year.

Alberta Education will provide student results of the digital component to schools, teachers and parents by November 16, 2015.

Recognizing the nature of a pilot, there will be no public reporting at the school authority or provincial levels during the pilot phase.

For more information on the SLAs, visit the following website: [https://education.alberta.ca/media/15270838/sla3\\_quickfacts\\_parents.pdf](https://education.alberta.ca/media/15270838/sla3_quickfacts_parents.pdf)

Doors Open at 8:15 a.m.

## Please Review The Parking and Traffic Management Plan for NHS

Visit : <http://www.newhorizons.ab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Parking-and-Traffic-Management-Details.pdf>