

New Horizons School Newsletter



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IMPORTANT DATES

JANUARY 28

- Lannie Kanevsky at 7:00 pm

JANUARY 29

- Professional Development Day with Lannie Kanevsky

FEBRUARY 4

- Early Dismissal

FEBRUARY 5-6

- Teachers' Convention

Stakeholder Forum

Staff, Board Director, Students and Parents Share Thoughts For Education Plan

As a way of gathering stakeholder input for school planning, staff representatives, parents, student representatives, and board directors met on January 19 in a Stakeholder Forum.

The purpose of the forum was to suggest and discuss priorities for our school as we develop our next Three-Year Education Plan.

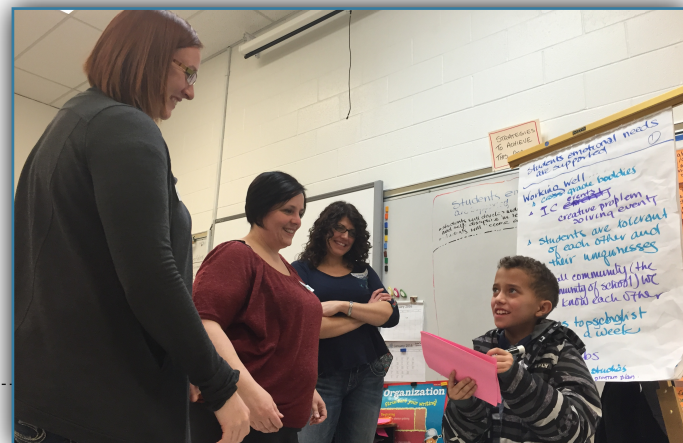
In keeping with the three goals in our school's charter, the following three themes were considered at the Forum:

- Improvement of student learning.
- Inclusive, positive student social interaction.
- Support for the emotional needs of students.

The forum was led by four community development

facilitators from the Community Development Office with Alberta Culture and Tourism.

The facilitators led the approximately forty-five participants through an idea gathering and prioritizing activity. The results will be formatted by the Community Development Office and returned to the Board for consideration in the development of next year's education plan.



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.

Nighthawks Basketball Update

NHS basketball program is up and running.

New Horizons School's first Nighthawks basketball teams are well into their inaugural season. We have three teams this year. Coached by Onnolee Nordstom and sponsored by Andrea Watson, our mixed grade five and six team practices weekly on Wednesdays. They participated in their first games by being invited to a mini-tournament this last weekend; they were competitive in their games, and showed excellent teamwork and sportsmanship skills!

The junior high girls team is composed of first year players from grades six to nine. The league is a talented one, and our girls team is meeting up with some stiff competition from the

larger and more experienced schools. Yet, they continue to work hard and improve with each outing. Their last game against the Holy Spirit Heat B Team was an exciting one. The Nighthawks came up one basket short in an exciting 26-24 overtime loss. The girls team is coached by Camie Hamilton.

The junior high boys team is doing very well and are currently in second place in the league behind the OLPH Tigers as of January 25. The team is composed of students from grades seven to nine and is coached by Ted Zarowny.

Once again New Horizons School extends a huge thank you to the Elk Island Catholic Schools Sports Council for inviting our teams to join their league.



Grade 5/6 Nighthawks



Junior High Boys Nighthawks



Junior High Girls Nighthawks

Chess

Let the games begin!

Chess has begun at NHS. Students in grades 1-3 play each other Wednesdays at lunch recess, and students in grades 4-9 play on Thursdays at lunch recess. Kindergarten tutorials will resume soon.

Students interested in playing chess at lunch recess should contact Mr. Zarowny,

Look forward to a tournament near the end of the year!



NHS Junior High Calendars and Parent Portals

Junior High class and activity calendars are relocated on our website. These calendars can be accessed by going to our [Calendars Page](#) on the school website.

We have also been investigating different parent portals that will allow parents of junior high students to view the status and results of student assignments and exams. The project, however, has been put on hold.

We are now looking to replace our entire school's student information system. With the change we will be looking for a system that includes a parent portal. We hope to see things in place for the upcoming school year.

Science Olympics

An inquiry event for students

New Horizons School is once again participating in the Apega Science Olympics!

This year we will have one team representing our school from Grades 1-3 and one team from grades 4-6.

The Apega Science Olympics is an annual event that brings students together in friendly competition completing a variety of science, technology and engineering challenges.

The grade 4-6 team also has an additional take-home project to be completed before the event day on Saturday, March 5!



RUBIK'S CUBE

Thinking ... thinking ... thinking ...



What is green, white, red, blue, yellow, and orange? A Rubik's Cube!

And it's becoming a common sight at NHS.

Since last fall, NHS students have been invited to learn how to do the Rubik's Cube and practice their speed.

During scheduled recesses, grade six students Roshan H., Nolan G., John T., Owen K. and Andy P. have been using their leadership skills to tutor those who want to learn the Cube.

They also helped plan and lead our in-school Rubik's Cube Competition.

In the Rubik's Cube Competition held on January 22, students could register for one of three events in different grade categories: Primary (K-3),

Elementary (4-6) and Junior High (7-9). The event categories were "red cross," "red face," and "full cube."

Prior to the competition day were time trials. Students with the best times were chosen to participate in the first NHS Rubik's Cube Competition.

The student body watched ... and cheered ... *loudly* ... for their house team members in the contest.

Below is a list of the fastest cubers. Owen, who completed the full cube in the fastest time, won a free registration to the Edmonton Open, a sanctioned Rubik's Cube competition at the Telus World of Science on January 29-30.

Good luck, Owen!



Studying the cube ... ready ... set ... GO!

Event	Name	Category	House	Time
Red Cross	Bella G.	Grade 1-3	Fire	36.2 seconds
	Jonah H.	Grade 4-6	Fire	17.4 seconds
Red Face	Vanya R.	Grade 1-3	Fire	1:56
	Nolan G.	Grade 4-6	Air	15.3 seconds
Full Cube	Yi Chan	Grade 1-3	Water	1:48
	Owen K.	Grade 4-6	Air	23.6 seconds



Time Trials

4th Annual!
Family Day!
Pancake Breakfast!
Monday, February 15, 2016
8:30 to 11 am

Museum admission included with the purchase of breakfast!



\$5/adult (ages 15 & up)
\$2/youth (ages 5-14)
Ages 4 and under free

Enjoy pancakes & sausages, juice & coffee!

Strathcona County Museum
913 Ash Street, Sherwood Park
780-467-8189 | www.strathconacountymuseum.ca

Mindfulness

An invitation to learn

Introducing students and having them practice Mindfulness at New Horizons is a key strategy in our Education Plan.

In order to help parents understand what Mindfulness is and its benefits, a parent session will be offered on February 1 from 7:00-8:30 in the Learning Commons. The session will be led by Vickie Qualie.

Mindfulness is a tool to develop self-regulation skills. Mindfulness is being aware of what is happening moment to moment, without getting lost in the experience. The body's

sensations and thoughts are all witnessed from a place of awareness.

Being present allows us to be more attentive and helps us navigate times of stress and suffering.

Students can benefit from practicing mindfulness to help relieve stress, enhance focus and attention and improve overall mental health.

Please join us on February 1 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. to learn more about Mindfulness and its benefits!

Inclusion Alberta: A Family Conference

April 8-9



SESSIONS

The Future of Inclusive Education: From Policy to Practice – Roger Slee, Ph.D.

- Friendship Matters: Strategies for Facilitating Relationships – Angela Novak Amado, Ph.D.
- Advancing Inclusive Education: From policy to practice
- Creating a Life Enhancing Vision: A pathway to action
- Youth Employment & Peer Mentors
- Family Leadership: Developing new local family advocacy organizations
- Friendship Matters: Ideas for Facilitating Relationships
- Inclusive Recreation: As or more important than inclusive education?
- The Role of Social Media in Advocacy
- Trends, Opportunities and Advocacy Challenges: A look ahead

For more information, click the link below:

[Inclusion Alberta Conference Brochure Registration](#)

NHS is 20 Years Old! That calls for

Please Join Us for our 20th Anniversary Celebration

9:00 am, February 24, 2016

1000 Strathcona Drive

Sherwood Park

Everyone Welcome!

We hope that you will join us in celebrating our 20th Anniversary.

Our celebration assembly is at 9:00 a.m. on February 24.

The assembly program will include:

- guest speakers including Colleen Taylor, one of the school's founders and its first Board chair,
- special music,
- an eye-popping science demonstration,
- the unveiling of a commemorative plaque,
- a brief review of our school's history,
- a retrospective slide show,
- and, of course, cake!

Please indicate your participation by [clicking here](#).



International Baccalaureate Programme

Information Evening

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Theatre

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Grade 9 students and their parents are cordially invited to our school to receive information about our programme

Meet our teachers, counsellors and principal

See our facilities



Contact: Kerry.rose@eips.ca
780 467 8816

www.newhorizons.ab.ca

Grade 4 students share their playground plan projects.



Accountability Pillar

Your thoughts are important

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 2016, and will be reported publicly as part of their 3-Year Education Plans and Annual Education Results Reports.



It's all about the learning.

FAMILY GAMES NIGHT FUNDRAISER

Friday, February 19th

Family Games (board games) Night Fundraiser is on
Friday, February 19th at 6:00pm
Family and Friends are invited to attend.

Admission is \$2/person.

Watch for an order form coming home the first week of February!

It will be a fun filled evening with board games for all ages, door prizes, raffle/silent auction, and concession.

Your Help Is Needed

Volunteers needed to assist at the event with:

- Admission
- Concession
- Games (those who know how to play a game and are willing to teach others how to play)
- General Supervisors

Go to the [FANHS page](#) on the school website to sign up.

Games Needed

If you have **board games** you think would be great for the event and would like to lend them please contact fanhs.communication@gmail.com

Donations Needed

If you would like to donate items for the **raffle/silent auction**, we're collecting donations towards 6 themed baskets:

- Movie Night
- Gardening
- BBQ
- Coffee Lovers
- Foodie
- Pink

Please leave any donations in the office attention Kim Myhre
Contact Kim at - bkmyhre@shaw.ca