

New Horizons School Newsletter



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New Horizons School Loves Our Volunteers!

Volunteers Honoured at Tea

The students and staff at NHS would like to extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who volunteers their



time to help make our school the vibrant community it is!

With everything from posting bulletin boards, preparing classroom materials, chaperoning field trips, and helping with in-class parties and activities, to volunteering on the Board, School Council, and FANHS, our volunteers make our school a better place!

We know how invaluable our volunteers are and were delighted to host our annual Volunteer Tea on April 13 as a way to show our appreciation for everything our volunteers do! Staff made a variety of edible goodies for our volunteers to enjoy while they were entertained by grades 4-6 in the gym adorned with decorations and thank-you cards made by our primary students.



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

Badminton comes to NHS

By Andy Perez

On March 23rd, the students of NHS grades 6-9, established the first ever school badminton team.

The team's coaches are Mr. Wilde and Mrs. Hamilton.

“Why are you interested in making a Badminton team in New Horizons?” asked the reporter.

“I think that Badminton is a great opportunity for a range of student athletes to participate, with a variety of singles and doubles formats plus a generally less intense competitive environment,” stated the team coach Mr. Wilde.

The Nighthawks played their first fun tournament On April 7, 2016 at New Horizon School. It began at 3:30 pm and ended at

5:00 pm. The games were played in the gym! Nice to see so many players there!

The events the Nighthawks are competing in are:

- Boys Singles
- Girls Singles
- Boys Doubles
- Girls Double
- Mixed Doubles



“How do you feel going into this tournament?” asked the reporter.

“I feel confident because I have done badminton before!” stated team member, Owen Kwasniewski.

Team member John Thomson was also interviewed. “Why do you like badminton?” asked the reporter.

“I like badminton because I like sports that use a racquet. It's kinda like tennis and I like tennis a lot,” stated teammate John Thomson.

The team has had no practices due to the long Spring Break. Let's hope the Nighthawks can pull it off!

Let's keep our finger cross for them!

If you wonder about the Nighthawks performance in the tournament or you would like to cheer them up, you are welcome to attend the games on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the gym at 3:30 p.m.

The last fun tournament will be on Thursday April, 14 2016.

NHS Badminton Takes Off

Birdies fly in NHS gymnasium

NHS badminton has gotten underway for the year with students in grades 6-9 playing doubles against other local school teams.

We have 31 players this season with Grades 6 and 7 making up our Junior Team and Grades 8 and 9 participating on the Senior Team.

The teams, coached by Mr. Wilde and Mrs. Hamilton, participate in fun meets with other schools on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

There will be a System Tournament taking place on April 30th which will be spread out across a few schools. Ask your child where they will be participating that day!



NHS Strikes Bronze

By Owen Kwasniewski

On March 5th, students from NHS participated in the Science Olympics at the Shaw Conference Center. This article is to tell people about the Science Olympics

The competition lasted 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.. New Horizons got third place at the Science Olympics for the grades 4-6 division. There were a total of 30 teams in grades 4-6.

There was a grade 1-3 division, 4-6 division, 7-9 division, and 10-12 division. New Horizons did not participate in the grade 10-12 division.

Practices took place on Monday February 22 and February 29 after school till 4:30 in the maker room and learning commons.

What was the participants' favourite thing about the science olympics?

"My favourite thing about it was working as a team to create something incredible. I enjoyed it because I enjoy doing big projects with small groups of people!" exclaimed Lily Fenniak, a grade six student.

The team created a bio-dome ahead of time and at the competition, the team made a thermos and a hovercraft. It took about a month to prepare for the competition.

"Being a charter school for the gifted having something like Science Olympics helps the students like teamwork," stated Roshan Hassan, a grade six student.

"We made a thermos out of two styrofoam cups one plastic cup some paper towel cotton balls foam paper elastic bands and a piece of cardboard it was cool," explained grade six student Lily Fenniak.

The team worked well together and had fun doing it.

According to the students quotes, the students had a great time at the Science Olympics.

NHS Dress Code

As the weather turns warmer, students are beginning to wear clothing that reflects the change in outdoor temperatures.

We would just like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that we want all students to feel comfortable at school and therefore appropriate attire is required while in attendance at NHS. We ask that all students choose clothing that sufficiently covers their chest, midriff and backside.

Students found wearing clothing that is found to be too revealing, including spaghetti straps and bra straps, may be given alternative cover-up clothing to wear for the duration of the day.

Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs)

Students in grades 6-9 will soon be writing their PATs. The first set of PATs is writing which will occur on the morning of May 10 for the grade 9 students, and May 12 for the grade 6 students.

The June PAT dates can be found at www.newhorizons.ab.ca/school-calendar/

GUEST CONTRIBUTORS

You will notice that several articles in this newsletter are written by grade 6 students. Thank you for your new stories!

NHS Students Raise Dollars for Dogs With Wings

Student Council has organized a Grade 6-9 Wake-a-Thon that took place April 22 beginning after school and running until 8:00 a.m. on April 23.

Students were asked to raise \$75.00 in pledges in order to be allowed to attend.

Proceeds from the event will go to Dogs with Wings, a non-profit organization that raises and trains assistance dogs for people with disabilities. There were a number of scheduled events planned to run throughout the night as students stayed awake to raise money for this worthy cause.

DATES TO REMEMBER

MAY 4
• EARLY DISMISSAL

MAY 10
• SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING @ 6:30 p.m.
• GRADE 9 PAT (WRITING)

May 11
• BOARD MEETING @ 7:00 p.m.

MAY 12
• GRADE 6 PAT (WRITING)

MAY 13
• PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

MAY 20
• SCHOOL CLOSURE

MAY 23
• VICTORIA DAY

Grade 4-6 Independent Study Projects

Grades 4-6 have begun working on their Independent Study projects. Independent study projects are completed by all students at New Horizons as a way for students to explore an area of passion or interest and then share their learning with their peers.

These projects help students develop research and presentation skills through individual areas of interest. This year's projects are shifting toward a project based learning approach to allow students to collaborate on their ideas while connecting their topic to a larger theme.

This will allow students to move toward exploring their topic of interest in greater depth while using critical thinking skills to find connections among various areas of study. This process will take place throughout April with presentations and a fair at the beginning of May where students can celebrate their hard work.

Notice: Morning Drop-Off Change

Now that spring is here, the buses are arriving earlier than during the winter months. Over the last few weeks, buses have been coming in and have often had to wait for the parking lot to clear before they can enter. As well, vehicles rush to make room for the arriving buses causing an unsafe situation for students being dropped off in the parking lot.

In order to reduce the potential for a mishap, the parking lot will be blocked beginning at 8:15 a.m to allow vehicles in the lot to drop off their children and clear the lot before the buses arrive. If you arrive after 8:15, please enter the west access to Hawkins Crescent so that your child can be dropped off at the designated drop-off zone on the street. The lot will reopen when the buses leave at approximately 8:25 a.m.

Modernization Update

By John Thompon

For the last few weeks, in the learning commons, the NHS modernization committee has been meeting to plan future renovations for NHS.

“How do you feel about the modernization?” asks reporter, Nolan Gibbs.

“I think the most beneficial aspect is similar to that of renovating your own home. You get to customize it to your needs! It's very exciting to plan a learning environment specific to our situation here at NHS. Room for breakout activities and modern classroom enhancements for technology use will be key to improving the learning environment. If it is not completed on time it would have no real impact other than we will need to be in temporary areas

around the school until the modernization is complete,” states Ms. Dinell, the grade 6 teacher at NHS.

The modernization committee includes parent council, NHS school board, superintendent, teachers, principal and vice principal, office staff, maintenance staff and 2 students.

There are 3 separate budgets for the renovations. Budget 1 is \$6.3 million for renovating the current core building, the demolition of the old portable classrooms that we don't use on the west side of our school and the construction of a new link that will connect the core building to the new portables that will replace the west side portables.

Budget 2 is \$1.2 million for adding the 6 new modular

classrooms that will replace the old west portables.

Budget 3 is \$190 000 for adding new equipment and furniture. The overall budget for the renovations is \$7.69 million. Some changes to the core building are:

1. The grade 1-3 portables will be destroyed.
2. The grade 6 class will be office space.
3. Skylights will be added in the learning commons
4. The main office will have a different layout.
5. In the main entrance (entrance 2) a new vestibule and canopy will be added.

Inspire and Create Afternoon Launches Students' Imagination!

The April edition of Inspire and Create (I.C.) was a great success with students working together to use their creativity and problem solving skills in the Ping Pong Ball Challenge.

Working in house teams, groups used a variety of unconventional materials to design and build ping pong ball launchers and catchers.

New Horizons' I.C. afternoons allow the entire student community to get together monthly for fun activities that challenge students' thinking and creative problem solving abilities.



Nighthawks Aim Big

By Andy Perez

On March 12, the Reach For The Top team of NHS traveled to Calmar Junior to play two games. They played both Calmar A and B teams.

They played their first game against the Calmar junior high A team. They won 210-180.

Then they played the B team. They won by only 10 points! The game finished 200-190 for the Nighthawks.

An anonymous teammate stated, "This team was way better than the A team. It was a somewhat tougher game!"

After the game, the team made up of Roshan, Lily, Joshua, Nishan, Ayden and Jonah were celebrating. After the game, the captain of the team was interviewed: "What kind of questions were asked in the games?" asked the reporter.

The captain Roshan stated, "They asked pretty hard questions! Some examples are: What was the first Francophone Prime Minister in Canada?, Which numbers

on a phone dial have no corresponding letters on it?, What key is on the top left of the keyboard?"

Also, the teacher supervisor Ms. Vigfusson was interviewed. "Why do you think a school like NHS should have a Reach Team?" asked the reporter.

"I think New Horizons is a great place to participate in Reach For The Top because students are passionate about so many diverse topics and Reach For The Top provides students the opportunity to put that knowledge to good use in a fun and collaborative way!"

The Nighthawks are heading to Provincials, which will be held in Edmonton at Harry Ainlay High School on April 23. Good Luck at Provincials Nighthawks!

Will the Nighthawks be as successful as they were in Regionals? Or will they tumble under the pressure?

Nighthawks Take Fourth Place at Provincial Tourney

On April 24, the NHS Reach For the Top team participated in the Junior Provincial Tournament.

The team performed very well, winning all of their round-robin games. In the end, they placed fourth out of twelve teams.

The Reach For The Top team has been practicing every Thursday after school since September. As a rookie team, they had a very successful year. Congratulations!

A huge thank you is extended to the coach, former NHS student Alex McPhee, and to Ms. Vigfusson, the teacher sponsor.

NHS Reach For the Top Team

Roshan H.

Thea M.

Lily F.

Jonah P.

Josh B.

Nishan A.

NHS Talent Show a Popular Event

Each April, NHS provides students to showcase their talents in front of their peers and parents through the talent show. For many students participating, the talent show is their opportunity to take a huge social risk. It is their chance to shine!

This year's talent show saw a record number of student interest and participation. This year we had over 40 student acts. Grade 6 students Fynn K., Bethany C., Catie D., and Lily F. showed tremendous leadership in organizing the show and working during the show either as MCs or organizing participants on show day. They deserve a huge thanks, as does Matthew M. who has been our perennial sound-man for many special events over the last three years.

Investigations at NHS

By Syed Hasan

At NHS, March 2016, Junior High students had investigations where they researched in a topic they were interested in and then they made a presentation to show other students about their investigation. The investigations happen 3 times a year and are graded by teachers for marks.

The investigations were presented in 5 classrooms at a time and students could only go to one of those rooms at a time. The classrooms were: Mrs Watson`s classroom (Grade 5), Mrs Dinel`s classroom (Grade 6), Mr Wilde`s Classroom (Junior High), Mrs Hutchison`s classroom (Junior High), and Mrs Hamilton's classroom (Junior High).

There were 11 investigations a student could attend. For all the investigations, it took about the whole morning (half of school time). Each presentation was about 15 minutes long. Some students made electronic presentations while others gave verbal presentations. Only 8 students from a given grade could go to one investigation at a time, therefore, it was possible that some students could not attend the investigation they wanted.

Most of the presenters were fluent and confident while others somewhat hesitated during their presentation.

In total, there were 62 investigations this March; 3 were

cancelled, 59 continued. A few of the investigations were stress, procrastination, zodiac signs, holograms, speed of sound, movie magic, etc. Because there was a variety of topics, most students who attended the investigations found a topic that matched their interests.

The investigation sessions provided the investigators the opportunity to use their skills to gather information, conclude from it, and present it in an effective way. The students who attended the presentations learned about topics they were not familiar with earlier.

NHS Gets 3D Printer

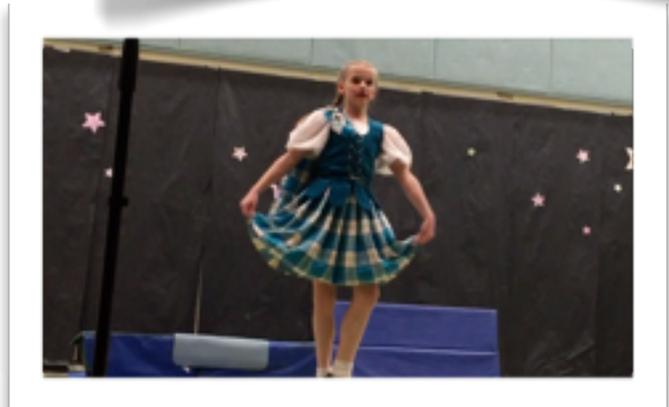
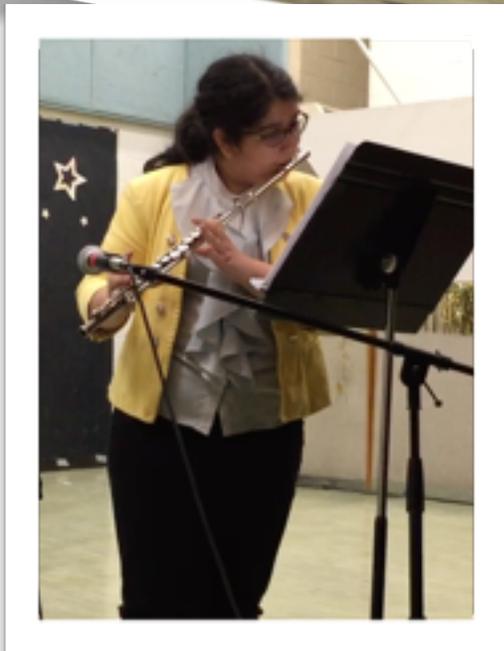
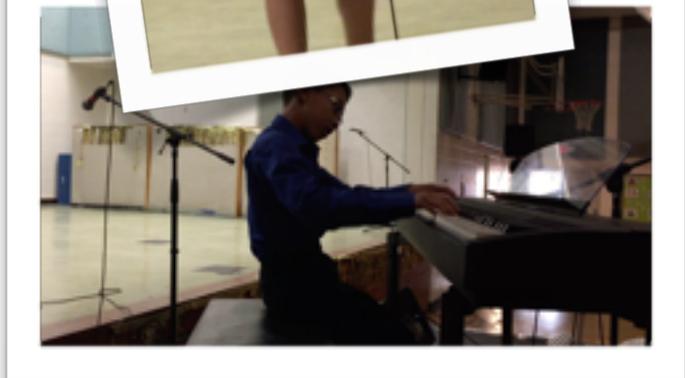
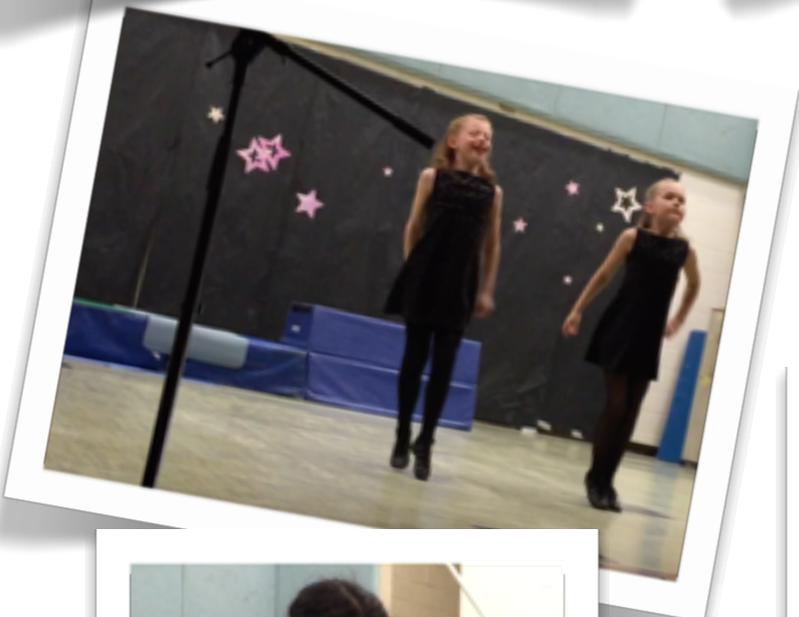
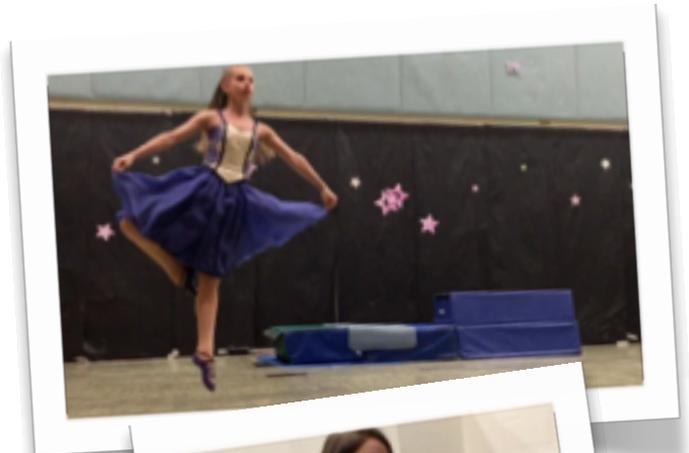
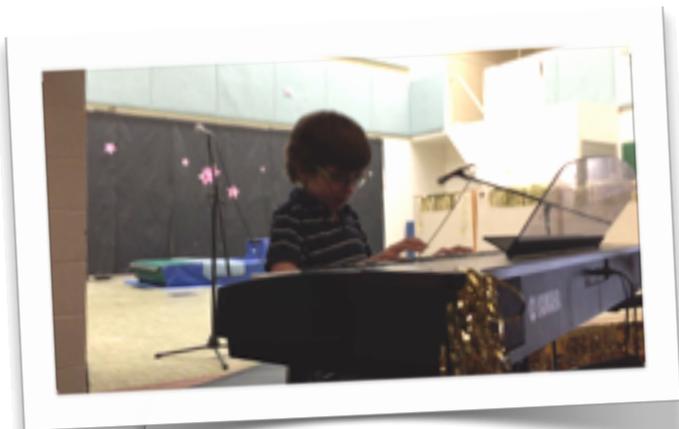


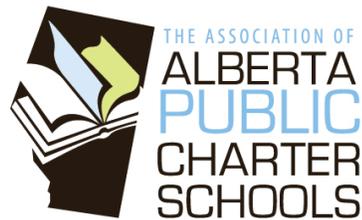
New Horizons now has a 3D printer. Through the generosity of **Inland Concrete** who provided us with a \$1,500 grant, the generosity of **NHS parents** contributing to **FANHS** fundraisers, and support of School Council, we were able to purchase a 3D printer. Thank you so much for your support!

On the April 15 Professional Development Day, staff received an inservice on its use. The printer will take 3D designs created by students through designing software and be able to print them out.

We are looking forward to slowly integrating its use into our other initiatives such as project based learning.

NHS Talent Show 2016





April 27, 2016

Dear Parents, Staff and Supporters of Public Charter Schools,

You have no doubt heard or read recently that a few small groups are publically lobbying the government to discontinue funding support for public charter schools. Their primary goal is to limit or eliminate parental choice for the education of their children. We believe that choice strengthens public education and provides more opportunity for children to succeed.

We understand that some members of our charter schools community would like us to aggressively mount a publicity campaign to counter the incomplete, false and misleading information being circulated by the anti-charter school groups. We believe we will have more success by working directly and constructively with decision makers in government.

Recently, we met with the Honourable David Eggen, Minister of Education and his Deputy Minister and Assistant Deputy Ministers. I am happy to report that the Minister reassured us that “there are no changes planned” and funding to charter schools will remain in place.

In fact, Minister Eggen publically declared his support for choice in education in a letter to the editor of the [Calgary Herald](#). We were thrilled to read this and will continue to work collaboratively with the Minister and his department. In addition, we will continue to meet with MLAs who have charter schools in their constituencies and ensure our elected representatives are included in our activities and community. We will continue to work hard to build positive, supportive relationships and promote a better understanding and appreciation of public charter schools and their significant contributions in meeting the needs of Alberta’s students.

In closing, we accept the Minister’s assurances and trust that fiscal support for charter schools will continue. The recent budget confirms fiscal support and we will continue to work in collaboration with the provincial government. Through our member schools, we will do our best to keep our community members informed as we move forward in building a positive relationship with our new government.

Regards,

Dianne McBeth, President
The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools