

Dear Parents,

We are now into Day 19 of classes cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Our staff appreciates your work to support your children's learning. I know that our staff have been working hard to ensure a strong home-based education program continues and this is not possible without your support.

On March 28, 2020 the Minister of Education announced that school authorities would receive a 14% reduction on the basic education grant for May and June (equivalent to \$51,224) and 51% reduction on our Transportation Grant (\$6, 212).

By email, New Horizons School received further explanation on this grant reduction. The information stated that:
your authority will see a temporary funding adjustment to reflect reduced service requirements in an at-home learning environment, including less staffing for educational assistants, other support staff and bus drivers.

School and system administration looked at a variety of ways to reduce our expenditures to make up for the grant reductions. Unfortunately, the only way we could make the necessary reductions was to temporarily lay off our educational assistants. As a result, effective the end of day April 30, 2020, our educational assistants will be temporarily laid off for the remainder of the school year.

We wish to acknowledge the great work our educational assistants do to support student learning and we know with this temporary lay off, there will be reduced support for our students. We apologize for this. We also recognize how difficult this decision is for our educational assistants who work so hard to support students and learning.

New Horizons School remains open as per government direction, although it is open only to staff. We are also continuing to prepare for the 2020/21 school year when we are optimistic that our students will once again attend the school and our classrooms and hallways will be busy with the day to day learning that occurs in schools.

In the meantime, we continue to encourage you to follow the Alberta Health Covid-19 recommendations and hope you all stay healthy.

If you have any questions please email Principal Zarowny or me.

Sincerely,
Dean Lindquist