



THE HAWK EYE

HILL CREST COMMUNITY SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Parents,

One month has passed since school started and we are slowly letting ourselves exhale. We are rolling and things are progressing relatively smoothly. A huge reason why things are so smooth is credited to parents! Thank you all for taking some extra precautions and *diligently checking for symptoms* before sending your little ones to school. This has saved us a great deal of complications at the school level. Ultimately, I hope that in these incredibly anxious times Hill Crest Community School has been able to present a calm, rational and reasonable response to illness and we are truly blessed with staff that have bought into this type of response. Hill Crest is leading the entire division in student attendance and we thank you all for the trust that you have placed into your community school. High attendance will mean less economic impact through funding next year and our parents have established confirmation of a consistent, well-staffed education for future years.



This past June, and then again this September Stacy and I were invited to join in on some pig butchering in Blumenort! Although I had worked in the meat shop at IGA for years, this was a unique experience for both of us. We love getting involved in the community and experiencing things that we normally would not. We are beginning to understand the tightly knit community in which we serve and feel blessed to be a part of it!

As always, should you have any concerns or want to drop a line to give us an encouraging message please do not hesitate to contact us at the school. I have added my cell number at the bottom of this message in order to allow for an additional form of communication. Here is to an incredible school year!

Sincerely,

Your Principal
Mr. Ben Giesbrecht



EDUCATION PLAN

School Goal 1: Improve students' reading comprehension, fluency and efficiency using the T3 scoring tests. In this year, we will be establishing a baseline and setting percentage goals for 2-9 in October and grade 1 in January.

Reading continues to be at the forefront of our efforts. Many of our students are very good technical readers; however, they struggle when asked questions about the text they have read. Read below to learn more about the new assessments replacing CAT. *This will be the third year of implementation due to a lack of results in the third round due to the fire and then pandemic.*

School Goal 2: Increase student numeracy levels from the beginning of the year using the common assessments and practical hands on numeracy strategies as well as the results from the new TNT testing new to 2019-2020.

Knowledge of number is a fundamental skill that we promote at Hill Crest. We are always looking at practical ways to apply math in everyday life. Hands on activities are preferred compared to worksheet assignments. We are also looking to expand our understanding of mental math strategies that will positively impact the results on Part A of the PAT exams. Guided math (small group instruction as opposed to whole class instruction) will be focused on in addition to building a resource base to fit the GM model.

School Goal 3: Increase grade 9 student engagement and connectivity levels as measured by the “Interested and Motivated” and “School Connections” sections of the Our School Survey by 10% each.

Past results show that students have lower than expected levels of engagement in their studies and classes in general. We are hopeful that a variety of teaching methods will meet the needs of differentiated learners. It has also been evident on the Our School Survey that grade 9 students don't feel as though they have much connection with staff at the school. We will work hard to build a school climate where students will feel welcomed, safe and cared about by more than one staff member.

OUR “OVERARCHING” GOAL: TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OF CONNECTIVITY WITHIN THE SCHOOL AND THE COMMUNITY OF BLUMENORT USING A STAFF, PARENT AND STUDENT SURVEY. THIS LINES UP WITH THE FVSD CONNECTIVITY PRIORITY.

ENHANCED LITERACY

As part of Fort Vermilion School Divisions ongoing efforts to enhance the literacy of students in all grade levels, the Division is planning to administer a Reading Assessment during the 2020-21 school year. The assessment includes three screening tools. The tools focus on literacy and offer an opportunity for students to demonstrate their learning. The goal: to provide timely information to teachers, help enhance classroom instruction and ensure student learning needs are identified.

In September, January and May, FVSD students in grades 2 through 9 will complete the TOWRF- 2, TOSWRF- 2 and TOSREC.assessment, which evaluate reading comprehension, reading fluency and word reading efficiency. Grade 1 students will not be assessed until January and then will have a second screening at the end of May. The results of each of the assessments provide the teacher with a clearer picture about a student's learning needs and help determine if subsequent instructional planning is required.

The scores of the assessments are not used towards a student's grade, and there is no need to study ahead of time. They simply provide the teacher with information to better understand where each student is in terms of reading comprehension, silent word reading fluency and word reading efficiency. If, after analyzing the results, it's determined a student can benefit from extra support, the teacher will contact the family to discuss possible support strategies.

We have seen incredible results from this testing.

ENHANCED NUMERACY

In addition to our new testing to diagnose where students are at in Literacy, the division has developed a series of assessments called the TNT(The Teacher Numeracy Tool). These Numeracy assessments will help us understand where your child is at in regard to mathematical understanding, specifically in the areas of mental math. This is new this year and we look forward to communicating the process to parents as we progress.

YEARBOOKS

We have received our 2019/2020 yearbooks and will be sending them out shortly. There is no charge for them, and they will be made available to families with students who attended last year. Not charging for them is in response to us not being able to collect funds through fundraising and this will be a one-year pass. Consider it a thank you to our awesome parents!

BUS PASSES

A reminder to parents that we won't be handing out bus passes for students to transfer buses. Students are permitted to stop at a different stop as long as it is on the same bus. There are some cases where students are staying at the house of a relative for an extended period of time. In this instance students are permitted to travel on another bus.

STUDENT MARKS AVAILABLE TO PARENTS

Parents are able to view their child's marks by accessing Parent Portal. After teachers have entered marks for a particular assignment or test, parents have the ability to see how their child did by accessing the parent portal. If this is something that interests you as a parent, you will need to sign up in the office for any of your children attending HCCS. This is available for grades 4-12 students. Students attending LCPS will have to sign up at the LCPS office.



REPORTING ON REPORT CARDS

In an effort to increase the amount of regular communication home to parents, yet not increase the workload on teachers, we have varied and modified the comments section on the report card. K-3 report cards will not have comments on them because results are laid out as outcome-based grading with plenty of information. Phone calls will be made to parents to communicate progress. In grades 4-9, report card comments will be limited to a few lines describing progress. Ultimately the goal will be to increase communication with parents.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

As of this moment, parent teacher interviews will be limited to phone conversations.

STUDENT MEDICINES IN SCHOOL

Although the Fort Vermilion School Division believes that the responsibility for the administration of medicine does not lie with the school system, it also recognizes that from time to time there may be times that school staff need to administer medication. Parents, **it is extremely important that you advise the school of any medical issues or pre-existing conditions your child has.** A written request, using the appropriate FVSD form, must note the specific time the medication is to be administered, the exact dosage, and the duration of the treatment. All medication provided must be in the original container. The safety of all students is one of our highest priorities and prescription medicine will not be administered to students unless the above noted conditions are met.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our school council executive members for this year are:

Trustee: Henry Goertzen Chair – Peter Goertzen Vice Chair – David Doerksen
Secretary – Joanne Dyck Parent Rep – Bill Wiens Community Rep – Still searching
Teacher Reps: Megan Hardy, Travis Hardy & Darren Froese



SCHOOL AUTOMATED CALL OUT (SCHOOL MESSENGER) AND SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

Our school will once again be using the automated school messenger program as one of the forms of communicating with parents. Paper notices will still go home as usual.

As a means of keeping students safe & cared for, the school has established a “Safe Arrival” program. In essence, the purpose of this program is to ensure that when you send your students out the door in the morning that they arrive safely at school.

This will be accomplished by having parents notify us of student absences in advance. We request that parents notify the school with a brief phone call or note in your child’s agenda whenever a child is going to be absent from school. We have voicemail so you can leave a message even if it’s early in the morning or late at night. If we don’t receive notification from you and your child is absent, school messenger will call you at 9:30am so you are aware of your child’s absence. When parents receive this phone call they should call the school and let the office know that their children are not in school and their reason for absence. If their child is unwell, they should stay home until they are feeling well again.

PRE-K

We are planning to run the Pre-Kindergarten program again in the new year. If you have a child/children you would like to enroll, contact the school to sign them up or for more information. This would help us gauge numbers and interest. We are extremely excited to meet your little ones!! We are looking to begin at the end of January/early February. We will run on days outside of the Primary Pathways put on by Sandhills Elementary School.

OUR SCHOOL WEB PAGE

If you have internet access either at home or on your phone take time to browse our web page <https://www.fvsd.ab.ca/>. On the web page you will find a link to the FVSD Parent Portal site where you have access to see your children’s marks and attendance if they are in grades 4-12. You will notice there is also a bus status update. If busses are on time, delayed or cancelled you can check for regular updates. These are

updated directly from the School Division Bus Garage. We updated our current facebook page as an additional form of communication.



DATES TO KEEP YOUR EYE ON FOR OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

- October 2** – PD Day
- October 7** - Silly Sock Day (Dressup)
- October 12** - Thanksgiving Day
- October 23** - Fall Colors/Camo Day (Dressup)
- November 11** - Remembrance Day
- November 13** - Gr 7-12 Report Cards go Home

- November 19** - Mustache Day (Dressup)
- November 20** - PD Day
- November 27** - Gr K-6 Report Cards go Home

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES TEAM



Student Wellness Coach (SWC) – Nick Gray Nick will be working fulltime in the La Crete area schools and will be splitting his time between all six schools in the area. His role consists of providing Mental Health and Wellness programs in the classroom setting. This year his role will be split between some Face-to-Face instruction in cohort classrooms and virtual lessons and presentations live streamed into classrooms.

Student Wellness Coach (SWC) – Brittany Derksen Brittany has just recently joined the La Crete team and will be working



fulltime in the La Crete area schools. She will be splitting her time between all six schools in the area. Her role consists of providing Mental Health and Wellness programs in the classroom setting. This year her role will be split between some Face-to-Face instruction in cohort classrooms and virtual lessons and presentations live streamed into classrooms.



Community Helpers Coordinator/Student Wellness Coach (SWC) – Lorna Dyck

Lorna will be joining the Connection Team in the role of Student Wellness Coach for one day per week and the remainder of the week will be providing programs across the school division in the capacity of the Community Helpers Program. Lorna will be doing classroom programming in the La Crete schools on Fridays by live streaming virtual lessons.



Mental Health Therapist (MHT) – Leah Martens

Leah works within all six schools in the La Crete area as a Therapist on a Monday to Friday schedule. She will be providing individual counselling for high-risk students in a safe Face to Face setting or virtually.