



HIGHLAND PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER #2 October 2018

This start-up has been very busy and fast paced, but we're off to a great start to the year. I'd like to thank our staff for all their hard work and caring dedication during our start up this year. Unfortunately, I will be undergoing knee replacement surgery and will be away from the school for a few months. Replacing me will be Mr. Jared King, current VP at Bastion Elementary school in Salmon Arm. Please welcome him to Highland Park!

Thank you to all the parents who were able to attend our first **two** Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meetings. I'd like to invite all parents, both our veterans as well as the rookies, to join us for our next meeting on October 23rd at 6:00pm.



Student Information

Arriving or Leaving During Class Time: For safety reasons, it is important that the school knows at all times where children are, especially when classes commence. Therefore, students who arrive at school after the bell need to be sure to check in at the office and also make their teacher aware that they have arrived. Parents picking a child up early are asked to ensure that the teacher and the office are informed before they leave. Please remember to use the sign in/sign out book in the office.

Students Who Are Sick: In most cases, we ask that students who are ill remain at home until they are well enough to go outside at the recess and lunch breaks rather than stay inside. Supervision can become quite a problem for us and children cannot be left alone in the classrooms. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please contact the principal.

Bus Notes: If alternate arrangements are being made for the pick up or drop off of your child, please ensure that there is a note supplied, so that the teachers and bus drivers are aware of the changes.



Office Phone

Please remember that the phone in the office is for emergency calls only, not for making after school arrangements. After school arrangements are to be made the day before.



Shoe Reminder

In what appears to be a sharp contrast to the awesome weather we have been enjoying, we do anticipate having some wet-weather days this fall and would like to remind students and their parents that they need to have both inside and outside shoes.



Parking Lot Safety

For the safety of our students, please do not use the bus lane in front of the school at any time. Please arrange to meet your child outside either at their classroom entrance (many classes exit via their exterior classroom doors) or one of the school entrances to ensure they get safely to your car. Check with your child's teacher to find out the best place to meet. If you are using the kiss and drive zone, please remember to ***keep circling until you see your child***. This is not a parking area. Please do not park along the yellow curb or in the fenced bus compound. Thank-you for helping us keep all of our kids safe.



School Dress Code

Students are expected to dress in an appropriate manner for school. School is our student's workplace, so please keep this in mind when selecting what they will wear for the day. Students will be asked to change or will be provided with alternate clothing if their outfit is not suitable for the school environment. If you have any questions regarding the school's dress code, please contact Mr. Ellis at the school.



Student Supervision

Morning supervision begins once the first bus arrives (7:40). Students who do not come to school by bus should not arrive before this time. After school supervision is at the front of the school only, until the buses leave. For safety reasons, students *should not* wait for parents at the back playground. Please meet your

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children at the front of the school where supervision is provided. Thank-you.

Please keep in mind that the school is responsible for your children from the time they leave home for school until they return home after school. Literally, “from fence post to fence post”. For this reason, it is important that all students, bussing or walking, **go directly home after school**. If they wish to return to the school to play **after checking in at home**, it is up to parents to make that decision. Once the buses have gone, there is no supervision at the school and the doors are locked. Please be vigilant about teaching your children about safety to and from school. They should always walk with a buddy or a small group. Ensure that your child knows to go directly to and from school.



Garbage free Snacks

Please help us keep our playground litter free by sending litter free snacks to school with your children. Students will be encouraged to take a snack out with them and leave the garbage inside. Some suggestions are granola bars, cookies, and fruit which can be peeled before leaving the building. If we continue to work together, we can maintain a clean, healthy environment, both inside and outside of our school. Thank-you for your support with this effort. Please also remember to send any hot lunch items in a thermos as items cannot be heated at school.



Terry Fox Run

Our Terry Fox Run was a great success! Between the PAC bake sale and donations, we made over \$500. Well done Highland Park!



HALLOWEEN SAFETY

Keeping children from going bump in the night is an important safety concern on Halloween. The following are some safety tips you may want to consider.

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- Most Halloween injuries are caused by falls- selection of appropriate masks and costumes can prevent most of these injuries
- Masks and sun *glasses* narrow children's line of sight and can make it difficult to see obstacles. If your child is wearing a mask, make certain (s)he can see well and breathe easily
- Select brightly-coloured costumes that are fire retardant and attach reflective tape on areas or use glow-in-the-dark fabrics or fabric paint
- Avoid dangling accessories that can get snagged
- Don't allow your children to carry sharp objects, candles, or other dangerous accessories as part of their costume. Try to substitute alternative accessories for older children, and for younger children, encourage free hands
- Have children walk in familiar areas on a planned route. Equip them with flashlights or glow sticks
- Children should be warned to stop only at houses with lights on and should be firmly instructed not to go inside any home without specific permission from their parents

Allergies and Medication

We have students in our school who have severe nut allergies. Please be sensitive to this when you are choosing items for your child's lunch.

If your child has a severe allergy, please let the office staff and your child's teacher know immediately. An epi-pen or other medication needs to be provided for the school and a **Request for Administration of Medical/Emergency Treatment of Anaphylaxis form** needs to be filled out by your child's physician and signed by you. Both of these forms can be picked up at the office.



Bicycles and Wheels



Students need to lock their bicycles when they are at school. Bicycles and scooters are to be **walked** on the school grounds from Wood Avenue to the bicycle racks and are not to be used during the school day. Scooters can be taken directly into the school for storage during the day. As the year progresses, there will be opportunities for bicycle use on the school grounds. Students must wear a helmet if they are riding a bike or scooter. If students arrive without a helmet, their bike or scooter will be held at the school for them until they have a helmet. As a safety measure, very young students

should be accompanied by an adult if they are riding their bike or scooter to school.



School Washrooms

For safety reasons, we request that adults using the school washrooms use the washrooms marked “staff.” Not only are they a better scale for adults, it keeps our washrooms safe for our students who may be uncomfortable using a washroom where there is an adult who they don’t know. The washroom beside the male staff washroom is for use by Strongstart parents and their children.



Toonie Tuesday

In keeping with our focus on helping those who are less fortunate than ourselves, and focusing on Social Responsibility from a global perspective, our school district is trying to raise money to support communities in Guyana. The money raised by our school district will help build schools and clean drinking water. On October 25th, we will be holding a Toonie drive at our school. Parents and community members are asked to stop by our school to look at the displays and posters that our Leadership group has put together for this worthwhile cause. Any donation will be appreciated in support of this small nation.

School Clothing

Attached to this newsletter you will find a flyer of the school clothing option we are offering this year. Payments are encouraged to be made on-line on the link provided in the flyer. Sample sizes are coming soon. If you are unable to pay online, a paper order form can be requested.

Foundation Skills Assessment

Parents/Guardians of Grade 4 students are asked to review the FSA information memo attached to this Newsletter. FSA administration will begin soon at our school



At Highland Park Elementary School
we believe:

Respect of self, others, and property

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