



HIGHLAND PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER #2 October 2020

This start-up has been very different from other years, with constant changes. I'd like to thank our staff for all their hard work and caring dedication during our start up this year. I would also like to thank our parent community for being so understanding and flexible!

Thank you to all the parents who were able to attend our first Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meetings. Please read on for further details regarding the month of October.

Health & Help

Just a reminder to all parents that they are responsible for their own child's health check in the morning prior to school. Health checks will not be performed by teachers when students arrive, however students showing any symptom included on our health check forms will be sent home.

Health check forms are located in Parent Connect, on our school website and attached to this Newsletter.

Please review with your child the Health and Safety letter that was sent home to all families at the beginning of the school year. Parents can also check our school website for more information on our school's safety plan.

Parents are also reminded that our school district is following the original health check form and not the one recently announced by the Ministry.



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.



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.



Student Supervision

Morning supervision begins once the first bus arrives (7:30). 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 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. Please note that the front playground is closed after school from 2:00 to 3:00.



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.

GOAL 1 STATEMENT: Math: To improve student success in Math. foundational concepts and skills

GOAL 2 STATEMENT: Social Responsibility: Students will use communication and cooperation skills in a positive way to respond to anger and frustration. They will develop an understanding of accepted behaviours in different settings.



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

A reminder that October 4th to 10th is Fire Prevention Week. Information was emailed to parents last week. There will be no assembly this year, rather our local firemen will be doing presentations in the classroom.



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.

- 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 Pictures

A reminder that school picture day will be on Thursday, October 29th. They will try to reschedule retakes but are not promising that this will happen. Division pictures will once again be held in the Spring. TBD at a later date.



Armstrong, B.C.

At Highland Park Elementary School we believe:

Respect of self, others, and property

Responsibility of self, others, and property

Right to enjoy lifelong learning

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