



Horse Lake Elementary School Newsletter September 2022

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! I hope the summer provided you with rest, relaxation, and plenty of fond memories! This is the first monthly newsletter of the year, meant to keep you informed of upcoming events and providing insight into your child's learning experiences at the school. Custodial and support staff cleaned the school in preparation for the new school year, and teachers spent much of their last week of summer vacation preparing a stimulating learning environment in their classrooms for your children, in preparation for the start of the new school year!

Staffing Changes

New to the School this year are Ms. Masterson teaching grade 1; teaching grade 5/6 and our new Vice Principal is Ms. Langton, and our New Educational Assistant is Ms. Kreschuk. These new staff members join our returning educators and staff:

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| Teaching Kindergarten – Mr. Foote | Teaching Grade 1/2 - Mrs. Hopson |
| Teaching Grade 2/3 – Mrs. Pecor | Teaching Grade 3/4 - Ms. Ramsay |
| Teaching Grade 4/5 – Mr. Davidson | Teaching Grade 5/6 – Mrs. McKinnon |
| Teaching Grade 7 – Mrs. Pugh | Librarian – Ms. Hunt & Assistant Jacqui |
| Learning Support Teacher – Mrs. Ball | StrongStart Educator – Ms. Jones |
| Youth Engagement Worker - Ms. Martens | School Secretary – Mrs. Weston |
| Education Assistants – Mrs. Sankey, Mrs. Kreschuk, Mrs. Conway, Mrs. Thomson, Mrs. Reti | |
| Noon Hour Supervisors – Miss Jody, Miss Val, Miss Casey, Miss Meghan, and Elke | |

District Day

The staff of Horse Lake School joined other educators from across the district on September 6, 2022 to focus on Indigenous culture and learning. We joined Phyllis Webstad and Monique Gray Smith who educated and inspired us to understand and take action to address the effects of trauma, both historic as the legacy of residential schools, and recent as the result of the pandemic. The message for us was that the education system has an important role in reimagining schools as inclusive learning communities and places of healing, and ensuring that students experience well-being, safety, and trauma-informed care. Together we have collective responsibility for the success of all learners, and in particular to achieve equity of outcomes for Indigenous learners. In the afternoon, we came together as a learning community to begin our year with resiliency, hope, and plans for intentional action for a positive school year.



School Assembly



Last Friday we held our first school assembly of the year, introducing the students to our new and returning staff, reviewing the school's Code of Conduct and Rights and Responsibilities, and with a reading of Monique Gray Smith's new children's book, "I Hope".

The school's Code of Conduct and other guidelines and expectations are included as an attachment to this newsletter.

Welcome Back Barbeque and Meet & Greet

It has been a while since we could mix and mingle with our parents and students, so the Staff of Horse Lake Elementary is inviting parents and their children to a Meet & Greet barbeque, to meet the new staff, connect with the existing staff, and reconnect with friends and neighbors. The Barbeque is scheduled for **Thursday, September 22nd between 5:00 and 6:00 pm.** at Horse Lake Elementary School.



Student Identification Verification Forms Go Home Thursday, September 14th

This Thursday, the school will be sending home student identification forms with your child(ren). These forms contain the current identification information that the school has with respect to contact and other family information. We ask that you read through the information on the form, update it as required, and sign it. Send the revised form back to the school with your child as soon as possible, no later than September 22nd, so we can ensure we have the correct information for contact purposes.

District Band Program for Grade 6 and 7 Students



School District #27 Band teacher Ms. O'Leary visited our students in grade six and seven to let them know about the opportunity to join the district's South End Elementary Band. The band students meet after school on Thursdays with students from Mile 108 Elementary and Forest Grove Elementary. Last year was the inaugural attempt at forming a district band, and it proved so popular that the students were split between two groups. Your grade six or seven child should be bringing home information about the program.

Terry Fox Run School Event Slated

The Annual Terry Fox School and Community Runs are not far off, and Horse Lake Elementary students' school wide event takes place on Thursday September 22nd in the afternoon. Our school raises funds for Terry Fox with our annual "Shoe Drive". Students simply bring in a dollar and get their name put on a colored paper shoe which gets put up in the hallway. \$2 = 2 shoes, etc. Students can bring the money to their teacher or to the office to get their paper shoes, and we will continue the shoe drive until the end of the September.



From The School Library



It's September - Welcome to the Library Corner. Here you'll find library updates as well as tidbits to instill a love of literacy. Book Exchanges will begin September 13th and will look a little bit different this year for students in grade 2/3 and up. There will no scheduled library day. Instead, the library will be open for book exchange for the last half hour of each school day. With their teacher's permission, students can come every day of the week to exchange their books!

- Jackie Hunt, Teacher Librarian

Respectfully, Murray Helmer, Horse Lake Elementary School Principal and Grade 5/6 Teacher