

Horizon Highlights

MARCH 2019



Board Update

Horizon School Division No. 67 is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Darryl Moser as Principal of D.A. Ferguson Middle School commencing with the 2019-2020 school year. Darryl has been sharing his education, skills and abilities with Horizon School Division for the past eighteen years: starting out in 2001 as a teacher in Hays School, then taking on the principalship of Hays School in 2004, and then transferring to his current role as principal of Taber Central Elementary School in 2007. The Board of Trustees is also pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Sharon Skretting as the new principal of Vauxhall Elementary School beginning the 2019-2020 school year. Ms. Skretting brings to the job over 25 years of experience and two degrees: Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education. Having taught in a variety of elementary grade positions at Vauxhall Elementary School and acted as a divisional Learning Coach for the last three years, Sharon brings a strong instructional knowledge base, and strong relationship building to serve Vauxhall students going into the future.



Back row: Blair Lowry, Bruce Francis, Rick Anderson, Derek Baron, Front row: Jennifer Crowson, Marie Logan (Chair), Christa Runka

Edwin Parr



The Board of Trustees is very pleased to be able to announce that Amy Shim is their 2019-2020 Edwin Parr Nominee. Amy is currently a grade 1 teacher at Dr. Hamman School and has a natural ability to connect with students. She is always smiling and uses language aligned with a growth mindset to motivate and keep kids positive. She is genuinely interested in them as people and then again as students. She can be observed crouching down to get to the student's eye level when addressing them and speaking in a calm and supportive tone. She incorporates celebrations for learning growth, student achievement and individual student celebrations within her classroom. Amy is highly skilled at varying instructional methods to suit the needs of all learners. She has been observed teaching through direct instruction, facilitating centers and small group activities. She is a master at creating engaging activities and maximizing instructional time. Amy's students report a strong sense of connection with Miss Shim and show great trust in their interactions with her.

Low German Mennonite Program

Horizon is committed to supporting our students and offering culturally appropriate programming. One of the ways we do this is by offer a locally developed Low German language and culture course "German class". We continue to enhance the program and support our staff in providing high quality programming. We are also excited to share that we recently received a large order of German books from "Centro Escolar Evangelico" in Chihuahua, Mexico. Furthermore, our Low German Mennonite Consultant (Benita Peters) will be expanding her role to be able to serve all Horizon students better. This will result in even greater support with programming, including: translating for parents and school staff, raising cultural awareness, and providing support to the locally developed language and culture courses. It will also give us the opportunity to increase awareness of the school choices available to LGM families.

Low German word of the month:

Farjoa = *spring*
Daut Farjoa es endlich his. *Spring is finally here.*

Curriculum Update

The Learner Services report for this month's board meeting highlighted a number of supports the Learner Services team continue to extend to Horizon teachers. Our teachers across all grade levels use excellent strategies to keep careful track of how students are learning. Horizon's Assessment Coach, Sharon Skretting, continues to work with teachers to refine their use of tools to give timely feedback to students and design authentic assessment tasks so students can show what they have learned. Terri-Lynn Duncan is working with a number of elementary schools who are using a specific approach to reading intervention with our youngest students. Robbie Charlebois has been meeting with Learning Support Teachers and Principals to consult on how students with more complex needs are progressing and what their future needs are as we approach the end of the school year.

Division teachers have great insight and understanding of their students' achievement. In literacy, we have a division-wide practice to use a universal benchmark assessment in reading to know exactly where each student is at. This assessment from Fountas & Pinnell is valid, reliable, and norm-referenced to North American students. The insights gained help inform teachers about what each of their students' needs for the next steps in literacy learning and how much growth students have had. This data can also be used at the school or even division level so we know how to support teachers and students in even better levels of student literacy learning. This type of ongoing, teacher-driven assessment is much more effective than one-shot, large-scale assessment.

School Bus Safety

If red is flashing...there's no passing! Check out this short PSA regarding school bus safety. This PSA was filmed during the August 2017 Red Deer Catholic School Division First Ride Program where parents who were waiting for their kindergarten children to be introduced to the school bus for the first time were asked a series of questions regarding school bus safety. Their answers may surprise you. Do you know the correct answers?

[PSA -School Bus Safety Quiz](#)

Wellness Corner

Spiritual Wellness - Although many people equate spiritual wellness with religion, they don't have to be one-in-the-same. Whether it's a meaningful connection to nature or a higher power within the universe, this connection can provide purpose and fulfilment in life, impacting overall health, well-being and quality of life. Since what moves people spiritually differs from person to person, try a variety of activities so you can discover what restores your own sense of peace. Include activities that will encourage self-connection and improved resiliency. Here are some examples to consider: quiet time for thinking, reading an inspirational book, playing a sport or musical instrument, creating or appreciating art, attending a religious service, participating in volunteer work, helping a person in need, meditating, taking a nature walk, doing yoga or practicing mindfulness.



Dates to Remember

• April 8-18 – Developmental Check Ups
• April 9 – Administrator's Meeting
• April 18 – Board Meeting
• April 19 – Good Friday
• April 22 – Easter Monday
• April 26 – 28 – Alberta School Councils AGM
• April 30 – COSC Meeting
• April 30 – Science Olympics - Warner
• May 6 – Board School Tours – Fairlane, Prairiehome, Delco, Oaklane, Hillridge
• May 9 – Resiliency Celebration
• May 15 – Edwin Parr Awards Banquet
• May 23 – Spark Fair