

HORIZON HIGHLIGHTS



OCTOBER 2018

Board of Trustees

At the October 24th, 2018 Board of Trustees Organizational Meeting, the Board voted Marie Logan in as the Board Chair and Bruce Francis as Vice-Chair for the 2018-2019 school year.

Cannabis

While recreational Cannabis was legalized on October 17, 2018, there is no change to how Horizon schools operate. Both the Horizon School Division and Horizon employees will continue to have the same obligations under Alberta Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) laws to ensure the health and safety of Horizon students, employees and workplaces. The legalization of cannabis does not allow employees to report for work impaired or to use non-medical cannabis at work. It also does not allow students to possess or use cannabis at School or during school sponsored activities. Just as you can't drink alcohol in the workplace or at school, you can't use cannabis. The jurisdiction will continue to work with employees as it always has with regard to accommodations stemming from medical conditions.

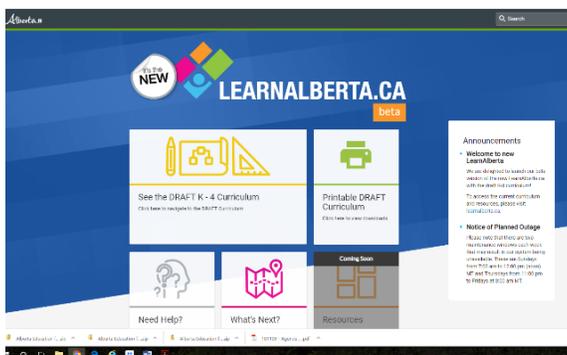
Staff Professional Learning on October 18th

On October 18th, professional learning activities were organized for a number of groups from teachers to librarians and school secretaries to educational assistants. In the morning, most were able to choose two short workshop topics from over 20 different presenters. Topics ranged from updates on curriculum or assessment to specialized insights into Low German Mennonite culture, supporting students with needs like attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder or working with indigenous students. In the afternoon, staff worked in small groups to share best practices on topics of greatest importance to them and built networks with other colleagues. In a survey shared after the event, 97% of staff were satisfied with the day! Highlights identified including having such great choice for the morning sessions, the value of being able to network with colleagues, and learning new ideas which could be put into action as soon as staff returned to their classrooms. This day was organized jointly by Horizon School Division and our Local ATA PD Committee.



Curriculum Update

What exactly is curriculum? Alberta's provincial Kindergarten to Grade 12 curriculum or "programs of study", is defined as "what" students are expected to know, understand and be able to do. While this is developed provincially, teachers use their professional judgement (based on their training and experience) to determine "how" students reach the learning outcomes outlined in the curriculum. Curriculum for six subject disciplines for Kindergarten through Grade 4 are being developed now and are scheduled to be approved by the Minister of Education in December. Teachers and the school systems



who support them will have about a year and a half to prepare for the full implementation in Fall 2020. The six subject areas are English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Fine Arts and Wellness. The advantage of having all six developed at the same time is that they all mirror the same structure and will enable teachers to inter-relate learning across disciplines. As Horizon continues its improvement focus on classroom instruction and how we intervene when students are not being successful, the instructional strategies we are using are not only research-based best practices but also will readily fit with "how" we'll teach the new curriculum.

School Messenger

You may have noticed that you have not received communication from your school lately. We have recently implemented a new communication service called "School Messenger" which enables us to send you updates via text message. To receive these you will need to give us permission by opting in.

You can do this by texting "Y" or "yes" to **978338**. You can also download create a School Messenger account at go.schoolmessenger.ca where you can also download the School Messenger APP. Please note that you will need to set your Contact Preferences in the Preferences section of the app. This will determine how you will receive messages from your child's school and Horizon School Division.



Wellness Corner



Emotional Wellness is a measure of the well-being of our thoughts and feelings. Being emotionally healthy includes knowing and loving yourself, identifying and better managing stress levels, having a bright outlook on life and more. So how do you go about achieving this kind of positive emotional wellness? Here are some ideas:
Keep connected. Having positive social relationships at work can help restore and maintain emotional wellness.
Recognize courses of stress. Identify what's causing you stress and take steps towards

developing strategies to manage those stressors.

Seek support. There are many health professionals who can help with maintaining your emotional well-being.

Dates to Remember

• November 2-9 – Diploma Exams
• November 6 – Council of School Council meeting
• November 13 – Administrator's Meeting
• November 18-20 – Alberta School Board Association Fall Annual General Meeting
• November 20 – Staff Emergency First Aid training opportunity
• November 22 – ATA leadership quality standard symposium (implementation support for professional practice standards)
• November 26 - Division Wide PD Day (Teachers only)
• November 28 – Board Meeting