

Horizon School

CHINOOK'S EDGE
SCHOOL DIVISION NO 73

M A Y 2 0 2 0

Hello everyone,

It's hard to believe that we are now in our 8th week of 'learning at home'. So much has changed over that time, and I want to share how proud I am of our students, staff and families (that's YOU!). For many, this new world of online learning has included learning how to use the tech tools we need to be able to do it! From Google Classroom, to Google Meet, to email and making instructional videos. There's been a lot, and we are ALL rising to the challenge.

For May, there are several key areas I want to address:

Wellness

Taking care of ourselves has become more important than ever during these pandemic times. We've got the handwashing and social distancing down, and it is important for us all to consider our mental health and well-being as well. Click [here](#) for a short video from our partners from AHS about how you can prioritize wellness during these times.

In this newsletter, you'll also find a Wellness Bingo card to challenge yourself and your children.

Speech Language Pathology and Occupational Therapy

Did you know that the team that provides SLP and OT services to students across our Division can provide support with challenges that you may be facing at home? Challenges related to sleeping, eating and toileting all into the realm of their expertise, and they are able to support you in addressing these challenges at home. If you are experiencing any difficulties in these areas and would like to access supports, please let your child's teacher know.

Support Staff

As we all learned on March 28th, in response to the pandemic, the provincial government had to make a temporary funding cutback for school boards. Our Board and COLT Team worked tirelessly to develop a plan that deferred the temporary layoff of our Educational Assistants until June 1st. Please know that they have been *invaluable in the development of the online programming that is in place*. *We feel deep gratitude that they have been by our sides. They truly are amazing people who enable us to provide the best for our students.*

Our teaching staff is preparing once again for a shift. I want to assure you that they are committed to providing the best possible programming that they can given the resources available to them. Things may look a little different in some cases, and in others, the work that our Educational Assistants have done to prepare for this time means that it may not look that different at all. I encourage you to continue to let teachers know how they can best meet the needs of your families with educational programming.

Graduation

One of the recurring themes that I am reading about all across North America is how graduates of 2020 are impacted by this pandemic. Horizon is no exception. Our Grad 2020 has been postponed. This affects 5 students this year. We recognize that this is an important milestone for all students, and it is our full intention to reschedule a special ceremony during the next school year when we receive word that it is safe to do so. For now, those plans are on hold. However, we will do our best to celebrate our grads with a virtual acknowledgement before the end of the year.

Budget & Staffing

Due to the work done by our Central Office team, we are very fortunate to be able to plan for a year that will look very similar to this year in terms of funding. Our staffing levels will remain stable for both teachers and support staff.

At the end of this school year, we will say goodbye to Jenna Kulyk. Miss Jenna came to teach our STAR 1 class to cover a leave. Fittingly enough, Jenna has been an absolute star, and the students who she ends up teaching next year will be very lucky indeed.

Shauna Carrick, Lyndsay McClatchey, Tracy Trebb, Sharon Collin and myself will all return to our much loved roles at Horizon next year. We are excited to welcome Alanna Sampson to Horizon. Alanna will be coming to us from John Wilson Elementary in Innisfail where she has provided support to students and her colleagues in social emotional learning. Her skills will make her a perfect fit with our Horizon Team.

I hope that you are all finding a new way of normal that works for your families. It doesn't matter if it looks different from what you are seeing on the news, social media, or what your friends and family's lives look like right now. What's important is that we all find a way of being that works for us.

We recognize all of the efforts and sacrifices that we see our families making. Thank YOU for all of your support.

Melissa McEwen



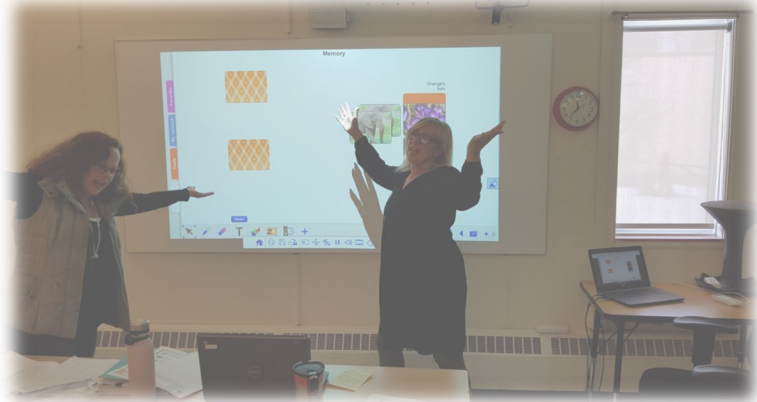
Thank you Cindy and Danny for all your hard work putting on a fresh coat of paint in some of our rooms!



Thank you to our amazing bus drivers and bus e/a's for your support of our school and students! We can't wait to see you pulling up in front of our school, hopefully sooner than later!



A new way of learning can be fun even when we can't be together!



TEACHER
TAKES A HAND
OPENS A MIND
& TOUCHES A
HEART

Safety in a time of pandemic

A Message from the Superintendent

Each May, this newsletter message typically highlights our excellent record of surpassing safety standards in Chinook's Edge schools. Each year we proudly share audit results, which continually illustrate our division's steadfast commitment to safety. While our schools are maintaining focused attention to our traditional safety protocols, what is most pressing for parents and communities to know is the level of care our staff continues to take in schools during this time of COVID-19.

School buildings and division office are operating with limited capacity and with strict protocols at this time. Many of our staff are engaged in moving learning forward online from home, and the limited staff who are present in each building are working within strict guidelines. There is hand sanitizer on workstations, restrictions on interactions, and caretaking staff onsite to ensure surfaces are continually cleaned and disinfected. In fact, caretakers in some of our schools have already completed their end-of-the-year deep cleaning. Everyone in Chinook's Edge is doing their part to stay safe, to keep our facilities safe, and to use this time for completing additional projects. This way we will ensure we are ready - and very happy - to welcome our students back to school when we are able to do so.

Kurt Sacher
Superintendent

Trustees at work for students

We are so grateful that parents throughout Chinook's Edge have stepped up to the current challenge in immeasurable ways. Please read more in the [May Board eNews](#).

Approval of 2021-2022 Division Calendar

Creating a division calendar is a complex and challenging task, and we are pleased to share that the [Division Calendar](#) has been approved to the end of the 2022 school year (please click to review the information on our website). Calendar decisions are a collaborative process made in consultation with students, staff and Chinook's Edge families. Anyone wishing to provide feedback can do so on the website link above. This will help inform our decisions as we consider multiple details in determining each school year's calendar. Thank you.

