

NEWSLETTER # 31

October, 2009

Mr. David Colburn
Trustee

Mr. Edgar Schmidt
Superintendent
of Schools

Mrs. Jennifer Allen
Principal

Mr. Glen Wilcox
Assistant Principal

HIGHLANDS STUDENTS ACHIEVE!

Achievement results from last year indicate reasons to celebrate as well as a few areas to continue to focus our improvement efforts in. Below is a summary of highlights from 2008 – 2009. The results will be shared in more detail at our upcoming school council meeting on November 2.

Edmonton Public Schools Highest Level of Achievement Tests (HLATs):

- In writing, the number of students achieving at or above grade level increased by 14%! We credit this increase to the hard work of students and teachers, as well as the implementation of the 6 +1 Writing Traits program that was implemented school wide.
- HLAT reading results remained steady from the previous year.

Provincial Achievement Test Results:

- In Language Arts, 11% more students who wrote the exam met the acceptable standard and 6% more met the standard of excellence.
- In Math, 2% more students school-wide met the acceptable standard.
- In Science, 4% more students school-wide met the acceptable standard.
- It was the first year for students at Highlands School to write the Social Studies Exam based on the new curriculum. We were pleased that out of all grade 9 students in the school, 65% achieved acceptable standard and 15% achieved the standard of excellence.

Teacher Awarded Marks:

- There was an increase of students achieving at grade level in Language Arts and Math in four out of six of the grade level scores (slight decrease only in grade 7 Language Arts and grade 8 Math)

*Bright futures
begin here*

 EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Highlands Families:

Today you will be receiving your child's first interim reports in the core subject areas. We hope that you will take the time to look at, in detail, the results of the various assessment activities that your child has been involved with. If "incompletes" or "not handed ins" have been reported, this is a perfect time for you to connect with your child's teacher to arrange for the work to be made up. There may also be opportunities for students to re-write exams if they so wish. If you have questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher, or any member of our school administration. ***The first progress reports will be distributed on December 3rd at parent – student – teacher conferences.*** Both interim reports and progress reports will also be made available via School Zone.

On November 5th, Mr. Wilcox and I will be making a presentation of our school results to Edmonton Public School Board trustees. The presentation will occur in the Eastglen School Conference Room between 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. All parents and community members are welcome to attend.

Parents are also welcome to attend our next School Council and Alumni Meeting which will be held on Monday, November 2nd at 6:30. This will be a dinner meeting, with pizza for everyone. At this meeting we will touch on a variety of topics including: a review of school achievement results from last year, the running of school councils with guest Alva Shewchuk of Edmonton Public Schools, and the upcoming casino. A huge thanks to our School Council and other parent and community members who have already signed up to work at our upcoming casino, November 7th and 8th. ***We are still in need of more volunteers to help out during the evening shifts. Please call the school office if you can help!*** Funds raised will be used to continue to enhance many different opportunities for our students.

I would like to introduce our newest staff member to everyone at this time. ***Ms. Suzie Cuts*** has joined our team and is taking over from Ms. Cleator who recently accepted a new challenge working as a consultant in the district. Ms. Cuts brings a wealth of experience from teaching in England and Australia. She is very quickly building positive relationships with our students and is determined to positively impact our students in achieving even better scores in math.

Our student leaders are currently being immersed in a variety of training sessions. All students in the school have or will be participating a full day Peace Talks Training session. ***Twenty of our students will also be participating in a three day intensive Peace Talks leadership retreat.*** A group of girls from the Personal Best option class also enjoyed the opportunity to participate in a conference: "The Power of Being a Girl" at the University of Alberta. Leadership 9 students recently attended a day long retreat at YoWoChas Centre. It is our hope that our students will all develop skills allowing them to participate in the school and greater community in positive ways, learn that they can indeed make a positive difference, and have opportunities to do so.

Thank-you to all parents and community members for continuing to play an important role in the education of our young people. As always, we do value your feedback on any issue. Please feel free to give us a call at any time.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Allen



SPORTS TEAMS UP AND RUNNING!



Soccer

Congratulations to the Highlands Soccer team for all your hard work and good effort! Despite a tough season, we learned the importance of sportsmanship, perseverance and most importantly – having fun! See you next year! *T. Janisch*



Volleyball

Congratulations to the **Boys Volleyball** team for a great start to the season. We finished 5th place in our first tournament of the year at Eastglen. Let's go Highlands! *M. Rees*

Girls Volleyball is in full swing! The team is made up of coaches Ms. Boulet and Ms. Smale. So far, we have played Edmonton Islamic and won all three games! Go Hurricanes! This is bound to be a very exciting season! *A. Boulet & S. Smale*



Cheerleading

Congratulations to the members of the 2009-2010 Hurricanes Cheer team. Practices are Monday and Tuesday afternoon from 3:15 – 4:30 and Thursday afternoon from 3:30 – 4:30. See you in competition season! *K. Eliuk*
Lexus King

Highlands
Remembrance Day Ceremony
Tuesday,
November 10 @ 11:30 A.M.
In the Big Gym



No School
Wednesday, November 11
Remembrance Day

Coffee & Conversation



Would you like the opportunity to meet with other parents to talk about the joys and challenges parenting a teenager?

Would you like to know what information and resources are available for you?

Would you like to get involved with others in parent/caregiver led school activities?

If so, please consider attending our **Coffee and Conversation for Caregivers on the first Thursday of every month beginning on November 5 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 8.** We look forward to seeing you there?

For more information, please call Noelle Dufort at 780-479-4206. Please sign in at the office before coming for coffee.

Somali Youth Basketball!

Saturdays and Sundays

Ages: 12-14

Time: 4-6 p.m.



Ecole St Angela Elementary School
13430-132a Street

Contact:

Mohamed, Coach 780-885-2506

Yusuf, Coach 780-297-1510

Farewell

After 9 years teaching Highlands students Math, Learning Strategies and Art, **Ms Kyla Cleator** is moving on to a new challenge. Ms Cleator has moved to Consulting Services, part of the Edmonton Public School Board. As part of the Special Education Support Services team, based out of Newton School, Ms Cleator will be working with schools throughout the district to support students with severe behaviour and emotional needs who are moving into an inclusive classroom.

Welcome

Highlands welcomes **Ms Suzie Cuts** as the new Math and Art teacher. Ms Cuts has 7 years of teaching under her belt teaching the subjects of Math, Science, Horticulture, Leadership and Phys Ed. In addition to teaching in Edmonton, Ms Cuts taught in England and Australia. Welcome to Highlands!

Parents Empowering Parents

November 6 & 7, 2009

Amiskwaciy Academy

101, Airport Road

Sessions include:

Medicine Wheel teachings
HTNF information
Diabetes information
Keeping our families healthy
Dietician available
Jigging lesson for everyone
School papers- what do they mean?
Rights, responsibilities of parents
Traditional games
Art activity
Residential school
60's/70's scoop



Bright futures
begin here

~Free Registration~

Please register by

October 30, 2009

Phone 780-429-8410

Fax 780-498-8757

~Meals Provided~
~Childcare Available~



EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

3 Part Series of Workshops For Parents

Attend one, two or all three!

Homework Without Tears

- Is doing homework a struggle in your home?
- Do you want to make it easier?
- Would you like to know some keys ideas to help your child succeed in school?

Join us to share ideas!

When: Thursday, November 5

Where: Abbotsfield Library (3210 – 118 Ave)

Time: 6 – 7:30 pm

Presented by Pas Paskaran – Nait Instructor



Teaching Kids to Be Safe and Responsible Online

When: Thursday, November 12

Where: Abbotsfield Library

Time: 6 – 7:30 pm

Presented by Jody Crilly – from Edmonton Public Library



Learning Styles

When: Thursday, November 19

Where: Abbotsfield Library

Time: 6 – 7:30 pm

Presented by Wendy Peverett and Jennifer Munro.



People learn in different ways. It is important for parents to know their own learning style as well as their child's preferred learning style. It can help make homework time less stressful. Come and join us as we explore different styles. Find out your style and see if it is the same as your child's.

Wendy Peverett has been working in the Family Literacy field for over 12 years in a variety of roles - coordinator, facilitator and trainer. Jennifer Munro has been with the Centre for the past 2 years and has travelled the province as well as facilitated a number of local programs.

Childcare available!

To register and/or book childcare, please call **Susan** at **780-471-2598**

Presented by the Northeast Edmonton Literacy Network

DATES TO REMEMBER

PLEASE POST ON YOUR FRIDGE FOR AN EASY REFERENCE

| | | |
|-------------------|-------|---|
| October | 30 | Student Interim Reports |
| November | 11 | Remembrance Day (no school) |
| December | 3 | Progress Report #1 Parent/Teacher Interviews |
| December | 14-18 | Health Week |
| December | 17 | Christmas Bureau/Christmas Dinner & Dance |
| December 21-Jan 1 | | Christmas Break (no school) |
| January | 4 | Students Return |
| January | 21-22 | Mid-Year Exams |
| January | 28 | Student Interim Reports |
| January | 29 | Professional Development Day (no school) |
| February | 1 | Semester 2 Options Begin |
| February | 15 | Family Day (no school) |
| February | 23 | 6 th Annual Young Readers Conference |
| February | 25-26 | Teacher's Convention (no school) |
| March | 11 | Progress Report #2 Parent/Teacher Interviews |
| March | 18 | Open House |
| Mar. 29-Apr. 5 | | Spring Break/Easter Break (no school) |
| April | 6 | Classes Resume |
| April | 19-23 | Spirit Week |
| April | 26-30 | HLAT Writing Exam |
| April | 30 | Student Interim Report |
| May | 3-7 | HLAT Reading Exam |
| May | 12 | Grade 9 Language Arts Final, Part A |
| May | 21 | Day In Lieu (no school) |
| May | 24 | Day in Lieu (no school) |
| June | 16 | Grade 9 Social Studies Provincial Achievement Test |
| June | 21 | Aboriginal Day |
| June | 23 | Grade 9 Language Arts Part B Final Exam |
| June | 24 | Grade 9 Science Provincial Achievement Test |
| June | 25 | Grade 9 Mathematics Provincial Achievement Test |
| June | 29 | Awards Ceremony and final day for students, 1:00 p.m. Grade 9 Celebration, 6:00 p.m. |
| June | 30 | Final Progress Report handed out – 9 – 10 a.m. |

* School Council Meetings will be held monthly, every fourth Wednesday evening