

NEWSLETTER # 30

September, 2009

Mr. David Colburn
Trustee

Mr. Edgar Schmidt
Superintendent
of Schools

Mrs. Jennifer Allen
Principal

Mr. Glen Wilcox
Assistant Principal

MEET CHEF GWEN!



Wonderful aromas have been wafting throughout the school around lunchtime and it's all thanks to the cooking efforts of new school chef Gwen Milbrath. After over a year of trying to secure a chef to run the Highlands cafeteria, **Metis Child & Family Services** stepped in and provided the financial assistance the school needed to get the cafeteria up and running.

Gwen comes to Highlands from Amiskwaciy Academy where she spent 2 ½ years as their school chef. While Gwen has the knack for creating some scrumptious stews and soups, cooking was not always her first vocation.

After working for the Senate of Canada as Assistant to Senator Chalifoux, Gwen caught the travel bug and spent time in Greece and the United States. After jetting around the world, she returned to Edmonton to see where the next chapter in her life would lead her. That's when Metis Child and Family Services called and brought her to Highlands.

Gwen says "Sometimes the food you planned to cook isn't available, so you have to think up something off the top of your head to have lunch ready by 12:15 p.m." All the food for the cafeteria is donated from the Royal Bank and the Edmonton Food Bank. Gwen comments, "Kids at Highlands will always have a lunch – it may not be the fanciest, but it's hot and good for them!"

So for those days when your child walks out the door without a lunch, no worries! The Highlands Cafeteria is open for business with chef Gwen at the helm!

*Bright futures
begin here*

 EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Highlands Families:

Welcome to the 2009 – 2010 school year!

We're off to a fabulous start. It was great to meet many of our Highlands families at our **Welcome Back Bar-b-que** last week. I hope that our relationships will continue to grow throughout the year. It is important that we all work together and communicate clearly in order to do the best possible work with our students. There are many ways in which we hope to keep in touch with you. We hope you have had the opportunity to **sign up for School Zone** so that you can access information on line. If you have yet to do this, please call Mrs. Graham in our office. Please also feel free to give us a call at any time to ask questions, provide us with feedback, or receive an update on how your son or daughter is doing. We will be sending our first interim reports home at the end of October.

There are a number of new staff and community partners that I am proud to introduce you to. **Mr. Josh Phillips** is teaching Social Studies, Science, and Physical Education this year. Mr. Phillips worked with us for much of last year as an academic tutor. We are thrilled to have him back in his new role as one of our teachers. **Mr. Victor Wong** comes to us from Hardisty Junior High. His expertise in technology, math, and science is already making a positive impact on our students and staff team. **Mr. Jason Pearson** is the most recent teacher to join our team. Mr. Pearson, who has much expertise in special needs programming, will be providing extra support in our math and guitar programs, and will be providing general support to students in a variety of ways. New community partners this year include **Matt Cairns**, a success coach from the family Centre and **Jesse Lalonde**, our new academic tutor from Aboriginal Youth and Family. Both Matt and Jesse will be working at Highlands on a half time basis. Metis Child and Family is once again supporting our school community by providing us with a full time social worker, **Noelle Dufort**. MCFS is also providing us with our new cook, **Gwen Milbrath**, who keeps busy creating hot healthy lunches for our students. Her culinary skills and efforts are already a big hit! Finally, we have a new facilitator with the Peace Talks Program. **Queenie Mason John** will be doing training with all of our students and staff in the areas of leadership and creating a safe community, free of bullying.

Our Peace Talks Program will be featured on CTV's (Channel 2) SchoolZone program during the 6p.m. news, next Thursday, October 1st.

Our Highlands School Council needs you! The council meets on a monthly basis – the **first** Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. You are all encouraged to turn out to receive information about and provide input into school happenings. ***The council also requires volunteers for their upcoming casino which is being held at Century Casino on Saturday and Sunday, November 7th and 8th.*** If you can help out, please call the school and let us know. We still have openings for volunteers for the early and late shifts on both days.

Friday, October 9th, has been designated as a school staff professional development day. There will be no classes on this day. Staff will spend the day working with Dr. Wayne Hammond of Resiliency Canada. He will help us interpret the results from the survey that students completed during the first weeks of school. Based on this data, we will work to enhance our strategies and programming aligned with student strengths.

As we continue our journey through the school year, I encourage you to be our partners in education. Call or stop in if you have questions, accolades, or concerns or if you would like to be more involved. Together I know that we will achieve great results from all Highlands students.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Allen



SPORTS TEAMS UP AND RUNNING!

Soccer

Thanks to Mr. Janisch and Mr. Renner, Highlands has a soccer team this year! With the assistance of Mrs. Kopchia, the team has put in a lot of hard work and good effort and practices and games. Our games occur weekly so watch the announcements for dates and times. Come out and cheer your Highlands Soccer Team on!
T. Janisch



Volleyball

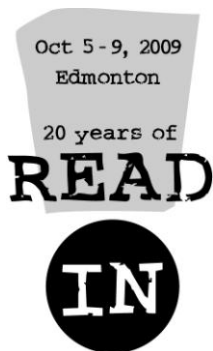
The Boys Volleyball team has been selected and are now preparing for their first tournament of the season! Mark down October 1, 2 and 3rd at Eastglen High School to come out and support our volleyball team!
M. Rees

Cheerleading

After a whirlwind session of tryouts, the Highlands Cheerleading Team has been selected and are practicing hard to gear up for the season ahead.
K. Eliuk



GET READY FOR "READ – IN WEEK"



The Edmonton Public School Board is celebrating 20 years of Read In Week! This year's theme is *Books are windows on the world/Les livres...une fenetre sur le monde*. Once again Highlands is planning an event at the school where local celebrities, community members and EPSB staff are invited to come to the school to read to our students. Our guests are invited to choose a story or excerpt from a book that was important to them, or in some cases to read from a book provided from our own library. We also invite our guests to talk about what reading has meant to them and how literacy has enriched their lives. Watch for our guest readers to visit your classroom from October 5-9!
L. Thompson



School Fees

The deadline for paying school fees is **Wednesday, September 30.**

Please see Ms Loga in the school office to arrange payment or a payment schedule.

**No School
Friday, October 9
Professional Development Day**

**Monday, October 12
Thanksgiving Day**

SchoolZone for Parents - What You Need to Know

What do I need? Access to a computer and an application form.

Why register? To stay up-to-date on school news, your child's homework, attendance, progress reports, timetables, student fees and the list goes on . . .

How to apply? Call or drop by the School office and ask for a SchoolZone Application form. Once completed and returned, you will receive a User ID and Password to access information about your child.

More than one child in an EPSB school? You can merge all of your SchoolZone accounts so you can view information about all your children from one account.

Sign up now!

You are just a point and click away from the easiest way to access information about Highlands and your child at school!

Basketball Referees Needed!



Basketball season is soon approaching, and the Highlands girls and boys basketball teams are looking for referees. **If you are able to ref, or are interested in learning, please let Ms. Eliuk know at 479 4206 for more information.**

Student Electronic Devices at Highlands



For those students who bring, cell phones, iPods and other electronic devices to school - please note *Highlands is not responsible for these things, should they go missing at school.*

Keeping them safe at home can prevent much stress and disappointment for students and families in the event students lose them. We appreciate that some parents feel it necessary for students to have cell phones in case of emergency.

If so, it is the student's responsibility to store them in their locker during the school day.

Students caught using cell phones inappropriately at school or during class time, may have them confiscated by school staff and parents will be notified.

Get Webwise!

The internet is a valuable learning tool. It can open up the world and expand our knowledge and views. It can also expose children and youth to dangerous individuals. Internet luring is a growing concern in our province and the rest of the world.

Parents – check out www.getwebwise.ca to teach your kids how to use the internet safely.

Students – check out www.weron2u.ca for tips on how to protect yourself from Internet luring.

Everyone – report online sexual exploitation of children to Canada's National Tipline - www.cybertip.ca

Let's all work together to keep our children safe while they are on the Internet!

Catching a Cold . . . *Please Stay Home!*

At Highlands, the health and safety of all students, staff and community partners is paramount! In order to be prepared and ensure the health of our school community, we have installed hand sanitizers in all of our classrooms, and put up posters throughout the school teaching proper hand washing and coughing and sneezing techniques, as well as posted Health Warnings on all of our doors to help educate our public.

Please, if your child has a cold or is feeling ill, it is important that they stay home until they feel better. Whether a cold or flu – one person bringing a virus into our school has the potential to infect over 240 other people! And, with the pandemic of H1N1, we truly need to take care of one another! So . . .

If you or your child have the following flu-like symptoms, do not enter Highlands School and seek medical attention:



- Fever
- Fatigue
- Lack of appetite
- Coughing
- Sore throat
- Muscle aches
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Diarrhea

For more information, contact Health Link Alberta at **780-408-5465**.
Visit the district's website at **www.epsb.ca** for further information and updates.

Remember . . . wash your hands with soap and water and sneeze into your sleeve to stop the spread of germs!

The Board of Trustees invites you to attend a free session for parents:

PARENTS as PARTNERS

Inclusive Schools:

Caring and Effective Education for Everyone with Dr. Richard Villa

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Don Fleming, Board Chair
Sue Huff, Vice-Chair
Dave Colburn
Bev Esslinger
Gerry Gibeault
Ken Gibson
George Rice
Catherine Ripley
Ken Shipka

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Edgar Schmidt

Dr. Richard Villa, an expert on inclusive education, has worked all over the world with schools, governmental and non-governmental organizations. Dr. Villa has what it takes to facilitate change and progress in education.

WHEN: Monday, October 19, 2009, 7 - 9 p.m.
WHERE: McCauley Chambers, Centre for Education
Main Floor, One Kingsway
PARKING: Free underground parking
(front of building, down the ramp)

REGISTRATION: Visit partners.epsb.ca or call 780.429.8240
— Please note this session is for adults only —

For more information about Dr. Villa, visit ravillabayridge.com.
Dr. Villa's books will be available for purchase and signing at the session.

All parents and school council members are invited and welcome to attend Parents as Partners sessions. Visit partners.epsb.ca for a list of upcoming sessions.

C10-2609

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The Board of Trustees invites you to attend a free session for school council members:

PARENTS as PARTNERS

Calling all School Council Members!

School Council Training – Part 1

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Don Fleming, Board Chair
Sue Huff, Vice-Chair
Dave Colburn
Bev Esslinger
Gerry Gibeault
Ken Gibson
George Rice
Catherine Ripley
Ken Shipka

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Edgar Schmidt

New to the school council? Or a returning member looking for new ideas? School Council Training is the best way to start the new school year. Presenters will cover information on a variety of topics to help your school council get off to a great start.

Plus you will have the opportunity to get to know Edmonton Public Schools' Trustees as well as council members from other schools.

WHEN: Wednesday, November 4, 2009, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
WHERE: Centre for Education
Main Floor, One Kingsway
PARKING: Free underground parking
(front of building, down the ramp)

REGISTRATION: Visit partners.epsb.ca or call 780.429.8240

All school council members are invited and welcome to attend School Council Training and any of the Parents as Partners sessions. Visit partners.epsb.ca for a list of upcoming sessions.

C10-2609

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DATES TO REMEMBER

PLEASE POST ON YOUR FRIDGE FOR AN EASY REFERENCE

October	5-9	Read-In Week
October	9	Professional Development Day (no school)
October	12	Thanksgiving Day (no school)
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