



Husky Happenings

Excellence, Integrity, Leadership

Husky Happenings – November 2019

HERITAGE HEIGHTS HIGHLIGHTS

Thank you to all parents and guardians that attended our Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences. The conversation in this first round of conferences often sets the tone for the year. This is an opportunity to share those important goals we collaboratively want to work towards for the remainder of the year. Thank you to our wonderful parents for providing dinner for teachers on both nights of conferences. You treat us very well and it is so appreciated by all staff! Thank you to families for supporting our Book Fair. A portion of all purchases comes directly back to the school for use in expanding our Learning Commons.

On October 24th a team of junior high students attended a mental health summit sponsored by Canadian Mental Health Association. This leadership team met to discuss important issues currently experienced by teens in our school. This team will also be part of our lead team of students with our CMHA pilot this year focusing on mental health.

UPDATES

FSD Policy 1 Consultation

Foothills School Division's Policy 1, *Division Foundational Statements*, is currently out for public consultation. We encourage you to add your voice to this conversation. As suggested by its name, Policy 1 is the foundation for the vision and direction of the School Division moving forward. You can easily add your voice by providing your feedback and insight using our [ThoughtExchange consultation tool](#) located on FSD website.

Attendance

School success goes hand in hand with good attendance. Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school – and themselves. By building this habit right away in kindergarten, children learn that going to school on time every day is important. We know these early habits support children in doing well in elementary and into junior high, high school, and at work. In FSD, we are committed to working with families to ensure the importance of attendance. At Heritage Heights School we do monitor both attendance and lates. In the 2018-19 school year, 53% of HH students missed more than 10% of the school year. That equates to missing more than 1 month of school. Absences and/or lates in excess of 15% will be addressed by both teachers and administration so we can support potential concerns before they become chronic. We also want to ensure we understand the underlying issues impacting attendance such as anxiety towards school, transportation, vacations, etc. Our purpose is to support students and families in understanding the importance of school and working together to solve any barriers that may be impacting regular attendance. Please be aware that during extended vacation absences, teachers will

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Administration / Office News
- Monthly Calendar
- Social Events
- Community Info
- School Contact Information

provide curriculum outcomes students will miss. Teachers cannot be expected to replicate all learning that happens in the classroom in worksheets.

Parking

Safety, over convenience, is a primary focus at Heritage Heights. Parents, when dropping off or picking up your child at school please remember the following:

- Use our parent loop when dropping off or picking up your child.
- Bus loop is for busses and staff parking only.
- When parking at SSSR and walking your child to their classroom, please use the identified crosswalk and sidewalk. We are noticing more parents are parking at the arena and students are walking there after school. We do not encourage this as it increases our safety awareness to a very broad area. Crossing to the arena is a high traffic area with busses also entering for our neighbouring school.
- When leaving your vehicle to come into the school, please park in our south parking lot.
- Our fire lanes MUST be kept clear at all times in case of an emergency. Please do not leave your vehicle unattended in these identified red zones.
- Our identified blue parking area in our front entry is for handicapped purposes only.
- Please refrain from using your cell phone while driving or dropping off. This concern has been raised by our parent community as they are dropping off their children. As parents, we are the most important role model.

Education Plan

October and November is a time when we develop our Heritage Heights Education Plan. This plan contains our vision and mission that is at the center of everything we do regarding high levels of learning for all students. Our work this year will focus on three priorities: designing instruction to ensure success for all learners, ensuring a safe, caring, and welcoming culture through social-emotional wellbeing (focus on Leader in Me and positive mental health), and engaging our stakeholders.

We will share our draft plan at our next School Council meeting on November 12th. Please plan on attending – 7 pm in our Learning Commons. We do appreciate parent feedback and input on making Heritage Heights School the best it can be. Superintendent Chris Fuzessy will be attending our November School Council meeting.

STEM Update

As reported in our October newsletter, part of our focus this year is to design learning with a design thinking lens. To assist us all with this learning, we are partnering with the STEM Learning Lab in Calgary. STEM/STEAM stands for Science Technology Engineering Arts and Math. All staff participated on September 20th Professional Development at the STEM Learning Lab. Our initial focus was on building a common understanding of design thinking. Staff now have an understanding that design thinking isn't always about a product. It is about a process to problem solve big world ideas. Staff and students have begun exploring a

design thinking process such as designing a card fob in Comm Tech and Scratch with buddy classes. As we look forward to our residency in January our next step is to meet with the Learning Lab in November/December to discuss possible residency themes. We are fortunate that our Parent Association successfully applied for and received a FSD CPIP grant to support this residency. Dates for residency are January 14-February 6.

CMHA (Canadian Mental Health Association) Pilot Update

As reported in our October newsletter, we are very fortunate to partner with CMHA this year at Heritage in support of wellness and mental health. CMHA will begin working with staff on our November 22nd Professional Development day. The focus will be on leading staff through a design thinking process to identify mental health issues we are currently facing. Staff will then lead students (grades 5-9) through this same process to identify mental health issues students are facing. CMHA will lead interested parents through this same process. The process will move through 5 distinct phases: assess, design, implement, measure, and reflect. While our primary focus will be resiliency (identified in our SOS-Q survey) our essential understanding is that we all have mental health.

Learner Profiles

As we look ahead to the end of November teachers will be formally assessing the achievement of students in the first term – Learner Profiles will be sent home on November 29th. Our LPs will have a different look this year. Competency reporting replaces the Characteristics of Responsible Learners. This change is to align with Alberta Education. Please see additional information regarding this change in this newsletter.

Athletics

Mother Nature put a damper on our elementary cross country meets this fall with our students only enjoying one race. Thank you to coaches Ms. Fargher, Mrs. Millard and Mrs. Scaddan. Our weather improved and our football teams were able to enjoy the comradery of fellow athletes at the jamborees. Congratulations to our junior high team on their championship season! Thank you to coaches Mrs. McKellar and Ms. Copeland, Ms. MacKenzie and Mrs. Clarke. Best of luck and sportsmanship to our volleyball teams as they finish the season. Thank you to coaches Mrs. Richards and Logan Richards, Mrs. Cederstrand, Ms. Seib, Ms. Powell and Ms. Rogers.

A reminder to visit our website for important dates and information. <http://heritageheights.fsd38.ab.ca>.

I am always happy to meet with parents to discuss any aspect of our school.

Joanne Higgins

Principal

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Dear Foothills Families

We are updating our student Learner Profile to align with Alberta Education. You will notice that the first page of our Learner Profile reports on **Competencies for Successful Learners**.

These are designed to represent the knowledge, skills, and attitudes required to be successful in school, life, and work. They are intended to give you an overall snapshot of your child’s development towards an independent, confident, and responsible citizen.

It is our hope that these competencies will also provide students with clear and consistent language to monitor their own progress and work with their teacher to grow and develop the skills of a successful learner.

Please note that the academic grades and comments sections of the Learner Profile will remain unchanged.

If you have any questions about this change or any other concerns regarding your child’s education, please contact your child’s school.

Competencies for Successful Learners					
Competencies are knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to be successful in school, life, and work. The following indicators are outlined by Alberta Education and give you an overall snapshot of the development of your child’s development towards an independent, confident, and responsible citizen.					
Reporting Key	Not Yet Your child demonstrates this competency infrequently.	Sometimes Your child demonstrates this competency more often than not.	Consistently Your child demonstrates this competency almost always.		
Concept	Indicators	Report 1	Report 2	Report 3	
I am a Lifelong Learner who...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets goals, follows through, and reflects on learning Plans and manages learning time, space, and materials Takes responsibility for behaviour and choices Is resilient, flexible, and optimistic Focuses on strengths, while improving the areas needed to achieve personal excellence 				
I am a Communicator who...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates respect, empathy, and responsibility when communicating with others Considers audience, context, and intended message to communicate effectively in a variety of situations Uses both verbal and non-verbal communication effectively to send and receive ideas or information 				
I am a Collaborator who...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respects and supports others in group settings Shares responsibilities, works towards common goals, and contributes positively to the group Nurtures effective working relationships: compromises by considering and integrating ideas of others to move the group forward, and acknowledges the contributions of others Seeks to build shared understanding and learns from others ideas and perspectives 				
I am a Global Citizen who...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makes choices and advocates for well-being of self and others in various contexts including digital spaces, community, school, and world Acknowledges and respects diversity and different perspectives Has the mindset, "I can make a difference" 				
I am an Innovative Problem Solver who...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Values honesty, fairness, and open-mindedness Analyzes situations, chunks problems into smaller parts, and creates a plan of action Takes initiative and perseveres when taking action Evaluates and reflects on possible options and their consequences Uses independent and collaborative problem-solving approaches to improve relationships 				

Dear Heritage Heights Families,

As Huskies, we value using our leadership skills to develop an understanding of Global Citizenship both locally and globally. This year, we chose to support the Calgary Foodbank this November through their Birthday Bag program. This program gives kids a chance to celebrate their birthday when their families are facing hardships, relying on the foodbank for necessities and nothing extra. We feel that it's important because everyone deserves to be able to celebrate their birthday because it signifies growth, maturity, and a fresh start. It also brings a little happiness into a home and fosters new memories being made as a family. Putting together Birthday Bags for the food bank will support our community and build our capacity as leaders through developing empathy and compassion for others, among many other leadership skills.

The logo for the Calgary Food Bank, featuring the words "CALGARY" and "FOOD BANK" in white, bold, uppercase letters on a dark blue rectangular background.

Huskies will be bringing home a note and list of items we will be collecting. The collection will take place from November 4th to November 15th. Thank you in advance for your support. We look forward to making a difference in the lives of others!

Sincerely,

Heritage Heights Student Leadership

Health & Wellness.....



World Mental Health Day was recognized on October 10th, 2019. This is an international day for global mental health education, awareness and advocacy against social stigma. This is a good reminder to all of us the importance of continuously promoting mental health awareness in our community.

One way to learn more is through our own Foothills School Division **“Parent Learning Link”** website. This is designed to provide parents with upcoming learning opportunities, mental health literature, and community supports and resources to ensure we are collaborating together in providing the best support for all of our children and youth.

https://sites.google.com/gm.fsd38.ab.ca/parentlearninglink/home#h.p_BTx1aUQtERpc

Through our own student voice, Heritage Heights will be participating in a school-based initiative partnered with the Canadian Mental Health Association referred to as YouthSMART (Youth Supporting Mental Health and Resiliency Together). This is a customizable year-long initiative designed to generate an awareness of mental health topics, which allows for student leaders and their designated teachers to work collaboratively to execute ongoing mental health awareness activities, unique to each school community.

Together we can educate ourselves, learn from each other and grow together as a community.

LET'S TALK ABOUT
MENTAL HEALTH

Brooklyn Rogers, BSW, RSW
Family School Liaison Counsellor
Foothills School Division



Husky Gear Available Now!

Oct. 29th-Nov. 10th

<https://heritageheights.itemorder.com/sale>



December 5, 2019

- Band Rehearsal @ 1:45 pm
- Band Concert @ 7:00 pm

December 11, 2019 @ 7:00 pm

- Christmas Concert— Grades K1, K2, 3,4, (Gr 5 MC'S Only)

December 12, 2019 @ 7:00 pm

- Christmas Concert - Grades 1, 2, 5



Grade 6—9 Dance

November 21, 2019

6:30 to 8:30 pm

BEFORE YOU KNOW IT...

IT'S GOING TO BE CHRISTMAS TIME!

Make sure to get on it early and support our Christmas Fundraiser!

This year, we will once again be selling poinsettias and greenery to decorate your homes and front porches!

Watch your children's backpacks and our FB page for further information coming soon!

We would also love to decorate the school, and especially our Christmas concerts with Poinsettias and Greenery. If you would be willing to purchase an item to be used within the school, please give our Fundraising Coordinator, Melissa Christensen a shout and let her know! Heritageheightsfundraising@gmail.com



Monday/Wednesday group (Nov. 4, Nov. 6)

10:00-10:40 Grade 1

10:40-11:20 Grade 5

11:20-12:00 K1

1:00-1:40 Grade 4

1:40-2:20 Grade 6

Tuesday/Thursday group (Nov. 5, Nov. 7)

10:00-10:40 Grade 2

10:40-11:20 Grade 3

11:20-12:00 K2



2019 NOV/DEC FAMILY LIFE & WINTER FUN

This issue features our Healthy Living Guide including resources for families with special needs, Parents Only Guide because parents need fun too plus plenty of winter fun & travel ideas and tons of holiday events and activities. To read our latest issue, please visit

<http://calgaryschild.com/current-issue/>

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

November 2019

- Nov 1—No School
- Nov 8—Remembrance Day Assembly (10:30 am)
- Nov 11— Remembrance Day—NO SCHOOL
- Nov 21—Term 1 Ends
- Nov 21—Gr 6-9 Dance (6:30—8:30 pm)
- Nov 22—NO SCHOOL
- Nov 25—Term 2 Begins
- Nov 29—Learner Profiles sent home
- Nov 29—Spirit Day
- Nov 29—Gr 6 & 9 Vaccinations Round 2



December 2019

- Dec 3—Xmas Plant Delivery (Fundraiser)
- Dec 5—Band Rehearsal 1:45 pm
- Dec 5—Band Concert 7:00 pm
- Dec 11—Christmas Concert @ 7:00 pm - Grades K1, K2, 3, 4, (& Gr 5 MC'S ONLY)
- Dec 12—Christmas Concert @ 7:00 pm - Grades 1, 2, 5
- Dec 13—No School
- Dec 18—Partner Band (AM)
- Dec 18—Family Skate (Grades 5-9) 1:15 pm —2:30 pm
- Dec 19 —Family Skate (Grades K-4) 1:15 pm—2:30 pm
- Dec 20—Staff vs Student Hockey Game - 9: 15 am
- Dec 20—Early Dismissal—12:15 pm



Christmas Holiday Break—Dec 20, 2019 (12:00 pm dismissal)—January 5, 2020

FIRST DAY BACK AFTER BREAK— JANUARY 6, 2020



Administration

Please remember to check our website for updates on all important activities and dates.

We are always happy to meet with parents to discuss any aspect of our school.

Joanne Higgins

Principal

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Heritage Heights School Contact Information:

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Fax: 403-938-1122

Website: heritageheights.fsd38.ab.ca/

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