



DR HAMMAN SCHOOL

October 19, 2016

Dear Parents,

It has been an exciting few weeks back to school. It has been so much fun to see and participate in the many exciting activities happening on a daily basis at Dr. Hamman School. There is never a lack of excitement at our school and clearly our kids love that. At the last Parent Council meeting we reviewed our school goals for this year. I have sent home the School Year Plan document so that you all have a chance to know what our focus areas are for this year. Please have a read of it. Included in it are our Alberta Government Accountability Pillar survey results. You will see that as a school we scored the highest possible level of satisfaction rates in all categories. Our percentages were also all significantly above provincial levels. This is the trend and has been for many years at our school. We have often been told by the Alberta Government and our Division Office staff that this is amazing and I know the reason why we continuously have such high results...AMAZING PARENTS, INCREDIBLE KIDS and OUTSTANDING STAFF. That's the gold medal formula for creating an exceptional school. Thank-you so much for all that you do to contribute to the Team.

One of our school goals this year is related to something called self-regulation. We want to help our children gain the skills needed to respond effectively when faced with life challenges. We want them to have a full tool box of strategies to use when trying to solve a difficult problem or deal with feeling low, anxious or angry. Every week we will get together as a whole school to learn these life-long self-regulating skills...skills that will be so valuable for the rest of their lives. We will learn about self-control, helping others, calming down, lessening anxiety, persevering through the tough stuff, understanding and improving our moods, dealing with anger, dealing with sadness, improving our energy and so on. One helpful way of teaching these incredibly important skills is through a visual. As a whole school we will be using a visual called the zones of regulation to help our children understand the emotions they are experiencing and ways they can bring themselves back to a calm, happy and ready to learn and participate state. I have attached this visual. We hope that you will post this visual and use it at home too, to help our children recognize the zone they are in and strategies they can use to get back to green zone.

At our Parent Council Meeting we also talked about the new elementary report card that the Horizon Division is implementing this year. It is the hope of the Division that the new report card will "provide clear, useful information; inform you clearly about your child's strengths and struggles, use strong and relevant assessments to better inform students about their own learning progress and provide simplified consistent reporting practice throughout Horizon School Division schools. I have attached some frequently asked questions about the new report cards that should help clarify things a bit more. The reports are not significantly different from our previous report cards so I don't think they will be difficult for you to understand, but if you have any questions please call. Also, please remember that we schedule report cards with conferences every fall and spring along with open houses in February, but we invite you to contact your child's teacher to discuss your child's progress whenever you feel you want to do that. We encourage and want open communication throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Darlene Peckford
Principal

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES AT DR. HAMMAN SCHOOL

NO SCHOOL / PD DAYS- Oct 20 and 21

October 20 - NO SCHOOL - DIVISION-WIDE PD - Key Note: Focusing on Inclusion - many breakout sessions on Chromebooks, Literacy, Numeracy, Read/Write Gold, etc.

October 21 - NO SCHOOL - SITE BASED PD - Effective use of assessment and new report card implementation.

HALLOWEEN HOWL CARNIVAL

October 28- 9:45 Costume Parade 10:00 Carnival 11:30 Carnival Closes

Students should wear their costumes to school so they are ready for the parade and carnival. We ask that students not bring any accessories to their costumes like purses, wands, axes, guns, knives or anything they have to carry. Please remember we are an elementary school so please do not wear masks or clothing that is excessively gory. They need hands free for the carnival and accessories get in the way. Every year accessories get misplaced and lost, so it's best if they keep them at home so that they have them for Halloween night. We do have a haunted house at the carnival. Of course there is nothing dangerous in it, but things do "pop up" and it is dimly lit. This makes it spooky. The kids love it, but I always remind students that it can be spooky and they may get frightened when something pops up. I tell them if they are like me, they make not like that and should not choose to go in it. All students have the freedom for the duration of the whole carnival to wander at will participating in whatever event they please. Please reinforce with them that the haunted house is harmless, but if they are nervous they should choose the other many events instead. PLEASE send \$2 per child to cover the costs of creating the carnival and its events by October 28. That \$2 gives them access to all events. This is done as a leadership activity for the Grade 5's and also a fundraiser to help raise some money for their end of year field trip to the Crowsnest Pass. Due to our large student population, we cannot open up the carnival to younger siblings who do not attend K-5. It just becomes too crowded and line-ups become too long. However, the community is once again hosting a Halloween party where younger children can attend. We would like to say a HUGE THANK YOU to our Grade 5 students and staff for organizing this event.

WE WILL NOT BE DOING THE WHITE ELEPHANT SO PLEASE DO NOT SEND ITEMS.

REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

November 10th at 10:40 we will be holding our Remembrance Day Ceremony in the gymnasium. You are welcome to join us.

REPORT CARDS HOME

Report cards will be sent home on November 10. Conferences are as follows:

November 17 8:30am-3:30pm - Kinder Conferences only - NO SCHOOL for Kinder
5:30pm-8:00pm - K - 5 Conferences
Grade 1-5 school day is normal

November 18 8:30am-12:00pm - K - 5 Conferences - NO SCHOOL for all students

Please call the office at 403-223-2988 to set up your appointment.

UPCOMING DATES AT A GLANCE

October 20 th , Thurs	NO SCHOOL - Division Wide Professional Learning
October 21 st , Fri	NO SCHOOL - School Based Professional Learning
October 27 th , Thurs	Retakes for School Photos
October 28 th , Fri	Halloween Howl - Snake Parade at 9:45 am
November 10 th , Thurs	Remembrance Day Assembly - 10:40 am - Everyone Welcome Report cards home
November 11 th , Fri	NO SCHOOL - Remembrance Day
Novemeber 17 th , Thurs	Gr. 1-5 Parent/Teacher Conf. - 5:30 - 8:00 pm (Regular school day for Gr. 1-5) Kindergarten Parent/Teacher Conf. - 8:30 am - 8:00 pm (NO SCHOOL for Kindergarten)
November 18 th , Fri	Kinder - Gr 5 Parent/Teacher Conf. - 8:30 - 12:00 pm (NO SCHOOL for ALL students)
November 23 rd , Wed	Choir performs with the Symphony in Lethbridge
December 22 nd , Thurs	Christmas Concert Performances - 1:00 pm and 6:45 pm
December 23 rd , Fri	Last Day of school before Holidays

The **ZONES** of Regulation[®]

			
<p>BLUE ZONE</p> <p>Sad Sick Tired Bored Moving Slowly</p>	<p>GREEN ZONE</p> <p>Happy Calm Feeling Okay Focused Ready to Learn</p>	<p>YELLOW ZONE</p> <p>Frustrated Worried Silly/Wiggly Loss of Some Control</p>	<p>RED ZONE</p> <p>Mad/Angry Terrified Yelling/Hitting Elated Out of Control</p>

Report Card

Frequently Asked Questions

QUESTION: Why are we changing the report cards?

ANSWER: The new report card is designed to:

- provide clear, useful information about how your child is doing in school.
- better inform you, as parents, about your child's strengths and struggles in their learning.
- use assessments to better inform students about their own learning progress.
- provide simplified consistent reporting practice throughout Horizon School division schools.

QUESTION: What will the new report cards show me?

ANSWER: The new report card will tell you **how often** your child meets the learning outcomes in the separate strands of each subject area. These outcomes are taken from the Alberta Programs of Study:

- This graphic of the new report card scale shows "how often" the student demonstrates understanding of the expected learner outcomes.



The report card will show:

The STRAND: Where the learner is going - The strand is the area of instruction in which they have learning goals they are trying to achieve.

The SCALE (Rarely, Sometimes, Frequently, Consistently): Tells how often your child is meeting their learning goals. It tells you **where your child is right now** in relation to what is expected in a given subject for that grade.

The teacher COMMENTS may address the following: tell you about **the learning your child has demonstrated** this term, **where they are going as a learner**, and **how they can best move forward** in achieving their learning goals.

QUESTION: How do teachers arrive at my child's mark?

ANSWER: Teachers assess student progress based on the learning outcomes as outlined in the **Alberta curriculum (Program of Study for each subject)**. Assessments must be designed to measure how consistently a student can demonstrate understanding or performance of these outcomes. Several outcomes are grouped together into **strands**. The strands are reported on the report card. Let's take a look at an example from grade 7 language arts.

Subject: LANGUAGE ARTS Grade: 7

STRAND: Responds personally and critically to text

PURPOSES

- Responds to various texts
- Appreciates the artistry of text
- Understands individual and cultural perspectives
- Plans to gather information
- Identifies Main Ideas
- Identifies Details
- Organizes Information
- Summarizes Information

This is the strand that shows on the report card.

These are the outcomes to be assessed.

A teacher may arrive at the achievement levels based on a collection of observations and notes, scores on daily work, tests, interviews, projects, or other tasks.

These pages show that the (blue) strand called, "Responds personally and critically to text" is made of the many learning outcomes below it. To arrive at an achievement level for that strand, a teacher must design activities and assessments that will give the student the opportunity to demonstrate their skill and understanding of the outcomes that make up the strand (grey and white rows).

QUESTION: How can I help my child at home?

ANSWER: The new report card will give you information about how often your child is able to meet expectations in different strands. This will give you an idea of where your child could use some extra focus. For example, if your child is doing well with understanding math concepts, but struggling with the foundational math skills, that tells you that they need some extra help with learning their math facts. This is something they can do for a few minutes each night, but it can make a huge difference to their learning. Asking the teacher for materials or ways to help is a great first step toward supporting your child's learning.