



Horace Allen School Newsletter



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*Students and staff have quickly settled back into the routines of school after a wonderful break and are excited to participate in some outdoor activities in January. HAS's ski program with Pass PowderKeg starts January 23rd (**January 16th has been cancelled due to expected extreme cold temperatures**) and will run for four Thursdays. Ski/snowboard equipment (clearly labelled with student's name) can be dropped off at the school after 7 a.m. for delivery to/from the ski hill. The school's front door will remain open until 5:30 pm to accommodate pick-up of equipment each ski day.*

*If you would like to volunteer in the lodge or on the hill, please come to the school prior to our ski days to fill in the volunteer form and verify that you have a current police check on file. Extra adults are always welcome to support our skiers and this great program! **If you plan to drop off your child at the hill, please do so after 9:30 a.m. as the hill does not open until 10:00.** Please call the school or let your child's teacher know that you are dropping off and/or picking up at the lodge. The hill will close at 2 p.m. for our students. A sign out book will be available in the lodge for parents to sign out their child at the end of the day.*

For those not skiing, an alternate program will be provided by Ms. Dembicki at the school with students participating in a variety of outdoor activities. Please ensure that students come ready to spend a good part of their day outside.

Kindergarten students will have an opportunity to skate instead of skiing. Each class has 3 visits to the Coleman arena and families will have received information about these skating days from their child's teacher.

Thank you to all families who donated food during our 12 Days of Giving in December. The school was able to provide the CNP Food Bank with 661 pounds of non-perishable food items.

The school thanks the Parent Link Center for providing teachers and students with a series of sessions called Building Brains. Building Brains is an initiative in southern Alberta that is designed to spread awareness and knowledge about executive functioning, and how to develop executive functioning skills in childhood. Jenny Wilmot and Julie Whidden will meet with classes again on January 20. For more information about executive functioning in children, visit

<https://www.albertafamilywellness.org/>

Elaine Garner, Principal

Did you know?

We have an ongoing school fundraiser. IGA Gift cards are available for purchase at the office. We receive 5% back to our school for all cards purchased. Stop by the office to purchase your gift card.

Welcome to Horace Allen

Horace Allen School welcomes Mrs. Kelly Labun as an additional Kindergarten teacher. When provided with some additional funding, HAS was able to add an extra M/W Kindergarten class starting January 6th, reducing each K class size. This change will provide our youngest learners with more support as they settle into school. Mrs. Labun comes to us from Calgary but grew up in the Crowsnest Pass and attended HAS as a young girl. We look forward to working with her for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year.

We also welcome Mrs. Shirley Graham as head custodian replacing Mrs. Foster, who retired in December. Shirley comes to us from CCHS with many years of experience and we appreciate her help and commitment to the school. Karen Block is currently at Horace Allen as a housekeeper replacing Angela Jurouloff, who is away on a leave.

Upcoming Events

Jan 20 - K1 and K3 Skating

Jan 21 - Tri-Council Mtg. 6 p.m. at ISS (childcare provided)

Jan 23 - K2 Skating

Jan 23, 30, Feb 6 & 13th - Skiing Gr. 1-3 (alternate programming at HAS for those not skiing)

Jan 27 - K1 and K3 Skating

Jan 27 - Kick-off Assembly 1Book5Schools 2 p.m. (HAS)

Jan 30 - K2 Skating

Jan 31 - Staff Collaboration Day (no school for students)

Milk

Due to a nutrition grant, white milk is available for purchase: 5 tickets/\$1.00. Milk tickets may be purchased at the office. Please remember tickets purchased this year are good for this year only.

This month students and families at Horace Allen, ISS, Livingstone School, and Canyon and St. Mike's Schools in Pincher Creek will be embarking on a special literacy project - the seventh annual combined-school book club called **1Book5Schools**. Every family at each school will receive a copy of the same book—the title is a surprise—and are asked to read it at home starting January 27th. We are personally asking you to make the time so your family can participate in this special project.

We invite families to the kick-off assembly at HAS: Monday, January 27, 2020, starting at 2:00 p.m. During this assembly, the title of the book will be revealed. Tanis from Real Country will help host this event. Copies of the novel will be distributed to teachers for their students to take home after this assembly.

More information about the value of reading TO your children can be found at readtothem.org.

Information about Emergency School Closures

The most common reason for school closure is related to weather. Closure happens in the event of temperatures -40C and colder. There are other situations as well that might cause a school closure. If a majority of bus drivers decide to cancel their routes, the school may be closed by the Transportation Department at Livingstone Range Central Office. They will contact school administrators and media about the closure. The bus icon on the LRSD and school's webpages will be shown in red if one, or all, busses are not running. This icon is located in the top right of the websites. Ideally, this will happen by 6:45 a.m. The school must remain open (unlocked, with at least one staff member), in case a child is dropped off, in which case the parent will be asked to take the child home, or called to pick up the child. Also, any bus driver may cancel his/her route if roads are impassible. In this situation, the driver will contact the parents, and the icon on the school and LRSD website will be changed to the colour red.

It is the school's decision about whether recesses will be "inside" or "outside". On very cold days, Administration consults the Canada Environment website (http://weather.gc.ca/city/pages/ab-17_metric_e.html) for current temperature and wind chill. If the wind chill is reported as -25°C or colder, recess will be indoors. As often as possible, we want students to be outside to enjoy some fresh air and exercise. **Please help your child be prepared for outdoor recesses with appropriate clothing choices.**

Peanut Allergy Alert:

As we have students with peanut and nut allergies attending HAS, we are committed to being a nut-free school.

Drop Off & Parking

Parents/Guardians, please remember to park in the parking lot and walk your child to the pavement if you are dropping them off. When picking students up at the end of the day, please meet your child on the pavement and walk them to your vehicle. Student safety is a priority at Horace Allen School.

The newsletter is available on the HAS website: <http://www.horaceallenschool.ca/> Please visit the school's website regularly for updated information. School closures are determined by Central Office personnel and are posted on the website as soon as a decision is made. Bus delays/cancellations are also posted on the website. Click on the bus icon below the school photo (right hand side) for current information related to busing.

Volunteers & Visitors

Parents and others wishing to volunteer in the school or on field trips must complete a police information check. Forms are available in the school office and are valid for 2 years. Thanks to all volunteers & visitors for signing in at the office before going to classrooms.

"Achieving our personal best in a safe and caring environment"