



# Horace Allen School Newsletter



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Principal: Elaine Garner  
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May 2020

Follow us on Twitter: @HAS\_LRSD  
Like us on Facebook.

*The words 'classes are cancelled' were probably met with a few cheers from students on March 16 when our world changed so dramatically. Little did any of us realize that the cancellation of classes would turn into months of social distancing from family and friends, and learning how to engage in school through a virtual world, phone calls and by email.*

*A big thank you to teachers and support staff who have worked diligently and collaboratively to offer programming for students, and to find ways to stay connected and offer support to families.*

*Staff at HAS send out a huge thank you to families for embracing learning at home and supporting their children to continue with their studies. Teachers share posts with me on a regular basis and it is exciting to see students taking ownership for their learning, and demonstrating growth and confidence as they share what they are learning in multiple ways.*

*Stay safe! Practice social distancing and wash your hands often! Thinking about, and missing you all!*

*Elaine Garner, Principal*

## Tips of Support from HAS's Family School Liaison Counsellor

Our HAS Family School Liaison Counsellor, Karen Manzer, has made some videos to share strategies for student/parent wellness. If you have any questions or would like support for your child or yourself, please feel free to call the school at 403.563.3998 to get connected with her. She's available via phone, email, google hangouts or FaceTime, Mondays-Thursdays: 8:30-3:30 and Fridays: 8:30-1:30 on regular school days. Her video links are below:

<https://youtu.be/CLFL6mZ7ksQ> A Message to Students about their Wellness

<https://youtu.be/5sRa1mvsofM> Parent/Family Strategies for Wellness

<https://youtu.be/uBFNKEvsQWc> Grounding Exercise for Wellness

## Music Monday!

May 4, 2020

Because we are unable to celebrate the joy of music together this year at our school, Paul Pichurski, Principal at Canyon School and teachers across the division have made a stay-at-home celebration of music for you. We hope you make some music today (and every day)! Enjoy!

<https://youtu.be/F-zT-WepKcU>

## We are growing!

Even though the students can't be at the school to enjoy it, we have plants growing in the garden beds. Our strawberries and chives have made an appearance, returning from their winter sleep. For the first time since the aquaponics tank was installed, we have some seeds sprouting in the water garden in the Learning Commons. Beans, lettuce, basil, swiss chard, and edible greens are on their way to producing food. We will eventually plant some seeds that can be planted in our garden beds in June. Families are welcome to come to the school and observe the garden beds now and through the summer, but please practice physical distancing if others are there at the same time. We hope that we will be back together in the fall so we can share some food from the school gardens.

## Upcoming Events

**May 12** - Virtual School Council Meeting 7 p.m.  
**Please contact HAS Parent Council by May 7th at**  
[hasparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:hasparentcouncil@gmail.com)  
for an invite.

**May 15** -Staff Collaboration Day - no school for students!

**May 18** - Victoria Day - No School for students and staff

**May 19** - Virtual Tri-School Council Meeting 6 p.m.  
Invitation will be available from CCHS.

### Your help is needed!

Books still checked out to students from the Learning Commons can be dropped off at the school anytime during regular school hours. Please place them in the green bin at the front door.

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For up to date information from LRSD and HAS, please visit the school's website at:

[www.horaceallenschool.ca](http://www.horaceallenschool.ca)

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HAS staff miss our students and families!

## Outdoor Learning Environment Update

Even though classes are temporarily cancelled, work continues with grant applications and purchases for the outdoor learning environment. Currently we are looking for donations of the following materials in support of building our mountain / climbing area.

- Wood chips
- Large rocks
- Fill
- Trees
- Topsoil
- Machinery and manpower

If you are aware of materials that the school could access, please contact Lesley Margetak @ [margetakl@lrsd.ab.ca](mailto:margetakl@lrsd.ab.ca) or call the school at 403-563-3998.

## Updates for Families

**Grading, Assessment & Report Cards** – We have received information outlining how students will be graded and assessed during this time of closure, as well as what report cards will look like in June.

### Highlights:

- All students will receive a year-end report card in June.
- Kindergarten-Grade 6 students will receive the grade from their most recent report card as the final grade in June. Progress from that time will be reported using anecdotal comments on the final report card. Grades on the final report card will be the grades assigned on the March report card.
- Students are expected to make every effort towards addressing the work that teachers are providing under the focus areas. It is important that every student makes their best effort in their at-home learning experiences.
- Teachers are expected to provide ongoing feedback and comments regarding student progress to inform students, parents, and provide information for 2020-2021 programming.
- Click the following link to view the complete LRSD document related to grading, assessment and reporting:

<https://bit.ly/35ulrk0>

**Staffing for 2020-21** – With a potential reduction in student numbers, the number of classes/grade will change in September. Currently our projected student numbers will provide for 2 classes in each grade: K-Gr. 3. These changes will result in some staffing changes which will be shared once all decisions are finalized.

**Change of Plans** - Have your plans changed about where your child will be attending school next year? If so, please contact the school at 403-563-3998. This information will help us as we plan for classes in 2020-21.

*“Achieving our personal best in a safe and caring environment”*