



# Horace Allen School Newsletter

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## FEBRUARY

### Avalanche Education Program

We are excited to be able to host Madeline Martin from **AvCan** for an **in-person Avalanche Education program for each grade level K - 3 on Wednesday January 31, 2024.**

*"With strong support from local communities, Avalanche Canada has successfully delivered avalanche education and winter awareness programs to students in communities across BC, Alberta, and the Yukon. Our goal is to reach students from K-12 with age-appropriate curriculum and training to help prepare them for their initial steps into the backcountry."*

Hot topics include interactive presentations on winter safety for the younger ages that are relevant for ski hills, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, and backcountry skiing/snowboarding. Moving up through the grades, we bring in the concepts of recognizing avalanche terrain, introducing [avalanche safety gear](#), reading [the avalanche forecast](#), the [Mountain Weather Forecast](#), and using the [Mountain Information Network](#). This information supports students with early awareness and preparation to continue learning while promoting a healthy outdoor lifestyle."

### 'Cereal Box Challenge' February 1 - February 13, 2024 K1,2 and 3

The K team at HAS is taking on a leadership role and giving back to the community as part of our school rule of taking care of others! K students will be collecting boxes of unopened cereal for the local Food Bank as a community service project during the month of February. Students of all grades will be invited to bring in boxes of cereal. On February 13th our hope is to create the longest chain of cereal boxes to knock down like dominos. Thank you in advance for your kindness and participation!



### Toys at School

Toys / electronics from home can be a distraction to student learning and can sometimes create unnecessary conflict between students. Please have your children keep their toys/electronics at home. If students have a small toy to help pass the time on the bus, they need to keep it in their backpack while at school. Special classroom or school wide days are planned throughout the year when students are invited to bring toys from home (tell and show days; PJ days....) but otherwise we ask that toys/electronics be kept at home.

### LAND DAY with ISS - Friday February 9, 2024

Another exciting day with ISS is being planned for Friday February 9, 2024. This time, HAS students will travel to ISS for the day. Watch for a permission slip to come home and please return it by the deadline. This helps us with planning.

Students will leave HAS at 9 am and will arrive back at HAS by 1 pm. Students will participate in a hike/snowshoeing and other outdoor activities. Parent volunteers are needed. Please let Cherie Snider know at 403-563-3998 or [sniderc@lrsd.ab.ca](mailto:sniderc@lrsd.ab.ca) if you are able to help. Volunteers can meet at ISS for 9:15 am.



### ***Ski Program at PPK - Feb. 1, 8 and 15, 2024***

1. Families - please email your child's teacher if you plan to drop off / pick up your child from PPK on our 3 ski days for attendance purposes. Parents will sign students in and sign them **out at the lodge**. **Students will not be picked up from the bottom of the hill.**
2. Please reinforce with your children that skiing as part of school may look different than free skiing at the hill on their own time. To meet insurance requirements, students need to be in control (making lots of turns coming down the hill), staying off bush trails (unless with their instructor) and skiing with a partner (taking care of each other). Students will be given a warning if seen coming straight down the hill or found skiing in the bushes, and then will have their tag pulled for the day if not following the school rules.
3. Ski equipment (skis, poles) **are not allowed on the bus**. Students may bring boots and helmets if in a bag. Families can drop off equipment at the school by 8:00 am the morning of skiing (**please ensure everything is labeled with your child's name and in a bag**) or after school the night before skiing. Mrs. Rolston will be bringing equipment to the hill for the school and return it to the school for pick up. The school will be open until 4:30 if you want to pick up equipment the day of skiing.
4. Thank you to all who have volunteered to be on the hill. As a volunteer, please remember that you are there to help and support all students, not just your own children. We appreciate your help in supporting students with skiing and following the rules to keep everyone safe.
5. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Cherie, Admin Assistant at 403-563-3998 to review requirements for being on the hill. (current criminal record check on file at the school, volunteer form completed)

### ***PEAKS Program Feb. 1, 8, 15, 2024***

1. Students will be transported by school bus out to PEAKS Campus. Mr. Lach, Mrs. Dunbar and parent volunteers will support students with programming at PEAKS. Jason Clifton, PEAKS teacher will also be available to our students.
2. Students will need to bring a lunch each day. Mr. Lach will let families know if any special treats are being provided.
3. Please dress to be outside (layers) and with warmer temperatures, extra mitts may be required. Please label all extra clothing with your child's name to ensure that if misplaced, the item can be returned quickly to the owner.

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### ***Classroom Adult Reading Buddies***

If you have a current criminal record check on file at the school, and you have a few hours to spare each week, Horace Allen School would love to have you here reading with students. You could volunteer to read with students in your child's classroom, or spend time reading with students in any grade. If you are interested and can commit a few hours a week, please call Cherie Snider, Admin Assistant @ 403-563-3998 or email her at [sniderc@lrsd.ab.ca](mailto:sniderc@lrsd.ab.ca). We look forward to having 'adult reading buddies' in the school.

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### **Contest**

Answer the February newsletter trivia question to be entered into a draw for a \$50 IGA gift certificate! Question: What are HAS students collecting for the February Challenge organized by our Kindergarten students? Click the [here](#) to enter.

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Please visit Horace Allen School's website regularly for current information: <https://www.horaceallenschool.ca/>  
If we receive information about an upcoming event within our community, we post this information on our website – please check for upcoming community events: <https://www.horaceallenschool.ca/about/community-events>

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## The 11th Annual One Book, Five Schools Literacy Event

**Starting January 26, 2024, Family Literacy Day, families are invited to join a special literacy project.** Families from 5 schools join together for this event - Horace Allen, Isabelle Sellon, Livingstone School, Canyon School and St. Michael's. Each family will receive a copy of the same book to read at home. Teachers may plan various activities at school to complement the book, including a kick-off assembly to reveal the title. **Copies of the novel were sent home last week.**



A reading schedule was included in the book. **Parents are asked to read aloud the novel at home** to their child/children between January 25 - February 15. No reading is scheduled for weekends, in case you need to catch up. Daily readings are about 15 pages in length. **Parents are asked to read aloud at home to their children**, no matter what the ages of the children at home. This is valuable modeling and supports your child to be an effective reader\*. This is also a fun family activity. Audio recordings can be found at [1 Book 5 Schools 2024](#)

At the end of the project, families may **keep their copy of the novel, or return it to the school** for a 'pay-it-forward' idea to pass on the books to other schools or individual classrooms.

Have fun! "When a whole school reads a book, there's a lot to talk about." With your help, this event will help build a Community of Readers at our school and in our area. We know you will enjoy our 1 Book, 5 Schools event!

### **\*What are some values of reading to children?**

1. **Oral Language:** When you pause during book reading to talk about the story and what interests your child, you provide them with lots of opportunities to think and talk about the story, which builds comprehension and oral language.
2. **Vocabulary:** The more children understand the better their comprehension will be for reading. You can build your child's vocabulary by stressing new words, talking about what the word means and relating it to your child's experience.
3. **Story Comprehension:** Talking about the important parts of a story (for example, the characters, setting, problem, actions and resolution) makes it easier for your child to make sense of the story.
4. **Print Knowledge:** Learning about print helps children understand letter's make sounds and that print represents spoken language.
5. **Sound Awareness:** To be prepared to read, children must understand that words can be broken down into smaller sounds, and that letters correspond to certain words. Sound awareness prepares your child for reading by making it easier for them to sound out words they read later on.

**This event would not be possible without the generous support of TC Energy!**

**We also thank the Friends of the Crowsnest Pass Library Society for their organizational support.**

### **1 Book 5 Schools PHOTOS**

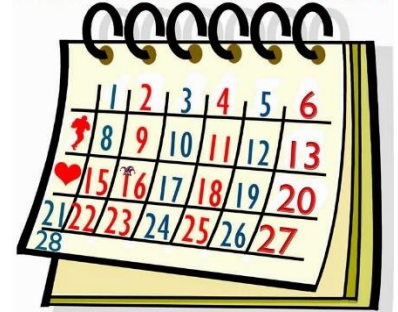
Horace Allen School invites families to take photos of their family reading *The Lion of Mars* and send them to Elaine Garner, Principal ([garnere@lrsd.ab.ca](mailto:garnere@lrsd.ab.ca)) or Kara Kulak, Assistant Principal ([kulakk@lrsd.ab.ca](mailto:kulakk@lrsd.ab.ca)) for printing and placement on our bulletin board outside the main office as a school wide project for the book. We hope to cover the board with photos of families reading together!



### Upcoming February Events

Feb. 1 - Ski /PEAKS Day #1  
 Feb 7 - K1 Skating  
 Feb 8 - K2 & K3 Skating  
 Feb. 8 - Ski/PEAKS Day #2  
 Feb. 9 - LAND (Learning and Nature Discovery Day) with ISS at ISS 9am-1pm  
 Feb 14 - Valentine's Day  
 Feb. 15 - Ski / PEAKS Day #3  
 Feb. 19 - Family Day NO School  
 Feb. 20-23 - NO SCHOOL for Students  
 Feb. 22 and 23 - Teachers' Convention (Lethbridge)  
 Feb 26 - 100th Day of School  
 Feb 28 - K1 Skating  
 Feb. 28 - Pink Shirt Day  
 Feb 29 - K2 & K3 Skating

### Mark Your Calendar!



We appreciate and send a warm thank you to:

1. Eilidh B. in Grade 10 for creating the banner for our 1 Book 5 Schools kick-off assembly.
2. Mrs. Rolston, Mrs. Nelson and Miss Pohl for working with the Friends of the Library to plan the kick-off assembly for The Lion of Mars.
3. Kindergarten students for leading the kick-off assembly for The Lion of Mars.
4. Cherie Snider, Admin Assistant for organizing our Ski Days with PPK and ensuring that all paperwork is completed.
5. Grade 1 students and teachers for organizing and delivering Candy Grams prior to the Christmas break.
6. Mrs. Neudorf and all students for providing a wonderful evening of Music for our Winter Concert.
7. Mrs. Miklos for supporting the Nutrition Program in the school until a new hire was found.
8. Mrs. Thomas for volunteering her time to help out in the Learning Commons until a new hire was found.



### Learning Commons / Nutrition Position

**Horace Allen School is excited to announce that Cesalee Williams has been hired as Horace Allen School's new Learning Commons Facilitator and Nutrition Coordinator. We welcome her to the team. Cesalee will start on February 5, 2024.**

### Morning Supervision

Morning supervisors are outside at **8:25 a.m.** to meet students. **You are welcome to come early with your child, but if you do, please stay with them until supervisors are outside.** Your help supports us in keeping all of our students safe. Thank you!

