



St. Elias Community School

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June 5, 2020

St. Elias Community School staff and administration extend a sincere thank you to all our students and parents for the amazing work and efforts that went into making the 2019-20 school year a success. We acknowledge that the changes since Spring Break with the suspension of face to face in class learning was a significant challenge. However, through strong commitment and resiliency of all our students, families and staff, we were able to persevere. We are very grateful for the ongoing support from the St. Elias Community School Council, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, the Village of Haines Junction and all our community members for their ongoing support throughout the school year.

Upcoming Events:

Jun. 10 – Yukon Graduate Day
Aug. 31 – First day of School

Returning to School in August:

The first day of school for students, for the 2020-21 school year is Monday August 31, 2020. All school staff and administration, along with our parents and students, are eagerly waiting for information about what returning to school may look like. Yukon Education is currently working with the Yukon Chief Medical Officer and Public Health Officials to best determine what guidelines and protocols need to be in place for a safe return to school. We anticipate hearing more information in the next few days. Updates for parents and students will be communicated regularly by mail. Parents are also encouraged to check the school website throughout the summer months for regular updates. <http://sec.yukonschools.ca>

SECS Staff for the 2020-21 School Year:

There are a few staffing changes for the next coming school year that we would like to share with you.

Ms. Charlton, our Learning Assistance Teacher, will be on leave for the 2020-21 school year. We wish her well and will miss her greatly. We welcome Ms. Janet Rudzroga, who has been hired as our Learning Assistance Teacher for the 2020-21 year. Ms. Rudzroga has a strong educational background in special education and has many years working in this field.

We would like to sincerely thank Ms. Maria Rodriguez for teaching this past semester, our Math 8, 9 and PE-1 classes. We appreciate Ms. Rodriguez's dedication in accepting this position and all of her hard work and expertise that went into planning and delivery of these programs. We hope that Ms. Rodriguez remains in our community and continues to be an ongoing support for our school.

We offer best wishes and a warm farewell to Mr. O'Toole, one of our Educational Assistants. Mr. O'Toole is continuing with further education and personal goals this next year.

We are sad to announce that Mr. Preto will be leaving us at the end of the school year. Mr. Preto has accepted a position at Wood Street School in Whitehorse. We wish Mr. Preto and his family all the best in their new journey.

We are currently hiring a teacher to replace Mr. Preto, and will be posting for an EA position over the next while. More information regarding these positions and updates will come in the next few weeks.

In our effort to offer the best possible supports for students, we look at class sizes and class composition at this time each year. In planning for the 2020-21 school year we have the following assignments: Ms. Primozic will be teaching K4/Kindergarten; Mr. Drummond will be teaching Gr. 1/2; Ms. Cheetham will be teaching Gr. 3/4; Ms. Burton will be teaching Gr. 4/5. Welcome back to Mr. Voogd who returns as our Grade 6/7 teacher.

Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

May 27th was a very special day in Haines Junction, the spotlight was on the SECS Class of 2020.

Our wonderful community came together to honor the grads with a spectacular parade! A huge thank you goes out to the grads and their families for putting the parade together. Thank you also to the Dakwākāda Dancers for leading the parade. A thank you is also extended to parade marshal Wade Istchenko, and to entire community of Haines Junction & Dakwākāda for coming out to line the highway and cheered on this great group of well deserving students.

In the Fall, when we are able to safely hold a community gathering, we will hold a Grad Ceremony to further honor the Class of 2020 in our traditional way. We will send more info on this event in the Fall.

St. Elias Community School High School Awards:

Each year we recognize the academic and personal achievements of all our students K4 – Gr. 12. Traditionally we hold award ceremonies in late May and early June. Due to the current health guidelines we are not able to hold these ceremonies now. St. Elias staff will be hosting a Recognition Feast in the Fall once we are allowed to host large gatherings. Congratulations to all our students K4 – Grade 12 students for their hard work, dedication and positive contributions to our school. We so appreciate all of what you bring to our learning community each and every day.

At this time, we would like to acknowledge the recipients of our Gr. 8-12 Awards.

Academic Awards:

Gr. 8 Academic: Keona Sheardown; **Top Academic Gr. 8:** Keona Sheardown.

Gr. 9 Academic: Isaac Lawrence; **Top Academic Gr. 9:** Isaac Lawrence.

Gr.10 Academic: Jirah Mangupit, Ashia Loranger, Ethan Thompson; **Top Academic Gr.10:** Ethan Thompson.

Gr.11/12 Academic: Joah Thompson; **Top Academic Grad:** Joah Thompson.

Achievement Awards:

R.C.M.P. Award: Female recipient is Jennika Jones. Male recipient is Dalton Moore.

SECS Top Female Athlete Award: Mya Kinney.

SECS Top Male Athlete Award: Callum Weir.

Haines Junction Soccer Club Scholarship: Callum Weir.

St. Elias Community School Citizenship Award: Keona Sheardown.

St. Elias Lion's Club Bursary: Tiara Kinney-Johns.

Science and Environment Awareness Award: Jirah Mangupit.

Tutulma Award: Denise Griffith

Richard Godsen Musician of the Year Award: Ethny Dulac, Keona Sheardown.

SECS Top Shop Student Award: Jacob Dulac

Haines Junction Minor Hockey League Scholarship: Nevada Joe.

Tish Tomlin Scholarship: Amber Kirk

SECS Eagle Pin Recipients: Marius Allenspach, Jirah Mangupit, Amber Kirk, Mya Kinney, Joah Thompson, Callum Weir, Tiara Kinney-Johns.

School use over the summer:

A reminder to parents and the public that the school will be closed to user groups over the summer or until further notice. Over...



Minister's office (CM-3)
PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

June 2, 2020

Dear Parents/guardians

Re: Yukon Graduate Day

This 2019-20 school year has not gone the way any of us would have expected. As you approach the end of the school year, I know how much students, parents, families and school communities are missing our usual and long awaited graduation ceremonies.

This year, Yukon graduates face a difficult and challenging end to the school year. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted graduation celebrations and Yukon schools are determining when they can safely hold formal cap and gown celebrations. Until then, students, parents, families, principals, teachers, graduation committees, Yukon First Nations and Yukon University have found other ways to recognize graduates while following health and safety measures and making sure to protect the health and safety of all Yukoners. Thank you all for the community spirit and joy you are spreading. While these celebrations of triumph have lifted the spirits of students and families, I understand it is still disappointing to not be able to gather to celebrate these learning milestones.

We want to find a way to celebrate and honour all graduating students during this unique time, so we are proclaiming June 10, 2020, as "Yukon Graduate Day". This will be a day for all Yukoners to celebrate the accomplishments of Yukon students graduating from key milestones in their lives, whether completing their elementary school years, high school years, or post-secondary studies and training. 'Yukon Graduate Day' is one small way we can come together in support and recognize the incredible resiliency, perseverance, and optimism that Yukon students and graduates have shown during this difficult and challenging time.

To recognize Yukon Graduate Day, we want to highlight some of the ways Yukon school communities and Yukon First Nations are honouring their graduates while following the Yukon Chief Medical Officer of Health's recommendations and directives. I encourage you to share photos and/or videos of your events with the Department of Education at edu-communications@gov.yk.ca so we can show Yukoners how Yukon school communities are safely recognizing their graduates' accomplishments. Please ensure that any students featured in the photos or videos you share have the consent of the student and/or parent to share publicly.

As we honour Yukon graduating students everyday and especially on June 10, I look forward to seeing and hearing all the creative ways Yukon school communities and Yukon First Nations will be celebrating the accomplishments of our class of 2020!

Sincerely,

Tracy-Anne McPhee Minister of Education