



St. Elias Community School

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August 25, 2014

Welcome back to a new school year and exciting year ahead! The beginning of a new school year is always exciting for me as it is for students and educators. We hope all our families have had an enjoyable summer vacation and we look forward to hearing of the memorable events.

Students and staff had a busy first day engaged in beginning of the year activities and assignments and settling into routines. There is a happy sense of purpose in all of our classrooms. All indications are that this will be another successful, productive year at SECS.

Please know that parents are welcome to drop into the school or to make appointments with their child's teachers to discuss student achievement, ask questions or share concerns. Staff are always available to discuss student progress with parents. Student success is our main priority.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Ms. Mann

SECS Welcomes You!

Please join us in welcoming new and returning students to St. Elias Community School.....

K4: Layla, Leslie and Elora; **Kg:** Zia and Kaila; **Gr 2:** Elisha; **Gr 3:** Ethny and Ruby;
Gr 4: Eden and Brooklyn; **Gr 6:** Psalm; **Gr 7:** Jacob; **Gr 8:** Jordan and **Gr 9:** Hannah.

We are glad to have each of you in our school community!

Welcome back to **Mr. Eleniak** who was away last year taking care of his family! Mr. Eleniak is teaching high school classes, Math 6 and is our V.P.

A warm SECS welcome is extended to **Ms. Selena Burton** and **Ms. Raven Padmos**. Ms. Burton is teaching in our Grade 5/6 classroom and comes to us from Old Crow. Ms. Padmos has joined our EA team. She and her family have relocated from Faro. We are excited to have both of you on our school team and in our community.

Upcoming Events:

- Aug. 25 – Students' first day of school.
- Sept 1 – Labour Day – No school for students or staff
- Sept 4 – SECS Meet and Greet BBQ @
- Sept 8 - First day for K4 students
- Sept 24 – SECS Terry Fox Run

Congratulations to **Ms. Rosemary Buck** who will be teaching full time at SECS. Ms. Buck is our Learning Assistance Teacher and School Counselor.

Best wishes are extended to **Mr. Preto and Mr. Nichols!** Mr. Preto is on paternity leave for the first semester of this school year and **Mr. Nichols** is on a year's leave.

2014-2015 Staff List:

K4/Kg: Ms. Primozić Gr: 1/2: Mr. Drummond Gr 3/4: Ms. Cheetham
Gr: 5/6 Ms. Burton Gr 6/7: Ms. Robinson
Grade 8-12 Staff: Ms. O'Rourke, Mr. Eleniak; Mr. Symanski, Mr. Allaway
Learning Assistance and Counselling: Ms. Buck
Reading Recovery and Learning Assistance: Ms. Cooper
Southern Tutchone Teachers: Ms. Smith and Ms. Allen
French 5-12: Ms. O'Rourke
Educational Assistants: Ms. Drinnan; Mr. Samis, Ms. Kirk, Ms. Symanski, Ms. Padmos, Ms. Cowie

Remembering Friends and Loved Ones:

As we all know, the past few weeks have been a sad time for our school families and community, both here in Haines Junction and in Whitehorse. St. Elias Community School staff wish to extend our sincere sympathies and condolences to our students, their families and our community affected by the sad deaths of Clare Cherepak and Daniel Walker. Please know that we care and be in touch if there is anything the staff and/or Yukon Education can do to support you and your families through this time. We are keeping the Cherepak Family and Walker Family close in our thoughts. Staff and students will take time as needed to explore questions, thoughts, emotions and experiences associated with understanding loss and the grieving process.

In memory of Clare, SECS will be collecting food items over the next few weeks to give to the Whitehorse Food Bank. Students, families and community members are invited to bring food items to the foyer entrance by the gym where collection bins will be set out.

Dreaded Paperwork:

Attached to this newsletter you will also find a package of forms (including our threat assessment procedures, Yukon Dental Form and a Media Release form, which gives permission to use your child's picture in places like our school website and newsletter) that need to be completed and returned to the school as soon as possible. Thanks in advance!

Blended Learning for High School Students

In June, SECS held an information session for high school parents on Blended Learning. Blended Learning allows students and staff to access on-line programming of BC Ministry courses (required and optional) while still receiving the face to face instructional support provided by teachers in the classroom. Students learn through a combination of online delivery and facilitated learning in a physical school location. It allows for a more personalized approach in accessing courses that are

of interest to students. Some high school courses will still be taught in the “traditional sense”, along with many of the option courses our students are drawn to like our SECS Music program, our trades courses and our language classes (French and Southern Tutchone). Our Grade 10-12 students will be provided with laptops to access their courses through the school day and can progress through courses at a designed pace that works for them and their subject teachers.

We have two consultants from Yukon Education here to work with students and staff as we begin this new endeavor. We are also planning to host a second parent Information session in the next couple of weeks. The session will provide more information regarding the implementation process and what Blended Learning can offer our high school students. Please feel free to call the school if you have questions.

SECS Meet & Greet BBQ:

Students and their parents are invited to attend our annual Meet & Greet BBQ on Thursday, Sept. 4th from 5:00 – 7:00pm on the playground at the school. Please bring your potlatch bags and join us for this always fun event.

2014-2015 Bell Schedule:

BELL SCHEDULE: 2014 – 2015 School Year					
First bell to enter school rings at 8:20 a.m.					
Morning:	Begin	End	Afternoon:	Begin	End
Period 1	8:31	9:10	<i>LUNCH</i>	<i>12:03</i>	<i>1:00</i>
Period 2	9:10	9:49	Period 6	1:00	1:40
<i>RECESS</i>	<i>9:49</i>	<i>10:04</i>	Period 7	1:40	2:20
Period 3	10:04	10:43	Period 8	2:20	3:00
Period 4	10:43	11:23			
Period 5	11:23	12:03			

Please see the back page for the timetable for Semester One.

Message from the School Council:

The School Council will be offering the Breakfast Program for students again this year. The program will be up and running the 1st Monday of October. More information will follow. SECS staff thanks the School Council for this very important initiative.