



St. Elias Community School

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November 8, 2017

Here are a few reminders for parents and students to make note of.

Report Cards Gr. 8-12:

Within the next couple of days Gr. 8-12 reports will be sent home with students. Elementary Report Cards will follow later this month.

As you know Yukon schools are working with new, redesigned curriculum in grades Kindergarten – Grade 9. There are also changes in how teachers assess and communicate student learning to both students and parents. There are different learning standards in the redesigned curriculum than in the old curriculum. Teachers are assessing and communicating student learning in a different way so that they can give students and parents the relevant and detailed information about how a student is doing, based on the new learning standards and the skills and competencies they are expected to develop.

Parents will notice that in Grades 4-9 there are no letter grades provided. A performance scale will now be used. Research has shown that when young learners receive letter grades, it tends to lower their motivation and interest in learning. "When schools cling to letter and number ratings, students get stuck in a system that undermines learning." (Kohn, 2011). Kohn's extensive research shows that grades tend to decrease students' interest in whatever they're learning, creates a preference for the easiest possible task and reduces the quality of students' thinking.

St. Elias School's goal is to give parents and students more helpful information about where they are doing well and how they could improve. Both letter grades and performance descriptions are ways to summarize a student's achievement based on their work in class, such as tests, assignments and projects. However, letter grades only reflect a student's current achievement. Performance descriptions provide information about both their current achievement and their progress. We will be providing a chart to show our parents how the performance reports correlate with the previous letter grade, especially in grades 4 to 9.

If you have any questions about curriculum redesign or assessment reporting, please contact your student's teachers, or Ms. Mann at the school.

Remembrance Day Gathering:

SECS will be recognizing Remembrance Day in a school gathering on Thursday Nov.9, 2017 at 11:40am. Remembrance Day holiday is **Monday November 13, 2017**. School is closed on this day.

Upcoming Events:

Nov.10 – Curriculum Redesign PD Day for Teachers. No school this day.

Nov.13 – Remembrance Day holiday. No school this day.

Nov. 14 – Alcohol & Drug Services Presentations Gr.4-12

Nov.21 – Sexual Health Information Session for Parents, 6:00pm at the Mezzanine.

Nov. 22 – Student Led Conferences Kg – Gr.12.

Welcome Jacey in Gr. 4, and welcome back Danisha in Gr.2, Deliehla in Gr.4 and Drake in Gr.6!

continued on next page...

St. Elias Community School Professional Development Day:

SECS Professional Development days for curriculum re-design work were identified and approved with the 2017-18 School Calendar. As noted in our last newsletter, St. Elias staff will participate in professional development sessions this **Friday November 10, 2017**. There is no school for students on this day.

Alcohol and Drug Services Presentation:

On **Tuesday November 14, 2017** our community Alcohol and Drug Services (ADS) counsellor, Mark Nassiopoulos will be at St. Elias School. Mark will be visiting classrooms from Gr. 4/5 to Gr.12 to talk with students about the importance of making healthy lifestyle choices, factors that influence the use of alcohol and drugs, and potential harmful effects. Mark's presentations help support the learning outcomes in Physical Health Education curriculum for grades 4-12.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school counsellor, Ms. Buck, Ms. Mann or the classroom teacher for more information.

Sexual Health Presentation:

Yukon's Department of Education and Health Promotion Unit are inviting parents and guardians to a Sexual Health Information Session on **Tuesday November 21, 2017 from 6:00 – 7:00pm** at the Arena (Mezzanine). Topics to be discussed include: Why talk to children in our life about sexual health; What children should know and when; and How to answer sexual health related questions. We hope to see you there.

Student Led Conferences:

St. Elias Community School Student – Led Conferences for all students and parents from Kg -12 is **Wednesday November 22, 2017**. Please watch for the individual family conference schedules that will be mailed home soon. We look forward to seeing you there.

Gr. 9/10 W.I.S.E. Student Information Session:

Mr. Preto is holding an introductory information session for next year's Gr.9/10 W.I.S.E. Program on **Tuesday November 28, 2017** at 3:30pm at the school. Any interested Gr. 8 and 9 students that would like to learn more about this program should attend this session. See Mr. Preto for more details.