



St. Elias Community School

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October 25, 2017

Kg – Grade 9 Redesigned Curriculum and Reporting on Student Learning:

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.

Research has shown that when young students 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 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.

Midterm Assessments:

First Semester midterm assessments for Gr. 8-12 students will occur **Thursday Oct. 26 to Monday Oct.30, 2017**. These assessments are completed during regular class time. If you have questions regarding your student’s progress, please contact their subject teacher at the school.

Halloween Carnival:

This year’s School / Community Halloween Carnival will be held the afternoon of **Tuesday October 31, 2017** in the gym. Students are invited to come dressed in their costumes and participate in all the fun activities starting at 1:05pm. We look forward to sharing this afternoon with our parents and community. Don’t miss the annual Jello Eating Contest set for 2:40pm. See you there!

Any Kindergarten students planning to attend the carnival in the afternoon need to come with their parents. All K4 children planning to attend need to be accompanied by their parent.



With Halloween approaching, we are seeing an increase of Halloween treats being brought to school. We are asking that parents do not send Halloween candy to school with students, and a reminder that SECS is a Nut Free School.

Upcoming Events:

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| Oct. 26 | High-school mid-term assessments begin. |
| Oct. 30 | Grad Pizza Night |
| Oct. 31 | SECS / Community Halloween Carnival |
| Nov. 6 | High-School Report Cards sent home. |
| Nov. 10 | YE Curriculum Redesign PD Day. No classes for students. |
| Nov. 13 | Remembrance Day holiday. |



SECS School Council Vacancy:

St. Elias Community School Council currently has a vacancy. Interested candidates are asked to submit a letter stating their interest to:

SECS School Council, PO Box 5494, Haines Junction, Y0B 1L0

Deadline to submit: November 1, 2017.

For information, please contact Catherine Allaway at 634-2995.

Yukon Education has information about sitting on school councils on their website:

<http://www.education.gov.yk.ca/councils.html>

Thank-you to Danielle Drummond:

SECS would like to send out a very big and heartfelt “Thank-You!” to Danielle Drummond for her service on the SECS School Council these past few years. It has been a pleasure and privilege working with you, and we have appreciated your dedication, commitment and support for students, staff and school.

Did you know...?

In addition to regular academic programming, St. Elias students have many extra-curricular opportunities available to them throughout the year. Currently our students can participate in soccer for Kindergarten to grade 7; Futsal Fridays; High-school boys basketball; Dän k'é Club for students; Evening Dän k'é Kwishe language lessons for the community; Literacy club; Homework club; Kids yoga and Treble Makers fiddle club. In the new year, we will also be offering students Wrestling club and Girls Judo. Our sincere thanks to the staff and volunteers that give their time and commitment to making these activities happen for our students and the community.

St. Elias Community School Professional Development Day:

With the introduction of the Yukon Education Curriculum Re-design, Yukon schools have been granted 5 Professional Development Days throughout the year to assist with the planning and implementation of changes associated with the new curriculum.

SECS Professional Development days for curriculum re-design work were identified and approved with the 2017-18 School Calendar. St. Elias staff will participate in professional development sessions on the following days.

1. Friday Oct.6, 2017
2. Friday Nov.10,
3. Friday Jan.19,
4. Monday Feb.26,
5. Friday Apr. 27, 2018

As noted above, **Friday November 10, 2017** is our next professional development day for staff. There is no school for students on this day.

Yukon

Education

October 4, 2017

TO: St. Elias Community School

FROM: Penny Prysruk

RE: Radon monitoring results for Yukon schools

Last school year, we placed equipment in schools to monitor radon levels. Radon levels can fluctuate even over the course of one day, so it takes months of monitoring to get a reading of long-term radon levels in a given space.

The results for all schools are now posted on the Department of Education's website at education.gov.yk.ca/radon-monitoring.html. The results of the monitoring in spring 2017 show radon levels at your school is within the Health Canada's acceptable range for radon.

Next steps

The Government of Yukon has developed standard practices for radon testing, monitoring and, where necessary, remediation in all government buildings, including schools. We will follow these practices to test radon levels in schools, and will remediate schools as needed to ensure radon levels are within the range recommended by Health Canada.

It is also important to check the radon levels in your home. You can either purchase a do-it-yourself radon test kit from a hardware store or online, or you can hire a certified radon measurement professional. Yukon has a number of specialists who have been certified by the Canadian National Radon Proficiency Program. You can find a listing of certified professionals in Yukon at www.takeactiononradon.ca.

Radon testing should occur during the colder months (October through April). A minimum 3-month test is recommended.

About radon

Radon is a colourless, odorless, naturally occurring gas in Yukon. It does not pose an immediate danger to health and is only a concern if there is prolonged exposure to high concentrations over many years. More information is available from Yukon Housing Corporation at www.housing.yk.ca/radon.html.

If you have difficulty accessing your school's results online, please contact your school office.

Sincerely,



Penny Prysruk

Area Superintendent, Department of Education

If you would like to receive our Newsletters by email, please send me a message at shawn.allen@gov.yk.ca