



St. Elias Community School

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September 19, 2018

A Successful REM week

Last week SECS had the great pleasure of hosting the 2018 Gr. 10-12 REM (Rural Experiential Model) program for 10 rural Yukon schools. We had a week of exciting learning activities and events that were made possible by many local businesses, community members and visiting support people.

A special Thank You goes out to the following community members for their contributions to the week. A huge shout out to Bonnie Chambers for the wonderful dinner she and her crew prepared. Donna, Noella, and the staff at the Village of Haines Junction for their assistance and use of the Convention Center facilities; the many CAFN Elders and staff for their participation, assistance and for the use of the Daku Culture Center facility in evening sessions; 14 Acre Farms for catering and teaching Culinary Arts and many Haines Junction community members. Thank you to St. Elias high-school staff who were session leaders throughout the week as well as providing evening sessions. It takes a community to host an event such as REM and collectively we rocked it! Well done everybody!

We would also like to thank students of St. Elias Community School for their warm and enthusiastic welcome to the visiting students, teachers, instructors and REM coordinators visiting our school. We are very proud of your excellent representation of our school community and Champagne & Aishihik First Nations.

Challenge Day 2018

Challenge Day is an educational program that supplements our school and community efforts to increase self-esteem, help shift negative peer pressure to positive pressure and reduce the acceptability of teasing, bullying, oppression and all forms of violence. Next **Monday, Sept. 24, 2018** our high school students and staff (Gr.8-12) will participate in the Challenge Day. This interactive program provides our teens and adults with tools to model diversity awareness, create connections and build community. A Parent Information/Consent Sheet has been provided to all students. If you have any questions, please call Ms. Buck or Ms. Mann at the school.

School Council By-Election Nominations

This October there will be a By-Election for St. Elias Community School Council. There are 3 elected seats for School Council. Nominations for the School Council By-Election open on Sept. 24, 2018. Nomination packages will be available at St. Elias School main office. Nominations close Oct. 11, 2018 at 12:00 noon. **Nominations will be received on Oct. 11, 2018 from 10:00 – noon at St. Elias School Library.** If a By-Election is necessary, it will be held on Oct. 22, 2018.

Upcoming Events:

Sept. 24 – Challenge Day for Gr.8-12.

Sept. 26 – Terry Fox Run.

Sept. 27 & 28 – YTA Teachers Conference. No school.

Oct. 1 – Orange Shirt Day.

Oct.18 & 19 – School Photo Days

Welcome to new and returning students!

Ezra and Graham in Gr.2,
Ainsley in Gr.3, Jahleel in Gr.5,
Terrance in Gr.8, Luke in Gr.9,
and Mya in Gr.11.

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Terry Fox Run 2018

Dust off your running shoes and join us for the annual Terry Fox Run on **Wednesday Sept. 26, 2018**. We will meet at the Muffin for a 1:15pm start time. Donations are accepted at the school office. Our goal is to raise \$2,000 this year.

Parent volunteers are invited to join our run with our elementary classes accompanying them along the route. Please let your classroom teacher know if you can help out. We look forward to seeing you at this worthwhile community event.

SECS Run Club has started up for this year. Students interested in running can meet at the flagpole at 3:15 on Mondays and Wednesdays each week.

YTA Teachers Conference

Please note that the YTA Teachers Conference will be held on **Thursday Sept. 27 & Friday Sept. 28, 2018**. There will be no school on these days. We will be back in regular classes on Monday Oct. 1, 2018.

Orange Shirt Day, Every Child Matters

National Orange Shirt Day is September 30, 2018. Due to the YTA Conference, SECS will recognize Orange Shirt Day on **Monday Oct. 1, 2018**. This day honors the children who survived the Indian Residential Schools and remember those that didn't. We wear orange shirts in recognition of the harm the residential school system did to children's sense of self-esteem and well-being, and as an affirmation of our commitment to ensure that everyone around us matters. St. Elias staff and students are planning to fill the hallways and classrooms with orangeness. We invite parents to join in.

School Photo Day 2018

This year School Photos will be taken on **Thursday & Friday October 18th & 19th**. More information will be sent home regarding the purchase of photo packages and the schedule for Grad, family and class pictures.

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Education
PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

September 14, 2018

Re: Water testing at St. Elias Community School

The Government of Yukon tested the water from drinking fountains and water fixtures at some Yukon schools for lead levels in summer 2018 including St. Elias Community School.

Results summary for St. Elias Community School:

All drinking water fountains at your school are safe for students and staff to continue drinking from as usual. One bathroom sink did have lead levels above the national standards and we will be replacing the affected fixture. The fixture is safe to use for washing but shouldn't be used for drinking.

Mitigation work:

The test results indicate the water fixture needs upgrading. It will be replaced and retested to check the new fixture. School staff will instruct students to use this fixture for washing only until it is replaced.

The Chief Medical Officer of Health advises that there is no short term risk to health associated with water fixtures with levels above the national standards. National standards are based on exposure to lead over a lifetime, and children drink water from multiple sources. Occasional consumption of water from these fixtures will not be enough to significantly affect the health of students or staff. However, the Government of Yukon is taking steps to ensure the long term health of students and staff by reducing the amount of lead they are exposed to in schools.

More information:

Lead is a heavy metal that occurs naturally at low levels in the environment. Everyone is exposed to trace amounts of lead through air, soil, household dust, food, drinking water and various consumer products. Lead was commonly used in plumbing materials (including drinking fountains and sink taps) before 1988 when national building standards changed to reduce the use of lead. As a result, schools built before 1990 may have water fixtures and plumbing materials that contain lead. Lead from the fixtures and plumbing materials can leech into the water when it sits in the water system for longer periods.