HOLY FAMILY NEWS

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Guardians,

🍁 **A Joyful Start to the School Year** We're pleased to share that the 2025–2026 school year has begun smoothly and joyfully. Students have settled into their classrooms with enthusiasm, and the energy throughout the school has been positive and focused. Thank you for helping make the transition back to school so successful!

🙏 **Opening Liturgical Celebration** Our school year began with a beautiful liturgical celebration presided over by Father Freison, bringing our community together in prayer and reflection. It was a meaningful way to begin the year with faith and unity. Our next Liturgy will be the Thanksgiving Celebration Liturgy on Wednesday October 8.

🕒 **Schedule Update – Recess and Lunch** Beginning September 29, we will be adjusting our daily schedule so that recess and lunch times will occur simultaneously for all students. This change will allow more students to participate in lunch-time activities and foster greater community interaction across grade levels.

📅 **Looking Ahead** October brings Thanksgiving, fall-themed learning, and more extracurricular fun. Stay tuned for classroom updates and upcoming events.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We're looking forward to continuing this fantastic year together!

Warm regards,
Trevor Ratcliff, A/Principal

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND COMMUNION

First Reconciliation and First Communion Classes are starting on Friday Sept. 26th. If you'd like to register your child, or would like more information, please contact the Roman Catholic Diocese of Whitehorse at 5119 5th Avenue, or call them at (867) 667-2052.

OCTOBER 2025

DEAR GOD, THANK YOU FOR THIS MONTH, FOR OUR FRIENDS, OUR TEACHERS, AND OUR FAMILIES.
THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD WE EAT, AND THE LOVE THAT SURROUNDS US.
HELP US TO BE KIND, GRATEFUL, AND ALWAYS WILLING TO SHARE. AMEN.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October

- **October 8** - Thanksgiving Celebration (2 pm)
- **October 13** - Thanksgiving (NO SCHOOL)
- **October 31** - Halloween Dress Up Parade & BP Lunch

November

- **November 5** - Picture Day
- **November 6/7** - Parent/Teacher Conferences (NO SCHOOL NOV. 7)
- **November 10** - PD Day (NO SCHOOL)
- **November 11** - Remembrance Day (NO SCHOOL)

BELL SCHEDULE

OUR BELL SCHEDULE HAS CHANGED!

8:40 am	First Bell
8:45 am	Morning Classes Begin
10:15 am	Morning Recess
12:00 pm	Lunch Recess
12:25pm	Lunch
12:50 pm	Afternoon Classes Begin
3:06 pm	Dismissal

MORNING SUPERVISION STARTS AT 8:15
AFTER SCHOOL SUPERVISION ENDS AT 3:25
THERE IS NO SUPERVISION BEFORE OR AFTER THESE TIMES

HOUSEKEEPING

A FRIENDLY REMINDER...

- Morning supervision starts at 8:15
- After school supervision ends at 3:25
- There is no supervision before or after these times

OUTDOOR GEAR

- The weather is changing! Please ensure your child(ren) come with proper outdoor gear for recess and any outdoor activities
  - Rain/Winter jacket/pants
  - Toques/gloves/mitts
  - Proper outdoor shoes
- We are outside for recess unless it is below -30 degrees

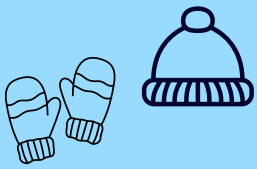

PHOTO DAY (November 5)

- Order forms will go home one week prior to photo day

STAFFING

We would like to welcome 3 new staff members to HFES!!

- Welcome to Ms. Kassi, who will be taking over Ms. Gillis's 6/7 Class until the end of December!
- Welcome to Ms. Julie and Mr. Nick, our new EAs!
- Ms. Hougen will be resuming her role as LAT. A big thank you for starting up the school year with the 6/7s!

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Hello HFES families,
School Council is off to a busy start with our first meeting that took place in early September followed closely by a school BBQ to welcome all our families back to the classrooms for another great year of learning and growing.

We are thankful to those parents who came out to our first meeting and to those who helped out with the bbq.

School council was able to purchase a weather station for the school. It's supposed to be installed September 18. We're so grateful to HPW for the assist with the install.

School Council will be moving forward with a few fundraisers, including a bottle drive, card sales with personalized artwork by students and an auction. We'll also be applying for funding for our annual spelling bee. We are always looking for help - many hands make for light work so please feel free to approach any school council member if you'd like to pitch in.

We're anticipating a positive and productive school year and will be back in session for our next meeting on November 4th at 7pm. All are welcome to attend.

Wishing you and your kids a happy start to the school year!
Gina Anderson (on behalf of school council)

Contact Us: hfes.school.council@gmail.com

ONE MORE THING...

🟦 The **Better to Know** program continues to be the sexual health education resource used in Yukon schools. For more information, parents can visit the official website: ***https://yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/comprehensive-sexual-health-education/better-know-comprehensive-sexual-health***. This site gives the scope and sequence of the program for each grade level. A poster is attached with details about upcoming **parent information evenings** on the Better to Know program.

We recognizes the rights of parents to be informed about programming for their children. When the Better to Know program is being offered as a resource for the Physical and Health Education curriculum, we will be sending a note home informing parents and allowing them to decide if their children would participate. Alternative activities are provided in the school if parents chose not to have their children participate.

If you would like additional resources that align with **Catholic perspectives, morals, and values**, the **Diocese of Whitehorse** is available to support families with faith-based guidance on sexual health and relationships.

Better to know

Free body science talks for caregivers and kids

When: **Mondays,5to 7pm**

Where: **NVDSpace, 4201 4th Ave, Suite 330, Whitehorse**

What to Expect:

- 30 to 60 min: Body science presentation for caregivers and kids and or teens. Caregivers can join, even if their child and or teen can't.
- 30 to 45 min: Caregiver discussion (childcare available). Caregivers are not required to stay for the discussion.
- Light dinner • Free childcare provided

Upcoming Talks:

October 6: Puberty changes and reproduction (ages 8–10, gr. 4 to 5)

October 20: Body parts and safe touch (ages 3 to 8, preschool to gr. 3)

November 17: Puberty, reproduction and STI awareness (ages 10 to 12, gr. 6 to 7).

December 1: Sexual decision-making: Body science, risks, and consent (ages 13 to 18, gr. 8 to 12).

WhyJoin?

- Free, age-appropriate education
- Support for kids, teens and caregivers
- Led by a certified sexual health educator
- Light dinner included!

Hosted bytheHealth Promotion Unit andtheFamilyResource Unit.

To register email yoko.oda@yukon.ca or call 867-332-1875.

For programming questions email bettertoknow@yukon.ca

Presented on the traditional territories of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

bettertoknow-yukon.ca