



DR. PLAXTON
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



THE HIVE



HANDBOOK

www.drp.lethsd.ab.ca

An Invitation

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are thrilled to invite you to experience a new approach to parent engagement and communication evenings this year! In a refreshing shift from traditional meetings and structures, we're introducing a more innovative and engaging format that puts our students and learning at the heart of the discussion. These new formats are designed to showcase your child's progress and achievements in a way that is transparent and directly involves them in their own learning journey. Through this process, parents and guardians will see a decrease in the traditional report card comments and more opportunity for in-person dialogue with teachers. We believe that understanding and assessing progress goes beyond grades or scales – it's about individual student growth, strengths, and areas to develop and that the connection with parents in this process is essential. Please join us in these upcoming exciting, inclusive events where we can all come together to support and celebrate our children's wonderful strides in learning. We look forward to seeing you there!



Warm regards,

Dr. Plaxton Elementary Staff



What We Heard From Parents and Guardians

Through conversations, dialogue, online surveys and phone calls this year, parents and guardians shared that there is a high value placed upon and desire for:

- Clear communication about their child's achievement and progress through the year.
- Specific, one-to-one feedback was valued and preferred about their child(ren).
- A deep understanding by our staff of who their child(ren) are as learners and individuals demonstrated through written or verbal communication.
- Continued connections and community-building opportunities.
- A clear understanding of what their child(ren) are learning and how families can support the learning growth and progress at home.



Sharing VISION, GOALS AND DESIRED OUTCOMES



School Vision:

We nurture innovative thinking in bright, vibrant spaces through intentional opportunities for learning.

Our Goals:

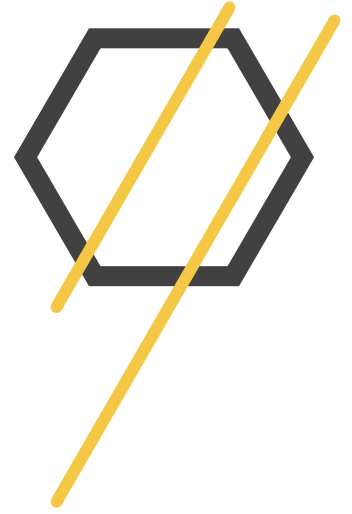
We aim to strengthen communication and relationships with parents and guardians, shift our focus from traditional communication formats to a more comprehensive, personalized and inclusive learning experience. As well, we aim to enhance student engagement and ownership of learning.

Our Desired Outcomes:

In implementing this new approach for communication, the outcomes we strive to achieve are:

- Create a culture that engages every family in the process of learning.
- Effective and meaningful communication and relationships between teachers, parents and the school throughout the year.
- Increased student participation and ownership in the learning process.

Understanding Our New Formats



HIVE NIGHTS

September, November and February

Our featured evenings are called "Hive Nights". Each of these three nights through the year has a theme. The general format is casual, with students sharing their goals and progress up to that point. Our teachers will review goals set by your student, and briefly identify next steps in their goals with you. Our school will have spaces open to engage with community members that can support learning and growth.



PARENT / TEACHER CONFERENCES

October and March

The familiar setting and structure of parent-teacher conferences will occur on these dates. Parents are invited to schedule a time that works best for them. Booking is done online in advance of these dates, and we are happy to have the opportunity to connect with parents. As we prepare, we will seek your feedback about what questions you may have. What would you like to know as a result of our conference? How can we make this a meaningful experience for you as a parent?



CELEBRATION OF LEARNING

June

Join us in the last part of the year to celebrate the growth, achievement and successes of your student. Students will take the lead to share their progress and development, and showcase some of their learning tasks and opportunities, and have a chance to review the goals set this year and look to the future for next years goals.

We strive to include all families in as many events as possible! If you require any accommodations or assistance with the structure or format of these evenings, please reach out to us!

Details About HIVE NIGHTS, PARENT CONFERENCES & CELEBRATION OF LEARNING

Here is a quick at-a-glance page that we hope will give some clarity about what to expect at each of the evenings. Our goal is to communicate early with our parent and student community to help with scheduling and preparations.



1

HIVE NIGHT: What's the Buzz?

September 17th from 4:30 - 6:30PM

Welcome to the school year! We hope that you will come by to see our learning spaces, meet the teachers and engage in goal-setting conversations.



2

Parent / Teacher Conference

KG Conferences - October 22 from 8:30AM - 4:00PM

KG - Grade 5 Conferences - October 23 from 1:00PM - 7:30PM

Grade 1 - 5 Conferences - October 24 from 8:30AM to 12:00PM



3

Report cards out on
November 22

HIVE NIGHT: Builder Bees

November 21st from 5:00 - 7:00PM

An evening to engage in the learning processes and to ask questions of your student(s) progress and growth. We will review and revise our goals from September.



4

Report cards out on
March 7

HIVE NIGHT: Busy Bees

February 26th from 4:30 - 6:30PM

An evening to engage in the learning processes and to ask questions of your student(s) progress and growth. We will review and revise our goals from November.



5

Parent / Teacher Conference

KG Conferences - March 12 from 8:30AM - 4:00PM

KG - Grade 5 Conferences - March 13 from 12:30 - 7:30PM



6

Celebration of Learning

June 6th from 11:30AM - 1:30PM

Join us in celebrating the growth and achievement of your student(s)! An opportunity to see their year-long progress, set goals for next year and even share in some lunch together.

Frequently ASKED QUESTIONS



Are you getting rid of report cards?

No, report cards are still a requirement of reporting student progress. Report cards will be released according to the schedule on the previous page, which is similar to previous years. Students will still receive reporting on learning stems, and levels of achievement will be reported. The difference will be in the amount of comments from teachers. Terms one and two will not have comments, and the term three (the June report card) will contain a year summary of progress.

When will I be able to have a 1:1 conversation with the teacher about my child?

The proposed design of the year would be that the individual and targeted conversations with parents and the classroom teacher would occur at the conferences. During the Hive nights, parents and students can expect a brief discussion with the classroom. Parents are of course still welcome to connect with teachers for other meetings, as needed.

I can't be at every Hive Night. Is that a concern?

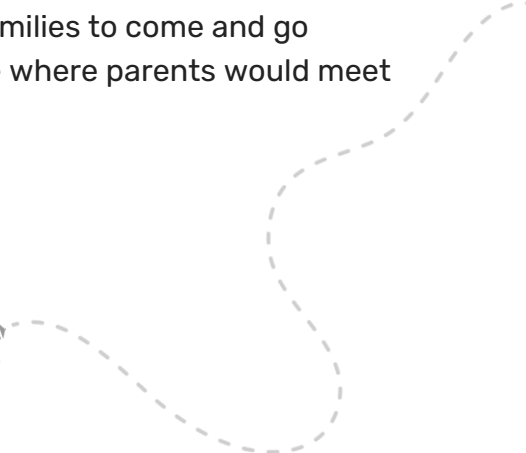
Not at all! Of course we hope that you can make all the events so the learning and progress of your children can be showcased and highlighted. We also understand families are busy. Our goal is to include all families in as many events as possible! If you require any accommodations or assistance with the structure or format of these evenings, please reach out to us!

Which events should I bring my child(ren) or student(s) to?

To enhance your experience and maximize the time we have together, we suggest that the parent-teacher conferences be reserved for parent and teacher communication only and that your students join on the other scheduled nights. Hive Nights and Celebration of Learning would be ideal evenings for the family to attend together, and we have plans for engaging all family members across our school at those events.

What is the difference between the "Hive Night" and Parent/Teacher conferences?

Hive Nights will be more casual in nature, with the doors open to families to come and go based on their schedule. Conferences are scheduled blocks of time where parents would meet with teachers in a 1:1 setting.



Frequently ASKED QUESTIONS



I'm not really sure I understand why you are making this change. How do I get more information?

Great question. This is certainly a shift from traditional communication and reporting of student progress. We welcome you to reach out to your child's teacher at any point, or feel free to contact our office and/or school leadership team.

As a parent, what are my expectations when coming to these events? Do I need to bring anything?

We are preparing these events so that you can just come and be an engaged participant in your child's learning, growth and progress. If anything is sent home in advance of these evenings, it would involve minimal effort on your part and communicated early.

Are younger siblings welcome for all these events?

That is the plan! We want all families to be able to come, and so we are planning to host two separate spaces in our school where younger or older siblings can come and be engaged in family-friendly activity. As mentioned above, we encourage all families to attend the Hive Nights and Celebration of Learning, and suggest that parents attend the parent-teacher conferences.

I've been to the school and done the tours with my child. What else can I expect at the Hive Nights?

We encourage you to attend as many of this year's activities and events as possible. Our staff have been diligently focusing and planning these events to make them engaging for everyone. We also plan to have community partners, special guests, and book fairs (among other things) for families.

Are Hive Nights the same as Winter Wonderland or Spring Gala?

The performance celebration events such as these are community-building events or fine arts events. These would be entirely separate events from the parent nights listed in this handbook. Please look for more communication on each of these events, and more, as they appear in the calendar and clear communication on what to expect as parents attending these events.