

Principal's Message

On behalf of the Watson School Council and the staff at JES, we extend a warm welcome to all our students, parents and community partners. We believe that our students will find our school to be a warm and friendly place in which to learn social participation skills, develop positive character values, enjoy extra-curricular activities and achieve academically. We also believe that the best teaching and learning experiences we can provide for our students is based on the strength of the relationships we build between and among all members of our school community. Please feel welcome throughout the year to contact the school with any questions you may have. Together, we are looking forward to enjoying an excellent year with many opportunities to recognize and celebrate student learning and achievement.

This year, we will be moving into the second year of implementing the new Yukon Department of Education's Curriculum Redesign. Today, we live in a global, technology-rich society where communication is instant and information is immediately accessible. This information rich society has changed the way we interact with one another personally, socially at work and in school. Knowledge is growing at exponential rates in many domains, creating new information and possibilities. This is the world in which our students are entering. Content and knowledge are no longer just memorized and recited. We are moving away from content memorization to a focus not only what students learn, but also how and where they learn.

We know much more about how students learn and how the brain works. To facilitate learning for everyone, we must look at each learner holistically. This includes the social, cultural, emotional, physical, spiritual and intellectual domains of each student. To move forward, the education system in the Yukon has become truly collaborative, action-oriented and encouraging of trying new ideas to improve outcomes for all learners. As such, JES staff are busy developing their skills in the various areas of the curriculum redesign. Curriculum is being redesigned in order to better the needs of all students and foster development of the essential skills and competencies they need for contemporary life in and beyond school. The traditional three report cards per school year model has been revised to incorporate more frequent communications and updates on student learning and growth. ***Our school plan for Communicating Student Learning in 2018-2019 is included in this newsletter for your review.***

Students will still have ongoing assessments in all areas of the curriculum and teachers will be writing student learning reports (i.e., Interim Report, Final Summative Report). However, the format in which we share learning will change and students will be participating more in their assessment and reporting. This will include students monitoring and sharing in their own growth in relation to:

What students will KNOW

- The content-critical factual knowledge for understanding topics of study.

What students will DO

- The Curricular Competencies – the skills, strategies and processes the students develop over time. Underpinning the Curricular Competencies are the Core Competencies that all students need to develop for success in life beyond school (Communicating, Thinking and Personal & Social Competencies).

What students will UNDERSTAND

- The Big Ideas – the transferable generalizations that endure beyond a single grade and contribute to future understanding.

All areas of learning in the redesigned curriculum are based on a “Know-Do-Understand” (KDU) model to support a concept-based competency-driven approach to learning in which these three elements work together to support deeper learning.

To provide deeper learning for students, planning for assessment needs to consider the question: What is essential for students to know, be able to do and understand? This will include students monitoring and sharing in their own growth with the support of their teachers. Students will do this by collecting and showing evidence of their learning. Our students’ evidence of learning will be shared with you throughout the year in a variety of forms including conferences, portfolios, phone calls, DOJO, e-mails, letter home, home visit, personal meeting and written student learning reports (Interim Report, Final Summative Report).

These current changes to curriculum are based on research and practices happening across Canada and all over the world. These changes involve taking a student-centered approach to learning and focusing on knowledge, skills and understandings.

Following is the JES School Plan for Communicating Student Learning 2018-2019:

Plan for Communicating Student Learning 2018-2019

What Parents Can Expect	How It Will Be Communicated
<p>September: Kindergarten Intake Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each Kindergarten family is invited to an intake meeting with the K team. 	<p>On the first day of Kindergarten, each family will sign up for an intake meeting for parents to share any pertinent information with the teaching team.</p>
<p>September – November: Curriculum Overview – 1st informal communication by Nov. 30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each teacher will provide an overview to parents of the curriculum redesign. 	<p>Some teachers choose to communicate about their program during the first informal communication. Other teachers may choose to provide this overview at the Parent/Teacher Conference.</p>
<p>October 26 – Parent/Teacher Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For K – Grade 7 students, the conference is a parent-teacher dialogue on student learning. 	<p>During this Parent/Teacher Conference, parents have an opportunity to ask questions and to determine how they can support their child’s learning. Teacher will discuss student’s learning goals with parents or guardians.</p>
<p>February 8: Interim Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> K to 7 students are assessed on learning standards using the following descriptors: Not Yet Meeting Expectations, Approaching Expectations, Meeting Expectations, and Exceeding Expectations. Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2 students reflect on their experience of school. Grades 3 to 7 students self-assess and reflect on their development in core competencies. 	<p>A paper-based report is issued for each child. The report is a snapshot of the student’s progress to date towards learning goals and their current performance and achievement level in Literacy, Numeracy and Inquiry/Integrated Studies.</p> <p>An example of this report will be posted on the school website shortly.</p>
<p>March: 2nd informal communication by March 8 – phone call, email, DOJO, digital portfolio, written portfolio, home visit or personal meeting</p>	<p>This is an opportunity to review your child’s learning profile, the progress your child has made and to establish further learning goals and next steps. Parents will receive a copy of their child’s revised learning goals.</p>

<p>April: 3rd informal communication (Student Led Conferences) on April 25 & 26 – phone call, email, DOJO, digital portfolio, written portfolio, home visit or personal meeting</p>	<p>Teacher and student worked together purposefully throughout the year and now select meaningful/learning samples that demonstrate progress across subject areas to share with family.</p>
<p>June 14: Final Summative Report Card</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K to 7 students are assessed on learning standards using the following descriptors: Not Yet Meeting Expectations, Approaching Expectations, Meeting Expectations, and Exceeding Expectations. 	<p>A final based report will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments and rating scale in all curricular areas (Literacy – English Language Arts, Numeracy – Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Applied Design Skills, and Technologies, Career Education, Arts Education, and a second language if applicable and depending on grade level). • A student self-assessment of core competencies
<p>On-going Communication</p>	<p>Communication between home and school is essential for student success. While we have highlighted some formal and informal means of communication, we encourage parents to also communicate with teachers and school staff at any time during the year if they would like to discuss their child’s progress.</p>

In closing, JES will continue to focus and embrace the Yukon Department changes to teaching, learning, assessment and reporting. We continue with the redesigned curriculum and work hard to create understanding of communicating student learning to parents that will be at the same time both exciting and challenging. We are committed to working collectively as a staff with our educational community and partners as we move forward with these changes. We invite parents to stay informed and to connect with us with questions, comments and feedback at any time throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Ralph Pilz
Principal

JES CARES

We will continue to build a positive school community and support our students in order to nurture their academic and social-emotional growth. This includes strengthening positive working relationships with the JES school community while continuing to build a stronger and more positive learning environment to maximize success for all of our students. JES CARES is a Positive Behaviour Intervention and Support Program (PBIS) that strives to bring clear and consistent school-wide expectations for our students and staff. It is a proactive approach to modelling positive behaviour and focuses on prevention, not punishment. Through teaching and practice, students learn about appropriate behaviour and how to become better citizens.

New Staff

There are many exciting additions to our staff this year. We welcome Alyshia Van Kannel as the teacher in the Grade 2 class and Gina Alaric as the teacher in the Grade 4/5 class. We also welcome Bailey Hayes as the Educational Assistant in Grade 1. We are very happy to have you all on our team this year.

Professional Development for Teachers

September 26, 27 and 28 – School Closed for the Yukon Teachers' Convention

October 9 and 10 – School Closed for the Curriculum Redesign and ASPEN professional development in-services

JES and W/Lk. School Council BBQ – Sept. 19

In anticipation of another great year, please join us for an informal gathering from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. on September 19/18.

Hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks will be provided. Come and meet the School Council members and your child's teacher.

School Lunch Time

This school year we will be eliminating the use of microwaves due to our 20-minute lunch period. Currently, in some classrooms where microwaving use is high, 20 minutes is not enough time for students to heat up their lunch and finish it. If we were to extend lunch, we would be required to extend the school day to provide the mandated minutes of instructional time. Having to extend the school day would make an extremely long day for our Kindergarten and Primary students.

Many Whitehorse elementary schools have addressed this situation by eliminating microwaving during the 20-minute lunch period and asked for parent/guardian cooperation to utilize thermoses for warm food and/or provide lunches that don't require microwaving. This policy kept the schools from having to extend the school day.

School Council decided to adopt the same policy that many Whitehorse schools implemented doing away with microwaving during the 20-minute lunch period. To make this transition easier for parents/guardians and students, School Council will be providing a thermos to every JES student allowing them to bring warm meals from home, if they prefer. These thermoses are on order and will be available shortly. Your understanding and cooperation is greatly appreciated.

School Starting Time

The earliest time to drop off students at school is 8:00 a.m. Please refrain from sending your children earlier than the time mentioned above due to teacher supervision beginning at that time. We do not want to create situations where children are not being formally supervised.

Between 8:00 and 8:15 a.m., students will remain in the main foyer under the supervision of the Principal. At 8:15 a.m., the bell will ring and all students will be allowed to go to their coat hooks and drop off their belongings and put on their indoor shoes. Parents may wish to accompany their children with this task. Students can then go to the gymnasium or play outside, weather permitting.

Your cooperation and understanding in helping us to apply these morning routines consistently keeps students properly supervised and safe.

Morning Recess	10:21 – 10:41 a.m.
Lunch	12:01 – 12:21 p.m.
Lunch Recess	12:21 – 12:41 p.m.
Dismissal at the end of the day is 3:10 p.m.	

Liard Aboriginal Women's Society (LAWS) Partnership

This year, Grade 6 and 7 students will continue to participate in the Youth Culture and Safety Program sponsored by the Liard Aboriginal Women's Society (LAWS). The second part of this program, JES will continue with LAWS and Watson Lake Secondary School to sponsor a formal year end cultural clothing regalia and traditional meal for Grade 7 students moving on to high school and Grade 12 students graduating. During the ceremony, open to the public, a traditional meal will be provided while the students showcase the beautiful beaded apparel (shawls, vests and dresses) they made under the teaching and direction of our Elders.

Prior to the above ceremony, as a farewell to the Grade 7 students, there will again be another year-end trip to celebrate their 8 years of schooling at JES. To that extent, the Grade 7 students will be involved in numerous fundraising activities throughout the school year.

Student Drop-Off and School Parking

Please note that the driveway in front of the main entranceway is for student drop-off only. Please do not block access for any reason. Traffic flow is required for the safety of all students, staff and visitors.

If you choose to come into the school, please park your vehicle in the designated parking areas. Please do not park in the driveway or on the sidewalk. Many of our students are young, small enough to be outside of the driver's range of view, and unaware of the driver's intentions. We would like student safety to be our number one priority.

Please drive with courtesy and obey the speed limit in the school zone. When the red lights are flashing on the school bus, please do not pass in either direction. RCMP will be in attendance and will be enforcing the speed limit and parking zones.

School Photos

Robert Postma will be at JES in October to take student photos.

More information will be sent home once a date is confirmed.

School Calendar 2018 - 2019

Friday, August 31, 2018	PD Day –School Closed
Monday, September 3, 2018	Labour Day – School Closed
Tuesday, September 4, 2018	First Day of School for Students
Wednesday, September 26 to Friday, September 28, 2018	YTA Conference – School Closed
Monday, October 8, 2018	Thanksgiving Day – School Closed
Tuesday, October 9 and Wednesday, October 10, 2018	PD Days – School Closed
Monday, November 12, 2018	Remembrance Day– School Closed
Thurs., December 20, 2018	Early Dismissal for Students - dismissal at 1:00 p.m.
Friday, December 21, 2018 – Wednesday, January 2, 2019	Christmas Break – School Closed
Thursday, January 3, 2019	School Resumes
Friday, February 22, 2019	Heritage Day – School Closed
Monday, March 11 to Friday, March 22, 2019	Spring Break – School Closed
Friday, April 19, 2019 Monday, April 22, 2019	Good Friday – School Closed Easter Monday – School Closed
Monday, May 20, 2019	Victoria Day – School Closed
Friday, June 14, 2019	Last Day of School

JOHNSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**“It takes the whole community to raise a child.
School is one part. Let’s work together. Together we’re strong!”**

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September 5, 2018

Violence Threat Risk Assessment Notification to Parents

The safety of our children is a top priority for everyone. The tragedies that have occurred where students commit violent acts against other students and educators in Canada and in the United States have caused government officials, educators, parents, students and other community members to assess how we make our schools and communities safe for our children and students.

Public Schools Branch staff members have been involved in an intensive safety training program with our community partners, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Yukon Department of Health and Social Services, Yukon Department of Justice, and Yukon College. From what we have learned in this training we know that student acts of violence are not random; individuals do not suddenly ‘snap’ and commit serious acts of violence. In cases where serious acts of violence have occurred there have been many indicators and escalating signs that these individuals are on a path to commit serious harm to themselves or others. The training has helped our professionals to recognize these signs, assess them, and put in place interventions to support and reduce the level of risk. Together with our community partners, Public Schools Branch has developed a plan to respond to situations in which students may be demonstrating behaviours that pose a risk to themselves or others.

We wish to advise parents that we have adopted a protocol, which requires schools to undertake a threat assessment in all cases of students making threats to harm others. These threats may be physical, verbal or written, they may be gestures or messages posted on the Internet. The purpose of the Yukon Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol is to determine how best to support students considered at risk so that their behaviour does not become hurtful or destructive to themselves or others.

The complete Yukon Education Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol is available at www.education.gov.yk.ca

Parents can play an active role in keeping our schools safe by advising the school of any information communicated to them from their children concerning threatening behaviours that their children may be subjected to, in or out of school, and continuously monitoring their children’s use of the Internet and Internet chat lines.

This letter is intended to provide you with notice that all Yukon schools will respond to all threats in a professional manner that provides for safe, healthy, and caring learning environments. Any threats or threat making behaviours will be taken seriously and assessed accordingly.

We are pleased to be able to provide this level of support to our school communities and appreciate having the ongoing support of our community partners.

Sincerely,

Ralph Pilz, Principal

Yukon Children's Dental Program

The Dental Therapist, along with Dentist Dr. Stern, will be travelling to Watson Lake for 3 weeks starting September 10. Dental forms must be completed by parents and will be sent home. Please make sure to fill them out and return them to the school.

Hearing, Vision and Immunizations

Public Health nurses, Sue Rudd RN and her team, will be at JES for the weeks of September 17 and 24. Hearing and vision screening will be for students in Kindergarten, Grade 1, 3 and 5. Grade 6 students will be getting immunizations.

Saturday, September 1 Playground Clean-up

JES would like to thank all the volunteers who donated their time cleaning up the playground and painting hopscotch and four-square areas for the children to play at. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

Learning Together

This year, Natalie Sauve will again be leading the Learning Together program for pre-schoolers and their caregivers. If you are the parent of a child who is 4 years old or younger, you are warmly invited to drop in for storytelling, games, crafts and more. This program is free to attend on a drop-in basis. A notice is attached to this newsletter that you can post at home for future reference.