

**Mustangs
Monthly
Memos
Nov/Dec 2024**



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Administration Team's Message

Dear Families,

It has already been a very busy year with volleyball wrapping up just before Fall Break, elementary swim lessons, and a number of guest presentations from puppets for elementary to Trades Skills in junior and senior high school.

We are excited for our elementary performance at this year's Christmas concert on Dec 11 at 6 pm. They have been working hard with Mr. Kindopp and their homeroom teachers to put on a star performance for their families and guests. This year, we will be having a silent auction fundraiser for the graduating class, as well as accepting donations for the food bank. Please bring a non-perishable item to contribute if you are able.

We will be hosting our staff and student lunch feast on Dec 18, celebrating the festive season before we go into the winter break. As the temperature drops and daylight hours become shorter, the time for reflection sets in. Our hope is that everyone gets through the business of the season and has time to be grateful for all the helpful elves that sneak out of the woodwork to make our time together magical. Take care of yourselves and each other, hiy hiy.

Vilna School IYMP 2024-2025 Update

We are thrilled to share the exciting progress of the Ever Active Schools - Indigenous Youth Mentorship Program (IYMP), implemented this year at Vilna School. Co-developed by Indigenous youth, educators, and researchers, IYMP is designed to promote well-being, resilience, and positive mental health, aligning with Miyo-Pimâtisiwin teachings (“living in a good way”). The program is grounded in the theoretical frameworks of Indigenous scholars Drs. Brokenleg (Circle of Courage) and Kirkness (The Four R’s).



As always, we would love to hear from you. Please call the school 780-636-3651 or email joe.harrington@asperview.org if you have any questions or concerns.

Important Dates & Upcoming Events

Dec 3 - Picture retakes

Dec 4- School sweat

Dec 11 - Christmas Concert

Dec 17- Genderbread Decorating

Dec 18 - Christmas Feast for Staff and Students

Dec 21-Jan 5 - Winter Break

Jan 6 - Resume Classes

Jan 29 - PD Day - No School for Students

Jan 30 - Semester 2 Begins

Other Information:

- Aspen View Public Schools has switched to a new platform, SchoolMessenger, to communicate with parents/guardians. To receive text message alerts from Aspen View, parents/guardians must Opt-In from their mobile device. Please see page 2 in this newsletter for QR code and details

-Children need to be at the school at 5:30 for the Christmas Concert on Dec 11th. They will stay in their classrooms until they are to be on stage.



Keep Your Child On Track in Middle and High School: Pay Attention to Attendance

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and on the job.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation.
- Frequent absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other difficulty.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Missing 10%, or 2 days a month, over the course of the school year, can affect a student's academic success.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Make school attendance a priority

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day.
- Help your children maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and non-urgent related medical appointments during the school day.
- Keep your student healthy. If you are concerned about about a contagious illness, call your school or health care provider.
- If your children must stay home because they are sick, make sure they have asked teachers for resources and materials to make up for the missed learning time in the classroom.

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School Messenger

Aspen View Public Schools has switched to a new platform, SchoolMessenger, to communicate with parents/guardians.

SchoolMessenger allows parents/guardians to receive text message alerts from schools regarding attendance, events and other important notifications.

To receive text message alerts from Aspen View, parents/guardians must Opt-In from their mobile device. **Important note: Even if you received text alerts from our former platform, you must Opt-In to SchoolMessenger to continue receiving text alerts.**

First, make sure that a PowerSchool Parent Portal account has been created for your child. If you don't have a Parent Portal account, or if you're not sure, your child's school office can help you set one up.

Once you know that your Parent Portal account is set up, it's quick and easy to Opt-In!

Just text 'Y' or 'Yes' to 978338 or scan the QR code below.



(If you change your mind, you can Opt-Out from text alerts by replying to any of our messages with 'Stop')

The fine print:

- Mobile device numbers must correspond with parent/guardian contact information associated with the PowerSchool Parent Portal account in order to receive text alerts.
- SchoolMessenger is compliant with privacy legislation. Your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.
- Text alerts through SchoolMessenger are free to Canada-based numbers.
- Opt-In is only required to receive text alerts. Parents/guardians will continue to receive email and voice messages as they do currently.

Questions or concerns? Contact your child's school office or email info@aspenschools.org



Thank you

Dear Aspen View families, staff and stakeholders,

Thank you for being cooperative as we have had to implement the ministerial order regarding the use of cell phones and other personal mobile devices in schools. There were learning curves as everyone adjusted to the new rules, but we have seen an overall positive result in terms of student engagement, bullying, and mental health.

A reminder that the term “device” includes cell phones, Smartwatches, and peripheral devices including wireless earbuds and headphones. Our school policy is that the device is brought to the office immediately with the student allowed to collect it at the end of the day for a first offence, guardians must make arrangements to collect the device for the second offence, and disciplinary action will be taken for the third offence.

Dear Parents/Guardians

Now that winter has arrived, students need to come to school properly dressed for the weather. For elementary students, they do have outdoor recesses, unless wind/snow is extreme and outside play is not recommended. Jr/Sr high should also be dressed for the weather if they ride the bus or walk from home. Bus drivers have the right to refuse to pick up students who are not dressed appropriately.

Recommended winter gear: *winter hat, mittens/gloves, neck warmer, winter boots, snow pants and a proper winter jacket.*



If you have outgrown winter clothing, they can be brought to the school to have as extras for those who need it.



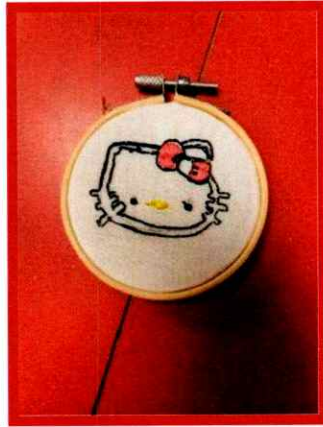
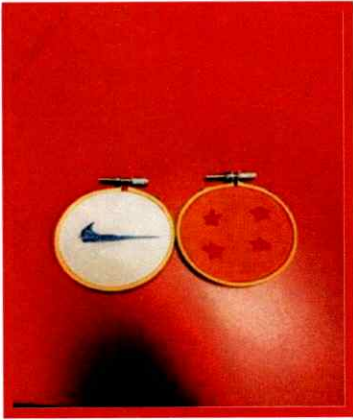
THERE WILL BE A CHRISTMAS HAMPER BOX
AVAILABLE FOR NON-PERISHABLE FOOD
DONATIONS AT THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT
(DEC. 11TH). IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
CONTRIBUTE OUTSIDE OF THIS TIME, PLEASE
DROP OFF ITEMS AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE
BEFORE DEC. 18TH.

On Dec 17th we will be bringing back our Genderbread cookie decorating activity. All students will be given the opportunity to choose from a list of toppings and have fun decorating their cookie as they choose. This activity is FREE for everyone and put on by our Spectrum club to have fun while helping promote inclusion, individuality and acceptance of differences.



Showcasing skills from:

Jr.High Sewing



Jr. High Woods



Other Highlights include:

SENIOR HIGH PHYS. ED



SWIMMING WITH K/2



Meeting some Furry Friends!



D
E WEAR
C YOUR
9 FAVOURITE
PLAID

D
E WEAR RED
C AND GREEN
10

D
E WEAR A
C HOLIDAY
11 INSPIRED
HAT

D
E DRESS AS A
C CHRISTMAS
12 CHARACTER

10
DAYS OF
CHRISTMAS

D
E WEAR SOME
C FUNKY
13 SOCKS

D
E DRESS UP
C AS A GIFT
16



D
E TACKY
C CHRISTMAS
17 SWEATER
DAY

D
E DRESS IN
C FORMAL
18 CHRISTMAS
WEAR

D
E TROPICAL
C VACATION
19 DAY

D
E PJS & HOT
C CHOCOLATE
20 DAY

STUDENT SUPPORT TEAM

Did you know that Vilna School offers a number of in-school supports for students?

School Counselor: A school counselor plays a crucial role in supporting the academic, social, emotional, and career development of students. Their responsibilities vary, but generally include the following: Academic Support: Identifying and addressing academic challenges, such as learning disabilities or behavioral issues. Collaborating with teachers and parents to create academic intervention plans. Social and Emotional Support: Offering support during difficult times, such as family problems, peer conflict, or emotional struggles. Counselors are also able to help work on building self-esteem, self-confidence, boundary setting, and goal setting. Crisis Intervention: Responding to immediate crises, such as accidents, violence, or other emergencies affecting the school community. Advocacy: Advocating for students' needs and rights within the school system. Collaboration with Stakeholders: Working closely with teachers, administrators, and parents to support students holistically. Collaborating with community resources, such as mental health agencies, to provide additional support. Overall, the role of a school counselor is multifaceted and aims to create a positive and inclusive school.

Family School Liaison: The Family School Liaison Program is a free-of-charge, client-based, goal-focused program provided through local municipalities. This program is also supported by Aspen View Public Schools and Alberta Health Services - Mental Health. The program is designed to meet the social and emotional needs of children and youth who are experiencing difficulties. It provides support, encouragement and ideas in a non-judgmental, confidential manner.

Indigenous School Liaison: typically serves a similar role to a family school liaison, but with a focus on supporting Indigenous students and their families, addressing the specific cultural, social, and emotional needs that Indigenous communities may experience.

Success Coach: Our Success coach can answer questions regarding high school planning, courses or graduation requirements.