

## New Family Welcome Package

Whether you are a new family joining Kindergarten or a family transferring to us, the Highlands Parent Advisory Council (HPAC) welcomes you to Highlands Elementary!

### **About HPAC**

PAC stands for Parent Advisory Council. Every parent with a child at Highlands Elementary School is a member of the Highlands Parent Advisory Council (HPAC). HPAC meetings are held five times a year on select Tuesday's at 7:00 pm. Currently these meetings are held via zoom as parents find it a convenient method of participating. All parents are welcome, and we look forward to seeing you there!

#### HPAC mission is to:

- to foster communication between parents, the school (teachers/administration) and the district.
- to support, encourage and improve the quality of education and the physical, cultural and recreational well-being of students at Highlands.
- coordinate and support events and activities with the school administration and teaching staff.
- to assist in fostering a sense of community

#### How should I connect with my child's teacher?

Meet the Teacher. In early September, you will be invited to attend an evening information session with your child's teacher. This is a good time to ask your child's teacher about their preferred methods of communication and any other questions that you might have. Teachers are usually available after 3:00pm for brief meetings with parents. However, some may prefer to set up meeting times in advance. Teachers will also communicate via email or Microsoft Teams to send messages out to the families of their students. Learn more about the communications platforms you will be using below.

### **Communications Platforms You Need**

There are several platforms used by the Ministry of Education, North Vancouver School District (Board of Education), Highlands Elementary and your Teacher! They are used from kindergarten through to grade 12. It can be a bit overwhelming getting started, so here is a quick reference to all the platforms:

## Highlands School and Administration Tools

### Principal Newsletter

- School calendar of events
- Updates from highlands admin and teachers
- Important school dates to remember ( ie Pro-D Days, early dismissals, outdoor school etc)

### MyEducationBC ( BC Govt) - <https://myeducation.gov.bc.ca/aspn/logon.do>

- Student report cards are found here at the end of each term.
- Password will need to be reset every few months

### SchoolCash Online (Highlands) - <https://www.schoolcashionline.com/>

- Pay for school related items like agendas, field trips, etc.
- fill out important Highlands School Forms for students

### SchoolMessenger (NVSD) - <https://go.schoolmessenger.com/#/home>

- Report student absences
- Receive news from NVSD
- Download as app

## Highlands PAC Tools

### FreshSchools - <https://www.freshschools.com/app/schools/highlands-elementary-school/register>

- PAC communication tool – voluntary registration. Must be registered to access this platform.
- Newsletters weekly or as needed
- PAC volunteer opportunities sign up (ex: hot lunch helper, weeding natural playground, short term roles for various events).
- Class Reps message through here, add events to your class calendar, and class volunteer opportunities.
- download app
- Questions? Email: [hpachighlands@gmail.com](mailto:hpachighlands@gmail.com)

### Munch a Lunch - <https://munchalunch.com/login.aspx>

- Ordering website for hot lunch food program (Mondays and Fridays)
- Each term you will need to order for your children.
- You can order both days, Mondays or Fridays, or none of the days.
- Questions? Email [lunchmum@gmail.com](mailto:lunchmum@gmail.com)

HPAC Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/154273564923274>

### **How can you get involved at Highlands?**

#### Become a Class Rep

This role acts as a liaison between your teacher and the rest of the parent body in the class. You will be responsible for helping to coordinate volunteers for the class. It's a great way to meet other families and get to know your child's teacher.

#### Volunteer at Events

There are many events throughout the school year and periodically HPAC will put out a call to ask for parent Volunteers. The first event will be a welcome event held in the first two weeks of September.

#### Volunteer for Weekly Programs

Important programs such as Hot Lunch require on-going support from parent Volunteers.

#### Attend HPAC Meetings

Attend HPAC meetings. It's a great way to keep informed and find out how you can support our school community.