



# Highlands Elementary School Growth Plan 2022-2023

School Cycle: Year 3

Principal: Chris Catherall

Vice-principal: Kristan Thompson



## Consultation with our Stakeholders

### **Staff**

- In September, as new administration was joining the school, a survey was sent to teaching staff to gauge their awareness and involvement in the on-going development of our school goals.
- At the first staff meeting in October, the results of the survey were shared and discussed. Decisions will be made to continue, modify, or develop a new school goal(s).



### **PAC**

The plan will be presented and discussed at the October 17<sup>th</sup> PAC meeting. On-going discussion and consultation will happen throughout the year.



### **All Parents**

After October 17<sup>th</sup>, the plan will be shared with all families and they will be invited to provide feedback.



## Our school and community



Highlands Elementary is a K – 6 public elementary school with:

- 191 students
- 14 teaching staff
- 16 support staff

Our dedicated staff team supports 19 designated students, as well as a number of students who require student support plans, or additional academic or social emotional support.

We are located in the Highlands subdivision of Cranbrook and enjoy strong community support. Our vision supports our theme, “Wherever you come from, you are important here!”



## HES School Growth Plan 2022/2023

**Question #1:** Will providing structured and targeted supports (Tier 2 and 3) related to reading in primary classes result in improved achievement?

**Goal #1:** All 'emerging' and 'developing' grade 2 readers will improve to a level that is considered "mid grade 2" by the end of the year.

### Strategies:

- Literacy Assistance through Guided Reading (Student Services support) – we will continue this Tier 1 strategy in most of our primary classrooms.
- Classroom Literacy Strategies.
- Utilizing our staff to provide targeted support – our Teacher Librarian, as well as school administration, will provide on-going, frequent one-to-one targeted reading support with identified struggling readers.
- Tier 2 and 3 Interventions for those who require it. – We are looking at purchasing and training staff to use a program like Barton Reading and Spelling to improve literacy skills.
- Speech Language Pathologist Intervention.
- FESL Grade 2 Balanced Literacy Partnership with Erin Jones. Our school is fortunate enough to have been selected to be a part of this project.

### Data:

- We will have a discussion as a school staff around which data we will collect to support this goal.

### Expected Outcomes:

- All 'emerging' and 'developing' grade 2 readers will improve to a level that is considered "mid grade 2" by the end of the year.

### Indigenous Students:

- An increased focus on the learning needs of our indigenous students will be a new area for our growth plan. We will be having a discussion of how to add this aspect to our growth plan.

**Children and Youth in Care:**

- We will need to determine who in our student population fits this category. We will then need to determine as a staff how best to support these students in this goal area.

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**Question #2:** How do strong social/emotional skills enhance literacy?

**Goal #2:** We need to develop a goal that supports this question.

**Strategies:**

- EASE Program
- Calm Connect Pilot Program
- Zones of Regulation
- Size of the Problem
- Social Emotional Learning Center (SELC)
- Teaching staff, as well as our Aboriginal Education Support Worker, have been working with the local Ktunaxa representatives to embed local Ktunaxa culture into the Core Competencies.
- The Gathering Place, new to Highlands in 2021, was created to foster an environment of safety and belonging for our Aboriginal students. This space helps to enhance student literacy through providing spaces that help students “see” themselves in the school community.
- Highlands Elementary is fortunate to be located one block away from Idlewild Park and the Community Forest. This proximity to nature allows our students unlimited access to a variety of outdoor activities.
- Running Club- takes place at least two days per week to ensure that we are allowing students to reap the health, academic and social/emotional benefits of physical activity.
- The outdoor classroom at Idlewild is used by several schools and is an amazing way to teach lessons in, and about, nature.
- When students listen to nature, talk to each other in nature, and engage in literacy in nature, amazing things happen!

**Data:** We need to determine what data is available to us to support this goal.

**Expected Outcomes:** Once we establish a goal for this question, we will be able to determine what our expected outcomes are.

**Indigenous Students:**

- An increased focus on the learning needs of our indigenous students will be a new area for our growth plan. We will be having a discussion of how to add this aspect to our growth plan.

**Children and Youth in Care:**

- We will need to determine who in our student population fits this category. We will then need to determine as a staff how best to support these students in this goal area.

