



The New Heights Times

Read all about it ...

Principal's Message:

Welcome back New Heights! What a wonderful start to the school year we have had! I love this time of the year with the smell of the new school supplies, the students' eager faces happy to see returning friends and meeting new friends, and the exciting challenges and opportunities in the classroom. Peruse through this issue of the New Heights Times and read about our classes and staff this year. We are back into the swing of things, and we look forward to the upcoming IPP (Individual Program Plan) meetings to collaborate with families. Meetings will take place on the evenings of Wednesday, September 21st and Thursday, September 22nd, unless otherwise noted. Please call Alison in the office to book a time. Thank you to our students, families, and staff for a great start up to the 2011/2012 school year. Here we go!

~ Katie Blasetti

IMPORTANT DATES:

September 18 -Allies for Autism Walk/Run
September 21/22 - IPP Meetings
September 23 - Organizational Day (No School)
September 26 - FOP (No Preschool classes)
October 4 - PIZZA DAY!
October 4 - PAC Meeting (7pm at the school)
October 10 - Thanksgiving Day (No School)
October 14 - IPPs sent home
October 17 - PD Day (No School)
October 18 - FOP (No Preschool classes)
October 31 - Halloween

PLEASE MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!

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SEPTEMBER 2011

The newsletter is
available online at:

www.newheightscalgary.com

BACK 2 SCHOOL

School Age Classes:

We are entering the 2011/2012 school year with full classes and exciting program potential!

Our Senior Class teaching team this year consists of teachers Carrie Anderson and Kyla Davies, and educational assistant Becki Mravunac. We are excited about our new Life Skills Workroom (made possible by Autism Speaks), and the program opportunities that brings for our Senior students.

The Intermediate Class has started off the year in a new classroom location, led by teaching team Katie Blasetti with educational assistants Angie Buragina and Rebecca Wattman.

Our Junior Class teaching team continues with teacher Kaetlon Irwin and educational assistants Cathy Lopes, Angela Funk, and Rebecca Wattman.

Welcome back school age students! We are excited for this new school year!

Preschool Classes:

Our preschool is fully back in session, working on the routines and schedules vital for school life, learning opportunities and growth.

We are so happy to welcome back Maggie Staples to our teaching team in the mornings, along with educational assistants Sheetal Gower and Lanna Code.

We are also pleased to welcome Kyla Davies to our teaching team in the afternoons, along with Sheetal and Lanna.

Welcome all to a new school year!



PAC UPDATE

It has been a terrific start to the new school year! We had a tremendous turn out at our Annual Welcome BBQ at Edworthy Park. It turned out to be a gorgeous day, perhaps the last hot day of the season! It was great to see so many familiar faces and have the opportunity to get to know our new families.

•We are continuing with our SUTP coupon book sales. We have purchased 100 books to sell and we receive 50% of the profits, which will earn \$1000 for our students! If you haven't purchased your books yet, please see Alison in the office or Becki Mravunac in the Senior Class ASAP.

•We will be assembling our student phone book shortly and we aim to get them out to our students as soon as possible.

•We will also be starting to plan our November 5th Fall Fundraiser. This is a great annual event that the entire school participates in. There will be a Silent Auction and Bake Sale and this year we will be hosting it at the Edgemont Community Hall. We would like to give the fundraiser a brand new name as we move it from our school and into this great venue. Email Becki at becki.mravunac@newheightscalgary.com with your ideas for a new name! We will also be needing donations from our families for our Silent Auction. Local business are very generous and the sky is the limit on what can be donated! If you are interested in helping plan this event, contact Claudia at cochoav@hotmail.com.

Our next PAC meeting will be held at the school on Tuesday, October 4 at 7:00pm. Everyone is welcome and we hope to see you there!

Yours truly,

Your Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

President: Kristen Grovue

Vice President: vacant (let us know if you are interested!)

Secretary: Kari McManus

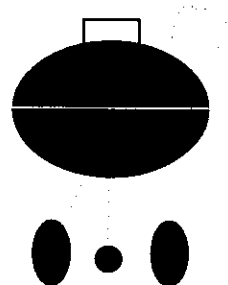
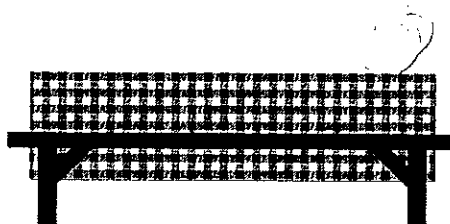
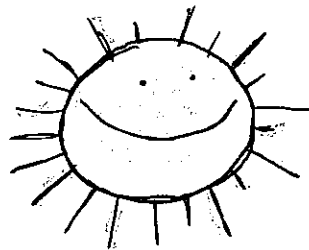
Treasurer: Cathy Streimer

Volunteer Coordinator: Claudia Ochov-Barrett

Fundraising/Events Coordinator: Sharron Hall

Member at Large: Carolin Hopkins

School Liaison: Becki Mravunac

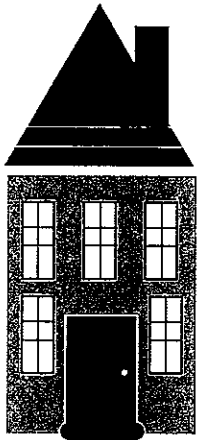


OUR TEAM ROCKS!

New Heights School Therapy Team:

New Heights therapists offer exciting opportunities for student growth and engagement throughout the school day. Along with consultation and sessions in the classroom with students and staff, our therapists offer and enhance programming for our population of students such as Food Group, Communication Lab, Life Skills, Social Skills Groups, and others. The therapists allow opportunities and growth in a wholistic approach to life for our students.

We welcome back our exceptional therapy team this year: Astrid Simmermon (Speech/Language Pathologist), Jen Loewen (Occupational Therapist), Cassandra White and Colombia Carter (Psychologists), and Rebecca Wattman (Program Assistant).



Home Program

Jane Wilde & Betty Heung
Contact: 403-250-1317

The Home Program welcomes
everyone back and hopes
that you all had a wonderful
summer!

Social Skills Groups from the Psychology Team

Welcome back!! September is such an exciting time filled with new beginnings!! We, your New Heights psychology team (Cassandra and Colombia), are so excited to be here with your children! We have been visiting the classes and getting acquainted and/or re-acquainted with the students. It's been a pleasure to interact with them.

We are pleased to announce that we are currently in the process of developing a variety of Social Skills programs tailored to fit the varying needs of the students. We will be forming groups based on developmental levels as well as present social interaction skills. We will also be sending some forms home in order to get your input and permission. Our goal is to provide our school-aged students at New Heights with effective social skills programs that target specific social skills (turn taking, social initiations, perspective taking, etc.) which are adapted to fit the child. They will run throughout the day on Wednesdays and each group will run approximately 15-30 minutes.

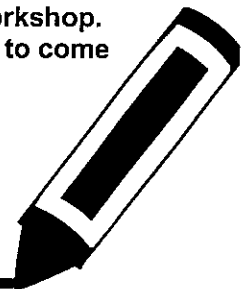
We look forward to spending time with your children and to watch them grow! If you have any questions or concerns with regards to this program, please feel free to contact us at New Heights.

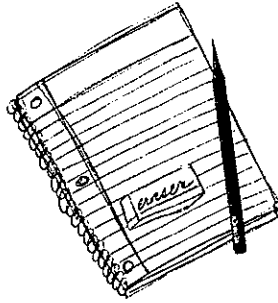
Thank you!
Cassandra and Colombia
(Psychology Team)

Upcoming Grief Workshop:

As many of you know, the New Heights community suffered a great loss this summer with the passing away of one of our students. Teachers have been working with students to help them cope with their feelings associated with grief. We would like to offer further support to parents who are interested in learning more about the process of grief and how to help your children work through this process. A workshop will be offered to those who wish to attend on Saturday, October 15th at 10:00 a.m. Please be sure to sign up with the classroom teachers. We will need a minimum of 5 people to run the workshop. However, we are also available on an individual basis if you would like to come in and discuss your concerns with us.

We look forward to supporting you as you support your children!
Cassandra and Colombia





Speech & Language: *(by Astrid Simmermon)*

Communication Labs will be presented in all the school-aged classes this year on Monday's or Tuesday's.

In the Junior and Intermediate classes, conversational skills and other social thinking skills (including perspective taking and awareness) will be targeted in student lessons, games and role plays. Students are involved in learning and practicing concepts carefully selected by classroom teachers!

In the Senior class this year, focus will be upon some executive planning types of skills such as working memory, time management, planning and organization, flexible thinking, and self-monitoring.

Parents are encouraged to ask their children about these labs for home practice as well. The students are always eager to participate and to learn in Communication Labs!

O.T. News *from Jen Loewen!*

Food Exploration Groups are starting up next week! These groups work on the idea that there are many steps to accepting new foods. We start out just being willing to touch unfamiliar foods and work our way up the ladder by smelling, licking, biting foods and spitting them out, and finally being able to eat the new food. Obviously, these steps happen over weeks or months (or even years!) and in food group each student decides where they are at on the steps to eating each food. Some of the foods we already like, and others we are learning how to eat. This year, we will also be learning about nutrition, healthy eating, and table manners. If you are interested in having your child participate in one of the food groups, please contact me and we will determine if he or she would be a good fit. Bon appetit!



thank you very much

New Heights thanks "**Millenia Resources**" for naming us as their charity of choice for their Annual Golf Tournament this past August! **Our thanks to Millenia!**

We look forward to the return of Anna Spencer to teach Music to the Preschool, Junior, and Intermediate classes starting in October!



A heartfelt "Thank you" to Bow Valley Christian Church for their generous "Back to School" care packages for our teachers.



New Heights welcomes back Mr Crossman! We thank Mr Crossman for teaching the Intermediate and Senior classes kung fu every Wednesday afternoon.