

Princess Alexandra School

56 Woodland Drive, Hay River, NWT X0E 0R8
(867) 874-6388 phone; (867) 874-3211 fax

Princess Alexandra School is a learning community that is committed to working together in providing a wide variety of educational opportunities in a safe and caring environment.

Principal's Message

Welcome to the Princess Alexandra School Year of 2011-2012.

It is wonderful to have our Grade 4's back with us after their year at Harry Camsell. We are looking forward to all of our PA students having a great year under one roof.

As a student at PA, you are part of one of the best schools in all of Northern Canada. We are the best because we do our best. That is what we ask of each of our students. Do your best as a learner and a citizen of PA. You will have many opportunities open to you and we want you to take advantage of all you can, but we need you to be a responsible and caring citizen first.

This agenda will help you. Use it every day to record homework assignments, write down due dates for projects and tests, and keep track of your grades—that way you, your teacher, and your family will know that you are on top of your school work and extracurricular activities. Planning is an important part of having success at PA. Use your agenda to help with that.

Finally, always remember that kindness and respect are the basis of good and lasting friendships. Please treat others well, expect to be treated well by others, and help your classmates be kind and respectful.

All PA'S in!

Sincerely,

Chris Philpotts
Principal

2011-2012 School Staff

Principal	Chris Philpotts	Grade Four	Kelly Thompson
VP, PST	Carolyn Carroll	French	Larry Munro
Literacy Coach	Dorie Hanson	Slavey	Elsie Buggins
Grade Seven	Tara Boudreau	Counselor	Kate Osted
Grade Seven	Coral Helmer	Secretary	Linda Gallagher
Grade Six	Rita Moizis	SNA	Claire-Anne Bouchard
Grade Six	Jennifer Tweedie	SNA	Sandy Coady
Grade Five	Tyler Hawkins	Slavey/SNA	Barb Low
Grade Five	Bonnie Lee	Custodian	Amy Hoffmann (on leave)
Grade Four	Ellie Baxter	Custodian	TBD

Daily Schedule

8:20	Supervision begins (<i>please do not arrive earlier</i>)
8:30	School doors open; homeroom begins
8:45	Classes begin
10:15-10:30	Recess
12:00-1:00	Lunch period
2:50	Wednesday early dismissal
3:30	Dismissal
3:40	Supervision ends

Attendance & Punctuality

Regular attendance is crucial to success in school, and expected of all students. If a student must be absent, it is important that his/her parent or guardian call the school to inform us of the absence. The office opens at 8:00 a.m. on school days.

When students are late, they miss essential instruction. If a child is not able to arrive on time, he/she should come to school as soon as possible. Students who arrive after the 8:30 a.m. opening bell must enter through the front door.

Unless they are going home for lunch, students may not leave the school grounds during the school day unless his/her parent or guardian notifies the school. It is important that those students who go home for lunch return to school on time to begin class at 1:00 p.m.

Important Dates

August 29	Registration for New Students
August 30	ECE Cultural Orientation for staff – no classes
August 31	Classes begin
September 5	Labour Day statutory holiday – no classes
October 10	Thanksgiving Day statutory holiday – no classes
October 31	Community Education Plan day – no classes
November 1	Professional Development day for staff – no classes
November 11	Remembrance Day statutory holiday – no classes
November 23	Term One Report Cards
November 24-25	Parent-Student-Teacher conferences
December 16	Christmas Vacation begins after school dismissal
January 3	Classes resume
January 30	Professional Development day for staff – no classes
March 2	Term Two Report Cards
March 5-6	Parent-Student-Teacher conferences
March 9	ECE Cultural Orientation for staff – no classes
March 7-8	Professional Development days for staff – no classes
March 19	Professional Development day for staff – no classes
March 30	Spring Vacation begins after school dismissal
April 16	Classes resume
May 18	Community Education Plan day – no classes
May 21	Victoria Day statutory holiday – no classes
June 6-8	NWT Track & Field Championships
June 21	Aboriginal Day statutory holiday – no classes
June 28	Last day of school; Final Assembly; noon dismissal

Communication with Parents & Guardians

Parents and guardian are invited to call or drop by the school whenever you have questions or concerns. The office is open from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. (except for the noon hour, when we are closed for lunch).

Students use this Agenda to record their assignments. Please check this Agenda every day, so you will be aware of what your child has for homework. In addition, teachers often communicate with parents by exchanging notes in this Agenda. If you would prefer to communicate with your child's teacher by some other means (e.g., e-mail), please let him or her know.

Our weekly *P.A. Letter* (printed on blue paper) is typically sent home each Friday. If you would prefer to receive it though e-mail, please let us know. Back issues are online at www.ssdec.nt.ca/pa/PA_news.html. Our school calendar is also online, at www.ssdec.nt.ca/pa/GoogleCalendar.html.

Busing

Students who live on Vale Island or beyond McRorie Road are eligible for bus transportation to and from school. Ridership is a privilege, however, which may be lost if a rider's behaviour is poor. We follow a three-strike policy: the first major incident will result in the loss of bus privileges for one week; the second, for one month; and the third, for the remainder of the school year.

Lunch at School

Students are encouraged to take a break from school and go home for lunch. We do permit students the privilege of remaining at school for lunch, but we are not able to provide either meals or utensils for students without. Please ensure that your child comes to school with a lunch, and with the spoon or fork needed to eat it. Students who stay for lunch are not permitted to leave the school grounds. Please note that we require a high standard of behavior for those who do so. We follow a three-strike policy: the first major incident will result in a warning; the second, in a one month suspension of that student's lunch privilege; and the third, the loss of that privilege for the remainder of the year.

Dress Code

Students should come to school dressed appropriately for the weather. During the cold months, this means wearing a winter coat, snowpants, boots, mitts, and toques. This is especially important because we do go out for recess, even when it is minus-30 outside.

All students require "indoor shoes" to be kept at school. When they arrive at school, students remove their boots or "outdoor shoes," carry them to their hooks, and put on their "indoor shoes" for the class day.

Head gear (anything worn on top of the head, including hats, hoods, toques, and handkerchiefs) is not permitted in school. If a student requires head gear for *bona fide* religious reasons, please consult the principal. Clothing must be free of inappropriate decoration or themes. These include messages and/or symbols associated with alcohol, drugs, violence, profanity, and derogatory remarks. The school's judgment in this matter is final.

All shirts and tops must cover the entire torso, front and back. The bottom of a shirt must stay in contact with the top of the pants or skirt being worn. All skirts and shorts must cover the leg to within 10-15 cm of the top of the knee. Undergarments of any kind may not be visible.

Students should wear proper athletic attire when participating in Physical Education classes and extracurricular sporting programs. Non-marking sneakers are required in the gym.

Academic Enrichment

Throughout the year P.A. provides academic enrichment over and above the NWT curriculum. These include annual opportunities such as the Royal Canadian Legion's Remembrance Day poetry contest, the Great Canadian Geography Challenge, the WHERE competition, the RCMP D.A.R.E. program, the Mathematica National Math Contests (Byron-Germaine in grade 4, Fibonacci in 5, Pythagoras in 6, and Euler in 7) in April, the grade 6 trip to the Legislative Assembly in May; and the DFO's spring "Fisheries to Oceans" day in June.

Other opportunities include Parks Canada presentations, author visits, touring musicians, outdoor education events, and class trips to the Centennial Library.

Co-Curricular Opportunities

We encourage all students to broaden their personal horizons by enthusiastically participating in as many of our rich selection of co-curricular programs as possible.

Exploratories

Exploratory programs are unique learning opportunities offered to students four times a year in a series of four-week sessions. Staff and community volunteers offer mini-courses in areas of special interest, including the arts, music, outdoor education, and units not covered in the regular curriculum.

Intramurals

Students who stay for lunch are eligible to participate once a week in Intramural activities, which are organized by volunteers.

Student Council

The Student Council, open to students in all grades, plays an important role in the school community, sponsoring booster activities, raising funds by recycling, and providing student leadership throughout the school.

P.A. Players

Our theatrical troupe presents one major production per year. The last two were *The Emperor's New Clothes* in 2008-09, and *Bullies Anonymous* in 2009-10. (In 2010-11, Missoula Children's Theatre presented *King Arthur's Quest*.)

Athletics

Our team name is the Predators, our mascot is “Whiskers,” and our official cheer is “All PA’S in!” We compete in sports in every season of the year, including:

Outdoor Soccer: The annual Elks tournament is held here in September.

Cross-Country Running: The Kiwanis Run and the NWT Championship Meet take place in October.

Volleyball: Grade 7 teams compete in the Lawrie Hobart Memorial Tournament in Fort Smith in late October.

Curling: P.A. students compete in the Territorial bonspiel under the auspices of the Hay River Curling Club

Basketball: Teams of grade 6 and 7 students travel to Yellowknife in late February for the annual Junior Cager tournament.

Cross-Country Skiing: Participants ski at the Hay River Ski Club weekly during the winter, weather permitting.

Indoor Soccer: Grade 7 teams travel to Grande Prairie for the Ernie’s Rock-Around-the-Clock tournament in May.

Track & Field: Students compete in the PeeWee and Bantam divisions of the NWT Track & Field Championship, held in Hay River in the first week of June. Individual categories include jumping events, throwing events, and races at various distances. All students are encouraged to participate.

Participation in athletics is a privilege. To be eligible, students must be in good standing in the school, in their classroom, and on their team. A major disciplinary event will result in loss of this privilege for 30 days, and/or the extent of the current season.

Student Recognition

At P.A. we appreciate the importance of positive reinforcement, and recognize our students regularly in these and other ways:

Monthly Assembly

Beginning in October, typically at 11:10 a.m. on the first Friday of the month, the P.A. community gathers for an assembly to celebrate school, team, and individual achievements. Parents and guardians are warmly invited to attend.

PAS Draw

Teachers reinforce PAS-itive behaviour by awarding PAS coupons when students model a targeted value. Each week one coupon is drawn for each grade, and that student receives a prize from the PAS draw options. A teacher’s name is also drawn each week, and his/her class receives a special treat.

Book Awards

Every month we celebrate the academic achievements of students in each classroom. Book Awards are given to selected students who have worked well, made commendable progress, and displayed positive qualities in class. Recipients are awarded a certificate and their choice from a selection of books.

PAS-itive Student Awards

Every month we recognize students in each homeroom who display our core values: Pride, Achievement and Safety. PAS-itive students receive an award certificate and a pizza luncheon with the Principal.

SSDEC Homework Heroes

Every month teachers submit the names of students who have completed all their homework assignments for the month. These names are publicly displayed, and one name is drawn at the monthly assembly to receive a gift certificate to a local business.

Student achievement is further celebrated on a daily basis through hallway photos, daily announcements and the weekly *PA Letter*.

Year End Student Awards

Honours Medals

SSDEC Honours Pins

Academic Proficiency Pins

PAS-itive Student Award

SSDEC Literacy Awards

Athlete of the Year Awards

Grade 7 Department of Public Works & Services Math and Science Award

Grade 7 SSDEC Achievement Award

Perfect Attendance Award

Student Conduct

Our PAS-itive school climate actively promotes an environment conducive to student learning and growth. P.A. students learn to use their W.I.T.S. (Walk away, Ignore it, Talk about it, or SeeK help) in situations where there is conflict. Students are responsible for their own decisions, but supported in learning how to make good ones.

Progressive Discipline

Classroom management and daily discipline are the responsibility of the classroom teacher. Should unacceptable behavior become chronic, a student may be referred to the office for further disciplinary action. Major infractions are immediately referred to the office.

Should an incident merit a suspension, we follow a program of progressive discipline: except in the most serious cases, a first suspension is for one day, a student's second suspension is for two, and so on up to five. A sixth suspension or a grave transgression may merit a 10-day suspension. In such cases the school will provide academic work for the student, and offer mitigation to reduce the terms of the suspension provided certain conditions are met by the student and his parents or guardian. Although rare, the Education Act also provides for suspensions up to 20 days, and for expulsion from school.

Prohibited Items

Digital and electronic devices such as iPods, MP3 players, digital cameras, cell phones, and electronic games are not permitted at school.

Skateboards, roller blades, scooters, and similar items are not permitted at school. Students who ride their bicycles must lock their bicycles to the bike racks at the north and south ends of the building, and are not permitted to ride them during recess periods.

For safety's sake, weapons (real or toy), tools, matches/lighters, and illegal or adult substances are not permitted at school. Illegal items will be reported to the RCMP. Students who require prescription medication should make arrangements with the Program Support Teacher.

Prohibited items will be confiscated. The first time an item is confiscated, it will be returned to the student at the end of the school day. The second time, it will be returned only to the student's parent or guardian. The third time, it will be returned at the end of the school year. Illegal items will not be returned.