



The Husky Herald

January 2021

Good afternoon, Horizon and ATEC West Community!

The Christmas break is upon us! This is one of my favorite times of the year where we get the opportunity to spend time with family, rest, and reflect (and eat lots of goodies!). This season brings with it an opportunity for unity and lifting others. With the new year just a couple of weeks away, our minds turn to the year that's coming to a close and the opportunities that lay ahead. I have great hope and optimism for 2021!

This has been a year to remember! Talk about life-changing! 2020 has been tough. Even though it's been a difficult year with a worldwide pandemic and the effects it has had on each of us, there are things we have learned in education and in our individual lives that will live on. We have learned new ways to engage students. We have developed new skills in using technology to deepen learning. We have been able to try new things. We have learned the importance of connection—any way we can make it work. We have been able to reflect upon our priorities and focus on those things that matter most. We have come together as a school community in support of our beloved students and interns.

Our school will continue to unitedly focus on student growth that empowers them to contribute meaningfully to the community (part of our new school mission). With our teachers and related servers, we have been working on developing and co-creating a new school vision. A vision is a statement of where we want to go and what we want to become as a school in order to fulfill our purpose. As we continue to have these discussions, we will also request feedback and input from the whole faculty and our patrons as well. Having a shared vision for our ideal future will guide us in learning, growing, achieving, and most effectively meeting student needs. We look forward to hearing your perspectives!

Frank Sinatra sang the following, "The best is yet to come." I believe him! There is so much hope for a brighter future for our families, school, and community.

I wish each of you a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Dan Heaps, Principal

Upcoming Dates

Dec 21- Jan 1	Christmas Break
January 4	School resumes
January 6	National Tech Day (We are grateful for our Tech, Matt!)
January 11-15	Transition Week (see info below)
January 18	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No School)
January 22	Dress up Friday: Hat Day!
January 20	School Community Council @ 1:15pm in the Conference Room
January 27	Earthquake Drill @ 9:45am
February 3	Parent/Teacher Conferences @ 3:00-6:30pm

Important Items

Transition Week: This is done for all secondary (Grades 7-12) and transition students and their families. However, anyone is welcome to investigate these resources. Normally there is a Transition Fair event, but due to COVID, the amazing ATEC programs (East and West) have put together a wonderful resource website. Please see the attached document with more details.

Link: <https://sites.google.com/utahparentcenter.org/asdparentresources/home/transition-to-adult-life>

Parent Teacher Conferences: Conferences will be held in person or online/over the phone once again. Teachers will reach out to parents in January to set up appointments. Appointments will be for 15-minute increments. If you have a need that will exceed that time frame, please coordinate with your teacher about another day and time to review any items of interest. Teachers will take a break for dinner from 5:00-5:30pm. We look forward to celebrating progress and discussing the needs of our students!

Utah Parent Center: The Utah Parent Center is a great resource for families! Here is a little bit about them:

The Utah Parent Center has partnered with Alpine School District to provide free assistance to families of children with special education needs. The Parent Consultant serving families in Alpine School District offers:

- training
- information
- referral
- assistance

Services are offered to parents and professionals through the provision of one-on-one consultations. Maria can help you by:

- Providing a private consultation in-person, by e-mail or over the phone regarding questions or concerns about the special education process.
- Providing information about what supports and services that may be available to help your struggling student.
- Providing information on the IEP process and your rights and responsibilities under IDEA.
- Helping you prepare for IEP meetings and providing support during IEP meetings.
- Connecting you to resources and supports in your community.
- Providing information about upcoming events in the district and statewide.

***All services provided are free and confidential. No information will be released without your consent.*

Link: <https://utahparentcenter.org/projects/districts/alpine-school-district/>

Contact info for Maria Wiscombe (our district liaison with the center):

Email: maria@utahparentcenter.org

Phone: [\(801\) 318-1959](tel:(801)318-1959)

Facebook Group: We have a private Facebook group for our school! We encourage any and all parents, guardians, and staff to join. We use this Facebook page to send out reminders, information, upcoming events, faculty spotlights, highlights from classes, and more.

Facebook Link:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/289655102455482/?multi_permalink=305455714208754¬if_id=1598468796536556¬if_t=group_activity&ref=notif

Substitutes: The district is in need of substitute teachers. Feel free to go to or share the following link to get set up for substituting: www.ess.com/alpine. If you know of someone who is specifically interested in subbing at Horizon, please let us know so we can put them on our preferred sub list.