

October 3, 2024

ST. AGNES JUNIOR HIGH PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



School Opening:

We had a wonderful start to the school year. Things went very smoothly, and we were so impressed with how the students handle some of the changes in routine. We took a "Back to Basics" approach to September focusing on:

- the new cell phone policy
- morning and afternoon routines
- locker usage
- food and water in the classroom
- backpacks
- chromebooks
- hall passes.

Staffing and Reconfiguration:

- As noted in our communications home Kelsey Johnston was the successful candidate for the Vice Principal position at Gorsebrook Jr. High School. Christine Keddy has taken over the position in grade 9 and Jr. High Intervention.

- We hired Ben Leblanc as our new Grade 8 teacher.
- Changed from 5 grade 7's and 4 grade 8's to 4 grade 7's and 5 grade 8's.
- The second first day of school went well and everyone is getting settled into the new routines and classes.

Student Success Planning:

- We currently have Heather Alexander with us as a math coach until October 25th.
- Paul Carreiro will be starting with us on Thursday of this week as our ANS Support Grant Teacher. He will be here a total of 25 days between now and the end of January.
- Two Volunteers are starting in the next few weeks. One is a B.ED student and the other is a McGill graduate thinking of applying to education this year.
- Our SSP goals will remain the same this year, as with all schools in HRCE. We are working with teachers and coaches on the creation of our goals and strategies this month.
- The big change for this year is moving from 6 cycles of reflection to 3.

Guidance:

- Youth Project – booked for late October for all grade 8 classes and GSA Luncheon
- Y Mind – in contact with the team at YMCA who are waiting to hear about this year's funding, but we're at the top of the list for more Y Mind programs once funding is confirmed
- An artist from MacPhee Centre for Creative Learning will be at our school every other Monday at lunch to participate in Art Club.
- Early planning stages for November 6th Take Our Kids To Work Day. The grade 9 Healthy Living teachers and I will ensure students and their families have the information needed and permission forms, so that our grade 9 students can take part in this day-long national event.
- Jr. High Re-Engagement through BFEC continue to be a strong ally and will begin working with one of our students in the next couple of weeks.

Sports and Clubs:

- Off to a great start to our school year in terms of extracurricular activities and all the people that make them happen! Our volunteer coaches of all teams have had

such a positive impact on our student-athletes and school community. We certainly thank them all.

- The female identifying soccer team beat Oxford 7-0, tied Fairview 0-0 but played 9 players against 11, and lost to Gorsebrook 3-0.
- The Yearbook team has collected photos from Anti-bullying day and Orange Shirt Day.
- "The Male Identifying soccer team has had a unique start to their season. Winless in 3 games, our boys continue to show great character and work ethic as we build toward the playoffs. We have an extra important game on Thursday v Gorsebrook and against Grammar next week that will decide our playoff entrance or season exit!"
- Our Male and Female Identifying Volleyball teams are now selected, and those teams are practicing for their upcoming seasons to begin mid to late October.
- Our Gator Cross Country team is off to a running start in 2024! With a strong Female identifying contingent, both Int. Girls and Jr. Girls should compete for medals at our upcoming regional meet on Oct.10 at Point Pleasant Park! On the male identifying side, participation has dropped slightly but the runners that ARE showing up are improving immensely. Coaches Mr.Ryan, Ms. Steeves and Ms. Smith are proud of all of our runners, especially those that took to the course last Thursday and had great performances at the Point Pleasant Park warm up meet. With meets now getting underway our 32 Gator runners are practicing hard and a ready to run!
- Early morning gym with both Mr. Seeley and Mr. Brown

Newcomer Welcome Center, the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia and St. Agnes

The NWC has partnered with the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, who provided the grant, and Arts Smarts. This is a two-part project (part one took place in June 2024) and is

continuing this fall. Thirteen students, consisting of Canadian students and newcomers will come together to create a piece, to be determined by them to be displayed in or near the NWC.

The project is tied to the following Social Studies outcomes:

Learners create a response to changing societal conditions in the Maritimes. Learners will plan an advocacy action in response to an issue. Learners create responses to opportunities and challenges in present day Maritime communities.

Learners will formulate responses to change in Canadian society.

The project so far has been successful, and the students are quite engaged and excited. The environment established by Linnet Finley, the artist, is safe and caring where students feel comfortable and confident to share their ideas. It was also quite inspiring to see how mature and thoughtful they were to collaborate, offer constructive feedback, and build on their ideas as a group. One student was quoted saying "it was my favourite part of the year" which was impactful. All students plan to participate in phase two, once consent forms have been returned.

In the Works:

- Newcomer night.....more details to follow.
- New school websites
- Creative Kids
- ANS Speaker Series
- SAJHS Wood Shop

