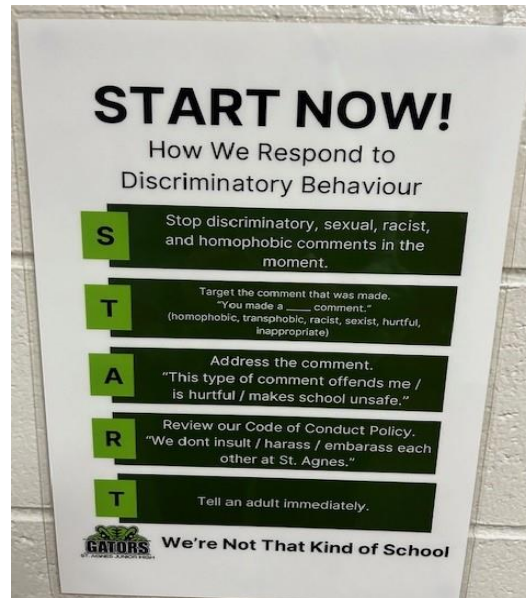


November 28, 2024

ST. AGNES JUNIOR HIGH PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

We're Not That Kind of School:



Skyler and Rhonda have just completed a series of Wellness Workshops with all the homerooms. Supporting the schools Wellness Goal for the year, the workshops were called "We're Not That Kind of School," and the goal is to disrupt inequity and promote harmony by engaging the students in examining what is underneath acts of cruelty at school and offering the students witnessing this cruelty some simple, safe and effective tools to begin to interrupt these acts in the moment. Skyler and Rhonda will follow up this workshop program with on-going "pop in visits" to classrooms to continue the "Empathy" training with the students. Word is already travelled fast within HRCE about this initiative, and we have had staff members from Highland Park come to observe these sessions in the hopes of installing a similar initiative in their own school.

Transgender Awareness Week:

Our GSA did a wonderful job creating an art installation to honor Transgender awareness week and the Transgender Day of Remembrance. This display is currently located outside of Ms. Furlong's classroom. Over the next few days the posters will be

place around the school. **Teachers** met with several members of the GSA and were shown the video "[The Village](#)" to help gain some understanding and perspective on the struggles our Transgender youth face. You can watch the video by clicking the hyperlink in the title above.



Student Vote:



We had a great voter turn out of 279 students. PC's took the majority with the Liberals and NDP separated by .1 of a percentage point.

What's happened since we opened with the items below:

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

Student Success Planning:

- Heather Alexander finished as a math coach on October 25th. During our Pause and Reflect, it was obvious the positive impact Heather's time with us had on our math teachers. Of note was the use of math markets, and notes to my future forgetful self. These items in particular fall in line with our Short Cycle Planning goal for Cycle One. **Within the vertical PLC ,with all grade level math teachers, it came to light that students across all grade levels were struggling to communicate if their answers were reasonable. Cycle Two plans to continue with this**

goal extending into the area of math language and problem solving. Alicia Potvin – Secondary Schools Math Consultant was in on November 27th to help continue our SSP goal development. Students have been focusing on how to communicate the reasonableness of their answers in math using math language. This will be carried over to cycle two and applied to the student’s ability to read and solve word problems. Math data pulls will occur after term one report cards are sent home. Students of ANS ancestry who are not achieving 75 or above will be placed on an individual math plan designed to support areas of challenge.

- Paul Carreiro is continuing his time at St. Agnes in the roll of ANS Support Grant Teacher.
- Melissa Trenbirth – Secondary Schools Literacy Consultant was here on November 20th to work with Ms. Keddy, Ms. Cochrane and myself on fine tuning our literacy plans and to help with our cycle two strategies. Based on data from our RWM8 last year it was clear that students were struggling with non-literal comprehension of information texts. This focus of Cycle One will continue for Cycle Two but will also extend to using cross curricular course material to support student learning in this area.
- Amanda Maher – Culturally Relevant Pedagogy Specialist is a member of the HRCE Diversity Team, the Culturally Relevant Pedagogy (CRP) Specialist works alongside school administrators and staff to bring to life the promises outlined within the Inclusive Education policy, with a specific focus on students of African Ancestry, as well as Mi’kmaq and Indigenous Ancestry. She will be with us two days a week for the next 8 weeks.

Guidance:

- A new group of grade 9 students are participating in the YMCA Y Mind program right here at the school, learning amazing skills for managing stress and anxiety. Thanks to the amazing team at the Y who come into SAJH and offer this valuable training to our students. Although the YMCA’s funding for this program has dwindled, we’ll keep inviting them back as much as possible.
- Our grade 9 students recently participated in Take Our Kids to Work Day. This annual national career exploration event is held every November, and the majority of our Grade 9s spent Wednesday, November 6th joining a working professional at their place of work. As we coach our students to begin day-dreaming about what careers are starting to hold interest for them, this was a valuable opportunity for them to investigate what a particular job looks and feels like.
- The MacPhee Centre for Creative Learning has also returned to our school this year – every other Monday at lunch, an artist joins the Art Club group and offers art experiences to the students.
- Trena Gallant, from the Nova Scotia Transition & Advocacy (NSTAY) Program, will be returning to our school next week (Dec. 2-4) to meet with all of our students. She has

generously given of her time the past few years to talk to our youth about “Human Trafficking Awareness.” She will educate our students on how to be safe and aware in light of this very real danger among youth in Nova Scotia, and particularly in HRM. We are so pleased that we can offer this valuable educational opportunity to all of our students.

- Cam Upton, the Educational Coordinator with the Youth Project, along with two of the team from the Youth Project, were at our school on October 29th. The team worked with our grade 8 students to support their understanding of the necessity and beauty of creating genuine inclusive spaces for all at school and beyond. This is a critical piece of citizenship education that we are proud to be bringing to some members of our St. Agnes school population. The Youth Project team was then able to attend a GSA luncheon in the library, allowing our GSA club a chance to learn more about the Youth Project and get some input from the guests about making their GSA club grow and prosper.

Sports and Clubs:



- Our Male Identifying Soccer team had a wonderful showing this season making it to the final for the 4th year in a row. With a combined coaching staff of community members and former students, the boys worked right to the final whistle and grew as the season went on.
- Mr Starzomski is grateful for the assistance of Boris Mirrchev and his son Julien and the older brother of a Gr7, Harrison Dunphy, for helping guide this year’s group. Next year we take the title!
- Robotics – started two weeks ago with Ms. Mothana
- Techsploration – will be up and running again after the holidays.

- Volleyball – Female Identifying team made it to the semi finals but sadly lost their game yesterday against Oxford 3-1. They had an incredible season with two wonderful coaches. The boys are in the semi finals today against Gorsebrook it will be an exciting match as we beat the Bears in the regular season the Bears took a win over us in their tournament this past weekend.
- Basketball – Male Identifying team is picked and the female identifying team are currently having tryouts. The season begins after the holidays.
- Early morning gym with both Mr. Seeley and Mr. Brown

In the Works:

- Newcomer night – December 5th.
- Report Cards and Parent Teacher – December 3rd
- School Communication
- New school websites – have you had a chance to have a look? Any feedback?
- ANS Speaker Series – still working on bookings
- SAJHS Wood Shop