

January 9, 2025

ST. AGNES JUNIOR HIGH PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Spirit Week:

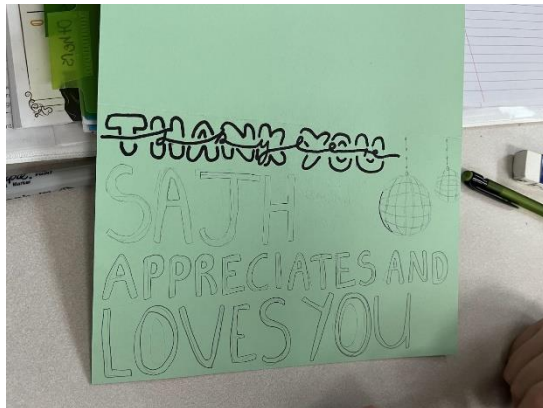


A great week of school spirit!!

Student Council:

Student Council Events:

In November, Student Council members showed their appreciation for the staff at St. Agnes by making cards for each staff member and hosting a Café Cart with coffee, tea, and treats.



On November 8, Student Council members hosted the Remembrance Day Ceremony, presented the readings, and worked together to help coordinate a meaningful ceremony for the St. Agnes school community.



Student Council hosted a 2-week food drive in support of Feed Nova Scotia for which the St. Agnes school community raised more than 800 food items. Food was collected by Stuff-A-Bus on Dec. 6.



Student Council members teamed up with the Learning Center to start a Best Buddies style club at the school. They will be enjoying activities together such as open gym, crafts, and cooking.



Student Council organized several community building activities in December. Reps made and delivered hot chocolate to every single student in the building and hosted a school-wide game of BINGO.



Bingo Hosts

Student Council planned spirit days during the last week of school before the break. They also organized a door decorating competition which allowed students and staff to show off their creativity!



PJ Day and Twin Day





SAC Grant Requests

- Instructors for Wellness Day or for guest speakers
- Child Studies resources/materials (ex. materials to practice making a healthy snack for a child, guest speaker, first aid class)
- Lights for classroom (to make a more inclusive and welcoming environment)
- Laminator machine
- Discovery Centre Field Trip
- Funding for craft supplies and cooking supplies for Best Buddies group -
- Funding for Student Council events that require prizes or supplies -
- Funding for Council members to participate in team building and leadership opportunities

- Phys Ed equipment for gym. Basketballs, volleyball refresh. Stock has taken a hit in past few months.
- A really good 3D printer so that students can design and print things in Tech Ed - steel rulers that last long and don't break easily
- iPad & Apple pencils for digital art and design (t-shirt designs for using with Cricut machine, 2D drawing and animation using Procreate, stop-motion animations using Stop Motion)
- Audio Visual equipment for the gym
- Desks for classrooms

Student Success Planning:

- Paul Carreiro is continuing his time at St. Agnes in the roll of ANS Support Grant Teacher.
- Currently working on our plans for cycle two.
- 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 is continuing with us until mid February. On Wednesday we met with the full staff to workshop how teachers can use CRP tools in their classrooms to ensure all students feel welcome and seen. Based on the work of Zaretta Hammond, author of Culturally Responsive Teaching and The Brain we want to build a sense of community and connection in the classroom so that it supports the social, emotional, and intellectual safety of all students. Amanda will also be working with our ANS support worker to help create some great learning opportunities for our ANS students that will coincide with African Nova Scotian Heritage Month.

Guidance:

- 12 grade 9 students participated in the YMCA Y Mind program here at the school and completed the program just before the holiday break. These students now have a 1-year free membership to the Y, plus some solid skills for managing stress and anxiety.
- Trena Gallant, from the Nova Scotia Transition & Advocacy (NSTAY) Program, met with each of our homerooms in early December to talk to our youth about "Human Trafficking Awareness." As always, she was very well received by the students.
- The first follow up session to the "We're Not That Kind of School" workshop has taken place. Skyler and Rhonda presented "The 4 Ds of Being an Active Bystander" to each homeroom before the holiday break. Students learned various ways of actively disrupting mean behaviours they might witness, with an emphasis on personal safety. This is the first of several follow up sessions which will reinforce the goal of shifting the school culture to full blown compassion and harmony. The next follow up will take place later in January and tie into the re-launch of "St. Agnes Speak" student surveys which we had at school last year.
- Rhonda will meet with each grade 9 homeroom on January 14th to begin discussing Course Selection and Grade 10 planning with them. Then one of the School Counsellors from Citadel High will be here on January 30th and she will run through the course selection process with them as well. After this "double dose" of information, the grade 9s will be ready to make their course selections: course selection sheets will go home at the end of January and will be filled out, signed by parents/guardians and returned to homeroom teachers by February 14th. Rhonda will then meet with each grade 9 student individually to make sure that their course selection is complete and there are no errors.
- Rhonda will be visiting all the grade 7s for her annual "Building Healthy Boundaries" presentation during the 3rd week of January. She will re-visit the grade 8 students with a refresher on boundaries and meet with the grade 9s about boundaries as it relates to consent, following up on what the Dal Law students presented to them in November.
- Rhonda is in the preliminary stage of organizing a visit to Hope Blooms with some of our ANS students. This will happen sometime in February.

Sports and Clubs:

GSA - happening Thursdays at lunch

Robotics

Techsploration

Photo - happening Fridays at lunch

Art - happening Mondays at lunch

Both our Female Identifying and Male Identifying basketball teams kick off their seasons this week.

In the Works:

- ANS Speaker Series - still working on bookings
- SAJHS Wood Shop
- Grade Nine Planning
- Fundraising