

March 20, 2025

ST. AGNES JUNIOR HIGH PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

African Heritage Month:

Throughout the month of February students were provided with an ANS trivia question each morning. Answers were submitted by google form and a winner was chosen the following day. Prizes were awarded to each winner.

During our ILT period each week students have been working hard on creating videos that highlight ANS communities in our province. These videos will be edited together into one video that will be shown to all students allowing them to learn from each other.

On February 2nd 5 of our ANS students travelled to the North End Branch library to participate in the African Heritage Quiz.

As part of African Heritage Month, 22 ANS students and 3 chaperones had a field trip on Feb 21st to Hope Blooms and the Community Y. Two of the team at Hope Blooms gave us a tour of the facility, shared the story of the organization, and offered the students samples of their delicious salad dressings, Hot Chocolate, and Teas. Then the field trip moved to the Community Y, where everyone enjoyed a luncheon and conversation/activities about good leadership, ambition, and legacy led by two ANS youth leaders at the YMCA



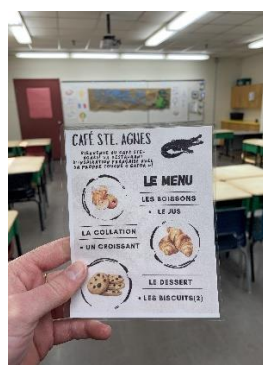
February 26th, we held two school wide assemblies featuring hip hop artist Maje and special guest Quoia States. The students loved the positive messages both local artists shared on following your passion to make your dreams come true.



On February 28th period five students participated in a school wide, ANS themed bingo. Lots of fun was had and prizes awarded.

Student Council - Classroom Events:

On March 4th Madame Smith held a French Café for her grade 8 Core French students. This was a wonderful event that included volunteer support from some of our grade 9 students. A huge thank you to Café Lunette for donating delicious croissants for our students to enjoy!!



A grade 9 band trip took place on February 17th. Grade 9 students were bussed to Citadel High School where they had the opportunity to hear the Citadel band perform. Students were then placed in sectionals with similar instruments from other Grade 9 bands feeding into Citadel High. All the bands then came together and performed two pieces as a concert band of over 100 students.

Lots of Pizza Parties for the winners of our door decorating competition in December.



Lots of fun in Mr. Chan's Science 7, engineering unit. Students were tasked with building a paper tower that could hold as many textbooks as possible without falling. They had 20 minutes to build, 6 sheets of paper and 45cm of tape. The tower in the picture below ended up holding 37 textbooks.



SAC Grant Requests

- Stacey has returned and is currently working on sourcing out the teachers requests.

Student Success Planning:

- Paul Carreiro (ANS support Grant Teacher) has finished his time with us at St. Agnes. During his time here Paul was able to support over 20 of our ANS students primarily in math.
- Currently working on our reflections for cycle two and our goals for cycle three.
- Amanda Maher – Culturally Relevant Pedagogy Specialist also finished with us in February.

Guidance:

- Grade 9 Students have completed their Grade 10 Course Selections. This process starts the last week of January and just finished the first week of March. We hosted a School Counsellor, the IB Coordinator, and the O2 Coordinator from Citadel High to talk to the grade 9s, our School Counsellor met with each grade 9 student one-on-one, and we had successful parent meetings with interpreters present for the grade 9 parents who don't speak English, so that they understand the transition to high school and what the EAL pathway looks like for their student.
- Junior High Re-Engagement – we currently have three students being supported by this re-engagement program through BFEC, which is a program to help students struggling with anxiety which is preventing them from attending school. One of the requirements of participating in this program is students engaging in Mental Health care, and this has resulted in a stronger relationship between some IWK clinicians and St. Agnes Jr. High
- GRINS – YMCA has partnered with Gambling Risk Informed Nova Scotia and created an “Odds and Ends Youth Workshop” they are taking to schools. St. Agnes hosted the first of these presentations/workshops in February, informing our grade 9s about this very important issue, and helping the students develop skills to critically examine the gaming industry and learn how to stand up against the methods that industry uses to encourage teenage brains to begin gambling. Students were very receptive to the workshops and both students and staff offered valuable feedback to the presenter so that she can take this information back to GRINS and they can continue to refine and perfect this program.
- HRM Grade 9 Citizenship Award Applications are underway. Each year the Halifax Regional Municipality's Citizenship Award is presented to outstanding Grade 9 students in HRM, and each school has only one award recipient. This recipient is chosen based on the following criteria:
 - Qualities of leadership in the school and community, and
 - Commendable academic performance in all courses in which they are enrolled.

Grade 9 households have been sent the information and online forms (student application and Evaluators Form) and students have been told about this opportunity and also have the links to the applications in their Citizenship Google Classroom. This award will be decided by committee in late March and the Award will be presented at City Hall later in the spring.

- Our Wellness Goal continues to move along: “We’re Not That Kind of School” recently codified all the data we got from the students during the initial workshops, and more recently we had students complete a “St. Agnes Speaks” survey which has given us updated information on how the students feel the initiative’s impact is holding up as the weeks go on. We will now graph the results and return to the classrooms to share the results with the students and have them brainstorm what they think would be the best “next step” for our school to solidify the purpose of this initiative – having all students treat one another with civility all the time.
- Rhonda, our School Counsellor, recently completed her level 1 VTRA training (Violence Threat Risk Assessment) at HRCE and will return in May for level 2. Ms. Martin and Ms. Bonin will also complete Level 2 in April.
- Dal Law students will be returning to St. Agnes, this time to offer workshops to our grade 8 and 9 students about their rights within the criminal justice system. Specifically, they focus on initial youth interactions with the police and discuss what their rights and obligations are. They also touch on youth interactions with security guards, rights while driving, the right to have parents and a lawyer present during interactions with police, and even legal interactions with teachers.
- Grade 7 students will receive LungNSPEI’s Youth Vaping Awareness Presentation on March 20th. This event aims to provide evidence-informed information about youth vaping. Thank you to Ms. Bonin for taking the lead with organizing this valuable presentation.

Sports and Clubs:

- GSA – happening Thursdays at lunch
- Robotics – happening Tuesdays at lunch and they just completed in the Robotics competition at Acadia.
- Techsploration – had their first field trip to Atlantic Towing to meet with their mentor who is a Tugboat Operator.
- Photo Club– happening Fridays at lunch
- Art Club – happening Mondays at lunch

- Ramadan Club – happening every Tuesday and Thursday for fasting students.
- Badminton Season is getting under way. We had over 70 students tryout for 16 spots. Students are looking forward to their upcoming tournaments.
- Basketball season has come to an end and it was another great year for both of our teams. Our female identifying team took second place in their division and our male identifying team placed first!!



In the Works:

- SAJHS Wood Shop
- Grade Nine Planning
- Fundraising – Trivia Night, Silent Auction, 50-50 Draws