

November 27th, 2025

ST. AGNES JUNIOR HIGH PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Remembrance Day Ceremony:

We held our annual Remembrance Day Ceremony on November 7th. Student Council and Ms. Cochrane did a wonderful job in putting the event together. We were very happy to welcome Captain Brian Sydel as our guest speaker. Grade 7 student Malin Sorsdahl did a wonderful presentation on her family and their military service. She is pictured here with her father Tyler Sorsdahl.



Trans Gender Day of Remembrance:

November 20th was Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience. Our GSA came together to honor the lives and legacies of transgender and gender-diverse individuals lost to acts of anti-trans violence. We did this by making the posters pictured here and displaying them as a mural before distributing them around the school. Staff also took time out of their lunch break to contribute to the project which was meaningful for the youth to see. Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience is a reminder of the strength and resilience within the community, and the importance of creating safer, more inclusive spaces. As we reflect, let us also commit to taking action in preventing anti-trans violence and fostering acceptance and safety for all.



Lunch Program:

As of October 6th, St. Agnes is now part of the provincial lunch program. Things are going well and on average we are giving out 70 meals per day. Ordering is open to both parents and students, and it is a pay what you can program.

Peer Tutoring:



St. Agnes has started a peer-tutoring program where selected Grade 9 students are paired with Grade 7 learners to offer support with both schoolwork and organizational

skills. Grade 7 teachers submit requests for specific students and advise the tutor what they should work on with the grade 7 student. The Grade 7s have enjoyed connecting with their Grade 9 mentors. More students have requested to be matched with a tutor, so we are looking at ways to expand the program in the new year.

Student Success Planning:

- Paul Carreiro is continuing his time at St. Agnes in the roll of ANS Support Grant Teacher.
- UIT is scheduled in resource to allow ongoing student support throughout the day.
- Math Coach beginning on December 1st until January 31st.
- Cycle One ends this week.
- PD = grade 7 Math Teachers, Core French Teachers, Code of Conduct

Guidance:

We are pleased to share additional initiatives taking place this fall to continue supporting students academically, socially, and emotionally at St. Agnes. Our **Grade 9 Equity Team** continues their work this fall, developing a continuation of **the *We're Not That Type of School* program** for review with Grades 8 and 9. The team is ensuring that the program is student-driven, engaging, and relevant, and they will be participating in team-building activities throughout December to strengthen cohesion and leadership skills.

We are also expanding our collaboration with the **Youth Project**. In addition to their earlier classroom visit with Grade 8 students, the Youth Project will be offering **office hours at St. Agnes** and supporting **bi-weekly GSA sessions**, providing students with consistent and accessible support throughout the school year.

Our partnership with the **McPhee Centre for Creative Learning** continues to offer creative opportunities for students, as a local artist joins our **Art Club on the first Tuesday of each month**. Students are able to work alongside a practicing artist to explore new materials, techniques, and special projects, further fostering creativity and skill development.

We are preparing for **Grade 7 vaping-awareness presentations** on **December 2** through **LungNSPEI's Youth Vaping Awareness Days**. A volunteer from Dalhousie's Medical Science program will deliver the sessions in classrooms, each lasting 45–60 minutes.

Sessions will include a pre-recorded vaping prevention presentation, a facilitated class discussion, and interactive activities to reinforce key learning objectives. The goal of these sessions is to provide students, educators, and families with **evidence-informed information**, increase awareness about vaping, reduce vaping onset, and support students in making healthy, informed decisions.

In addition, we are preparing for an important **school-wide initiative in collaboration with TESS (Trafficking and Exploitation Services System)**. Presentations will be offered to **every homeroom for Grades 7-9** throughout **December**, providing students with evidence-informed knowledge, resources, and strategies to navigate safety, healthy relationships, and online environments. TESS is a provincial partnership of over 70 agencies working across Nova Scotia to respond to and prevent commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth, and their expertise will help ensure students have access to critical information and support.

Finally, we are currently **finalizing dates for Daneesha Provo** to deliver **two one-hour presentations** to the student body in January. Daneesha Provo is the founder of the **Daneesha Provo Canadian Basketball Academy** and a former member of the **Canadian Senior Women's Basketball Team**. She is also a former NCAA Division I athlete at the University of Utah, where she earned degrees in Health Science (Child Life emphasis) and Sociology (Disabilities Studies concentration). Born in North Preston, Nova Scotia, Daneesha is dedicated to supporting youth in Nova Scotia and the Atlantic Provinces, using basketball as a platform to teach leadership, resilience, teamwork, and educational growth. Her presentations will provide students with inspiration, practical strategies for personal development, and insights into goal-setting, leadership, and perseverance.

Pre-Service Teachers:

We have three pre-service teachers starting with us this month. They are working in Social Studies, English, Physical Education, English, Math and Science. They are here for various amounts of time up to and including the month of April.

Sports and Clubs:

Soccer – Mr. Star, Ms. Steeves, Ms. Thomas

Our **Male Identifying Soccer Team** completed an excellent season, finishing with a hard-fought semifinal match against Halifax Grammar. In that game, our group demonstrated exceptional teamwork, resilience, and commitment to each other and to

our school. We held a very strong Grammar side, (who would go on to become league champions), to a 1-1 draw at halftime. Grammar found the net early in the second half, but our team continued to battle relentlessly, controlling much of the play and creating opportunities, but ultimately unable to secure the equalizer.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our volunteer coach, Boris Mirtchev, for his dedication and for working closely with Mr. Star throughout the season.

As our Grade 9 players move on to high school, we wish them every success. Marvelous, Aaron, Alex B., Nolan W., Kilvin, Phillipe, Linden, Rivan, and Yulli have each been significant contributors to our program over their three years at St. Agnes, and we thank them for their leadership and commitment.



X-Country – Mr. Ryan, Ms. Steeves

Our Cross-Country team completed their season in October with some excellent running from some Gator Greats! A very talented regional championship led to our Int. Girls team being the only team of 7 to advance to provincials. They were joined by a strong individual performance from Grace Ferguson who finished 3rd in the Capital region. SSNS provincials were preceded by some good fun on a BLT bike workout and some tough practicing. At Provincials, Grace started things off with an awesome 4th place finish. Our Int. Girls capped off their incredible cross-country careers with a 3rd place finish from Emma Laycock and a 4th overall finish from our team. Already looking forward to next season!

Tech Club -

Tech club has begun! On Wednesdays in the tech ed lab, students have come in to learn and produce multiple items for our St. Agnes Spirit Store! Stay tuned for some great designs and opportunities to represent St. Agnes. Our first store will be run during progress conferences on December 3rd.

Techsploration -

Ms. Furlong's **Techsploration team** has been picked for this year. We are excited to see who the team mentor will be for St. Agnes. The team met for the first time on November 26th. This club typically runs until May and focuses on encouraging female students to explore careers in STEM.

Dungeons and Dragons

Meet weekly with Mr. Fullerton.

In the Works:

- Ms. Furlong will be starting a Book Club that will take place Tuesdays at lunch.
- Newcomer night - Rescheduled to February.
- Canadian National Geography Challenge
- Basketball tryouts are beginning this week.
- Report Cards - December 2nd
- Progress Conferences - December 3rd and 4th
- Holiday Villages - December 19th