

March 12th, 2026

ST. AGNES JUNIOR HIGH PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Holiday Villages:



Our first ever Holiday Village Contest was a huge success. Classes really came together to produce some incredible villages. The teamwork and class bonding were wonderful to witness. 801 was the overall school winner. 901, 803, 705, were the overall homeroom winners for each grade.

Spirit Day Game:



Spirit day was held January 30th. Students and staff came decked out in Gator gear. During the afternoon we had the female identifying and male identifying volleyball teams play each other followed by a staff vs student game. It was a wonderful afternoon of Gator Spirit.

On March 12th we look forward to welcoming the Halifax Regional Police Basketball Team to take on our Grade 9 male and female basketball players. Students are really looking forward to the rematch.

African Nova Scotia History Month:



Daneesha Provo delivered **two one-hour presentations** to the student body in On February 9th. 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 provided students with inspiration, practical strategies for personal development, and insights into goal setting, leadership, and perseverance.

Quiz Team:

The Annual African Nova Scotian Heritage Quiz took place at the North End Memorial Library. Our school team came third out of 15 teams.



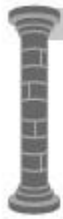
Center Line Studio:

Our ANS students travelled to Center Line Studio where they had a chance to experience African Drumming, Sound studio, beat mixing and some students laid down their first studio recording.



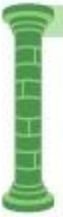
African Nova Scotian Educational Framework:

In recognition of African Heritage Month, our staff engaged in focused learning and reflection centered on the African Nova Scotian Educational Framework and its five pillars. Throughout the month, we took time as a team to explore how these pillars connect to our practices and to consider ways they can continue to inform and strengthen our work with students. This shared focus encouraged meaningful discussion and reinforced our commitment to creating a learning environment that is reflective, inclusive, and responsive to the histories and experiences of African Nova Scotian communities.



AUTHENTIC SELF-IDENTIFICATION

African Nova Scotian students are descendants of rich, multi-generational, and multi-ethnic histories of strength, resilience, and innovation. Members of Nova Scotia's Black communities choose to self-identify in ways that honour their identity, cultural assets, and ways of being. Nurturing and affirming students' identities demonstrates that their individual and collective identities are valued.



KNOWING THEM AS THEY ARE KNOWN

African Nova Scotian cultural beliefs systems affirm Black children as wonderful creations that are endowed with gifts and talents that must be nurtured through individual and collectively confirming experiences. Authentic, strengths-based practices that honour spiritual, familial, and communal understandings, and that engage the brilliance of Black learners through culturally responsive teaching, inspire wellness, a sense of belonging, and success at school.



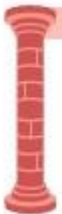
EQUITABLE ACCESS AND INVOLVEMENT

Increasing access to resources and meaningful involvement in decision making in support of African Nova Scotian/Black students, parents, and staff that is consistent with roles and responsibilities.



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING AND SERVICES

Meaningful academic and wellness programming, services, and supports that nurture and inspire children and students from pre-primary to graduation towards their goals and career options. This includes the collection, monitoring, and analysis of data to enable access to courses, programs, and opportunities leading to post-secondary pathways.



EMPOWERING PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Intentional actions, processes, and opportunities that empower parents, families, and a student's system of support as essential decision makers regarding programming and/or support for their child. An authentic collaborative partnership between home, school, and community that supports and strengthens their child's well-being and achievement.

Daily Quiz on Announcements:

For the month of February, we had a daily quiz that focused on notable African Nova Scotian people, places, events, and more! For this a question was read over the announcements each day and students were able to submit answers online. Each day, one winner was selected from all those who submitted correct answers to win a prize!

Equity Team / T-Shirts:



Our Equity Team continues to play an important leadership role within the school community. In January, Skyler, our CYCP, Ms. Hughes, Mr. Ryan and the Equity Team worked together to design and create team t-shirts. The shirts reflect the values of the *We're Not That Type of School* initiative, which promotes respect, inclusion, and a positive school climate. Students on the Equity Team will wear the shirts around the school and during classroom presentations as they help lead conversations and activities connected to the program. The shirts help increase visibility for the team and reinforce the message that everyone has a role to play in creating a safe, respectful, and inclusive school environment.

Talent Show:

Friday, March 6th we ended our week with an amazing student/staff Talent Show. We had 14 acts in total. Everything from Broadway numbers to rock songs, to naming all the countries in the world in under four minutes. It was a tonne of fun and just what everyone needed!!

Grant Spending:

See attached sheet.

Student Success Planning:

- Jen Bragg Literacy Coach/Support Teacher (January 26 – February 27th) worked with grade seven and eight teachers and students.

- Cheryl Walker Math Coach/Support Teacher (December 1 – January 31) – worked with grade seven and eight teachers and students
- Cycle Two has ended and we are in our final cycle of the year.
- PCans
- RWM8
- Scheduling, Staffing, Class composition and transition meetings
- Staff PD – Mothana and Chan attended grade 7 math teacher PD, Cochrane Literacy Lead Team PD at HRCE.

Guidance News and School Presentations:

Our **Grade 9 course selection** process for Citadel High School is currently nearing completion. The process began in January and will conclude in early March. Throughout this period, our school has hosted visits from Citadel High School counsellors, administrators, and the O2 Coordinator, who have provided students with important information about course options, pathways, and opportunities available in high school. Students will also receive additional presentations about the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program, as well as a presentation from Mr. Morrison, Principal of Citadel High School, who will speak with students about the Afrocentric Program and the opportunities it offers.

As part of supporting students during this important transition, Ms. Hughes, the school counsellor, has met individually with **each Grade 9 student** to review course selections and discuss plans for high school. Ms. Hughes will also be coordinating interpretation support for students and families whose first language is not English, ensuring that parents and guardians clearly understand the transition to high school and the English Language Arts (ELA) pathway options available for their child. These individualized conversations help ensure that students and families feel informed and supported as they prepare for the next stage of their education.

We are also currently supporting two students through the Re-Engagement Program offered through **BFEC**. This program supports students experiencing anxiety that impacts their ability to attend school regularly. A key component of participation in the program involves students engaging in mental health care. Through this collaboration, we have developed a stronger working relationship with IWK clinicians, helping ensure students receive coordinated support between school and community mental health services.

Following March Break, we will welcome RCMP Constable Kaela Ramsey, who will be visiting St. Agnes to speak with classes about **human trafficking** and the risks young people can face both online and in the community. These presentations will focus on increasing student awareness, helping students recognize potential warning signs, and empowering them with strategies to stay safe and seek support when needed. This preventative education helps ensure students have the knowledge and tools to navigate increasingly complex social and online environments.

Ms. Hughes will also be meeting with Deandrea McIntosh, Community Outreach Worker with the **YMCA**, to explore potential partnerships and supports available for our students through YMCA programming. Some of the programs we will be discussing include the GRINs (Girls/Guys Resiliency and Inner Strength) workshop, which focuses on building resilience, confidence, and healthy coping strategies for youth, as well as Y Mind, a program designed to support youth experiencing anxiety through structured group sessions focused on coping strategies and emotional regulation.

In addition, we hope to learn more about the **Anchor Youth Space**, which opened last September. Anchor Youth Space offers youth-friendly access to mental health supports, primary care, peer support, and connections to community resources. We are exploring the possibility of arranging a presentation for students facilitated by a mental health clinician to help raise awareness of the services available through this important community resource.

Grade 7 vaping-awareness presentations took place on **December 2** through **LungNSPEI's Youth Vaping Awareness Days**. A volunteer from Dalhousie's Medical Science program delivered the sessions in classrooms, each lasting 45–60 minutes. Sessions included a pre-recorded vaping prevention presentation, a facilitated class discussion, and interactive activities to reinforce key learning objectives. The goal of these sessions was 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.

On January 14th the **Cove Outreach Program** came to work with grade 9 Citizenship Students. Students learned about wind energy and other renewable energy sources in Nova Scotia. The physics of a wind turbine. Offshore wind turbines. Careers in wind energy.

Students also learned how to use technology to measure windspeed. Build their own wind turbines and calculate the amount of electricity generated by their turbines.

COVE Outreach Program:

COVE, based in Dartmouth, NS, is an **innovation hub** that connects people, ideas, and resources to advance Canada's marine technology sector. COVE offers a **free outreach program for educators** in Nova Scotia.

As part of their workforce development team, COVE focuses on building future talent for the blue economy by offering ocean literacy programming for **grades 4–12** and introducing students to career opportunities in this growing field.

EAL/YMCA Partnership - St. Agnes Junior High is pleased to be holding a special advance session of parent-teacher conferences for our newcomer and EAL families. They are encouraged to make an appointment for in-person meetings on Wednesday, April 1st, 2026. The administration and YMCA have organized this event to provide language interpretation and extended appointments so that all their questions about school, such as those previously asked in the YMCA survey, can be answered. The conferences will be facilitated by the EAL teacher, Krissy Brewer, but arrangements can be made to briefly meet with a specific classroom teacher or staff member as requested.

Pre-Service Teachers:

- Jacob Swanson is currently working with Mr. Gallant (Social Studies and Tech Ed) finishes April 16th.
- Sam Townend (Mr. Seely) returns on April 13th and finishes June 26th.
- Ethan Ryder (Mr. McInnis) returns on April 13th and finishes on May15th.

Sports and Clubs:

Basketball:

The Male and Female Identifying basketball teams recently completed their seasons. The Male Identifying team challenged Graham Creighton in the semi-final and came up short, but a successful season, nonetheless, finishing undefeated in regular season play and only having the one loss to GCJH. A big thank you to Mr. Brown and Courtney for their work with the team this season. Our Female Identifying team, led by Mr. Ryan, saw many successes through the season but seemingly came up short on the scoreboard by always a small margin. Games that could have easily gone the other way, but such is JH sports sometimes. We certainly thank Mr. Ryan and his team of coaches for their work in developing our players for the next level on and off the court.



Badminton:

The badminton team has just been selected by Mr. Starzomski with tournaments to occur just after March Break. Our Junior tournament will be Thursday, March 26th 3:15-9:45pm at Sackville High School. The Intermediate City tournament will be during the day on Tuesday, March 31st at Citadel High School. 830am the gym opens for warmup with games beginning at 9am sharp all day. Good luck to our Gators!

Robotics Club – Competed in **the robotics** competition February 8th at Acadia University. Students placed 7th out of 30 teams. This was a huge improvement from last year. We are excited to see this program grow!!!

Board Game Club - meets every lunch hour in Ms. Wiggett's classroom.

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 - The Techsploration Team is preparing for their work site visit to BIO on March 26th. Their mentor, Sara Raymond, works with Canadian Hydrographic Services (CHS) out of the Bedford Institute of Oceanography (BIO). Essentially, Sara's team is responsible for all hydrographic data ever collected in the Atlantic Provinces since the 1800's. We are excited to see what Sara's job looks like day to day and learn more about what it means to be a hydrographer. After our visit to her work site, we will be busy preparing for our presentation at the Techsploration Conference in May.

Chess Club -

Dungeons and Dragons - Meets weekly with Mr. Fullerton.

In the Works:

- Report Cards - March 30
- Progress Conferences - April 1st and 2nd.
- Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia Mike Savage April 8th
- Grade Nine Planning