

June 18th, 2026

ST. AGNES JUNIOR HIGH PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Pride Month:

Pride Flag Raising:

Members of the GSA, Equity Team, Techsploration, staff and the Youth Project participated in our first ever Pride Flag raising ceremony. Beautiful words were shared by students and the Youth Project. A great way to kick off Pride Month.



Craft Sale:

The 3rd annual GSA bake/craft sale was incredible. Through everyone's generous contributions we raised over **500 dollars to support the Youth Project!!!**



Coffee House:

There will be several student performances, some invited guest and treats. A wonderful celebration of students supporting each other in a safe and caring environment. Put on by our amazing GSA. (with support from Skyler and Ms. Hughes)

EAL Newcomer Field Trip:

EAL and Newcomer students took an exciting field trip to the Public Gardens for a scavenger hunt, a tour of the YMCA and then biking at the Oval. Lots of fun was had completing a scavenger hunt at the Public Gardens and riding bikes at the Oval. Bikes, ducks and flowers were listed as the kids' favorite parts of the trip.



Spelling Bee:

Our first annual Spelling Bee was a huge success!! Huge thank you to Ms. Wiggett for all of her hard work. Our top three spellers all came from grade 7. The over all winner was Sujan Kolukula, 2nd place went to Demilade Ayeni and 3rd place went to Archie Dauphinee. Our staff winner of the day was Ms. Bonin!!



Black Excellence:

May 15th is Black Excellence Day in Nova Scotia. The date serves to highlight Black joy, resilience, and the historical contributions of Black Canadians while combatting systemic racism. Ms. Thomas taught a wonderful lesson to our ANS students on the meaning of their Black Joy. Ms. Bonin created an amazing Gallery Walk of photos highlighting our amazing black students and our Equity Team created a beautiful poster and treat bags. Staff wore St. Agnes black excellence t-shirts and many students wore black to show our respect and appreciation of our black students and staff. Treat bags were given out at the end of the day each featuring a small profile of a historical black Canadian.



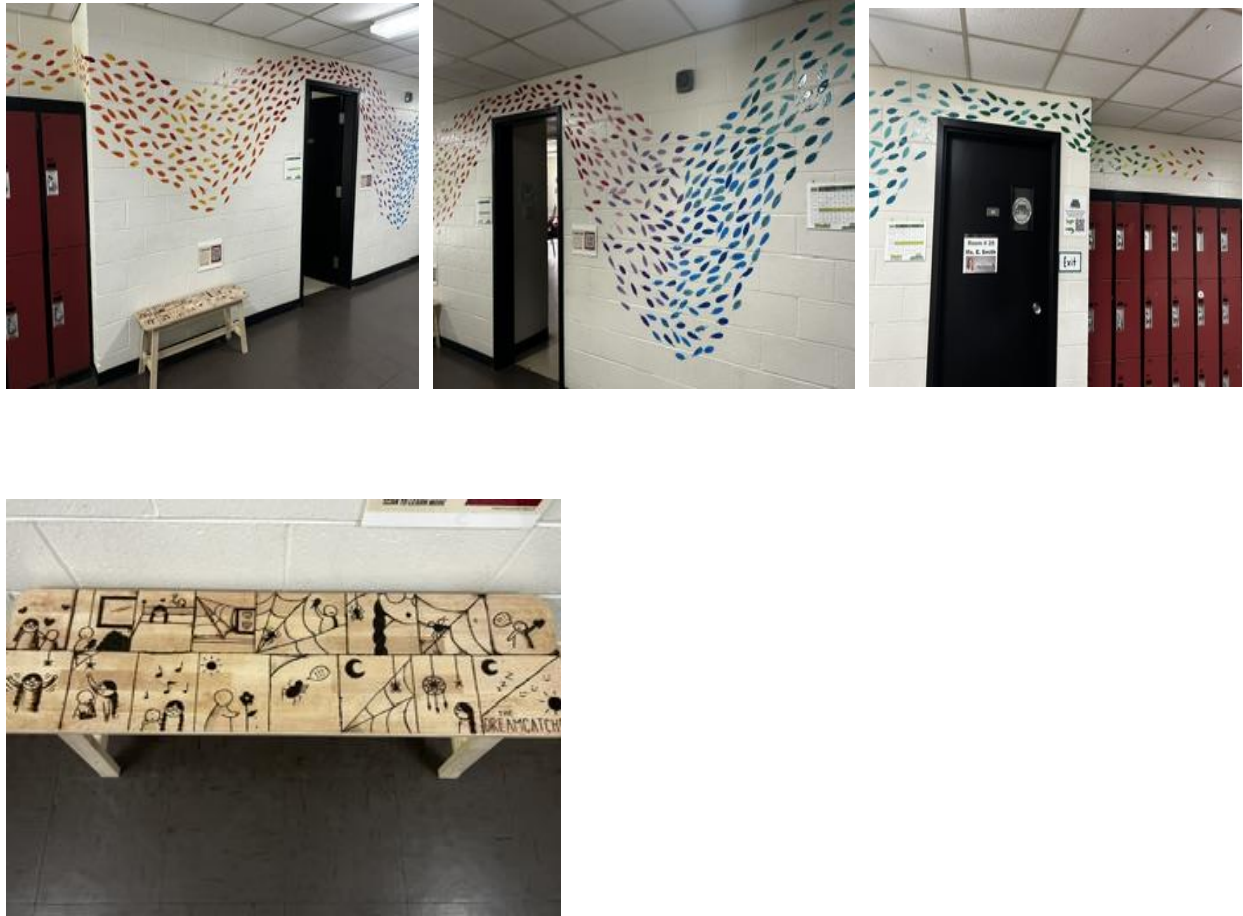
Indigenous Mural and Bench Dedication:

Students created a whole-school mural reflecting their learning about residential schools. After exploring first-person accounts and the impacts of intergenerational trauma, students responded to two questions: *How would it feel to be at residential school?* and *How should children feel at school?* Their responses were written on feathers, with orange feathers representing the experiences of Indigenous children in residential schools and multicoloured feathers symbolizing hope, belonging, and respect.

The feathers were arranged in a swirling display that moves from remembrance to hope. The orange section honours the resilience of survivors and recognizes the lasting impacts of the residential school system, while the transition to vibrant colours reflects healing, understanding, and the belief that every child deserves to feel safe, valued, and supported at school—because Every Child Matters.

Located beneath the mural of Remembrance and Hope is the Dreamcatcher Bench. In collaboration with Halifax Regional Arts specialist Colin Briggs, a group of students designed and helped create artwork burned into a wooden bench inspired by the symbolism of the dreamcatcher. Through this process, students learned about Indigenous traditions and values, including protection, unity, and respect.

The completed bench serves as a lasting piece of functional art and a reflection of student creativity and learning. Together, the bench and mural provide a space for reflection, remembrance, and hope.



Arlie Walsh, the Indigenous Education Consultant from HRCE attended the dedication and later held a smudging ceremony with the grade nines to honor the end of their Jr. High experience and the beginning of the next chapter of their schooling.

Learning Center Fun:

Our learning center students work with Mr. Gallant each week for LC music time. They switched it up over the last few weeks and enjoyed some time in the shop making tool boxes.



Waterloo Math Competition:

The junior high Waterloo math contest is known as the **Gauss Contest**, administered by the Centre for Education in Mathematics and Computing (CEMC) at the University of Waterloo. It is specifically designed for students in Grades 7 and 8 to foster an interest in mathematics through accessible, intriguing problem-solving.



Format and Structure

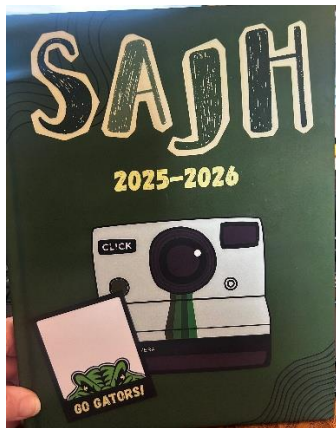
- **Grades:** Offered separately for Grade 7 and Grade 8 students.
- **Format:** 25 multiple-choice questions.
- **Time Limit:** 60 minutes.

- **Scoring:** Out of 150 total marks.
- **Calculators:** Calculators are permitted, as the test focuses on logical reasoning and ingenuity rather than pure memorization.

Grade Nines:

- **Tuesday, June 23rd, 5-7pm** - Grade 9 Boat Cruise
- **Thursday, June 25th** - Grade 9 Breakfast and Ceremony Rehearsal
- **Friday, June 26th 9:30 am** - Grade 9 Ceremony (Doors Open at 9:00am)

Yearbooks Have Arrived



The 2025-2026 Yearbook will be distributed to students on June 22nd.

Student Success Planning:

Literacy:

Collaboration around literacy goals has strengthened consistency in instructional practices across classrooms and subject areas. Classroom observations indicate that students are becoming more familiar with comprehension strategies through consistent modeling and guided practice.

Math:

Student work, assessments, and classroom observations indicate growth in students' ability to communicate mathematical reasoning and apply problem-solving strategies with greater independence.

Teachers became more intentional in creating opportunities for students to explain, justify, and communicate their mathematical thinking throughout daily instruction.

Wellness:

The implementation of the *Woah, Woah, Woah* program has positively influenced teaching practices by increasing educators' confidence and capacity to facilitate discussions on sensitive and complex topics. Teachers report that classroom conversations have become more engaging and meaningful, with students demonstrating a greater willingness to participate respectfully and share diverse perspectives. The program has also encouraged staff to place a greater emphasis on social-emotional learning, leadership development, empathy, and bystander awareness within their classrooms. As a result, teachers are intentionally creating opportunities for students to practice communication, perspective-taking, and responsible decision-making skills.

Teachers report that conversations around sensitive issues in class have become more engaging, but we note that more work needs to be done. This work is already in place for the start of next school year with a Guys Group planned for September, Girls Group will follow shortly after, and Bystander sessions will take place for the grade 7's between September and October and again in November and December.

Guidance News and School Presentations:

Catapult Leadership Camp Success:

We were excited to learn in early May that another St. Agnes student has been selected to attend the prestigious Catapult Leadership Camp at Acadia University this August. Congratulations to **Calum Reid**, who was chosen as one of only 60 students from across Nova Scotia to participate in this exceptional leadership development experience. Catapult brings together student leaders from across the province to build leadership skills, foster connections, and inspire positive change in their schools and communities. We are proud of Calum's achievement and know he will represent St. Agnes well.

Techsploration Success:

Our Techsploration team had an outstanding experience at this year's Techsploration Conference held at Dalhousie University in May. Throughout the program, students explored a variety of career pathways in skilled trades, technology, and applied sciences while developing hands-on skills and confidence. Their hard work and dedication were recognized with a **second-place finish**, earning the team a banner for their achievement. We are incredibly proud of our students for representing St. Agnes so well.

O2 Program Placements at Citadel High:

We are pleased to share that Citadel High School has completed its selection process for next

year's O2 (Options and Opportunities) Program. Of the 20 available seats, **six St. Agnes Gators** have been awarded placement. Considering that more than 100 students from five feeder schools competed for these opportunities, our students achieved outstanding success. This accomplishment reflects their hard work, perseverance, and readiness to engage in experiential learning pathways that connect school to future career opportunities.

Grade 6 Orientation and Parent Information Evening:

Our Grade 6 Orientation and Grade 6 Parent Information Evening were a tremendous success. We were fortunate to have the support of our Grade 8 and 9 student leaders, who served as outstanding ambassadors for our future Gators. They welcomed students and parents, facilitated activities in the gymnasium, and led tours throughout the school. These efforts helped families explore our learning spaces, meet staff and students, and feel more comfortable with the transition into junior high. We are grateful for their leadership and the positive energy they brought to the event.

New School Plus Facilitator and Guys Work Program:

We are pleased to welcome **Patrick Maubert** as our new School Plus Facilitator. He has already been a positive addition to the St. Agnes team, building strong relationships with students and supporting school initiatives. Patrick is also interested in introducing the **Guys Work Program** at St. Agnes for the upcoming year. Guys Work is a prevention-based program that supports young men in developing emotional literacy, healthy relationships, respectful masculinity, mental wellness, and personal responsibility. It provides a safe space for students to engage in meaningful conversation, strengthen communication skills, and build positive peer connections. We are excited about the potential of bringing this program into our school community as another way to support student growth and well-being.

Scheduling and Staffing

Scheduling:

Scheduling is complete. We have 5 grade seven homerooms, 4 grade eight and 4 grade nine homerooms. Classes are averaging 28-30 per class.

Staffing:

Karyn Harrison heading to Citadel High School next year. Monique Ouellette is the successful candidate for this position.

Anderw Seely is heading to Ridgecliff Middle School. Johanthan Peverill is the successful candidate for this position.

Our 40% term is now in the term postings. Monday and Tuesdays for Child Studies and Healthy Living.

Klara Steeves remains on maternity leave until Christmas so this term has also been posted.

Sports and Clubs:

Our **Female identifying Softball Team** put forth a great effort against very strong opponents last week at the Halifax Commons. While failing to win a game in the round robin, the team showed great determination and resilience throughout the day, never giving up, and falling just shy of two amazing comebacks against West Bedford High and Ellenvale Junior High School. While a very senior team, St. Agnes Gators Softball have a lot to look forward to on the diamond next year with a strong contingent of young, core players ready to take the next step! Thanks to Luke Melanson for coaching for the second year in a row. Ms Furlong enjoyed helping the team for her third year. Extra thank you to Heather (Molly's mom) for bringing lunch for everyone and to Kayla (Amira's mom) for bringing freezies. The kids enjoyed both so much! The Gators showed their athleticism each game and should be extremely proud of themselves.



The **Male Identifying Softball Team** demonstrated great effort, sportsmanship, and resilience at their tournament in early June. The team competed in the first two closely contested and hard-fought games, showing determination and teamwork despite coming up just short on the scoreboard. They had a ton of laughs, some serious moments, and some learning moments on the field. The tourney concluded on a high note with an excellent team victory, a well-deserved result that reflected their growth and dedication and even showed continued sportsmanship as they were up a big score but limited their celebrations so not to embarrass the other team.. It also served as a wonderful and meaningful way for our Grade 9 students to finish off their student-athlete careers at St. Agnes Junior High.

The St. Agnes **Female Identifying Flag Football Team** put on an incredible display of skill, teamwork, and sportsmanship at the Division A Flag Tournament at the BMO Field. Led by a strong contingent of returning senior students, our gators rattled off 4 straight wins on their way to the championship game, beating their opponents by a combined score of 162-25. In the finals, the Gators fell 31-17 to a powerhouse Astral Junior High squad, who in recent weeks went on to beat the Citadel High Flag football team. Great effort, Gators!

A huge congratulations to our **Male Identifying Flag Football** team on an incredible showing last Thursday and Tuesday this week! Competing over two hard-fought days, the boys battled their way all the way to the championship game, representing our school with pride, determination, and outstanding effort. Although they came up just short in the final, their performance was nothing short of impressive especially with half the team playing flag football for the very first time. Their growth, teamwork, and resilience were on full display throughout the tournament.

Our **Gators Track & Field** team completed another successful season on May 29-30 at SSNS Provincials. In the lead up to provincials our 102 Gator athletes worked their way to being one of the best track & field teams during the 2026 season. An Intermediate Girls City Championship combined with successes from our relay teams in the Junior division led to 16 athletes attending provincials this year. At provincials our Gators battled the elements once again and came away with some amazing finishes. Emma Laycock completed her St. Agnes career with an Int. Girls 1500m win. Goodness Olugu and Linden Todd both made Int. Hurdle finals in their first year in the category. Our Jr. Boys relays had a tough meet however Cameron Dunphy showed off in the Jr. Boys 200m; breaking a school record along the way. The meet was capped off by our Int. Girls running their way to a Bronze medal in the Int. Girls 4x400.

Many thanks go out to coaches that have worked incredibly hard to prepare our athletes for these meets. Even more thanks goes out to our graduating athletes that have built an incredible foundation for our program. Three years have flown by and the success that our Grade 9's have had has been truly remarkable and will be remembered for a very long time. Our program turns to the future, ready to continue striving to be the best athletics program in Nova Scotia!

Awards Ceremony on June 18th for all sports and clubs!! 92 awards will be given out!!

In the Works:

Suggestions from SAC