

ST. AGNES JUNIOR HIGH PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



Feb 22nd - Dr. Lennett Anderson

Hour 1 (9:20- 10:10) School Gymnasium addressing full student body (350 grade 7-9 students)

- Focus on resilience and perseverance encouraging youth to say “yes” to opportunities for positive growth and empowerment on their road to becoming community and global citizens

Hour 2 (10:20 – 11:15) Library with a small cohort of approximately 20-30 “VIP – Backstage Pass” ANS Students

- ANS students were invited to a library session with Dr. Anderson which will allow them to engage with Dr. Anderson in a more personal and intimate setting after the first hour. This “Q & A” and discussion format will connect thematically to the keynote address in the gym, but allow the students – with Dr. Anderson’s guidance – to explore what it means to have self-honour, explore tolerance, and consider how to access all the privilege and power they deserve as they grow into adulthood.



African Heritage Month

Feb 27th - Mohamed and Marielle Duranteau African Drumming & Dance

<https://www.wontanaradrumdance.ca/bios>

Mohamed Andre Duranteau is a dancer, choreographer and professional musician from Guinea in West Africa.

Marielle Duranteau (née Comeau) is from Clare, Nova Scotia who discovered African Dance during her participation in the international exchange program Canada World Youth in 2002.



Mohamed and Marielle Duranteau

Feb 27th - Dwayne Provo

Ms. Johnston has registered her class for the virtual NSSHF Hero Chat with Dwayne Provo which is being offered by the Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame. We are pleased to offer a Hero Chat with one of the province's most celebrated Black athletes and community leaders.

Dwayne Provo was born in North Preston, Nova Scotia. Dwayne was drafted in the first round of the CFL draft by the Saskatchewan Roughriders and then signed with the NFL's pre-Tom Brady New England Patriots. Dwayne ended up playing 8 years as a defensive back in the Canadian Football League (CFL), a rare feat for a Canadian-born player.

He attended Saint Mary's University, where he was a two-sport star, excelling in both track and field and football. He was named SMU's Male Athlete of the Year in 1995. Dwayne attained a Bachelor of Education from Saint Mary's University, a Master of Education from Mount Saint Vincent University, and a Bachelor of Physical Education from Dalhousie University. Dwayne is currently the Associate Deputy Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs. Since retiring from professional football, Dwayne has also worked as a provincial regional education officer, advising the government on issues affecting African Nova Scotian students. Other jobs he has held include provincial school health coordinator and executive director of the Black Educators Association of Nova Scotia.



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Dwayne Provo

School News

Student Success Planning:

Short cycle planning is continuing in the areas of math, literacy and wellness. In math it was clear from the last School Learning Community that other schools are facing similar issues with their students in the areas of confidence in mathematics and as such this will continue to be a focus for our teachers in their next short cycle plans. Meetings were held with myself and both our Math and Literacy consultants to review our SSP goals. St. Agnes stands out for its amazing work in the area and I would be remiss to not give that credit to Mr. Feeney.

RWM8 will be written in May.

PD Sessions:

Three Braid Modules: Ms. Martin and Ms. Bonin

The Three Braids administrator learning series have been collectively created by the EECD with input from staff across all Regions. These modules are required professional learning for all administrators and leaders in each Regional Centre, they are part of a multi-faceted approach to increase administrators' understanding, skills, and competencies related to anti-racism and anti-discrimination. There are four modules that all Principals and VP's will take over the next two school years.

The 3 strands braided together represent strength in their unity- a braid is stronger than its individual strands. Braids can be traced back through history for 10's of 1000's of years. Many cultures consider braids to represent bravery, perseverance, spirituality, wisdom, generosity, and respect. All these virtues represent the essentials needed to live in harmony and unity with one another. Think of today's session as the braid and the 3 modules that follow as the strands, when braided together they strengthen our leadership to be anti-racist, to not discriminate, and to recognize bias as we lead schools.

The goal of this work is to build our leadership capacity to ensure schools are free from racism and discrimination- to unpack our biases and to help our staff do the same. The 3 strands represent different solutions; different actions: different understandings depending on what we are focused on, but collectively will strengthen your leadership to further this work at your school.

Sarah's Conference

Our VP Sara Bonin recently had the opportunity to attend the British Education Training and Technology Conference in London UK. During this 3 day conference she was able to network with educators from around the world focusing on concepts such as the role of Artificial Intelligence in the classroom, race and equality in the role of technology education, teacher workload and well-being, gamification in education, strategies for student success, attendance and attainment, and much more. It was a busy conference, but provided some interesting insights into the continuously changing role of technology in schools.

School News

St. Agnes Speaks:

Our next St. Agnes speaks questions will focus on Breakfast food from around the world. Students will be asked what they go to grab and go breakfast foods are from their home countries. Using this list staff will purchase available items for our students to have from breakfast during our Student Wellness Conference Day.

Emergency Management Planning:

A lockdown drill was held on Feb 12th. As stated in our message home HRP commented that it was the best lockdown drill they have seen this year. We are only required to complete 2 lockdowns but will have several more Fire Drills before the year is out.

Student Wellness Conference Day:

Student Wellness Conference Day - April 25th - our committee is well underway with planning this event. Similar to how we designed last year's event, this year will offer students two breakout sessions instead of one. Lots of opportunities for students to explore their interests and discover the myriad of ways we can invite "wellness" into our day to day lives. More details to follow once final preparations and planning are complete.

Basketball

Our Female Identifying Basketball Team was able to secure their first Citadel Zone championship in 10 years for St Agnes!



Our Male Identifying Basketball Team are working towards defending their championship from last year, they play in the finals this afternoon against Oxford at 4pm!

School News

From the School Counsellor:

Y Mind - Half way through this winter 7-week session <https://ymcahfx.ca/ymind/>

The Y Mind program is an innovative, youth informed, early intervention program that helps teens and young adults manage stress and anxiety. Y Mind helps young people cope with anxiety and improve their sense of well-being by introducing them to evidence-based tools and connecting them with others.

Y Mind was first developed by the YMCA of Greater Vancouver and has been offered in British Columbia since 2018 thanks to funding provided by the Province of British Columbia. Y Mind has now expanded to 21 YMCAs across the country.

Stephanie Hughes - Halfway through her practicum placement as an Acadia Master of Counselling Intern. Stephanie has been busy with a girls group, individual counselling and running workshops on healthy personal boundaries with our grade 7s.

Grade 10 Course Selection - Grade 9 students are in the process of completing their course selections. These selections will be complete by March Break. Students will have the opportunity to meet Citadel High's IB Coordinator and O2 Coordinator in the coming weeks so that they have a full understanding and appreciation of these program options and whether they are interested in pursuing these programs in high school.

EAL Course Selection - we have arranged to meet with EAL Grade 9 students, their parents and interpreters on Feb 20 and 21 to ensure that our students/families who will be moving on to Citadel High in the fall have a thorough understanding of the EAL pathway and course options recommended and available to our students who are still working on mastering English as an additional language.

Ms. McLean is in the process of arranging for a group from **Dalhousie Youth Legal Education Society** to meet with our grade 9s about Consent and the Law. These presentations/workshops will take place in late March.

Ms. McLean and Ms. Hughes are halfway through offering **Healthy Boundaries Workshops** to our Grade 7s. These workshops should be completed in early March.

Clubs & Activities

Techsploration is currently running until the end of May facilitated by **Kelly O'Brien and Katie Furlong**. Techsploration is a group of eight grade 9 girls who are interested in STEM and STEM related careers. The team was selected back in November and have since been meeting Wednesdays at lunch. The team has been matched to a mentor, Sarah Lewis, who is a chemical engineer with Pratt and Whitney. Our group will be visiting her workplace at the end of March and will be creating a presentation for the Techsploration event in the Valley at the end of May.

Mr. Jodrey is facilitating a student-run "**literature club**" on Mondays at lunch in his room. The club's activities are quite informal but they are moving in the direction of organized literature-related activities as they become more comfortable with each other as a group.

Dungeons and Dragons club is run by our Library Specialist Kathleen Stewart every Wednesday during lunch.

Speak to Lead club is run by our schools plus worker Nathalie Haidar-Ahmed and focuses on practicing English with our newcomer students using fun games and activities

Our Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) is run by Ms. Furlong and our CYCP Skyler Pettipas. GSAs provide a safe, supportive environment for students of diverse genders and sexualities to meet, discuss sexual orientation and gender identity issues, and form community.

Drama & Photography club are run by our drama/arts specialist Ms. Tufts. Both clubs are Fridays at lunch with Drama meeting on Week 1's, and Photography meeting on Week 2's.

Ms. Johnston is currently running **Yearbook committee** every Tuesday at lunch.

Student Council doesn't have too much on the books for the coming weeks. The week before March Break, reps will hand out hot chocolate and have a few spirit days (themes tba).

Badminton tryouts are underway. Tournaments during the school day happen on consecutive Wednesdays at the end of March, early April. Many practices to come before then.

Early Morning Gym continues to be a great success with many students attending every Thursday.

