May 2019 Newsletter

St. Agnes Junior High

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Barrett Khan- Principal Jarrett Feeney- Vice-Principal

Principal's Message

We are busy springing into action on many fronts as we move from April into May and the end of the school year.

- ✓ Our Grade 8 students will be participating in the PCAP (Pan-Canadian Assessment Program). The assessments results are used to inform Canadians across provinces on how well their education systems are meeting the needs of students and society. The results of this assessment will not affect students' academic records in any way, though they are useful for understanding better what is happening province to province. Mathematics will be the major domain and science and reading will be the minor domain. There is no special preparation for students that is necessary to take part.

- ✓ Our PTA, and awesome team of volunteers recently held, "Parents Night Out". This was a silent auction, and fun evening out for all that attended. The event held at Lot 6 on Argyle St. on April 25th was very successful in bringing us closer to providing significant enhancements to our students and school.

- ✓ Our Grade 9 students recently travelled to the Spatz Theatre at Citadel High School to take in the matinee musical, "Jesus Christ Superstar" prior to the Easter weekend.

- ✓ Our school library has recently secured many new resources and Young Adult novels to help support and foster a love of reading.

- ✓ Our teachers and support staff have been working throughout the year on our Student Success Plan. We have developed the following goals:

  Literacy: Improve student achievement in reading comprehension focusing on deeper understanding within and beyond the text.

  Mathematics: Improve student achievement in the application of number sense and operations.

  We are now in the process of collaborating to develop strategies to support our efforts in working toward these goals. Our strategies will focus in areas of instruction, assessment and teacher collaboration.

- ✓ A reminder that our grade 9 closing ceremony and will be held in the morning on June 26th, with the closing dance to follow that evening. Our annual "Farewell Breakfast" for Grade 9 students will take place the prior day.

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Upcoming Events

May 17

PD day: No classes

May 20

Victoria Day: No classes

May 21

Grade 6 Orientation 1:30-2:30

May 23

Junior High Dance 6:30-9

May 28

Gr. 6 Parent Info Session 6:30

May 27-31

Gr. 8 Provincial Assessments

Find us on Twitter!

St.Agnes Junior High

@sajhnews

Student Success Survey

The 2019 Student Success Survey is underway and will be available online until May 10. This survey will be done by all students in Grades 7-9 during school time. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has engaged Corporate Research Associates (CRA) to conduct the online survey with all students in grades 7-9. These results will provide schools with important information regarding student experiences to help inform student success plans. Thank you so much for supporting this important initiative!

- Students will be expected to complete the survey at school. Schools will be identified by IP address and for this reason students will be unable to complete the survey off of school property.
- Expected survey length may vary by grade level, but expect up to 45 minutes for Junior High school students

Parents Night Out

On April 25th members of the SAJH community (including parents of former, current and future students!) joined together at Lot 6 Bar and Restaurant for the first annual 'SAJH Parents Night Out Event'. It raised nearly $5000 for SAJH and a fun time was had by all! Thank you to the Honourable Lena Diab and Member of Parliament Andy Fillmore for making time in their busy schedules to attend. Thank you also to all those who helped organize the event, donated silent auction items or simply made the effort to come☺

Me To We

Me to We have plans for the final campaign and fundraiser during the first week in June. Once again we will be supporting Feed Nova Scotia and Shelter Nova Scotia and global health care. We will need your support with these events. The timeline of activities will be posted and students will be presenting this information to classes after the final stages of planning. We would like to thank all the students, staff, and community members who have helped us in our initiatives.

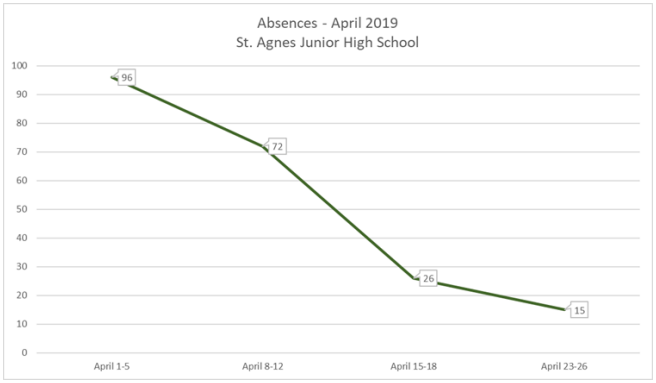
Great Academics and Treatment of Others..... Respectful School.

GATORS!

Late Arrival Initiative Update

St. Agnes would like to thank all partners including students, parents/guardians, teachers and administration, for the success of the new late arrival initiative. Since the initiative began in early April, late arrivals (a student arriving to class at any point beyond the scheduled start time) at the beginning of the school day and after lunch have decreased significantly. This has been a positive change for St. Agnes resulting in less missed instruction time for students and less interruptions in classes.

To celebrate students who have demonstrated exemplary attendance, St. Agnes has had weekly draws for a free pizza lunch! Congratulations to our draw winners, and we would like to say thank-you to all of our students for making arriving to school on time a priority.



Grade 9 Trip

The grade 9 trip to PEI is slowly but surely getting closer! We are thrilled to announce that our last Staycation Prize Package was awarded to Christine Igglesden. Congratulations from everyone at St. Agnes Junior High. Additionally, all students attending the trip have now been notified of their remaining balance and trip payments are due on May15th. Students have submitted their rooming preferences, but will not be given the final room selections until we arrive at the hotel in PEI. While we do our best to ensure that all students are happy and comfortable with their rooming selection, the final decision is made by the organizing teachers.

It should also be noted that while students have indicated their desire to attend the trip, they must still be in good standing with the school (class work up to date, behaviour, etc.) right up until the date of the trip in order to accompany us to PEI.

St. Agnes is proud of how hard our students have worked to fundraise for the trip, and are looking forward to a fun, educational and memory making experience!

If you have any questions please contact Jarrett Feeney, Vice-Principal jfeeney@hrsb.ca.

Bell Schedule

8:40 am. – Student Arrival Time

8:50 am. – First Class Begins

11:50 am. – Dismissal for Lunch

1:15 pm. – Student Arrival Time

1:20 pm. – First Class Begins

3:20 pm. – Dismissal for the Day

Intramurals

Lunchtime intramurals will be held Tuesdays and Fridays during lunch from 12:30-1:10. This is a great opportunity for students to try new sports, develop athletic skills, and build on teamwork. It is also a great way to burn off some energy midway through the day! The first sport we're playing is floorball. Please contact Ms. Boutilier or Mr. Starzomski if you need more information.

Athletics

April showers bring May athletics! Most notably, Track and Field! Mid-month will be our largest athletics event of the year in Track and Field held at Beasley Field in Dartmouth. With that, we will have tryouts in the coming weeks. From the 100m dash to Shot Put, Track and Field is unique in that there is something for everyone! Stay tuned to announcements and the school Twitter account for tryout information. Thank you to the teachers who have stepped up to help Mr. Starzomski get this wonderful event up and running. Any community volunteers who are interested in coaching, you are more than welcome to contact Mr. Starzomski to get involved.

Early in May, students from St. Agnes participated in the Celebration of School Sport event held at the World Trade and Convention Center in downtown Halifax. Two wonderful student-athletes, Mercy Ogulu and Thomas Bezanson, were nominated to represent St. Agnes and were accompanied by our tremendous teacher-coach, Ms. Johnston for the luncheon and ceremony. Great job student-athletes and thank you Ms. Johnston for all your work in volunteer coaching!

Student Services

St. Agnes is thrilled to welcome our future Grade 7 students to the school on May 21st from 1:30pm-2:30pm. Several of our current Grade 7 students are currently working with staff to develop a dynamic afternoon and will take a leadership role during the orientation, helping to facilitate a school tour along with ice-breaker and team building activities. We will also be holding an Information Session for the Parents/Guardians of these students which will take place on May 28th, 6:30-7:30pm St. Agnes Junior High Library. Parents will have an opportunity to hear about our subject offerings, extra-curricular opportunities and school expectations for the 2019-20 school year.

Our grade students are also in the midst of transitioning and will have opportunities to learn more about Citadel High School. On May 30th, Grade 12 leadership students from Citadel High will visit St. Agnes from 1:30pm-2:30pm to give information about the High School, address behavioural expectations, and discuss courses, clubs, and varsity sports. Additionally, grade 9 students have been invited to attend an orientation day at Citadel High School on Tuesday June 4th (time TBA)

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Grade 8 Provincial Assessments

Beginning on May 27th, grade 8 students at St. Agnes will take part in a 4 day Provincial assessment designed to provide comprehensive data about student performance in Mathematics and Literacy. The Program of Learning Assessment for Nova Scotia (PLANS) is responsible for the administration of international, national, and provincial assessments and examinations. This assessment includes the following:

- reading and writing tasks that reflect grade 8 curriculum outcome expectations
- reading passages in the narrative, information, poetry/song, and visual text genres
- reading comprehension questions in selected response format
- reading comprehension questions that are designed to provide a broad range of challenges, thereby providing more information about individual student performance
- one essay writing task and one story writing task
- mathematics questions that reflect the end of grade 8 curriculum outcome expectations • selected response (multiple choice) questions in all mathematics domains
- tasks designed to assess students' ability to solve problems
- tasks requiring different levels of cognitive demands to solve, thereby providing more information about student performance

While the questions asked in the assessment parallel the Grade 8 curriculum, English and Math teachers have been preparing the students for the assessment through unit review, exemplars and mock assessments. Scores for the assessment will not be reflected in student's Term 3 mark. Good luck students!

STUDENT RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

1. I have the **RIGHT** to learn in this school.
   It is my **RESPONSIBILITY** to be prepared to learn.
2. I have a **RIGHT** to hear and be heard.
   It is my **RESPONSIBILITY** to respect other's contributions.
3. I have a **RIGHT** to be respected in this school.
   It is my **RESPONSIBILITY** to be considerate to other people.
4. I have a **RIGHT** to be safe in this school.
   It is my **RESPONSIBILITY** not to threaten, and/or physically or psychologically harm anyone else at school or while going to and from school.
5. I have a **RIGHT** to privacy and to my own personal space.
   It is my **RESPONSIBILITY** to respect the personal property of others and to accept their right to privacy.
6. I have the **RIGHT** to be treated with courtesy and respect by adults.
   It is my **RESPONSIBILITY** to show respect and to treat courteously all adults in our school and the community.
7. I have the right to be knowledgeable about and proud of my ancestry and cultural heritage.
   I have the **RESPONSIBILITY** to learn about and to be tolerant of the history and cultural background of others.