

St. Agnes Junior High

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Barrett Khan- Principal Jarrett Feeney- Vice-Principal

Principal's Message

I am full of gratitude and pleased to report that we celebrated African Heritage Month throughout February. We invited city councilor Lindell Smith to our school to speak with our Grade 8 students on civic engagement and the importance of getting involved in our community. Our Grade 7 students "took the roof off winter" and enjoyed a skating trip at the *Emera* oval. Our Grade 9 students have been actively considering course selection for Grade 10. Our entire school had an opportunity to participate in djembe drumming assemblies, and all had the opportunity to try a traditional lunch from Ghana.

Our PTA, as usual, went above and beyond the call of duty to provide all of our students and staff with a nutritious & hearty pancake breakfast that was much appreciated. A fantastic group of "early riser" parent and teacher volunteers prepared a nutritious pancake breakfast complete with sausage, fruit salad and blueberries for our entire school. I can't thank everyone enough for your endless hours of volunteering, chaperoning our skating trip, preparing pancakes, working with our students on course selection, taking our students to participate in a quiz at the public library, organizing events, working with our clubs and groups such as our Breakfast program, Me to We, Drama and Art Clubs and doing whatever was necessary to support students - both at home and at school.

I would also like to extend our appreciation to our School Advisory Council (SAC) who recently supported our school's purchase of some tables with a whiteboard surfaces. When they arrived in the last week of February, the tables were placed into our learning spaces, and were being used by teachers and students within minutes. It has been rewarding to see the student-teacher collaboration, and the re-kindled spark that has been generated by some new places to sit, work, learn and allow creativity to flourish.

During the coming weeks we will be active in reviewing our survey results from last spring on student wellness, and developing a wellness goal as part of our Student Success Plan. We were recently successful in securing a grant through the *Council for Classroom Improvements* and will be ordering some new school technology to improve and enhance our student's access to school technology.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school.

Pancake Breakfast

On Tuesday, February 25th a long-standing tradition was continued as St. Agnes students and staff were treated to a free and delicious breakfast of pancakes, sausages, fruit, and juice. We are so thankful for the generous group of parent and staff volunteers who came together to make this event happen. What a great way for our students to start their day!



Upcoming Events

March 13th

Term 2 Ends

March 16-20th

March Break, no classes

March 25th

Assessment & Evaluation Day, no classes

April 1st

Report Cards go home

April 2nd

Parent-Teacher Interviews

Find us on Twitter!

[St.Agnes Junior High](#)

[@sajhnews](#)

Athletics

What a wonderful day for our Grade 7 students during their Oval Trip! The brave students battled the chilly conditions and were rewarded as they arrived to perfect ice to skate on. From seasoned figure skaters and hockey players to students who had never laced up a pair of skates before, it was truly amazing to witness the skill levels and all of the smiles on the students' faces. Thank you to our parent and staff volunteers who made such a successful morning happen.

Athletics, Phys. Ed, and general student physical activity continues to be a positive at St Agnes. Early Morning Gym and GOAL continue to be very well attended programs where we see a vibrant array of activity. Thank you Ms. Campbell and Ms. Johnston for their wonderful lunch time activity!

Our basketball teams wrapped up their seasons knowing they have grown by leaps and bounds over the past few months. Both the girls and boys teams ran into strong Oxford teams in their semi-finals and came up on the short end of the stick but by all accounts from our volunteer coaches, success was seen across the board. We celebrate and wish luck to our senior students as they move on to high school, while at the same time maintain our excitement about the building blocks that are in place to ensure positive student-athlete experiences next year! Thank you Mr. Carreiro and Ms. Baker for your diligent work with our ladies and Mr. Brown and his daughter as they have raised the bar for next year's team!



Nova Scotia Oral Health Program for Children

Did you know the *Nova Scotia Children's Oral Health program* covers annual basic dental care for all children 14 years of age and under with a valid MSI health card?

Once a year, this includes:

- One routine dental exam
- One fluoride application (a second application may be eligible in some cases)
- Two routine x-rays
- In addition to the above, one preventive service - for example, brushing and flossing instruction, and/or cleaning

Molar sealants, fillings and necessary extractions are also covered by the program. For more information on this program, visit: novascotia.ca/dhw/children-dental/

Earth Month Challenge

The Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association, through its *Recycle My Cell* program, holds an annual Earth Month Challenge to encourage school-aged children and their families to recycle old or unused cellphones.

Research has shown that over 60% of Canadians have unused wireless phones or devices in their home. In the context of these sorts of statistics, this challenge not only reminds Canadians about the importance of recycling their electronics, it also offers a great opportunity for children to raise funds for their schools. There is no cost to participate, and all participating schools that recycle at least 20 phones will be awarded a cash prize. On top of that, the top school in each province will also be awarded \$500, which allows for a combined payout of up to \$1000 per school.

Registration for schools opens **March 1**, and the challenge runs from **April 1-30**. More information on the Earth Month Challenge is available at <https://www.recyclemycell.ca/earthmonthchallenge/>.

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

Indigenous Art Specialist

Earlier this month, all grade 9 were presented with two workshops by HRCE Indigenous Art Specialist, Brittany Pennell. During the first workshop students learned about First Nations Treaties, and during the second they created a work of art inspired by Mi'kmaq petroglyphs. Petroglyphs are 'rock pictures' created by carving on rocks that the Mi'kmaq created to record their lives and the things they saw around them. St. Agnes is grateful for these opportunities to teach our students about the diverse culture and history of our province and its people. Follow Brittany on twitter at @Indigenous_Arts for more updates on indigenous arts in HRCE.



Alternate Water Source Update

Our Operations Services team has been working through January and February to make alternate sources of drinking water available at all HRCE schools. These sources of water will remain until testing of the supply system in each school is completed in accordance with Department of Environment guidelines and plans are made for mitigating any issues that may arise. Additional information on the testing schedule will be shared with schools in the spring. Any follow up actions, as a result of the testing, will be shared with schools directly as needed.

Delivery of bottled water began on January 3 from our existing supplier, Canadian Springs, starting with elementary schools and schools with Pre-Primary. Deliveries continued to junior and senior high schools and other sites in January, and to date 275 water coolers are in service at our schools. We have targeted one water cooler for approximately every 250 persons, with additional water coolers provided to schools that have multiple floors or challenging physical layouts. Signage noting the availability of drinking water from water coolers and the closure of water fountains was also forwarded to all schools. Thank you for helping ensure these were posted in your school.

Resupplies of water are scheduled on a two-week rotation, with weekly deliveries to schools with higher populations / needs. Inventories were initially determined using an average for water usage for the educational sector; however, low inventory or out-of-water events have been experienced and the schedule is being adjusted.

Amendment to National Anthem

O Canada was officially amended in 2018. The updated lyrics are more inclusive and reflect gender equality. The current lyrics are as follows:

*O Canada! Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all **thy sons** of us command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise, The True North strong and free!
From far and wide, O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.*

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/anthems-canada.html#a2>

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

African Heritage Month

The 2020 African Heritage Month theme recognizes the unique bond People of African Descent share through Faith, Family and Community. This theme is about celebrating the longstanding legacy of Faith and Spirituality, acknowledging strong family ties and honouring the togetherness of the African Nova Scotian Community. These ties help facilitate a greater bond and understanding of all cultures in Nova Scotia. The theme also aligns with the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent (DPAD). The goal of DPAD is to strengthen global cooperation in support of people of African descent as they strive for full inclusion in all aspects of society.

Nova Scotia has over 50 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a long, deep and complex history dating back well over 200 years. African Heritage Month provides us with another opportunity to celebrate our culture, legacy, achievements and contributions of our people – past and present.

Throughout the month of February, St. Agnes celebrated the culture and heritage we share as a community to educate about and celebrate African Heritage Month. Students had the opportunity to hear from Lindell Smith, a city councilor in Halifax who has proven his commitment and dedication to bettering his community and fostering civic engagement in Halifax's youth. St. Agnes also welcomed Djembe drummers who hosted assemblies for each of our grade levels to experience and learn about West African drumming. Ms. Keddy's ELA classes worked to create short write-ups on important people, places and historical events related to African Heritage, specifically African Nova Scotian heritage, and developed corresponding quiz questions for St. Agnes students to submit ballots for. Each day a student who submitted the correct answer was chosen and received specially designed African Heritage Month SAJH Gator Gear. To end off the month, students and staff were treated to a lunch of traditional Ghanaian food provided by local business, Mary's African Cuisine.



Grade 9 PEI Trip

We are steadily getting closer to the highly anticipated end of year grade 9 trip to Prince Edward Island! The trip will be taking place June 17th-19th, filled with various educational and fun activities including a new hands-on Culinary demonstration at the Holland College Culinary Institute of Canada, Rise & Climb ropes course, a trip to Sandspit Amusement Park and much more! If you would like more information on the timeline, accommodations, cost, etc. you can view a full presentation on the trip [here](#).

Various fundraising opportunities have already been held this year including the selling of Vegetorium Veggie boxes, Meadowbrook Market meat boxes, and Christmas Poinsettia sales from D&L Nurseries. Our last fundraiser, a raffle for the Ambassador Staycation prize will be starting soon, details to follow. After the draw, the funds raised by each student will be counted and outstanding balances will be communicated with parents/guardians and students. If you have any further questions about the trip please contact Vice Principal Jarrett Feeney at jfeeney@hrce.ca



Counsellor's Corner

Citadel staff have delivered course selection presentations to our Grade 9 students and additional sessions related to the IB and O2 programs. The majority of Grade 9 students have returned their completed course selection sheets. Most students have also had an individual conversation with Ms. Manning to review their Grade 10 plans.

If you have not had a chance to have a conversation with your child about their Grade 10 courses, please find time to do so in the next week or so as the final deadline is fast approaching. All courses should be input into our system by **March 25th**. Students who don't meet this **deadline** are at risk of not getting their preferred choices for elective courses in Grade 10. If your child has misplaced their course selection sheet, additional copies can be found on the St. Agnes as well as Citadel High websites as well as from the school counsellor, Ms. Manning.

Grade 9 parents of students connected to our Learning Centre will be contacted individually regarding the course selection process.

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.

