

St. Agnes Junior High

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Barrett Khan- Principal Jarrett Feeney- Vice-Principal

Principal's Message

As we approach late November it is clear that our weather is changing rapidly. With winter arriving please take the necessary steps to see that your child has warm winter clothing and footwear. I am pleased to be able to report that many creative and engaging approaches are being used in our classrooms on a daily basis. The results we recently received from our Grade 8 reading, writing and mathematics assessments were significantly above regional and provincial averages for students meeting grade level expectations and exceeding expectations. Our Remembrance ceremony took place on November 9th marking 100 years since the end of the First World War in 1918, and our students exhibited a high level of respect for both our students that were presenting, and the veteran lieutenant-colonel Berntson that took part in our ceremony. Many grade 9 students recently had an opportunity to try pottery, and the entire class took part in the "Teens Talk Now" initiative at the Forum on November 13th. We are in the process of ordering many new resources for our school library and have a Drama & Improv initiative that will be starting on November 20th. Our volleyball teams have been hitting the courts with regular season and tournament play and we are looking forward to a "Cosmic Bingo" fundraiser that is being organized by our PTA on November 23rd. Tickets for this event are available at the main office for \$10. Over the coming weeks we will continue to sharpen the focus for our "Student Success Planning" now that we have received recent provincial assessment data on how we are doing. In closing I would like to thank our teachers, students and families for stepping up and getting involved in many of the additional extra-curricular initiatives that are taking place. "It takes a village to raise a child".

Remembrance Day

On Friday, November 9th, St. Agnes students and staff gathered for a Remembrance Day Ceremony to honour the courage and devotion of brave men and women who have fought, and continue to fight for our country. We were honoured to welcome Lieutenant-Colonel Bud Berntson as a guest speaker during the ceremony who spoke of his 47 years of service in the Canadian Air Force. Special thanks to grade 8 student Will Boddy who delivered his presentation on the 100 year anniversary of the Armistice, as well as to students Vincent McDonald, Molly MacAvoy, Christina Kostakos, Carter MacKinnon, and Malk Daboor for their part in the ceremony. The St. Agnes band did a wonderful job performing Oh Canada, accompanied by grade 8 student Asia Aiken's beautiful performance of The Last Post.



Upcoming Events

November 19

SAC: 5:30-6:30

PTA: 6:30-7:30

November 21

Assessment & Evaluation Day
(no school for students)

November 23

Cosmic Bingo Fundraiser:
10:00-11:30 Halifax Forum

December 4

Report Cards

Find us on Twitter!

[St.Agnes Junior High](#)

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Athletics

It is hard to believe but we are well into our 3rd month here at St. Agnes. Our Gators continue to compete, play, and learn in Phys. Ed. and extra-curricular opportunities on a daily basis. A big thank you to all who make these physically active programs possible!

To begin, our successful Early Morning Gym program runs Monday - Thursday from 8 am-8:30 am. We have seen upwards of 30-40 students per day getting a fantastic physically active beginning to their days.

Our Gibson/Tully basketball program on Tuesdays and Fridays at lunch has really picked up as of late as basketball season is quickly approaching. Boys and girls continue to show up and hone their skills throughout the lunch hour. We certainly thank Mr. Tully and Mr. Gibson for volunteering their lunch time for that!

Next, Girls Only Active Lunch remains a success this year. Thanks to Ms. Campbell and Ms. Johnston, the lady Gators have shown up in droves to add an hour of physical activity to their lives on Thursdays. Thank you teachers!

Our community volunteers, Collette Barbati and Craig Berryman stepped up to coach our Girls Soccer team again this year. They had a tremendous season with many weather "breaks" and schedule changes, but finished second in the Citadel Zone losing a close match to Fairview on a chilly Fall day. Thank you very much to them for providing such a great opportunity to our Gator girls this season!

Our Boys Soccer team had a good season as well. Mr. Tully and Mr. Starzomski worked diligently with the boys to improve their skills every day. The team came up 1 point short of making the playoffs, but came together as a team throughout the season. Thank you gentlemen!

Thank you to Ms. Campbell and our community volunteers Mr. Lirette and Mr. Metlej for coaching our Co-Ed football team! The team progressed throughout the season, learning the ins and outs of touch football. They had a great season and came up short against a very strong Highland Park team. Thank you volunteers!

At this point, Boys and Girls Basketball programs are completing their tryouts and in particular the Girls Program is preparing for the Steve Scott Memorial Tournament which will be held at the end of November. We thank Mr. Carreiro, Ms. Boutillier, and our community volunteer once again, Tarri Baker, for volunteering their time to provide the opportunity to the ladies. For the boys, we thank Mr. Tully for stepping up to work with the team.

It certainly takes a village to make the Physical Education and extra-curricular programs run as smoothly as they do. Thank you once again to all who volunteer their time to make our Gator community better each and every day.



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

Grade 9 Trip

This year the grade 9 class voted where they would like to go on their end of the year trip and the decision was made with overwhelming support. We have decided that this year's grade 9 trip will be to Prince Edward Island. This choice is the most affordable for all students and allows us to take everyone who wishes to attend without extra costs.

We have already completed our first fundraiser with Meadowbrook Meats and the Vegetorium with great success. Our grade 9 students sold over \$4500 worth of products!

Our next fundraiser with Acadian Maple Products, a family owned and operated business located in Upper Tantallon, is already underway. Students will sell Maple Syrup, Jams, Coffee and Pancake Mix. This year they are offering a special Holiday Gift Box containing Pancake mix, Maple syrup and 2 jams. A great gift idea for upcoming holidays!

We would like to thank Parents and our local community for their continued support in our fundraising efforts. Our school is proud to support local businesses.

GSA - Gay Straight Alliance

Our school is proud to announce the startup of our GSA. We will hold our first official meeting on November 19th. Members of the Youth Project will join us to make buttons to spread awareness and a message of inclusion, and to answer any questions.

GSA clubs are student-run organizations which provide a safe place for students to meet, support each other, and talk about issues related to the LGBTQ+ Community.

While GSA clubs have traditionally served as safe spaces for LGBTQ+ youth to build awareness and community as well as prevent discrimination and harassment in schools, they are now emerging as vehicles for deeper social change that extends beyond individual schools. All GSAs can make a direct impact for LGBTQ+ youth and help improve school climates. For more information, visit <https://gsanetwork.org/what-is-a-gsa/>

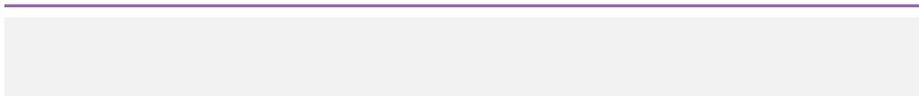
Me to We

ME to We had a successful food drive and would like to thank everyone who donated. We will continue to work on supporting the community and will begin the "Shoe Box" campaign after Christmas. This provides community members that do not have permanent shelter with basic necessities through Shelter Nova Scotia. Stay tuned for updates on this campaign. We will also be holding some bake sales and other fundraisers to support our local and international initiatives. We appreciate all the support from our St. Agnes Jr. High community. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 27th at 12:15 pm in Ms. Keddy's room. We always welcome and encourage new members to join us in helping others.



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



Drama/Improv

St. Agnes is excited to welcome local theatre artist Stepheny Hunter to run the Junior High Drama Project (JHDP) at our school. The JHDP is funded by supplementary funding and puts a theatre artist in a junior high for 3 workshops after which the participants will be invited to perform a short Improv scene at the Improv Jam at Dartmouth High School on Tuesday December 18th at 7 p.m. with 16 other participating schools. Students involved in the club will play theatre games, have fun, and develop their self-expression and confidence at the same time.

Artists in Schools

St. Agnes is an incredibly diverse school and in order to celebrate that a group of students came together to create a collaborative art installment. Students were inspired by Maya Angelou's quote 'Diversity makes for a rich tapestry' and decided to weave their own, made from a variety of fabrics donated by members of the school community. In addition, a banner was created featuring the quote and dolls representing a variety of cultures were made by hand and attached to the tapestries. The students showed amazing creativity and collaboration throughout this project and the end result is a stunning representation of our school community.

French Club

French Club will be starting back up soon. Meetings will be held in Mme. Clark's classroom every second Wednesday. This club is for students who wish to practice their French speaking and learn more about French culture. Activities will range from French games and songs to hosting French guest speakers and trying out French cuisine. Students who wish to join the French club must submit a paragraph written in either French or English explaining why they would like to join the club. Paragraphs should be handed in to Mme. Clark by November 30.

Innovation Day

This November, members of St. Agnes staff attended the 4th annual "Innovation in Teaching Day," a Professional Development day based on the theme of Innovative Teaching Practices. Innovation Day gave teachers the chance to attend a variety of sessions that showcase innovative ways that local teachers are using technology and new instructional practices to engage and support students' learning. The sessions included green screening, coding, Makerspaces, Google Apps, Spheros, virtual reality, and more! St. Agnes teachers are excited to integrate these newly learned technology practices into our classrooms.

Rocky Lake Ceramics Lab Field Trip

On November 5th, 904 Visual Arts students attended the new arts lab at Rocky Lake Junior High where each student was given the opportunity to create their own piece of ceramic pottery. Each student started with a piece of wet clay and, with guidance from Art Specialist Devon Vankoughnett, were able to use the provided tools to mold and create a uniquely designed bowl. At the end of the month students will return to Rocky Lake to glaze and add the final touches to their artwork which they will each be able to take home with them. St. Agnes is thankful to have the opportunity to attend this workshop and look forward to seeing our students' final pieces!



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Cosmic Bingo

The St. Agnes PTA is hoping you will purchase tickets for a great cause. We are organizing a Cosmic Bingo fundraiser for St. Agnes Junior High to help raise money for some much needed equipment and additional programming. Glow in the dark BINGO will take place on Friday, November 23rd at 10:30pm (doors open at 10pm) at the Halifax Forum. There will be great music, great fun and great prizes. All ages are welcome, with separate rooms for parents and kids to play! Tickets are available in the main office for \$10 each and help to support the St. Agnes school community; hope to see you there!



Teens Talk Now

On Tuesday, November 13th, St. Agnes grade 9's attended the Teens Now Talk Expo, the biggest Youth Expo in Eastern Canada. Students were able to connect face-to-face and ask questions with over sixty diverse province wide exhibitors and received the opportunity to discover many options related to career, educational and health & wellness choices. This event was complemented by fun, hands-on participation, a TNT swag bag and local talent performances which included pictures and autograph signing.

Take Our Kids to Work Day

Take Our Kids to Work Day, an annual event where students step into their future for a day and get a glimpse into the working world, took place on Wednesday, November 14th, 2018. The day involves students in Grade 9 spending the day in the workplace of a parent, relative, friend or volunteer host, where they experience and learn about the world of work. The future looks bright at St Agnes! Students shadowed careers in recreation, ship building, health care, technology, real estate, engineering, finance, interior design, theology, culinary, police, law, environment, performing arts, dental, education, fashion, construction and more. Thank you to all parents and community hosts that volunteered their time and workplace.

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.