

St. Agnes Junior High

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Barrett Khan- Principal Jarrett Feeney- Vice-Principal

Principal's Message

As we approach spring, we have been very busy at school working toward the end of the 2nd term. Report cards for this term will be distributed on April 2nd. We would like to thank all of our volunteers and the PTA for a very successful pancake breakfast with fresh fruit, hash browns and sausage on March 5th. Our students and staff appreciated the support and love from our community. Our grade 9 students have been immersed in decisions related to course selection for grade 10. We have added many enhancements thanks to our SAC including resources for our school library, new Chromebooks and a 3 D printer. We are hoping to put these new resources to good use in the coming months. To further encourage positive attendance and arriving on time we will be having a contest whereby every student with exemplary attendance will be entered into a weekly draw for the chance to win a pizza.

Nutrition Month

March is Nutrition Month and this year's theme is "Unlock the Potential of Food". St. Agnes was awarded a grant from HRCE Healthy School Communities team that will allow us to explore food literacy initiatives. Students celebrated the Great Big Crunch on Wednesday, March 13 and joined 300,000 other "crunchers" from across Canada in this annual event to celebrate local foods and healthy eating in schools.

Course Selection

Grade 9 students are in the midst of completing Grade 10 course selection for Citadel High School. At this point, students have had the opportunity to hear from high school counsellors and have participated in presentations from both IB and O2 coordinators. Additionally, Robin Reid, counsellor for St. Agnes has met with each homeroom to provide students with course selection details and has helped students to select courses. At the end of this process each student was provided with a document summarizing their selections as well as a math recommendation from their current teacher to share with Parents/Guardians.

Beginning on March 12, Guidance will meet with students by homeroom to input course selections into Powerschool. While the deadline to submit courses to Citadel High is March 15th, course changes will still be possible through our Guidance Counsellor throughout April.



Upcoming Events

April 2

Report Card Distribution

April 11

No School

Parent-Teacher Interviews:

1:30-3:30

6:00-8:00

May 25

Staycation Fundraiser

Find us on Twitter!

[St.Agnes Junior High](#)

[@sajhnews](#)

Report Cards

On April 2nd students at St. Agnes will be receiving Term 2 report cards. There is always a level of anticipation ahead of report cards as they are an important part of the ongoing communication about your child's progress.

The purpose of a report card is to provide a student's parent(s) or guardian(s) with a summary of how well a student understands what is being taught, their level of academic achievement and social development. Report cards should be used in addition to other forms of communication between the home and school such as the Student-Parent Portal, parent-teacher meetings, newsletters and e-mails.

A reminder that beginning in September 2018, reporting terms in grades P-9 shifted from being separate terms to continuous terms. This aligned with the ongoing nature of student learning, the ongoing development of skills students use when they learn (communication, critical thinking, problem solving, etc.), and the method of reporting in grades 10-12.

Traditionally in P-9 teachers have reported on student progress at the end of each term (November, March and June) considering only the evidence of student learning gathered within that term. With continuous terms, reporting will now be a pause and reflect to summarize learning to date since September, based on trends over time and more recent evidence of student learning.

Previously: Three discrete terms with a summary report of *each individual term*.

New Model: Continuous terms with pause and reflect reporting to date.

Structure of the Report Card: Looks exactly the same

Report Card Comments: Continue to reflect strengths, areas for improvement and suggestions for next steps

Report Card Grades: Now reflect *learning to date* since September.

Term 1- no change from previous, based on evidence of learning from September to November.

Term 2- based on evidence of learning from September to March

Term 3- based on evidence of learning from September to June; now reflects overall achievement for the course

Pancake Breakfast

On Tuesday March 5th volunteers old and new, along with a number of our teachers and staff, joined together to organize the annual SAJH Pancake Breakfast. Students and staff enjoyed a full breakfast of pancakes, sausages, hash browns and all of the fixings. Students were invited to have an early arrival and start their day off with a meal together held in the SAJH gymnasium. It was fun for all and demonstrates the wonderful community spirit we have here at St. Agnes. This is a tradition that we have held at St. Agnes for over 20 years. The event is hosted by the PTA and one we hope to continue for years to come!



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

Grade 9 Trip

In an effort to support fundraising for the Grade 9 trip to Prince Edward Island, SAJH will be selling tickets for a Staycation Prize Package from March 25th until May 1st. Tickets for this draw are \$2 each with 100% of the proceeds going towards the seller's trip cost. All students going on the Grade 9 trip will be provided with 50 tickets (5 bundles of ten) and are responsible for returning money and unsold tickets to the school. Sales will be applied to each student's account. More tickets will be made available upon request.

The Grand Prize is a night for two at the Westin Nova Scotian Hotel, two tickets to Neptune Theatre, two tickets for a cocktail cruise on the Tall Ship Silva and a gift card to Murphy's on the Water. This prize package is valued at approximately \$500.00!

For more information or tickets please contact Jarrett Feeney, Vice-Principal jfeeney@hrsb.ca

Head Strong Summit

On Tuesday March 5th, 2019, Halifax Regional Centre for Education and the Conseil Scolaire Acadien Provincial SchoolsPlus Program partnered with the Nova Scotia Health Authority, IWK and Live Infinitus to host a one-day HeadStrong Summit for Junior High students across HRM. Six students from St. Agnes were chosen to participate in this year's HeadStrong Summit which is modeled after the Mental Health Commission of Canada's Opening Minds Program. An initiative which is focused on reducing the stigma around mental health problems and illnesses. Students participated in a full day of fun activities and education about mental health and the impact of stigma which they will share with the school and their peers to promote positivity and acceptance regarding issues concerning mental health

Grade 8 PCAP Assessment

On April 30th, Mr. Crouse's 803 Math class will partake in the Pan-Canadian Assessment Program. The PCAP is a nation-wide assessment that occurs every three years and assesses a random sample of 30,000 grade 8 students from 1,600 schools across Canada. This program is designed to assess students in Mathematics, Science and Reading. This year, the PCAP will focus on students' understanding of Mathematics through four main strands: numbers and operations, geometry and measurement, patterns and relationships, and data management and probability. It will also assess students' scientific literacy and reading through the comprehension of text.

The PCAP is comprised of two 45-minute assessments, followed by a student questionnaire, where students will have the opportunity to provide their feedback on their education, as well as their interests and activities. While this assessment will not count toward students' grades, we encourage our grade 8's to complete this with their best effort. The results of this program are compiled to provide a snapshot of student achievement across the country; the results are often used at a provincial and territorial level to review current educational curricula. The PCAP provides an opportunity for these students to demonstrate the progress they have made in their learning to the greater educational community.



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

Late Arrival Initiative

Regular attendance at school supports academic success, student learning and promotes a sense of responsibility that students will need as they transition from the school system to post-secondary studies and/or the workforce. Promoting and supporting regular student attendance is a shared responsibility. All partners, including students, parents/guardians, teachers and administration must work together to ensure success.

While most students demonstrate exemplary attendance at St. Agnes, late arrival (a student arriving to class at any point beyond the scheduled start time) at the beginning of the school day and after lunch, has become a growing concern. In an effort to minimize late arrivals, administration at St. Agnes will be initiating an intervention requiring students with an unexplained late arrival (morning or afternoon) to remain in school at the end of the day. This intervention will be applied in a fair and equitable way and is not intended to punish or marginalize students for circumstances beyond their control. As such, teachers and administration will use their professional judgment to determine when there may be extenuating circumstances affecting a student's attendance (grade, development). In these cases, the school will work with the student and/or their family to respond with the appropriate supports, and/or to develop accountability mechanisms that recognize the student's unique situation.

Additionally, students demonstrating exemplary attendance will be recognized through school based incentives. Students who have 0 unexcused lates or absences will have their name entered for a reward to be drawn at the end of each week.

In an effort to support St. Agnes Junior High School to reduce late arrivals and absences, all reasons for absences from school must be communicated by the student's parent/guardian, as per home and school communication procedures.

St. Agnes would like to thank you in advance for supporting staff with our goal to reduce absenteeism and enhance student learning and success.

The late arrival initiative will begin on April 15th.

Intimate Images and Cyber-protection

The rapid growth of smart phones, social media and the anonymity of the online world has created increasing opportunity for cyberbullying and the unwanted sharing of intimate images. The impacts of these behaviours can be devastating for victims. It is important that you and your children, have access to justice and the supports needed to respond to such behaviours. The Intimate Images and Cyber-Protection Act was adopted in response to the growth of these issues. It provides victims with support and alternatives to criminal prosecution.

Victims can now access free dispute resolution services including advice, negotiation, mediation and restorative justice. They can also seek a protection order through the courts for the alleged offenders to stop the activity, request removal of online content, prohibit further contact from the alleged offenders, and seek compensation for damages.

The province's CyberScan unit can help victims understand their options and navigate the justice system.

I would encourage you to check out our online resources, including a step-by-step guide on the legislation and sample court forms. These can be found at novascotia.ca/cyberscan.



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Athletics

March is roaring in like a lion in the physical education and athletics programs. Our boys and girls basketball programs finished their seasons representing St. Agnes on very high notes. The St Agnes community could not be more proud of these stellar students both on and off the court. Additionally, we have begun badminton tryouts that will allow us to begin our season after March Break. In Phys Ed., students have been working hard at their fitness check-ins as well as beginning some yoga training. Such a busy time of year!

The Girls Basketball team won their final game of the season against one of their arch rivals, Oxford Junior High. This win guaranteed them the bronze medals and finished their season on a positive note. We wish the very best to our grade 9 girls, Halle, Genevieve, Hilary, Mercy, Tea, Kate, and Claire as they move on in their basketball careers! The Gators could not have had the success they did without the wonderful work of Coach Tarri, Mr. Carreiro, and Ms. Boutillier. Thank you!

The boys played a tight match vs. Rocky Lake JH in the 3rd place game and came up a bit short but played hard to the final buzzer. They certainly grew as a team and came together at the most important time of the season. It has been several years since our boys' team has had such a great result in their season, great job! Best of luck to our Grade 9s Shay, Griffin, Malik, Connor, and Diell as they move forward in their basketball careers. A large thank you to Mr. Tully and Mr. Gibson for all of the hard work they did for this wonderful team.



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.