

St. Agnes Junior High

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Barrett Khan- Principal Jarrett Feeney- Vice-Principal

Principal's Message

On September 5th we welcomed, and welcomed back the 320 reasons we are here each day at St. Agnes Junior High School. It was nice to see so many new and excited faces in grade 7 and taller, bigger versions of our students returning in grade 8 and 9. Wow, monumental changes take place over these critical years! I was very pleased to welcome a number of new teachers and support staff to our team this year who have all been working hard to get to know your child, and are contributing to carry on the traditions of St. Agnes Junior High School being a caring and compassionate place to be. Please reach out to your child's teacher if you have questions, concerns or would simply like to share something positive that you've heard was happening at our school. Please keep the lines of communication open research supports that when school and families are on the same page academic results trend upward.

Where we have been in school for a few weeks I would also like to remind you of the following items:

Safety

- ✓ Please use sidewalks, crosswalks and obey traffic signals while travelling to and from school. There is a high volume of traffic on the roads surrounding our school.
- ✓ Please call the main office and leave a message in the morning if your child has an appointment or will be not be at school.
- ✓ Please be mindful of our 'scent aware' and 'nut aware' policies as we work to create an inclusive and safe school environment.

Academics

- ✓ New infusions of technology to support Social Studies 7 and 8 programs.
- ✓ New Chromebooks to support Mathematics and Science programs.

These activities and initiatives are also fast approaching:

- ✓ Terry Fox run (September 30)
- ✓ Orange Shirt Day (September 30)
- ✓ Volleyball
- ✓ Steve Scott Memorial Walk A Thon (Oct. 18)

Stay informed and up to date

- ✓ Daily announcements are posted on our school website.
- ✓ Follow us on Twitter at @sajhnews
- ✓ Bookmark our school website: <https://sgn.hrce.ca/>
- ✓ Use the calendar on our website to find upcoming dates for school events.
- ✓ Request a PowerSchool parent portal letter from the main office
- ✓ Read our newsletters

We are looking forward to a great year and appreciate your support in our student's educational journey.



Upcoming Events

September 30

Terry Fox Run

Orange Shirt Day

October 14

Thanksgiving Day (no classes)

October 17

School Dance 6:30-8:30

October 18

Steve Scott Memorial Walk-A-Thon

October 22

Bus evacuations

October 24

School Pictures

October 25

Provincial Conference (no classes)

Athletics

Another great Gator kickoff in the Physical Education Department at St. Agnes. Mr. Starzomski, along with several teachers and community volunteers, are excited to provide many great physically active opportunities for our students.

To begin, Early Morning Gym will be open to all of our students from Monday - Thursday from 8am-830am. The best way to start your day, with some physical activity!

Also, we will have a Volleyball Club program on Tuesdays at lunch with Ms. Johnston and Ms. Campbell, we certainly thank them for volunteering their time for that!

Next, Girls Only Active Lunch is back again on Thursdays with Ms. Campbell and Ms. Johnston graciously offering this wonderful program to the ladies of St. Agnes.

We have community volunteers in Collette Barbati and Craig Berryman stepping up to coach our Girls Soccer team once again. The season will start mid-September and again, we thank them for volunteering to provide the girls such a wonderful opportunity.

Our Boys Soccer team will be under the watchful eye of Mr. Starzomski and their regular season schedule will begin in mid-September as well. Thank you Mr. Star!

We also have Ms. Campbell coaching the co-ed Touch Football team with a couple of community volunteers, Mr. Lirette and Mr. Metlej. The regular season will start in mid-September as well, so stay tuned for tryouts and season schedules. Thank you Ms. Campbell and our community volunteers!

The final September team is Cross Country. Ms. Tsai has offered her free time to provide this opportunity for the boys and girls of St. Agnes and we thank her. Tryouts will begin very soon! Once again, thank you to Ms. Tsai for her coaching time!

School Advisory Council at St. Agnes Junior High School

We are looking for parents/guardians to participate on our School Advisory Council (SAC) for the upcoming school year. Participation on our SAC will help involve you in some of decisions made by the school that impact students on a regular basis. We are hoping to have representation from all of the neighbourhoods that are part of our school catchment area. If you are interested in helping out please contact Mr. Khan at: bkhan@hrce.ca

Breakfast Club

Running late? Early morning extra-curricular activities? Not hungry when you first wake up? There are many reasons that students skip breakfast in the morning so SAJH is pleased to offer our Breakfast Program again this year. All students and staff are welcome from 8:15-8:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please enter through the side door by the guidance office and Family Studies room for our grab n' go options. We will also have healthy snacks available in classrooms for students to access as needed. Choosing a healthy breakfast can improve the nutritional well-being of students and eating at school provides opportunities to try new foods and engage with other students and staff. If you would like to volunteer or make a donation, please contact the school.



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

School Photos/Retakes

Your child's school portraits this year will be taken by Adams Photography Inc. Adams Photography offers high quality portraits at an affordable price and strives to produce professional portraits of every client. The portrait sitting day for St. Agnes will take place on **October 24th**. Proofs and order forms will be delivered back to St. Agnes approximately two weeks after the portrait sitting date. Delivery date of the portraits will be within four weeks of the school order being placed. The order date deadline will be on the envelope and proof when it is returned to the school. This is the date that all orders should be returned to your child's school. Payment can be made in the form of cash, cheque or money order and sealed in the envelope. If you have any additional questions regarding your child's portrait sitting please feel free to contact us at **434-0558** or email: schools@adamsphotography.ca.

Lockdown Drills

The safety and security of our students and staff is top priority for St. Agnes Junior High School and the Halifax Regional Centre for Education. This week students participated in the first of two lockdown drills with the help of the Halifax Regional Police and lead by our School Liaison Officer. During a lock down drill, classroom doors are secured and students remain inside the room until instructed by the teacher to resume activities. All exterior doors are locked and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building. Please be assured that the staff at our school prepared our students by discussing the importance of this procedure with students prior to running the drill. We practice these drills to ensure our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning.

Grade 7 Immunizations

Public Health will be providing immunizations to Grade 7 students. The students will be offered four vaccines to prevent:

1. Meningitis A, C, Y, and W 135.
2. Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (whooping cough)
3. Hepatitis B
4. Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

Providing immunizations will require a total of 2 clinic days and will occur on **November 5th** (Hep B, HPV, Men A,C,Y,W-135) & **May 5th** (Hep B, HPV, Tdap)

As an additional resource the following videos have been developed to support parents: <https://vimeo.com/134234183> and students: <https://vimeo.com/134234182> throughout this process

If you have any questions please contact the nursing staff assigned to your school or call 902-481-4956 (Toll-free at 1-800-334-3032).



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

SchoolsPlus

We are pleased to be able to share with you continuation of SchoolsPlus within the Halifax Regional Centre For Education!

So....What is SchoolsPlus?

As a component of the “Our Kids are Worth It: Strategy for Children and Youth”, SchoolsPlus is a direct response to commissioner Nunn’s recommendation of the need for improved co-ordination and collaboration in the delivery of services for children, youth and families. SchoolsPlus is predicated on the “belief that all families benefit from some level of support” (Our Kids are Worth it, 2007:17) and that we need to co-ordinate activities and resources “so efforts and dollars are not duplicated or wasted” (Our Kids are Worth it, 2007: 19).

The vision of SchoolsPlus is that schools become the hub of the community, and a convenient place for services to be delivered to families. What this means for the students and families of St. Agnes Junior High is direct access to a Community Outreach Worker, Sports Animator, Assistant Leader and Mental Health Clinician. The services these folks offer varies from in-home support for parents in need of help accessing food, housing, recreation, summer camps and other necessities, to advocacy within larger Health, Justice and Community Services agencies, to one-on-one counselling support by IWK Clinicians in the schools for students with anxiety and/or depression – and everything in between.

The idea of SchoolsPlus is to meet students and families ‘where they are at’, and support them in achieving their individual needs and goals year-round. SchoolsPlus staff work with families on a voluntary basis, at no cost, and are strongly connected to their community partners – if you have a need, a want or an ask, your SchoolsPlus team is a great place to start!

Referrals to SchoolsPlus for service and support can be made by individual students or families, school Administrators or community partners, and can be made at any time, year-round.

If you have any questions, concerns, comments or want to make a referral to SchoolsPlus, you can text or call the Program Leader, Sharon Steeves at (902) 219-3668 or reach her via email at ssteeves@hrsb.ca

Also, check out the SchoolsPlus website for more information and to see what SchoolsPlus has been up to across Nova Scotia! <https://schoolsplus.ednet.ns.ca/>

Orange Shirt Day

With September marking the return to school, it is both timely and appropriate that we acknowledge and honour Mi'kmaw and Indigenous students who went to residential schools and remember those we lost. Orange Shirt Day provides such an opportunity.

Since Orange Shirt Day began in 2013, many schools throughout the country have included this day in their September events lists. Acknowledging this day increases awareness of the tens of thousands of Indigenous children throughout Canada who were removed from their homes and communities and sent to residential schools.

As wearing pink has become an anti-bullying statement, the hope of our school is that wearing orange on September 30th will be recognized as a commitment to reconciliation in honour of the Indigenous children of residential schools.



Elf Jr. The Musical

Spread Christmas Cheer Loud so everyone can hear! The **HRCE-Wide musical** for students Grades 9-12 this year is happening December 11th -14th at Dartmouth High School.

We are looking for students who are interested in all areas of the production this year: Acting, Dancing, Stage Technicians, Costuming and Publicity. This program is supported by Supplementary Funding and is offered at no cost to participants.

Rehearsals will be Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6-9 p.m. at Dartmouth High School in Keating Hall. The final two weeks of production will include weekends and extra evenings from November 25th to December 11th.

There is an information meeting for interested parents and students on Wednesday, September 18th in Keating Hall at 6 p.m. followed by Auditions

AUDITIONS FOR PERFORMERS: Wednesday, September 18th, Thursday, September 19th, Wednesday September 25th and Thursday September 26th. Email dzinck@hrce.ca for a time. Performers should prepare a song a capella, a short 1 min monologue, and be prepared to show their Christmas cheer.

For more info: <https://sites.google.com/gnspes.ca/hrfinearts/hrce-wide-musical>

Counsellor's Corner:

Did you know that the term "Guidance Counsellor" is now changed to "School Counsellor?" The school counsellor's role includes supporting students' emotional, social, academic and career development.

In the coming weeks there will be several **career development activities for Grade 9 students**. More details and permission forms will be sent home with students soon.

Thursday, October 24th: Junior Achievement "Economics for Success" financial literacy morning workshop at St. Agnes. Students will be given the opportunity to learn about future education planning and the benefits of staying in school.

<https://www.jacanada.org/program/economics-success>

Wednesday, November 6th: **Take Our Kids to Work Day** - On this day, your child will be expected to be at a place of employment either with their parent or another family member where they will get the opportunity to job shadow for the day. *The permission forms and details about your child's placement should be completed and returned to homeroom teachers by Friday, October 18th.* The following website has more information as well as the consent form. *Please note that there are additional risk assessment forms which must be completed in order for students to go to a work placement other than their parent's place of employment.

https://www.thelearningpartnership.ca/TLP/media/Documents/TOKW/TOKW-Family-guide_web_EN-2019.pdf

Thursday, November 14th: Teens Now Talk Passport 2 You-Th Xpo

Students will be invited to participate in this interactive experience at the Halifax Forum where they will have the opportunity to receive information from various community partners including post-secondary institutions, employment, trades, technology, health & wellness.

<https://teensnowtalk.com/>

Ms. Manning-Ryan would like to thank staff, students and families for such a warm welcome to St. Agnes Junior High.



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.

Walk-A-Thon

Once again we are preparing for our annual walk-a-thon to raise money for school activities and resources and have tentatively scheduled it for the week of October 17-20. In the coming weeks you may have St Agnes students come to your door and ask for a walk-a-thon pledge as part of our fundraising effort. All the money raised comes back to the school to support students and programs here at St Agnes, which wouldn't be possible without your help. Part of the funds raised are used to buy prizes for our top money earners but most of our prizes come in the form of donations from local families and businesses. If you have anything that you wish to donate as a walk-a-thon prize please contact the school. The walk-a-thon is always a great success because of the efforts of our students and the wonderful support we receive from the school community. Thank you for your support and know that it is greatly appreciated by all the students and staff

Pink Day:

On Thursday, September 12th St. Agnes students and staff celebrated Pink Shirt Anti-Bullying day along with many other schools in the Halifax Regional Centre for Education. Staff and students were dressed in pink clothing to show support for the movement which calls for students to "speak up, stand together and stop bullying." Students spent the morning creating banners for homeroom classes that represent positive, anti-bullying messages. We then gathered as a school in the gym to discuss the story of how Pink Shirt day began, why it is so important and to take the anti-bullying pledge together. St. Agnes is proud to be a school that comes together to create and support a school environment where everyone is not only included, but celebrated.

Terry Fox Run

This year, St. Agnes Junior high will be taking part in the annual Terry Fox run on Monday, September 30th. All students have received pledge forms to fund raise for the Terry Fox foundation, with all proceeds going directly to cancer research. Another option to donate is through St. Agnes' direct fundraising link: <http://www.terryfox.ca/stagnesjuniorhigh>

The homeroom with the highest percentage of participation in fundraising will be celebrated with a class pizza party! Thank you to all students and community members for your efforts and contribution to this important cause!

Grade 9 Trip

Planning for the Grade 9 trip to Prince Edward Island has already begun. Our tentative dates are June 17-19th, 2020. Students interested in fundraising in order to cover their trip costs will be given the opportunity to participate in several fundraisers throughout the year. The first, a joined Veggie and Meat box fundraiser begins on October 10th and orders will be due November 4th. All sales support Nova Scotia businesses. Vegetorium veggie boxes will contain a variety of produce and will cost \$30 each. Meadowbrook Meat boxes have a variety of options and are without gluten, animal by-products, fillers, artificial colors or MSG. In December, students may participate in our Acadian Maple Fundraiser.

There will be a parent meeting on Wednesday, October 23rd, 2019 in the library at St. Agnes to discuss the itinerary, costs, fundraising efforts and to answer questions parents may have. Deposits of \$75 will be due on November 20th, along with a Behavioral Contract that must be signed by both students and parents. Looking forward to seeing you on the 23rd!

