

St. Agnes Junior High

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Brad McGowan- Principal Jarrett Feeney- Vice-Principal Sandy Harrison- Secretary

African Heritage Month

February is African Heritage Month. This year's theme is EDUCATE, UNITE AND CELEBRATE COMMUNITY- The theme encourages all Nova Scotians to learn about African Nova Scotia history and unite and share the heritage and culture we all share together. We have more than 50 historic African Nova Scotian Communities, dating back more than 400 years. These communities have a unique and rich legacy of resistance, resilience and triumph that needs to be shared with all of Nova Scotia. It is for this reason we must Educate, Unite and Celebrate African Heritage Month.

This month we will unite the culture and heritage we share as a community to educate and celebrate African Heritage Month. During this time guest speakers, lunch and learns along with daily trivia questions will take place as we preserve and promote the culture of African Canadian, American and Nova Scotian people and events.

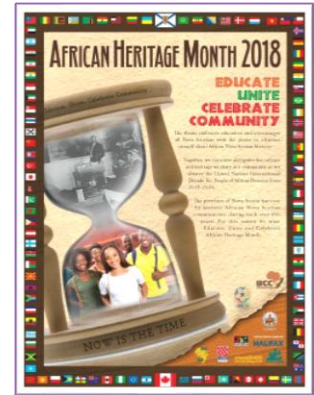
Healthy Living Initiative For Grade 9 Boys

St. Agnes is one of more than 20 schools across Nova Scotia participating in an innovative approach to teaching parts of the Healthy Living Nine curriculum.

In 2012, the Department of Health and Wellness, in partnership with teachers and students in the HRSB, started a pilot at Oxford School where grade nine boys had their own health class. The objective was to remove the stigma around help-seeking that is common among men.

The lessons have been designed to meet the curriculum outcomes of Healthy Living Nine, and ask young men to consider the pressures and expectations around masculinity that impact their health, and the health of other genders.

This is the fifth year that St. Agnes has incorporated this approach into their health classes.



Upcoming Events

February 9

Hip Not Hep Presentation

February 13

Course selection presentation for Grade 9 students

Pancake Breakfast

Grade 9 Parent Information Sessions @ Citadel 6-7

February 19

Mona Louise Parsons Heritage Day (No School)

February 21

Grad Picture Retakes

February 27

Steve Scott Invitational

Athletics

Our Physical Education and Athletics programs are continuing to roll along with a high level of effort and participation. Our basketball and hockey teams are in playoff time and Phys Ed classes are in the midst of basketball, badminton, yoga, and fitness classes.

Our hockey team plays their first playoff game on February 12th and we wish them the best of luck.

Our Boys basketball team wrapped up their season with a playoff loss to Park West in a closely contested match. We wish our seniors the best as they continue their basketball careers in high school!

The Girls Basketball team plays their first playoff game on February 5th here at St. Agnes vs. Sacred Heart and we have the highest of expectations for the girls' team.

We would like to extend a special thank you to all of the coaches that have volunteered their time to make the athletics program such a success. The students are lucky to have such fine people in their corner!

Grade 9 Trip

We are pleased to announce that the location for this year's Grade 9 trip will be Prince Edward Island. The trip dates are June 13-15. A tentative itinerary is forthcoming.

As you are aware, a school trip requires both student and parent commitment. Historically, the cost of the trip has been \$350.00 per student, but given the size of our graduating class, additional transportation needs will likely increase the price. This price includes accommodations, luxury motorcoach transportation, all admissions and a hot daily breakfast buffet. An additional \$50-60 per student should be budgeted to purchase up to two lunches and two dinners. The only additional cost is any spending money your child wishes to bring, however, there will be limited opportunities for souvenir shopping. The final cost will be established once we have both a commitment from students, and vendors in Prince Edward Island have confirmed their schedules/rates. Participation on the trip requires the return of the lower portion of this letter and a \$75.00 deposit by February 28, 2018. Receipts will be issued for all payments.

To assist with the cost of the trip, we will be offering several fundraising events including selling citrus, maple syrup, a flea market, and staycation draw. In preparation for the trip, a parent information session will be held on March 1st in the library at St. Agnes. Liz Greene (SAC/PTA representative), will be assisting with coordinating all fundraisers related to the trip. Please feel free to reach her by email at eric.liz@ns.sympatico.ca

A parent meeting will be held in February to discuss details of the trip. Date and time of the meeting will be announced via the school website and email.

If you have any questions or concerns about trip logistics please do not hesitate to contact Jarrett Feeny by telephone at 493-5132 or via e-mail at jfeeney@hrrsb.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

Pancake Breakfast

The SAJH PTA is hosting its annual Pancake Tuesday Breakfast for Students and Staff on February 13th, 2018, starting at 8:20 a.m. Students/Staff please make sure you come and enjoy a free, delicious plate of pancakes, sausages, fruit, and juice to start your day.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this event, please contact Karen at wayday@ns.sympatico.ca.

Steve Scott Invitational

A few years ago Mr. Steve Scott, teacher and longtime girls basketball and volleyball coach at SAJH passed away. As a tribute to Steve, girls who played for St. Agnes came up with the idea of hosting a basketball event at the school. What began two years ago as a mini tournament and has since evolved into a week-long intermural tournament. This year, our tournament, still in the planning stages, will run from Tuesday February 27 to Thursday, March 1. Stay tuned for further details on this important event.

Hip Not Hep Presentation

On Friday February 9th, St. Agnes will welcome members from the Hepatitis Outreach Society of Nova Scotia to present **Hip Not Hep**; a youth safer tattooing and piercing project. Hip Not Hep is a dynamic and interactive workshop which explores the link between tattooing, piercing, and Hepatitis C. Geared toward youth, the workshop incorporates eye-catching visuals with the relevant information about Hepatitis. This workshop explores the basics of Hepatitis C, transmission routes, testing, treatment, an overview of tattoos and piercings, the relationship between tattoos, piercings, and Hepatitis, and the crucial information on how participants can be safer when getting their body art.

French Club

Starting this month, there will be a lunchtime French club at SAJH. This club 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 February 16.



Student Rights and 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.

Yearbook

The last day to order yearbooks for the special price of \$30 is February 28. On March 1, the price goes to \$40. Yearbooks must be pre-ordered and will be delivered to those students in June. If you wish to submit photos for the yearbook, please email nmacinnis@hrsb.ca.

SAJH Policy on Electronic Devices

St. Agnes Junior High has embarked on a journey in relation to the use of personal electronic devices within the school. We know that electronic devices are important tools in our modern society as they can be utilized to enhance and engage our students, but we also understand that that students must be provided with guidelines to use technology responsibly.

Students **WILL** be allowed to use their electronic devices: before school, during lunch hour outside of the school, after school and during teacher-approved learning activities.

Students **WILL NOT** be allowed to use electronic devices: during instructional time (unless directed by teachers), in the hallways during class transitions or in the bathrooms.

Should a student use their phone inappropriately, the teacher/staff member will ask the student to put the phone away. Should the student use the phone inappropriately a second time, the teacher/staff member will hold the student phone on her/his desk until class is over.

As extra-curricular activities and school-related events are an extension of school, rules for appropriate use of technology exist. While participating in teams, clubs, activities and events, students will only be permitted to use electronic devices for communication purposes (text/call). Use of devices for videotaping or taking pictures of other students without their permission is prohibited and will result in consequences associated with the Provincial Code of Conduct.

We thank you for your support and assistance in ensuring that the students of St. Agnes Junior High use technology in a productive and respectful manner.

Guidance News

Its course selection time for Grade 9 students as they get ready for high school. The high school faculty and guidance counselors will soon present information around selection of programs and courses available for our students as they transition into Grade 10. Students and parents are welcome to contact the Guidance office at 493-5137 or by e-mail aummat@hrsb.ca for an appointment to come in to the school for more information and clarification around programs and courses.



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

Happy Hands Contest

Congratulations to Genevieve Curry, a grade 8 SAJH student who entered Deb Canada's Happy Hands dispenser design contest while learning about the importance of food and kitchen safety. Students from across Canada submitted designs to promote the importance of hand hygiene. Genevieve's design was chosen as a top 5 finalist. Voting is now open to the public at <https://www.debgroup.com/ca/happy-hands>. Support her entry and help St. Agnes win this contest for the second year in a row.



Lockdown Drill

The safety and security of our students and staff is a top priority for St. Agnes and the Halifax Regional School Board. We have been implementing a number of measures as part of a comprehensive plan aimed at ensuring our school remains a safe place for our students to learn.

One of the procedures our school will be practicing is a lockdown drill. During a lockdown drill, classroom doors are secured and the students remain inside the room until instructed by the teacher to resume their activities. All exterior doors are locked and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building.

Students are kept inside the school and classrooms when circumstances make it safer to stay in the classroom rather than evacuate. Just as we prepare our students to properly respond to a fire drill, they also need to be aware of the proper response during a lockdown drill. These drills should be treated with the same level of importance as fire drills.

Please be assured that staff at our school will spend time discussing the importance of this procedure with students prior to running a drill. We will also take time after the drill to remind them that it was only a practice and there was no danger. When possible, our School Liaison Officer may assist us in conducting the lockdown drills just as the Fire Department assists with evacuation/fire drills.

Please take the time to speak with your student about this procedure and reinforce its importance. We practice these drills to ensure our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning. **Our second lockdown drill will take place between, February 12-16, 2018.**

Guidelines for school and/or bus cancellations due to inclement weather

Nova Scotia winter weather can change quickly and can be challenging to predict. Here are the steps we take when deciding whether to cancel school and/or bussing.

A 6:00 am announcement could be:

- All schools are closed for the day
- Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day
- All schools are open, but some or all buses are not operating for the day
- All schools are delayed in opening by 2 hours

If weather deteriorates, or is forecast to worsen throughout the morning

An 11:00 am announcement could be:

- Bussed students will be picked up 2 hours earlier than their regular dismissal time
- Walking students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour

Remember: Parents/guardians always have the right to keep their child home from school if they believe that the travelling conditions are unsuitable.

How does HRSB decide on school and/or bus cancellations?

- By 6:30 am, HRSB staff begin to gather information from:
 - AMEC weather service which provides radar and satellite imagery, real-time road conditions and weather warnings;
 - A meteorologist to discuss details of forecast, level and type of precipitation and impact on road conditions;
 - State Transportation consults bus drivers throughout HRN about road conditions in their area;
 - Municipal and provincial transportation staff; and
 - Other local weather services, including Environment Canada and the Weather Network.
- By 9:30 am, staff make recommendations to the Superintendent (or designee), who makes the final decision and communicates it by 6:00 am.

Where can cancellation information be found?
Website: www.hrsb.ca Twitter: @HRSB_Official Phone: 902-464-8470 (4636) Local media outlets
Subscribe to email: rsmt_notifications@www.hrsb.ca

Find us on Twitter!
[@sajhnews](https://twitter.com/sajhnews)