



St. Mary's Elementary School

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NEWSLETTER

May 2015



Principal's Message

Dear Families,

Happy May! It's hard to believe but there are only two months of school left and summer is just around the corner.

I would like to welcome Vanda Dow to our St. Mary's Elementary School staff. Vanda will be joining us as our School Secretary, a special thank you to Barb Ruggles, Carolyn Litsas and Michelle Tupper who are working with us to make this transition. Vanda comes to us with much experience and has worked at West Kings High School, Cambridge and District School and at the AVRSG as the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent. We look forward to her sharing her extensive experience with us.

As you may know this is a busy time of year as we finish up one school year and plan for the next. It is at this time we start to examine enrollment, staffing needs, and scheduling as we work with the board to ensure we have the resources required to meet the needs of our school community. Much time and effort go into this process, planning and placement of students for next year. The process for configuring classes is very thorough. I want to assure you those teachers, resource staff, and administration put a great deal of thought into who is placed in each class. Included in the factors that influence our decisions are: academic needs, social/behavioral factors & peer relationships (both negative and positive).

This month, we were very fortunate to be included in the Subway "Dining for Dollars" campaign. I would like to thank Subway for their continued support of our school; this year's campaign raised \$180.00 THANK YOU SUBWAY! I hope everyone has a great month. Hoping the sun comes our way soon!

Mr. Pinard

Important Dates

- May 14 - Jump Rope for Heart 1:15pm-2:30pm
- May 15 - Special Olympics assembly
- May 15 - In-service EARLY DISMISSAL
- May 18 - Victoria Day NO SCHOOL
- May 25 - Home and School Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- May 26 - Swimming for Gr 3 - 5
- May 28 - Swimming for Gr 3 - 5
- May 29 - School Assembly
- May 29 - Blue and White Day! Wear your St. Mary's t-shirt or blue and white!
- June 1 - Apple Blossom Tour 10 am
- June 2 - Swimming for Gr 3 - 5
- June 4 - Special Olympics Torch Run
- June 8 - Gr 5 Orientation at PRMS
- June 12 - Fun Fair
- June 30 - Last day of School

ARE YOU MOVING?

If you are planning on moving over the summer and your child will not be attending St. Mary's in September, please let the office know at 902-847-4400 to help with our plans for September 2015.



When Your Child is Absent?..

If your child is not going to be in school, please call the office (902-847-4400) to let us know. This can be done 24 hours a day by leaving a message on our machine.

School Website Check out the St. Mary's Elementary School Website for current and up to date information. Our website is updated daily! <http://www.stmarys.ednet.ns.ca>

Congratulations are extended to our **April** award winners.

We are proud of your accomplishments.



Citizenship	Personal Goal/Academic	Personal Goal/Academic
William Place P/1F	Miley Corkum P/1F	Emma Pulsifer 2/3V
Hannah Hodges P/1T	Cameron Morton P/1F	Paisley Corkum 3/R
Josh Keddy 1/2C	Domink Toney P/1T	Rihanna Lawrence 3/R
Xavier Langille 2/3V	Keagan Bennett P/1T	Chelsea Cooper 4B
Justin Kennedy 3/R	Lauren Horsnell 1/2C	Leigh Shepherd 4B
Angela Cress 4B	Jaxxin MacDonald 1/2C	Riely Carr H/P5
Foster Mailman H/P5	Desmond Leonard 2/3V	Noah Palmer H/P5

2015 SCIENCE FAIR

Congratulations to Primary/1 Foley for winning a plaque for Best Class Project in this year's Science Fair.

AVRSB Long-Range Outlook: Opportunity to Respond by May 15

AVRSB has developed a **Long-Range Outlook**, a 10-year planning document that examines all schools in our region. It takes into account enrolment and demographic trends, programming, building use, and capacity and maintenance of all schools in AVRSB. Long Range Outlooks are a new provincial requirement for school boards, and will be updated annually to reflect current and developing circumstances in schools.

Why is AVRSB creating a Long-Range Outlook?

AVRSB has engaged in long-range planning processes for different areas of our region over the last number of years. This has helped us gather public input and set a strategic course for the Board's decision-making and actions.

With the introduction of a revised provincial School Review Policy in October 2014, all Nova Scotia school boards must now create Long-Range Outlook documents and update them annually to reflect current and developing circumstances in schools. Every five years the Long-Range Outlook will be refreshed.

We invite you to download and read the draft [AVRSB Long-Range Outlook](#), and send your responses to feedback@avrsb.ca on or before May 15, 2015.



AVRSB *Volunteers in School* Policy

The AVRSB has had a *Volunteers in Schools* Policy since 1999. As demonstrated in this policy, the Board takes its obligations seriously to create safe environments for learning by taking all reasonable steps to minimize risks and threats to students. Because student safety is a top priority, this policy has undergone an extensive review to ensure that any potential gaps in practice are closed or minimized. All recommendations for change are being presented to our school community members. The proposed AVRSB *Volunteers in Schools* policy is being circulated to our school stakeholders for the opportunity to respond to the proposed changes and to provide further input. To highlight some of the changes:

- clearly defines volunteers versus visitors;
- requires volunteers to complete a standard application form for any volunteering;
- will continue to require the completion of Criminal Records Check and Child Abuse Registry checks prior to working with students but will now require re-checks be completed every (3) three years; and,
- includes reference to procedures for monitoring volunteers in schools.

The recommended changes to the *Volunteers in Schools* policy are not to discourage volunteering in the AVRSB. It is to employ the best practices to ensure our policy is effective as possible for decreasing the chances of student harm from volunteers.

Family Health Fair at WKM Health Centre, Berwick

Tuesday May 12, 2015 from 11am to 8pm
Free Special Events;

- **Teddy Bear Check-up and Parent/Tot exercise 11:00am to 12:30**
- **Seniors Fitness and Health Panel 1:30pm**
- **After school Snack and Scavenger hunt (7-12 yrs) 3:30pm**
- **Eco-health Event with horticulturalist Sarah Hiltz and pizza (13-17yrs) 5:30pm**
- **What's new with NS Health? General 7pm**

For information call 538-1318 or 538-3111.



Community Notes:

Berwick & District Nursery School A Non-Profit Parent Co-operative

Now accepting Registration for the 2015-2016 School Year! Morning Classes available and afternoon classes are dependent on Enrolment. Your child will....be nurtured by a well planned environment....begin working with numbers & letters....build a positive self-image....participate in arts, crafts and sharing time...have fun! Fully qualified and trained ECE staff: Get your child ready for elementary school! Contact us at 902-538-9680 or email at berwickpreschool@eastlink.ca

Fantastic Mr. Fox is coming to CentreStage Theatre

An urbane fox cannot resist returning to his farm raiding ways and then must help his community survive the farmers' retaliation. This delightful children's play is based on a book by Roald Dahl.

Thirty- two young actors will bring the farm alive on June 6,7,13,14,20,21 in the Upper Performance Centre at CentreStage. The show begins at 2 PM, the tickets are \$7.00. For more information , please go to www.centrestage@centrestagetheatre.ca

Annapolis Valley Honour Choirs Auditions for New Singers!

June 1st to 9th at various locations across the valley.

Auditions will be for both Junior (Gr. 5-8) and Senior (Gr. 8-12) choirs - any students in **Grades 5-12** during the 2015-2016 academic year are invited to attend! Detailed information about the choirs, audition schedule as well as registration for auditions can be found on the AVHC website, www.avhc.ca. Celebrated as one of the province's best music organizations, the AVHC has two choirs with 120 students from throughout the Annapolis Valley Region. For the last 25 years, it has been educating young singers to be better choristers, musicians, and citizens of their communities.



Interested in attending Acadia Summer Sports Camps?

Acadia University is partnering with Jumpstart (Canadian Tire) and the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board to support youth from ages 4-18 to attend Acadia Summer Sports Camps. If your family is facing economic barriers and your child is interested in attending summer sport camps at Acadia, please inquire at your local school. Pick up a pamphlet and an application form. The process is clearly outlined in the pamphlet. Deadline for applications is May 15th. You will be notified within 2-3 weeks if your child is eligible and has been accepted. Don't miss out on this great opportunity for your child to be active and fit during the summer.

Western Valley Wings Tackle Football Season 2015 Rotary Park, Middleton

Open to all kids from Berwick to Bridgetown. All gear provided

Spring Tackle Camp (contact) Tuesday, May 12 & Thursday, May 14, 5:30pm-7:30pm Sunday, May 17, 2pm-4pm continuing through June 1. Cost \$75

Free Clinic (non contact) Wednesday, May 6, 5:30pm-7:30pm, Thursday, May 7 5:30pm-7:30pm

Fall Program – Beginning Tuesday, August 18 and Thursday, August 20 plus game Saturday or Sunday. Season ends Sunday, October 11. Cost \$125

Age Groups: Atom (born 2007, 2006 or 2005) Pee Wee (born 2003 or 2004), Junior Varsity (born 2002, 2001 or 2000), players born in 2000 must weigh 150 lbs or less)

Sign up for both spring and fall programs for \$160. Contact Mike Upward 902-825-6500 or mikeupward43@hotmail.com