



WEST HANTS MIDDLE SCHOOL

902-757-4100

www.whms.ednet.ns.ca

whms@avrsb.ca



October 2017



Mrs. Wallace-Principal, Mr. Miller-Vice Principal, Mr. States-Vice Principal

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

At this point in time, your child should be falling into a predictable routine for the school year (or as predictable as adolescences can be). For some of you this might mean a lot of extra-curricular activities and multiple pick-ups each week. Thanks to those who support our programs, and help in so many ways!

I will try to give you a quick run-down of some of the activities that are going on now at WHMS:

Safety – We have been practicing fire drills and lock-downs. We are also going to work with the Brooklyn Fire Department to do a fire drill with a missing student and a blocked entrance.

Provincial Assessments – During the month of October the Grade 6 students participate in Reading/Writing/Math Assessments and the Gr. 7s will take participate in an on-line survey around social-emotional health and well-being.

Athletics – We have teams taking part in soccer, volleyball, and cross country running. Golf is completed. Basketball and hockey will be starting up soon.

Leadership – The PASTE Teams have completed their training and will be active throughout the building. The Teens for Change Group are well established and will be kicking off their Annual Food Drive in the coming days.

Advisory Groups – By next week, your child will be part of an Advisory Group with a teacher somewhere in the building. They will meet in a multi-aged group for six sessions this year and take part in a variety of activities.

Homework – We are working hard to keep students up-to-date with their academic responsibilities. The Homework List is usually sent home on Mondays and Fridays to inform parents that their child has something outstanding. You are able to see specifics on the Parent Portal. Many teachers offer extra help on scheduled noon hours. Students can also work in the cafeteria during the quiet bell.

PEBS – For the month of October we will be focusing on Respect for Self at WHMS. We will also celebrate good deeds done by students. It is our hope and goal to have students pick up/clean up after themselves in their locker area, cafeteria, school grounds and desk space. I am sure you can appreciate with 525 students that is a lofty goal!

Exploratories - Students will be participating in two Exploratories this year. The first one will be in November. Exploratories are activities outside of the prescribed curriculum that will address a number of skills, such as: cake decorating, broomball, learn to skate, knitting, robotics, coding,...

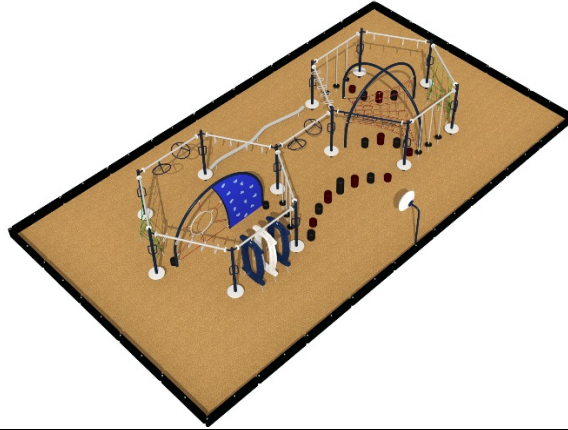
Playground Plans – We have been having meetings with various partners to find funds for our playground. The goal is to break ground in the spring and hopefully be completely done Phase One before the end of the school year. Phase One has a \$60,000 price tag.

Phase One – Play structure

Phase Two – Wheelchair accessible play area

Phase Three – swing set

The diagram below shows the proposed Phase One.



Reminder to all parents or visitors

We ask that you please check in at the office when entering the school and not park in the handicapped parking spots unless there is a need.

BUS NOTES

Please keep in mind that West Hants Middle School still has a NO NOTE BUS POLICY. Therefore, students should be travelling home on their regular bus.

REMINDER TO STUDENT/PARENT

Students feeling ill while they are in school **should not** be texting their parents to come get them. The procedure is to come to the office and have one of the secretaries make the call home for them.

Upcoming Events

- Oct 16** – Home & School Mtg 6:30
- Oct. 17/18 – Gr 6 Provincial Assessment
- Oct 19** – Dance 7-9
- Oct 20** – Early Dismissal 12:20 pm
- Oct 24** – Picture Retake Day
- Oct 27** – NO SCHOOL – Prov. Conference
- Nov 9** – Remem. Day Color Party
- Nov. 20 – Home & School 6:30
- Nov 30** – No School – WE Day & Inservice
- Dec 1** - Reports Go Home
- Dec 5** - EARLY DISMISSAL – 12:20
- Dec 14** – Dance 7-9
- Dec 18** – Home & School
- Dec 21** – Early Dismissal – 12:20

Dropping off Students

When dropping off a student after 9:05 please come into the office to sign them in or send a note in with them so they do not get marked Unexcused.

ABSENT LINE

If your child is not coming to school or is sick then please call our absent line at 902-757-4100 press “1” and clearly state your name, your child’s full name, their homeroom and teacher and the reason for their absence.

PICKING UP A STUDENT

If picking up a student at the end of the day and you are waiting outside for them please make sure that either you sign them out or have your child sign themselves out if you have sent a note in and told us.

REMINDER: PICKING UP A STUDENT – MINIMIZE CLASS DISRUPTION

In an attempt to minimize class disruption, we are requesting the assistance of parents. If you are planning to pick up a student, please **send a note in with the student** stating the time of expected pickup. Please try to arrive at a time that coincides with **the end of the class, recess or noon**. At the end of the day, please come prepared to wait until the 3:20 bell for the student.

If you have an unexpected pickup that is necessary and no note has been sent in with the student, please come to the office and we will get your student for you as soon as possible.

Below is the bell schedule for you to use as a guide:



GRADE 6 SCHEDULE 2017-2018

8:55-9:05	HR Bell/Announcements
9:05-10:05	1 st Period
10:05-11:05	2 nd Period
11:05-11:20	Recess
11:20-12:20	3 rd Period
12:20-12:40	Lunch
12:40-1:00	Quiet Bell
1:00-1:15	SSR
1:15-2:20	4 th Period
2:20-3:10	5 th Period
3:10-3:20	Homeroom/Lockers
3:20	Dismissal



GRADE 7 & 8 SCHEDULE 2017-2018

8:55-9:05	HR Bell/Announcements
9:05-10:05	1 st Period
10:05-11:05	2 nd Period
11:05-11:20	Recess
11:20-12:20	3 rd Period
12:20-1:20	4 th Period
1:20-1:40	Lunch
1:40-2:00	Quiet Bell
2:00-2:15	SSR
2:20-3:10	5 th Period
3:10-3:20	Homeroom/Lockers
3:20	Dismissal

EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS

Please note that on an Early Dismissal day our Cafeteria is not open so please remember to pack a recess snack for your child.

PARENT/STUDENT PORTAL ACCOUNT

It is extremely important that you support your child's education and the Parent portal allows you to monitor many aspects of your child's school. Student achievement information is now presented with a greater emphasis on the individual assessments and course outcomes for the entire course. An improved user experience is now in place for parents and students to view information related to assessments and outcomes. Information on attendance, late work, missing work, and achievement are all available to encourage ongoing communication and the improvement of student achievement.

Any parent who has not previously created a portal account can email the main office at whms@avrsb.ca to request portal information. This information will then be emailed to you.

Any parent who had previously created a parent/student portal account, and is having issues signing in, please call the school for help.



ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER AND NOTICES

You will also be receiving this newsletter via email. If you know of a parent who is not receiving the email, please have them send in an updated email address.

We will be sending home our newsletters and notices through email. If you would like a paper copy, please contact the office. Only those who have contacted us will receive a paper copy.



BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Our breakfast program is a great program used very frequently by our students. We would like to keep the program running so that the students can benefit greatly from it. Donations of breakfast items such as fruit, whole grain cereal, breakfast bars, juice, yogurt, cheese, paper bowls, plastic spoons, and bread products are greatly appreciated.

The Program is run by Mrs. Brenda Brison and some wonderful students. If you would like to volunteer to assist with the breakfast program between 8:15am-9:00am, please contact Mrs. Wallace through the main office.

We also have lunch items available in the office. Students can make a sandwich if they have not brought food to school.



PASTE Leadership News

PASTE Leadership is off to a strong start this year, with more than 120 students participating in the program.

Twenty-one PASTE Mentors participated in a Leadership Training Session at Camp Mockingee, earlier this month. Our Mentor Teams were faced with challenging team building activities, and leadership scenarios, and were given an opportunity to display and build upon their skills as leaders. We would like to thank the staff of **The Flying Apron Inn & Cookery** who volunteered their time and catered our training. We are so very grateful!

The Flying Apron Inn & Cookery, Summerville, N.S.



The PASTE Mentors planned and facilitated an after school teambuilding session on October 11th, which all PASTE members were invited to attend. Those students who were able to attend were faced with challenging, as well as spirited activities. A good time was had by all. Thank you to all those students who participated, as well as to the teacher facilitators who helped supervise!!

The 5 PASTE Teams will meet regularly, throughout the year, to discuss and develop their team plans. Be sure to take an active role within your team; our goal is to help develop future Leaders at WHMS.

Looking forward to an exciting year!



LIBRARY NEWS



In October we celebrate Mi'kmaq History Month here at WHMS. Students and staff will be learning about Mi'kmaq culture and heritage. Mrs. Lake is working on a bulletin board display outside the library. If any students would like to help with this display, or borrow a book from our Mi'kmaq collection, stop by the library on Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday afternoons. You can find more information about Mi'kmaq History Month at:

<http://mikmaqhistorymonth.ca/>

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT



PARENTS AS CAREER COACHES (PACC): Middle/Junior High

Why should I attend a PACC session?

While school staff and others play a role in a child's career journey, studies have shown that parents have the most impact.

Other studies have shown that the ideal time to begin exploring careers is with children in junior high. PACC will provide you with:

- information that will help you understand and deal with the many twists and turns that can occur.
- course selection information.
- details on critical skills and personal qualities required to be both competitive and successful, in the work force. information on websites, which will provide information on specific jobs, labour market demands,
- education/training requirements, salaries and much more.
- a parent guide designed to help you work with your children throughout their career journey.
- a student workbook, which provides your daughter or son with information and activities to:
 - Identify interests and skills
 - Research occupations

Who should attend?

Parents (grand-parents, foster parents etc. of students in grades 6 to 9. This session is also open to parents of high school students.

What have other parents said about the program?

This very popular program has received consistently strong ratings, from parents, over the 6 years. 98% of parents who rated this program as either "Excellent" or "Good".

Here are a few comments, from parents, who have attended PACC Middle/Junior High:

"I was at a loss, as to how to help my daughters; but, you've given me a path!"

"I cannot thank you enough for this course. It was excellent and I feel like I got a lot out of it. It was very inspiring."

"Excellent content, clear, easy to follow"

"Enjoyed the program. I am now more aware of different careers so I can help my children find the right one for them."

"I didn't know what to expect, but I found the program informative & helpful – a very positive approach to the "big unknown" of career choices. Very much enjoyed this session."

The Middle/Junior High PACC program takes one evening to complete.

Date: Monday, Nov. 6, 2017

Time: 6:30 pm to 8:40 pm

Location: West Hants Middle School

You can register for an upcoming session at www.parentsascareercoaches.ca

If you do not have internet access or do not wish to register on the website, please contact Ms. Wellwood, the school counsellor, (902)757-4105 to add your name to the session list.



Nourish Your Roots

Congrats to all WHMS students and parents on a very successful fundraising campaign for Nourish Your Roots!

The total funds raised was over \$9,000 with **\$2700** coming directly back to our school's healthy food programs! Thank you to our fundraising partners, Emilie Smith and the Schools Plus staff for their support and work on this campaign!



NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT



With our Beginner Band Clinic, first Concert Band rehearsal, and first Jazz Band rehearsal under our belt we're all systems go! Big thanks to those parents who helped out with the clinic and of course those grade 6 teachers who let us use their rooms.

All grades 7 and 8 students now have their instruments and should be practicing regularly. Keep an eye out for the fall practicing guides that will be coming home to help our kids out as they settle into their practicing routines. See mrreidsite.weebly.com for information on what your child should be practicing and other tips. I am available for extra help most lunch periods and recess times.

An important reminder: if your child's instrument breaks (loose screw, stuck mouthpiece, etc.) please do not try and fix it yourself! What might seem like a quick or obvious fix could actually do serious damage to an instrument. Please have your child bring the instrument to me whenever there is a problem.

See the important dates below including our upcoming meeting and pie fundraiser. We have an amazing group of parents running the BPA and would love to have you join the team! Come on out on October 16th to get the scoop to have your voice heard.

Please get in touch with any questions you may have. It is best to reach me by email at smreid@nspes.ca or by leaving a message at the school (757-4100).

Mr. Steve Reid

WHMS Music: Upcoming Dates:

Date	Time	Event
Monday October 16th	7:00pm	AVWH BPA meeting and AGM in the music room
Thursday October 26 th	---	Pie Fundraiser Begins
Monday November 6th	7:00pm	AVWH BPA meeting at AVHS
Thursday November 9th	TBA	Remembrance Day Assemblies
Thursday November 16 th	-----	Pie sale sheets due to Mr. Reid

***Do you or someone you know have a child born between
January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014?***

If you do, register now for

WELLNESS CHECK FOR SCHOOL ENTRY 2019

This FREE wellness check is taking place this fall. It provides speech, hearing, vision, dental and other developmental screening for children 2-3 years old who will start school in 2019. Parents will also receive information packages about healthy development and ways to better prepare children for school. The check is open to families with children who will be attending elementary schools in West Hants and Mount Uniacke and those who will be homeschooled.

To register call Lisa at **790-2299** and leave your name and phone number, or register online at www.wellnesscheck.ca and Lisa will call you back to book an appointment.

Sponsored by Family and Community First



Calming Your Anxious Child

West Hants Community Mental Health & West Hants Schools Plus are very pleased to announce that we are able to offer a 6 week course for parents/caregivers of children with anxiety.

Parents will come away from the group with a good understanding of anxiety and numerous fun and easy strategies that you can use right away to help your child.

Call West Hants Community Mental Health at (902) 792-2042 to register and confirm your

EDALENE THEATRE

Edalene Theatre is pleased to be offering theatre classes for children ages 4-18 at the Al Whittle Theatre's Studio Z starting in October, 2017. With 16 years of theatre education experience, Edalene is excited to bring their love of theatre to children of the Annapolis Valley! To see a full list of classes, information about enrollment, or to contact Kerri with questions, go to www.edalenetheatre.ca or call [902-799-9009](tel:902-799-9009).

Riverview Skating Club

Registration for Fall programs (10 weeks) – **Friday Sept. 8th 5 – 7pm**, at Newport and District Rink. Registration will be ongoing. Skating begins September 9th at Newport Rink.

The Riverview Skating Club offers programs for beginners to competitive skaters. See website for Calendar and Ice Schedule for more details, www.riverviewskatingclub.weebly.com. You can also find us on Facebook or e-mail [c t corbin@hotmail.com](mailto:c_t_corbin@hotmail.com) for more details.

Royal Canadian Sea Cadets Corp MINAS 76

62 Fort Edward Street, Windsor, NS
Lt(N) Andrew Dawson CD – dawsona031@gmail.com

902-488-2973 – Message
Andrew.dawson@cadets.gc.ca

Sea cadets participate in sailing (including small craft operator), seamanship, naval communications, marksmanship, band, physical fitness and a multitude of citizenship activities. Creating amazing young leaders and community ambassadors.

Local training is conducted at the Fort Edward Armouries Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 9:00 from September to June. There are many opportunities for summer camp in July/August. As a cadet progress in the program, there are additional opportunities for summer employment, foreign exchanges and deployments with the Canadian Navy and International Tall Ships.

The cadet program also enables cadets to earn one full high school credit toward graduation.

The program is rewarding, challenging, fun and FREE.

When: Tuesday Evenings starting January 9, 2018
6-8 pm, for 6 weeks
Where: Hants Community Hospital
89 Payzant Drive
Windsor, NS, B0N 2T0
Room: Conference Room 2B
Cost: Free!!